

THE GRAIN MARKETS.

In spite of wide fluctuations during the week, wheat quotations show an advance of 8% in Chicago, and 7% in Winnipeg, since our last report. Closing quotations are: Chicago \$1.88 for May, and Winnipeg \$1.91. The market was bearishly influenced on Thursday and Friday by peace rumors and the submarine menace. To-day (Monday) and Saturday the renewed strength was apparent as a result of the belligerent announcement from the German Emperor and the course of the Senate in dealing with President Wilson's appeal to the European combatants. Judging from the present firmness of the market, the trade seems to have come to the conclusion that even in the event of peace, prices are bound to be high in view of the requirements of the Central European nations, and this, notwithstanding the large stocks of wheat which Russia is said to hold.

Official representatives of the Allied Governments have been heavy buyers during the past week. Although the English Government has furnished millers in the old country with sufficient wheat for present needs, private advices say that stocks are growing smaller and smaller, and that supplies are inadequate. Indian and Australian offerings are tightly held, and the same applies to the Argentine. Primary receipts in the United States and Canada are decreasing and visible stocks are also lower, both bullish factors. Large shipments are expected in the near future from gulf ports such as Galveston and New Orleans, where the number of vessels is said to be ample. The car situation also shows signs of improvement.

Corn is very firm, closing Saturday at \$1 for May delivery in Chicago, the highest price since 1892. Heavy purchases for Europe and light stocks are said to have caused the present strength in the situation. Oats have also followed the advance in other grains owing to Government purchasing. The big stocks in sight are, however, acting as a deterrent, and the advance on oats has therefore been less prominent than on other grains. Another cargo of barley is reported to have been sold last week for shipment by way of American ports. Light stocks in Eastern channels are preventing further large business that would otherwise be put through. No activity in rye.

Current cash prices are as follows:

Grains:	per bushel.	
Spring Wheat Manitoba, No. 1		
Northern	2.10	
Do., No. 2	2.07	
Do., No. 3	2.04	
Do., No. 4	1.85	
Winter Wheat Ontario, No. 2	1.74	1.76
No. 3	1.72	1.74
Oats,		
No. 2 C. W.	0.71	
Do., No. 3 C. W.	0.69	
Do., Extra No. 1 feed	0.69	
Do., No. 1 feed	0.68	
Do., No. 2 feed	0.67	
Ontario Oats, No. 2 white	0.64	0.66
Do., Oats, No. 3 white	0.63	0.65
Barley, No. 3 C. W.	1.18	
Do., No. 4	1.08	
Do., Feed	1.00	
Corn, American, ex-track	1.15	

WINNIPEG GRAIN INSPECTIONS.

The receipts of grain at Winnipeg for the week ended January 6, 1917, compared with last week and the corresponding week a year ago were as follows:

	This week.	Last week.	Last year.
No. 1 Northern	210	277	....
No. 2 Northern	565	436	....
No. 3 Northern	568	462	....
No. 4 Northern	285	267	....
No. 5 Northern	160	120	....
No. 6 Northern	111	74	....
Feed Wheat	62	65	....
Rejected	43	43	....
No. grade	566	427	....
No. 4 Special	112	92	....
No. 5 Special	51	76	....
No. 6 Special	32	36	....
Winter Wheat	2	....	....
Totals	2,772	2,315	2,605
Oats	944	794	705
Barley	93	114	136
Flax	128	90	70

RECEIPTS OF BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS.

The following table shows the receipts of butter, cheese and eggs in Montreal for the week ended January 6th, with comparisons:

	Butter, Pkgs.	Cheese, boxes.	Eggs, cases.
Week ended Jan. 6, 1917..	1,758	3,994	1,007
Week ended Dec. 30, 1916..	1,608	3,181	899
Week ended Jan. 8, 1916..	1,002	5,191	3,659
Total receipts May 1, 1916,			
to Jan. 6, 1917	492,927	2,216,549	626,732
Total receipts May 1, 1915,			
to Jan. 8, 1916.....	392,060	1,988,913	109,342

MONTREAL GRAIN STOCKS.

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

	Jan. 6 1917.	Dec. 30, 1916.	Jan. 8, 1916.
Wheat, bushels	812,309	865,725	1,467,140
Corn, bushels	12,740	12,745	8,452
Peas, bushels	2,482	1,449	1,396
Oats, bushels	5,210,261	5,346,726	1,901,095
Barley, bushels	136,060	132,654	53,920
Rye, bushels	7,287	5,292	22,815
Buckwheat, bushels	6,684	6,684	6,770
Flour, sacks	31,665	29,097	45,876

MONTREAL DAIRY STOCKS.

The following table shows the stocks of butter, cheese and eggs in store in Montreal on the dates mentioned:

	Jan. 2, 1917.	Dec. 1, 1916.	Jan. 2, 1916.
Butter.			
Creamery, pkgs.	59,553	76,268	64,871
Dairy, pkgs.	1,625	1,908	4,713
Cheese, boxes	64,784	91,460	53,309
Eggs.			
Fresh, cases	701	911	852
Cold storage	30,707	55,220	31,074

ENGLISH STOCKS OF CHEESE.

