

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

The wholesale situation is much the same as it has been for sometime past. The uncertain weather is retarding agricultural operations both here and in the west with the result that trade in general is somewhat slow. Dry goods houses report the receipt of a few orders while hardware dealers say that business is improving if somewhat slowly. With the erratic markets in grain, spot dealers say that trade is practically at a standstill and that until rational values are reached there will be practically nothing doing. The Eastern Township Dairymen's Exchange opened for the first time this season last Saturday and offerings, which were small commanded prices much in advance of those prevailing a year ago. Sugar is again a factor in the market, the additional 25c raise which took effect last week has curtailed the consumption somewhat. The flour situation is also quiet, little trade passing on account of the increased prices of both spring and winter wheat grades. Live stock is about the same as for the past few weeks with the exception of hogs which are soaring. Boot and shoe dealers seem to be well supplied and manufacturers report a dullness. Paint and oil houses are doing a good trade with prices firm.

Dealers are finding it very difficult to secure coloured cotton goods as well as imported woollens, the local mills apparently not being able to attend to the demand. Potato supplies have fallen off and wholesalers have advanced prices. Montreal is experiencing a decided shortage of tomatoes jobbing houses saying that the New York demand is taking up all available supplies from the south. Export trade is practically nil with the exception of grain and lumber for the British Government. Black and sole leather seems to be picking up and the trade is reported as much improved with a corresponding increase in prices. Bradstreet says that remittances are good with city collections fair and that the retail trade has not been as brisk as it might be owing to the bad weather conditions.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER: The Eastern Townships Dairymen's Exchange opened for the first time this season last Saturday and prices realized were about 10c. higher than those of a year ago. The offerings were small, being only 227 packages, mostly taken up by local jobbing houses, only one lot of 25 packages going for export. Quotations were 42½c. to 43½c. per lb.

New milk butter is coming in a little more freely, but it will be some weeks before the supply will be large enough to cause a decided drop in prices. The easy tone of the market during the past week had its effect on the price, and heavy offerings of under-grade creamery beat down quotations to 38c., although the best new milk creamery remained steady at 42c. to 42½c. There is a good steady demand for the new butter, but the cold weather has restricted the flow of milk so that supplies from the west must keep the east in butter for some time yet. Finest fall creamery is selling for 40c. to 42c., while Ontario creamery is only realizing 38c.

CHEESE: Local dealers expect lower prices to prevail in cheese very soon, as they anticipate a big increase in the make, owing to better weather and road conditions, thereby allowing more milk to reach the factories, a number of which have opened up since the beginning of the month. Present prices remain the same as for some time past, and the market, while quiet, is firm. England expects that the maximum price fixed there will be lowered, and if this is done, it will have its effect here. Export trade is picking up slightly with the easier feeling in the ocean freight situation.

Current prices follow:

Butter:		
Choice Fall Creamery Solids	0.42	0.42½
Fine Fall Creamery	0.40½	0.41½
Winter Creamery	0.38	0.40
Fresh Creamery	0.41½	0.43
Finest Dairy Butter	0.35	0.36
Fine Dairy Butter	0.33	0.34
Undergrade Dairy	0.32	0.33
Cheese:		
Finest Western	0.23½	0.24½
Fine Eastern	0.27	
Winter Make	0.24	0.24½
Winter Make	0.23	0.25
City Selling Prices to grocers:		
Large	0.26½	0.29
Twins	0.26½	0.28

Quebec Cheese	0.25½	0.26½
Canadian Strong Cheese	0.27	
Roquefort	0.65	
Do. No. 2	0.44	

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

EGGS: The market for eggs is considerably easier, and dealers report buying in the country at 30c., with the expectation that this price will ease off another cent before the week is over. There is no shortage whatever, as local supplies are increasing, while there are several cars on their way east from points in Manitoba. Chicago prices are high, but this is due to speculation, as it is well known that dealers do not care to put their money into eggs at high prices. The general opinion is that if trading in futures was stopped by the United States Government, prices would decline to a proper basis of value. At present eggs are about 10c. per dozen higher than they were at this time last year. Reports from the country are to the effect that the number of laying fowls is as great as last year, and so a big increase in the receipts of eggs is anticipated soon.

POULTRY: The demand for dressed poultry is good and requirements are being filled from storage. There is a little live poultry arriving. The fact that the Jewish holidays are over has brought the market down a certain extent.

MAPLE PRODUCTS: The weather during the past week has been unfavorable for good syrup making, as the days have not been as sunny as is necessary for a big run of sap. Makers are hoping for better weather, and dealers expect that deliveries of this wholesome and healthy article of food will come in, in larger quantities.

POTATOES: Prices are a little higher this week owing to small supplies in sight. Green Mountains are selling for \$3.25, while Quebecs are commanding \$3.15.

BEANS: With decreasing supplies and no prospect of a betterment, prices have advanced. Ontario beans are almost exhausted, handpicked bringing from \$8.00 to \$8.25.

