

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

We quote Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report as follows:

Business has been quiet since the holidays as buyers are operating cautiously, owing to the uncertainty of prices. Some large shipments have been made to the Northwestern Provinces by the dry goods trade.

The weather so far this winter has been mild for this Province, and coal dealers declare that hundreds of thousands tons of coal have been saved. The coal situation is changing rapidly; instead of dealers being besieged by the public begging for coal, the trade will have to go out this year and solicit their orders.

Employment agencies report that there are more laborers offering their services than jobs can be found for them, and consequently lower scale of wages are looked for.

Canadian banks have opened up quite a number of new branches lately. A very important meeting of the Montreal Stock Exchange is called for Monday next to consider the question of minimum prices.

There has been more activity in the real estate market; advices from the West state that some big land deals have been put through at from \$45 to \$70 per acre. The estimated value of the field crops in Canada last year amounted to \$1,383,000,000 against \$1,144,636,450 last year and \$886,494,900 in 1916.

The Government have agreed to pay their present prices on hay up to the 15th of this month, and it is fully expected that after that date lower prices will prevail.

The retail trade have had a good week, cheap sales being the important factor in all the large departmental stores. Collections are reported good.

LIVE STOCK.

At Montreal the tone of the market for cattle has been strong, and prices generally scored an advance of 50c. per 100 lbs., which was attributed to the falling off in receipts. The trade was fairly active, and all offerings quickly cleared. There was no further change in the prices for lambs, but the undertone of the market was strong, owing to the small offerings.

The trade in sheep was quiet, and prices were unchanged. The market for milk-fed calves was stronger, and prices scored an advance of \$1 per 100 lbs. The hog market was strong, and prices have scored a further use of 25c. to 40c. per 100 lbs. owing to the continued keen demand from packers.

We quote prices per 100 lbs. as follows:

Cattle—

| | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|
| Choice steers | 13.00 | 13.50 |
| Good steers | 12.50 | 12.75 |
| Fairly good | 12.00 | 12.25 |
| Fair | 11.50 | 11.75 |
| Medium | 11.00 | 11.25 |
| Light steers | 10.50 | 10.75 |
| Other grades | 8.50 | 9.50 |

Cows—

| | | |
|--------------|-------|-------|
| Choice heavy | 10.00 | 10.50 |
| Choice light | 9.50 | 9.75 |
| Good | 9.00 | 9.25 |
| Fair | 8.50 | 8.75 |
| Medium | 7.75 | 8.25 |

Bulls—

| | | |
|--------|------|-------|
| Choice | 9.50 | 10.00 |
| Good | 9.00 | 9.25 |
| Fair | 8.50 | 8.75 |
| Medium | 8.00 | 8.25 |
| Common | 7.50 | 7.75 |

Calves—

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| Choice milk-fed stock | 14.00 | 15.00 |
| Good | 12.00 | 13.00 |
| Stall-fed, choice | 8.00 | 9.00 |
| Lower grades | 5.00 | 7.00 |

Hogs—

| | | |
|------------------|-------|-------|
| Selected lots | 19.00 | 19.25 |
| Sows | 16.00 | 16.25 |
| Stags | 15.00 | 15.25 |
| Sheep and lambs— | | |
| Ontario lambs | 13.00 | 13.50 |
| Quebec lambs | 12.00 | 12.50 |
| Culls | 11.00 | 11.50 |
| Ontario sheep | 7.50 | 8.00 |
| Quebec sheep | 6.00 | 7.00 |

At Toronto the common stocker trade was moderate and butchers' cattle prices were unchanged. The canner trade was not particularly active. The market was strong, prices ranging up to \$17.50 per cwt. Lambs and sheep held steady. In hogs a fairly large offering brought \$18.25, fed and watered.

