

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

R. G. Dun & Co., report the trade conditions as follows:

The climatic conditions have not shown much improvement since last writing, and railway and general country traffic has been more or less dislocated by the Arctic cold and heavy drifted roads. Business, however, in the dry goods line continues quite active, and some large buyers from London, Ottawa and other important points have been in the market making considerable selections. Some quite fair-sized receipts of much-needed Manchester goods are reported, but the possibilities in this direction are getting more and more remote. Japan is now getting to be quite an important factor in the market, and considerable orders are being placed in that quarter, not only for silks, but also for cotton blankets, towels and various other lines of cotton goods. Among local cotton manufacturers there is a general disposition to tighten up still further on prices.

Some further considerable Government orders have just been placed for military footwear, which will prove helpful to the manufacturing trade, but general business continues on the light side and none of the many local factories can be called busy. The leather trade is consequently quiet, with a disposition to shade prices, and 50 cents would probably now be an outside price for No. 2 manufacturers' sole with 54 cents to 56 cents quoted for choice jobbing selections.

Staple groceries continue to move in fairly steady volume. There is a possibility that local refineries will have to still further limit deliveries of sugar for a time, as, owing to the difficulties of transportation, supplies of new crop raws are being much delayed. It is not imagined, however, that the public will suffer any hardships, and there has been no change in quotations. A further advance has been announced in molasses, the jobbing quotation for fancy Barbadoes fancy being now 93 cents in puncheons, with proportionately higher figures for barrels and half-barrels. These are figures being unheard of, and 200 per cent higher than anti-war prices. Manufacturers of vinegar give notice of a strong advance, probably reaching to from 25 to 30 per cent. As anticipated last week there has been a strong advance in soap, and a further advance of 50 cents a box is expected momentarily. The milling company has made a slight advance on ground rice, but regular grades of milled rice are unchanged. Supplies of California dried and canned fruits are becoming depleted, and shipments made early in November have yet to come to hand.

In other lines there is nothing specially new, and, considering the irregular mails, remittances may be called good. Easy conditions prevail in the money market, the banks having ample funds. The rate for call funds remains on the old basis of 6 per cent.

Eight district failures are reported for the week, with liabilities of \$175,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: The weather during the past week has been the coldest so far this season, and was accompanied with heavy winds, the thermometer falling forty degrees in twenty-four hours. Railway traffic was badly interrupted, some of the passenger trains had to be cancelled altogether, and those that were running were many hours late. The railway congestion is rather serious and, in order to overcome the difficulty it is stated that drastic changes are to be made in handling freight, only merchandise for war purposes, food products, and the most essential articles for important manufacturers will be moved.

The fuel situation is also serious in Canada, the Government has ordered the closing of all manufacturing plants and other large consumers of coal, such as all wholesale and retail stores, large office buildings, etc., to close for three days on February 9th, 10th and 11th. The smelting industry in Canada is making considerable progress; it is reported that they are now turning out eight different kinds of products.

More activity is noticed in the wholesale dry goods and hardware trades. The situation in the wholesale grocery trade is normal; there is a scarcity of washing soaps on the market and the outlook is for higher prices. Scented soaps are, however, more plentiful. Custom receipts for January at Montreal show a falling off of about \$400,000, as compared with the same month last year.

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The retail trade has been only fair, the cold weather keeping buyers indoors. Remittances are good, city collections are still slow, but show a slight improvement.

LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL.—At the two Montreal stockyards—West-end market and Canadian Pacific—the receipts of live stock for the week ending February 9th, 1918, were 1,600 cattle, 750 sheep and lambs, 1,525 hogs and 275 calves. The livestock trade was fairly good during the week and prices for steers, heifers, bulls and hogs showed an advance, while sheep and lambs declined. The offerings of cattle were smaller than a week ago, and the stock of a superior quality, so the tone of the market became stronger, and prices of steers and heifers scored an advance of 25c per 100 lbs. and bulls sold 50c higher.

In the market for small meats a weaker tone developed, and the prices of sheep and lambs declined 50c to 75c per 100 lbs. Packers and butchers generally have ample stocks of small meats on hand, so trade was rather dull. The trade in calves was dull, and prices showed no change. The tone of the market for hogs was strong and prices advanced 25c per 100 lbs.

