

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

The regular movement of trade during the past week was further hampered by heavy storms which seriously impeded railway traffic. Freight cars have been snowed in at the yards and even express passenger trains have been many hours late. Travellers on the road have been compelled to keep to their hotels, as travelling in the interior is very difficult. The coal situation is becoming acute, both from the manufacturers' and householders' standpoint. Bituminous coal is so scarce that a number of factories have been forced to close down. The question of carting bituminous coal is a real problem, as the men prefer carting snow, for which the municipalities have been employing small armies of laborers.

Satisfactory returns are being received from dry goods travellers, who report a disposition to purchase all over the country in spite of a steady price. All British manufacturers of carpets have withdrawn quotations, and advances are reported in Nottingham hosiery, hosiery, quilts, etc. Deliveries of domestic prints are delayed, partly owing, it is said, to some trouble among the skilled printers. The wholesale spring millinery openings are fixed for the 26th inst. The cloak and garment workers' strike still continues, no concessions having been made by either side. We are informed that in addition to about 3,000 workers already on strike several thousand more will stop work this week. The raw hide market is firmer, values being up a cent under a good demand. Stocks of leather are low on account of the railway situation. Boot and shoe men are working on spring orders and are fairly busy. Hardware men report a fair movement in shelf goods with higher values in many lines including cordage and lumbering tools. Sports goods are higher. Leads and paints are in good demand for spring shipment.

In grocery circles sugar is quiet. An advance of 2d per lb. on Ceylon teas in the primary market has taken place. Potatoes are firm at \$3.00 per 90 lb. bag, a record figure in Canada. Supplies of eggs are low and therefore prices are firmly held. Canadian beans are higher. A good fish trade is anticipated in Lent.

## DAIRY PRODUCE.

**CHEESE:** The past week has been uneventful in cheese circles. Owing to the embargo still existing on the Grand Trunk and C. P. R. and the scarcity of ocean freight, it has been impossible to ship any cheese. Of the incoming receipts, the greater part are American goods, the few small lots of January fodders arriving being of poor quality, and bringing only 20c to 21c on the market. The Liverpool public cable shows further advances, being quoted at 151s for finest colored cheese and 153s for finest white, record figures in the trade. It is predicted that new milk cheese will commence this year in March, and the production in that month and April will be larger than usual. Farmers are making every effort to meet the heavy demand from Great Britain, and take advantage of the remarkably high prices prevailing.

**BUTTER:** The butter market is confined to the local demand with a few lots being taken for outside points. The arrival of two cars of butter from Winnipeg and a part carload from Ontario are reported. Prices are higher in New York, being now on a parity with Montreal.

We quote unchanged prices:

<b>Butter:</b>		
Choice Full Creamery Solids	0.43	0.43½
Winter Creamery	0.42	0.42½
Undergrade Creamery	0.40	0.41½
Dairy butter	0.37½	0.38
<b>City Selling Price to grocers:</b>		
Creamery, Solids	0.44	0.45
Do., Prints		0.45½
Do., No. 2		0.43
Do., Prints		0.42½
<b>Cheese:</b>		
Finest Western	0.25½	0.26
Fine Eastern	0.24	0.24½
Winter Make	0.20	0.22
<b>City Selling Prices to grocers:</b>		
Stilton cheese	0.26	0.27
Large	0.25	0.26
Twins		0.25½
Quebec Cheese		0.25
Canadian Strong Cheese	0.26	0.27
Roquefort		0.65

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

**EGGS:** Stocks of storage eggs in Montreal are practically exhausted. Fortunately, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg and Vancouver have a surplus and are sending a number of cars to this market. Dealers report the quality of these eggs as very good for the season and that they compare favorably with Eastern Canada eggs. Expectations are that the cars of Chinese eggs already referred to will be shipped direct to New York in bond in order to escape the duty of 3c in this market. New laid eggs are becoming more plentiful, and are now selling at 50c to 52c less express. Prices are holding up much later than usual this year on account of the stormy weather, but the market will be uncertain during the next few weeks.

**POULTRY:** There is little or no dressed or live poultry arriving at present. Stocks of storage poultry are not as large as at this time last year. The demand, however, is very good. Prices are a shade higher than last season. Enquiries continue to come forward from Great Britain for storage chickens and fowl at prices that show a good profit on the original cost and much better than can be secured locally, but the difficulty in accepting the business is to secure refrigeration on vessels.

**BEANS:** Beans are very scarce. The canning concerns have practically bought up everything to fill war orders. Consequently dealers catering to the domestic trade have brought beans from all quarters of the globe, from Japan, Rangoon, California, British Columbia and Michigan. Three or four cars have arrived recently from Chili, via New York. Stocks in Montreal are very low and beans are likely to be scarce until the new crop comes on the market. Prices are up to \$7.75 to \$8.00 per bushel.

**POTATOES:** Stocks of potatoes in Montreal are at a very low ebb, as no supplies have been coming in on account of the stormy weather and embargoes on the railways. Only 15 bags were received in Montreal last week. The farmers are holding off while the market goes up. Toronto we understand is quoting as high as \$3.25 and Montreal \$3.00 per bag. The market will likely come down as soon as we have more favorable weather, and very much lower values will be seen.

