

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Trade conditions in general continue to improve, although the heavy fall of snow with zero weather throughout the province has been a deterrent factor in many cases. Freight in particular has been interfered with resulting in an embargo on all goods destined to Montreal with the exception of munitions, coal, petroleum and perishables.

The dry goods trade is in a satisfactory condition, as travellers on the road are meeting with very fair success. Merchants throughout the country are more concerned with the question of getting the goods than the ever advancing prices. Textile mills are all busy.

The shortage of soft coal and coke is becoming serious and a number of mills and foundries have had to close down owing to the scarcity of fuel. Labor and iron supplies are also reducing their output to below capacity. Pig iron quotations are very high. Hardware men report advances in the price of most lines of shelf goods, heavy hardware and builders' materials, though the demand for the latter is far from heavy.

The green hide market is active and firm. Leather is also strong but quiet—a certain amount of export enquiry for sole leather is reported. Lambskins are in good demand at advanced prices. Business in boots and shoes is quiet as retailers appear to be well stocked up after their heavy buying last fall.

Orders for lead, oils and paint are coming in more freely for future delivery at advanced prices. Retail furriers are profiting by the recent cold weather which has produced an active demand. Commercial failures in the Dominion of Canada this week numbered 19, as against 34 last week and 40 the same week last year.

### DAIRY PRODUCE.

**BUTTER.**—The demand for butter is principally of a hand to mouth character as prices are so high that many dealers consider further advances unlikely. On the other hand some holders of finest September and early October are not offering just now, as they claim that that class of goods is becoming very scarce and will sell at a big premium between now and next May. There is no demand as yet from outside sources but we look for some in February.

English advices report a decline of 3s to 4s per cwt. for finest creamery butter, which has been brought about by the practice of economy which has limited the demand. Large shipments of colonial butter were landing and about due, and as the demand for these goods was slow prices were weak at 202s to 206s for finest Australian salted. Imports of Australian and New Zealand butter into London and the outports for the year ended December 31, 1916, amounted to 995,226 boxes as compared with 1,425,442 boxes in 1915 and 1,612,273 boxes in 1914.

**CHEESE.**—There is practically no Canadian cheese offering on this market at present, the trade consisting of states goods for which there is a good demand from abroad. There is hardly enough Canadian cheese on the market to form the basis of quotations, but sales of what little cheese has been offering have been put through at as high as 26½ cents for choice fall western. Quite a few sales of American cheese have been made, further business being limited to the lack of ocean freight obtainable. The Liverpool cable advanced against last week with both Canadian white and colored cheese now quoted at 143s. Late mail advices from London say that the trade is in a very unsettled condition, pending the decision of the Government in commandeering New Zealand cheese, also the price at which they intend to pay for the output this season. The imports of cheese from New Zealand were 579,836 crates for the year 1916, against 512,724 crates for 1915; 570,824 crates for 1914.

**Butter:**—  
Choice Fall Creamery Solids . . . 0.43 0.43½  
Winter Creamery . . . 0.42 0.42½  
Undergrade Creamery . . . 0.40 0.41½  
Dairy butter . . . 0.37½ 0.38  
City Selling Price to grocers:  
Creamery, Solids . . . 0.44 0.45  
Do., Prints . . . 0.45½ 0.46½  
Do., No. 2 . . . 0.43 0.43½  
Do., Prints . . . 0.42½ 0.43½  
Finest Western . . . 0.25½ 0.26  
**Cheese:**—  
Finest Western . . . 0.25½ 0.26½

Fine Eastern . . . 0.24 0.24½  
Winter Make . . . 0.20 0.23  
City Selling Prices to grocers:  
Stilton cheese . . . 0.26 0.27  
Large . . . 0.25 0.26  
Twins . . . 0.25½ 0.26½  
Quebec Cheese . . . 0.25 0.25½  
Canadian Strong Cheese . . . 0.26 0.27  
Roquefort . . . 0.65

### GROCERIES.

No outstanding features were reported in grocery circles last week. A further decline of 10c took place in the price of sugar on Saturday last making a total decline of 20c during the past ten days. No. 1 granulated is now quoted at from \$7.20 to \$7.30 in bbls. The easy feeling in the market is attributed partly to speculation on the new crop. The volume of the Cuban cane crop, however, will fall considerably short of first estimates according to latest advices notwithstanding the enormous tonnage of available cane and the fact that 16 additional mills will probably grind. The new crop molasses is arriving in dribbles. Space on the steamers is hard to get. The market is ruling strong as the Barbadoes crop is not reaching expectations. Quotations are made at 58c for new fancy Barbadoes molasses and 55c for second vessel. The recent attempt made by the Barbadoes merchants to bring about new selling conditions in this market has apparently failed. The shippers naturally felt that Montreal buyers should shoulder part of the war risk on insurance and increased freight rates, but business appears to have again reverted to the old basis.

Canned goods are in fair demand with a firm undertone to the market although concessions from the quoted price are made here and there. Since the recent advance supplies of soap have been hard to get owing to freight congestion, and scarcity of raw materials, etc. The market is consequently firm at the higher prices. Beans are still firm. Lima beans have advanced in New York owing to a heavy demand and light stocks. Canned Lima beans went up 15c in this market last week. All lines of imported goods are advancing in price and supplies are difficult to get, owing to higher freight rates, insurance, etc. Spices are very firm in the primary markets and these conditions are likely to be reflected in this market in the future. Black and white peppers are quoted on an equal basis. Teas are high priced and tend to go higher. Supplies are shorter, demand greater and shipping conditions at their firmest so far.

