

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Bradstreets Montreal Weekly Trade Reports says: "In our wholesale districts trade generally has shown some improvement during the week. Dry goods houses find it very difficult to get supplies of woolen goods, especially tweeds, prices are ruling at the highest record. Sales of the Dominion Textile Co., for the first five months of the current fiscal year, will aggregate \$800,000, which is \$800,000 in excess of the same period last year. The hardware trade is showing a general hesitancy to advance prices in the face of the easier feeling in the iron and steel markets.

"In the grocery trade advances are recorded. Canned salmon, lobsters, jams, baking powder, tapioca, sago, tobacco and canned soups, maple syrup, honey. There has been quite an active inquiry of late for Canadian hay from American buyers, which has put the market up 50 cents per ton. English buyers are keen after Canadian eggs and some good sized contracts were made for future delivery.

"The grading of wheat this year is exceptionally high, the movement of grain has started, and already thousands of cars are on the way to the central markets. The Canadian Government has announced the price of the Canadian wheat crop of 1917 on the basis of \$2.21 at Fort William and Port Arthur for No. 1 grade, Manitoba Northern. The latest estimates of the apple crop in the Province of Quebec and Ontario is 15 per cent normal. This shortage will be made up by the big crop in Nova Scotia, which is 100 per cent normal, the price has also been fixed by the food controller.

"The high prices paid for produce, causes money to circulate freely in the country, and wholesalers say that their remittances are very satisfactory. City collections are also reported better. The retail trade had a busy week, with buyers calling for heavier wearing apparel, due to the few cold days we experienced during the week."

Cool weather has stimulated distribution of seasonal merchandise in retail lines, according to dispatches received by Dun's Review from branch offices of R. G. Dun & Co. in leading cities of the Dominion of Canada, while orders at wholesale are being placed with more confidence, owing to the encouraging advices from the farming sections. Industrial activity is well maintained and collections are unusually prompt for this period, as a rule. There is now little complaint regarding transportation conditions, and with money in abundance for legitimate requirements, the outlook for the immediate future, at least, is decidedly bright.

Dry goods orders are being placed with considerable freedom at Montreal, and the call for other staples is in very satisfactory volume, although in some directions there is a disposition manifest to confine operations, as far as possible, to needs actually in sight. Manufacturers in most instances are busy, and this, together with cool weather, has been of material benefit to retail trade, which is now fairly active. Both wholesale and retail trade at Quebec has shown seasonal expansion of late, and as crop results are generally satisfactory, merchants anticipate a brisk fall and winter business. Considerable improvement is reported by Toronto, especially in the retail demand for fall merchandise. Good orders at wholesale continue to be placed for dry goods and there is a better inquiry for clothing, women's wearing apparel and furnishings, but footwear is still quiet. Most other staples are moving quite freely, and the maintenance of activity in industrial lines sustains confidence in the future. Generally favorable conditions continue in the Far West and Northwest, and, owing to favorable crop reports, preparations are being made at most points for a heavy fall and winter business. There is a steady demand for dry goods, clothing, hardware, groceries and other staples at Winnipeg and indications point to further improvement with the progress of the season. Sales in most leading lines at Saskatoon compare favorably with those at this time in previous seasons, and merchants expect a decided increase in activity when the harvests are completed. Regina reports that the crops are turning out well, and trade in most lines is in very satisfactory volume. Vancouver reports that business is very satisfactory, distribution of merchandise, both at wholesale and retail, being well above the average for this period.

## LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL: The offerings at both yards in Montreal last week amounted to: 3,875 cattle, 9,350 sheep and lambs, 3,800 hogs and 1,225 calves. Although prices remained unchanged, a firm feeling prevailed in the cattle market on both days, with a brisk demand for canners' cattle. Bulls for shipment to Toronto also sold well. At Monday's sale lambs scored a rise of 25 to 50c. per cwt., and prices remained firm on Wednesday.

### MONTREAL.

Butchers, steers, per 100 lbs.		
Do., choice	10.25	10.75
Do., good	9.75	10.00
Do., medium	8.75	9.00
Do., rough	8.00	8.50
Butchers' Cows.		
Do., choice	8.25	8.50
Do., good	7.75	8.00
Do., fair	7.25	7.50
Bulls, choice	8.75	9.00
Do., good	8.25	8.50
Do., fair	7.75	8.00
Canners' cattle.		
Do., bulls	6.15	6.25
Do., cows	5.00	5.25
Sheep and Lambs.		
Ewes	9.00	9.50
Bucks	8.50	8.75
Ontario lambs	14.50	15.00
Quebec lambs	13.50	14.00
Calves, choice	13.00	14.00
Do., good	11.00	12.00

Hogs.

Do., choice selects	17.50	17.75
Do., heavyweights	16.25	16.50
Sows	14.50	14.75
Stags	13.50	13.75

TORONTO: The receipts for the week at the two yards amounted to 10,983 cattle, 1,012 calves, 8,901 hogs and 8,997 sheep and lambs. Monday's opened, with a brisk trade in cattle and prices of butchers' steers firmed up 20c to 25c per cwt., and in a few cases 50c. Canners declined 25c per cwt., and hogs were quiet. Small meats steady, and the price of lambs soared 25c per cwt. Later in the week cattle declined 25c per cwt., and the prices of lambs made the sensational increase of \$1 per cwt.

