

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: Trade conditions continue healthy, and complaints as to collections are notable only by their absence. Preparations for the semi-annual stock-taking are in train with some of the wholesale dry goods houses, but business is still well-sustained in volume. Increasing difficulty is noted in the getting of American cotton, owing to the growing scarcity of textile labor, and the very large needs of the American Government for war purposes. In this connection it is reported that 85,000,000 yards of demins were recently requisitioned, besides large shipments of woollens, which were badly needed, and nearly every house in the local trade has suffered.

Fur manufacturers report good business, orders being considerably in excess of figures of a year ago. While the leather trade cannot be called active there is rather more doing, both locally and in an export way.

City trade in the hardware line remains very quiet, but, nevertheless, wholesalers report good business with the country, and sales well up to figures of last year.

Paint manufacturers are very actively employed, notwithstanding the constantly advancing prices of all raw materials, and export trade with Australia, New Zealand and South Africa is growing, while some good orders have recently been reported from the Malay States.

Groceries show a normal distribution in staple lines. Sugar prices are unchanged and some relaxation is noted in the restrictions in refiners' deliveries. Molasses has been again advanced to \$1.00 a gallon, a figure before unthought of.

Pastures and meadows are said to be showing up well and general farm work is proceeding favorably. Seven district failures are reported for the week, with liabilities of about \$225,000.

Bradstreets Montreal Weekly Trade Report, says: This province has been visited by too much rain during the week, which has washed away the seeds in the low-lying districts, and farmers have commenced re-seeding in most cases. Advices from the Province of Ontario state that the winter wheat crop has been a failure, farmers will not get a yield of more than ten per cent of the full wheat they have sown. All crop reports from the Northwestern provinces are favorable, in some sections farmers have increased their acreage by fifty per cent.

Locomotive companies, iron and steel and also munition factories, report that the past year's record now closing, is the biggest and most successful on record. Large orders being placed recently in Canada by the American Government for shells.

Waterproof clothing manufacturers state that their orders on hand are the largest ever known in this line of business, and the prospects were never brighter. Wholesale grocery houses in Western Canada have cancelled their orders in Montreal pending the adjustment of the tax increase in many commodities. Rye and corn flour declined 50c to \$1 per barrel. It is reported that two sailing vessels loaded with wheat are en-route to Vancouver from Australia.

Banking institutions will open half an hour earlier and close half an hour earlier on June 1st. The monetary exchange between Canada and the United States has shown considerable improvement during the past few days.

Remittances are good, but city collections are still rather slow. Retail trade has been very fair.

LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL.—The receipts of livestock at Montreal's two markets for the week ending May 18th were: 1,650 cattle, 220 sheep and lambs, 2,850 hogs and 4,950 calves. In sympathy with the high prices prevailing at the other Canadian centres for livestock on the opening day. Steer cattle prices advanced \$1.75 to \$2; bulls 50c and cows 25c per 100 lbs., and remained at this high level throughout the week. Supplies of good grade cattle are decreasing throughout the country so a decidedly strong tone prevailed although owing to the high prices trade was rather slow. The market for small meats also displayed a strong tone and prices showed an advance in most cases. The offerings of yearling lambs were small, for which the demand was fair, and

prices ruled \$1 to \$2 per 100 lbs. higher at \$17 to \$18 per 100 lbs., while old sheep advanced \$1 per 100 lbs., with sales at \$13 to \$14 per 100 lbs., and few spring lambs were disposed of at from \$10 to \$15 each as to size and quality. There was a good demand for calves and trade was active at a rise in prices of \$1 per 100 lbs., choice milk-fed stock selling at \$12 to \$13 per 100 lbs. The strength which prevailed in the market for hogs all the previous week was fully maintained, and prices scored a further advance of 25c per 100 lbs. There were 600 head received at the above market, of which all but 200 head had been contracted for, and they sold at \$22 to \$22.25 per 100 lbs. weighed off cars for selected lots.

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	13.50	13.75
Light steers	13.00	13.25
Common	11.50	12.50
Butchers' bulls—		
Choice	12.00	12.50
Good	11.50	11.75
Medium	10.75	11.00
Common	9.50	10.50
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 lots	22.00	22.25
Sows	20.00	20.25
Stags	18.00	18.25

TORONTO.—The receipts of livestock at Toronto's two yards, for the week ending May 18th, amounted to: 6,924 cattle, 2,206 calves, 12,040 hogs, 347 sheep and 128 horses. Prices of cattle showed practically no changes last week. The high figures of the previous week were well maintained throughout, but there were no real advances. On the opening day there was a very large "run," for the way cattle have been shipped in during the past two or three months. On Tuesday morning there was very little selling, the cattle not being in condition to sell to advantage. The mid-week market was steady, but one choice yearling heifer sold at the new high figure of \$18 per cwt. This animal was extra well finished and weighed 750 pounds. It was the top price of the week, and far surpassed all other animals so far as quality was concerned. The closing day found only 157 cattle in the pens. These were sold quite early in the morning at prices ruling on Wednesday.

