

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade. The country is again being favored with fine seasonable weather; and while some frost damage is reported to tender garden stuff in exposed and northern mountainous districts, as the result of the late cold spell, general crop prospects continue of a favorable character.

City retail trade has benefitted by the fine warm weather, and both local and country payments may be classified as good, while only one small failure is reported in the district for the week.

Dry goods men report a fair proportion of sorting business and travellers are still sending in liberal orders for fall lines. All textile plants continue to be busily employed.

General business in the boot and shoe line is of a moderate character only. As noted last week, the Government has given out some contracts for army footwear. These aggregate in all 340,000 pairs, half British pattern and half Canadian pattern. Some 90,000 pairs have been awarded to Montreal manufacturers, the balance being pretty well scattered among firms in Quebec City and the West. There is such difficulty in getting supplies of kid and other light leathers from United States manufacturers, and in this connection it is interesting to note that the American Government has issued a ruling restricting the height of women's shoes to eight inches, and also limiting the number of shades to a few standard colors.

Fur manufacturers report some few cancellations of orders from far western sections, where crop conditions are not altogether promising, but the volume of business is generally reported as satisfactory.

In the grocery trade there is a fair steady distribution, and no notable variations in values. Sugars are steady at old quotations, with sufficient supplies assured for preserving and general purposes. Some first shipments of new pack high grade salmon are to hand, and command fancy prices, being quoted at \$15.75 to \$16 a case. The limitation of the coffee imports to 70 per cent. of the average will no doubt lead to higher prices. Quite a noticeable decline is reported in the prices of hogs and cattle.

City trade in tools and structural hardware is light, owing to the general cessation in building operations, but business in general hardware with the country is good. Paint manufacturers keep busy.

Bradstreet's Montreal weekly trade report says: The wholesale trade has been very good. Dry goods houses state that retailers are continuously looking for supplies; as a rule the goods are all sold before they get into the stock at all, and then the wholesale trade have not sufficient to satisfy the demand. There is no such thing as repeating a line at prices previously paid; if one is fortunate enough to get orders repeated, it is usually at an advance of ten per cent. or more. The scarcity of woollens and worsteds has caused some anxiety in the garment manufacturing trade. The increasing demand for silk is causing a general advance in prices from time to time. Ribbons are also all being marked up in prices.

There is a good demand for summer hardware, such as refrigerators, hay tools, and war garden tools. Window glass has also advanced. The paint trade are at their wits' ends to get raw material; turpentine advanced \$15 per barrel.

It is reported that hides and skins have been prohibited from leaving the United States, and as a consequence boot and shoe manufacturers are advancing their prices. The leather and hide markets are active at firm prices. The Canadian Government has prohibited the export of leather and hides from Canada until the domestic requirements have been fulfilled. A big whiskey distillery, the largest in Canada, is being turned into a chemical and dye industry, with a capital of half a million dollars.

The sheep industry in the West has grown to such an extent that wool shipments this season will be a hundred per cent. greater than last year. The flax acreage in the western provinces is estimated at over a million acres, from which a good big crop is expected. The rain has helped all our crops. Sixteen million acres of wheat are under cultivation. Wheat in some districts is sixteen to twenty inches high.

There are rumors that a relaxation of rules restricting the training in wheat is likely.

The retail trade have had a busy week, with buyers replenishing themselves with requirements for the country. Remittances are coming in well. City collections are improving.

LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL.—Supplies of cattle were smaller, last week, but as the demand was slow prices ruled lower, a reduction of from 50c to \$1.00 per 100 lbs. being made. Owing to liberal supplies of lambs coming forward and the moderate demand the tone of the market remained weak and prices scored a further decline of 2c per lb. At this reduction the demand was fairly good. A good trade was done in calves and prices were maintained although the supplies were liberal. The market for hogs remained steady and the demand absorbed all the offerings.

TORONTO.—The cattle trade suffered heavy declines during the week, due partly to the fact that the offerings were only of medium quality. During the week the aggregate decline in all grades of cattle amounted to approximately 50c per cwt. The good to choice butchers' and abattoir steers and heifers were off from 15c to 25c per cwt., and the medium and common cattle were off from 25c to 50c per cwt., and in some instances greater declines took place. Calves were steady to strong, sheep sold at lower prices and hogs were steady.

LOCAL FLOUR.

A stronger feeling developed in the local market for corn flour, last week, due to the strength of the American market for cash corn and Canadian millers advanced their prices of such 50c per bbl. and car lots are now selling at \$11.50 to \$11.70 per bbl. in bags ex-track. There has been no change as yet in spot prices for broken lots, but they are very firm, with a steady increasing demand for supplies, and a more active business has been done for domestic and country account at \$12 per bbl. in bags, delivered.

