

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

FRUIT: Shippers of perishable goods are not affected by the Montreal embargo on freight by the C. P. R. and G. T. R., but the severe cold of the past few days has made transportation of fruit and vegetables a risky business. There is a good deal of frozen goods on the market in such lines as oranges, potatoes, tomatoes, etc., which are selling at very low prices. We are informed that the D. & H. Railroad has an embargo on all goods leaving New York, including perishables as well as slow freight. The embargo is indefinite, depending on weather conditions. Business in general is quiet owing to these adverse conditions.

Lemons advanced in New York about 50 cents last week, which will result in firmer prices in this market. The future trend of the lemon market depends mainly on freight conditions from the Mediterranean and the hindrance afforded by the German submarine campaign. California oranges are higher for good quality stock. Florida oranges and tangerines are showing a slight weakness in the primary markets. There is a great deal of frozen stuff offering which is selling as low as a dollar a box at auction. The demand for grapefruit is limited. An old car each of Cuban and Mexican grapefruit have arrived. The latter being of particularly fine quality. Shipments of Florida and Jamaica grapefruit are arriving freely. Apples are scarce and very firm, spies especially so. As the demand is good, they are moving freely. Fancy box American varieties are on the market in small quantities, with heavier supplies expected shortly.

Bananas are in good demand at firm prices. No new developments are expected before the opening of the new season in the spring. This fruit is scarce owing to transportation difficulties.

VEGETABLES: The onion market is very strong as holdings are small. New York is asking as high as \$8.50 per 100 lbs. in a jobbing way which works out to 11c to 12c per lb. These prices effectually prohibit importations into this market at present quotations. All indications point to an advance in Spanish onions, as the supply of these goods is far exceeded by the demand. The quality of receipts is poor due to abnormal weather conditions. Florida celery is beginning to arrive and will shortly be on the market in good supply. California celery is about over. A car of Florida tomatoes is due by express and supplies are likely to be heavier from now on. Last year these tomatoes were frozen and wasty so the quality of this first car this year will be of interest to dealers. A specially fine car of Cuban tomatoes has arrived compared with shipments other years. Potatoes are very firm as good quality is difficult to obtain. Receipts are at a low ebb owing to the bad weather. Turnips and other root vegetables are still in good demand from American buyers. Stocks are getting low. Cabbage is very high in New York, selling at \$5.00 to \$6.00 per bbl, as compared with \$4.50 to \$5.00 in Montreal.

Current quotations are as follows:

Fruit:—	
Baldwins, per bbl	5.70 6.00
Cranberries, per bbl	9.00 10.50
Cranberry pippin, per bbl	5.00
Greenings, per bbl	5.50
Pewaukes, per bbl	4.00 4.50
Mackintosh Reds, per bbl	5.50 7.00
Fameuse, per bbl	5.00 6.00
Spies, per bbl	8.50 9.00
Bananas, per bunch	2.50 3.00
Grapes, Almeria, per keg	7.00 9.00
Grapefruit, Florida and Cuban	3.25 4.00
Do., Jamaica	3.00
Lemons, Palermo, per box	2.75 3.50
Oranges, California, Navel, per box	2.75 3.75
Do., Floridas	3.25
Do., Mexican	2.00
Pears, Winter Nellis, per box	4.50 5.00
Vegetables:—	
Artichokes, per bag	1.25
Beets, per bag	1.25
Beans, American, per hamper	4.00 4.50
Brussels, Sprouts, per qt.	0.22 0.27
Cabbage, Montreal, per bbl	4.50 5.00
Carrots, per bag	1.00
Cauliflower, California, per doz.	3.00
Celery, Florida, per crate	4.00 5.50
Do., California, per crate	9.00 9.50
Horse Radish, per lb.	0.20
Boston Lettuce, head, per box	1.75
Do., curly, per doz.	0.75
Onions, Spanish, per case	6.75 9.50
Do., red, per 75 lb. bag	3.00 3.50
Potatoes, Quebec, per 80 lb. bag	2.25
Do., Green Mountains, per 80 lb. bag	2.40
Do., Sweet, per basket	2.75 3.25
Parsley, per doz. bunches	0.50 1.00
Salsify, per doz. bunches	0.50 1.00
Turnips, per bag	1.00
Tomatoes, hothouse, per lb.	0.25 0.30
Cuban, per crate	6.00

THE GRAIN MARKETS.

