

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin, says of last week's Montreal trade: "The recent frosty nights are evidently making people think of their winter needs. Dry goods men report a lively demand for goods, and both travellers' and house orders are being booked in goodly volume. New price lists for spring prints are out, showing an advance of from 2c to 3c a yard. New quotations for general lines of cottons are still being held back, but are expected at any time. Some of the shoe manufacturing concerns are fairly busy, more particularly those having orders in hand for military footwear, but, owing to the advanced prices for spring lines, jobbers and retailers are backward in placing orders.

In the leather market there is nothing specially new, the local demand being moderate, but all prices are firmly held.

The sugar situation is becoming more serious, and as the International Sugar Commission has evidently decided to still further curtail the allotment of raws for the balance of the year, some of the refineries have been shut down for lack of stock. One of the local companies has advanced its quotation for standard granulated to \$9.50, figures which have been adopted by an outside concern, but the other local refineries maintain their quotations at \$8.75 and \$9, respectively. Stocks of molasses are still very light, and bobbing prices are held to from \$1 to \$1.02 a gallon. A further advance has been advised in soap of 25c a box. Coffee prices have also been advanced. Cattle, hogs and butter show a firmer tendency.

General payments are well maintained, and the money market presents no new features. Bankers report ample funds for all regular commercial purposes, at unchanged rates. For all funds the regular rate remains at 6 per cent."

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: "Manufacturers of different lines of dry goods, especially the cotton mills, state that it will be many months before they can catch up with the orders now on their books. The Government requirements are so large that manufacturers find it difficult to get their looms working on trade orders. Prices continue upward, and wholesale jobbers find they cannot place any more orders with the mills for some time, and are what stock the jobbers have on hand, rapidly being picked up. Manufacturers of window shades find it difficult to get adequate supplies of fabric for their industry. Tweeds and worsteds are almost impossible to buy, and what can be had are commanding very high prices. Linoleums and floor oilcloths are not quoted, these lines being off the market, as manufacturers cannot secure the raw material.

"There is a scarcity of molasses, and prices have again been advanced. No more supplies will come on to the market until the next new crop. Leather and hide market is unchanged with fair supplies offering. Some large orders for machinery were placed during the week, one house booking an order for over \$200,000.

"Most of the flour mills are again in operation, while those who have not started yet, expect to do so in a few days. One of the sugar refineries advanced prices this week 40 cents per hundred pounds on all grades.

"There have been a number of estimates given on the wheat crop of the West, varying from \$125,000,000 bushels to 290,000,000. Authorities in this city are still of the opinion, however, that the crop will be around 200,000,000 bushels.

"The retail trade has shown quite an improvement during the week. Remittances are coming in well, and city collections continue to improve.

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

### BUTTER.

The butter market developed a strong tone last week, and wholesale jobbing prices showed an advance of 1 cent per lb. over those of the previous week. On Saturday at the Board of Trade auction sale, competitive buying forced prices from 1c to 1 1/4c per pound above those of the previous week. Saturday's wholesale jobbing quotations were marked up to 47c to 48c per lb.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest creamery	0.43 1/2	0.44 1/2
Fine creamery	0.43 1/4	0.43 3/4
Finest dairy	0.36	0.37
Fine dairy	0.36	0.37

### CHEESE.

There were no changes last week in the cheese market. Local trade was comparatively active at 23c to 24c per lb. for small lots in a wholesale jobbing way.

The Dairy Produce Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese	0.23
No. 2 cheese	0.22 1/2
No. 3 cheese	0.22

### EGGS.

Receipts for the week were 5,004 cases, against 6,226 cases a year ago, and for the period from May 1st, 1918, to September 14th, 1918, receipts were 199,072 cases, against 218,035 in the corresponding period a year ago. A good demand for immediate consumption with arrivals just sufficient to meet demands kept the local market very firm.

We quote wholesales jobbing prices as follows:

Strictly new laid	0.56
Selected new laid eggs	0.52
No. 1 stock	0.47
No. 2 stock	0.45

Ontario country shippers report a much improved demand, sales are reported at 44c to 46c to gatherers f.o.b. cases returnable and 43c to 44c to stores and circles getting up to 49c. Receipts are falling off rapidly and it will not be long before the bulk of the trade will have to depend upon storage stock. Montreal is getting a quantity of Western eggs which help out the shortage.

There has been some inquiry at Toronto from British Columbia for storage eggs for October and November shipment. So far only one car is reported sold.

The Western situation has firmed up slightly during the past week. There is a shortage of current receipts, and in nearly all large market centres short held storage eggs are making their appearance on the market and being used in place of new-laid. Harvesting and moulting has caused a heavy falling off in fresh gathered. The present feed situation and the prospects for winter feed are not conducive to large flocks being carried over the fall and winter, and as a result conditions at the present time in some western sections point to a continued shortage of eggs throughout the balance of the season. This seems to apply particularly to northern Alberta. The carlot movement from Manitoba to the East continues, and last week two cars were reported rolling to Montreal. A car of fresh firsts was sold to Vancouver at 44c f.o.b. Winnipeg.