Very few milkers and springers were offered last week. The choice varieties sold at from \$100 to \$150, and the medium and common grades at from \$70 to \$100 each. The small meats department was strong, but the offerings were small.

Hog prices ranged from \$20.50 to \$21 per cwt., fed and watered. On the closing day the abattoirs refused to pay more than \$20.50 for hogs shipped in on chance. Tickets for these hogs were held over. All hogs shipped by regular customers sold at the even \$21 mark.

We quote the following prices for livestock at the Toronto markets:

Heavy steers, choice	\$14.25	\$16.25
Do., good	13.25	14.00
Butchers' steers and heifers, choice	12.50	13.00
Do., good	11.75	12.25
Do., medium	10.50	11.50
Do., common	8.50	10.25
Butchers' cows, choice	10.75	12.50
Do., good	9.75	11.00
Do., medium	8.25	9.25
Do., common	6.75	7.50
Do., canners	6.00	6.25
Butchers' bulls, choice	11.00	12.50

Do., good	9.50	10.75
Do., medium	8.25	9.00
Do., common	7.50	8.00
Feeders, best	9.50	11.00
Stockers, best	9.50	10.00
Grass cows	7.50	9.00
Milkers and springers, choice	100.00	160.00
Do., common to medium	65.00	90.00
Calves, choice	14.00	16.00
Do., medium	12.00	13.25
Heavy fat	10.00	12.00
Lambs, choice	19.50	21.75
Sheep, choice handy	13.50	16.00
Do., heavy and fat bucks	11.00	12.25
Hogs, fed and watered	20.75	21.00
Do., off cars	21.00	21.25
Do., f.o.b.	19.00	19.50

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.

LIVESTOCK IN APRIL.

The receipts of livestock in Montreal for the month of April, 1918, were 5,357 cattle, 247 sheep and lambs, 12,005 hogs, and 20,802 calves for the same month in 1917, and the total receipts for the year up to April 30th, 1918, were 22,138 cattle, 10,136 sheep and lambs, 40,402 hogs, 35,220 calves, and 9,539 horses.

The receipts of livestock at the Union Stock Yards at Toronto for the month of April 1918, were 23,969 cattle, 549 sheep and lambs, 31,132 hogs, 11,781 calves, and 315 horses, as against 19,794 cattle, 862 sheep and lambs, 49,077 hogs, 8,215 calves, and 7,136 horses for the same month in 1917, and the total receipts for the year up to April 30th, 1918, were 89,849 cattle, 10,982 sheep and lambs, 172,910 hogs, 22,231 calves, and 8,673 horses.

The receipts of livestock at Winnipeg for the month of April, 1918, were 7,655 cattle, 398 sheep and lambs, 19,895 hogs, and 845 horses, as compared with 11,370 cattle, 161 sheep and lambs, 24,640 hogs, and 1,557 horses for the same month last year, while the total receipts for the year up to April 30, 1918, were 34,483 cattle, 1,084 sheep and lambs, 136,660 hogs, and 6,984 horses.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending May 18th, 1918, were 8,792 packages, which shows an increase of 2,753 packages as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 3 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date show a decrease of 562 packages as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The butter market here opened strong and prices advanced but toward the end of the week the tone became easier and prices declined to the level of the previous week. At the auction sale held at the Board of Trade on Monday prices were bid up ¼c to ½c per lb. over the previous sale, pasteurized creamery selling at 44½c per lb., and finest at 44¼c, which naturally influenced spot prices for wholesale lots and they were marked up ½c per lb. to 44½c to 45c for finest and wholesale jobbing prices were also advanced 1c per lb. to 46c, but at the auction sale on Friday prices declined ½c to ¾c per lb. as compared with those paid on Monday, pasteurized creamery selling at 43½c per lb., and finest at 43¼c. This created a weaker feeling in the spot market that day and prices for wholesale lots were reduced ½c per lb. with sales of finest at 44c to 44½c per lb., and in consequence prices at the Eastern Townships Dairyman's Exchange meeting, held at Cowansville to-day, were 1c to 1½c per lb. lower than the previous week at 43¼c per lb., while at the St. Hyacinthe board meeting ¾c per lb. more was paid than the previous week in order to make the price more in comparison with the above board. The offerings at Gould's Cold Storage on Tuesday amounted to 600 packages, which sold at 43c per lb. f.o.b. country points, and on Friday 250 packages were sold at 43½c per lb. delivered here.

We quote the following prices:

Finest creamery	0.44	0.44½
Fine creamery	0.43	0.43½
Fine dairy	0.37	0.38
Margarine:—		
Prints	0.29½	0.34
Bulk	0.28½	0.31½
Cottonseed (Shortening):		
Tierces, per lb.	0.26½	
Tubs, per lb.	0.26½	