

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: A return of stormy weather early in the week caused badly drifted roads, and a general interference with traffic, handicapping the work of travellers to some degree, but as a rule they write in a cheerful strain as regards the business outlook, and general remittances are maintained in goodly volume.

Wholesalers of dry goods report a very active business. Not only are travellers' and general mail orders coming in well, but there is also a steady and substantial aggregate of house sales. The question with regard to future supplies is becoming more acute from day to day, and every British mail brings a sheaf of returned orders for cottons as well as woollens. For domestic cottons prices are very firmly held, and subject to revision from day to day.

The boot and shoe manufacturing districts do not as yet show much increase in activity, and local sales of leather are light, with no export demand of consequence.

In the hardware line more activity is now apparent.

Grocery men report satisfaction with trade conditions. There is no extravagant buying, but a steady movement in staple lines. Sugars remain on the same basis as last quoted to cost 80c, laid down, as against 58c at this time a year ago. The soap situation is becoming a serious one, and owing to the growing scarcity of grease, some manufacturers predict that prices are likely to reach \$10 a box ere long for ordinary laundry soap. The continued severe weather is affecting receipts of new laid eggs, and butter prices continue to strengthen. The demand for cured meats is comparatively moderate, but prices are firmly held, notwithstanding some easing off in cattle and hog quotations.

The snow is reported as being very deep in the woods, hindering lumbering operations to some extent.

As is usual at this season, the failure list shows some increase, seventeen district insolvencies being reported for the week, with liabilities of \$214,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal weekly trade report says: Weather conditions in this province during the past week have been very unfavorable to trade. The cold weather, accompanied with snow storms, delayed traffic both coming and going; also the roads in the country are almost unpassable, so that travellers on the road find it very difficult to get around to see their customers.

All the spring wheat millers started this week to manufacture the new standard grade of flour, for both domestic consumption and export account. The demand for millfeed exceeds all offerings and prices rule very firm.

Poultry offerings are small and prices realized are high. The offerings of cattle on the live stock markets were rather poor quality and prices were easier. Live hogs were also at lower values.

Stocks of butter held in Canada are very light, and with the stoppage of oleomargarine coming into this market, the situation is rather serious. Those who are holding butter are not anxious to dispose of their stocks except it be in small quantities, to their regular customers.

A campaign for greater hog production is being taken up in Canada by the farmers, and it is anticipated that the production next year will show a big increase.

It is reported that outside capital is making big investments in Montreal real estate. Lumber prices are higher.

It is reported that the United States Government has placed orders in Canada for steel ships, aggregating over ten and a half million dollars.

The retail trade have had a very fair week. Remittances are good; city collections fair.

LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL. At the two Montreal stockyards—West-end market and Canadian Pacific—the receipts of live stock for the week ending February 2nd, 1918, were 1,875 cattle, 1,200 sheep and lambs, 1,700 hogs and 500 calves.

Owing to the increased offerings, mostly of an inferior quality, the tone of the market for cattle became weak and prices decreased 25c to 50c per

100 lbs. as compared with those of the previous week. Drivers complain that it is almost impossible to buy choice stock at a reasonable figure now. The tone of the market for small meats remained steady throughout the week, and a fairly active trade was done. Prices remained unchanged. Prices in the hog market fluctuated on Monday showing a decline of 50c to 75c per 100 lbs. and on Wednesday an increase of 25c per 100 lbs.

We quote Montreal prices as follows:

Steers, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice	11.50	12.50
Good	11.00	11.75
Fairly good	10.50	11.25
Fair	10.00	10.75
Light steers	9.50	10.00
Common	8.00	9.00
Butchers' bulls—		
Choice	9.50	10.00
Good	9.00	9.75
Medium	8.50	9.25
Common	8.00	8.75
Butchers' cows—		
Choice heavy	10.00	10.50
Good	9.50	9.75
Medium	9.00	9.25
Light weights	8.00	8.75
Canners' cattle—		
Bulls	7.00	8.00
Cows	6.00	7.00
Sheep, per 100 lbs.—		
Ewes	12.50	13.00
Bucks and culls	11.50	12.00
Ontario lambs	16.50	17.00
Quebec lambs	15.50	16.00
Calves, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice milk-fed stocks	14.00	15.00
Good milk-fed stock	12.00	13.00
Grass-fed calves	6.00	10.00
Hogs, per 100 lbs.—		
Selected lots	19.00	19.50
Sows	16.00	16.50
Stags	13.00	14.00

TORONTO.—The receipts of livestock at Toronto's two markets for the week ending February 2nd, amounted to 3,168 cattle, 157 calves, 2,669 hogs and 472 sheep. Owing to traffic conditions on every day except Monday, the receipts of livestock were so small that it was impossible to hold a market. Prices of choice and butcher cattle scored a decline.

