

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: The late cold nights and shortening days, suggestive of fall, are hastening the return of the holiday makers, and city retail trade is more active. In wholesale circles there is not much to report in the ways of news, except that dry goods houses are busy for the season, and quite a notable contingent of large western buyers has been in town this week, making liberal selections. The fall wholesale millinery openings are fixed for the 2nd September. It was expected that the cotton mill companies would give out new prices for spring lines this week, but the announcement has probably been deferred owing to the unfavorable crop reports and marked advance in raw cotton quotations. There is a general expectation that the new prices will show a material advance. Large orders placed with carpet manufacturers have been returned, the looms being largely diverted to the production of army supplies.

The leather market holds quiet under moderate demand from shoe manufacturers.

In groceries, apart from sugars, there is a fair seasonable distribution. The card system for buyers of sugars for commercial purposes will go into operation next month. Refiners' quotations remain as last reported. There is an advance of a quarter of a cent a pound in corn syrup and corn starch. The tomato crop is reported a large one, and there have been some offers of new pack, for prompt delivery, at \$1.80. It is reported there will be a scarcity of choice brands of British Columbia salmon. The market for hogs is easier under liberal supplies, and stocks of bacon are said to show a considerable accumulation, but to the ordinary consumer the prices of smoked meats are still maintained at practically prohibitive figures. Offerings of cattle have also been larger than usual.

In general lumber trade is on the quiet side, but there is a very considerable consumption of material for shell and munition boxes, etc.

General payments are well kept up and only three trifling district failures are reported for the week, with liabilities of \$11,000.

The Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: The total Canadian trade for the four months ending with last month amounted to \$702,748,065, against \$901,560,144 for the same period a year ago, showing a decrease of \$198,812,079. The wholesale trade is meeting with its customary quietness at this season of the year, most travellers being in off the road, preparing for their fall trips.

The quantity of this year's wool clip in the province of Alberta is about three times larger than that of a year ago. The prices ranged from 65c to 71c as to grade, being an average price of 68c per pound. The growth of flax seed is increasing, in one district alone the acreage has been increased by six thousand acres.

The pack of sockeye salmon this year will be light, the run, which closes this week, has been very disappointing. In another section of the West, however, the boats and canneries are working to their full capacity on spring salmon.

Contracts were given out this week by our Government for seven new steel steamers amongst the various Canadian shipbuilding yards. Oil wells in Western Canada are becoming more predominant, one company having just declared a dividend of twelve per cent. The output of soft coal in the lower provinces for the first six months of this year shows a falling off of over 400,000 tons, due to shortage of labor and labor troubles.

Government reports state that the rains during the past couple of weeks has improved the crop prospects twenty-five per cent. The potato crop in this province promises to be large, but recently a good number of fields seem to be covered with blight.

Quite a number of families have returned to the city from their country homes during the week, which has increased the retail trade. Remittances are very good, city collections are improving.

### COUNTRY PRODUCE.

#### BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending August 24th, 1918, were 13,264 packages which show a decrease of 2,140 packages as compared with the pre-

vious week, and a decrease of 1,730 with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1918 to date show an increase of 50,983 packages as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. Business generally was reported very quiet, but prices remained steady and showed on change. The receipts for the first time this season were smaller than the same week last year, but supplies were ample to fill all requirements. The offerings of creamery butter at the auction sale held here last week amounted to 2,926 packages as against 2,866 packages for the previous week. Prices at the opening sale were unchanged at 43 3/4c per lb. for pasteurized creamery, 43 3/4c for finest, and 42 3/4c for fine, but they closed 1/4c per lb higher at 43 3/4c, 43 3/4c, and 42 3/4c. At Gould's Cold Storage 600 packages were sold at 42c to 42 1/4c, and at 42 1/4c to 42 3/4c per lb. f.o.b. country points.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest creamery . . . . .	0.43 3/4	0.43 3/4
Fine creamery . . . . .	0.43	0.43 3/4
Finest dairy . . . . .	0.38	0.38 1/2
Fine dairy . . . . .	0.36	0.37

### CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending August 24th, 1918, were 58,885 boxes which show a decrease of 21,082 boxes as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 28,583 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date show a decrease of 10,537 boxes as compared with the corresponding period in 1917. There was a decided falling off in the receipts of cheese last week, due to the fact that the factory owners are not disposed to accept the prices offered at the boards. At Brockville, for instance, 3,110 boxes were offered on the board and 180 sold at 22 1/4c with 22 1/4c bid for the balance. At the meeting of the Peterboro board the make for the balance of the season in that section was sold at 22 3/4c. At Gould's Cold Storage 9,000 boxes were offered and sold at 22 3/4c per lb. f.o.b. country points.

