

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

**EGGS:** Deliveries of new laid eggs are steadily increasing, although during the cold snap of the last few days they fell off temporarily. There are still not too many coming forward to take care of the demand. New lays are a risky proposition to hold at this season as all depends on the weather, which promises to be very uncertain from now on. The export season for eggs is now over. Stocks of storage eggs in Montreal are getting very low, several dealers being almost depleted. If we have to replenish supplies from the United States the market is bound to rise as storage eggs are falling in Chicago in car lots at 36c to 37c, being an advance of about 3c per dozen in the last week or two days. The local market for storage eggs remains firm and prices are a shade higher.

**POULTRY:** There is practically no dressed poultry arriving at the present time. A few shipments of live fowls are coming forward which are meeting with a ready sale at high prices. Storage stocks of poultry are reported as considerably less than a year ago and while prices are high dealers are confident that all the poultry will be required. A few export orders for chickens have been received by Canadian houses.

**HONEY:** The market is steady and the demand is good. Prices are likely to be higher very shortly.

**MAPLE PRODUCTS:** The tone of the market for maple product remains very firm on account of the small supplies available, for which the demand is steady in a wholesale jobbing way.

**POTATOES:** The potato market is strong in tone and prices last week scored a further advance of 15c to 25c per bag. Supplies of Green Mountains on spot are very limited, and receipts are almost nil. The prospects are that few if any more will come to this market this season owing to the fact that dealers are realizing \$2.70 per 90 lb. bag in Boston.

Eggs:—	
Special New Laid .....	0.60
Extras .....	0.45
No. 1 .....	0.40
Poultry—Live:	
per pound.	
Fowls, 5 lbs. and over .....	0.20 0.21
Fowls, small .....	0.17 0.18
Fresh Killed Poultry:	
Turkeys .....	0.29 0.30
Old Turkeys, cocks .....	0.27 0.28
Do., Roasting .....	0.29 0.30
Fowls, hens .....	0.17 0.18
Do., roosters .....	0.15 0.16
Chickens .....	0.21 0.22
Do., Crate fattened .....	0.23 0.24
Squabs, per pair .....	0.35 0.45
Geese .....	0.16 0.17
Ducks .....	0.17 0.18
Maple Products:—	
Pure maple syrup, quart cans .....	0.40
Pure maple syrup, 9-lb. tins. ....	1.00 1.10
Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins. ....	1.25 1.30
Pure Maple sugar, per lb. ....	0.13 0.14
Potatoes:—	
Green Mountains, per bag of 80 lbs. ex-track .....	1.75
Do., to jobbers, ex-store, per 80lb. bag .....	2.10 2.20
Quebec's, per bag of 80 lbs. ex-track .....	1.65
Do., to jobbers, ex-store, per 80 lb. bag .....	1.75 1.85
Beans:—	
Can. hand-picked car lots .....	6.75 7.00
Three-lb. pickers .....	6.50 6.65
Five-lb. pickers .....	6.00 6.25
Six to seven-lb. pickers .....	5.00 5.90

## DAIRY PRODUCE.

**BUTTER:** The butter market is firm and is likely to continue at present high levels until the new make comes on. Stocks in store are low, but on the other hand every effort is being made to increase the winter make of butter in order to take advantage of the high prices ruling. Although current receipts at Montreal are light, they have been as a rule in excess of last year's on the same dates, and all told are sufficient to account for roughly 20 per cent of the domestic trade of Montreal, allowing 7,000 packages a week for normal consumption. It is not likely that we shall import butter to any extent, although the outcome depends on the demand from outside points, which of late has been quiet. A brisker trade is anticipated in February.

Before the war Australian butter was a feature of the trade in the early spring. Latest advices are that the New South Wales dairy districts are ex-

periencing a splendid season, which has resulted in lifting the embargo on butter and cheese. It is not likely that any of this butter will reach Canada, as all the exportable surplus will be absorbed by Great Britain where the market continues to advance to very high levels. Since 1900 the New South Wales butter production has increased from 41,429,794 pounds to 84,134,280 pounds in 1915. The cheese production remains fairly stationary increasing less than a million pounds since 1888.

