

MONTREAL WHOLESALE MARKETS.

Friday, Oct. 3rd, 1913.

The past week has been a most satisfactory one in most lines. The steady improvement in the money market and the fact that the crops have been successfully garnered and are being disposed of to good advantage is having the desired result and orders are coming in from outside points much more freely. The various dry-goods houses in the city report the week to have been fair and that dealers in the outside points show more disposition to stock up. Prices are firmly maintained and on many lines further increase is anticipated. A good volume of business has passed in all lines of hardware and especially so in stoves and furnaces, manufacturers being kept very busy. The boot and shoe factories are very busy and report that the advices coming in from the travellers indicate a good year. The trade in staple groceries has been good with no startling changes. Collections are reported to be very satisfactory. The export flour trade has been slow during the week the prices bid being out of line. The increase in the shipping rates from this port has also had a bad effect on this line of trade. Trade in hay and all lines of mill-feed is good, the demand from United States buyers keeping the prices up and the market active. A further decline in the prices of live hogs is recorded which stimulated the demand from packers so that the week has been a active one. Cheese prices recovered during the week and an active trade passed. The export demand is very small, however. The receipts of all kinds of live-stock are very large and shipments are very heavy. United States dealers are still heavy buyers of cattle and calves. An advance of 25c. per 100 lbs. in the prices of sheep was noted.

COUNTRY PRODUCE. A strong feeling has prevailed in the butter market during the week with prices steadily tending upward. The demand has been fair for both local and outside account and a fair business has been passing. Cables received during the week offered New Zealand butter for January shipment at a considerable reduction on the price quoted last week, but this fact did not have any effect on the local market. The receipts of butter for the month of September were 48,912 pcks. as compared with 60,148 pcks. for the corresponding month last year. The receipts for last week were 10,253 pcks., an increase of 617 pcks. over the previous week and a decrease of 3,477 pcks. as compared with the corresponding week last year. We quote: finest creamery 28c. to 28½c.; fine creamery 26½c. to 27½c.; second grades 26½c. to 26½c.; dairy 22c. to 23c.

A much better feeling existed in the cheese market this week than last owing to the increased demand from English buyers and the better bids made, with the result that prices advanced to their former level. The local demand is good and the feeling is that prices will soon begin to advance at a sharp rate. The receipts for the month of September were 260,612 boxes as compared with 287,466 boxes for the same month last year. The exports for last week were 49,215 boxes, showing an increase of 891 boxes as compared with the previous week an increase of 2,917 boxes with the same week a year ago. We quote: finest western colored 13½c. to 13½c.; finest western white 13½c. to 13½c.; finest eastern colored 13½c. to 13½c.; finest eastern white 13c. to 13½c.; good seconds 12½c. to 13c.

The undertone of the egg market continues strong on account of the falling off in receipts and the continued good demand so that the prices have been firmly maintained. According to advices from the United States the egg situation continues very healthy, and so for cold storage stock. We quote:—Strictly fresh eggs, 34c. to 36c.; selected C. S. eggs, 30c. to 32c.; No. 1 candled eggs, 26c. to 28c.; No. 2 candled eggs, 21c. to 22c.

FISH MARKET.—A feature of the fish trade this week is the scarcity of fresh halibut on account of the high prices ruling for the same on the coast, but dealers in some cases have been in a position to make purchases which are being shipped by express. Gaspé salmon are more plentiful, and in consequence prices have been reduced 2c. per lb. to 18c. while mackerel are firmer at 12c. Owing to the stormy weather of late there has been a considerable shortage of supplies of oysters, for which the demand is steadily increasing on account of the cool weather. Owing to the near approach of the Jewish holidays there is a large demand for lake and river fish, and on the whole the market is fairly active with a good business doing for the season of the year.

FLOUR MARKET.—This market has not been active during the week, on account of the continued slow demand from local and country buyers and the fact that prices bid by foreign buyers have been much below what millers could possibly accept, although the inquiry from foreign buyers for spring wheat grades has been good. A feature of the local flour situation this week was the decline in all lines of spring wheat flour of 20c. per bbl. and now first patents are selling at \$5.40, seconds at \$4.90 and strong bakers at \$4.70 per bbl. in bags. This action was brought about by the fact that wheat values today are much lower than at this time last year, and also the slow demand. Millers are looking forward to an active trade for the remainder of the season. The demand for winter wheat grades is fair and sales of straight rollers were made at \$4.60 to \$4.70 per bbl. in wood and \$2.05 to \$2.10 per bag.

GRAIN MARKET.—The volume of business done over the cable in Manitoba spring wheat has been very small because of the fact that prices bid have been out of line with those ruling on the Winnipeg market. Foreign buyers show little disposition to increase their bids owing to the increased shipping rates from this port at this time of year and the fact that advices from Australia and Russia are very satisfactory. It is said that United States exporters are making sales daily on account of the shipping rates being so much lower than from here. The local trade in coarse grains continues quiet. The feeling in oats during the week was a little firmer in sympathy with the higher prices in the Winnipeg market and sales of round lots are reported to have been made for shipment from Fort William to Boston. On spot No. 2 Canadian western oats are selling at 40½c. to 41c. and extra No. 2 feed at 40c. to 40½c. per bushel, ex-store. The trade in barley is quiet Ontario malting selling at 65c. per bushel, ex-track.

GREEN AND DRIED FRUITS.—The trade in green fruits continues very good some of the wholesalers reporting better business than last year. The market for apples is firm and winter varieties are much in demand. The quantity of Canadian basket fruits is falling off but an active trade is passing. It is not expected that the quantity of grapes will be up to the average this year. Other fruits are in good demand and the volume of business passing is considered very satisfactory. We quote prices as follows:—Peaches, 45c. to 75c.; pears, 65c. to 85c.; plums, 75c.; grapes, Niagara and Concord, 24c. to 25c.; apples, fancy greenings No. 1, \$4.50; No. 2, \$4.00; wealthys, calverts, etc., No. 1, \$4.00 to \$4.50; No. 2, \$3.50 to \$3.75; Oranges, Californias, \$7.00; Grapefruits, \$3.50 to \$4.50 per box; lemons, \$4.00 per box; Bananas \$2.00 large bunch, crated Cranberries, \$9.50 per bbl.

GROCERIES.—The general conditions in the wholesale grocery trade are satisfactory with a fair volume of business passing and collections improving. The principle feature of the week was the advance in the price of all lines of sugar of 10c. per 100 lbs., although the raw material remained steady. An advance of 15c. per 100 lbs. was also noted in the market for rice. Brooms have also advanced in price owing to the very