

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Following the quiet period that always occurs after the holiday activity, a brisker feeling is becoming apparent in all lines of trade. Collections on the whole are good and money is moving freely. Dry goods houses report satisfactory returns from their salesmen who are on the road with samples of spring goods. Supplies of cotton fabrics are reported as satisfactory, but the problem of obtaining wools for the autumn trade is becoming increasingly difficult. Printed cottons have advanced in price and wadding is up 2 cents a pound. Furs are pretty well cleaned up for the season, and the leather trade, prices continue to advance. Shoe and shoe makers in many cases appear to have laid in large stocks on the advancing market. Leather skins have advanced and now realize \$3.80. In the hardware trade supplies are short in many lines, particularly in the case of cutlery where prices have advanced materially. Changes in price are also noted in all lines of heavy hardware and builders' supplies. General foundry men are not very busy, and the movement in pig iron is comparatively light. In grocery circles, the outstanding feature is a decline of 10c a cwt. on sugar in sympathy with the quiet market in New York. Excellent crop reports come from Cuba and the Southern States, and a very heavy yield is anticipated in view of the larger acreage under cultivation this year. Flour is firm in sympathy with wheat. Millers have advanced \$1.00 a ton. The recent embargo on freights west of Fort William seriously hampered many lines of trade last week causing many flour mills to close down temporarily. The embargo is now lifted and trade is again moving in its accustomed channels. Outgoing ocean freights are also very difficult to obtain as the Government has requisitioned 85 per cent of available space. This is greatly hindering export trade, particularly in cheese and flour.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

EGGS: The market for new laid eggs remains steady. Supplies are not very large as cold weather prevails all over Ontario and Quebec and seems to have curtailed production. Last time last year we were receiving fully four times as many as we are now. Storage eggs are higher in price. Chicago houses are quoting around 45c to 50c and Canadian dealers state they will soon have to buy in that market to replenish their stocks.

POTATOES: There is no change to note in dressed potatoes. A slight rise in price is expected in the spring. A good demand for potatoes is reported.

BEANS: The market for beans is quiet. A few hundred tons of beans are expected to be landed in the spring. The market for beans is quiet. A few hundred tons of beans are expected to be landed in the spring. The market for beans is quiet. A few hundred tons of beans are expected to be landed in the spring.

POTATOES: An advance of 10c was noted during the week on potatoes, owing to heavy buying in this market on the part of American operators. Receipts have almost dropped to nil owing to the cold weather, total receipts for the week at Montreal amounting to only 16 bags.

Eggs:
Special New Laid .. 0.60
Extras .. 0.45
No. 1 .. 0.42

Poultry—Live:

	per pound.
Fowls, 5 lbs. and over ..	0.20 0.21
Fowls, small ..	0.17 0.18
Fresh Killed Poultry:	
Turkeys ..	0.29 0.30
Old Turkeys, cocks ..	0.27 0.28
Do., Roasting ..	0.29 0.30
Fowls, hens ..	0.17 0.18
Do., roosters ..	0.15 0.16
Chickens ..	0.21 0.22
Do., Crate fattened ..	0.23 0.24
Squabs, per pair ..	0.55 0.43
Geese ..	0.16 0.17
Ducks ..	0.17 0.18

Maple Products:

Pure maple syrup, quart cans ..	0.40
Pure maple syrup, 9-lb. tins ..	1.00
Extra choice syrup, 12-lb. tins ..	1.25
Pure Maple sugar, per lb. ..	0.12 0.14

Potatoes:

Green Mountains, per bag of 80 lbs. ex-track ..	2.05
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Do., to jobbers, ex-store, per 80 lb. bag ..	2.40
Quebec's, per bag of 80 lbs. ex-track ..	1.95
Do., to jobbers, ex-store, per 80 lb. bag ..	2.25
Beans:	
Can. hand-picked ear lots ..	6.75 7.30
Three-lb. pickers ..	6.50 6.65
Five-lb. pickers ..	6.00 6.25
Six to seven-lb. pickers ..	5.00 5.90

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER: A fairly good trade in butter was reported last week, both on local Montreal account and for shipment to outside points. Prices for choice full make in round lots ranged from 42c to 44c, winter creamery bringing 33c to 41c as to quality. Production is at a very low ebb as is always the case at this season, the receipts for the past week amounting to only 1,451 packages. Advances from England report a somewhat easier feeling in butter, with no actual change in prices to note.

