

COMMODITY MARKETS

GENERAL TRADE CONDITIONS.

A general feeling of optimism is to be felt in most quarters as the spring advances. The mercantile community are already looking forward to the opening of navigation, which promises to be early this year, and with it a general increase in business activity.

During the past week signs of improvement have been felt in several different branches of trade that should in time merge into the general steady expansion anticipated. Retail dry goods firms report an increase in orders for spring goods, and in the oil and paint trade quite a number of orders have been received. Boot and shoe manufacturers report a quiet trade as this is between seasons, but jobbers report a fairly good business in boots, shoes and rubbers. Wholesale grocers report a moderate amount of business in leading lines. Iron and hardware men are waiting for the opening of the spring trade and the lower inland freight for the movement of heavy goods.

A slight improvement is reported in remittances from this province, Ontario, and the Northwest. City collections have also shown some improvement.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER: There has been a firmer undertone in butter during the past week, and it is predicted that the market will be higher shortly. The stocks of storage creamery have been heavily drawn upon for local and outside use. There is very little fresh creamery coming into the market, and what is coming is of poor quality.

CHEESE: The reports from the British market are that supplies are short, and prices are advancing, as high as 102 shillings being obtained for finest coloured cheese. It is said some local cheese factories are about to be opened. The prospects are that they will have good prices for their cheese.

Wholesale quotations are as follows:

Butter—		
Finest creamery	0.35	0.35 1/2
Fine, do.	0.32	0.32 1/2
Seconds	0.30	0.31
Dairy Butter	0.28	0.30
City Selling Prices, to grocers:		
Choice Creamery Solids	0.35	
Do., Prints	0.35 1/2	
No. 2 Creamery Solids	0.33	
Do., Prints	0.33 1/2	
Choice Dairy Prints	0.31 1/2	
Do., Rolls	0.39	
Cooking Butter	0.28	
Cheese—		
Finest Eastern	0.18 1/2	0.19
Finest Western	0.19 1/2	0.19 1/2
Fine Cheese	0.18 1/4	0.18 1/2
Undergrades	0.17 1/4	0.19

RECEIPTS OF BUTTER, CHEESE & EGGS.

The following table shows the receipts of butter, cheese and eggs in Montreal for the week ending March 18th, 1916, with comparisons:

	Butter,			Eggs.
	pkgs.	Cheese, boxes.	cases.	
Week end, Mar. 18, 1916	1,009	652	9,214	
Week end, Mar. 11, 1916	452	1,088	6,155	
Week end, Mar. 20, 1916	1,009	256	5,725	
Total receipts, May 1st, 1915, to date	399,371	1,997,556	561,760	
Total receipts corr. period last year	388,603	1,530,894	399,985	

CHEESE EXPORTS.

The following table shows exports of cheese from Portland and St. John, N.B., which arrived on the other side for the week ended March 16, 1916.

To	Boxes.		
	Local	Thro.	Total
Liverpool	983	4,119	5,102
London	848	9,898	10,746
Glasgow		100	100
Total	1,831	14,117	15,948
Same week last year	1,544	29,485	31,029
Total exports May 1, 1915 to March 16, 1916	— boxes — 2,121,820.		
Do. corr. period last year	— boxes — 1,700,874.		

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

EGGS: The supplies of Canadian eggs are still short. Shipments from Chicago have been very large, with good prices. Present supplies of Canadian and United States new lays are ample to take care of the trade. Prices quoted are 19c to 19 1/2c (Chicago, and 26c to 27c Montreal.

POULTRY: The market is very bare of stock, but the demand for storage poultry is good, and prices correspondingly firm. There has been some inquiry from outside points during the past week, indicating a shortage of supplies at several centres.

BEANS: This market has been very firm of late. If some of the rumours of war orders circulating at present develop into actual business, there will be a decided shortage.

MAPLE PRODUCTS: With the advent of warm sunshine it is expected that the sap will start to run. There is no doubt that there will be a good market for syrup and sugar, and dealers are hoping for a larger crop than they had last year. The recent amendment to the Adulteration Act will make it more difficult to sell anything but the pure article, and this has been of benefit to the entire trade. With the prospects of obtaining the same high prices as last year, the farmers will tap every available tree.

Eggs—		
New lays	0.28	0.29
Maple Syrup and Sugar—		
Pure Maple Syrup, 8 lb. tins	0.95	0.97 1/2
Do., 10 lb. tins	1.10	1.12 1/2
Do., 13 lb. tins	1.40	1.50
Pure Maple Sugar, lb.	0.12 1/2	0.13
Honey—		
Buckwheat, in combs	0.12	0.13
Buckwheat, extracted	0.10 1/2	0.11
Beans—		
2-lb. pickers, carlots, bush.	4.00	4.25
3 lb. pickers, do.	3.95	4.15
Undergrades, bus.	3.60	3.70
Potatoes—		
Green Mountains, per bag, car lots	1.85	1.90
Quebecs, do.	1.85	1.90
Job lots 10c. more.		

Poultry: Montreal.		
Frozen stock—		
Turkeys	0.28	0.30
Fowl, large	0.19	0.20
Fowl, small	0.17	0.18
Ducks		0.22
Geese	0.16	0.17
Roasting chickens, ord.	0.21	0.23
Spring broilers, dressed, pair	1.15	1.25
Squabs, Phila., pr.		0.90
Poultry—Live:		
Fowl, 5 lbs. and over	0.20	0.23
Fowl, small	0.18	0.19
Turkeys	0.20	0.23

MONTREAL PRODUCE RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the principal commodities at Montreal for the past two weeks follow:

	Wk. end.	
	Mar. 18.	Mar. 11.
Wheat, bushels	207,055	255,092
Oats, bushels	61,723	99,160
Barley, bushels	3,475	14,074
Flour, barrels	15,150	16,552
Eggs, cases	9,214	4,155
Butter, packages	1,009	452
Cheese, boxes	652	1,088
Potatoes, bags	9,122	7,180
Hay, bales	25,211	43,735

LIVE STOCK.

