

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade—Communications in the country are now rather more settled, and travellers generally write in a cheerful strain with regard to trade prospects. A further contingent of large dry goods buyers from far western points, such as Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, and other important centres have been in town this week. Many complaints are voiced with regard to high prices, in spite of which, however, considerable selections have been made, influenced by the uncertainty of future deliveries, and the likelihood of still higher prices later on. Cotton manufacturers are still fully employed, and values show further stiffening. The Wabasso Co., manufacturers of fine lawns, nainsooks, etc., is out this week with an advanced price list, and it is reported that the Dominion Textile Co., controlling a number of the larger mills running on general lines, is about to revise quotations.

Travellers now out taking orders for the cheaper heavy lines of manufactured furs, moccasins, mitts, etc., are sending in good orders, and a good trade in the finer lines of men's and ladies' furs is expected later on.

No appreciable improvement is yet noticeable in the boot and shoe manufacturing and leather trades.

In the grocery line a steady healthy movement continues. Deliveries of sugars by local refining companies are still further restricted, due altogether to backward supplies of raws, but there is no advance in quotations. There is some little stock of Demara centrifugals being jobbed at eight cents, and good value. Local supplies of molasses are practically exhausted, some houses being entirely out of stock, and no new crop can be expected much before the middle of April under existing shipping conditions. The egg situation is as yet unrelieved, but with the advancing spring receipts of new laid stock should soon increase. Butter shows further advance.

Farmers in some sections have been complaining of a scarcity of water for their stock, but the heavy rain of this week should rectify this.

Payments as a whole are reported satisfactory.

Ten district failures are reported for the week, with liabilities of \$373,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal weekly trade report says—There has been some improvement in railway traffic, but conditions are still far from the requirements, and trade in general has suffered, but there is a very optimistic feeling. The large amount of new taxation to be levied by the provincial and domestic governments will be keenly felt in some lines of business, especially those who have been hard hit by war conditions.

Big developments have been made throughout Canada in the shipbuilding industry. Farmers in the west have been large buyers of up to date agricultural implements. The building trade in Canada is at a standstill owing to the high prices demanded for materials. Lumber required for shipbuilding and aeroplanes has advanced in price very considerably. There has been a big demand from England for building material, but this trade is very much curtailed owing to the scarcity of ocean space.

The leather and boot and shoe trade are experiencing a very dull time. Canadian canners are at a big disadvantage with American competitors, owing to the high prices of tin plate, labels, etc. American eggs are arriving more freely, which will ease the situation in Canada. Butter market ruled strong at higher prices. There has been more activity in the cheese trade during the week. Oranges advanced two dollars per case. Shipments of corn from the United States to Canada for feeding and manufacturing purposes, are to be more limited by order of the American Government as they require this class of corn for seeding purposes.

The retail trade has shown some improvement during the week. Remittances are coming in well. City collections are improving slightly.

LIVESTOCK.

Montreal—The receipts of livestock at Montreal's two yards, Canadian Pacific and West End market, last week, amounted to 1,300 cattle, 250 sheep and lambs, 3,000 hogs, and 1,050 calves. The cattle trade was more active last week owing to the fact that the butchers had allowed their stocks in this class of stuff to become very low and so were obliged to buy. As supplies of good steers were limited prices advanced 25c to 50c per 100 lbs. Canning cattle was scarce and there was a good demand for it. A stronger feeling developed in the market for small meats and prices advanced 25c to 75c per 100 lbs. The offerings were small and the competition for them keen. An easy feeling developed in the market for hogs due to the poor quality of the stock offered and prices showed a decline of 25c per 100 lbs. The trade was fairly active.

We quote Montreal prices as follows:

Steers, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice	12.50	13.00
Good	12.00	12.50
Fairly good	11.50	11.75
Fair	11.00	11.25
Light steers	10.00	10.50
Common	8.50	9.00
Butchers' bulls—		
Choice	10.50	11.00
Good	9.50	10.00
Medium	8.50	8.75
Common	7.50	8.00
Butchers' cows—		
Choice heavy	10.00	10.50
Good	9.50	9.75
Medium	9.00	9.25
Light weights	8.00	8.75
Canners' cattle—		
Bulls	6.50	7.50
Cows	5.50	6.00
Sheep, per 100 lbs.—		
Ewes	11.50	12.00
Bucks and culls	10.50	11.00
Ontario lambs	16.50	17.00
Quebec lambs	15.50	16.00
Calves, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice milk-fed stocks	15.00	16.00
Good milk-fed stock	13.00	14.00
Grass-fed calves	8.00	12.00
Hogs, per 100 lbs.—		
Selected lots	19.25	19.75
Sows	16.25	16.75
Stags	13.25	14.25