Sugar prices to-day are as follows:

	100 lbs.
Atlantic, St. Lawrence and Canada Sugar	
Companies, extra granulated sugars, bbl.	7.30
Acadia Sugar Refinery, extra granulated	7.20
Wallaceburg sugar	7.20
Special icing, barrels	7.30
Yellow, No. 1, per bag	6.85
Powdered, barrels	7.35
Paris lumps, barrels	8.00
Crystal diamonds, cartons	8.50
Assorted tea cubes, boxes	7.85

### PROVISIONS.

The outstanding feature in the trade in pork products during the past week has been the higher price of live hogs. The Toronto market has touched 14½c live weight and Montreal has reached 15c, which are record prices even in this era of inflated values. Dressed hogs are bringing \$20.50 to \$21 per 100 lbs., a rise of 50c for the week. These prices have naturally created a very firm feeling in live hogs. Lard is in good demand, and as the production is less at this season there is a firm undertone to the market. The export demand continues heavy.

Current prices are as follows:

	Per lb.
<b>Hams:</b> —	
Smoked Hams, 8-14 lbs.	0.26
Do., 14-20 lbs.	0.24
Do., 20-25 lbs.	0.23
Do., over 25 lbs.	0.22
<b>Bacon:</b> —	
Breakfast	0.28 0.30
Windsor Bacon, selected	0.27
Windsor Bacon, boneless	0.32
<b>Barrel Pork:</b> —	
Short cut pork	38.00
Clear Fat Pork	40.00
Mess Pork	37.00
Bean Pork, American	35.00
Plate Pork, 200 lbs.	32.00

**Pure Lard—** pound.  
Tierces . . . 0.21½  
Tubs . . . 0.21½  
Pails . . . 0.22  
Tins . . . 0.22  
Cases, 3, 5, 10's . . . 0.22½  
Prints . . . 0.23  
**Compound Lard:**—  
**Western Grades:**—  
Tierces . . . 0.17¼  
Tubs . . . 0.17¼  
Tins . . . 0.18  
Cases, 3, 5, 10's . . . 0.18½  
Prints . . . 0.19  
**Cooked meats:**—  
Roast shoulder pork . . . 0.29  
Roast hams, boneless . . . 0.37  
Cooked hams, boneless . . . 0.37  
Cooked hams, rind off . . . 0.37  
Head cheese . . . 0.09  
English brawn . . . 0.11

### LIVE STOCK.

**MONTREAL:** Offerings for sale at the Montreal live stock yards last week amounted to 1,300 cattle, 500 sheep and lambs, 1,700 hogs and 400 calves. Owing to the stormy weather receipts of good butchers' cattle were very limited, and as the demand was good prices advanced 25c a cwt. at Monday's sale and held firm at the new level on Wednesday. Canning cattle were in good demand at firm but unchanged prices. Sheep showed marked strength, advancing \$1.00 a cwt. owing to the limited supplies offering. Hogs continued to advance, prices scoring a further rise of 50c to 75c per 100 lbs. Calves were very firm and in fair demand.

**TORONTO:** Prevailing stormy weather interfered with supplies of live stock arriving on the Toronto market. Receipts were considerably lighter than usual, amounting to 4,243 cattle, 660 calves, 10,873 hogs and 1,534 sheep and lambs. Prices of cattle advanced 25c a cwt., the top price touched being \$10.90 per cwt. In spite of the light receipts of cattle, the average quality was fairly high. All grades of stockers and feeders were steady. Canners and cutters were strong. Choice veal calves were scarce and there was a firm demand for calves of good quality. There was also a keen demand for good quality sheep and lambs at advancing prices. Hogs secured further advances over the record breaking prices of the previous week. The market was strong at \$14.00 to \$14.25 although sellers received \$14.50 in some cases.

Current prices in carload lots are as follows:

	Montreal.		Toronto.	
	Per cwt.		Per cwt.	
Butcher steers, best	10.25	10.50	10.00	10.50
Do., good	9.75	10.00	9.25	9.75
Do., fair	9.25	9.50	8.75	9.50
Do., medium	8.25	8.50	8.25	8.75
Do., rough	7.75	8.00	6.25	6.75
Butchers' cows				
Choice	8.00	8.25	7.00	7.75
Do., good	7.50	7.75	6.00	6.50
Do., fair	7.00	7.25	5.00	5.50
Butcher bulls, best	8.75	9.00	7.50	8.50
Do., good	8.25	8.50	6.75	7.25
Do., medium	7.75	8.00	5.75	6.50
Canners' cattle, bulls	5.60	5.75	4.25	4.50
Do., cows	4.85	5.00		
Heavy Sheep	8.75	9.00	7.50	9.00
Light Ewes	9.25	9.50	9.50	10.00
Culls	8.75	9.00	5.00	6.00
Lambs	13.00	13.50	14.50	15.00
Calves, milkfed	9.00	11.00	13.00	14.00
Do., grassfed	5.00	7.50	5.00	6.00
Hogs, selects, weighed				
Do., heavy				
off cars	14.25	14.50	14.25	14.50
weights	13.65	13.75	14.00	14.25
Sows	12.25	12.50		

### RECEIPTS OF BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS.

The following table shows the receipts of butter, cheese and eggs in Montreal for the week ending January 27th, 1917, with comparisons:

	Butter, pkgs.	Cheese, boxes.	Eggs, cases.
Week end, Jan. 27, 1917	1,314	2,420	677
Week end, Jan. 20, 1917	1,541	4,369	563
Week end, Jan. 29, 1916	676	1,040	4,754
Total receipts May 1, 1916			
to Jan. 27, 1917	496,793	2,224,240	628,428
Total receipts, May 1, 1916			
to Jan. 29th, 1916	396,067	1,992,696	525,680

Directors of Canada Foundries and Forgings met recently and declared the regular quarterly dividend of 3 per cent and usual bonus of 3 per cent.