

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

The general tone among Montreal wholesale houses is cheerful, under improving returns from all points of the Dominion although advancing prices and inability to secure shipment of many lines are hampering business. Dry goods houses state that sorting business has been very heavy during the past week or so, covering the entire range of light weight goods, and in a number of cases such orders have had to be turned down owing to the lack of stocks. Fall placing are also good, with a marked improvement from Ontario and Western points over last year. As usual Quebec and the Maritime Provinces are showing a normal response.

Wholesale grocers state that high prices on many commodities are restricting the volume of business coming forward. The sugar market is firm and steady going forward. The sugar market is firm and steady at a high level of prices. Canned goods are advancing, and so on down the list. The country and dairy produce markets are very active, with prices ruling at almost record levels.

The boot and shoe trade is fairly active, while factories are very busy on domestic and militia business. The leather market is busy and prices are firm at top levels.

Dun's Review reports that "Satisfactory conditions, as a whole, prevail at Toronto, liberal orders coming in for dry goods, groceries and other staples and business for fall and winter requirements being placed with more than usual freedom for this period. Collections are better, money is easy, and financial institutions are apparently more willing to grant accommodations for legitimate purposes. Conditions in the Far West and Northwest continue to improve and in most sections the movement of merchandise compares favorably with that of the best previous season. At Winnipeg a steady increase in the movement of nearly all kinds of seasonable commodities reflects the improvement that has taken place in the business situation during the past few months, sales in dry goods, footwear, hardware, agricultural implements, and building materials being well up to the average in volume and merchants expressing much confidence in the outlook."

### PROVISIONS.

The Montreal provision market continues very firm in sympathy with a strong undertone to the Chicago market. Reports from the West are to the effect that after considerable fluctuation at the beginning of the week there was a decided advance in the hog market on Friday. Toronto reports an easier feeling in the live hog market. The prevailing cool weather is having a dampening effect on the smoked meat market, but on the whole the market is very firm. Lard is unusually scarce, and high in price.

Current prices are as follows:

Hams:—	Per lb.
Smoked hams, 8-14 lbs. . . . .	0.23½
Do., 14-20 lbs. . . . .	0.23½
Do., 20-25 lbs. . . . .	0.22½
Do., over 25 lbs. . . . .	0.20
Bacon:—	
Roll Boneless Bacon . . . . .	0.24
Windsor Bacon, selected . . . . .	0.27
Windsor Bacon, Boneless . . . . .	0.23
Barrel Pork:—	Per bbl.
Short cut pork . . . . .	32.00
Clear Fat Pork, 20-40 . . . . .	33.00
Clear Fat Pork, 40-50 . . . . .	33.00
Clear Fat Pork, 20-35 . . . . .	30.00
Mess Pork . . . . .	29.50
Bean Pork, Canadian . . . . .	24.50
Barrel Beef:—	
Plate Beef, 200 lbs. . . . .	24.00
Pure Lard:—	pound.
Tierces . . . . .	0.17
Tubs . . . . .	0.17½
Pails . . . . .	3.50
Tins . . . . .	3.40
Cases, 3, 5, 10's . . . . .	0.18
Prints . . . . .	0.18½
Compound Lard:—	
Western Grades:—	
Tierces . . . . .	0.14½
Tubs . . . . .	0.14½
Tins . . . . .	2.80
Cases, 3, 5, 10's . . . . .	0.15
Prints . . . . .	0.15½
Cooked meats:—	
Roasts houlders pork . . . . .	0.33
Roast ham, boneless . . . . .	0.35
Cooked hams, rind off . . . . .	0.35
Head cheese . . . . .	0.09
Jellied pork tongues . . . . .	0.30
Blood pudding . . . . .	0.09½
White pudding . . . . .	0.08
English Brawn . . . . .	0.11

### DAIRY PRODUCE.

**BUTTER:** A stronger feeling developed in the butter market towards the close of last week, and prices scored a slight advance in consequence of considerable export to Glasgow and Liverpool. This, coupled with the fact that receipts are somewhat less than at the corresponding period last year, is accounting for all supplies coming forward. There was consequently considerable activity on the market during the past week. It is expected that in two or three weeks grass butter will be on the market in good quantity.