The latest announcement of the Board of Food Control is to the effect that they have not withdrawn rye flour from the list as a substitute, and in consequence there was an improved demand for this grade of flour towards the close of the week, and a better feeling prevailed in the market with sales of broken lots at \$16 per bbl. in bags, delivered, and the inside price car lots are now being offered for July delivery at \$13.20 per bbl. in bags ex-track.

Supplies of barley flour were more plentiful, but prices remained unchanged. The demand for small lots to fill immediate wants, was steady and prices were unchanged with sales at \$13.50 per bbl. in bags, delivered. The trade in Graham flour was quiet at \$11.05 per bbl. in bags, delivered. The prospects are that there will be quite a demand for cornstarch in the near future, as the impression in the trade is that it will make a good blend, but no business has been reported up to the present.

The market for spring wheat flour showed no change. Business for export account was rather quiet at \$10.64 for rail and water shipments, f.o.b. vessel at seaboard ports. The domestic trade has also been quiet, with car lots of Government standard grade for shipment to country points quoted at \$10.95 per bbl. in bags, f.o.b., Montreal, and to city bakers at \$11.05 delivered. At the reduction in prices for winter wheat flour noted a week ago there has been an improved demand, and a fair amount of business was done for July delivery with sales of broken lots at \$11.40 per bbl. in new cotton bags, and at \$11.10 in second-hand jute bags ex-store.

MILLFEED.

The market for pure grain moultrie developed a weaker tone and prices declined \$3 per ton, but at the reduced prices there was an improved demand, the millers say that their output is kept closely sold up at \$67 per ton, including bags. The tone of the

market for pure barley feed was also easier, and prices were \$1 per ton lower, with a steady demand for supplies at \$61 per ton, including bags. Prices for other lines of feed were unchanged, with sales of feed cornmeal at \$68; mixed moultrie at \$51, shorts at \$40, and bran at \$35 per ton, delivered to the trade.

ROLLED OATS.

The trade in rolled oats was very quiet but prices were fully maintained with standard grades of rolled oats in broken lots quoted at \$5.10 to \$5.15 per bag of 90 lbs., delivered. There has been some demand for export account, and sales were reported at \$10, and oatmeal at \$9.80 to \$9.90 per bbl. in bags, f.o.b. vessel at seaboard ports. A fair local business continues to be done in cornmeal, and prices are firm with sales of Golden grade at \$6.25 to \$6.40, and bolted grade at \$4.50 to \$4.75 per bag, delivered.

LOCAL GRAIN.

The strength of the American corn situation which was the feature of interest last week, led to a stronger feeling on the local grain market and prices for available supplies on spot all increased. A fair amount of business was done in all grades for immediate and future shipment from Chicago, and sales of a large number of cars of low grade were made at prices ranging from \$1.15 to \$1.55 per bushel ex-track here. The demand, for oats, from local buyers was better and sales of some fair sized lots were made ex-store, but little business was done for shipment from West owing to the fact that holders here were offering them at lower figures than they could be laid down for based on the prices ruling in the Winnipeg option market. On the other hand the country trade has been very quiet and prices closed steady with car lots of No. 2 Canadian western quoted at 95c, tough No. 2 C.W., No. 3 C.W., and extra No. 1 feed at 82c, No. 1 feed at 90c, and No. 2 feed at 87c per bushel ex-store.

RECEIPTS OF LIVESTOCK.

The receipts of livestock, for the week ending June 29, 1918, at the two Montreal yards amounted to 2,000 cattle, 1,500 sheep and lambs, 2,450 hogs and 3,750 calves.

The receipts of livestock, at Toronto, for the week ending June 29th, 1918, amounted to 5,237 cattle, 1,457 calves, 6,841 hogs, 1,400 sheep and 1,323 horses.

BUTTER AND CHEESE RECEIPTS.

The following table shows the receipts of butter and cheese in Montreal for the week ending June 29th, 1918, with comparisons:

	Butter,	Cheese,
	pkgs.	boxes.
Week ending June 29th, 1918	19,237	87,571
Week ending June 22, 1918	20,068	74,226
Week ending June 30, 1917	16,126	95,331
Total receipts May 1, 1918, to June 29, 1918	123,545	414,638
Total receipts May 1, 1917, to June 30, 1917	107,589	440,178

GRAIN AND FLOUR STOCKS.

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

	June 9, 1918.	June 22, 1918.	June 30, 1917.
Wheat, bushels	2,270,567	3,623,637	1,353,053
Corn, bushels	123,578	108,711	907,329
Peas, bushels	41,230	36,966
Oats, bushels	3,550,183	3,825,521	4,040,315
Barley, bushels	1,323,454	1,067,105	293,283
Rye, bushels	216,607
Buckwheat, bushels	7,465	8,710
Flax, bushels	53,778	24,738
Flour, sacks	28,887	56,340	86,017