

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report reads: The wholesale trade are now slackening off, and most of them have taken advantage of this quiet season to take stock and balance their books. From the reports we have heard so far, they seem to be satisfied with the results. The dry goods trade are in receipt of quite a number of sorting orders, but most of the travellers are in off the road. In the hardware trade the principal features are the reduction in the prices of lead products, and an advance in tin products; the volume of trade is very fair.

There is quite an active trade doing in wholesale grocers' holiday supplies. Live hogs have advanced 25c to 50c, and dressed hogs 75c to \$1.00 per hundred pounds. Storage eggs declined two cents per dozen, but new laid eggs are scarce. There has been more activity in the poultry trade; turkeys have advanced 2c to 3c per pound. Large offerings of butter from the West caused a weaker feeling in the market, and prices declined fully one cent per pound.

The demand of leather is only moderate. While there is more activity in the boot and shoe trade, business is still on the quiet side.

The Canadian Railways have placed an embargo on shipments of Canadian baled hay to the United States, owing to the steady increasing scarcity of foreign freight cars. Large quantities of hay are here awaiting shipment.

The retail trade are doing a very large business, most of the buyers are doing their Christmas shopping early. Remittances are good, city collections are still slow, but show some improvement.

### COUNTRY PRODUCE.

#### BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending December 15th, 1917, were 1,774 packages, which show a decrease of 1,471 packages as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 1,567 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts from May 1st to date show a decrease of 145,791 packages as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. Although oleomargarine is now on the market it has little effect on the demand for finest creamery butter, the trade in which was good in a wholesale jobbing way. The market for butter was quiet during the early part of the week, but on Friday, at the auction sale held at the Board of Trade a little competition developed, and the price for the same was bid up 13c per lb. over what was paid at the previous sale. At Gould's the offerings for the week amounted to about 600 packages, which were sold at prices ranging from 39c to 42c per lb. as to quality f.o.b. country points.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.42½	0.43
Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.41½	0.42
Current receipts, creamery	0.40	0.41
Finest dairy	0.37	0.38
Lower Grades	0.35½	0.36

#### CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending December 15th, 1917, were 3,235 boxes, which show a decrease of 7,030 boxes as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 2,589 boxes with the same week last year, and the total receipts from May 1st to date show a decrease of 390,776 boxes as compared with the same period in 1916. Although there was some demand for small lots of finest old stock there was little business done in cheese last week. 1,500 boxes of cheese arrived at Gould's Cold Storage, and were sold at 20¼ per lb. f.o.b. country points. The Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese	21¼c
No. 2 cheese	21¼c
No. 3 cheese	20¾c

#### EGGS.

The receipts of eggs for the week ending December 15th, 1917, were 1,488 cases, as compared with 5,620 for the previous week, and 421 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st to date were 296,786 cases, as against 621,981 for the same period in 1916. A strong feeling developed in the U.

S. markets for storage eggs last week, and prices scored an increase of 5¼c to 6¼c per dozen. This led to a firmer feeling for storage eggs on the Montreal markets where prices increased 1c to 2c per dozen. The demand for storage steadily improved during the week. Prices of strictly new laid and fresh eggs remained firm as there was good enquiry for such goods.

We quote current prices as follows:

Strictly new laid eggs	0.60	0.65
Fresh eggs	0.54	0.55
Fall fresh eggs	0.50	0.52
Selected cold storage	0.45	0.45
No. 1 cold storage	0.41	0.41
No. 2 cold storage	0.37	0.38

### POULTRY.

The dressed poultry trade showed a very firm tone last week, and prices generally scored an advance. Supplies came forward freely and the demand throughout the week was good, and a brisk trade was done. Sales of some extra choice lots of turkeys were made as high as 34¼c per lb., but the bulk of the sales were at 33c to 34c, and some fancy lots of chickens were sold at 28c with the average quality of stock bringing from 22c to 27c.

We quote prices as follows:—

Turkeys, per lb.	0.33	0.34
Chickens, per lb.	0.22	0.27
Fowl, per lb.	0.19	0.23
Ducks, per lb.	0.26	0.27
Geese, per lb.	0.22	0.23
Live chickens, per lb.	0.18	0.25
Live ducks, per lb.	0.24	0.25
Live geese, per lb.	0.20	0.21

### BEANS.

A fair amount of trade was done in beans in a wholesale jobbing way and prices remained firm. Sales of choice handpicked pea beans were made at \$9 per bushel.