CHEESE: The cheese market is very strong in sympathy with the advancing prices quoted by the Liverpool public cable, which have continued to rise steadily of late until finest Canadian white is quoted at 14 1/2s, and colored at 14 3/4s as we go to press. Monday. These are record prices in the cheese trade. Owing to the small amounts of cheese coming forward and the fact that stocks held in store in Montreal are almost all held for the Government or Old Country firms, the export trade is mainly for American cheese at the present time. Of the receipts of cheese at Montreal the greater part are from the United States. There has been a certain amount of business put through for export in New York State and Wisconsin cheese, lack of freight space being a deterrent factor. No freights are offering for London or Avonmouth, the only available space being to Glasgow and Liverpool. This of necessity is very limited as the Government has requisitioned 85 per cent of all cargoes for some time past, leaving only 15 per cent for all regular merchandise. Rates remain unchanged, however, at \$1.50 per 100 lbs., although New York and Boston quote \$2.00.

Butter:
Choice Full Creamery Solids .. 0.43 0.43 1/2
Winter Creamery .. 0.42 0.42 1/2
Cheddar Creamery .. 0.40 0.41 1/2
Dairy butter .. 0.37 1/2 0.38

City Selling Prices to grocers:
Creamery Solids .. 0.44 0.45
Do., Prints .. 0.45 1/2
Do., No. 2 .. 0.43
Do., Prints .. 0.42 1/2

Cheese:
Finest Western .. 0.25 0.25 1/2
Fine Eastern .. 0.24 0.24 1/2
Winter Make .. 0.20 0.22

City Selling Prices to grocers:
Stilton Cheese .. 0.26 0.27
Lancashire .. 0.25 0.26
Twins .. 0.25 1/2
Quebec Cheese .. 0.24
Canadian Strong Cheese .. 0.25 0.26
Roquefort .. 0.65

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

FRUIT: Trade in fruit is showing more activity than has been the case of late. Lemons are firmer, an advance of about 75c a box being recorded at shipping points which will be reflected in this market in a week or ten days when present holdings are used up. Oranges are similarly situated, as the frosted fruit on the California market is getting pretty well cleaned up and about 50c to 75c more is being asked for sound goods. Apples are moving more freely and a strong market is reported, as stocks held are very light this year. Only small quantities of Nova Scotia apples are arriving owing to the shortage of refrigerator cars, and the danger of frost in the box cars. Spies are in good demand and prices have increased to \$8.50 to \$9.00 a barrel. Bananas are firm with no change in price to note. Cranberries are a little cheaper, selling at \$9.00 to \$11.00 a bbl.

VEGETABLES: A keen demand is reported in this market for such root vegetables as turnips, carrots, onions and potatoes from American and Western Ontario buyers. Shipments of cabbage are being made to New Orleans, and New York and Detroit are buying up turnips and potatoes. Potatoes are also going to Bermuda as the crop on the islands does not mature for about two months yet. Spanish onions are scarce and reds are slightly higher. California celery has been arriving in poor condition of late owing to the difficulties of transportation in this weather. Florida stock is just beginning to arrive, but this grade is never considered equal to good California celery.

