

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

The holidays affected the volume of business last week to some extent as many of the travellers were off the road, but wholesale houses generally report a good movement for the season. The warmer weather has stimulated inquiry in spring and summer dry goods and an increasing number of repeats are reported. Fall placing business is also holding fair, and in view of the fact that wholesalers have purchased very heavily in fall and winter lines the volume of business is expected to be larger than for the past two years.

The hardware trade is fairly active, the paint and oil business are doing a rushing trade. The scarcity of supplies keeps the leather market very firm under an active inquiry. The hide market is also very firm with a further advance reported in calfskins. The boot and shoe business is showing more activity and prices rule high in sympathy with the high prices paid for the raw material. Some of the more fashionable grades of ladies boots are selling in a retail way as high as twenty dollars per pair.

Refined sugars were again advance 10 cents per 100 pounds by the inland refineries, thereby making a total advance of \$1.10 per 100 pounds since the beginning of the year, and an advance of \$1.10 over prices a year ago. The movement in groceries is well maintained. Dairy produce prices are high due to the extra holiday demand, but a drop is expected.

A feature of the week's trade was the record advance in live stock prices at the Montreal sales. Cattle are ranging very high and other lines are at record levels. Export demand is heavy and it is stated that our supplies are becoming low.

Regarding Western trade, Dun's Review says: "In the Far West and Northwest progress continues, and all indications point to a large spring and summer trade. Winnipeg reports unusually favorable prospects for this period. There is a steadily increasing demand for the principal commodities, notably farm supplies, agricultural implements, dry goods, clothing, footwear, groceries and provisions, and sales, as a rule, in all classes of merchandise make quite a satisfactory comparison with those at this time in the best preceding years. Retail trade is improving at Edmonton, with more settled weather, while wholesalers report a seasonable volume of business, with further improvement from now on expected. Although the backward spring has been an adverse feature at Regina, general trade conditions are improving and wholesalers look for a steady demand for most kinds of merchandise from now on. Business at Saskatoon shows substantial expansion, there being a brisk demand for farm implements, dry goods, groceries and other staples, and merchants regard prospects as being very favorable. The movement of merchandise at Calgary is fully up to normal, with demand in numerous lines decidedly active, and expectations are general that business in all departments will continue to improve. Business at Vancouver compares favorably in volume with that of last year at this time, and the outlook for spring trade appears to be unusually bright."

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER: There is an easier feeling in the butter market notwithstanding the large demand. New butter is now coming in quite freely, with expectations of lower prices. The chief feature of the trade was the opening of the auction sales for the season 1916 by the Quebec Agricultural Co-operative Society, at which a round lot of new-milk finest creamery was sold at 31c and a lot of fine at 30c per lb. The feeling in the country last Saturday was weak, and the offerings on the board at Cowansville were sold at 30½c per lb., which is a decline of 1½c to 1¼c per lb. as compared with a week ago, and 1½c to 1¼c with a year ago. The first session of the St. Hyacinthe board for the season 1916 was held on Saturday, April 22, and the butter offered sold at 30c and the cheese at 17¼c per lb.

CHEESE: The demand for new cheese continues good, but the uncertainty of obtaining ocean freight makes speculative business out of the question. Freight rates are very high, ranging from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per 100 lbs.

Current quotations follow:

Butter—		
Fresh Creamery	0.35	0.35½
Storage	0.34	0.34½
Seconds	0.32	0.32½
Dairy Butter	0.28	0.30
City Selling Prices, to grocers:—		
Choice Creamery Solids	0.35	
Do., Prints	0.35½	
No. 2 Creamery Solids	0.34	
Do., Prints	0.34½	
Choice Dairy Prints	0.32	
Do., Rolls	0.31	
Cooking Butter	0.29	0.30
Cheese—		
Finest Eastern	0.18	0.18½
Finest Western	0.18½	0.19
Fine Cheese	0.17½	0.18
Undergrades	0.17½	0.18½

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

EGGS: This market is a little easier, largely on account of the Easter trade, there being a drop of over 1 cent per dozen, with lower prices expected. Everything depends on the amount of supplies coming forward. Owing to the high prices of all meats, eggs are the cheapest food product at the present time.

POULTRY: There has been a very brisk trade in all kinds of game and poultry during the past week owing to the Easter and Jewish holiday trade.

MAPLE PRODUCTS: Prices of maple syrup and sugar continue steady, with a good demand for supplies, which are coming forward from country points in sufficient quantities to take care of all requirements.

Current wholesale prices follow:

Eggs—		
New Laid	0.25	0.26
Honey:—		
Buckwheat, in combs	0.12	0.13
Buckwheat, extracted	0.10½	0.11
Beans:—		
3-lb. pickers, carlots, bush.	4.00	4.25
3 lb. pickers, do.	3.95	4.15
Undergrades, bus.	3.60	3.70
Potatoes:—		
Green Mountains, per bag, car lots	1.75	1.80
Job lots, ex store, per bag	1.90	1.95
Poultry:—		
Frozen stock—		Montreal.
Turkeys	0.28	0.30
Fowl, large	0.19	0.20
Fowl, small	0.17	0.18
Ducks	0.20	0.23
Geese	0.16	0.17
Roasting chickens, ord.	0.21	0.23
Chickens, milk fed	0.24	0.25
Capons	0.28	0.30
Spring broilers, dressed, pair ..	1.15	1.25
Squabs, Phila., pr.	0.85	0.90
Poultry—Live:—		
Fowl, 5 lbs. and over	0.20	0.23
Fowl, small	0.18	0.19
Turkeys, cocks	0.20	0.21
Do., hens	0.23	0.24
Maple Products:—		
Pure maple syrup, 8-lb. tins	0.85	0.90
Pure maple syrup, 10-lb. tins	1.00	1.10
Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins	1.25	1.30
Pure maple sugar, per lb.	0.12	0.14

CHEESE EXPORTS.

