

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

The state of trade in Montreal is still dependent to a large extent on the railway situation. Fortunately the weather has been much milder this week, which has given the railways an opportunity to make more headway in clearing up the traffic congestion. Coal and flour are moving more freely, receipts at Montreal last week being much greater than during the three preceding weeks. "We have lifted embargoes off live stock, perishables, and dairy products from our western lines to all territory, and off feed corn from American to Canadian points," said Mr. J. E. Dalrymple, Vice-President of the Grand Trunk. "The congestion was acute, there was much inconvenience but things are decidedly mending." Mr. G. M. Bosworth, Vice-President of the C. P. R., on being interviewed, expressed his opinion that considering the freight congestion over the country as a whole, no great relief may be expected until the opening of navigation. The large amounts of Government freight which have to take precedence over regular traffic are greatly hindering the work of clearing up the congestion of ordinary commercial shipments. "The ocean transportation situation is growing steadily more serious," continued Mr. Bosworth. "The British Admiralty have requisitioned 75 per cent of all freight space on steamers sailing from Canadian ports to Great Britain for the month of March. Considerably fewer steamers are sailing at the present time than last autumn, so that commercial exports will be reduced to a minimum."

The iron market remains inactive. The volume of building planned for the current year is light, and there is just a moderate degree of activity in the local lumber trade. In other lines there is nothing specially new. The leather and hide markets are strong and active. Boots and shoes have advanced considerably, and with the scarcity of material, they are likely to go higher.

The hardware trade is quiet but steady, prices having an advancing tendency. The fish shortage already predicted has now become manifest.

Eastern collections show some falling off on account of the bad roads, but as a whole remittances are considered fair, and the number of failures is light.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER: An active trade with fair sales is reported in butter for the week. Some out-of-town orders have been filled, chiefly for Ontario points. Prices are firm, an advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ cent being quoted by some houses. Several cars of creamery butter have recently been received here from Alberta and Saskatchewan, sales of which are reported at 41c to 42c, and several cars of dairy butter have arrived from Manitoba, a portion of which was sold at 32c to 34c as to quality. The grade of this butter was not up to that of finest Ontario dairy which has sold at 37c to 38c. Finest September and first half of October creamery is in good demand. A heavy trade is anticipated during Lent.

CHEESE: Business is practically at a standstill on account of the lack of ocean tonnage. Even if space were available the railways are unable to transport consignments to the seaboard. Freight rates are quoted from United States ports from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per 100 lbs. Canadian lines are still quoting \$1.50, but this figure is merely nominal as there is no space offering. There are said to be buyers in the market for April cheese at 24c to 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ c but farmers, it is believed, would not sell ahead.

Butter:	
Choice Fall Creamery Solids ..	0.43 0.44
Winter Creamery ..	0.42 0.43
Undergrade Creamery ..	0.42
Dairy Butter ..	0.39 0.40
City Selling Price to grocers:	
Creamery Solids ..	0.44 0.45
Do. Prints ..	0.44 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0.45 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. Prints ..	0.44 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese:	
Finest Western ..	0.27
Fine Eastern ..	0.27
Winter Make ..	0.25 0.26
City Selling Prices to grocers:	
Stilton cheese ..	0.26 0.28
Large ..	0.26 0.28
Twins ..	0.26 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0.28
Quebec Cheese ..	0.26 0.28
Canadian Strong Cheese ..	0.27 0.28
Roquefort ..	0.28
Roquefort ..	0.65
Do. No. 2 ..	0.44

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

EGGS: Storage eggs are now off the market, the trade being supplied with new laid for all purposes. Canadian new laid are in light supply, so that nearly all dealers are importing from Chicago and Detroit. The market in Chicago last week quoted from 40c to 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ c net, and Detroit 44c delivered in Montreal by express, or considerably lower than the previous week. Receipts from the Southwest are increasing and many shipments of eggs have been going to Chicago from Iowa and Northern Illinois. Apart from the uncertainty of the transportation situation heavier receipts are expected this week, with consequent declines in prices. Montreal dealers are selling eggs at two prices, 55c for American and 57c for Canadian.

POULTRY: Very little live or dressed poultry is arriving on the market. Storage stocks are moving. Dealers report a very good demand at prices which are considered satisfactory. There will likely be a falling off in the demand for poultry during Lent.

HONEY: The market for honey is much higher. Dealers report that stocks are short with a very heavy demand.

BEANS: The market for beans is higher and very firm at the new level. This strength is attributed to the abnormal demand from factories putting up pork and beans.

MAPLE PRODUCTS: Enquiries are coming in already from the country for prices for maple syrup and sugar, but no prices are quoted yet for the new crop as dealers prefer to wait until the goods arrive.

