

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: The first vessel from sea reached port on the 7th, and has been followed by others, while numerous lake craft have been arriving, and the harbor is showing the usual summer bustle.

Wholesale trade in most lines shows up well. April was a rather quiet month in the millinery line, weather conditions not being wholly favorable, but with warmer temperature improvement is being shown. Dry goods men still report good business, and a number of large western buyers, apparently apprehensive with regard to future supplies, have been in town making considerable personal selections. City retailers in this line report a particularly busy day last Saturday, owing to the summery weather. The cotton mills are all busy, some having sufficient orders, it is said, to keep them employed up to the end of the year. Owing to the shutting off of supplies, the manufacture of gloves is being materially extended here.

There is some livening up in the boot and shoe trade, and leather men report rather more enquiry. Some fair-sized shipments of sole are reported to American points.

General foundrymen are not over-busy, but in other lines of metal manufacturing there is general activity and large orders are reported for war munitions from the American Government, in some cases calling for the extension of existing plants.

The grocery line presents no striking feature. The movement is up to the average, and there are no notable variations in values. Sugar quotations remain as they were, and, while deliveries are very much restricted, no actual hardship to the regular consumer is anticipated, nor any further advance in prices. The scarcity of molasses is being relieved to some extent by new arrivals of moderate lots, but the high prices are maintained.

Farm work is progressing favorably, though vegetation is a little backward as yet.

Another light failure list is reported, only four, small district insolvencies being listed for the week, with liabilities of about \$18,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal weekly trade report says: The warmer weather, accompanied by light rains, has been ideal for our farmers and seeding is making rapid progress in this province. Navigation is now in full swing, both ocean and lake vessels arriving. The lake vessels will greatly relieve the transportation problem for manufacturers in the interior.

The sugar refineries are extremely busy, although the available supplies are light. There is a big demand for wool, which is in short supply, and the trade do not understand why the free exportation of Canadian wool should be allowed, when it is required so badly by our manufacturers.

The demand for mill-feed shows a considerable falling off this week, owing to the fact that cattle are now out on pasture. Potatoes are in light supply and prices have been firmer. The grain markets are dull and prices are lower. There is practically no commercial shipping in ocean traffic, while ships leaving port are heavily laden, and they are all under Government control.

The demand from the United States for Canadian hay has fallen off considerably during the past few days. Retail trade is fair. Remittances are good, but city collections still continue slow.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending May 11th, 1918, were 6,039 packages which shows an increase of 1,000 packages as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 672 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date show a decrease of 585 packages as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. During the early part of last week the market ruled steady, and a fair trade was done both on domestic account and for shipment to Ottawa, Quebec and other points. Sales of the finest creamery were made at 42½c to 43c per lb. and fine at 42c to 42½c per lb. The offerings were ample to meet all requirements, the receipts for the week being 1,000 packages in excess of those of the pre-

vious week. On Thursday the Dairy Produce Commission bought 200 to 300 packages of finest creamery at 43c per lb. for export, and in consequence at the auction sale held on Friday the demand from local buyers for the offerings was keen and prices were bid up ¼c to 1½c per lb. over the previous sale, and on the same day the stock offered at Gould's Cold Storage sold at an advance of 1½c to 2½c as compared with the prices paid on Tuesday. This created a much stronger feeling in the local market late Friday, and prices for round lots were advanced 1c to 1½c per lb., and the market for the week closed strong with finest creamery selling at 44c to 44½c per lb. On account of the above and the somewhat limited quantity available on spot, the Dairy Produce Commission on Saturday announced that they had withdrawn from the market for the time being. However, a much stronger feeling was created in the country, and at the regular board meeting at St. Hyacinthe on Saturday the price paid was 1½c per lb. higher than a week ago, and 1½c per lb. over the figure realized on the corresponding date in 1917. The offerings at the auction sales held last week amounted to 776 packages. At the first sales pasteurized creamery sold at 42½c per lb., finest at 42½c, and fine at 42c, while at the second sale 43½c, 43½c and 43½c were paid while at Gould's Cold Storage there were 800 packages offered, which sold at 41½c, 42½c and 43½c per lb.

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	
Pails, per lb.	0.27	
Cartons	0.28	

EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending May 11th, 1918, were 12,825 cases, as compared with 17,635 for the previous one, and 19,071 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date, were 22,636 cases as against 31,865 for the corresponding period in 1917. The receipts of eggs in Montreal from January 1st, 1918 to April 30th, 1918, were 96,035 cases, as compared with 101,208 cases for the same period in 1917 and 128,800 cases in 1916.