The following are the shipments of cheese from Portland and St. John, N.B., which arrived on the other side for the week ending April 20, 1916.

To	Thro.	Total.
South Africa	2,093	2,093
	2,093	2,093
Same week last year	9,698	9,698
Total exports, May 1, 1915, to April 20, 1916, boxes		2,152,415
Do. corres. period last year		358,299

MONTREAL PRODUCE RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the principal commodities at Montreal for the past two weeks follow:

	Week end.	Week end.
	April 15.	April 22.
Oats, bushels	408,544	386,205
Wheat, bushels	466,802	689,364
Barley, bushels	31,808	12,688
Flour, barrels	47,766	39,619
Eggs, cases	15,858	17,871
Butter, packages	5,134	4,890
Cheese, boxes	3,848	5,229
Potatoes, bags	7,720	8,843
Hay, bales	11,901	13,972

LIVE STOCK.

Record prices obtained at the local live stock sales last week. Cattle were in fair supply, and of better quality than of late, and prices scored a sharp advance on the brisk bidding. On Monday one carload of 21 cattle weighing 27,415 pounds, was sold at \$9.15 per 100 pounds, and prices generally ruled from 40c to 50c above the previous week's quotations. Prices held steady at the Wednesday sales.

Sheep and lambs continue scarce, but the demand is good for what few are offered, and prices are high. Hogs scored another advance to \$12.25 per 100 lbs. at the Monday sales, prices ranging from \$11.75 to \$12.25. The export demand is heavy, and it is expected that present prices will hold for a period.

The arrivals of calves continue in large quantities, but the demand is good, and prices held steady at from \$6 to \$7 a head.

Current quotations are as follows:

	Per cwt.
Butcher steers, best	\$8.90 to \$9.15
Do., good	8.60 to 8.85
Do., fair	8.25 to 8.50
Do., medium	7.90 to 8.15
Do., rough	7.50 to 7.75
Butcher bulls, best	8.00 to 8.25
Do., medium	7.50 to 7.75
Do., common	7.00 to 7.25
Canning bulls	4.25 to 5.25
Butcher cows, best	7.50 to 7.75
Do., good	7.10 to 7.30
Do., medium	6.65 to 7.00
Do., common	6.15 to 6.40
Do., canners	3.25 to 4.00
Sheep	6.00 to 8.50
Lambs	9.00 to 12.00
Hogs, selects, weighed off cars ..	12.00 to 12.25
Do., roughs and mixed lots ..	11.25 to 11.75
Do., common	11.00
Sows	9.35 to 9.90
Calves, milk fed	8.00 to 9.00

FISH AND OYSTERS.

Lent is now over, which will cause a general readjustment in the fish trade. The supply of haddock and cod is very fair, also fresh halibut, there being no frozen halibut left on the market. The season for fresh dore is over, but there are still a few frozen fish left, which will be sufficient until the season opens again on May 15. There has been a fair supply of river fish, such as carp, pike and perch in bunches, and dealers look for a bigger supply this week. The sale of oysters has dropped off very considerably, and as the weather gets warmer the demand will practically cease.

Fresh:—	
Haddock, per lb.	0.06
Steak Codfish, per lb.	0.07
Carp, per lb.	0.10
Lobsters, live, per lb.	0.25
Salmon, Red Cohoes, or Silvers, Round per lb.	0.11
Salmon, Red—Cohoes or Silvers, Dressed and Headless, per lb.	0.12
Halibut, medium, per lb.	0.16
Herrings, medium, 60 lb. per 100 count	2.50
Whitefish	0.14
Pike	0.09
Frozen:—	
Dore	0.10
Whitefish	0.11
Mackerel	0.09
Oysters:—	
Standard Solid Meats—No water.	
No. 5 Can (containing 3 wine gals.	4.25
Ordinary Bulk Oysters, Standards, per Imp. gallon	1.40
Ordinary Do., Selects, per Imp. gallon ..	1.70
Shell Oysters, Cape Cods in large barrels ..	8.00

RECEIPTS OF BUTTER, CHEESE & EGGS.

The following table shows the receipts of butter, cheese and eggs in Montreal for the week ended April 22nd, 1916, with comparisons:

	Butter,	Cheese,	Eggs,
	pkgs.	cases.	boxes.
Week ended April 22, 1916	4,890	5,229	17,871
Week ended April 15, 1916	5,134	3,848	15,858
Week ended April 24, 1915	4,962	3,494	20,862
Total receipts May 1, 1915, to date.	413,529	2,010,826	623,205
period last year.	400,337	1,537,620	468,267