

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

We quote Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report as follows:

There has been a more optimistic feeling in trade circles than for some time past. Some lines, which have been decadent since the war started, are now showing a new lease of life. This is especially noticeable in our export trade, which has been encouraged by more freight space being offered by the Steamship Companies, and also with a considerable reduction in freight rates.

In the dry goods trade orders from travellers are coming in well, also a number of letter orders from the country trade.

The long looked for decline in the high cost of living is beginning to show itself; all lines of meats, pork, etc., have declined during the week, while a substantial decline in the price of eggs is noted. American new laid eggs are now offering more freely, and to this is attributed the cause of the decline in Canadian hen fruit.

The butter market remained firm with more activity. Stocks on hand show a big decrease. Wholesale grocery houses reduced the price of molasses and rice. Several lines of nuts were sold at lower prices. The grain markets were firmer during the week, but prices did not hold the advance, the abundance of supplies in all markets being a bearish feature.

The iron and steel industries are busy on Government orders. They had to refuse some large orders for European account. Advices from the Western Provinces state that the prospects for a good crop this year at the present time never looked better.

Landlords have never experienced such a demand for houses, apartments and flats as they did this week, and all advanced rentals, which the landlords were compelled to put up owing to increased taxation and the high cost of repairs.

Retail trade have had a busy week. Collections are good.

"Dun's Review" says of Canadian trade: While trade continues in fair volume for this period, labor and price readjustments still act as obstructive factors. At the same time, the transition to a peace basis is proceeding along with a minimum disturbance, and the feeling among merchants and manufacturers is optimistic. A drop in prices is looked for, as a result of the decline in raw materials, and many buyers are operating in a hand-to-mouth way while awaiting reductions. Collections, as a rule, are satisfactory, the financial outlook is encouraging, and the labor situations, considering all conditions, is favorable.

Montreal reports that business is rather quiet, which is attributed mainly to price uncertainty, but sentiment is optimistic and improvement is anticipated with the opening of spring. Distribution of merchandise has increased recently at Quebec, although orders are confined closely to immediate needs, and collections are usually prompt. Gradual improvement is reported in wholesale lines at Toronto, especially in dry goods, but merchants are reluctant to commit themselves beyond immediate necessities. Retail trade is fair, and collections generally satisfactory. Although no great activity prevails, business in the Far West and Northwest displays a tendency toward improvement, and the outlook for spring is reported excellent. All the leading wholesale and jobbing centres, among them Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon and Calgary, note an increasing demand for staple merchandise, notably footwear, agricultural implements, house furnishings and hardware.

Gross earnings of Canadian railroads so far reporting for January show an increase of 31.2 per cent., as compared with the corresponding month a year ago.

LIVE STOCK.

The receipts of live stock at the Montreal Stock Yards were 400 cattle, 150 sheep and lambs, 775 hogs and 180 calves. A better feeling prevails owing to the fact that supplies come forward so far have been well cleared up. The tone of the market on the whole was stronger and higher prices were realized for what butchers' cattle were available, and a fair trade was done with sales of small lots of the best steers offered at \$12.50 to \$12.75, and the lower grades at from that down to \$10, while a few choice butchers' cows sold at \$10 to \$10.50 and fair to good lots at \$8.50 to \$9.50 per 100 lbs. There were only a few bulls on the market, which were most of a common quality. The demand from packers for the canning stock was steady and sales of bulls were made at \$6 to \$6.50, and cows at \$5 to \$5.25 per 100 lbs.

The tone of the market for lambs was stronger on account of the very limited number offered, and prices as compared with those paid last Wednesday show an advance of 50c. to \$1 per 100 lbs. The demand was fair for the few available and sales of Ontario stock were made at \$13 to \$14, and Quebec at \$12 to \$12.50 per 100 lbs. There was no change in prices for sheep, but they were firm at \$6 to \$8 per 100 lbs., as to quality. The trade in calves was fair and prices were unchanged for milk-fed stock at from \$10 to \$16 per 100 lbs., as to quality, and stall-fed stock sold at from \$6 to \$8 per 100 lbs. The supply of hogs was a little larger, for which there was a better demand and prices ruled firmer with sales of selected lots at \$16.50 to \$17 per 100 lbs. weighed off cars.