It can be seen that the receipts in Montreal last week show a decrease of 4,710 cases as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 6,146 cases with the same week last year, while the total since May 1st to date is 9,228 cases smaller than the corresponding period last year, although reports state that the production of eggs is increasing in Eastern Canada receipts showed a falling off which naturally led to the development of a strong tone in the market, and wholesale jobbing prices on Wednesday were marked up 1c per dozen. The domestic consumption continued large and active business was done throughout the week.

The situation in the Western and Maritime Provinces continue firm. Receipts have materially increased and in Prince Edward Island they are now running about the same as last year. The percentage of lower grades is increasing, and some of the Western trade have commenced to buy on a graded basis. Storing is active, particularly on the Pacific coast, though some holding off is reported from Calgary, owing to the fact that prices are considered too high for profitable storing.

We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:

Selected stock	0.44
No. 1 stock	0.42
No. 2 stock	0.38

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending May 11th, 1918, were 15,036 boxes which show an increase of 8,709 boxes as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 848 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts from May 1st to date show a decrease of 7,700 boxes as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts of cheese have been larger as due to the fine weather the make has been steadily increasing. The Dairy Produce Commission was in operation with the result

that a more active trade was done. There was also a good demand from local buyers for small cheese for domestic consumption and as the supplies on spot were large prices ruled firm with sales of cheese at 22½c to 33c per lb. The sale boards throughout the country have all pretty well all opened up for the season and the competition at some of them for the offerings have been keener which resulted in sales being made at some of them at an advance of 1-16c to ¾c per lb as compared with the prices paid last week, the range for the week being from 22½c to 22 9-16c per lb f.o.b.

The Commission is paying the following prices:

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

AT THE COUNTRY DAIRY BOARDS.

St. Hyacinthe, Que.—There were 50 packages butter and 250 boxes cheese offered. The bidding for butter was keener than usual, and prices advanced 1½c per lb. as compared with a week ago, all the offerings selling at 42½c per lb., and the cheese sold at 22½c per lb. which figure is ¾c per lb. higher than last week. At this date a year ago 75 packages butter sold at 40½c per lb.

London, Ont.—260 boxes were offered. Bids, 21½c to 22c; no sales. The price set for cheese was 23c, f.o.b., Montreal.

Belleville, Ont.—550 boxes were offered. All sold at 22 7-16c.

POULTRY.

There was a fairly good demand for storage poultry as well as for the small offerings of fresh killed which found its way to market. No live birds were offered. Prices remained firm but showed no advances.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Turkeys, per lb.	0.38	0.40
Milk fed chickens	0.39	0.40
Roasting chickens	0.37	
Old fowls	0.30	0.36
Ducks, per lb.	0.32	
Geese, per lb.	0.30	

POTATOES.

The supplies of potatoes coming forward were comparatively light last week and as the demand, from outside sources especially, continued very good, a firmer feeling developed in the market and prices showed a slight increase.

The trade in carlots has been fairly active with sales of Green Mountains at \$1.45 to \$1.50 per bag of 90 lbs. in bulk; reds at \$1.45 to \$1.50 including bags, and McIntyres at \$1.35 to \$1.40 ex-track. There has been no actual change in jobbing prices, but the tone of market is very firm with a good trade passing in Green Mountains at \$1.70; reds at \$1.60, and McIntyres at \$1.50 per bag of 90 lbs. ex-store.

MAPLE PRODUCTS.

The tone of the market for maple sugar continued strong throughout the week, and in the country prices scored a further advance of ¼c per lb., and sales of car lots were reported of Beauce sugar at 19½c to 20c per lb. f.o.b. There was no actual change in the condition of the local market, but prices were very firm with a steady trade passing in a wholesale jobbing way at 21c to 22c per lb. The tone of the market for maple syrup was very firm owing to the fact that supplies in small packages on spot have been well cleaned up, and it is reported that stocks in the interior are light, consequently the prospects are that prices will rule higher in the near future. The demand during the week was steady and a fair trade was done in a wholesale jobbing way with sales of 15 to 20 gallon barrels at \$1.75 per gallon; five gallon tins at \$1.80 per gallon; one gallon tins at \$1.90 to \$2, and 8½ lb. tins at \$1.40.

HONEY.

A fair trade was done in a wholesale jobbing way last week, due to an improved demand for honey in the comb. A firmer feeling developed in the market with sales of No. 1 white clover honey in comb at 21c to 22c per section; No. 2 white at 19c to 20c; No. 1 brown at 18c to 19c, and white extracted in 30 lb. pails at 18c to 19c per lb., while buckwheat honey has sold at 14c to 15c.