We quote prices as follows:

Can. 3-lb. pickers	8.00	8.25
Can. 5-lb. pickers	7.50	7.75
Yellow eye beans	7.00	7.25

### POTATOES.

Potato prices decreased last week 5c to 10c per bag, due to the unsettled feeling which prevailed in the market caused by the fact that a few car loads of potatoes were frozen and arrived in a bad condition, due to being delayed on the way. Car lots of Green Mountains were quoted at \$1.90 to \$2 per bag of 90 lbs., and in a wholesale jobbing way sales were made at \$2.10 per bag of 80 lbs. ex-store.

### LOCAL GRAIN.

Oats displayed some strength on the Winnipeg option market early in the week, and prices scored an increase of 2½c to 3¼c per bushel, the December options selling up to 81c and May to 82¾c, but at this level there was considerable liquidation on the part of long holders and this coupled with the weakness which developed in the Chicago market had a depressing tendency on Canadian values and the course of the market was downward for the balance of the week, but prices closed about 1c to 1¼c higher than last Saturday. A fair trade was done on spot during the week, but the market closed easy with No. 3 Canadian western quoted at 89c, extra No. 1 feed at 89c, No. 1 feed at 84½c, No. 2 feed at 82c, Ontario No. 2 white at 83c, and No. 3 white at 82c per bushel, ex-store. There was a fair demand for oats en route from the west, and a number of cars were placed. Fluctuations in grain to-day were:—

Oats:		per bushel.
No. 2 C.W.	0.79%	
Do., No. 3 C.W.	0.76%	
Do., Extra No. 1 feed	0.73%	
Do., No. 2 feed	0.70%	
Barley:		
No. 3	1.31	
No. 4	1.26	
Rejected and Feed	1.13	
Flax:		
No. 1 N.W.C.	3.06	
No. 2 C.W.	3.01	
No. 3 C.W.	2.84	

### LOCAL FLOUR.

The demand from local and country points for flour continues good and the market is active with a large volume of business passing. The trade for export was not large, as millers have already sold their surplus output for December and January. Prices of winter wheat flour have advanced, and the market rules very firm.

#### MILLFEED.

Pure grain moultries show an advance of from \$1 to \$2 per ton, due to the keen demand and the steady upward tendency of values of all coarse grains. The market for shorts also displayed further strength.

#### ROLLED OATS.

A stronger feeling developed in the market for rolled oats, and prices further advanced 30c per bag.

We quote current prices as follows:

Flour:		per barrel.
First patents	11.60	
Second patents	11.10	
Strong clears	10.90	
Cereals:		
Rolled oats, 90 lb. bag	5.10	5.36
Feed:		per ton.
Bran	35.00	37.00
Shorts	40.00	42.00
Middlings	48.00	50.00
Moullie, pure grain grades	61.00	63.00

### RECEIPTS OF GRAIN IN WINNIPEG.

The receipts of grain in Winnipeg for the week ending December 13th, and the week previous were:

	Same	
	W'k end. Dec. 6.	W'k end. Dec. 13, last year.
No. 1 Hard	11	4
No. 1 Northern	1,825	1,153
No. 2 Northern	796	545
No. 3 Northern	598	330
No. 4 Wheat	206	136
No. 5 Wheat	133	79
No. 6 Wheat	97	63
Feed Wheat	37	12
Rejected	75	55
No. Grade	121	103
Winter	5	8
Special	0	0
Totals	3,802	2,486
Oats	1,144	865
Barley	223	164
Flax	202	117

### RECEIPTS OF GRAIN AND FLOUR.

The receipts of grain and flour in Montreal for the week ending December 15th, were:

Wheat, bushels	273,804
Oats	63,038
Barley, bushels	21,785
Buckwheat	1,200
Corn	.....
Flax	.....
Flour, sacks	10,634
Hay, bales	18,875
Straw, bales	1,489

### LOCAL STOCKS OF GRAIN IN STORE.

The following table shows the stocks of grain and flour in store in Montreal on the dates mentioned:

	Dec. 15,	Dec. 8,	Dec. 11,
	1917.	1917.	1916.
Wheat, bush	4,335,379	4,212,566	1,131,658
Corn, bush	12,237	14,825	8,439
Peas, bush	.....	.....	3,396
Oats, bush	377,242	371,511	5,324,164
Barley, bush	164,966	97,394	107,556
Rye, bush	20,968	22,397	167
Flax, bush	17,321	10,280	4,319
Flour, sacks	25,216	34,427	22,904

### CANADA'S CROP VALUES.

Canadian crops in 1917 have for the first time in value in excess of \$1,000,000,000, the total of \$1,089,687,000 comparing with \$886,494,900 in 1916, and \$825,370,600 in 1915, an increase of 22 per cent over 1916 and of 32 per cent over 1915. The total includes \$451,874,000 for wheat, against \$344,096,400 in 1916.