

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: Another heavy snow storm early in the week, almost the severest of the season, has naturally tended to impede the movements of travellers in the interior, but general trade continues about on the level last noted. Dry goods orders continue to come in in steady volume, showing even an increase over last year at this time, buying being no doubt considerably influenced by the uncertainty with regard to future supplies. Cotton prices continue to show strong advances. Orders placed with American manufacturers of fine yarn goods have been declined except at the stiff advance of two cents a yard and domestic manufacturers of white goods are quoting higher prices this week.

The iron market is quiet. Naturally there is a scarcity of stock, owing to the American embargo on the exportation of pig iron, and the comparatively little domestic foundry iron available is quoted at about \$50.00 a ton spot price.

The heavy country roads have apparently affected the grocery trade, orders being a little short of the average. There is as yet no improvement in the sugar situation, the local refineries being reduced to a limited output, owing to the very slim supply of raws coming forward, but prices remain as last quoted. Molasses has been again advanced this week, the figures for Barbadoes fancy now approaching the dollar mark. Japan tea men are in the market soliciting orders for new crop goods, and it is figured that medium grades will cost from 2 to 3 cents a lb. higher than last year, and fine grades 5 cents a lb. higher. Tapioca is very scarce and as high as 20 cents a lb. has been offered for a round lot. Butter is easier under increased receipts, eggs are showing reasonable decline, and potatoes are also lower. Millers report an active demand for flour.

In leather and boots and shoes the quiet conditions lately noted still prevail.

Hardware men report a very fair business in general lines. Paint and oil men also report good orders, but find great difficulty in obtaining necessary supplies. In paints there has already been several late marked advances and still higher prices are predicted in the near future. Stocks of glass are very low.

Ten district failures are reported for the week with liabilities of \$121,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal weekly trade report says: We have again been visited by some of the largest snow and wind storms ever experienced in this province, during the past week. These storms have seriously affected railway traffic, making it difficult for manufacturers to get in their supplies, which greatly interferes with many mills, etc., who will have to curtail their operations.

A notice from the Winnipeg grain exchange states that trading in barley has been stopped and no further sales will be permitted, except to satisfy existing contracts. There was quite a slump in the apple market this week, in some cases prices declined \$1.50 per barrel, in some sections of this country large supplies are held in store owing to the congestion of freight, these supplies cannot be moved to the big central markets it is stated that holders stand to make very heavy losses.

The statement of some of the largest cotton mills in Canada appear to be very satisfactory, sales being considerably ahead of that of a year ago. Buyers of wholesale houses report that cotton goods for next fall will be 50 per cent higher than that of a year ago. It will be next to impossible to purchase cashmere hosiery next fall. Carpets have advanced 25 per cent during the past half year.

New Government regulations will not permit meat packing establishments to earn more than eleven per cent profit. It is reported in trade circles that British Columbia packers will ask much higher prices for the 1918 pack of salmon.

The Canadian export trade for the first month of this year, shows a considerable falling off, which is no doubt due to the lack of shipping facilities. Canada's net debt increased over thirteen millions last month. The United States Government during the past six months have placed orders in Canada for war supplies aggregating ten millions per month. The wheat acreage this year in Western Canada will

be greatly increased, and will surpass the highest record.

One of the largest departmental stores in Canada report that notwithstanding the fact that prices have advanced materially, and operating expenses have been very much heavier, their sales have increased, and their profits are larger than that of a year ago. Remittances are good, but city collections are only fair.

LIVESTOCK.

The receipts of live stock in Montreal for the month of January, 1918, were 4,818 cattle, 937 sheep and lambs, 8,742 hogs, and 2,343 calves, as compared with 6,055 cattle, 800 sheep and lambs, 13,445 hogs, and 2,827 calves for the same month last year. The receipts from the 1st of January, 1918, to February 28th, were 12,013 cattle, 9,463 sheep and lambs, 20,499 hogs, 3,981 calves, and 3,326 horses.

The receipts of live stock at Toronto for the month of February, 1918, were 18,291 cattle, 2,693 sheep and lambs, 40,794 hogs, 2,595 calves, and 712 horses, as against 15,569 cattle, 2,173 sheep and lambs, 37,725 hogs, 2,800 calves, and 5,182 horses for the same month last year. The receipts for the year up to February 28th were, 41,187 cattle, 8,810 sheep and lambs, 74,169 hogs, 4,846 calves, and 6,817 horses.

The receipts of live stock at Winnipeg for the month of February, 1918, were 6,402 cattle, 130 sheep and lambs, 30,681 hogs, and 1,103 horses, as compared with 7,299 cattle, 414 sheep and lambs, 24,301 hogs, and 2,132 horses for the same month in 1917.

MONTREAL: The tone of the market for cattle was very firm, prices showing an advance from the previous week. Supplies were light, and the demand good. The tone of the market for calves was easy at the recent decline. The trade in sheep and lambs was light at firm prices. The market for hogs was firm, as supplies were light, and the demand good.