**CHEESE:** Considerable activity was reported in the cheese market during the past week, when large quantities changed hands on both export and domestic account. Owing to the heavy consumption of milk by the hospitals in England, only small quantities of cheese are being made. Consequently English stocks are low, and dealers are looking to Canada for a larger proportion of supplies than formerly. The brisk cable demand for cheese is expected to keep the market very firm at present prices for several weeks to come. With the prevailing cool weather receipts have been good, and in the course of a week or so the production will be in the flush of the season.

Current quotations follow:

Butter:—		
Fresh creamery, solids . . . . .	0.29	0.29½
Do., prints . . . . .	0.28½	0.28¾
Seconds . . . . .	0.26	0.26½
Dairy Butter . . . . .	0.22	0.23
City Selling Prices to grocers:—		
Choice Creamery Solids . . . . .	0.31	
Do., Prints . . . . .	0.31½	
No. 2 Creamery Solids . . . . .	0.29	
Do., Prints . . . . .	0.29½	
Choice Dairy Prints . . . . .	0.27	
Do., rolls . . . . .	0.27	
Cooking Butter . . . . .	0.25	
Cheese:—		
Finest Western . . . . .	0.19¾	0.19
Finest Eastern . . . . .	0.19¾	0.19¾
Fine Cheese . . . . .	0.18½	0.19
Undergrades . . . . .	0.17½	0.18

### FISH AND OYSTERS.

Supplies of fresh fish continue to come forward in good quantities under a very fair demand, and a tendency towards lower prices. Now is the time for the retailers to push the fish trade, when so many delicious fish are on the market fresh from the lakes and rivers. These, for some reason, can only be obtained from a few dealers, and only some half dozen of the better known varieties are offered to the general consuming public.

Sea fish from the East Coast are available in much larger quantities than hitherto, and lake fish are also becoming more plentiful. The recent rainy weather, however, has made river fish very scarce, white fish in particular. Dore is now coming in, and good supplies are expected by the end of the week. Lobsters are very plentiful, and are selling at rock bottom prices, with prospect of a firmer market from now on. Brook trout are scarce, but prices are holding steady. Bulk and shell oysters remain quiet, without any feature of note. Pickled, smoked and dried fish are also at a standstill.

**Fresh:—**

Haddock, per lb. . . . .	0.06
Steak Codfish, per lb. . . . .	0.07
Brook Trout . . . . .	0.25
Carp, per lb. . . . .	0.08
Lobsters, live, per lb. . . . .	0.20
Salmon, Gaspe . . . . .	0.45
Salmon, Red, Dressed, Spring and Headless, per lb. . . . .	0.20
Halibut, medium, per lb. . . . .	0.12
Herrings medium, each . . . . .	0.02
Whitefish, per lb. . . . .	0.12
Pike, per lb. . . . .	0.08
Shad fish, each, roe . . . . .	0.85
Shad, Buck . . . . .	0.45
Perch, dressed, per lb. . . . .	0.10
Bullheads, dressed, per lb. . . . .	0.10
Fresh Mackerel, per lb. . . . .	0.14
Caspereaux, each . . . . .	0.01½

**Smoked Fish:—**

Haddies, per lb. . . . .	0.09
Kippers, large, per box . . . . .	1.20
Bloaters, per box . . . . .	1.10
Smoked Herring, mediums, per box . . . . .	0.15
Boneless Smoked Herring, boxes 10 lbs. each . . . . .	1.25
Smoked Eels, per lb. . . . .	0.12
Oysters:—	
Standard Solid Meats—No water.	
No. 5 Can (containing 3 wine gals. . . . .	4.25
Ordinary Do., Selects, per Imp. gallon . . . . .	1.70
Shell Oysters, Cape Cods in large barrels . . . . .	12.00
Shell Clams, do. . . . .	6.00

### COUNTRY PRODUCE.

**EGGS:** Receipts of eggs in Montreal during the past week amounted to 24,047 cases, which is the largest amount for season. Prices in the country have firmed up considerably, stores receiving 22c to 22½c. This will force the price of eggs up 3 or 4c next autumn over last year's figures, and it is a question if the consuming public will be willing to pay such high prices. There is a good demand for eggs for storage purposes, and a general tendency to advance in price is felt on the market, due to export inquiry.

