

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade:

The recent advent of warm weather has advanced vegetation rapidly, and all accounts from the country are of a favorable character. With regard to trade the generally satisfactory conditions as outlined last week still prevail, the main untoward feature being the difficulty in getting goods. The summery weather has had a stimulating effect upon retailers' sales of dry goods, more particularly wash goods and other seasonable lines, and wholesalers still report good business. During the past few days a further quota of department store and other large western buyers have been in town, making considerable personal selections. Recent receipts of American textiles have of late been very much curtailed, as the output of many large manufacturing plants have been entirely diverted to the supplying of army needs.

There has been a freer movement in groceries, more particularly to points reached by boat delivery, but there are no notable variations in values, except that early pickings of Japan teas are figured to cost from 5 to 6 cents a pound over last year's prices, to which, of course has to be added the new duty of 10c per lb. Sugars remain on the same basis for some weeks past, the several refineries quoting from \$3.65 to \$3.90 for standard granulated, while deliveries are a little more liberal.

In other lines there is nothing specially new. Payments are good as a whole and failures few.

Only four district failures are reported for the week, with liabilities of about \$90,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal weekly trade report says:

Wholesale houses report that business is as good as could be expected under the present conditions of high prices and shortage of merchandise, this is no doubt attributed to the abundant supply of money, which seems to be available.

Certain classes of dry goods it is found impossible to get, and in other cases prices appear to be out of all reason. Jute goods of all classes are almost impossible to secure, as manufacturers find they cannot obtain the raw material in any large quantity. This has been one of the main reasons why oilcloths of all kinds, both table and floor, have again advanced in prices. Linen goods of all classes are very scarce and prices rule much higher. Elastics are a line that have been advancing very rapidly of late. Curtain materials are also commanding higher prices during the past week.

There is always a big demand for paints at this season of the year, and notwithstanding the high prices, trade has been very active. Manufacturers say that prices will go higher owing to the great difficulty in procuring oils. Matches are just double the price they were, owing to the new taxes.

The high prices for boots and shoes is curtailing the sale. There is little or no export lumber trade moving except for government requirements but there is quite a business doing with the American trade. The live stock market showed a falling off in the demand, and prices on cattle, hogs, etc., all show a decline.

In a large number of Canadian cities there has been considerable unrest in the labor market, and quite a few strikes have been noted both here and elsewhere.

Weather conditions have been very favorable for crops and prospects are looking well. Retail trade has been very fair, city collections are still slow, but remittances are good.

### LOCAL FLOUR.

Compared with the past two or three weeks the offerings of spring wheat flour were small. Which was attributed to the fact that a number of the small mills in Ontario have ceased operations for want of wheat. The purchases made by the Flour Department of the Wheat Export Co., Ltd., last week amounted to about 100,000 bbls. at \$10.64 per bbl. in 140-lb. sacks for all rail shipments from the West, and at \$10.60 per bbl. for rail and water shipments f.o.b. vessel, seaboard ports.

There was very little new business in spring wheat flour for local and country account last week as the wholesale jobbers and consumers, in most cases, had

as large supplies on hand as were allowed by the Canada Food Board. There was no change in prices, car lots of Government standard grade for shipment to country points being quoted at \$10.95 per bbl. in bags, f.o.b. cars, Montreal, and to city bakers at \$11.05 delivered, while broken lots sold to grocers and city bakers at \$11.15 delivered.

There was a steady demand in a wholesale jobbing way for substitutes for white flour and the market was moderately active with a steady undertone. Sales of rye flour were made at \$16.50 per bbl. in bags; barley flour at \$13.50; corn flour at \$12; Graham flour at \$11.20, and rice flour at \$9 per 100 lbs., put up in 220-lb. sacks, all delivered to the trade.

As buyers are well supplied with winter wheat flour the trade was dull.

### MILLFEED.

Pure grain mouille showed a decline of \$3.00 per ton, and at this reduction there was a steady demand for supplies, and sales were made at \$72 per ton, including bags. In addition to this feed millers in some cases are manufacturing several other lines of millfeed from a certain percentage of oats, corn and barley, for which they report a fair demand at prices ranging from \$55 to \$80 per ton, including bags as to quality. The condition of the market for bran and shorts is unchanged, the demand being ample to absorb all offerings at \$35 for the former, and at \$40 for the latter per ton, including bags delivered to the trade.

### ROLLED OATS.

The tone of the market for oats showed greater weakness last week and prices scored a further decline. The domestic and country demand for rolled oats was somewhat limited, and only a small business was done in broken lots of standard grades at \$5.15 to \$5.30 per bag of 90 lbs., delivered to the trade, while car lots were offering at \$4.85 to \$5 extra. The demand for export account was quiet too, and only a few small lots of oatmeal were purchased at \$9.60 per bbl. in bags f.o.b. vessel at seaboard ports, which figure is 10c per bbl lower than the sales were made at last week. The tone of the market for cornmeal ruled steady, with a fair amount of business passing in a wholesale jobbing way, and sales of Golden grade were made at \$6.25 to \$6.40, and bolted grade at \$4.50 to \$4.75 per bag, delivered at the trade.