From Prince Edward Island come reports of good trading. Receipts are light, though they seem heavier in proportion than in other parts of Canada. There is a brisk inter-provincial movement of P.E.I. eggs costing 45c-47c f.o.b., Charlottetown, these moving to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec points.

The United States markets are firmer, and the outlook is healthy for the firmer grades of fresh gathered. Storage stocks are beginning to move into consumption freely.

No further information is to hand with regard to the offers made by the British Ministry of Food reported last week.

A report from Chicago states that the British Ministry of Food through the Allied Buying Commission at New York have stated that they are open to buy seven hundred cars of United States eggs on a basis of 49c delivered at ships side, New York. So far, it is said few sales have been consummated as many dealers are afraid of the official inspection and the conditions of sale.

The following appears in the August 28th issue of the "New York Produce Review & American Creamery":

"Evidence that the British Government would take a considerable quantity of storage eggs from this country during the fall, has become more positive during the past week by the submission to a number of New York merchants by a prominent export house, of blank forms of contract upon which offers of storage eggs may be made under the specifications stated.

The contract is to be made between the seller and his Britanic Majesty's Government through the British Ministry of Food in U.S.A.

The grade specified is 'New York storage packed firsts or Chicago storage packed extras, laid during the months of March, April or early in the month of May, 1918, according to section.' The net weight is to be at least 4 1/2 lbs.

The seller must guarantee the grade and weight and the exclusion of all rots, spots, leakers, dirties and heavy floaters.

The packing is to be in the Continental cases (1-440 eggs to the case) or in heavy 30 dozen export cases with new, heavy fillers and flats, excelsior pads top and bottom. The cases must be clearly marked according to buyers' instructions.

The buyer reserves the right to have one or more inspectors at the works of the seller at all times prior to the shipment of the eggs to storage (repacked) for inspecting and observing the sorting and packing and to ascertain compliance with the specifications. The eggs shall also be subject to final inspection at point of shipment by candling not less than 2 1/2 per cent of each entire shipment."

### POULTRY.

Poultry has come along much more freely in Eastern Canada during the past week, some dealers reporting having found it necessary to put down their quotations as they claim present prices are too high for storing. On the other hands, shippers at country points say the demand is brisk, and they have been able to make sales at an advance over general quotations received by circular. Buffalo is taking considerable live poultry from Western Ontario points. Dealers say they netted as high as 28c for live ducks on the Buffalo market. The United States poultry markets are reported firm with a good demand, notwithstanding receipts have been very heavy.

### POTATOES.

Although prices of potatoes remain unchanged, the market is slightly easier, as the demand was steady and supplies were good, a steady trade was done at \$1.55 to \$1.65 per 80 lb. bag, wholesale, to jobbers.

### LOCAL FLOUR.

An active trade in spring wheat flour is reported with the demand somewhat ahead of the supply at the recent advance of 40c per bbl. A fair trade was done in Government standard grade spring wheat at \$11.35 per bbl. in bags in car lots f.o.b. Montreal, and at \$11.45 delivered to bakers. A fairly active business passed in winter wheat flour at \$11.60 per bbl. in small jobbing lots in new cotton bags and at \$11.30 in second hand jute bags, ex-store.

### SUBSTITUTES.

Government standard corn flour was lower last week, sales being made in broken lots, at \$10.50 to \$10.55 per bbl. in bags. Supplies of barley flour were more abundant and prices were 50c per bbl. lower with sales at \$11.50 to \$11.60 per bbl. in bags delivered. Rye-flour was steady at \$12.00 to \$12.25 per bbl. Sales of oat and white corn flour were reported at \$12.00.

### BUTTER AND CHEESE RECEIPTS.

Receipts of butter and cheese at Montreal for the day, week and season, with comparisons, follow:

	Butter, pkgs.	Cheese boxes.
Week ending Sept. 14, 1918.....	10,352	59,065
Week ending Sept. 7, 1918.....	15,160	63,308
Week ending Sept. 15, 1917.....	9,580	72,594
Total receipts May 1 to September 14, 1918 .....	301,066	1,268,663
Total receipts May 1 to September 15, 1917 .....	244,519	1,302,919

### GRAIN AND FLOUR STOCKS.

Stocks of grain and flour at Montreal on the following dates were:

	Sept. 14, 1918.	Sept. 7, 1918.	Sept. 15, 1917.
Wheat, bush. . . . .	2,315,572	1,975,916	872,600
Corn, bush. . . . .	376,197	122,271	23,201
Peas, bush. . . . .	41,420	41,420	.....
Oats, bush. . . . .	3,272,967	3,591,253	730,175
Barley, bush. . . . .	376,027	387,489	4,986
Flour, bbls. . . . .	3,563	17,395	55,164
Meal . . . . .	165	165	.....