<b>Eggs:</b>		
Special New Laid	0.55	0.57
Extras		0.47
No. 1		0.44
<b>Poultry—Live:</b>		

	<b>per pound.</b>	
Fowls, 5 lbs. and over	0.20	0.21
Fowls, small	0.17	0.18
<b>Fresh Killed Poultry:</b>		
Turkeys	0.29	0.30
Old Turkeys, cocks	0.27	0.28
Do., Roasting	0.29	0.30
Fowls, hens	0.17	0.18
Do., roosters	0.15	0.16
Chickens	0.21	0.22
Do., Cate fattened	0.23	0.24
Squabs, per pair	0.35	0.45
Geese	0.16	0.17
Ducks	0.17	0.18
<b>Maple Products:</b>		
Pure maple syrup, quart cans		0.40
Pure maple syrup, 9-lb. tins	1.00	1.10
Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins	1.25	1.30
Pure Maple sugar, per lb.	0.13	0.14
<b>Potatoes:</b>		
New Brunswick, Delawares, 90-lb. sacks	3.00	3.10
Quebec, 90-lb. bags	2.90	3.00
<b>Beans:</b>		
Can. hand-picked ear lots, per bu.	7.75	8.00
Three-lb. pickers		7.20
Five-lb. pickers	7.50	7.75
Six to seven-lb. pickers	6.90	7.00

## FLOUR, CEREALS AND MILLFEED.

Conditions in the flour trade are very quiet. Many mills in the west are closed down and Montreal mills are turning out a greatly reduced production on account of the lack of transportation facilities. Embargoes on the railways are still in force all over Canada and the United States and relief can only come with more favorable weather. The demand for flour in the city is fair, but until there is an improvement in traffic conditions the demand from the country will be limited. There continue to be some orders for low grade flour from Great Britain which Canadian mills are filling to the extent of the tonnage obtainable. Enquiries are also reported for 76 per cent flour and the new 81 per cent standard, but we understand that very little of this flour has been shipped. Ontario flour is firm as supplies are getting low. Very few cars have been

received in Montreal during the past fortnight. With regard to the new regulations for the minimum weight of flour to be carried by the railways, it has been decided that in the case of export that the minimum will be placed at 60,000 lbs. The domestic flour minimum has not yet been settled. An active demand is reported for millfeed and prices are in consequence very firm. Supplies are so low that the trade is confined to mixed cars and small lots. There is some sign of firmness in cereals again after the weakness and price cutting ten days ago. A reviving demand is experienced for both bulk and package goods.

	<b>Montreal.</b>		<b>Toronto.</b>	
	<b>per 96-lb. bag.</b>			
<b>Flour:</b>				
First patents	4.80	4.75		
Second patents	4.55	4.50		
Strong Bakers	4.45	4.40		
Feed Flour	2.85	2.70	2.80	
Winter wheat flour, 90 per cent.	4.10	4.25		
<b>Cereals:</b>				
Rolled Oats, 90-lb. bag	3.35	3.45	3.45	
Oatmeal, 98-lb. bag		3.80	3.80	
Rolled wheat 100-lb. b.		3.60		
Bag		4.95		
Rye flour, 98-lb. bag	3.75	4.00		
<b>Feeds:</b>			<b>Per ton.</b>	
Bran		33.00	35.00	
Shorts	36.00	37.00	40.00	
Middlings	38.00	41.00		
Moullie, pure grain grades	46.00	50.00		
Do., mixed	44.00	47.00		
Barley feed		41.00		
Crushed Oats		45.00		
Oatfeed		46.00		
Hay, No. 2		13.00	11.00	

## RECEIPTS OF BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS.

The following table shows the receipts of butter, cheese and eggs in Montreal for the week ending February 10th, 1917, with comparisons:

	<b>Butter, Cheese, Eggs.</b>		
	<b>pkgs.</b>	<b>boxes.</b>	<b>cases.</b>
Week ending Feb. 10, 1917	16,617	6,132	4,290
Week ending Feb. 3, 1917	1,632	7,000	2,223
Week ending Feb. 12, 1916	593	771	2,687
Total receipts May 1st, 1916, to Feb. 10, 1917	500,042	2,237,372	624,951
Total receipts May 1, 1915, to Feb. 12, 1916	396,405	1,994,939	531,853

## MONTREAL PRODUCE RECEIPTS.

Receipts of the principal commodities at Montreal for the past two weeks follow:

	<b>Week end.</b>	
	<b>Feb. 10, '17.</b>	<b>Feb. 3, '17.</b>
Wheat, bushels	187,267	156,542
Oats, bushels	64,929	141,723
Barley, bushels	10,056	2,160
Flour, bushels	8,530	10,562
Butter, packages	4,290	1,632
Cheese, boxes	1,617	7,000
Eggs, cases	6,132	677
Potatoes, bags	15	228
Hay, bales	14,918	23,377

## WINNIPEG GRAIN INSPECTIONS.

The receipts of grain at Winnipeg for the week ended February 10, 1917.

	<b>This week.</b>	<b>Last year.</b>
No. 1 Northern	57	
No. 2 Northern	215	
No. 3 Northern	222	
No. 4 Northern	145	
No. 5 Northern	67	
No. 6 Northern	33	
Feed Wheat	22	
Rejected	24	
No. grade	531	
No. 4 Special	32	
No. 5 Special	32	
No. 6 Special	11	
Winter Wheat	0	
Totals	1,418	998
Oats	598	311
Barley	67	25
Flax	53	6