

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

The clear cold weather last week coupled with a general feeling of prosperity, created happy conditions for this year's holiday trade. Retail dealers report an unusually satisfactory season as the volume of trade reached a new record point. Last week was quiet in wholesale circles, as deliveries of holiday goods in most lines were made in the preceding weeks. Dry goods orders continue to come in steadily by mail, although most of the travellers are home for the holidays. Cotton mills are very busy. Prices on imported textiles continue to advance. Manufacturers of hard rubber and mechanical rubber goods have withdrawn quotations. The leather market is quiet but very firm with further advances in some lines. Boot and shoe makers are finding difficulty in securing adequate supplies of leather. Hardware is quiet as is always the case at this season.

Gross earnings of all Canadian railroads so far reporting for two weeks in December show an increase of 6.3 per cent as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. Commercial failures in the Dominion of Canada this week numbered 28, as against 24 last week and 51 the same week last year.

## COUNTRY PRODUCE

**EGGS:** The market for eggs is steady, although prices are quoted slightly under last week's level. This is doubtless due in part to the fact that the export trade is now over. One or two dealers lowered prices slightly and the others followed suit to meet competition. Stocks in Montreal are not heavy. There have been offers of eggs from Chicago houses during the week. There will not be much advantage in bringing in eggs from the West as far as price is concerned. Eggs are quoted to-day at 31c in Chicago, to which must be added freight, duty and the war tax which will bring them to 39c to 40c laid down in Montreal. The quality of Chicago eggs is not considered equal to our own. Laid eggs are also scarce in the West and as we are having similar weather conditions as in Montreal there will hardly be any available until the latter part of January. Hens are not starting to lay as early this year as last.

**POULTRY:** Deliveries of dressed poultry during the past week have been fairly satisfactory, but generally there has been sufficient for the demand. The market is steady and firm, at unchanged prices. People have not been buying as freely this year owing to the high prices asked.

**POTATOES:** The potato trade continues mainly on a hand to mouth basis. Offerings have been made as low as \$1.60 per 90-lb. bag.

<b>Eggs:—</b>	
Special New Laid .. . . .	0.60 0.70
Extras .. . . .	0.42
No. 1 .. . . .	0.38

<b>Poultry—Live:</b>	
per pound.	
Fowls, 5 lbs. and over .. . . .	0.18 0.17
Fowls, small .. . . .	0.13 0.14

<b>Fresh Killed Poultry:</b>	
Turkeys .. . . .	0.29 0.30
Old Turkeys, cocks .. . . .	0.27 0.28
Do., Roasting .. . . .	0.29 0.30
Fowls, hens .. . . .	0.15 0.16
Do., roosters .. . . .	0.14 0.15
Broilers, 2½ to 3 lbs., per lb. . . . .	0.20 0.22
Do., 2 to 2½ lbs., per lb. . . . .	0.21 0.23
Squabs .. . . .	0.35 0.45
Geese .. . . .	0.16 0.17
Ducks .. . . .	0.17 0.18

<b>Maple Products:—</b>	
Pure maple syrup, quart cans .. . . .	1.00 1.10
Pure maple syrup, 9-lb. tins .. . . .	1.25 1.30
Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins .. . . .	1.25 1.30
Pure Maple sugar, per lb. . . . .	0.13 0.14

<b>Potatoes:—</b>	
Green Mountains, per bag of 80 lbs. ex-track .. . . .	1.75
Do., to jobbers, ex-store, per 80lb. bag .. . . .	2.10 2.20
Quebec's, per bag of 80 lbs. ex-track .. . . .	1.65
Do., to jobbers, ex-store, per 80 lb. bag .. . . .	1.75 1.85

<b>Beans:—</b>	
Can. hand-picked car lots .. . . .	6.75 7.00
Three-lb. pickers .. . . .	6.50 6.65
Five-lb. pickers .. . . .	6.00 6.25
Six to seven-lb. pickers .. . . .	5.00 5.90

## FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

**FRUIT:** A few apples are coming in from Maine and New York State. Generally speaking the sale of apples this year is slow and prices show a slight decline from our previous quotations. Lemons are lower owing to heavier shipments from California which has brought down the price of the foreign article. Very few Almeria grapes are arriving. Stocks are light and the market is steady. The demand for cranberries is less than usual this year as turkeys are so high in price that many people are celebrating without the festive bird. Prices on cranberries are holding steady as supplies are light. The orange market is lower owing to heavy receipts.

