

THE COMMERCIAL MARKETS.

Giving Ranges of Prices in some of the More Important Branches of Trade; their Situation and Tendencies.

TORONTO.

Toronto, January 17th.

Drugs and Chemicals.—Business is brisk and prices are firm. There is a good outlook for the trade during this year. Prices show no tendency to vary and there have been no changes during the past week. Old Country business is reported as satisfactory.

Dry Goods.—The big wholesale houses report very good business. Their only complaint, and some of them use rather strong terms, is that the mills are sadly lacking in celerity so far as deliveries are concerned. Many orders are said to be months behind. "If they do not watch it," said a wholesale manager, "they will be years behind." Asked as to the causes for this, the Monetary Times was informed that the mills had evidently not fully realized at what a pace prosperity is proceeding in Canada. The mills, too, have had great difficulty in securing labor, the scarcity, sometimes assuming serious proportions. Spring orders are coming in freely and the outlook for 1907 is good.

Frozen Fish.—This is a big month for the trade. Halifax frozen sea herrings, and haddie, Long Island native oysters, boutiliers, mild cured bloaters, etc., are arriving. The market is firm and the cold snap has created a strong demand.

Flour and Grain.—The market is quiet. Manitoba wheat is a little easier. We quote:—(f.o.b. shipping point) winter wheat, No. 2 red, 69 to 70c.; No. 2 white, 69 to 70c.; Manitoba wheat (f.o.b. lake ports), No. 1 hard, 82c.; No. 1 Northern, 80½ to 81c.; No. 2 Northern, 78c.; barley, No. 2, 50 to 51c.; No. 3, extra, 48 to 49c.; No. 3, 45c.; oats, No. 2 white, 36c.; peas, No. 2, 80 to 81c.; rye, No. 2, 70c.; buckwheat, No. 2, 52 to 54c.; wheat flour, 90 per cent. bid, \$2.63, asked \$2.65.

Fruits.—The cranberry market is easier and prices are now more reasonable. California celery is making a good showing. The orange market is firm. We quote: California navels, Bronco brand, \$3.50 box; Sunshine and Tulip brands, \$3 to \$3.25 box; Florida, \$2.65 to \$3; Mexican, \$2.25 to \$2.50; cranberries, \$3.50 case; bananas, Jumbo Port Limons, \$1.90 to \$2.25 bunch; eight-hand bunches, \$1.40 to \$1.60; lemons, Home Guard brand, \$2.75 to \$3 box; Kicking brand, \$2.50 to \$2.75 box; California brand, \$4 box; Florida tangerines, \$2.75 per ½ strap; pineapples, \$4.50 case; onions, Yellow Danvers, \$1.25 bag; Spanish, \$2.75 large case.

Groceries.—This time of the year is usually quiet for the trade. The big, wholesale houses, taking this fact into consideration, report good business. The whole tone of the market is firm and no radical changes are anticipated. The demand for canned fruits and vegetables continues to be a strong feature. An advance of 2½c. in the price of canned vegetables, was notified yesterday, as forecasted by the Monetary Times a few weeks ago. Sugars remain firm at the recent decline of 10c. per cwt. The only change in the market during the week is an advance of 10c. in price of white beans.

Hides and Skins.—Prices of hides are declining, owing to the poor quality of the stock, which is usual at this time of the year. Everybody is "loaded with hides and the market is still good, although somewhat unsettled. We quote: Inspected, No. 1, 11c.; No. 2, 10c.; No. 3, 9c.; country hides, green, 8½c.; country hides, cured, 9½c.; lamb-skins, present take off, \$1.25.

Provisions.—The butter market is easier, with no quotable change. The egg market is good, and with the cold snap, prices will probably advance. Lard is firm at a good demand. We quote: Eggs, new laid, 30 to 35c.; storage, 24 to 28c.; pickled, 21c.; separator prints, in good demand, 24 to 25c.; cheese, large, 13¼, twins, 13¼c.; breakfast bacon, 15c.; backs, 17c.; rolls, 11½c.; shoulders, 11c.; long clear, 11¼c.; tierces of lard, 12c.; tubs, 12¼c.; and pails 12¼c.

Tallow.—The market is fairly strong. Supplies are very small. The price ruling is 5¼ to 5½c.