At the Canadian Pacific Live Stock market the receipts for the week were 1,100 cattle, 550 sheep and lambs, 450 hogs, and 200 calves. There were several loads of choice steers offered, which cost in Toronto \$13.50 per 100 lbs., which were sold at \$12, and other loads of good steers at \$10.75 to \$11, while canning bulls sold at \$5 to \$5.50, and cows as low as \$3.75. The prices for lambs, sheep, calves and hogs were the same as those quoted above with a steady demand for small lots.

Toronto quotations:		
Extra choice steers	15.00	15.50
Choice steers	12.50	14.00
Butchers, choice, handy	10.50	11.50
Do., good	9.00	9.50
Do., medium	7.25	8.25
Do., common	6.50	7.25
Butchers bulls, choice	9.50	10.00
Do., good	8.00	9.00
Do., medium	7.00	7.25
Butchers cows, choice	9.50	10.00
Do., medium	7.50	8.00
Do., common	5.50	5.75
Feeders	9.00	10.00
Short-keep feeders	9.50	11.50
Stockers	8.00	9.00
Cutters	5.00	6.00
Canners	5.50	6.75
Springers	95.00	140.00
Milkers, good to choice	90.00	135.00
Do., common and medium	60.00	65.00
Calves, very choice	15.00	16.00
Do., medium	13.00	
Do., common to fair	6.00	10.00
Do., heavy fat	8.00	9.50
Light lambs, per cwt.	15.00	15.50
Heavy lambs	12.00	14.50
Butchers' sheep	9.00	10.00
Do., fat and medium	7.00	8.00
Do., culls	5.00	10.00
Hogs, fed and watered	16.00	16.50
Do., hogs off cars	16.25	16.75
Do., f.o.b., nominal	15.25	15.75

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

No change of importance has occurred in the local butter situation. It was reported that some further purchases had been made for export account, but apart from this the trade in a wholesale way has ruled rather quiet, while the demand from grocers and other dealers for small lots of finest creamery has been fairly good.

The receipts of butter for the week ending February 8th, 1919, were 1,869 packages, which show a decrease of 233 packages as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 1,823 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date show an increase of 123,297 packages as compared with the corresponding period last year.

We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:

Finest creamery, solids	51½c to 52c
Finest creamery, blocks	52½c to 53c
Fine creamery, solids	51c to 51½c
Finest dairy	43c to 44c
Fine dairy	42c to 42½c

CHEESE.

The market for cheese has been without special features this week. The receipts were unusually light and this, coupled with the fact that stocks on spot for the period of the year were probably never so small, the volume of business for export account has been limited, and the demand from local dealers for supplies for domestic consumption has also been small, consequently the market on the whole is dull.

The receipts for the week ending February 8th, 1919, were 191 boxes, which show a decrease of 74 boxes as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 238 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date show a decrease of 119,921 boxes as compared with the corresponding period last year.

The following prices are being paid by the Commission:

No. 1 Cheese	25c
No. 2 Cheese	24½c
No. 3 Cheese	24c

EGGS.

Owing to the sharp break in prices in the leading American markets, the continued mild weather here, the steady increase in the production throughout the country, and the larger receipts, the market here suffered a very depressing influence, and prices declined until a drop of 8c per dozen, had taken place. At this price a marked increase in consumption was shown, and at the close of the week a firmer feeling developed. The demand was good from grocers and other dealers for supplies, and the market was well cleaned up of all offerings of imported American fresh eggs and Canadian stock.

The total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date were 283,326 cases, as against 311,269 for the same period last year.

We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:

Strictly new laid	55c
Cold storage selects	50c
Cold storage No. 1	47c

POULTRY.

The demand from Hebrew buyers for live fowl was the feature of this week's poultry trade. The receipts of fresh-killed dressed poultry have also been very light, and in consequence prices have ruled very firm, with a steady demand, but buyers have not been able to satisfy their wants with this class of stock, consequently there has been an increased demand for cold storage stock, and as supplies are still ample to meet all requirements, a more active trade was done at firm prices, with sales of some