### TORONTO.

Heavy steers	11.50	12.00
Choice butcher	10.00	11.00
Do., medium	9.25	9.75
Do., common	8.25	9.00
Hofers, good to choice	8.50	9.00
Butcher cows, choice	8.00	8.50
Do., medium	7.00	7.50
Butcher bulls, choice	8.00	8.50
Do., good	7.50	8.00
Do., medium	6.00	7.00
Feeders, 900 to 1,000 lbs.	8.50	9.25
Stockers, 700 to 800 lbs.	7.25	8.50
Do., medium, 650 to 750 lbs.	6.00	6.50
Do., light, 600 to 650 lbs.	6.50	6.75
Canners	5.00	5.50
Cutters	5.50	6.25
Lambs	16.50	17.00
Yearlings	9.00	12.00
Sheep, light	9.50	11.00
Do., heavy	6.00	7.50
Calves	8.00	16.00
Hogs, fed and watered	18.00	18.10
Do., off cars	18.25	18.35
Do., f.o.b.	16.75	.....

## PROVISIONS.

Receipts for the week ending September 13 amounted to 1,715 boxes meat, 57 pkgs. hams and bacon, 252 pkgs. lard and 5 pkgs. pork. The receipts for the same week last year were 26,178 boxes, 7,057 pkgs. hams and bacon, 14,344 pkgs. lard and 294 pkgs. pork.

The demand for hams and bacon, as well as smoked meats has been fair for the time of year, with prices ruling firm. The condition of the market for lard remained unchanged. The market for dressed hogs has been quiet.

Current prices are quoted as follows:—

Hams:—		Per lb.
Smoked Hams, 8-10 lbs.	.....	0.30
Do., 12-15 lbs.	.....	0.28
Do., over 25 lbs.	.....	0.28
Bacon:—		
Breakfast	.....	0.34
Windsor Bacon, selected	.....	0.36
Windsor Bacon, boneless	.....	0.38
Pure Lard:—		
20 lb. pails	.....	0.25½
Compound Lard (Western Grades):—		
Tubs	.....	0.21½

## BUTTER.

The receipts of butter in Montreal for the week ending September 15th, 1917, were 9,580 packages, which show a decrease of 945 packages, as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 15,165 packages, with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May to date show a decrease of 102,232 packages, as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. Of the receipts for the same week last year there were 2,426 packages received from the United States, as against nil this year. Owing to the strong feeling in the market butter prices last week recorded a further advance of ¼c to ½c per lb., according to grade, the principal rise being ¼c to ½c for finest creamery. Still more advances are prophesied for the near future, as at Cowansville to-day all the offerings were sold at 41½c per lb., which figure shows an advance of ½c to ¾c per lb., as compared with a week ago, while at St. Hyacinthe 40c was bid and refused. Sales of some round lots for export are reported.

We quote prices as follows:—

Finest creamery	0.42	0.42½
Fine creamery	0.41	0.41½
Finest dairy	0.37	0.37½
Fine dairy	0.37	
Lower grades	0.35	0.35½

## CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending September 15th, 1917, were 72,594 boxes, which show an increase of 894 boxes, as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 4,491 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date show a decrease of 217,279 boxes, as compared with the corresponding period in 1916. Of the receipts for the same week last year there were received from the United States 4,229 boxes, as compared with nil for this year.

A slightly easier feeling prevailed in the cheese market last week, due to the scarcity of ocean tonnage, which caused a great accumulation of cheese on spot. Prices at several of the boards in the country declined 1-16c to 3-16c per lb., while in two instances they were 1-16c higher, and others were unchanged as compared with those paid last week.

The highest figure paid was 21 5-16c per lb., as against 21½c for the previous week, and the lowest was 20¾c, but the bulk of the offerings was bought at 21c to 21¼c. At Gould's Cold Storage the offerings for the week amounted to between 10,000 to 12,000 boxes, and all sold at 21½c to 21 5-16c per lb. f.o.b. country points. The supply of English cheese is reported to be unusually small owing to the fact that the production is suffering from the maximum prices fixed.

The commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 western and eastern cheese	0.21¾
No. 2 western and eastern cheese	0.21¼
No. 3 western and eastern cheese	0.20¾
Lower grades	0.20¾

## RECEIPTS OF BUTTER & CHEESE.

The following table shows the receipts of butter and cheese in Montreal for the week ending September 15th, 1917, with comparisons:

	Butter, pkgs.	Cheese, boxes.
Week ending Sept. 15, 1917	9,580	72,594
Week ending Sept. 8, 1917	10,525	71,700
Week ending Sept. 16, 1916	24,745	77,085
Total receipts, May 1st to Sept. 15th, 1917	244,519	1,302,919
Total receipts, May 1st to Sept. 16th, 1916	346,751	1,520,193

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

### EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending September 15th, 1917, were 6,226 cases, as compared with 5,266 for the previous week, and 14,477 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st to September 15th, were 218,035 cases, as against \$29,769 for the corresponding period in 1916.

Trade has been steady and prices have ruled firm in the local market, with no important changes. The receipts of eggs continue very small, as compared with a year ago, and for last week show a decrease of over 8,000 cases. The tone of the market in London, England, rules firm, with prices fully main-