The following table shows the stocks of Canadian and New Zealand cheese in the leading English markets on the dates mentioned:

	Canadian.		
	Jan. 1, 1917.	Dec. 1, 1916.	Jan. 1, 1916.
Liverpool	63,000	52,000	48,683
London	81,000	118,000	74,000
Bristol	29,000	30,000	48,000
	New Zealand.		
	Jan. 1, 1917.	Dec. 1, 1916.	Jan. 1, 1916.
London	1,000	25,000	14,000

MONTREAL PRODUCE RECEIPTS.

Receipts of the principal commodities at Montreal for the past week follow:

	Week ending Jan. 6, 1917.
Wheat, bushels	82,202
Oats, bushels	42,271
Barley, bushels	20,959
Flour barrels	11,060
Eggs, cases	1,007
Butter, packages	1,758
Cheese, boxes	3,994
Potatoes, bags	1,512
Hay, bales	27,704

FRENCH WHEAT CROP ESTIMATES.

The French wheat crop is estimated by the National Miller's Association of Paris at 5,700,000 tons. This amount with the existing stock gives a total available of 6,400,000 tons, and as the annual consumption is 9,200,000 tons, the deficit to be made up by importation is nearly 3,000,000 tons, or about 99,500,000 bushels.

ARGENTINE GRAIN ESTIMATES.

An official report places the final yield of wheat at 76 million bushels, against 184 million bushels last year; oats, 35 million bushels, against 80 million. There will be practically nothing for export, as old reserves and new crop will be about sufficient for home needs and small quantities for Brazil.

EFFECT OF PEACE ON SUGAR TRADE.

There is no hesitation in the minds of the people of the Allied nations that we are fighting the war with a definite object in view, and therefore peace under present circumstances is as impossible as it would be intolerable. On the other hand the recent diplomatic discussions have aroused the interest of neutrals to such a degree, that the prospects of an early peace is a decided factor in all speculative trading, and as such its effects are being discussed in American Sugar circles.

Some authorities take the view that peace may be a better bull aid for sugar than the continuance of the war. It is pointed out that if the efforts to bring about peace are unavailing, the belligerents must economize in every direction, and with so much tonnage tied up for military purposes, neutrals also will undoubtedly be affected, which probably will result in more sugars being available than the world is able to handle under the restricted conditions. On this account, values will, of course, suffer. If, on the other hand, peace is declared, but not so early as to enable the European Continental countries to get in their spring plantings, it is highly probable that the general demand from all parts of the world, where, unquestionably, stocks would be at a minimum, will tend to uphold values, although the sentimental effect of peace will no doubt have a depressing effect, which, however, will doubtless be eliminated upon sober reflection, and when the general demand from the world becomes apparent.

BANNER LIVESTOCK YEAR.

More livestock was marketed in Chicago in 1916 than in any previous year, according to the annual report of the Chicago Union Stockyards recently made public. The report asserts that the marketing during the year amounted to \$509,620,023. The year's total marketings were \$138,681,867 greater than in 1915, and more than \$100,000,000 in excess of the record of the banner year of 1913. New price reports in all classes of livestock were set during the year, the report stated. Fat beef steers averaged \$9.50 per 100 lbs.; calves, \$10.85; hogs, \$9.60; sheep, \$7.85; and lambs, \$10.75; Horses averaged in price \$181 per head.

War demand was an important factor in the 1916 cattle market, according to the report packers having contracts with practically every warring European country, which they were unable to meet fully because of shipping conditions.

WHEAT RESERVES IN UNITED KINGDOM.

According to recent compilation reserves of native wheat in the United Kingdom on December 1, allowing on the one hand for the smaller yield this year, and on the other hand for the much larger quantity of old wheat brought forward for the 1915 crop, amounted to about 5,200,000qrs., against 6,400,000qrs. last year, making a total supply of English and Foreign Wheat of 7,700,000qrs., against 7,800,000qrs. at this time in 1915. Invisible reserves of Foreign Wheat are believed to be fully as large as at the same time last year.

CANADA OUTDISTANCES ROME.

We do not pretend to compete with the classic city in many points, but at least we are paying more for our flour, although we are one of the great wheat producing countries of the world. A recent despatch announces that the price of flour in Rome has increased to 22½ per cent. This works out to \$4.32 in Rome as compared with a present price in Canada of \$4.90 and a high point of \$5.30 touched in November last.

ANOTHER JUTE CARGO LOST IN MEDITERRANEAN.

The loss of another jute laden steamer in the Mediterranean was reported in New York last week. The vessel sunk was the Oronsay, bound for Dundee with 24,000 bales of jute from Calcutta. There was also on board 600 bales of gunnies.

Importers believe that this loss, added to those of the last few months, must place Dundee manufacturers in a most serious position. It is also understood that the British commandeering of burlap production at that center, originally reported as limited to six weeks from January 1, is likely to extend beyond that time and probably will affect shipments to the United States for four or five months.