The market for all lines of live stock was very firm at both sales last week, and prices advanced materially over the previous week's quotations on the continued small offerings from the country owing to the heavy snowfall, and the consequent inability to bring the stock to market. At the Monday sales prices for steers and heifers scored an advance of 35c to 50c, cows 50c, and bulls 25c per cwt. Prices were fully maintained at the Wednesday sales. Week-end news was more favorable, however, and there was every indication that larger supplies would be forthcoming, in which case easier prices are expected. The demand for all lines was keen at both sales, due to the smallness of stocks in packers' and butchers' hands.

The feature of the small meat trade of the week was the advance of from 60c to 65c per 100 lbs. in the prices of hogs. This was due to the scarcity of supplies, and the keen competition between buyers for what stock was obtainable, as supplies in

hand are low. Sheep and lambs continue scarce, and prices were higher, the former selling at 25c per 100 lbs. higher, while lambs sold all the way up to \$1 per 100 lbs. over the previous week's level. The receipts of calves were larger last week, but a good deal of the stock is too young. Prices held very firm during the week.

The total offerings at both sales last week were 400 cattle, 80 sheep and lambs, 675 hogs, and 900 calves.

	Per cwt.	
Butcher steers, very choice	0.00	0.00
Do., choice	8.00	8.25
Do., good	7.65	7.90
Do., fair	7.25	7.50
Do., medium	6.75	7.15
Butcher bulls, best	7.00	7.50
Do., medium	6.00	6.75
Canning bulls	4.25	4.90
Butcher cows, best		7.00
Do., good		6.50
Do., common		5.50 to 6.00
Do., canners		3.65 to 4.65
Sheep		7.00 to 8.00
Lambs		10.50 to 11.50
Hogs, selects		10.50 to 11.15
Do., mixed lots		9.75 to 10.25
Do., common		9.50
Do., sows		7.65 to 7.90
All weighed off cars.		
Calves, milk fed		9.00 to 10.00
Do., grass fed		4.00 to 6.00

FLOUR, CEREALS AND MILLFEED.

MONTREAL:—There were no new features in the flour market last week, prices holding steady at the lower levels previously quoted under a firmer tendency in the wheat situation. Little business is passing either on domestic or export account. The former is principally for small lots to fill actual wants and millers do not anticipate any noticeable increase in this direction for a time at least. Spring wheat mills continue fairly busy on old contracts. Winter wheat mills are also active on contract, but domestic business in winter grades is decidedly slow.

The market for millfeed shows little change. The demand is fair for the season, although the reduction in stocks of live stock in the country is being felt. Rolled oats continue in fair demand on domestic account, but export business is slow. Other cereals are in fair demand, and prices remain unchanged.

Spring Wheat Flour:—

	Montreal.		Toronto.	
	In jute.			
First patents, per bbl. in bags	6.60		6.50	
Second patents, do.	6.10		6.00	
Strong clears, do.	5.90		5.80	
30c per bbl. more in wood.				
Winter wheat flour—				
Fancy patents	6.30			
90 per cent in wood	5.70	5.80		
90 per cent in wood	5.70	5.80	4.15	4.30
90 per cent in bags	2.65	2.75		
Cereals:—				
Cornmeal, yellow, in per bag, 98 lbs.	2.25	2.50	2.25	2.50
Rollled oats, per bbl. in wood	5.25			
per bag, 90 lbs.	2.50		2.55	
Rollled wheat, 100 lb. bbl.	4.00	3.30	3.50	
Rye flour, 98 lb. bag	2.65	2.80		2.80
Graham flour, 98 lb.				3.25
Barley pot., 98 lbs.	3.00			
Barley, Pearl, 98 lbs.	4.50	4.00	5.0	
Whole wheat flour, 98 lbs.				3.25
Middlings, per ton	28.00	30.00	26.00	27.00
Bran, per ton	24.00	24.00	24.00	25.00
Shorts, per ton		26.00	26.00	26.00
Feed flour, per ton		35.00		
Feed flour, bag		1.60	1.70	
Moullie, pure grain grades, per ton		33.00		
Do., mixed		31.00		
Barley feed, per ton		32.00		
Do., meal, per ton		35.00		
Crushed oats, 80 lbs.		1.75		
Reground oatmeal feed, per ton		19.00		

NOTES.

T. M. Parker, for several years miller for the Lake of the Woods Milling Co., Ltd., at Portage la Prairie, died there on March 10 at the age of 67.

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Current p Hams:— Smoked ha Do., 14-20 Do., 20-25 Do., over Large bone Bacon:— Roll Bonele Windsor Ba Barrel Short cut p Clear Fat P Clear Fat P Clear Fat P Mess Pork Bean Pork Barrel Plate Beef Pure L Tierces .. Tubs .. Pails .. Tins .. Cases, 2, 5, Prinas .. Compo Western Tierces .. Tubs .. Pails .. Tins .. Cases, 2, 5, Prints .. Cooked Roast shou Roast ham. Cooked ham Head chees Jellied por Blood pudd White pud Jellied beef English bra

NORTH

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Mar. 16 .. Mar. 9 .. Mar. 2 .. Feb. 24 .. Feb. 17 .. Feb. 10 .. Feb. 3 .. Jan. 27 .. Jan. 20 .. Jan. 13 .. Jan. 6 ..

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Wheat, bu. Corn, bu. Oats, bu. Barley, bu. Rye, bush. Buckwheat Flour, sack

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