

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: The late torrid spell has had a slowing-down effect on wholesale trade in most lines, and there are few new features to be noted since last writing. The majority of dry goods travellers lay off during the first three weeks of August, but orders are still coming in briskly for the season, while all textile mills are busy to capacity and making free deliveries.

In the grocery line the movement is just moderate. Deliveries of sugars are being somewhat further curtailed, notwithstanding that the preserving season is now well on, and owing to the lack of freight facilities with the West Indies, there is a great scarcity of molasses. Quotations for new pack of vegetables are not yet out, but will no doubt rule higher, though there is every expectation of an abundant crop of tomatoes.

The comparative slackness in the boot and shoe manufacturing trade, now in evidence for about a year, is as yet unrelieved, and the local demand for leather is not active, but tanners maintain prices firmly.

In the provision trade there is some easing off in the prices of cattle and butter, but hogs show quite a notable advance.

Some dry goods houses report payments for July ahead of expectations, and general collections are qualified as good, while only three small district failures are reported for the week.

A good hay crop has been well saved as a rule, and old-time travellers in this province say they have rarely seen the country look so well.

Bradstreet's Montreal weekly trade report says: The usual midsummer dullness in the wholesale districts has been experienced during the past week. Weather conditions during the greater part of the week were uncomfortably warm, but was good growing weather for the crops. There will be sufficient wheat this year to keep our flour mills going all the year around, but the quantity of wheat available for export will not be as large as last year. Crops are poorest in Southern Alberta and Southern Saskatchewan, but the rest of Canada will fare about as usual, reports from twenty-five different sections showing varying estimates of fifteen to twenty-five bushels per acre.

New freight rates, approximately twenty per cent higher, went into effect on the first of August. A further big variety of items has been placed on the restricted lists of imports and exports, except under license from the Government.

The amount of capital incorporated into new companies during the past week amounted to two and one-half million dollars. Failures in this district were very few, while liabilities were exceedingly small.

A new metal suitable for the very best forms of cutlery has been developed in Canada and will shortly be put on the market in commercial quantities.

Under liberal offerings and limited buying in the live stock markets, prices of cattle, sheep, lambs and calves ruled lower. The butter market was off 1/4c to 1/2c per pound. New honey is wanted; a few small lots have arrived and sold at new high levels.

The offerings of potatoes are increasing daily and prices have shown a much easier feeling, with the tendency of a dropping market.

The retail trade is fairly active. Remittances are coming to hand very satisfactorily, but city collections are somewhat backward.

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

### BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending August 3rd, 1918, were 17,996 packages, which show an increase of 1,947 packages as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 9,575 packages with the same week last year, and the total receipts since May 1st to date show an increase of 41,748 packages as compared with the corresponding period in 1917. Due to the fact that supplies of butter coming forward are more liberal, the tone of the market became

easier and prices realized at the auction sales last week were 1/4c lower than the previous week. The total offerings at these sales amounted to 3,261 packages as against 3,439 packages last week, of which 762 packages pasteurized creamery sold this week at 43 1/4c to 43 3/4c per lb., 1,215 packages finest creamery at 43c to 43 1/4c, and 356 packages fine creamery at 42 1/2c while up to a late hour to-day 435 packages of fine which was offered on Friday was still on the market unsold. At Gould's Cold Storage 1,200 packages were sold during the week at 42c to 42 1/4c per lb. f.o.b. country points. At St. Hyacinthe to-day the best bid was 42 1/4c per lb. which was 1/4c lower than a week ago and some of the factorymen would not accept this figure.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest creamery	0.43 1/2	0.43 1/2
Fine creamery	0.43	0.43
Finest dairy	0.38	0.38 1/2
Finest dairy	0.36	0.37

### CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending August 3rd, 1918, were 79,926 boxes which show a decrease of 15,256 boxes as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 7,597 boxes with the same week last year, and the total receipts since May 1st to date show an increase of 5,727 boxes as compared with the corresponding period last year. The market for cheese showed no changes last week and prices ruled steady throughout the country. At the St. Paschal board all the offerings sold at 21 13-16c per lb., and at St. Hyacinthe at 21 1/4c, while at all the other boards 22 1/4c was the ruling figure.

The Dairy Produce Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese	0.23
No. 2 cheese	0.22 1/2
No. 3 cheese	0.22

### EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending August 3rd, 1918, were 6,128 cases, as compared with 10,378 for the previous week, and 4,824 for the same week last year. The receipts from May 1st, 1918, to date were 157,515 cases, as against 179,075 for the corresponding period in 1917. The tone of the market remained firm throughout the week in sympathy with the high prices ruling throughout the country. The demand for immediate consumption was good.

