

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: The week has been marked by unusual weather extremes, along which heavy rain and strong gales, which have not been conducive to activity in country trade and traffic, and remittances from the interior have been somewhat irregular, but payments from railway points are good as a rule. Quite frequent complaints have been heard from farmers and stock-owners of a scarcity of water, due no doubt to the unbroken hard cold prevailing for nearly three months, but the recent rains and milder weather should shortly remedy this.

In general business conditions there is little change since last writing. Dry goods wholesalers continue to report big business, and a further quota of large western buyers is expected in town next week. Manufacturers of domestic prints and general lines of cotton goods are making free deliveries and still have large orders in hand. Values in all lines of dry goods continue to mount, and at an auction of woollens and linings, sold this week under bank advances, phenomenal prices were realized.

The only noteworthy feature in the grocery trade is an advance in rice, the local milling company quoting Standard B. quality 50 cents a cental up, and Imperial Glace at 30 cents advance. Sugar prices remain at figures prevailing for some weeks past, but owing to the difficulties of transportation, retarding supplies of new crop raws, refiners have had to still further limit deliveries. Eggs are now showing a steady and marked decline. For cured meats the demand is quite light, consumption being materially curtailed by the high prices. Butter is firm at the late advance. For the new standard flour there is a steady demand at \$11.20 a barrel.

The boot and shoe manufacturing districts are still comparatively quiet, and the volume of business passing in leather is light. Some moderate export trade in sole leather is reported with the United States and New Zealand, but there is great difficulty in securing shipping space to the latter point.

Very little in the way of new buildings is being planned for the current year.

The failure list shows eleven district insolvencies for the week, with liabilities of \$246,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal weekly trade report says: The two great outside sources of wool supply are now closed to the people of Canada. The British woollen mills have for some months past been refusing orders, and the American Government has also placed an embargo on manufactured articles containing wool. Those who are in a position to know state there will be a woollen famine in the fall. The cotton mills are revising their prices and higher values are predicted. Orders for fall are ahead of the volume booked in previous seasons. The problem for both manufacturers and merchants during this year will not altogether be the high prices, but difficulty in securing goods at all.

In the grocery trade quite a few sundry articles have advanced. Rolled oats have advanced 30 cents per bag. Pure grained moullie commands \$2 to \$3 per ton over prices ruling a week ago. Hay went up \$1.50 per ton. The butter market was again very bullish and prices this week are the highest on record for round lots.

Retailers state that business has been good the greater part of the week, but one or two days of extremely bad weather curtailed their sales. Remittances continue good. City collections are gradually improving.

## LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL.—The receipts of livestock at the two yards last week amounted to 1,120 cattle, 145 sheep and lambs, 1,770 hogs, and 775 calves. The cattle market was on the whole active for the amount offered, but local supplies are far below requirements and large quantities of dressed beef are being brought in from other Canadian centres.

The trade in sheep and lambs was quiet and calves were in good demand. The market for hogs displayed strength in sympathy with the strong tone of the markets at other Canadian centres, and prices advanced 25c to 50c per 100 lbs.

We quote Montreal prices as follows:

Steers, per 100 lbs.—

Choice	12.50	13.00
Good	12.00	12.50
Fairly good	11.50	11.75
Fair	11.00	11.25
Light steers	10.00	10.50
Common	8.50	9.00

Butchers' bulls—

Choice	10.50	11.00
Good	9.50	10.00
Medium	8.50	8.75
Common	7.50	8.00

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	6.50	7.00
Cows	5.50	6.00

Sheep, per 100 lbs.—

Ewes	11.50	12.00
Bucks and culls	10.50	11.00
Ontario lambs	16.50	17.00
Quebec lambs	15.50	16.00

Calves, per 100 lbs.—

Choice milk-fed stocks	15.00	16.00
Good milk-fed stock	13.00	14.00
Grass-fed calves	8.00	12.00

Hogs, per 100 lbs.—

Selected lots	19.75	20.00
Sows	16.75	17.00
Stags	13.75	14.50

TORONTO.—Except for very choice steers the cattle market was slow and prices were barely maintained. There was a fair run of hogs.