Eggs:		
New laid	0.34	0.35
Poultry—Live:		
Fowls, 5-lb. and over	0.20	0.23
Fowls, small	0.18	0.20
Fresh Killed Poultry:		
Turkeys	0.32	0.33
Old Turkeys, cocks	0.27	0.28
Fowls, hens	0.20	0.21
Do., roosters	0.17	0.18
Chickens	0.22	0.23
Do., crate fattened	0.25	0.28
Squabs, per pair	0.35	0.45
Geese	0.18	0.19
Ducks	0.21	0.22
Maple Products:		
Pure maple syrup, quart cans	0.40	
Pure maple syrup, 9-lb. tins	1.10	1.20
Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins	1.30	1.45
Pure maple sugar, per lb.	0.12	0.13
Honey:		
Buckwheat, 5-10 lb. tins	0.12	
Clover, in comb	0.16	0.18
Do., in 5-10 lb. tins	0.11	0.15
Potatoes:		
New Brunswick, Delawares, 90-lb. sacks	3.10	
Quebec's, 90-lb. bags	3.00	3.15
Green Mountains	3.25	
Beans:		
Can. hand-picked car lots, per bu. ..	8.00	8.25
Yellow eyes	7.50	
Rangoon	7.00	7.50

MONTREAL PRODUCE RECEIPTS.

Receipts of the principal commodities at Montreal for the past two weeks follow:

	—Week ending—	
	April 14.	April 7.
Wheat, bushels	380,633	90,834
Oats, bushels	439,524	102,857
Barley, bushels	124,115	3,596
Flour, sacks	19,499	16,669
Hay, bales	5,206	5,076
Corn, bushels	3,555	11,608
Flax	2,856	5,727
Straw, bales	456	540
Peas, bushels	1,941	22,732
Butter, packages	4,131	1,993
Cheese, boxes	3,430	1,770
Eggs, cases	15,406	12,943

Alberta Cattle Breeders' Association adopted a resolution appealing for wider markets through the lifting of the British embargo against Canadian cattle.

How the Markets Stand

Both sugar and flour are attracting attention as far as price advances are concerned. Sugar is selling at \$8.25 per 100-lbs. an increase of 25c having been made last week. Flour in both spring and winter wheat grades has advanced, the former selling at \$11.50 for first patents and the latter at \$9.50 to \$9.80 per bbl. Rolled oats has also made a slight advance while feeds are up \$1.00 per ton all around. Butter shaded off a ½c and prices are expected to be much easier soon.

All pork products have advanced in sympathy with the continuing higher price of hogs which are selling at \$16.70 to \$17.00. Fruit prices with the exception of lemons which are selling for \$4.00 to \$4.50 per box, have not changed from quotations of the past few weeks. New cabbage has been received and is selling for \$7.50 per bbl.

Tomatoes are very scarce and dealers are asking \$8.00 to \$9.00 per crate. Eggs have not receded much from the former week's quotations but dealers expect that the continued increase supplies will cause the market to drop. Poultry both line and dressed remains at former figures. Maple products are not coming in, in as great quantities as the demand calls for and prices are up a little in consequence. Potatoes and beans have both advanced, smaller supplies in sight being the reason in both cases. The local cash grain market seems to know no limit, following the example of the markets of Winnipeg and Chicago. Fish prices remain the same as last week with a dull market due to the falling off of the demand after the Lenten season.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

Some dealers are selling new beets, carrots, potatoes, peppers, spinach and lettuce, but prices are erratic and optional. It has been practically impossible to get tomatoes in Montreal during the week, the New York demand taking up the usual supplies from Florida and California. A few crates have been received and are selling at from \$8.00 to \$9.00. The hothouse variety remains steady at 25c per lb. New Cabbage is selling at 7.50 per bbl. Turnips have advanced slightly as also have onions. Louisiana strawberries are selling at 16c a pint. Fruit prices, with the exception of lemons which are up to \$4.00 and \$4.50 per box, remain at about former figures.

Current quotations are as follows:

Fruit:		
Baldwins, per bbl.	7.00	7.50
Cranberries, per bbl.		9.00
Cranberry pippin, per bbl.		5.00
Fameuse, per bbl.		7.00
Russels	5.50	7.00
Spies, per bbl.	7.50	8.50
Bananas, per bunch	2.75	3.00
Grapes, Almeria, per keg		8.50
Grapefruit, Florida and Cuban	4.00	6.00
Do., Jamaicas	3.50	4.00
Lemons, California, box	4.25	4.50
Do., Messina	3.25	3.75
Oranges, California, Navel, per box ..	3.25	3.50
Do., Valencia	5.00	5.50
Pears, Winter Nellis, per box		5.00
Pineapples, Cuban		5.00
Do. Porto Rico	4.00	4.50
Vegetables:		
Artichokes, per bag	1.25	
Beets, per bag	1.50	2.00
Beans, American, per hamper		5.00
Brussels Sprouts, per qt.	0.15	0.25
Cabbage, Montreal, per bbl.		7.00
Do., New		7.50
Carrots, per bag		1.50
Cauliflower, California, per doz.		3.50
Celery, Florida, per crate		6.00
Do., California, per crate		9.00
Endive (Canadian) bunch		0.25
Garlic, lb.		0.12
Horse Radish, per lb.		0.25
Leeks, doz. bunches		3.00
Boston Lettuce, head, per box		4.00
Do., curly, per doz.		0.75
Mint, doz.		0.50
Onions, Spanish, per case		8.00
Do., red, per 75 lb. bag.		7.50
Do., white, per 100 lb. bag		6.00
Potatoes, Quebec, per 80 lb. bag.	3.00	3.10
Do., Green Mountains, per 80 lb. bag ..		3.25
Do., Sweet per basket		3.75
Parsley, per doz. bunches		0.50
Rhubarb, doz.		1.50
Turnips per bag		1.25
Tomatoes hothouse, per lb.		0.25
Florida, per crate		8.00
Watercress, doz.		0.50
Strawberries, per pint		0.16