Eggs:	
New Laid ..	0.55 0.57
Poultry—Live:	
Fowls, 5-lbs. and over ..	0.22 0.21
Fowls, small ..	0.18 0.20
Fresh Killed Poultry:	
Turkeys ..	0.32 0.33
Old Turkeys, cocks ..	0.27 0.28
Fowls, hens ..	0.20 0.21
Do., roosters ..	0.15 0.16
Chickens ..	0.22 0.23
Do., crate fattened ..	0.25 0.28
Squabs, per pair ..	0.35 0.45
Geese ..	0.18 0.19
Ducks ..	0.21 0.22
Maple Products:	
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
Honey:	
Buckwheat, 5-10 lb. tins ..	0.12 0.13
Clover, in comb ..	0.16 0.18
Do., in 5-10 lb. tins ..	0.13 0.14
Potatoes:	
New Brunswick, Delawares, 90-lb. sacks ..	3.25 3.50
Quebec's, 90-lb. bags ..	3.00 3.25
Beans:	
Hand-picked car lots, per bu. ..	7.75 8.00
Three pound pickers ..	7.50 7.75
Five pound pickers ..	7.00 7.25
Six to seven pound pickers ..	6.90 7.00

FLOUR, CEREALS AND MILLFEED.

Trade in flour is almost at a standstill owing to the embargo which still exists on the railways at Montreal and many other points in the Dominion. The car service, which consists of a few cars a day, has improved slightly with the milder weather, but the mills both here and in the West are only running intermittently. Some firms report that after being closed off and on for three weeks they are now grinding and shipping a small quantity of flour. The supply of wheat in Montreal is low although there is plenty of wheat in the country. No flour is being shipped to the Maritime Provinces from Montreal as this district is absolutely embargoed. Stocks of flour at many points are dwindling to low proportions.

The wheat market has shown weakness during the last week, although prices have declined very little considering the fact that only small quantities of grain are moving either across the continent or from the sea-board. Flour prices are holding steady in the absence of any great demand. Export business is rendered impossible as no freight is offering between now and May. The Government bought large quantities of flour last week. Winter wheat flour is very firm as supplies are low in Montreal. The situation depends entirely on the duration of the embargo. Rolled oats are in good demand. Millfeeds are very strong, urgent orders being received daily for supplies that cannot be filled. Ontario reports a regular famine. The mills were oversold on feeds

for sometime before the railway embargo went into force, and since that time very little has been made. Prices are firm at a record level.

	Montreal.	Toronto.
Flour:		
First patents ..	per 96-lb. bag.	
Second patents ..	4.80	4.75
Strong Bakers ..	4.55	4.50
Feed Flour, ..	4.45	4.40
Winter wheat flour, 90 per cent ..	2.85 3.70 2.80	
Cereals:		
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	
Feeds:		
Bran ..	35.00	35.00
Shorts ..	37.00 40.00	40.00 41.00
Middlings ..	40.00 44.00	
Moullie, pure grain grades ..	48.00 50.00	
Do., mixed ..	44.00 47.00	
Barley feed ..	41.00	
Crushed Oats ..	47.00	
Oatfeed ..	46.00	
Hay, No. 2 ..	13.00	11.00

An extra charge of 30c is made for flour in barrels.

PROVISIONS.

The outstanding feature in the provision market is the high price of live hogs, which has reached the record figure of \$15.00 to \$15.50. As the demand for pork products is likely to fall off somewhat in Lent packers are content to let drovers hold out for higher prices if they can get them. The buyers contend that present prices are much too high considering the inferior stock that is coming forward. Dressed hogs are quiet, the trade consisting of small lots which are changing hands at \$21.50 for fresh killed stock. The export demand is large which may result in higher prices in the future.

Current prices are as follows:

Hams:		Per lb.
Smoked Hams, 8-14 lbs.		0.27
Do., 14-20 lbs.		0.25
Do., 20-25 lbs.		0.24
Do., over 25 lbs.		0.25
Bacon:		
Breakfast ..	0.28	0.30
Windsor Bacon, selected ..		0.27
Windsor Bacon, boneless ..		0.32
Barrel Pork:		Per bbl.
Short cut pork ..		39.00
Clear Fat Pork ..		41.00
Mess Pork ..		37.00
Bean Pork, American ..		36.00
Plate Pork, 200 lbs.		32.00
Pure Lard:		pound.
Tierces ..		0.22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tubs ..		0.22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pails ..		0.23
Tins ..		0.23
Cases, 3, 5, 10's ..		0.23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Prints ..		0.24
Compound Lard; Western Grades:		
Tierces ..		0.17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tubs ..		0.17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tins ..		0.18
Cases, 3, 5, 10's ..		0.18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0.18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Prints ..		0.19
Cooked Meats:		
Roast shoulder pork ..		0.31
Roast hams, boneless ..		0.37
Cooked hams, boneless ..		0.38
Cooked hams, rind off ..		0.38
Head cheese ..		0.11
English brawn ..		0.12

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

The outstanding feature in the fruit trade to-day is the result of the serious damage by frost which is reported from South Carolina. The estimate of the crop damage in the Charleston district is placed at an actual loss of \$500,000 in producing cost. The total market value of the crops in this section would probably have exceeded one million dollars on account of the scarcity and consequent high prices of green vegetables. The spring crop of cabbages, beets, carrots and lettuce has been practically all ruined, leaving only about two per cent fit to be marketed. A cold wave was also reported in Florida, but latest advices indicate that the damage to the citrus industry was not as great as expected. This unfortunate destruction of the crops, coupled with the congestion on the railways, has had a far-reaching effect on the market for southern fruits and vegetables, creating a scarcity which readily accounts for the prevailing high prices.

Florida tomatoes, celery and grape-fruit are dearer owing to frost. The orange market is firm for good stock. About 20 or 25 cars of oranges arrived in Montreal last week, but most of them were in a frost-