The price of bananas is practically unchanged. Importations from the Tropics are comparatively light, due to the scarcity of the fruit, and consequently there is a tendency for prices to go to higher levels than is generally the case at this season of the year. It may be noted that bananas are now one of the few staple articles of food of general consumption, the price of which has not tended to swell the already long list of the "high cost of living."

**VEGETABLES:** Red onions are in light supply, and with the increased demand prices are likely to go higher. Very limited supplies of Spanish onions are arriving. Curly lettuce has advanced sharply in price. Cabbage and celery are also scarce and dear.

Current quotations are as follows:

<b>Apples:</b>	
Cranberries, per bbl. . . . .	11.00
Cranberry, pippin, per bbl. . . . .	4.50 5.00
Greenings, per bbl. . . . .	5.50 6.00
Pewaukies, per bbl. . . . .	4.00 4.50
Mackintosh Reds, per bbl. . . . .	5.50 7.00
Fameuse, per bbl. . . . .	6.00 7.00
Bananas, per bunch .. . . .	2.50 3.00
Grapes, Almeria, per keg .. . . .	5.00 7.50
Do., Jamaica .. . . .	3.00
Lemons, Palermo, per box .. . . .	2.75 3.25
Limes, per box .. . . .	1.75
Oranges, California, Navel, per box .. . . .	2.75 3.50
Grapefruit, Florida and Cuban .. . . .	3.25 3.50
Pears, Winter Nellis, per box .. . . .	4.50 5.00

<b>Vegetables:</b>	
Artichokes, per bag .. . . .	1.25
Beets, per bag .. . . .	1.25
Beans, American .. . . .	1.25

<b>Vegetables:</b>	
Artichokes, per bag .. . . .	1.25
Beets, per bag .. . . .	1.25
Beans, American .. . . .	1.25
Boston .. . . .	1.25
Do., curly, per bag .. . . .	1.25
Onions, Spanish, per case .. . . .	5.75 6.00
Potatoes, Quebec, per 80 lb. bag .. . . .	1.80
Do., Green Mountains, per 80 lb. bag .. . . .	1.90
Do., Sweet, per basket .. . . .	2.25
Parsley, per doz. bunches .. . . .	0.50 1.00
Salsify, per doz. bunches .. . . .	0.60
Turnips, per bag .. . . .	1.00
Tomatoes, hothouse, per lb. . . . .	0.25 0.30

## FLOUR, CEREALS AND MILLFEED.

The flour business is very quiet at the present time. Mills are generally working on old orders, but it is only a matter of time when they will feel the lack of new business coming in during the past few weeks. This lack of activity will tend to decrease supplies of millfeed for which there continues to be a good demand at constantly increasing prices. Shorts are particularly sought after.

As regards export business the week seems to have brought us no farther on. There appears to have been no lack of cables and letters on the interesting topic of straight run flour, but the information from the various British houses is so varied and indefinite that some Canadian millers are regarding the solution of the problem as a hopeless task. In any case the greater part of the Canadian export demand, is for army purposes, which is chiefly for white flour the same as previously supplied. There is a certain amount of demand at present, but it is limited by lack of ocean room. Freight rates have advanced 10c, making a current rate of 65c.

Many prominent members of the milling fraternity spent last Wednesday in Ottawa on "important business" and many also came back with nothing but bad humor for their pains. Some of the mills booked orders for white flour from the Government,

but the majority were unwilling to meet the prices offered.

In sympathy with the renewed strength in the market for the raw material, millers advanced the price of spring wheat flour 30c a barrel on Friday last, making \$9.50 for first patents per barrel. Winter wheat flour is very quiet, as practically no quotations are coming in from Ontario mills. Prices are unchanged, but are firm in sympathy with wheat. Rolled oats are in fair demand. Prices are easy though unchanged.