The wheat market has experienced many exciting days since the war in Europe began and has become accustomed to cope with the unexpected, but not since the actual declaration of war has the market encountered such a severe shock as resulted from the German note outlining the future submarine policy and the ensuing break in diplomatic relations between that country and the United States. Prior to the recent startling events in political circles the market was fluctuating nervously within narrow limits, swayed from side to side by traffic considerations, reports of damage to the winter wheat crop, heavy flour sales at Minneapolis, and lack of foreign buying. The market broke 11 points last Friday when the German note was made public. On Saturday, after a further decline of 6c the market shot skywards 14c; excited buying on the part of speculators who had over-estimated the depressing effect of a severance of diplomatic relations with Germany being responsible for the violent upward turn in prices. A further advance of 5½ cents is reported to-day (Monday).

Shipping conditions are naturally more or less unsettled by the increased dangers to navigation and marine war risks are firm at the recent advance. Sailings were not cancelled and the impression is that shipments will go on as usual, at least to the Allied Governments. Large clearances are predicted in the near future as shipping can more easily be protected now that diplomatic relations between Germany and the United States have been severed. Traffic conditions are very unfavorable, the recent severe cold weather having added materially to the difficulties of the situation. Traders are not disposed to make cash wheat purchases in the west. Grain which should have been delivered weeks ago has not yet arrived, and heavy demurrage is being paid on account of the wheat not being available for loading on steamships which are now in port.

Corn has been influenced by the same factors as wheat. The demand has been good, but offers are light owing to lack of transportation facilities. Oats swayed in sympathy with corn, traffic conditions hindering export business.

Winnipeg closing quotations are \$1.73½ for May, \$1.72½ for July, and \$1.40½ for September, a loss of 2½c for May, ¾c for July, and one cent for September for the week. Chicago reports May \$1.74½, July \$1.49½, September \$1.38½, again of 3½c for May, and 3½c for July.

Grains:—		per bushel.
Spring Wheat Manitoba, No. 1		
Do., No. 2	1.76	
Do., No. 3	1.71	
Do., No. 4	1.63	
Winter Wheat Ontario, No. 2	1.62	1.64
Do., No. 3	1.60	1.62
Oats:—		
No. 2 C. W.	0.67	
Do., No. 3 C. W.	0.65	
Do., Extra No. 1 feed	0.65	
Do., No. 1 feed	0.64	
Do., No. 2 feed	0.63	
Ontario Oats, No. 2, white	0.61	0.63
Barley, No. 2	1.08	
Do., Feed	1.00	
Corn, American, extrack	1.18	

PROVISIONS.

Continued strength is reported in the live hog market, further advances being noted during the past week. Prices range from \$14.25 to \$14.50 per 100 lbs. on the off car basis in Toronto and up to \$14.65 in Montreal. Dressed hogs are also firm at \$21 wholesale. A fair demand is reported for all lines of smoked and cured meats chiefly in small lots. Lard is steady and firm at unchanged prices.

Current prices are as follows:

Hams:—		Per lb.
Smoked Hams, 8-14 lbs.	0.26	
Do., 14-20 lbs.	0.24	
Do., 20-25 lbs.	0.23	
Do., over 25 lbs.	0.22	
Bacon:—		
Breakfast	0.28 0.30	
Windsor Bacon, selected	0.27	
Windsor Bacon, boneless	0.32	
Barrel Pork:—		Per bbl.
Short cut pork	38.00	
Clear Fat Pork	40.00	
Mess Pork	37.00	
Bean Pork, American	35.00	
Plate Pork, 200 lbs.	32.00	
Pure Lard:—		pound.
Tierces	0.21½	
Tubs	0.21½	
Pails	0.22	
Tins	0.22	
Cases, 3, 5, 10's	0.22½	
Prints	0.23	
Compound Lard:—		
Western Grades:—		
Tierces	0.17½	