The Dairy Produce Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese . . . . .	0.28
No. 2 cheese . . . . .	0.22 1/2
No. 3 cheese . . . . .	0.22

### EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending August 24th, 1918, were 7,833 cases, as compared with 7,689 for the previous week, and 7,297 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date were 180,063 cases, as against 199,160 for the corresponding period in 1917. The condition of the local egg situation remained unchanged last week, although trade was rather quiet. Dealers state that they have had no difficulty in securing all the eggs they require at 39c to 40c per dozen, f.o.b. shipping points west of Toronto, and at 41c to 42c at points east of Toronto, while they paid 42c at Prince Edward Island. The export situation remains unchanged and the indications are there would be until the Dairy Commission commences operating for the British Ministry of Food.

We quote wholesales jobbing 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

### POTATOES.

A firmer feeling developed in the market for potatoes last week and prices scored an advance of 10c per bag. Receipts were large, but dealers had no difficulty in realizing \$1.75 to \$1.85 per bag of 84 lbs. ex store in a wholesale jobbing way.

### LOCAL FLOUR.

There was a steady demand for spring wheat flour throughout the week and the market showed more activity. Prices remained unchanged, however. Sales of car lots of Government standard grade for shipment to country points were made at \$10.95 per barrel in bags, f.o.b., Montreal, and to city bakers

at \$11.05 delivered. The offerings of new crop Ontario winter wheat flour from millers are larger for August-first-half-September delivery and fair-sized purchasers were made by local dealers. The demand for this grade of flour was good from local buyers and sales of some round lots were made. Old crop wheat flour sold in broken lots at \$11.60 per barrel in new cotton bags, and at \$11.20 to \$11.30 in second-hand jute bags ex-store.

### SUBSTITUTES.

The tone of the market for rye and barley flours became easier and prices showed a decline of 25c per barrel for rye and of 25c to 50c per barrel for barley. The trade in rye flour was good with sales of broken lots at \$11.75 per barrel in bags, delivered, but the demand for barley flour was somewhat limited at \$12 to \$12.25. There is still a fair supply of white corn flour available on the market, for which the demand was good at \$12, but the sale of Government standard corn flour has been rather slow at \$11.60 owing to the darker color. The demand for Graham flour is quiet owing to the warm weather and prices are unchanged at \$11.05. Rice flour has ruled steady at \$8.75 per 100 lbs. put up in 220-lb. sacks.

### MILLFEED.

Trade was quiet for both bran and shorts owing to the very limited supplies available. The price of bran remained unchanged at \$35 a ton, and shorts at \$40. There was an active demand for all lines of feed. The tone of the market is very firm with sales of feed cornmeal at \$68, pure grain moullie at \$67 to \$68, oat chop and crushed oats at \$67.50, mixed grain chop at \$66, and barley meal at \$64 per ton, including bags, delivered to the trade.

### ROLLED OATS.

There was a good demand for supplies of rolled oats and trade was fairly active. The undertone of the market was firm, with sales of car lots of standard grades at \$5.10 to \$5.15, and broken lots at \$5.20 to \$5.30 per bag of 90 lbs., delivered to the trade. A fair business was done in cornmeal at unchanged prices. Golden grade in broken lots sold at \$6.05 to \$6.15, and bolted at \$4.25 to \$4.50 per bag delivered.

### LOCAL GRAIN.

The announcement made by the Board of Grain Supervisors of Canada that the price of No. 1 Manitoba spring wheat for the crop of 1918 would be \$2.24 1/2 per bushel in store at Fort William and Port Arthur, and that the price of Ontario No. 2 winter wheat would be \$2.26 per bushel ex-store, was the main feature of interest in the grain trade, last week. The Ontario crop of oats promises to be a bumper one and considerably over the average in yield per acre, as some fields are running as high as 80 to 90 bushels to the acre, while the average for the province last year was 40.3. The demand for Ontario oats was steady and an active business was done with sales reported of fully 75 cars of No. 3 white at 87 1/4c to 88c per bushel ex-track here, and re-sales on spot of car lots were made at 89 1/4c ex-store. The trade in Canadian western oats was quiet, one round lot was reported sold for shipment from Fort William. In sympathy with the decline in prices in the Winnipeg option market, local prices on Saturday closed 1/4c per bushel lower than a week ago, with car lots of No. 3 Canadian western quoted at 98c to 99c, extra No. 1 feed at 98c to 99c, No. 1 feed at 95 1/4c to 96 1/4c, and No. 2 feed at 91c to 92c per bushel ex-store.

Offerings of Ontario barley are increasing steadily. A fair amount of business was done last week in No. 3 grade at \$1.23 per bushel ex-track while re-sales of car lots were made at \$1.26, extra No. 3 at \$1.28, and Manitoba sample barley at \$1.28 per bushel ex-store. There was a good demand for American corn for shipment from Chicago and an active business was done. Sales of between 75 to 100 cars of sample grades being made at \$1.65 to \$1.75 per bushel ex-track here.

Fluctuations in grain on Saturday at Winnipeg were:

Oats:	
No. 2 C. W. . . . .	0.90
Barley	
No. 3 C. W. . . . .	1.15
No. 4 C. W. . . . .	1.10