

MONTREAL WHOLESALE MARKETS.

Friday, August, 29, 1913

The wholesale trade during the past week has been fairly active and the optimistic feeling prevailing at the present time among retailers and jobbers alike is having the desired effect on all branches of trade. The dry goods houses report the new business coming in as being very satisfactory and are extremely busy making late deliveries. There has been no startling development in the hardware and metal market during the week. Orders, although not large, are coming in freely and a slight advance in the price of copper took place. The approach of the Fall hunting season has created a good demand for arms and ammunition. Canadian wheat has been dull and uninteresting. The export trade in all kinds of grain being very slow. A fair amount of business continues to be done in the local flour market and an advance of \$1. per ton in mill feed took place during the week. The continued good crop reports from practically all over the country and the fact that threshing is now in full swing in the West is having the desired effect and business is rapidly increasing. The outlook on the whole is exceedingly good.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.—Some improvement was manifest in the butter market during the past week. The demand from Vancouver and the northwest shows considerable improvement and several carloads of finest creamery were sold for that account at 24½c. There was considerably more inquiry but prices bid were a little low. The local demand showed some improvement and a good business is reported. Receipts continue fair and prices show an advance of ¼c. a pound all round. We quote:—Finest creamery, 24c. to 24½c.; fine creamery 23½c. to 23¾c.; second grades, 22½c. to 23c.; dairy, 21c. to 22c.

A much better feeling has prevailed in the Cheese Market during the past week owing to the continued good demand from English buyers and to the fact that that supplies on spot are somewhat limited. The volume of business done over the cable during the past few weeks has fallen off a little, but exporters are quite satisfied with the business that has been done. Prices at country points have advanced slightly over the quotations for last week, but on the local market prices are steady. The exports of cheese for last week were 66,265 boxes, showing an increase of 5,848 boxes as compared with the previous week and an increase of 12,917 boxes with the corresponding week last year. Total shipments for the season to date show a decrease of 154,959 boxes as compared with the same period a year ago. We quote:—Finest western colored, 13½c. to 13¾c.; finest western white, 13c. to 13½c.; finest eastern colored, 12½c. to 13c.; finest eastern white, 12¾c. to 12½c.; good seconds, 12¾c. to 12½c.

There is no change to be noted in the market for eggs, the condition being unchanged with prices tending toward a higher level owing to the fact that supplies coming forward are not in proportion to the increased demand. We quote:—Strictly fresh eggs, 32c.; selected C. S. eggs, 29c.; No. 1, Canded eggs, 26c.; No. 2, Canded eggs, 20c.

DRY GOODS.—Business during the past week has been fairly good, practically all the wholesale houses being exceptionally busy finishing up Fall shipments and filling repeats which are coming in at a much more satisfactory rate than heretofore. More confidence is shown by retailers, which is having the desired effect. Many of the travellers are now on their routes and the reports coming in from them authorize the belief that the Fall business will be quite up to the average, although perhaps, a trifle late. The cotton mills are very busy at the present time and are making a strong attempt to catch up on deliveries and fill all orders. The knitting mills are getting out the Fall samples which will be before the trade in the course of the next few weeks. From advices which we have been able to obtain from the

various wholesale houses, it is expected that the business placed with the mills this Fall will be even greater than in previous seasons and the manufacturers are making plans to meet this increased demand for their products. Remittance are showing steady improvement and on the whole the outlook for a most satisfactory Fall business is excellent.

FLOUR MARKET.—There seems to be an easier feeling in the winter flour market which is quite likely due to the anticipation of new crop flour which will soon be coming into the market. In some cases prices have been shaded 10c. to 25c. per barrel. Ontario millers are grinding new wheat but since no supplies have come forward as yet no prices for new flour can be given, but it seems probable that prices will be 20c. to 30c. below that ruling for old flour. The market for spring wheat remain quiet for local trade. A fair business is doing with a good undertone. We quote prices as follows:—Spring wheat grades, patents, firsts, \$5.60; seconds, \$5.10 per barrel, in bags. Winter wheat grades, choice patents, \$5.25 to \$5.50; straight rollers \$5.00 to \$5.10 per bbl. in wood.

GRAIN MARKET.—There has been an increased inquiry from foreign dealers for both old and new crop Manitoba wheat but prices bid are still below prices asked by local exporters and consequently not much business has been worked. The British market for oats is reported firmer but prices bid by importers are still 1c. to 3c. below those asked by dealers here. The local market remains quiet. The prices for oats are shaded ½c. below those of a week ago but the market is now showing a firmer feeling. The prices for barley have declined 2c. per bushel, but this has caused some business to be worked with foreign buyers. The strong feeling in the American corn market is very marked and prices have scored a sharp advance. We quote prices as follows:—Wheat (Winnipeg) No. 1, northern 94½c.; No. 2, northern, 93½c.; No. 3, northern, 88½c.; No. 4, northern, 80½c. Oats, No. 2, C.W., 41c. to 41½c.; extra No. 1 feed, 40½c. to 41c.; No. 1 feed, 40c. to 40½c. Barley, Manitoba No. 3, 55c.; No. 4, 53c.; feed, 50c.; Ontario malting, 62c. to 64c.; Corn, American No. 2 Yellow, 83c. to 84c.

GREEN AND DRIED FRUITS.—Wholesalers report an extremely busy season. This is possibly due to the scarcity of most lines of fruit in this province causing a strong demand for imported supplies from Ontario and other centres. Large supplies are arriving from the Niagara districts and prices vary from day to day and according to quality. We quote prices as follows:—Canadian fruit, peaches, 65c. to \$1.10; plums, 45c. to 85c.; pears, 65c. to 80c.; Canteloupes, \$2.00 per crate; egg plants, \$1.00 per basket; California fruit, pears, \$4 to \$4.25; peaches, \$1.25 to \$1.50; plums, \$2.50; grapes, \$2.75 to \$3; lemons, \$4.50; oranges, \$3.00; grapefruit, \$5 to \$6; limes, \$4; bananas, \$2.00; apples, fancy Duchess, \$5.00 to \$5.50 per barrel. Dates, 6c. to 10c.; Figs, 13c. to 15c.; Evaporated apples, 11c. prunes, 9½c. to 13c. per pound box.

GROCERIES.—Wholesalers report business fair. Collections are slow but improving. This week has seen an advance of 10c. in all lines of sugar with a strong feeling and an upward tendency. Some lines of canned goods coming forward such as peas, strawberries and salmon show that prices are much reduced in comparison with those of last year. Some dealers report a scarcity in green teas. We quote prices as follows:—Granulated sugar in bags, \$4.50; Paris lumps, in 100 lb. boxes, \$5.15; extra ground, in barrels, \$4.90; powdered, in barrels \$4.70; yellow, No. 3, \$4.55; No. 2, \$4.45; No. 1, \$4.15; Teas, Japans, choicest, 40c. to 50c.; fine, 30c. to 35c.; medium, 25c. to 30c.; Ceylon, pekoes, 20c. to 22c.; Coffees, Mocha, 28c. to 29c.; Javas, 30c. to 40c.; Allspice, 13c. to 18c.; Cinnamon, whole, 18c. to 20c.; ground, 16c. to 20c.; Cream of Tartar, 29c. to 32c.; rice, ragoons, \$3.05 to \$3.60; Patna, imported, \$5.37½ to \$5.62; polished \$4.40; tapioca, medium pearl, per lb., 5½c. to 6c.