

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: The unseasonably cold spell has retarded the somewhat rapid vegetation of early June, but has caused no material damage, probably permitting grain and garden stuffs to get well rooted and all accounts from the country continue favorable. Pasturage is excellent and the flow of milk unusually large.

With regard to general trade conditions there is little new to be said. The leather market still rules on the quiet side. The Government is reported to have allotted some considerable orders for army shoes to local manufacturers, but the price fixed does not appear altogether satisfactory to some firms.

The chilly weather has to some extent affected retail sales of dry goods, but wholesalers are still quite busy for the season, and a fair number of buyers from Ontario and the newer western provinces have been in the market, making considerable selections from stock. Local wholesale buyers who have just returned from Britain have been able to pick up quite good-sized lots of woollens, cottons, linens, etc., notwithstanding the reported scarcity of goods. It is reported that the British Government may assume the payment of large quantities of serges, dress goods, etc., ordered by Swedish, Danish and other continental firms two years ago, and interned on account of the suspicion that they might ultimately reach Germany. Should the Government decide to do this, and release these goods, which have long been held in warehouse, it would afford some degree of relief.

In the grocery trade a steady moderate movement is reported in all staple lines. Sugar prices remain unchanged, and no hardship is being experienced as regards deliveries. The tea market is rather quiet and unsettled, the new duty having a disturbing effect. The local demand for hams and bacon is comparatively light, and the hog market is easier.

Payments are well sustained, and only four small district failures are reported for the week, with liabilities of about \$20,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly trade report says: There appears to be considerable confidence in the wholesale trade; notwithstanding the high prices prevailing, and the shortage of supplies. Waterproof manufacturers state that the volume of business is larger than ever. In some lines travellers have been called in off the road, as they have already booked all the orders they can handle under present conditions.

The demand for farm machinery is far in excess of the supply. It is reported that some of the farmers in Western Canada paid up in full for their land from last year's crop.

Canners report that their pack of fruit this year will be light, owing to shortage in some of the crops, particularly peaches. Crop prospects in the province of Quebec for vegetables, especially potatoes, are very good. The hay crop will also be a large one. The value of the maple sugar crop in Quebec province is estimated at five million dollars.

Wheat acreage in Western Canada shows an increase of about fourteen per cent. The crops show wonderful growth up to the present. The fall wheat crop in Ontario has been a failure, and it is doubtful if farmers will be able to secure enough seed for next fall's planting.

The Government has regulated the profits of wholesale produce, and provision houses to ten per cent, but so far no attempt has been made by the Government to regulate the profits of the retail trade, who are selling at any price, and in some cases there is a wide margin between what the retail dealers pay, and what they are selling at. The Government should regulate the percentage of profit on retailers without delay.

The retail trade has been very fair. Remittances are good. City collections show some improvement.

### LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL.—The receipts of livestock at Montreal's two yards for last week amounted to 2,500 cattle, 1,350 sheep and lambs, 2,550 hogs and 4,750 calves. Owing to smaller receipts the market first developed a strong tone and prices showed an increase; later in the week prices declined.

We quote the following Montreal prices:  
Steers, per 100 lbs.—

Choice	\$13.50	\$15.50
Good	11.00	13.00
Fairly good	12.50	13.00
Fair	12.25	12.50
Light steers	11.75	12.00
Common	9.00	10.00
Butchers' Bulls—		
Choice heavy	10.00	12.50
Good	9.50	9.75
Medium	9.00	9.25
Common	7.00	9.50
Sheep, per 100 lbs.—		
Ewes	13.00	14.00
Bucks and culls	11.00	12.00
Ontario lambs	17.00	18.00
Quebec lambs	16.00	17.00
Calves, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice milk-fed stock	14.00	15.00
Good	12.00	13.00
Fair	10.50	11.50
Hogs, per 100 lbs.—		
Selected lots	19.25	19.50
Sows	16.25	16.50
Stags	15.25	15.50

TORONTO.—The receipts of cattle at Toronto's two yards for the week ended June 22nd amounted to 6,257 cattle; 1,719 calves; 5,429 hogs, 2,212 sheep, and 30 horses. The cattle market was considerably easier last week and the prices for all grades of cattle showed a decrease of from 50c to 75c per cwt. compared with those of the previous week. The week started out with a "run" of nearly 4,000 head, the largest offering in a full month. The closing sales of the previous week having been very high, and the market having exhibited so much strength, most of the drovers expected to cash in their holdings at similar figures on the opening day of the week. However, the abattoirs had been doing considerable buying at country points over the week-end and were therefore a little more independent. When confronted with an extra good "run" the buyers on Monday morning immediately dropped the quotations 50c and 75c, and in some cases a dollar, and after the market had settled buying proceeded briskly.

