

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: Communication in the country parts is getting more settled after the late stormy spell, and travelers are moving more freely, and with generally good results. With the advancing year wholesale trade is showing more expansion, and money is coming in freely, complaints on this score being remarkable for their absence.

Dry goods men are looking for a busy year, retail stocks, except with some of the larger city concerns, are not all heavy, and there is a general active inquiry for all lines of goods, some of which are bound to be in limited supply. Textile manufacturers are all busy, and cotton mills are making free deliveries, but some of the knitting mills are behind hand in this respect.

Boot and shoe manufacturers are not over-busy as yet, and are not present buyers of leather to any extent.

Travellers in the fur manufacturing line are already out for next season's orders, but it is yet too early to report on results. It appears to be the impression that the high values in this line have about reached the maximum.

Staple lines of groceries are moving out steadily. All three sugar refineries are now on the same basis, quoting \$8.40 factory for standard granulated in bags, and the probabilities of anything like a sugar famine are now regarded as somewhat remote. Latest quotations for fancy Barbados molasses are about 80 cents laid down cost. Total local stocks would probably not exceed 300 to 400 puncheons, and no new crop is likely to arrive before April, present shipping facilities with the island being very limited. The sale of canned goods is somewhat circumscribed by the high prices. Prunes will likely rule higher, as the American Government is reported a heavy buyer for army ration purposes. Teas continue to rule strong, and no shipments from Colombo are reported since December 5th. Fair sales are reported of oleomargarine, but butter shows an advancing tendency. New laid eggs are still in light supply, and command fancy figures.

Lumber dealers report improved conditions, and anticipate an active business this year.

For the week eight district failures are reported, with liabilities of \$229,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal trade report says:—

The great source of worry in the wholesale trade is the congestion of freight, both coming and going. The exports of bacon last month amounted to only 5,579,800 pounds against 24,677,700 for the same month last year. It has been suggested that the consumption of bacon be prohibited in order to supply the army.

Under the order of the Food Controller, Canada is soon to have standard flour and standard bread. The butter market has again advanced owing to the majority of the supplies held here being shipped to the other side. Advances ranging from ten to twenty-five per cent is noted in all grades of farm machinery.

There has been quite a drop in the price of hides. Boot and shoe manufacturers state that prices of manufactured articles have reached their highest level, the tendency of the market is for lower prices. A large collection of raw furs from Canada will be sold at the New York fur sales to be held in that city next week.

It is reported that there is very little grain now held in the great terminal elevators at the head of the lakes. Proposed changes in the license act will be a big loss to brewers, if it is carried through. The Government now have the matter under consideration.

Owing to the high cost of building materials, there has been very few new houses put up during the past year, and with the prospect of increased taxation facing them, landlords are compelled to advance their rents, which will be in the neighborhood of ten per cent, which will cover the extra cost for repairs and taxes.

Weather conditions being better this week, has improved the retail trade. Remittances are coming in satisfactorily, city collections show a slight improvement.

## LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL.—The receipts of livestock for the week ending January 26th, amounted to 1,750 cattle; 1,700 sheep and lambs; 2,225 hogs, and 400 calves. Cattle prices continued strong throughout the week, as the supply of good stuff was never large, and the demand was active. The offerings of suitable stock throughout the country are limited, and drovers are experiencing difficulty in buying at reasonable figures. The market for small meats remained unchanged. Supplies were small and the demand good, so prices were very firm. The market for hogs developed a slightly easier tone, and prices decreased 25c per 100 lbs., which was attributed to the weaker tone of the market at other Canadian centres. However, as supplies were not plentiful at Montreal, the decline was less than at other centres.

We quote Montreal prices as follows:

Steers, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice .....	\$12.50	\$13.00
Good .....	12.00	12.50
Fairly good .....	11.50	11.75
Fair .....	11.00	11.25
Light steers .....	10.50	10.75
Common .....	9.00	10.00
Butchers' bulls—		
Choice .....	10.00	11.00
Good .....	9.50	9.75
Medium .....	9.00	9.25
Common .....	7.50	8.50
Butchers' cows—		
Choice heavy .....	10.50	11.50
Good .....	10.00	10.25
Medium .....	9.50	9.75
Light weights .....	8.50	9.00
Canners' cattle—		
Bulls .....	7.00	8.00
Cows .....	6.00	7.00
Sheep, per 100 lbs.—		
Ewes .....	12.50	13.00
Bucks and culls .....	11.50	12.00
Ontario lambs .....	16.50	17.00
Quebec lambs .....	15.50	16.00
Calves, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice milk-fed stocks .....	14.00	15.00
Good milk-fed stock .....	12.00	13.00
Grass-fed calves .....	6.00	10.00
Hogs, per 100 lbs.—		
Selected lots .....	19.25	20.25
Sows .....	16.75	17.25
Stags .....	13.00	15.00

TORONTO.—The receipts of livestock at Toronto, for the week ending January 26th, 1918, amounted to 6,641 cattle, 502 calves, 12,815 hogs and 1,280 sheep and lambs. The easing in the transportation situation led a decline in prices of hogs and cattle, on Monday, and Wednesday prices of cattle declined still further. A fairly steady trade was done in all grades of cattle and the hog market was active throughout the week.

