

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: The spell of sharp wintry weather which has set in nearly a month earlier than for the past several years, has interfered with the plans of shipping men, and unless there be a reversion to milder conditions, a number of lake vessels designed for ocean service may not be able to reach the seaboard though the canals are still being kept open with some difficulty, and it is hoped to keep traffic moving up to December 6th. At the moment of writing there are sixteen vessels still in port, and a number leaving for sea this week had to have the assistance of a Government ice breaker.

The cold weather, however, has not proved an unmixed evil, as it has tended to materially increase the sales of furs and seasonable clothing. Conditions in wholesale lines do not present any very novel features. Sorting business in dry goods is brisk, and a number of buyers from east and central Ontario and Ottawa Valley points have been in town making personal selections, in some cases, of considerable size.

Cotton prices continue to stiffen, and the Canadian Cotton Co., and the Brunswick and York Cotton mills have withdrawn all quotations within the last few days. Advices from Belfast intimate that further supplies of linens will be practically unobtainable. The British Government has assumed control of forty-nine mills in Ireland, and has placed orders for forty million yards of linens, canvas, etc., for aviation purposes, and the general wants of the Allies. The flax crop for 1918 has also been commandeered.

No great activity is looked for in the leather market after the holidays, but some fair sales of manufacturers' run of Spanish sole have been made at 54 to 55 cents, pretty stiff figures.

In the grocery and provision lines there are no marked changes. The sugar situation is unchanged, and the opinion is freely expressed that sugars will be lower in the near future. Early cables from Barbadoes quote new crop molasses as likely to cost about 80 cents laid down. There appears to be some shortness in supplies of California dried fruits. Further business has developed in the butter market, but other lines of provisions rule high and firm.

In other lines there is nothing special of interest. The failure list is again a very light one, only four small district insolvencies being reported for the week with liabilities of \$21,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report for November 30, 1917, says:—Dry goods houses report that orders for Spring delivery are very satisfactory, while travellers' orders and letter orders for immediate delivery have been voluminous. Certain lines of carpets have advanced about ten per cent. Blankets for next Fall delivery have advanced about twenty per cent. Underwear has advanced very materially. Grey blankets are very scarce, owing to the heavy demand from both the American and Canadian Governments. Woollen dealers say, that next year most of the imported woollens will be composed largely of cotton. Manufacturers of white-wear are asking ten per cent advance on goods for next Spring delivery.

The hardware business is active; wholesalers report business considerably ahead of the same period a year ago. There have been as many changes in prices in an upward direction, during the past few weeks, as during any similar period since the war started. Bakers have advanced the price of bread two cents per loaf. Consumers did not take very kindly to this action as there has been no advance in the price of flour. Millfeed is very scarce under a very good demand, prices are higher this week.

There have been some very heavy shipments of Canadian duty free wheat going into the United States, of late. Large quantities of Canadian eggs are stored throughout Canada. These were intended for export, but owing to the scarcity of tonnage, exporters could not secure the ocean space. The colder weather has brought in heavier receipts of dressed poultry, which are meeting with ready sale. The butter market is again weaker this week.

Navigation at this port is practically closed for this season, only a few steamers are now in port, and these will be cleared in the course of a few days. The retail trade has been very good. Remittances are coming in well. City collections are slowly improving.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending December 1st, 1917, were 3,104 packages, which show a decrease of 1,129 packages as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 3,447 with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date show a decrease of 141,513 packages as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. According to the receipts of butter posted on 'Change at the Board of Trade daily, the arrivals in Montreal for the seven months ending November 30th, 1917, were 334,935 packages as compared with 474,274 packages for the same period in 1916, showing a decrease of 139,339 packages, but as there were 43,013 packages received from the United States last year for export account, as against nil this year, the actual shortage in the receipts of Canadian butter this season is 96,326 packages as compared with that of 1916. A weaker feeling prevails in the butter market, and prices declined 1c per pound. The trade generally was quiet, with a falling off in demand from all sources. We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest Sept. and Oct. Creamery	0.43½	0.44
Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.42½	0.43
Current receipts, creamery	0.41	0.42
Finest dairy	0.37	0.38
Lower grades	0.35½	0.36

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending December 1st, 1917, were 12,543 boxes, which show a decrease of 10,340 boxes as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 422 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date show a decrease of 381,630 boxes as compared with the corresponding period in 1916. There was nothing new in the local cheese situation last week. The make for the 1917 season is practically over. There was only one board meeting held in the country, which was at Brockville, the last for the season. The offerings amounted to 1,857 boxes, of which 856 were sold on the board at 21c. At Gould's here about 3,500 boxes were offered, which sold at 20½c, 20½c and 21c per lb. f.o.b. country points.