Calves were steady all week. They did not suffer a decline in price, the best cashing at from \$15 to \$16.50 per cwt. at every sale. Sheep declined during the week about \$4 per cwt. The demand for sheep seemed to have disappeared almost entirely. The top price being about \$16.50, but most of the sales at the latter part of the week were around \$14 and \$15 per cwt. Spring lambs sold around \$21 and \$22 per cwt. Yearlings classed generally as sheep and sold at similar prices.

The hog market was steady with last week's decline of 50c. All fed and watered hogs sold at \$18, f.o.b. hogs at \$17 and weighed-off-car hogs at \$18.25 per cwt.

We quote the following prices for livestock at the Toronto markets:

Heavy steers, choice	\$15.00	\$16.50
Do., good	13.00	14.50
Butchers' steers and heifers, choice.		
Do., good	11.00	11.75
Do., medium	10.00	10.75
Do., common	8.25	9.50
Butchers' cows, choice		
Do., good	12.00	13.00
Do., medium	11.00	11.75
Do., common	9.00	10.75
Do., common	6.75	7.50
Do., canners	6.00	6.25
Butchers' bulls, choice		
Do., good	12.00	13.25
Do., medium	10.75	11.75
Do., common	8.50	10.00
Do., common	7.50	8.00
Feeders, best	9.50	12.00
Stockers, best	9.50	13.25
Milkers and springers, choice.		
Do., common to medium	65.00	90.00
Calves, choice	14.50	17.00
Do., medium	12.00	13.25
Heavy fat	10.00	12.00
Lambs, choice	19.50	22.00
Sheep, choice handy	14.00	16.00
Do., heavy and fat bucks	11.00	12.25
Hogs, fed and watered	18.00	.....
Do., off cars	18.25	.....
Do., f.o.b.	17.00	.....
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 June 22nd, 1918, were 20,668 packages, which show an increase of 557 packages as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 2,664 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date show an increase of 12,845 packages as compared with the corresponding period in 1917. The butter market developed a stronger tone last week and on continued local demand prices ruled higher. Owing to the excellent quality of the June creamery wholesale jobbing houses made purchases for strong purposes and fair amount of business was transacted on this account. Otherwise the trade was quiet.

At the auction sales held this week the offerings amounted to 3,328 packages as against 4,335 for the previous week showing a decrease of 507 packages. Pasteurized creamery sold at 43½c to 44½c; No. 1 and No. 1 A at 43½c to 43¾c, and No. 2 at 42½c to 43¾c, while at Gould's Cold Storage there were 800 packages sold at 42½c, 43c, 42½c, and 43¾c per lb., f.o.b., country points. At the St. Hyacinthe's board meeting today all the offerings sold at 43¾c per lb.

We quote the following prices:

Finest creamery	0.43½	0.44
Fine creamery	0.42½	0.43
Fine dairy	0.36½	0.37
Margarine:—		
Prints	0.29½	0.34
Bulk	0.28½	0.31½
Cottonseed (Shortening):		
Tierces, per lb.	0.26½	0.26½
Tubs, per lb.	0.26	0.26
Pails, per lb.	0.27	0.27
Cartons	0.28	0.28

### CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending June 22nd, 1918, were 78,026 boxes which show a decrease of 2,388 boxes as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 7,772 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date show a decrease of 17,780 boxes as compared with the corresponding period a year ago.

The Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese	0.23
No. 2 cheese	0.22½
No. 3 cheese	0.22

### EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending June 22nd, 1918, were 9,924 cases, as compared with 11,894, for the previous week, and 13,346 for the same week in 1917. The total receipts since May 1st to date were 104,153 cases, as against 141,280 for the corresponding period last year. Prices of eggs scored a further advance of 2c per dozen, last week, due to the fact that in many sections of the county the productions showed a decided decrease. There was keen competition for supplies between packers for storing purposes as the quality of the stock is unusually good for the season of the year. The consumptive demand has been good owing to the very high prices ruling for other meats and an active trade was done in a wholesale jobbing way. The receipts today were 1,560 cases, as against 3,325 for the same day last week, and 2,945 for the corresponding day last year.

We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:

Selected new laid eggs	0.44 to 0.45
No. 1 stock	0.00 to 0.42
No. 2 stock	0.00 to 0.38

### PROVISIONS.

Although the feeling for live hogs at Winnipeg became stronger and prices scored an increase of 50c per 100 lbs. the tone of the local market became easy and prices showed a decline of 25c per 100 lbs. weighed off cars. The demand, at the lower prices was good and a fair trade was done in selected lots at \$19.25 to \$19.50, and in rough heavy stock at \$18.75 to \$19.00 per 100 lbs. weighed off cars. The market for smoked and cured meats showed no change. The trade in lard was fairly active:

We quote current prices as follows:

Hams:—		Per lb.
Smoked Hams, 8-10 lbs.	0.38	.....
Do., 12-15 lbs.	0.34	0.35