

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

There is a more composed feeling in wholesale trade circles owing to the rapid progress we are making in the great war centre. The Canadian Government through the War Board, have taken over the control of steel production, in order to get the greatest efficiency as well as the maximum of production out of their products.

It is reported that the British Food Controller has issued an order requiring all the canned salmon in Canada. The sardine industry in Canada is developing rapidly, and large amount of new capital has recently been invested in it. New regulations restricting the use of sugar have been issued by the Food Board, only one pound of sugar is permitted to every forty-five persons in hotels, public restaurants, etc. Manufacturers of soda waters, etc., can only use twenty-five per cent of the monthly amount used during the year 1917. Manufacturers of biscuits and cakes must not use more than forty pounds of sugar to one hundred pounds of flour and fifty per cent must be brown or yellow sugar. It is stated that householders are also to be restricted.

The market for mill feed is very firm, but owing to the limited quantities offering sales are confined to small quantities. The Government have again become buyers of hay for Army purposes, and the market is firm and active.

Crop prospects in the North-west continue to improve, but weather conditions during the week have been unsuitable for harvesting. Quebec and Lower Province crops will be larger than anticipated and of high quality.

Remittances from outside districts are very satisfactory. City collections show considerable improvement. Retail trade is better owing to the large number of families moving back to the city for the school opening.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

The demand for eggs continues good with the result that prices are tending towards higher figures. The receipts for the week ending September 7th, 1918, were 5,795 cases, as compared with 8,210 for the previous week, and 5,266 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date, were 194,068 cases, as against 211,809 for the corresponding period in 1917.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Selected new laid eggs	0.51	0.52
No. 1 stock	0.47	0.48
No. 2 stock	0.45	0.46

The demand for honey is good and an active business was done in white clover in comb at 25c to 26c per section, white extracted in 30 lb. tins at 23c per lb., and buckwheat honey at 20c to 21c. According to advices received here from the different sections of the country the yield this year has been larger and as prices have ruled much higher than the previous season, the returns to producers have been satisfactory.

The trade in beans on spot continues slow owing to the fact that buyers in most cases seem to be fairly well supplied for the time being, and in consequence the market has been quiet. There has been no actual change in prices, but the prospects are that if the Ontario crop turns out as good as expected at present values, will rule lower later on. Hand-picked beans are quoted at \$8 to \$8.50, Quebec grades at \$7.25 to \$7.75, and Japan beans at \$7.75 to \$8.25 per bushel.

The feature of the week in the potato trade was the arrival of two cars of Cobblers from New Brunswick which cost \$1.95 per bag of 90 lbs. ex track here and as domestic grades were selling in round lots at much less money, the holders had some difficulty in disposing of them at prices to get their own back. The trade on spot in a wholesale jobbing way has been active during the week with supplies ample to meet all requirements, and sales were made at \$1.75 per bag of 80 lbs. ex store.

THE PROVISION MARKET.

The local hog market was firmer last week and prices for selected lots at \$20.25 were paid. There was an easier feeling in the market for dressed hogs and prices were reduced 50c per 100 lbs. which

was due to the somewhat limited demand and the bulk of the trade in a wholesale jobbing way in abattoir fresh-killed stock was done at \$28.50 to \$29 per 100 lbs.

A good steady trade has been done during the week in most lines of smoked and cured meats for local and country account, and as supplies have not been much in excess of the requirements, there was no important changes in prices announced. In a wholesale jobbing way sales of 8 to 10 lb. hams were made at 37c to 38c per lb., 12 to 15 lbs., at 35c to 36c, and heavier weights at 34c to 35c, breakfast bacon at 41c to 42c. Winter selected bacon at 45c to 46c and Windsor boneless bacon at 48c to 50c. The trade in barrelled pork continues very slow and the market is dull, but prices show no changes as yet. American bean pork in car lots was quoted at \$43 per barrel duty paid, clear short cut pork at \$49, and clear cut back pork at \$59.

There has been no change in prices for lard, but the undertone to the market was firmer owing to the improved demand for supplies on account of the cooler weather prevailing, and a fair trade was done in a wholesale jobbing way in Canadian pure leaf grades at 32c per lb. in 20 lb. wood pails, and at 33c per lb. in 1 lb. blocks, while American compound lard sold at 27c to 27½c per lb. in 20 lb. wood pails.

The receipts of provisions to-day were 104 packages lard, and 531 packages tinned meats.

THE DAIRY MARKET.

The only important development in the butter trade last week was the spirited bidding which prevailed at the auction sale on Friday for finest creamery between two local buyers, and in consequence the price was advanced ¼c per lb. to 43½c which figure with the commission added means, 43½c. The best bid at this sale for pasteurized creamery was 43½c and refused, but on Saturday the lot was sold at 43½c or 44½c with commission, but the lot of fine creamery offered is still unsold for which 42½c was bid and refused. The total offerings at the above sales this week amounted to 2,821 packages as against 2,801 for the previous one.