Wool.—There is nothing doing here. The first London, Eng., wool sales of the new year opened on Tuesday. A fair selection was offered. Merinos sold at unchanged rates, and cross-breds were unchanged to 5 per cent. higher. Home buyers took medium scoureds; Americans secured several lots. Offerings amounted to 11,206 bales. The following are details of sales:—New South Wales, 2,900 bales; scoured, 18, 6d. to 1s. 8½d.; greasy, 7d. to 1s. 2d. Queensland—700 bales; greasy, 8d. to 1s. 1½d. Victoria—2,000 bales; scoured, 18, 4d. to 1s. 11½d., greasy, 6½ to 1s. 3d. South Australia—500 bales; greasy, 6½d. to 1s. 1½d. West Australia—700 bales; greasy, 8½d. to 1s. ½d. New Zealand—3,000 bales; scoured, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 7½d.; greasy, 7½d. to 1s. 4½d. Cape of Good Hope and Natal—100 bales; scoured, 9½d. to 1s. 5½d. Buenos Ayres—400 bales; greasy, 9½d. to 11½d.

MONTREAL.

Montreal, January 17th.

Butter.—The market has shown easiness for some time past and of late sales have been made at lower prices. This is doubtless owing to the large amount of Canadian creamery being brought back from England. This creamery is inferior, being saltless, but it takes the place of good stuff in many instances. Had it not been for this, some think that the market would have been 30c. by this time. As it is, it is hard enough to get 24½ to 25½c., according to quality, the latter figure being for small lots. It is claimed that some of the large exporters are pretty well loaded up with butter in anticipation of the scarcity which seemed certain a few months ago, and which would have developed before now had it not been for the stock returned from England. It is still likely that the scarcity will appear before spring. Dairy rolls are quoted at 22½ to 23c. and tubs at 22c.

Cheese.—The market has shown an improvement during the past few days and a sale of 1,000 boxes of Septembers at 13¼c. is reported over the cable. This is the best price yet. Some was sold a few days ago at ½c. less. Octobers cannot any longer be had at less than 13c. Some seconds have been sold at ½c. under quotations, but there are not many to be had. Stocks on the other side of the Atlantic are heavier than usual but are rapidly diminishing, while those on this side are light. Holders are showing every confidence in the situation and freely predict an advance within a short time.

Eggs.—The trade seems confident that all the eggs in stock will be needed very shortly, and as a consequence, prices are holding pretty firm. A few firms have advanced their prices slightly during the past few days, and they expect very shortly to advance them still further. Meantime, it is still possible to buy select storage eggs at 25 and 26c., while No. 1 stock is 22c. and pickled are 21¼c., some however, demanding 22c. for them.

Flour and Feed.—Flour is dull, and prices for Manitoba strong bakers, per bbl. in bags, is \$4, patents being \$4.60. Bran and shorts are as much in demand as flour is avoided. Millers cannot get enough of it. Bran is \$21 per ton, in bags, and shorts \$22. Buyers are storing for March.

Grain.—The market for grain shows little change. Oats are a shade easier, owing doubtless to the greater quantity offering, the railways having succeeded in getting a few deliveries through. No 2 oats are 42c., store; No. 3, 41c. and No. 4, 40c. No. 1 Northern Manitoba wheat is 86c., store, and No. 2 white winter, 77c., No. 2 peas being 90c. Demand continues very light.

Hayseed.—The market is unchanged at last week's prices.

Hides, Tallow and Wool.—Hides are offering fairly well, but the demand is light and prices unchanged. Dealers are offering 9½, 10½ and 11¼c. for Nos. 3, 2 and 1, respectively. Calfskins 12c. for No. 1, and 10c. for No. 2. Sheepskins 95c. each. Rough tallow, 1½ to 3c.; rendered, 5 to 5½c. Wool dull and steady at 30 to 32c.; brushed, 30c.; unbrushed Can. fleece, tub washed, 25 to 28c.; in the grease, 18 to 20c.; Can. pulled, brushed, 30c., and unbrushed, 27 to 29c.; N. W. Merinos, 18 to 20c.

Live Hogs and Provisions.—The market for dressed hogs has advanced ¼c. in sympathy with the live hog situation, and prices are now 9¼ to 10c. per lb. for choicest abattoir-killed hogs. Country dressed are scarce and prices are firm at 8½ to 9c. per lb., some demanding ¼c. more. Demand for provisions of various kinds is fair. Extra large hams are 13c., large, 13¼c.; medium, 14c. and extra small, 14½c. Best bacon is 15c., cheaper grades being 13 to 14c. Barrelled pork, \$20 to \$23.50.

Poultry.—The general trade has to a very considerable extent lost interest in this market since cleaning up stocks after the holidays. A few merchants are still holding stocks in coldstore, not having been able to clear out their purchases. Receipts from the country are now very light, and do not gain merchants, other than poulterers, much profit. Prices for turkeys have declined greatly, and one firm has been making purchases at 11½ and 12c. for choicest. Choice chickens sell here at 10 to 11c.; geese, 9 to 10c.; fowl, 7 to 8c.

Potatoes.—The Green Mountain stock which has been brought in here lately has not been up to the level of the previous offerings. In fact dealers make the claim that the Purelifiques, from the Province of Quebec, are preferable.

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