

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

We quote Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade report, as follows:

Trade in our wholesale districts during the past week has been exceedingly quiet, as is usually the case at this season of the year. All the attention has been given up to the retail trade, and all the reports indicate that their sales will surpass any previous record, in fact, some of the trade state that their previous high record was passed some days ago, in spite of the very unseasonable and rainy weather. Purchasers find that a dollar bill looks very small these days.

The removal of restrictions on exports by the United States will be a benefit to Canada. Our Canadian Government announced this week that exporters could now transact business direct with importers in Europe in all kinds of grain, with the exception of wheat and oats, but whilst the restrictions have been removed here, they have not as yet been removed in Europe, but reports received indicate that they will be removed in the near future.

The Department of Agriculture in the Province of Manitoba announces that the total area in wheat, oats and barley for next year will be about 6,500,000 acres. The following table shows the progress made in land preparation:

	1918.	1919.
New breaking .....	105,897	121,767
Summer fallowing .....	1,381,308	1,450,373
Fall plowing .....	1,900,000	2,375,000
Estimated wheat area .....		3,000,000

Some big real estate transactions were put through this week in the commercial districts in Montreal. There is an over-abundance of labor now offering, for which it is difficult to find jobs; this is due to the closing down of munition plants. Building operations at present are very quiet, but we look forward to active building operations in the spring. Collections are reported good.

Dunn Bulletin says of Canadian trade: In leading trade centres of the Dominion of Canada indicate that retail trade has been well up to expectations, particularly in Christmas specialties, but that the quiet conditions customary at this period prevail in wholesale lines. At most points merchants are very conservative in purchasing for future delivery, owing mainly to uncertainty as to the course of prices, but there is a general feeling of optimism. The labor situation is steadily adjusting itself to a peace basis, and conditions in this respect, taking everything into consideration, are quite satisfactory. There is little or no complaint in regard to collections.

Montreal reports that Christmas trade was fairly satisfactory, and that retail distribution is quite well maintained, but quietness prevails in practically all wholesale lines, as usual at this period, and not much change is looked for until after the first of the year. Retail distribution at Quebec has been well up to the average for this season, but wholesale business is rather slow. It is said, however, that manufacturers are receiving numerous inquiries, and merchants generally regard prospects as quite encouraging. Demand for Christmas goods was fully up to that of a year ago, and retail sales of reasonable commodities are satisfactory in volume, but quiet conditions are the rule in wholesale lines, and this situation is expected to continue until after inventories are completed and travellers return to the road. Business in the Far West and Northwest has shown steady improvement of late, and a normal business is reported by most centres. Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Calgary, Regina and other cities note an increased demand for dry goods, footwear, clothing, provisions and other staple commodities, at retail, but while wholesale distribution averages fair for this season, unusual cautiousness is displayed by buyers in placing orders for distant delivery.

Gross earnings of Canadian railroads reporting to date for two weeks in December show an increase of 29.3 per cent., as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. Commercial failures in the Dominion of Canada this week numbered 13, as against 11 last week and 20 the same week last year.

## LIVESTOCK.

At the Union Stock Yards Toronto the receipts were 45 head of cattle, 17 calves, 77 hogs and 90 sheep and lambs, the day after Christmas. Although the market was open at the stock yards, it was a holiday market, only eight cars of fresh stock arriving. There was practically no business doing, prices remaining steady but firm at the pre-holiday quotations. Latest quotations:

Extra choice steers .....	\$13.25 to \$14.45
Choice steers .....	11.50 12.25
Butchers' choice handy .....	10.00 11.00
Do. good .....	9.00 10.00
Do. medium .....	7.25 8.00
Do. common .....	6.25 8.50
Butchers' bulls, choice .....	9.00 10.50
Do. good .....	8.00 9.00
Do. medium .....	6.50 7.00
Butchers' choice cows .....	9.00 10.50
Do. medium .....	7.00 8.00
Do. common .....	5.50 5.75
Feeders .....	9.00 10.00
Stockers, good .....	8.00 9.00
Do. medium .....	7.50 8.50
Do. common .....	6.00 6.50
Cutters .....	5.75 6.25
Canners .....	5.50 5.95
Springers .....	95.00 125.00
Milkers, good to choice .....	90.00 140.00
Do. medium .....	65.00 70.00
Calves, very good .....	17.00 17.25
Do. medium .....	14.00 15.00
Do. common to fair .....	5.50 9.00
Do. fat .....	8.00 8.50
Light lambs, per cwt. ....	14.25 14.50
Lambs, heavy .....	12.25 13.75
Butchers' sheep .....	9.00 10.00
Do. fat and medium .....	7.00 8.00
Do. culls .....	4.00 6.00
Hogs, fed and watered .....	18.00
Do. off cars .....	18.25
Do. f.o.b. ....	17.25
Hogs at country points .....	17.00

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

### BUTTER.

Receipts of butter on the last day of the week were 85 packages as against 151 on the same day the previous week, 1,643 on the corresponding date last month and 229 on the corresponding date a year ago. From now on the daily receipts will possibly show a similar contraction as shown in the figures quoted. For this last week, however, receipts were slightly larger than the corresponding week last year, while the total receipts for the season to date are greater than they were a year ago by 121,427 packages, the total for this year being 465,823 packages, against 344 for the same period a year ago. In the local market there was no change, either in prices or in position, the undertone continuing to rule weak, with, however, no change in prices. The local consumption demand is fair.