We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:

Selected new laid eggs	0.51	0.52
No. 1 stock	0.47	0.48
No. 2 stock	0.45	0.46

### POTATOES.

Supplies of potatoes coming forward were more liberal last week and this led to an easier feeling in the market and lower prices. A good trade was done in a wholesale jobbing way at \$2.25 to \$2.40 per bag of 80 lbs. ex-store.

Storage poultry having been cleaned up the trade now have to depend solely upon current receipts. Receipts of all varieties at Eastern points remain about the same as last week with the exception of broilers which are in much heavier supply. There are also a few more spring ducks coming. Montreal is reported very firm, there being barely enough coming to satisfy consumptive demand. Toronto had a very large run of broilers during the week and several lots were transhipped to Montreal as the demand was better at that centre. Some Western Ontario shippers are shipping to Buffalo which market they say is better than either Toronto or Montreal for all varieties with the exception of broilers which at the week end can be sold to better advantage at Montreal.

In the Western provinces the receipts of poultry are increasing, but as yet no surplus is available.

United States poultry markets have been slightly easier particularly for broilers. The New York market has been very unsettled for live poultry due to the Jewish fasting days from meat and the threatened strike of the Jewish killers and dressers. Some dressed stuff is now finding its way into storage for future trade.

### BEANS.

The prospects are that there will be a large crop of beans in Quebec, and the Ontario is also looking very well. The market rules quiet and steady with no changes in prices.

The demand has been principally for small lots to meet immediate wants and sales of hand picked beans were made at \$8.75 per bushel, while car lots were quoted at \$8.50 with Quebec grades No. 1, \$1.55 to \$1.60; No. 2, \$1.45 to \$1.50; No. 3, \$1.25 to \$1.30.

### LOCAL FLOUR.

The announcement of the Canada Food Board removing the embargo on shipments of spring wheat flour east of Montreal was the feature of the week in the milling industry. A brisk trade was done for domestic account at \$11.05 per barrel in bags, delivered to the trade. Supplies of winter wheat flour on hand are small so the tone of the market was strong and prices showed an advance of 20c per barrel. Sales were made at \$11.60 per barrel in new cotton bags, and at \$11.30 in second-hand jute bags, delivered to the trade. There has been some offers of new crop winter wheat flour from Ontario millers for August delivery, but as the prices asked were considered too high, no business resulted.

An active trade in substitutes was done. More liberal supplies of rye flour were available so prices showed a decline of 50c per barrel during the week. At the lower level the demand was good and sales of broken lots were made at \$14 per barrel in bags. A weaker feeling prevailed in the market for oat flour and prices were 80c per barrel lower than a week ago, with a steady increasing demand at \$12 per barrel in bags. The trade in white corn flour continues good, and as supplies are rapidly decreasing and prices ruled firm at \$12 per barrel in bags, while the demand for the Government standard corn flour has been limited at \$11.60 per barrel in bags, owing to the darker color. On account of the warm weather prevailing of late there has been little enquiry for buckwheat flour, and sales were slow at \$14.50 per barrel in bags. The movement of Graham flour continues fair and prices are unchanged at \$11.05 per barrel in bags. The demand for rice flour is steady and prices have been maintained at \$8.75 per 100 lbs., put up in 220-lb. sacks.

### MILLFEED.

The market for millfeed continued unchanged during the week. The tone of the market remains firm with sales of feed cornmeal at \$68, pure oat moullie at \$67, pure barley feed at \$67, mixed moullie at \$55, shorts at \$40, and bran at \$35 per ton, including bags, delivered to the trade.

### ROLLED OATS.

An active trade was done in rolled oats due to a good demand from all over the country. Prices remained unchanged although the tone of the market showed great firmness. Sales of broken lots standard grades at \$5.20 to \$5.30 per bag of 90 lbs., delivered to the trade. The market for Golden cornmeal has been easier and prices during the week declined 10c to 15c per bag with a fair trade reported in broken lots at \$6.15 to \$6.25 per bag.

### LOCAL GRAIN.

The announcement of the 20 per cent increase in freight rates increased the demand from buyers for all lines of grain and especially oats. A large trade was done for shipment from Fort William for immediate and future delivery. The tone of the market was strong and prices in Winnipeg advanced and cash oats on Saturday closed 1/4c per bushel higher than a week ago with car lots of No. 2 Canadian western quoted at \$1.01, No. 3 C.W. at 98c, extra No. 1 feed at 98c, No. 1 feed at 95c, and No. 2 feed at 92c per bushel ex-store. In addition to the above, there was also some demand from outside sources for oats, and sales of a couple of round lots of extra No. 1 feed and No. 2 feed were made for shipment to Newfoundland and Barbadoes. The trade in American cash corn here was quiet. There was no actual change in prices in this market for cash corn, car lots of No. 3 yellow being quoted to-day at \$1.88, No. 4 yellow at \$1.78, and sample grades at from \$1.36 to \$1.58 per bushel ex-store. Only a few cars of No. 4 Manitoba