Current quotations are as follows:

Fruit:	
Cranberries, per bbl.	9.00 10.50
Cranberry pippin, per bbl.	5.00
Greenings, per bbl.	5.50
Pewaukies, per bbl.	4.00 4.50
Mackintosh Reds, per bbl.	5.50 7.00
Fameuse, per bbl.	5.00 6.00
Spies, per bbl.	8.50 9.00
Bananas, per bunch ..	2.50 3.00
Grapes, Aimeria, per keg ..	5.00 7.50
Grapefruit, Florida and Cuban ..	3.25 3.50
Do., Jamaica ..	3.00
Lemons, Palermo, per box ..	2.75 3.50
Oranges, California, Navel, per box ..	2.75 3.50
Peas, Winter Nellis, per box ..	4.50 5.00
Vegetables:	
Artichokes, per bag ..	1.25
Beans, per bag ..	1.25
Beans, American, per hamper ..	4.00 4.50
Brussels Sprouts, per qt.	0.18 0.20
Cabbage, Montreal, per bbl.	4.50 5.00
Carrots, per bag ..	1.00
Cauliflower, California, per doz.	3.00
Celery, Florida, per crate ..	5.00
Do., California, per crate ..	9.00 9.50
Horse Radish, per lb.	0.20
Boston Lettuce, head, per box ..	1.75
Do., curly, per doz.	0.75
Onions, Spanish, per case ..	5.75 6.50
Do., red, per 75 lb. bag ..	3.00 3.50
Potatoes, Quebec, per 80 lb. bag.	2.25
Do., Green Mountains, per 80 lb. bag.	2.40
Do., Sweet, per basket ..	2.50
Parsley, per doz. bunches ..	1.00
Salsify, per doz. bunches ..	0.50 1.00
Turnips, per bag ..	0.25 0.30
Tomatoes, hothouse, per lb. ..	0.25 0.30
Cuban, per crate ..	6.00

FLOUR, CEREALS AND MILLFEED.

The flour trade is showing somewhat more activity after the dull holiday season, and considerably more business could be put through if it were not for the hindrance caused by congestion in both ocean and railway freights. Many mills in the West were forced to close down last week for several days owing to the railway embargo, but latest advices report business again on a normal basis with railway freight service unrestricted from January 22. Several of the mills report large offers from their correspondents in the United Kingdom which they have been obliged to refuse owing to the impossibility of obtaining transportation. Wherever space was secured good sized sales, amounting from 12,000 to 15,000 sacks were put through for February-March shipment, at freight rates from 55c to 65c per 100 lbs. No change has taken place in the price of flour, but a firmer feeling is apparent in sympathy with the higher level of the wheat market.

The trade in winter wheat flour is also more active, and the market is firm although prices as yet show no change. Quotations from the Ontario mills show a tendency to advance and higher prices in this market are predicted for the near future in view of the fact that when winter wheat was selling in November at the same price as it is to-day the flour was bringing \$4.75 to \$4.95, as compared with \$4.10 to \$4.25 to-day.

Millfeeds are strong and the price of bran and shorts have advanced \$1.00 a ton. Farmers appear to be feeding their cattle heavily during the cold weather and hence a larger demand than usual, especially for shorts. Straight car lots of feed are still selling at a premium of from one to three dollars a ton.

Roller oats have been very unsettled during the past week, some of the mills cutting prices down to \$3.25 a bag. A good demand is reported, however, and the market for the raw material is as strong as ever.

Current quotations are as follows:

	Montreal.	Toronto.
Per 95-lb. bag.		
Flour:		
First patents ..	5.00	4.95
Second patents ..	4.75	4.70
Strong Bakers ..	4.65	4.60
Feed Flour ..	2.85	2.70 2.80
Winter wheat flour, 90 per cent.	4.10 4.25	
Cereals:		
Roller Oats, 90-lb. bag ..	3.50 3.60	3.60
Oatmeal, 98-lb. bag.	3.85	3.90
Graham flour, 98-lb. bag ..	4.95	
Do., 100-lb. bag.	3.60	
Rye flour, 98-lb. bag ..	3.75 4.00	
Feeds:		
Bran ..	33.00	34.00
Shorts ..	36.00	38.00