### LOCAL GRAIN.

The Winnipeg option market for oats displayed considerable strength in the early part of the week and prices advanced in several centres, but later in the week the market developed a weaker tone when prices steadily declined, closing 1½c to 1¼c per bushel lower than a week ago. The local market became unsettled in sympathy with the above and cash oats became weaker and prices were reduced ½c to 1¼c per bushel than a week ago. A fair amount of business was done during the early part of the week, but at the end of the week trade was dull. On Saturday car lots of No. 2 Canadian western were quoted at 94½c; tough No. 2 C.W. at 91½c; No. 3 Canadian western and extra No. 1 feed at 91c; tough extra No. 1 feed and No. 1 feed at 88c, and No. 2 feed at 85c per bushel ex-store. The tone of the market for Manitoba feed barley during the week was stronger, and prices advanced 1c to 2c per bushel, with sales of car lots or rejected and feed grades at \$1.28 to \$1.29 per bushel ex-store. A stronger feeling also prevailed in the market for American corn, and spot prices advanced 5c per bushel, with sales of car lots of No. 3 yellow at \$1.80, and No. 4 yellow at \$1.75 per bushel ex-store.

Fluctuations in grain on Saturday at Winnipeg were:

<b>Oats:</b>	
No. 2 C. W. ....	0.82½
Do., No. 2 C. W. ....	0.79½
Do., Extra No. 1 feed .....	0.79½
Do., No. 1 Feed .....	0.76½
Do., No. 2 feed .....	0.73½
<b>Barley:</b>	
No. 3 C. W. ....	\$1.30
No. 4 C. W. ....	1.25
<b>Flax:</b>	
No. 1 N. C. W. ....	3.75½
No. 2 C. W. ....	3.72½
No. 3 C. W. ....	3.50½

## LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL—The receipts of cattle at Montreal's two yards, for the week ending May 25th, 1918, were 1,250 cattle, 190 sheep and lambs, 1,850 hogs and 2,800 calves. Prices for all grades of livestock showed little change last week although the market developed a stronger tone. Trade was active as buyers were in need of supplies. The trade in calves was brisk and a very firm tone developed.

We quote the following Montreal prices:

Steers, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice .....	\$15.00	\$15.75
Good .....	14.50	14.75
Fairly good .....	14.00	14.25
Fair .....	13.00	13.25
Light steers .....	12.50	12.75
Common .....	11.00	12.00
Butchers' bulls—		
Choice .....	11.75	12.25
Good .....	11.25	11.50
Medium .....	10.75	11.00
Common .....	9.25	10.25
Butchers' cows—		
Choice heavy .....	11.75	12.00
Good .....	11.25	11.50
Medium .....	10.75	11.00
Common .....	8.75	10.00
Sheep, per 100 lbs.—		
Ewes .....	13.00	14.00
Bucks and culls .....	11.00	12.00
Ontario lambs .....	17.00	18.00
Quebec lambs .....	16.00	17.00
Calves, per 100 lbs.—		
Good milk-fed stock .....	12.00	13.00
Good .....	10.00	11.00
Fair .....	9.00	10.00
Hogs, per 100 lbs.—		
Selected .....	21.25	21.50
Sows .....	19.25	19.50
Stags .....	17.25	17.50

TORONTO—The receipts of livestock at Toronto's two yards for the week ending May 25th amounted to 6,055 cattle, 1931 calves, 7,290 hogs, 186 sheep and 112 horses. The market developed an easier tone and after repeated attempts the buyers have succeeded in bringing about a decline in prices of 50 cents. They are now fighting for a further decline of 50 cents per cwt.

The cattle market held its own well until the closing day of the week. Monday's quotations were a shade higher than the previous close. The "run" on the first day was composed of a few more than 4,000 head of medium to good cattle. The top price of the day was \$16.35 per cwt., and, while this figure was not as high as had been reached the previous week, it was quite equal to any former figures when quality was taken into consideration. The mid-week sale, following a very light Tuesday offering, had a sprinkling of fairly choice to extra choice animals, and as a result higher bids were received. There were several cattle cashed at \$17, and four or five loads were sold around \$16 per cwt.

Apart from the few extra choice yearlings that sold at fancy prices, the best cattle this week sold from \$14 to \$16; and good heavy steers and heifers at from \$13 to \$14 per cwt.

There was a fairly good tone all week in the small meats department, but the offerings were very small. Veal calves of the best varieties sold at from \$14 to \$16, and the medium at from \$12 to \$13.50 per cwt. Lambs were steady at from \$20 to \$22, and sheep around \$18 and \$19 for the unclipped and from \$14 to \$16 per cwt. for clipped.

### RECEIPTS OF GRAIN AND FLOUR.

The receipts of grain and flour in Montreal for the five days ending May 24th were:

Wheat, bushels .....	251,620
Oats, bushels .....	245,709
Barley, bushels .....	227,923
Flour, bushels .....	58,455
Hay, bales .....	7,762
Straw, bales .....	537
Meal, bushels .....	915