According to a statement issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce at Washington, the war has revolutionized the country's foreign trade in cheese. During the fiscal year 1914, the last year before the war, the United States bought 63,800,000 lbs. of cheese from Europe, of which 26,500,000 lbs. came from Italy, 22,500,000 lbs. from Switzerland, 5,500,000 lbs. from France, 3,700,000 lbs. from Holland, and smaller amounts from other countries. The average monthly imports from Europe were about 5,300,000 lbs. In August of this year exactly 99 lbs. of European cheese was imported. It came from Italy. In September only 1,222 lbs. came from Europe. While Europe is wisely retaining this most valuable food for her own pressing needs, Argentina has turned to cheese making on a large scale and is now placing important quantities in the United States. In August, this year, she delivered 448,000 lbs. in this country and in September 279,500 lbs. These figures do not approach the imports from Europe before the war, but they are interesting in view of the fact that during the entire year 1916 not a single pound of cheese came from Argentina. More cheese is being exported than imported. In September 2,000,000 lbs. were sold abroad and was distributed to more than fifty countries. England took the bulk of it, 1,700,000 lbs.; Cuba, 109,000 lbs.; and Mexico, 39,000 lbs.

The Commission is paying the following prices:—
No. 1 cheese 21½c
No. 2 cheese 21¼c
No. 3 cheese 20¾c

EGGS.

The receipts of eggs for the week ending December 1st, 1917, were 4,255 cases, as compared with 4,071 for the previous week, and 1,846 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st to date were 289,678 cases, as against 617,611 for the corresponding period in 1916. The egg situation remained unchanged during the week. Strictly fresh eggs were scarce, and prices were firm. The offerings of cold storage eggs are much larger than is usual at this season, owing to the fact that packers

and dealers were not able to secure all the ocean space they required this fall, and in consequence this surplus stock will have to be disposed of for domestic consumption sooner or later, and this is having a somewhat depressing influence on the market and prices are steadily being shaded, the outside figure obtainable now for selected cold storage eggs is 46c and for No. 1 stock 42c per dozen in a wholesale jobbing way. Recent cable advices report the British markets somewhat depressed owing to large arrivals of States eggs, and the fact that some shipments were delayed in transit which arrived in poor condition. The United States market for storage eggs continues unsettled and weak owing to the fact that movement out of warehouses has been insufficient to give any support to the market, and holders show increasing anxiety to move stocks.

We quote current prices as follows:

Strictly new laid eggs	0.60	0.65
Fresh eggs	0.54	0.55
Fall fresh eggs	\$0.50	\$0.52
Selected cold storage	0.00	0.46
No. 1 cold storage	0.00	0.42
No. 2 cold storage	0.39	0.40

POULTRY.

Supplies of dressed poultry have been coming forward more liberally, and a good trade has been done. The tone of the market for the best quality was firm, but prices show no change from last week.

We quote prices as follows:—

Turkeys, per lb.	0.28	0.29
Chickens, per lb.	0.24	0.23
Fowl, per lb.	0.20	0.24
Ducks, per lb.	0.24	0.25
Geese, per lb.	0.18	0.19
Live turkeys, per lb.	0.23	
Live chickens, per lb.	0.18	0.22
Live ducks, per lb.	0.24	0.25
Live geese, per lb.	0.20	0.21

BEANS.

The market for beans showed no change during the week. Supplies from Ontario continue to come forward very slowly. Quebec supplies are also coming forward slowly and as stocks on spot are small they meet with a ready sale.

We quote prices as follows:

Can. 3-lb. pickers	8.00	8.25
Can. 5-lb. pickers	7.50	7.75
Yellow eye beans	7.00	7.25

POTATOES.

An easier feeling developed in the market for potatoes towards the close of the week for Green Mountain stock, and prices declined 10c per bag, with sales of car lots at \$2.10 to \$2.15 per bag of 90 lbs. ex-track. This reduction in prices was attributed to increased arrivals and a falling off in the demand. Quebec potatoes in car lots are quoted at \$1.90 to \$2, Ontario stock at \$1.85, and Prince Edward Island at \$1.80 to \$1.90 per bag of 90 lbs. ex-track.

HONEY.

The market for honey remains very quiet, and prices continue firm.

No. 1 white clover, in comb	0.21	0.22
No. 2 white clover, in comb	0.19	0.20
No. 1 brown clover, in comb	0.19	
No. 2 brown clover, in comb	0.17	
White extracted, in 30-lb. pails	0.17	0.18

MAPLE PRODUCTS.

No improvement is shown in the demand for maple products and the trade remains quiet with only a few jobbing sales for domestic account.

We quote prices as follows:

Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins	1.70	1.80
Choice syrup	1.55	1.65
Good syrup	1.40	1.50

LOCAL GRAIN MARKET.

The Winnipeg option market for oats displayed decided strength during the first half of last week and prices scored an advance, the November option selling as high as 82½c, and the December 80½c, but later in the week, owing to the new regulations adopted by the committee of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange and the Board of Grain Supervisors with reference to the trading in future options and forbidding speculators entering into any new contracts in the old operations considerable liquidation and