Toronto quotations as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|
| Extra choice steers | 13.75 | 15.00 |
| Choice steers | 12.25 | 13.00 |
| Butchers, choice, handy | 10.50 | 11.75 |
| Do., good | 9.50 | 10.75 |
| Do., medium | 7.75 | 8.75 |
| Do., common | 6.75 | 6.75 |
| Butchers bulls, choice | 9.25 | 10.75 |
| Do., good | 8.00 | 8.00 |
| Do., medium | 6.50 | 7.00 |
| Butchers choice cows | 9.50 | 11.00 |
| Do., medium | 7.50 | 8.50 |
| Do., common | 5.50 | 5.75 |
| Feeders | 9.00 | 10.00 |
| Butchers choice cows | 9.25 | 10.75 |
| Do., medium | 7.50 | 8.50 |
| Do., common | 6.00 | 6.75 |
| Short keep feeders | 9.50 | 11.50 |
| Cutters | 5.75 | 6.25 |
| Canners | 5.75 | 6.00 |
| Springers | 9.50 | 14.00 |
| Milkers, good to choice | 90.00 | 130.00 |
| Do., common and medium | 65.00 | |
| Calves, very choice | 17.00 | 17.50 |
| Do., medium | 14.00 | 15.00 |
| Do., common to fair | 5.50 | 9.00 |
| Do., heavy, fat | 8.00 | 9.50 |
| Light lambs per cwt. | 15.75 | 16.00 |
| Heavy lambs | 14.00 | 14.50 |
| Butchers sheep | 9.75 | 11.00 |
| Do., fat and medium | 7.00 | 8.00 |
| Do., culls | 4.00 | 6.00 |
| Hogs, fed and watered | 18.25 | |
| Do., off cars | 18.50 | |
| Do., f.o.b. | 17.50 | |
| Hogs, at country points | 17.50 | |

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The trade in butter during the week has been quiet owing to the fact that the demand for supplies from outside and local buyers has been somewhat limited, and principally for small lots to meet immediate wants, of which supplies were ample to meet all requirements.

We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Finest creamery | 52½c to 53½c |
| Fine creamery | 51½c to 52½c |
| Finest dairy | 44c to 45c |
| Fine dairy | 40c to 42c |

CHEESE.

There were no new developments in the cheese situation during the week. The receipts have been small.

The following prices are being paid by the Commission:

| | |
|--------------|------|
| No. 1 cheese | 25c |
| No. 2 cheese | 24½c |
| No. 3 cheese | 24c |

EGGS.

A much stronger feeling has prevailed in the local market for eggs this week, and prices for cold stor-

age stock have advanced 2 to 3c per dozen, and values for strictly new laid have reacted all they lost a week or ten days ago.

We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Fancy new laid eggs | 77c to 80c |
| Strictly new laid | 72c to 75c |
| Cold storage selects | 56c to 57c |
| Cold storage No. 1 | 52c to 53c |

POULTRY.

There has been no important change in the condition of the market for dressed poultry during the week. The receipts of fresh-killed stock have been small. The trade in cold storage stock has been more active, there being an improved demand from all sources for supplies.

We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Choice turkeys, per lb. | .42c to .43c |
| Lower grades | .32c to .33c |
| Milk-fed chickens | .32c to .33c |
| Ordinary chickens | .24c to .29c |
| Fowl | .24c to .28c |
| Geese | .25c to .26c |
| Ducks | .32c to .34c |

POTATOES.

The tone of the market for potatoes has been remarkably steady, and prices show no important change as compared with a week ago. The demand in a wholesale, jobbing way has been fairly good, and a steady trade was done.

LOCAL GRAIN.

There was no important change in the condition of the local market for American cash corn, prices having ruled steady. In the early part of the week the Winnipeg option market for oats displayed strength and the May future advanced 83¼c., but during the latter half weakness prevailed and prices receded, closing at about the same level as a week ago.

LOCAL FLOUR.

The flour situation is in a very unsatisfactory condition at present owing to the embargoes on shipments to many points in Canada placed on by the railway companies, the discontinuation of the operations by the Flour Department of the Wheat Export Company for the time being, the very large stocks held by Canadian spring wheat millers, and the fact that many of the mills have discontinued milling for the present on account of the above conditions. This state of affairs has created an uncertain feeling in the domestic market.

SUBSTITUTES.

Some holders of white corn flour have disposed of their stock for export account at \$8.90 per barrel, in bags, ex-track, St. John, N.B., while others are still holding small lots for domestic consumption at \$9.60 to \$9.80 per barrel, in bags, delivered to the trade.

MILLFEED.

The feature of the week in millfeed has been the increased demand for shorts, and a number of car lots were bought at \$42.50 to \$43 per ton, ex-track. The trade in other lines has been rather quiet, but as the offerings were not large, prices have ruled steady.

ROLLED OATS.

The domestic trade in rolled oats is dull on account of the fact that buyers in most cases have ample supplies on hand to meet their requirements, and are not disposed to provide for future wants, as the general feeling is that prices will go lower later on.