Tubs	0.17½
Tins	0.18
Cases, 3, 5, 10's	0.18½ 0.18¾
Prints	0.19
Cooked meats:—	
Roast shoulder pork	0.29
Roast hams, boneless	0.37
Cooked hams, boneless	0.37
Cooked hams, rind off	0.37
Head cheese	0.09
English brawn	0.11

HIDES AND LEATHER.

Beef hides are very firm as supplies are so light that tanners are showing eagerness to obtain the goods offering. The market for lambskins has also been stronger and prices are 10c a skin higher. Calf skins are ruling strong at a 3c per lb. advance. Imported hides from European sources are very scarce owing to the embargoes placed by the Governments of the various countries producing hides. Indications at present are, however, that when the embargoes have been removed foreign hides will be procurable in adequate quantities.

The leather market is unchanged, the demand from boot and shoe manufacturers being only fair. Heavy supplies were laid in on the advancing market and consequently buyers are pretty well stocked up. A good trade is reported in automobile and furniture leather at firm prices. Small quantities of English leather keep coming in, which consist mainly of sheep skins and other light stuff not used for military purposes. A little export business was reported in sole leather about a week ago. The demand for leather belting is so good that factories are kept busy supplying orders. Belting leather is very high in price as the dear hides of last fall are now leaving the tanneries and being placed on the market at very firm prices. Prices in this line are expected to remain strong for another six months at any rate.

Current quotations follow:

Hides:—		Per lb.
No. 1 inspected	0.26	
No. 2	0.25	
No. 3	0.24	
Rough	0.22	
Sheepskins, each	3.90	
Calfskins	0.37 0.40	
Sole Leather:—		Per Pound.
Spanish sides	No. 1 No. 2	
Oak Sides, Canadian, dry hides	0.65 0.61	
Do., from hides, green	0.68 0.66	
Oak backs	0.72 0.70	
Oak bends	0.82 0.80	
Upper Leather:—		Per ft.
Gun Metal Sides	0.45 0.50	
Chrome Box Sides	0.44 0.48	
Matt Sides	0.44 0.44	
Patent Chrome	0.48 0.55	
Kangaroo Grain	0.42	
Russett Oil Grain	0.42	
Elk	0.48	
Splits Wax	0.36 0.40	
Automobile, Carriage, and Furniture Leather:—		
Spanish furniture	0.37 0.38	
Hand buffed	0.35 0.36	
Machine buffed	0.32	
Deep buffed	0.19 0.20	
Split	0.16	
Belting Leather:—		
Belting butts, shoulders, off	1.75	
Belting butts, shoulders, on	1.50	
Harness	0.62 0.65	
Skirting	0.35 0.37	

EXPORTABLE SURPLUS OF WHEAT IN THE UNITED STATES.

The latest estimate of the United States wheat crop for the year 1916 is 607,557,000 bushels, and it is estimated that on July 1 the surplus from the crop of 1915 amounted to 163 million bushels, of which 74 million bushels were on farms and 89 million bushels were commercial stocks. This makes the total quantity for disposal to be 770,557,000 bushels. The per capita consumption of wheat in the United States is approximately 5.3 bushels, and on the basis of the present population the requirements for food in the current crop year are expected to be about 535 million bushels. The amount required for seed purposes is approximately 80 million bushels; so that the total domestic requirements will be about 615 million bushels. This quantity deducted from the 770½ million bushels given above as the estimated production of 1916, plus the surplus from the harvest of 1915, leaves about 155½ million bushels as the quantity available for export during the United States crop year 1916-17. If we add the Canadian surplus of 99½ million bushels, as estimated in the Census Monthly of October (page 273), we get a total of 255 million bushels as the combined exportable surplus of the United States and Canada.