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MAN.



Montreal Markets.

Flour.—The flour market has been very dull and easy during the week, the weakness having been emphasized by the fact that about 1,500 bbls of a Toronto firm which recently failed are offered on this market, and although at time of writing they are being offered at away below market values, they are not yet sold; and until this flour is worked off things will remain in a very unsettled condition. Newfoundland shippers, we understand, have been offered these straight roller flours at \$3.15 to \$3.17½, the latter for a lot of 90 per cents. It is difficult to quote rates at the present time, as there are no regular prices, each seller using his own judgment as to what figure he will take when he gets hold of a buyer. It is feared that the Toronto failure will be followed by others, unless the banks extend help until prices improve. Millers in the West are getting their wheat cheap enough now, as they are getting it delivered at the mills for 53 and 64c per bushel for red and white winter, but they say wheat must go lower still before they can sell their flour at a profit. As regards spring wheat flour, strong bakers are selling at all sorts of prices, city brands having been sold at \$3.75 to 3.80, while other sales are reported at \$3.90 to 4.00. Manitoba ground strong bakers sold at the way from \$3.25 to 3.90, as to quality. Surely prices cannot keep at this low ebb much longer.

Oatmeal.—The market is steady, and we quote:—Rolled and granulated \$4.25 to 4.50, Standard \$4.10 to 4.30. In bags, granulated and rolled \$2.10 to 2.25, and standard \$2.05 to \$2.15.

Mill Feed.—Bran is quiet and slightly easier, sales being reported of car loads on track at \$14.00 to 14.50, and shorts are quoted steady at \$16.00 to 17.00. Moullie \$19.00 to 21.50.

Wheat.—No. 2 Upper Canada red winter wheat has been offered on this market, and 68c was the best bid. No. 2 hard Manitoba wheat is quoted at 80 to 81c, but shippers state that they cannot pay those figures for export.

Oats.—The market is firm, the sale of a round lot being made yesterday at 40c afloat per 34 lbs. Sales have also been made at 39½c per 34 lbs. in store for the local trade.

Barley.—The market is very dull, and sellers find it difficult to make sales. Brewers say the season is pretty well over, and that they are not in need of barley. A lot of No. 2 extra was offered at 48c, but buyers did not seem to want it. Feed barley is quiet at 41 to 43c.

Butter.—Considerable creamery is said to be going into cold storage, although at 17½ to 18c it could be placed for English account, and sales of small lots have transpired at 18 to 18½c for export. A lot of 30 tubs of choice fresh made creamery was sold at 18½c for the local

trade and a lot of early made sold at 17c. A fair range of quotations for creamery is from 17 to 18½c in a wholesale way. As regards dairy, sales have taken place of Eastern Townships at 16½ to 17c in good sized lot for the local trade, and one lot was taken for export at 16½c. A very choice lot of Western dairy was sold for Newfoundland at 16c, but the selection was close and the quality said to be equal to creamery. A lot of mixed Western was placed at 13½c. Buyers in the Eastern Townships are paying 15 to 16c.

Cheese.—The market is unsettled and on the easy side although the sales for this week's steamers comprise finest Western white at 8½ to 9c, and second grades 8½ to 8¾c, and finest Western colored at 9½ to 9¾c. French cheese has been sold at 8½ to 8¾c for finest, and second grades at 8½ to 8¾c. These are good figures, and farmers should be well satisfied with them. The flow of milk at the present time is unusually large, and there can be no doubt that the June production will beat all former records. The public is down another 61 to 47s 6d. Sales have been made for this week's shipment at 43s 6d, and a lot of French cheese was reported sold over the cable at 42s 6d c.i.f. Liverpool.

Eggs.—The market during the past week has remained steady with sales of ordinary stock at 11 to 11½c as to quantity, a few cases of fancy candled having been placed at 12c. A few shipments of fresh stock are going forward to the English market from the west. Further sales of pickled eggs have been made for October and November delivery in England. Dealers here say they can see no money in shipping fresh eggs to the other side at present.

Cured Meats.—There is an easier feeling in the local market, and fully \$1 per bbl. less money has been accepted in order to affect business. Sales of Canada short cut mess pork have been made at \$22, while \$21.50 would probably be accepted for a round lot. Pork is also lower in the west. Lard is quiet but steady at \$1.90 per pail for compound, sales being reported at that figure. Extra pure lard sells at \$2.40 per pail of 20 lbs., smoked meat are in fair demand with sales of hams reported all the way from 12½ to 14c per lb. as to quantity and quality. Picnic hams have been sold at 11 to 12c.

Wool.—The mills are taking a few lots of Cape all the time, but not in any large quantities, sales being reported at 14½ to 15½c as to quality, although we hear of one or two lots changing hands at 14c. A few lots of new Canadian fleece have been received at country points west of Toronto, but it is too early yet to give quotations, although it is believed they will be about 2c higher than last year's opening. We quote Cape, 14½ to 16½c; scoured B. A., wool, 29 to 30c; Canadian fleece, 18 to 21c; and Northwest wool, 12 to 13c as to grade.

Hides.—At a meeting of the principal dealers

on Wednesday last, it was agreed to put down the prices paid to dealers to 50 and 5½c for No. 1, to 60 for No. 1 steers, and 50 for No. 2, the change to go into effect on Monday next. The principal change will be upon steers weighing 60 pounds and upwards. It is to be hoped that the hide dealers will agree among themselves, and not take advantage of the understanding arrived at, as the terrible cutting that has obtained in this trade has been a great drawback to profitable trading. We do not alter our quotations this week, which are as follows: Nos. 1, 2 and 3 hides to tanners 5½, 4½ and 3½c and to dealers 5 to 5½c, 4 to 4½c and 3 to 3½c for Nos. 1, 2 and 3c. Calfskins 8c, sheepskins \$1 to \$1.25, and lambskins 95c. Clip, 25c. Calfskins will be reduced 1c on Monday next to 7c.

Dried Apples, etc.—The market is dull, and we quote dried apples 5½c per pound, evaporated peaches and apricots 18½ to 21c.—*Trade Bulletin.*

Cider Preservatives.

We think salicylic acid is the best preservative for cider, and in small quantities is perfectly harmless. The acid should be either dissolved in alcohol or in a little of the cider, so as to prevent its floating. The proper quantity is about an ounce and a half to fifty gallons of cider, and should be added when the first fermentation has just been completed. There is no harm in using sulphur by burning it inside the casks, either in the apparatus used for the purpose by the French wine-growers or by soaking strips of cloth in melted sulphur, lighting them, and allowing them to burn inside the cask. This destroys the fungi which oftentimes are apt to spoil the cider.

Hours of Labor in Japan.

The development of the cotton spinning industry in Japan has progressed with great rapidity during the past three or four years, and the return of the dividends paid by the various companies show that they are all in a highly prosperous condition. There is, however, a sombre side to the picture, and it is found in the condition of the work people employed. The American Board of Missions, as a result of its investigations in the condition of the working population of Japan, says that each day in the week is a working day—there being no Sunday rest—for men, women and children alike; that it runs from twelve to fifteen hours as a rule, with exceptional instances of seventeen hours, the only breaks being two short intervals for meals. This long daily stretch of work is made still more arduous and injurious to the workers by the badly ventilated and badly lighted factories in which they labor, and cannot fail to act prejudicially upon the quality of their products.