The receipts of butter for the week ending September 7th, 1918, were 15,160 packages, which show an increase of 299 packages as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 4,635 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1918 to date show an increase of 55,775 packages as compared with the corresponding period last year.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest creamery	0.43½	0.43½
Fine creamery	0.43	0.43½
Finest dairy	0.38	0.38½
Fine dairy	0.36	0.37

Owing to the keener competition between buyers for the offerings of cheese in certain sections of the country, prices in some cases were stronger again this week, and advanced to ¼c per lb., the range paid being from 22½c to 22 7-16c per lb. f.o.b. points of shipment.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending September 7th, 1918, were 63,308 boxes which show a decrease of 4,575 boxes as compared with the previous week and a decrease of 8,392 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date show a decrease of 20,727 boxes as compared with the corresponding period in 1917.

The Dairy Produce Commission is paying the following prices:

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

BUTTER AND CHEESE RECEIPTS.

The following table shows the receipts of butter and cheese in Montreal for the week ending September 7th, 1918, with comparisons:

	Butter, pkgs.	Cheese, boxes.
Week ending Sept. 7th, 1918	15,160	63,308
Week ending Aug. 31st, 1918	14,861	67,883
Week ending Sept. 8th, 1917	10,525	71,700
Total receipts May 1st, 1918 to Sept. 7th, 1918	290,714	1,209,598
Total receipts May 1st, 1918, to Sept. 8th, 1917	234,939	1,230,325

WEEKLY GRAIN SHIPMENTS.

Bradstreet's figures of the week's wheat and flour exports from the United States and Canada, compared with previous years, are as follows, in bushels:

	1918.	1917.	1918.
Sept. 5	2,737,075	3,026,257	7,313,336
Aug. 29	3,546,352	3,779,464	8,182,528
Aug. 22	3,674,661	6,018,982	8,994,919
Aug. 15	1,958,906	6,575,065	7,808,689
Aug. 8	1,232,157	3,549,670	6,098,039

Bradstreet's figures for the week's corn exports compared as follows, in bushels:

	1918.	1917.	1918.
Sept. 5	263,544	195,554	1,703,057
Aug. 29	160,091	327,507	1,271,048
Aug. 22	125,313	542,801	1,297,218
Aug. 15	395,872	579,212	1,538,799
Aug. 8	252,338	1,084,637	1,578,727

CANADA CONTROLS WHEAT SALES.

Complete control of the purchase and sale for export of Canadian wheat has been assumed by the Government; control of methods of exports has also been assumed.

Under the new arrangement, the situation will be:

(1) The price for wheat for the crop of 1918 has been fixed and will be maintained for the crop year.

(2) The purchase of wheat and grains for export and for international demands will be thrown open to dealers and shippers as before the war, subject however, to supervision and control by the Government.

(3) The Government will guarantee the purchase of all surplus merchantable wheat raised by Canadian farmers in the year 1918 at the price already fixed.

(4) The apportionment and distribution of wheat for Canadian mills and for export will be made under government control, as also will be the supervision and allotment of cars and lake tonnage, arrangements for lake insurance and shortages, and the mechanism for insuring the steady, speedy and effective transport of wheat from the head of the lakes to the seaboard.

(5) The board of grain supervisors, whose members represent the interests of grain producers, of shipping and forwarding agencies, of the millers and consumers of grain products, has been entrusted by the Government with the carrying out of the above programme and clothed with full powers for executing the same.

Under the arrangement of last year, the sole purchase of wheat for export was placed in the hands of the Wheat Export Company, whose headquarters are in London, with branches in New York and Winnipeg.

THE CROPS.

Ottawa, September 4, 1918.

A summary of telegraphic reports on the condition of field crops in Canada at the end of August was issued to-day by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics as follows:

Atlantic Provinces: Prince Edward Island (Charlottetown): Hay crop will be up to average. Small fruits medium; crop early. Harvesting started with indications of heavy crop. Slow growth in corn. Potatoes promise an excellent crop. Nova Scotia (Nappan): Roots and grain made excellent growth. Potatoes and beans fair. Blight in potatoes prevalent. Hay slightly below average, but cured in good condition. Turnip feed ripening nicely. (Kentville): Grains which are an excellent crop have ripened well, and considerable has been harvested. Roots are looking well. Potatoes have shown considerable early blight. Apples a medium crop. New Brunswick (Fredericton): Conditions good for an average hay crop and for ripening grain. A record yield of wheat and oats now assured. Corn is generally a failure. Early potatoes of good quality but yield is disappointing. Turnips good where not attacked by aphids.

Quebec.—Roberval (Chicoutimi and Saguenay): Hay harvest has been comparatively good. Frost in certain places has injured tobacco and potatoes. Cereals are ripening well and promise a good yield, especially wheat. Ste. Anne de la Locatiere (Kamou-