

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: The high prices realized by farmers and country producers on their farm produce, is causing a large and free circulation of money. Farmers were never known to be as prosperous as they are this year, and are free buyers. The demand from country merchants to supply their requirements is very large, and consequently travellers find no difficulty in booking orders, the chief difficulty with the wholesale trade is the scarcity of merchandise to supply the demand. Wholesale dry goods houses report that sales show an increase over those of a year ago.

There has been a general advance in hardware lines, owing to the scarcity and high prices of raw materials. In the grocery trade quite a lot of this season's pack of canned goods have been received. There is a great scarcity of sugar, refiners in some cases having to close down their refineries owing to the scarcity of the raw material. New laid eggs have advanced two to four cents per dozen.

The latest fruit crop from the apple growing districts of Nova Scotia estimate that the apple crop this year will be about 400,000 barrels, these figures are a little over half of last year's crop. The price of wheat grown in the Province of Quebec has been fixed at \$2.26 per bushel. The operations of the Canadian flour mills for the past year are showing very good returns to their shareholders. The dairy produce commission is purchasing the entire export output of butter and cheese for the United Kingdom and army purposes.

The bank clearings during the week have beaten all previous records for remarkable showing. Canadian exporters are looking forward to new markets in Russia and Siberia for Canadian products at the termination of the war.

The weather during the past week has been very unsettled, raining the greater part of the time, which has had a bad effect on the retail trade. Remittances are very good. City collections are also much better.

LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL.—The receipts of livestock at Montreal's two yards, for the week ending September 21, amounted to 11,850 cattle, 7,500 sheep and lambs, 5,100 hogs and 1,900 calves. The trade in all grades of livestock was fairly active last week with large offerings in all lines. Cattle prices were steady, remaining unchanged from the previous week. A weaker feeling developed in the market for sheep and prices declined 50c to \$1.00 per 100 lbs., which was due to the larger offerings and a smaller demand. The market for calves was firm with a good demand. There was a steady demand for hogs and as offerings were not large prices ruled steady. An active demand for lambs and calves was the feature of the week.

TORONTO.—The receipts of livestock at the Toronto yards for the week ending September 21st, amounted to: 7,689 cattle, 880 sheep, 4,057 hogs, 5,001 sheep and 1,261 horses. There was a decided downward trend in the value of common and medium cattle last week, but prices for the better class were fairly steady. The market for calves was exceptionally strong and steady with a brisk demand for all offerings which were not large. The market for lambs was comparatively active, but the tone was weak. Hogs were in fair demand and the market grew stronger as the week advanced.

The total receipts of live stock in Montreal for the month of August, 1918, were 14,764 cattle, 14,351 sheep and lambs, 13,040 hogs, and 6,539 calves, as compared with 11,469 cattle, 5,256 sheep and lambs, 14,052 hogs, and 4,252 calves for the same month last year. The receipts in Montreal since January 1st, 1918, to August 31st, were 117,096 cattle, 37,057 sheep and lambs, 83,716 hogs, and 92,657 calves.

The total receipts at Toronto for the month of August, 1918, were 25,445 cattle, 15,610 sheep and lambs, 23,116 hogs, and 3,221 calves, as against 31,780 cattle, 15,647 sheep and lambs, 39,795 hogs, and 3,718 calves for the corresponding month a year ago. The receipts from January 1st, 1918, to August 31st, were 181,964 cattle, 41,841 sheep and lambs, 298,336 hogs, and 48,831 calves.

The receipts of live stock at Winnipeg for the month of August, 1918, were 37,830 cattle, 4,289 sheep and lambs, 24,034 hogs, and 1,573 calves, as compared

with 33,166 calves, 3,424 sheep and lambs, 29,887 hogs, and 1,355 calves for the same month in 1917, while the total receipts for the year to August 31st, 1918, were 114,469 cattle, 9,369 sheep and lambs, 247,635 hogs, and 6,449 calves.

We quote Montreal prices as follows:

Steers per 100 lbs.—	
Choice heavy steers	\$13.50 to \$14.00
Choice butchers	12.75 13.25
Good	12.25 12.50
Fairly good	11.75 12.00
Pair	11.25 11.50
Light steers	10.75 11.00
Common	8.75 10.00
Butcher bulls—	
Choice heavy	11.00 11.50
Choice light	10.50 10.75
Good	9.25 9.75
Medium	8.75 9.00
Light weights	8.00 8.50
Butcher cows—	
Choice	10.00 10.50
Good	9.75 10.00
Medium	9.00 9.25
Common	7.75 8.25
Sheep and lambs—	
Ontario lambs	16.50 17.00
Quebec lambs	15.00 16.00
Ontario sheep	12.50 13.00
Quebec sheep	11.50 12.00
Calves, per 100 lbs.—	
Choice milk-fed stock	14.50 15.50
Good	12.50 13.50
Grass-fed, choice	10.50 11.50
Common	7.00 9.00
Hogs, per 100 lbs.—	
Selects	20.00 20.25
Good	19.50 19.75
Sows	17.00 17.25
Stags	16.00 16.25
Toronto quotations:—	
Heavy steers, choice	\$14.25 to \$16.00
do, good	12.00 14.00
Butchers' steers and helpers, choice	11.25 11.75
do, good	9.50 10.60
do, medium	8.50 9.00
do, common	7.75 8.25
Butchers' cows, choice	9.00 11.00
do, good	8.00 8.50
do, medium	7.75 8.04
do, common	6.75 7.50
do, canners	6.00 6.50
Butchers' bulls, choice	10.50 11.00
do, good	9.50 10.25
do, medium	8.25 9.00
do, common	7.50 8.00
Feeders, best	9.50 11.00
Stockers, best	9.00 10.00
Milkers and springers, choice	100.00 160.00
do, common, to medium	65.00 90.00
Calves, choice	16.00 17.50
do, medium	12.50 14.50
do, common	10.00 12.00
do, grass	7.50 9.00
Lambs, choice spring	17.00 17.25
Lambs, yearlings	15.00 16.00
Sheep, choice handy	13.00 15.00
do, heavy and fat bucks	11.00 12.25
Heavy fat	8.00 11.00
Hogs, fed and watered	19.50 19.75
do, off cars	19.75 20.00
do, f.o.b.	18.25 18.50
Less \$1 to \$2 on light to thin hogs; less \$3 to \$3.50 on sows; less \$4 on stags; less 50c to \$1 on heavies.	