Wholesale prices at the Toronto markets were:—

Heavy steers, choice	\$12.25	\$12.50
Do. good	11.00	11.50
Butchers' steers and heifers, choice	11.50	11.85
Do. good	10.85	11.25
Do. medium	10.25	10.60
Do. common	8.75	9.75

Butchers' cows, choice 10.00 | 10.50 |

Do. good	9.25	9.75
Do. medium	8.00	8.75
Do. common	6.75	7.50
Do. canners	6.00	6.40

Butchers' bulls, choice 10.25 | 10.75 |

Do. good	9.25	9.75
Do. medium	8.50	9.00
Do. common	7.75	8.25

Feeders, best 9.50 | 10.00 |

Stockers, best 8.50 | 9.00 |

Grass cows 7.00 | 7.75 |

Milkers and springers, choice 100.00 | 135.00 |

Do. com. to medium 65.00 | 90.00 |

Calves, choice 16.50 | 17.00 |

Do. medium 14.50 | 15.50 |

Do. common 10.00 | 12.00 |

Heavy fat 11.00 | 12.50 |

Lambs, choice 18.25 | 18.75 |

Sheep, choice handy 13.00 | 14.50 |

Do. heavy fat and bucks 11.50 | 12.50 |

Hogs, fed and watered 19.50 | ... |

Do. off cars 19.75 | ... |

Do. f.o.b. 18.50 | ... |

Less \$1 to \$2 on light or thin hogs; less \$3 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 March 2nd, 1918, were 3,188 packages, which show an increase of 335 packages, as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 2,228 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date show a decrease of 140,052 packages, as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The butter market showed nothing to report apart from the announcement of the stock of creamery butter in store on spot on the first of the month which showed a decrease of 16,878 packages as compared with February 1st, and a decrease of 4,087 packages with March 1st, 1917, while the stock of dairy butter showed an increase of 130 packages with last month, and a decrease of 1,054 pkgs. with a year ago. The total receipts of butter in Montreal for

the month of February were 9,890 packages and this, coupled with the above decrease in stocks, shows that 26,638 packages were disposed of in twenty-eight days.

Trade was fairly active, and the tone of the market was strong.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.50½	0.51
Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.49½	0.50
Current receipts, creamery	0.47½	0.48½
Finest dairy	0.42½	0.43
Fine dairy	0.41½	0.42

## CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending March 2nd, 1918, were 225 boxes, which show a decrease of 255 boxes, as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 2,717 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date, show a decrease of 415,887 boxes as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. Of the total receipts for this week last year there were 2,212 boxes received from the United States and for the month of February, 1917, there were 14,834 boxes. A fair trade was done as the demand from local buyers for small cheese was good. Prices were firm with sales of 20-lb. cheese and twins, at 23c per lb. The stock of cheese in store on spot on the first of the month showed a decrease of 12,745 boxes, as compared with February 1st, and an increase of 3,991 boxes with March 1st, 1917.

The Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese	21¾c
No. 2 cheese	21¼c
No. 3 cheese	20¾c

## EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending March 2nd, 1918, were 3,290 cases, as compared with 1,527 for the previous week, and 7,011 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date were 317,772 cases, as against 647,559 for the corresponding period last year.

The estimated stock of eggs in store in Montreal on March 1st was 1,797 cases of 30 dozen each. The stock of fresh shows an increase of 1,128 cases, as compared with February 1st, 1918, and an increase of 147 cases with March 1st, 1917, while the stock of cold storage eggs shows a decrease of 11,187 cases with last month, and a decrease of 94 cases with a year ago.

The sensational decline in the price of fresh eggs in all the leading U. S. markets at the end of last week led to the development of a weak feeling on the Montreal market, although it is almost bare of storage eggs, and the Canadian new lay is not sufficient to meet the daily requirements. Prices scored a decline of 15c per dozen and give every indication of going still lower in the near future. Dealers have been importing fresh gathered eggs from the U.S. which have sold at 55c per dozen in a wholesale jobbing way.

Strictly new laid eggs	0.55	
Fresh eggs	0.43	0.45
Fall fresh eggs	\$0.37	\$0.39
Selected cold storage	0.33	0.35
No. 1 cold storage	0.30	0.32

## POULTRY.

Supplies of live and dressed poultry coming forward have been limited, so prices are firm, although no higher than a week ago. The enquiry has been good.

We quote prices as follows:—

Turkeys, per lb.	0.35	0.36
Milk fed chickens	0.35	0.36
No. 1 chickens	0.31	0.33
Choice fowl	0.27	0.30
Ducks, per lb.	0.26	0.30
Geese, per lb.	0.24	0.28

## POTATOES.

The market for potatoes developed an easier tone, although supplies coming forward were no more plentiful as there is a great scarcity of cars at shipping points. Car lots of Ontario white stock are reported to have been offered as low as \$1.75 per bag of 90 lbs., ex-track. Sales of Green Mountains were made at \$2.10 to \$2.15, Ontario white stock at \$2, and reds at \$1.90 per bag of 80 lbs., ex-store.