We quote Montreal prices as follows:

Steers, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice	12.75	13.00
Good	11.75	12.00
Fairly good	11.25	11.50
Fair	10.75	11.00
Light steers	10.00	10.50
Common	8.50	9.00
Butchers' bulls—		
Choice	10.50	11.00
Good	10.00	10.25
Medium	9.50	9.75
Common	8.00	9.00
Butchers' cows—		
Choice heavy	10.50	11.00
Good	10.00	10.25
Medium	9.50	9.75
Light weights	8.00	9.00
Canners' cattle—		
Bulls	6.00	6.50
Cows	5.00	5.50
Sheep, per 100 lbs.—		
Ewes	12.50	13.00
Bucks and culls	11.50	12.00
Ontario lambs	16.50	17.00
Quebec lambs	15.50	16.00
Calves, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice milk-fed stock	14.00	15.00
Good milk-fed stock	12.00	13.00
Grass-fed calves	7.00	10.00
Hogs, per 100 lbs.—		
Selected lots	20.50	21.00
Sows	17.50	18.00
Stags	14.50	15.50

TORONTO: The market for hogs developed great strength, and prices on Thursday broke all records, when hogs sold for \$20.25. Prices of cattle were steady. The offerings were small, and were all taken. The offerings of sheep and lambs were not large, and prices of lambs showed an increase.

Wholesale prices at the Toronto markets were:—

Heavy steers, choice	\$12.00	\$12.50
Do. good	11.00	11.50
Butchers' steers and heifers, choice	11.50	12.00
Do. good	11.00	11.40
Do. medium	10.25	10.60
Do. common	8.75	9.75

Butchers' cows, choice	10.00	10.25
Do. good	9.00	9.50
Do. medium	8.00	8.75
Do. common	6.75	7.50
Do. canners	6.00	6.25
Butchers' bulls, choice	10.25	10.75
Do. good	9.25	9.75
Do. medium	8.50	9.00
Do. common	7.75	8.25
Feeders, best	9.50	10.25
Stockers, best	8.50	9.00
Grass cows	7.75	8.25
Milkers and springers, choice	100.00	135.00
Do. com. to medium	65.00	90.00
Calves, choice	16.50	17.00
Do. medium	14.00	15.00
Do. common	10.00	12.00
Heavy fat	11.00	12.50
Lambs, choice	18.75	19.25
Sheep, choice handy	13.00	14.50
Do. heavy fat and bucks	11.50	12.50
Hogs, fed and watered	20.00	20.00
Do. off cars	20.20	20.25
Do. f.o.b.	18.75

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.

PROVISIONS.

The trade in all lines of provisions was quiet, but the tone of the market remained strong. There was a steady demand for all lines of live hogs coming forward, and prices ruled strong, and sales of long run, selected stock were made at \$20.50 to \$21, short run at \$20 to \$20.50; and mixed lots of common stock at \$19.50 per 100 lbs. weighed off cars. The tone of the market at other Canadian centres has been strong and prices in Toronto advanced to a new high level with sales at \$20.25 to \$20.50 per 100 lbs. weighed off cars, and at \$20 to \$20.50 fed and watered, while in Winnipeg prices are 50c. per 100 lbs. higher than a week ago at \$20 per 100 lbs. weighed off cars. The market for dressed hogs has been rather quiet during the week, the demand being only for small lots to fill actual wants and prices are unchanged from a week ago with abattoir fresh-killed stock selling at \$28 to \$28.50, and country dressed at \$25 to \$25.50 per 100 lbs.

The trade in all lines of smoked meats was quiet, but the tone market continues very firm with prices unchanged. The demand for lard for both country and local consumption was steady.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Hams:—		Per lb.
Smoked Hams, 8-10 lbs.	0.35	0.36
Do., 12-15 lbs.	0.33	0.34
Do., over 25 lbs.	0.31	0.32
Bacon:—		
Breakfast	0.40	0.41
Windsor Bacon, selected	0.42	0.43
Windsor Bacon, boneless	0.44	0.45
Pure Lard:—		
20 lbs. pails	0.30	0.31½
Compound Lard (Western Grades):—		
Tubs	0.27	0.27½

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending March 16th, 1918, were 1,061 packages, which show a decrease of 1,761 packages as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 2,941 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date, show a decrease of 141,824 packages as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. Owing to the increased receipts of butter an easier feeling developed in the market, and prices showed a decrease.

The Canada Food Board has secured the consent of the United States Food Administration to allow the export to Canada of 1,000,000 lbs. of oleomargarine per month. The demand for oleomargarine here has been good, with sales in a wholesale jobbing way made at 32c. to 34c. per lb., as to quality.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.48	0.48½
Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.47	0.47½
Current receipts, creamery	0.45½	0.46½