	Montreal.	Toronto.
	Per 96-lb. bag.	
<b>Flour:</b>		
First patents .. . . .	4.75	4.70
Strong patents .. . . .	4.50	4.45
Strong Bakers .. . . .	4.40	4.35
Feed Flour .. . . .	2.85	2.70 2.80
Winter wheat flour, 90 per cent. . . . .	4.10 4.25	....
<b>Cereals:</b>		
Rolled Oats, 90-lb. bag. . . . .	3.40	3.55
Oatmeal, 98-lb. bag. . . . .	3.85	3.90
Graham flour, 98-lb. bag .. . . .	4.90	....
Rolled wheat 100-lb. b. . . . .	3.60	....
Rye flour, 98-lb. bag 3.40	3.55	....
<b>Feeds:</b>		
	Per ton.	
Bran .. . . .	32.00	33.00
Shorts .. . . .	35.00	36.00 37.00
Middlings .. . . .	39.00 41.00	38.00 40.00
Moullie, pure grain grades .. . . .	46.00 50.00	....
Do., mixed .. . . .	44.00 47.00	....
Barley feed .. . . .	41.00	....
Crushed Oats .. . . .	45.00	....
Oatfeed .. . . .	46.00	....
Hay, No. 2 .. . . .	13.00	9.00 10.50

An extra charge of 30c is made for barrels.

## LIVE STOCK.

**MONTREAL:** Although offerings of live stock were heavy at last week's sales, the quality showed a general improvement, which warranted an increase of 50c to 75c per 100 lbs. for choice cattle. Extra choice cattle offered on the market for the Christmas trade, brought as high as \$11.00 per

head. The market shared the same character as the previous week's sales, but the quality was generally better, and the market was more active. Choice cattle were readily absorbed by the market. The market was generally better than usual.

**TORONTO:** Receipts of live stock at the Toronto stock yards last week amounted to 7,000 cattle, 1,175 calves, 13,043 hogs and 2,751 sheep and lambs. The high prices of the week before last induced drovers to go after more Christmas beef cattle, and results proved rather disappointing. Best butchers dropped 25c to 50c, and in some cases medium cattle declined as much as 75c per cwt. Small meats on the contrary were very active and prices for lambs rose to new levels. Choice spring lambs went as high as \$13.25. Calves were steady under a good demand. Hogs advanced 15c to 25c during the week, but were easy at the close.

Current prices are as follows:

	Per cwt.			
	Montreal.	Toronto.	Montreal.	Toronto.
Butcher steers, best .. . . .	9.50	9.75	8.75	9.25
Do., good .. . . .	9.00	9.25	8.00	8.75
Do., fair .. . . .	8.50	8.75	8.30	8.60
Do., medium .. . . .	7.50	7.75	7.50	8.00
Do., rough .. . . .	7.00	7.25	6.25	6.75
Butchers' cows .. . . .	7.50	7.75	7.00	7.25
Choice .. . . .	7.00	7.25	6.50	6.80
Do., good .. . . .	6.50	6.75	5.00	5.50
Do., fair .. . . .	6.00	6.25	5.00	5.50
Butcher bulls, best .. . . .	8.25	8.50	7.25	7.50
Do., good .. . . .	7.75	8.00	6.00	6.50
Do., medium .. . . .	7.25	7.50	5.40	5.80
Canners' cattle, bulls .. . . .	5.50	5.75	4.10	4.30
Do., cows .. . . .	4.50	4.75	....	....
Heavy Sheep .. . . .	8.25	8.50	7.50	8.50
Light Ewes .. . . .	8.75	9.00	8.50	9.50
Culls .. . . .	7.75	8.00	3.00	5.00
Lambs .. . . .	12.50	13.50	8.50	13.25
Calves, milkfed. . . . .	10.00	11.00	11.00	12.00
Do., grassfed. . . . .	6.50	7.50	5.00	6.00
Hogs, selects, weighed off cars .. . . .	12.90	13.00	....	12.25
Do., heavy weights .. . . .	12.50	12.60	....	12.00
Sows .. . . .	10.90	11.00	....	....