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending February 23rd, 1918, were 2,853 packages, which shows an increase of 1,287 packages as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 604 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date show a decrease of 142,230 packages as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The butter trade was fairly active during the week with a good demand for supplies for domestic consumption as well as for shipment to Ontario and the Maritime Provinces. The undertone of the market continued strong, but prices showed little change.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.50½	0.51
Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.49½	0.50
Current receipts, creamery	0.47½	0.48½
Finest dairy	0.42½	0.43
Fine dairy	0.41½	0.42

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending February 23rd, 1918, were 480 boxes, which show an increase of 178 boxes as compared with the previous week and a decrease of 1,908 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date show a decrease of 413,170 boxes as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. Of the total receipts for this week a year ago there were 2,015 boxes received from the United States. The demand from local buyers was steady throughout the week, and the market was fairly active with sales of several fair-sized lots of 20-lb. cheese were made at 22¼c to 23c per lb. The trade was active at 22s to 22½c.

The Commission is paying the following prices:
No. 1 cheese 21½c
No. 2 cheese 21¼c
No. 3 cheese 20¾c

POULTRY.

Although prices remained unchanged the market for live and dressed poultry developed a very firm feeling due to the fact that the supplies coming forward were hardly sufficient to meet the demand. The demand for cold storage stock improved, but stocks in storage are said to be small for the time of year. The receipts during the week consisted principally of chickens and fowl, for which there was a good demand, and sales of choice lots of the former were made at 31c to 33c, and the latter at 27c to 30c per lb.

We quote prices as follows:—

Turkeys, per lb.	0.35	0.36
Milk fed chickens	0.35	0.36
No. 1 chickens	0.31	0.33
Choice fowl	0.27	0.30
Ducks, per lb.	0.26	0.30
Geese, per lb.	0.24	0.28

HONEY.

There is a very firm feeling in the honey market due to the fact that receipts are light and stocks on spot small, but prices remain unchanged with a week ago.

We quote prices as follows:

No. 1 white clover, in comb	0.21	0.22
No. 2 white clover, in comb	0.19	0.20
No. 1 brown clover, in comb	0.10	
No. 2 brown clover, in comb	0.17	
White extracted, in 30-lb. pails	0.18	0.20

POTATOES.

There was no material increase in the supplies of potatoes coming forward, probably due to the fact that the weather remained cold, the tone of the market remained steady. The trade was fairly active in a wholesale jobbing way with a good steady demand for small lots to meet immediate wants, and sales of Green Mountains were made at \$2.10 to \$2.15. Ontario white stock at \$2 to \$2.05, and reds at \$1.90 to \$2 per bag of 80 lbs., ex-store.

EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending February 23rd, 1918, were 1,527 cases, as compared with 1,686 for the previous one and 2,800 for the corresponding week last year. The receipts from May 1st, 1917, to date were 314,482 cases, as against 640,548 for the same period last year. There was no change in the local egg situation last week. Receipts of the Canadian new lay were small owing to the continued bad weather but there were quite a few small lots of American fresh gathered. The tone of the market remained very firm but prices showed no changes. Trade was active.

We quote current prices as follows:

Strictly new laid eggs	0.70	
Fresh eggs	0.58	0.60
Fall fresh eggs	0.52	0.54
Selected cold storage	0.48	0.50
No. 1 cold storage	0.45	0.47

LOCAL GRAIN.

Decided activity was displayed on the option markets for oats this week and Winnipeg displayed considerable strength prices up to Friday last scoring advances amounting to 8½c to 8¾c per bushel.

Owing to the excited condition of the market which was attributed principally to speculation on the part of the public and the indications that values were going to be forced to an unwarranted level the Board of Directors of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange held a meeting Friday morning, and fixed the maximum price of the May option at 99c per bushel, and when this was announced at the opening of the session it created quite a little excitement in the pit among traders as they were all anxious to close their deals, and take profits, consequently some very large blocks of oats were thrown on the market, which resulted in a very sharp decline in prices, and the market closed today 4¼c to 5¼c per bushel, below the above high level mark, and the net advance for the week was 3¼c to 4¼c.

The local market developed excitement in sympathy