We quote Toronto prices as follows:—

Choice export steers .....	\$12.50	\$12.50
Butchers' choice handy .....	10.50	11.00
Do. good .....	9.75	10.25
Do., medium .....	8.75	9.35
Do., common .....	8.15	9.35
Butchers' bulls, choice .....	10.50	11.50
Do., good .....	8.50	9.50
Do., medium .....	6.25	7.25
Butchers' cows, choice .....	9.00	10.50
Do., good .....	8.25	8.75
Do., medium .....	7.50	8.00
Stockers, good .....	9.00	9.50
Do., medium .....	8.00	8.50
Canners .....	5.00	5.40
Milkers, good to choice .....	90.00	125.00
Do., common and medium .....	65.00	85.00
Calves, veal, choice .....	14.00	16.50
Do., medium .....	6.00	6.50
Do., common .....	6.00	7.00
Do., heavy fat .....	8.00	10.50
Spring lambs, cwt. .....	18.00	18.75
Sheep, ewes, light .....	9.00	15.00
Do., heavy and bucks .....	7.50	9.50
Do., culls .....	4.00	5.50
Hogs, fed and watered .....	18.50	....
Do., off cars .....	18.75	....
Do., f.o.b. .....	1.50	....
Less \$1 to \$2 on light or thin hogs; less \$3 to \$3.50 on sows; less \$4 on stags; less 50c to \$1 on heavies.		

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

### BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending January 26th, 1918, were 3,613 packages which show an increase of 2,371 packages as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 2,299 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917 to date, show a decrease of 144,169 packages as compared with the corresponding period last year. Last week the butter market developed a strong undertone and prices scored a further advance of 1/2c to 1c per lb., and greater increases are indicated. The trade has been fairly good with sales of some round lots including two or three full cars for both local and outside account. Stocks on spot are steadily decreasing, and the finest creamery is becoming scarce. The demand for dairy butter has increased and sales of some fair sized lots of finest were made at 39c to 40c per lb. The tone of the market for oleomargarine lots also displayed some strength and prices for some brands have been marked up 1c per lb., the range now being from 30c to 33c per lb. as to quality.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest Sept. and Oct. creamery .....	0.47	0.47 1/2
Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery .....	0.46	0.46 1/2
Current receipts, creamery .....	0.45	0.45 1/2
Finest dairy .....	0.38	0.39

### CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending January 26th, 1918, were 1,592 boxes, which show an increase of 182 boxes as compared with the previous week and a decrease of 828 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date show a decrease of 351,387 boxes as compared with the corresponding period last year. The receipts of cheese were slightly larger last week. The demand was fairly good, and sales were made on the basis of 20c per lb. f.o.b. country points.

The Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese .....	21 1/2c
No. 2 cheese .....	21 1/4c
No. 3 cheese .....	20 3/4c

### EGGS.

The receipts of eggs for the week ending January 26th, 1918, were 2,019 cases as compared with 1,913 for the previous week, and 677 for the same week a year ago. The total receipts since May 1st, 1917 to date, were 306,439 cases, as against 628,429 for the same period last year. The undertone of the egg market continues strong, although there has been no change in prices, but the impression is that unless the supplies increase, prices will go higher. The markets for storage eggs rule strong and sales of the best grade were made at Toronto as high as 55c per dozen, but the top price realized in Montreal was 52c. Canadian stocks are low, and are being depleted for shipment into the United States. The trade on spot was active throughout the week.

We quote current prices as follows:

Strictly new laid eggs .....	0.70
Fresh eggs .....	\$.58
Fall fresh eggs .....	0.52
Selected cold storage .....	0.48
No. 1 cold storage .....	0.45

### POULTRY.

A stronger feeling developed in the market for all grades of dressed poultry and prices scored further advances during the week. The receipts are small for the time of the year, and stocks in storage on spot are also smaller than is usual as the surplus stocks were marketed much earlier in the season.

We quote prices as follows:

Turkeys, per lb. ....	0.35	0.36
Milk fed chickens .....	0.35	0.36
No. 1 chickens .....	0.32	0.33
Choice fowl .....	0.27	0.28
Ducks, per lb. ....	0.29	0.30
Geese, per lb. ....	0.27	0.28

### POTATOES.

Supplies of potatoes, coming forward are small, due to the continued cold weather and the scarcity of cars, consequently stocks on spot are getting low and prices are firmly maintained. The demand in a wholesale jobbing way has been good and an active trade was done with sales of Green Mountains at \$2.25, Ontario white stock at \$2.15, and reds at \$2.05, per bag of 80 lbs., ex-store.