We quote Montreal prices as follows:

Steers, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice	\$12.00	\$12.50
Good	11.75	12.00
Fairly good	11.25	11.50
Fair	10.75	11.00
Light steers	9.75	10.25
Common	8.00	9.00
Butchers' bulls—		
Choice	10.50	11.00
Good	9.50	10.00
Medium	8.50	8.75
Common	7.50	8.00
Butchers' cows—		
Choice heavy	10.00	10.50
Good	9.50	9.75
Medium	9.00	9.25
Light weights	8.00	8.75
Canners' cattle—		
Bulls	6.50	7.50
Cows	5.50	6.50
Sheep, per 100 lbs.—		
Ewes	12.00	12.50
Bucks and culls	11.00	11.50
Ontario lambs	16.00	16.25
Quebec lambs	15.00	15.25
Calves, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice milk-fed stocks	14.00	15.00
Good milk-fed stock	12.00	13.00
Grass-fed calves	6.00	10.00
Hogs, per 100 lbs.—		
Selected lots	19.50	20.00
Sows	16.50	17.00
Stags	13.50	14.50

TORONTO.—The receipts of livestock at Toronto's two markets for the week ending February 9th, amounted to 3,807 cattle, 309 calves, 2,838 hogs and 540 sheep. In the cattle section of the market offerings were so small that it was difficult to continue the market, prices showed a decline of 25c per 100 lbs. Prices of small meats held firm, but trade was quiet.

We quote Toronto prices as follows:—

Choice export steers	\$11.25	\$11.75
Butchers' choice handy	10.25	10.75
Do., good	10.00	10.25
Do., medium	8.50	9.00
Do., common	8.00	9.00
Butchers' bulls, choice	10.00	11.00
Do., good	8.00	9.00
Do., medium	6.25	7.25
Butchers' cows, choice	9.00	10.00
Do., good	8.00	8.50
Do., medium	7.50	8.00
Stockers, good	9.00	9.50
Do., medium	8.00	8.50
Canners	5.00	5.40
Milkers, good to choice	90.00	125.00
Do., common and medium	65.00	85.00
Calves, veal, choice	14.00	16.50
Do., medium	6.00	6.50
Do., common	6.00	7.00
Do., heavy fat	8.00	10.50

Spring lambs, cwt.	18.00	18.75
Sheep, ewes, light	9.00	15.00
Do., heavy and bucks	7.50	9.50
Do., culls	4.00	5.50
Hogs, fed and watered	18.75
Do., off cars	19.00
Do., f.o.b.	17.75
Less \$1 to \$2 on light or thin hogs; less \$3 to \$3.50 on sows; less \$4 on stags; less 50c to \$1 on heavies.		

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The market for butter showed continued strength for all grades, and prices scored advances amounting to 1c to 1½c per lb.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest Sept. and Oct. creamery ..	0.48½	0.49
Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery ..	0.47½	0.48
Current receipts, creamery ..	0.46	0.46½
Finest dairy	0.41½	0.42
Fine dairy	0.40½	0.41

CHEESE.

Business was quiet, and there were no developments in the cheese situation during the week.

The Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese	21½c
No. 2 cheese	21½c
No. 3 cheese	20½c

EGGS.

The tone of the market for eggs has ruled very firm, although there has been no change in the local situation. The trade in a wholesale jobbing way was fairly active.

We quote current prices as follows:

Strictly new laid eggs	0.70
Fresh eggs	\$1.58
Fall fresh eggs	0.52
Selected cold storage	0.48
No. 1 cold storage	0.45

POULTRY.

All supplies of dressed poultry coming forward met with a steady sale, as the demand was good, but the volume of business passing was not large. Prices show no change.

We quote prices as follows:—

Turkeys, per lb.	0.35	0.36
Milk fed chickens	0.35	0.36
No. 1 chickens	0.32	0.33
Choice fowl	0.27	0.28
Ducks, per lb.	0.29	0.30
Geese, per lb.	0.27	0.28

POTATOES.

The potatoe market developed a stronger tone this week, and prices scored an advance owing to the light stocks on spot, and the small arrivals. A fair trade was done in a wholesale jobbing way, with sales of Green Mountains at \$2.15 to \$2.25, Ontario white stock at \$2 to \$2.10, and reds at \$1.90 to \$2 per bag of 80 lbs. ex-store. The market for onions is firm, with a fair amount of business doing, and sales of Quebec reds by auction were made at 90c to \$1.00 per 70 lbs., large reds at \$1.50, and Spanish onions at \$3.50 to \$4 per crate.

RECEIPTS OF GRAIN IN WINNIPEG.

The receipts of grain in Winnipeg for the week ending February 7th, and the week previous were:—

	Week ending, Same date	Jan. 31, Feb. 7, last year.
No. 1 Hard	3	2
No. 1 Northern	605	425
No. 2 Northern	340	259
No. 3 Northern	239	192
No. 4 Wheat	113	91
No. 5 Wheat	80	64
No. 6 Wheat	56	57
Feed Wheat	10	8
Rejected	27	42
No. Grade	74	27
Winter Wheat
Totals	1,547	1,169
Oats	658	580
Barley	130	126
Flax	74	102
	43	