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending September 21st, 1918, were 11,123 packages, which showed an increase of 771 packages, as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 305 packages with the same week last year, and the total receipts from May 1st, 1918, to date, show an increase of 56,242 packages, as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. A much stronger feeling developed in the butter market last week, and prices advanced in to 3½c per lb., with a further rise in the near future. This was due to the fact that the butter markets in the United States developed great strength and prices there were from 9½ to 11½ per lb. higher than those in Montreal—best creamery selling in New York at from 55c to 58½c per lb. At the auction sales held this week the offerings amounted to 2,119 packages of creamery butter, and pasteurized sold at 45½c to 46½c per lb., finest at 45½c to 46c and fine at 44½c to 45½c, plus ¼c per lb. for commission. There were 700 packages offered at Gould's Cold Storage, which sold at 43½c per lb., f.o.b. country points, and at 45c to 45½c delivered here.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest creamery	0.46½	0.47
Fine creamery	0.45½	0.46
Finest dairy	0.39	0.41
Fine dairy	0.37	0.39

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending September 21st, 1918, were 62,126 boxes, which show an increase of 3,061 boxes as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 3,124 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date, show a decrease of 37,380 boxes, as compared with the corresponding period in 1917.

Prices at the country cheese boards were rather irregular, last week, ranging from 22½c to 22 9-16c per lb., f.o.b., the inside prices being paid at Campbellford and Stirling, and the outside one at Kingston. At Gould's Cold Storage there were 9,000 boxes offered during the week, which sold at 22½c to 23½c per lb., f.o.b. country points. The trade on spot has been fairly active, owing to the fact that supplies for export account has been moving forward freely.

The following prices are being paid by the Commission:

No. 1 cheese	0.23
No. 2 cheese	0.22½
No. 3 cheese	0.22

POULTRY.

The bulk of the receipts of poultry are still coming alive. Usually very little dressed stock arrives until the cold weather sets in definitely. There is some increase in the arrivals, but the demand is good and prices are well maintained.

At Montreal the receipts are barely enough to meet the immediate consumptive demand. With the exception of a few broilers there has been very little placed in storage as yet.

Considerable live poultry continues to go from Western Ontario points to Buffalo. Several shippers in this section state that they do not have the shrinkage on shipments to Buffalo as they do to some of the consuming centres on this side and therefore prefer to send to Buffalo.

The poultry movement in the western provinces is variable. Movement continues heavy in Alberta although not as large as it was. Receipts at Winnipeg continue light while in Saskatchewan where very little live poultry is marketed it is not expected any quantity of dressed poultry will be available for another month or six weeks.

The United States poultry markets have been steady with a tendency to lower levels for light unfinished birds. There was no surplus of poultry for export.

POTATOES.

Receipts of potatoes have fallen off considerably—due to the continued wet weather—and supplies, last week, were not sufficient to meet the demand, consequently a very strong feeling developed and prices showed advances of from 40c to 50c per bag. The market closed strong to-day, with sales in a wholesale jobbing way at \$2.40 to \$2.50 per bag of 90 lbs., ex-store. The offerings from New Brunswick have been small owing to the fact that the bulk of the supplies coming forward are being brought up for shipment to the United States, and it is reported that a large number of cars have gone forward.

EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending September 21st, 1918, were 6,179 cases, as compared with 5,004 for the previous week, and 5,740 for the same week a year ago. The total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date, were 205,251 cases, as against 223,775 for the corresponding period in 1917. The market for eggs closed strong last week, prices showing an advance of 1c to 2c per dozen. This condition was due to the fact that stocks on spot are small as compared with the same time last year. Trade in a wholesale jobbing way was active, both for future delivery and immediate consumption.

Reports from all sections of the country state production has taken a big decline and in consequence prices of fresh eggs, both in the country and at the large consuming centres have advanced. Country gatherers in Western Ontario report having made sales at from 46c-48c f.o.b. cases returnable, during the past few days. A few cars of Western eggs continue to arrive at Montreal and Toronto. Some of these are storage stocks and others fresh gathered. One car of fresh firsts cost 44c f.o.b. and two fresh seconds 41½c f.o.b. Winnipeg.

Generally speaking the situation is very firm and fancy fresh will no doubt advance to still higher levels as they become increasingly scarce