We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:

Fine creamery .....	52c to 53c
Fine creamery .....	51c to 51½c
Fine dairy .....	44c to 45c
Fine dairy .....	40c to 42c

### CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese locally for the last day of the week were 158 boxes, against 257 on the same day last week, 2,686 on the same date last month and 325 on the same date a year ago. Contrary to the receipts of butter, the cheese arrivals not only fall short of those a month ago, but are also smaller than on the same day a year ago, and this is emphasized to a greater degree by comparisons of the receipts for the week as compared with a year ago. Last week's were 6,800 boxes below the corresponding week last year, and the total receipts for the season since May 1 fall under those for the corresponding period a year ago by about 116,000 boxes. There is nothing new in the situation. The demand for local consumption during the week has been steady, and arrivals have found ready sale with the Commission.

The following prices are being paid by the Commission:

No. 1 cheese .....	25c
No. 2 cheese .....	24½c
No. 3 cheese .....	24c

## EGGS.

Egg receipts for the last day of the week were 213 cases, against 130 for the same day last week, 189 for the same date last month and 207 for the same date last year. In the total receipts for the past week, the arrivals continue to show improvement, being 2,480 cases last week, against 2,366 for the corresponding week a year ago. The receipts for the season since May 1, however, show some contraction, this season's total of 268,818 cases falling 31,789 cases short of last season's. The demand locally has improved, and the extra receipts find ready buyers at prices far above those prevailing at this period a year ago. Strictly new laid eggs are hard to get, and dealers state that they can get almost any price for them.

We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:

Strictly new laid .....	75c to 78c
Special select, fall eggs, .....	00c to 59c
Cold storage selects .....	54c to 55c
Cold storage No. 1 .....	50c to 51c

## POULTRY.

The demand for poultry is active and with small supplies on hand the price rules firm. There are some cold storage poultry on the market selling below the prices quoted.

We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:

Choice turkeys .....	43c to 44c
Chickens .....	30c to 35c
Fowls .....	25c to 30c
Geese .....	00c to 30c
Ducks .....	00c to 30c

## VEGETABLES.

There were no new developments in the market for potatoes to-day. There is a fair trade passing, with prices continuing firm and unchanged. In a wholesale jobbing way, sales of Green Mountains were made at \$1.90 per bag of 90 lbs., and of Quebec whites at \$1.70, both ex-store. There is a fair demand for Quebec turnips, with the price unchanged at \$1.25, and sales of onions were made at \$1.50 to \$1.75 per bag of 70 lbs., ex-store.

## LOCAL GRAIN.

The demand for grain in the local market is small but the prices continue upwards in sympathy with the tone of the market at the larger centres, which generally is higher. May option oats at Winnipeg added 1½c., and at Chicago all options were fractionally higher. Prices advanced in the local market from 1½ to 3 cents, with sales put through at 87c. for No. 3 C.W. oats, 88c. for extra No. 1 feed, 80c. for No. 2 feed, and 78c. for heated No. 1 feed. The demand for barley was small, and prices showed no change from the previous day, a few car lots being put through at \$1.05 for Manitoba samples, \$1.15 for No. 3 Ontario, and \$1.16 for extra No. 3 Ontario. Quotations for buckwheat were made at \$1.60 for No. 2, the market remaining unchanged. American corn was in good demand, and a fair business was done in No. 3 yellow at \$1.65, No. 4 at \$1.64, and No. 5 yellow at \$1.62½, all at an advance of 2c. over the previous day's prices.

## LOCAL FLOUR.

The flour situation is unchanged. The demand is steady and supplies are adequate to meet all requirements. Sales of government standard grades, spring wheat flour, were made at \$11.25 per barrel in bags, car lots, Montreal freights, and to city bakers at the same price, with lots of 50 to 100 bags at \$11.35 and smaller quantities at \$11.45, all less 10c. for spot cash.

The winter wheat flour market shows no new developments, the demand continues quiet and prices firm and unchanged at \$11.10 per barrel for broken lots in new cotton bags, and at \$10.80 in second-hand jute bags.

## SUBSTITUTES.

White corn flour appears to be the only wheat flour substitute in demand. Sales of this substitute were made at \$9.60 and \$9.80 per barrel in bags.

## MILLFEED.

The demand is good and steady, with prices ruling firm, but unchanged in the millfeed market. No new developments of note have occurred. Sales were made of pure grain moullie at \$64, corn meal

feed at  
moullie a  
ing bags  
of bran  
including  
at \$37.25  
track, les

The tr  
changed.  
\$4.25 to  
meal sol  
city trad

Car lot  
to \$22, N  
mixed ha  
\$19 per  
in the m

Broom  
hot and  
ing in p  
and whil  
ture is b  
has been

Wheat  
Threshin  
shown a  
values r  
due part  
and also  
from for  
disappoi  
changed  
Corn  
tinctly fi  
tory.

Below  
at the f  
understo  
proximat  
ments a

Nova Sc  
St. John  
Quebec  
Montreal  
Ottawa  
Colborne  
Trenton  
Toronto  
Georgian  
Winnipeg  
Moose J  
Regina  
Weyburn  
Swift C  
Saskato  
Vernon,  
Vancouv  
Kelowna  
Summer  
Pentict  
Salmon  
Victoria

## CANADA

Canada  
land, 16  
tina and  
in a har  
sued by  
tion of  
future,  
that car

In fift  
United  
and a t  
Britan  
She had  
years a  
to Octo  
If Cana  
sixteen  
opportu  
Britan  
of butte