**POULTRY:** As the frozen stocks are dropping very fast, the market will be obliged to fall back on the supplies of fresh killed poultry in the near future. The rainy cold weather during the past week caused a considerable falling off in receipts over the previous week, but with warmer weather increased supplies are expected. Spring chickens, although still very small, have made their appearance on the market, but not in sufficient quantities to meet the demand. Large supplies, however, are expected from now on.

**MAPLE PRODUCTS:** Maple sugar, in response to an active demand during the past few weeks, is becoming somewhat scarce, which indicates that the make was smaller than was anticipated. Prices for both syrup and sugar are firmly maintained.

The market for beans is very firm, with a tendency towards higher prices, owing to a good demand for the limited supplies available. The price of potatoes remains unchanged. The tone of the market shows considerable strength, as offerings of Canadian potatoes are small and the American varieties are still very dear.

**Eggs:—**

New Laid . . . . .	0.25
Special . . . . .	0.26

**Honey:—**

Buckwheat, in combs . . . . .	0.12	0.13
Buckwheat, extracted . . . . .	0.10½	0.11

**Beans:—**

3-lb. pickers, carlots, bush. . . . .	4.00	4.25
3 lb. pickers, do. . . . .	3.95	4.15
Undergrades, bus. . . . .	3.60	3.70

**Potatoes:—**

Green Mountains, per bag, car lots	1.75
Do., Quebec	1.70
Job lots, ex store, per bag	1.85
Boulton	1.90

**Poultry:—**

Frozen stock:—		per	pound.
Turkeys	.....	0.29	0.30
Fowl, large	.....	0.20	0.21
Fowl, small	.....	0.15	0.20
Ducks	.....	0.22	0.25
Geese	.....	0.16	0.17
Roasting chickens, ord.	.....	0.23	0.25
Chickens, milk fed	.....	0.26	0.27
Capons	.....	0.23	0.30
Spring broilers, dressed, pair	.....	1.10	1.40
Squabs	.....	0.65	0.75
Squabs, Phila., pr.	.....	.....	0.85

**Poultry—Live:—**

Fowl, 5 lbs. and over . . . . .	0.20	0.23
Fowl, small . . . . .	0.18	0.19
Turkeys, cocks . . . . .	0.20	0.22
Do., hens . . . . .	0.22	0.23
Fresh Killed Poultry:—		
Turkey, cock . . . . .	0.26	0.28
Do., hens . . . . .	0.28	0.30
Chickens . . . . .	0.24	0.25
Fowls, hens . . . . .	0.24	0.25
Do., Roosters . . . . .	0.20	0.22

**Maple Products:—**

Pure maple syrup, 8-lb. tins . . . . .	0.85	0.90
Pure maple syrup, 10-lb. tins . . . . .	1.00	1.10
Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins . . . . .	1.40	1.50
Pure maple sugar, per lb. . . . .	0.12	0.14

### CHEESE EXPORTS.

The following are the shipments of cheese from Portland, which arrived on the other side for the week ending May 18, 1916:

To.	Local.	Thro.	Total.
London . . . . .	5,880	8,985	14,865
	5,880	8,985	14,865

### BALED HAY.

There has been no change in the market for baled hay since our last report. Prices have been firmly maintained under good local demand for supplies of small lots. Sales of car lots are being made at the following prices:—

No. 1 hay . . . . .	22.00	22.50
No. 2 extra good . . . . .	21.50	
No. 2 hay . . . . .	20.50	21.00
No. 3 hay . . . . .	19.50	
Clover, mixed, per ton, ex-track . . . . .	18.50	