**CHEESE:** The cheese market continues strong with full goods quoted up to 25c for best quality. The Liverpool cable has advanced according to its custom this week, quotations now being 136s for Canadian white, and 137s for colored, a net rise of 3 shillings for the week. A sale of Canadian cheese is reported at 137s 6d. Receipts of cheese have dropped to 902 boxes last week as compared to 3,994 boxes the preceding week.

Butter:—	
Choice Creamery Solids .....	0.43 0.43½
Winter Creamery .....	0.42 0.42½
Undergrade Creamery .....	0.40 0.41½
Dairy butter .....	0.37½ 0.38
City Selling Price to grocers:	
Creamery Solids .....	0.44 0.45
Do., Prints .....	0.45½
Do., No. 2 .....	0.43
Do., Prints .....	0.42½
Cheese:—	
Finest Western .....	0.25 0.25½
Fine Eastern .....	0.24 0.24½
Winter Make .....	0.20 0.23
City Selling Prices to grocers:	
Stilton cheese .....	0.26 0.27
Large .....	0.25 0.26
Twins .....	0.25½
Quebec Cheese .....	0.24
Canadian Strong Cheese .....	0.25 0.26
Rouquefort .....	0.65

## FLOUR, CEREALS AND MILLFEED.

The flour market is still quiet with prices unchanged. Almost no new orders of any size are coming in as buyers are liquidating their stocks owing to the uncertainty of the wheat market. The railway embargo has prevented shipments on old contracts. Most of the western mills closed down last week, expecting to reopen in a few day's time, but latest advices report that the embargo is extended indefinitely. Only mills working on Government orders can continue business, as the embargo does not apply to army goods. There is no demand for winter wheat flour at present as buyers appear to be well stocked up. Very little flour is being shipped from Ontario owing to the irregularity of the wheat market.

A definite working basis has now been established with regard to the export of regulation flour to the United Kingdom. The new regulations which go into effect on February 1, based on average millers' wheat mixtures permitting 75 per cent extraction of flour, allow admixture of 7 per cent corn flour. Small orders for the new grade flour have been received by some Canadian mills, while other have booked orders for low grade flour which appears to be netting a better profit than if sold in the domestic market.

Lack of ocean space is greatly hindering our flour exports and as Canadian millers have not succeeded in securing any modification in the regulations of the British Government which have checked the import of Canadian flour into Great Britain, it looks as if there would continue to be a considerable falling off in this trade which formerly reached 5 million barrels.

There is no change in the price of rolled oats, as the market is still very firm under a fair demand. The demand for millfeeds of all kinds is good, shorts being particularly scarce. Straight car lots of shorts are demanding a premium of \$2 to \$3 per ton over quoted prices. Most of the mills are oversold on feeds and the railway congestion is also greatly interfering with supplies coming forward.

	Montreal.	Toronto.
	Per 92-lb. bag.	
Flour:		
First patents .....	5.00	4.95
Second patents .....	4.75	4.70
Strong Bakers .....	4.65	4.60
Feed Flour .....	2.85	2.70 2.80
Winter wheat flour, 90 per cent. ....	4.10 4.25	....
Cereals:		
Roller Oats, 90-lb. bag .....	3.50	3.60
Oatmeal, 98-lb. bag. ....	3.85	3.90
Graham flour, 98-lb. Bag .....	4.95	....
Roller wheat 100-lb. b. ....	3.60	....

Rye flour, 98-lb. bag .....	3.75	4.00	....	....
Feeds:				
Bran .....	32.00	....	33.00	....
Shorts .....	35.00	36.00	38.00	....
Middlings .....	38.00	41.00	38.00	40.00
Moullie, pure grain				
grades .....	46.00	50.00	....	....
Do., mixed .....	44.00	47.00	....	....
Barley feed .....	41.00	....	....	....
Crushed Oats .....	45.00	....	....	....
Oatfeed .....	46.00	....	....	....
Hay, No. 2 .....	13.00	....	11.00	....