We quote Toronto prices as follows:—

Choice export steers	\$11.50	\$12.00
Butchers', choice handy	10.50	11.00
Do, good	10.00	10.50
Do, medium	8.50	9.25
Do, common	8.00	9.00
Butchers' bulls, choice	10.00	11.00
Do, good	8.00	9.00
Do, medium	6.25	7.25
Butchers' cows, choice	9.00	10.00
Do, good	8.00	8.50
Do, medium	7.50	8.00
Stockers, good	9.00	9.50
Do, medium	8.00	8.50
Canners	5.00	5.40
Milkers, good to choice	90.00	125.00
Do, common and medium	65.00	85.00
Calves, veal, choice	14.00	16.50
Do, medium	6.00	6.50
Do, common	6.00	7.00
Do, heavy fat	8.00	10.50
Spring lambs, cwt.	18.00	18.75
Sheep, ewes, light	9.00	15.00
Do, heavy and bucks	7.50	9.50
Do, culls	4.00	5.50
Hogs, fed and watered	18.50
Do, off cars	18.75
Do, f.o.b.	17.50
Less \$1 to \$2 on light or thin hogs; less \$2 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 February 2nd, 1918, were 758 packages which show a decrease of 2,855 packages as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 874 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date show a decrease of 145,013 packages

as compared with the corresponding period last year.

The estimated stock of creamery butter in store in Montreal on February 1st, 1918, was 38,289 packages which shows a decrease of 19,692 packages as compared with January 1st, 1918, and a decrease of 10,474 packages with January 1st, 1917, and the stock of dairy butter is 415 packages smaller than last month and 694 packages larger than a year ago. This is the smallest stock of butter held here at this date for the past five years. There was a steady demand for butter throughout the week, and the tone of the market ruled strong.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.47	0.47½
Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.46	0.46½
Current receipts, creamery	0.45	0.45½
Finest dairy	0.39	0.40
Fine dairy	0.38	0.39

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending February 2nd, 1918, were 487 boxes, which show a decrease of 1,105 boxes as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 6,513 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date show a decrease of 402,900 boxes, as compared with the corresponding period last year. The estimated stock of cheese in store in Montreal on February 1st, was 31,492 boxes which shows a decrease of 55,811 boxes as compared with January 1st, and an increase of 13,685 boxes with February 1st, 1917. The local cheese situation remained unchanged during the week. The demand was steady but receipts were small.

The Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese	21½c
No. 2 cheese	21¼c
No. 3 cheese	20¾c

EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending February 2nd, 1918, were 1,584 cases, as compared with 2,019 for the previous week, and 2,233 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to February 2nd, 1918, were 308,023 cases as against 630,661 for the corresponding period last year.

The stocks in storage on spot on February 1st only amounted to 11,723 cases of cold storage eggs and 133 cases of fresh, the former showing a decrease of 22,356 cases as compared with January 1st, 1918, an increase of 6,543 cases with January 1st, 1917. The trade declares that this stock is only sufficient to fill the daily consumptive demand for fifteen days, so that unless receipts of new laid increase, the prospects are that prices may go still higher. The receipts of new laid showed a slight increase last week, and were sold at 70c per dozen in a wholesale jobbing way. A fairly active trade was done in storage eggs, with strong prices. No eggs are coming from the U.S., which tends to increase the scarcity.

We quote current prices as follows:

Strictly new laid eggs	0.70
Fresh eggs	\$.58
Fall fresh eggs	0.52
Selected cold storage	0.48
No. 1 cold storage	0.45

POULTRY.

The supplies of dressed poultry coming forward have been comparatively small, and the feeling has been very firm as the demand both for immediate consumption and for storage account were good. Prices showed no change.

We quote prices as follows:—

Turkeys, per lb.	0.35	0.36
Milk fed chickens	0.35	0.36
No. 1 chickens	0.32	0.33
Choice fowl	0.27	0.28
Ducks, per lb.	0.29	0.30
Geese, per lb.	0.27	0.28

POTATOES.

A weaker feeling developed in the market, due to more liberal supplies coming forward, and prices scored a decline of 10c to 25c per bag. At this reduction a fair trade was done in a wholesale jobbing way with sales of Green Mountains at \$2 to \$2.15, Ontario white stock at \$1.90 to \$2, and reds at \$1.90 to \$1.35 per bag of 80 lbs. ex-store.