An extra charge of 30c is made for flour in barrels.

## LIVE STOCK.

**MONTREAL:** Live stock offerings for sale at the Montreal stockyards last week amounted to 1,050 cattle, 1,350 sheep and lambs, 1,800 hogs and 300 calves. A strong feeling developed in the cattle market and prices advanced from 25c to 50c per cwt. As the demand for choice stock from packers and butchers was keen as they had disposed of the remainder of their holiday stocks, and offerings on the market were limited, cattle prices held firm all week at the new high level. Lambs were rather quiet as buyers appear to have a fair stock of frozen stuff on hand. Sheep were steady. Calves were scarce and prices ruled firm under a fair demand. Hogs displayed their usual strength, prices advancing 10c to 25c per 100 lbs. The demand from packers was good.

**TORONTO:** An insistent demand for cattle coupled with continued light offerings at the Toronto live stock yards created a very strong market last week. Prices of all grades advanced 25c to 45c per 100 lbs., making \$10.00 to \$10.50 for choice weighty steers. The strength in the hog market was also an outstanding feature as prices rose to record levels in the history of Toronto's trade. The market advanced 15c to 25c over the close of the preceding week on the opening sale, and continued to rise throughout the week, closing at \$13.50 weighed off cars, a total advance of 65c. Trade in small meats was steady as receipts were light.

	Per cwt.			
Butcher steers, best .....	9.75	10.00	10.00	10.50
Do., good .....	9.25	9.50	9.00	9.50
Do., fair .....	8.25	8.50	7.00	7.50
Do., medium .....	7.50	7.75	7.50	8.00
Do., rough .....	7.00	7.25	6.25	6.75
Butchers' cows				
Choice .....	7.50	7.75	7.50	8.00
Do., good .....	7.00	7.25	7.25	7.50
Do., fair .....	6.50	6.75	5.50	6.75
Butcher bulls, best .....	8.25	8.50	7.50	9.00
Do., good .....	7.75	8.00	6.75	7.25
Do., medium .....	7.00	7.25	5.75	6.50
Canners' cattle, bulls				
Do., cows .....	5.50	5.60	4.10	4.40
Do., cows .....	4.75	4.85	....	....
Heavy Sheep .....	8.25	8.50	7.50	8.50
Light Ewes .....	8.75	9.00	9.00	10.00
Culls .....	7.75	8.00	3.00	5.00
Lambs .....	12.50	13.50	13.00	14.00
Calves, milkfed .....	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00
Do., grassfed .....	5.00	7.50	5.00	6.00
Hogs, selects, weighed				
off cars .....	13.60	13.75	....	13.50
Do., heavy weights .....	13.15	13.25	....	13.25
Sows .....	11.60	11.70	9.75	10.75

## THE GRAIN MARKETS.

Prices of wheat fluctuated throughout the past week being tossed from the bears to the bulls by rumors of submarine activities. Changes in the political situation, a falling off in the United States visible supply, and advices of a larger exportable surplus of wheat in Argentine than was expected. This is said to amount to 18,750,000 bus. as compared with estimates of 5,000,000 bus. on which the trade had been figuring. Revised crop figures also indicate a large yield in Canada. The British Government has taken control of the wheat and corn market in Britain, which foreign fluctuations or market reports are not allowed to influence. No prices have been cabled lately, but it is believed that these restrictions will be modified in due course. According to recent advices, the price of English wheat has been fixed at 60s per quarter of 504 pounds and oats at 38s 6d per quarter of 336 pounds.

Closing prices in the wheat markets on Monday, January 15 finally show a decline of 4c for the week, Winnipeg being quoted at \$1.87½ for May option, and \$1.84½ for July, and Chicago \$1.84½ for May and \$1.48½ for July.

Current cash prices are as follows:

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