

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: Since last writing the weather has continued remarkably fine, with just a sufficient suggestion of winter in the atmosphere to make people think of their cold weather needs, and retail trade has benefited accordingly. During October city retail trade was somewhat slow owing to the marked prevalence of wet disagreeable weather.

Wholesalers of dry goods, who are preparing for stock taking, report orders and money still coming in freely, but that every mail brings advices from manufacturers of advanced prices or inability to fill orders. Clothing and costume manufacturers are fairly busy, but results for the year will fall short of the average, owing to the prolonged strike of operatives early in the year.

Retailers of boots and shoes are ordering a little more freely, but jobbers are still hanging back, and no great amount of activity is shown among the numerous local factories. Some of them are still pretty well stocked up with material, so that the volume of leather sales is still light. Values, however, are firmly held and tanners predict still higher prices.

The movement in staple groceries is about normal, but the volume of business in dried fruits and Christmas goods will be lighter than usual, owing largely to the difficulty in getting the goods. The same is true of pickles, jams, sauces, etc., of British manufacture. All kinds of canned goods are in light supply and high in price, with tomatoes being jobbed at \$2.65, corn at \$2.50, and other lines at proportionate figures. The sugar situation is adjusting itself satisfactorily, and the shortage scare has practically subsided. Spot stocks of molasses are very low, and prices the highest on record. The rice milling company has announced some modifications of rates. The rebate hitherto allowed has been done away with, but some little reduction has been made in net prices. In general provisions the week shows no marked variations.

The failure list is a remarkably light one, only two district insolvencies being reported for the week, with liabilities of \$31,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: The weather during the past week has been ideal for trade, and has also remedied to some extent, the condition of the country roads. A feature more noticeable than ever throughout the country is the disposition of farmers to speculate in their farm produce, by holding them for higher prices. There is quite a good enquiry for dressed poultry, but so far the receipts have been very light. Live birds are being marketed, but the quality offering is rather inferior, which no doubt is largely accounted for by the high cost of poultry food.

Winter wheat grades of flour advanced fifteen to twenty cents per barrel. Millers are complaining about the high cost of jute bags, which have been steadily advancing. There has been quite a lot of activity in the hay market recently. It is reported that the Canadian Government were large buyers in addition to which there was a big demand for American account.

The fur trade, which has been upset for some months by labor troubles, is now settled down to business again, all differences being adjusted. Wholesale druggists find it difficult to get small bottles, and tins to put up their various preparations, and have been compelled to close down some of their departments. They also find it hard to get supplies of some goods for manufacturing purposes; in some instances they have called in their travellers off the road.

The Victory Loan is the one topic of conversation in all walks of life; it has so far met with great success. The retail trade has shown some improvement. Remittances are coming in well. City collections show a slight improvement.

### LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL.—At the two Montreal stock yards the offerings last week amounted to 4,500 cattle, 4,650 sheep and lambs, 4,400 hogs, and 1,300 calves. Trade in all grades of cattle was slow on the opening market day and prices of canners' cattle declined 25c to 50c per 100 lbs. No actual change took place in the prices for butchers' cattle, but as the offerings were large, and the demand small, the tone of the market

became very easy. It is reported that packers are buying cattle on the Winnipeg market, and this accounts for the slow trade here. Prices of milch cows increased \$10 per head, due to a good steady demand for good milkers and the more or less limited offerings. Sales of choice stock were made at \$135 each, good at \$110 to \$125, and good springers at \$80 to \$100. The falling off in demand for lambs for shipment to American markets continues, and as the offerings were somewhat large, prices showed a decline of 50c per 100 lbs. Even at this price trade was slow. At Wednesday's market, the trade in cattle was fair at prices steady with Monday, and the market for hogs became very firm, although there was no change in prices. The trade in lambs continued very quiet.

#### Quotations:

Butchers steers, per 100 lbs.		
Do., choice	10.00	10.25
Do., good	9.50	9.75
Do., fairly good	9.00	9.25
Do., fair	8.50	8.75
Do., common	7.75	8.00
Butchers' Cows:		
Do., choice	7.75	8.00
Do., good	7.25	7.50
Do., fair	6.75	7.00
Bulls, choice	8.00	8.25
Do., good	7.50	7.75
Do., medium	7.00	7.25
Do., common	6.50	6.75
Canners' cattle:		
Do., bulls	6.25	6.50
Do., cows	0.00	5.25
Sheep and Lambs.		
Ewes	10.50	11.00
Bucks	9.50	10.00
Ontario lambs	15.00	15.50
Quebec lambs	14.00	14.50
Calves, per 100 lbs.:		
Do., choice milkfed stock	13.00	14.00
Do., good milkfed stock	11.00	12.00
Do., Grassfed stock	6.50	10.00
Hogs.		
Do., choice selects	17.00	17.50
Sows	14.00	14.50
Stags	12.00	12.50

TORONTO.—The offerings at the Toronto yards for the week ending November 17th, amounted to: 9,216 cattle, 630 calves, 8,051 hogs, and 7,143 sheep and lambs. Good cattle sold at slightly higher prices at Monday's market, while medium and canners' cattle declined in price. Hogs were steady. On Tuesday, hogs showed an advance and sold at \$17.25 to \$17.40; cattle were steady with choice offerings scarce. On Thursday the demand for hogs was keen at a still further increased price and by Friday prices had again further stiffened, and hogs sold at \$17.75 to \$18.00.

#### Quotations:

Choice export steers	11.50	12.25
Butchers' choice handy	10.25	11.00
Do., good	9.50	10.00
Do., medium	8.50	8.75
Do., common	7.50	8.00
Butchers' bulls, choice	8.00	9.25
Do., good	7.50	8.25
Do., medium	6.25	7.25
Butchers' choice cows	8.25	9.00
Do., good	7.25	8.00
Do., medium	6.50	7.00
Feeders	8.00	9.25
Stockers, good	7.25	8.00
Do., medium	6.50	7.00
Canners	5.00	5.50
Milkers, good to choice	90.00	125.00
Do., common and medium	65.00	85.00
Calves, veal, choice	15.00	15.50
Do., medium	6.00	6.50
Do., common	6.00	7.00
Do., grass	6.00	7.00
Do., heavy fat	8.00	10.50
Spring lambs, cwt.	15.75	16.25
Sheep, ewes, light	10.00	10.50
Do., heavy and bucks	7.50	9.50
Do., culls	4.00	5.50
Hogs, fed and watered	17.75	...
Do., off cars	18.00	...
Do., f. o. b.	16.75	...

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

### BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending November 17th, 1917, were 7,148 packages, as compared with 7,395 packages the previous week, a decrease of 247 packages. The market for butter is in a rather unsettled condition awaiting the effect of the Government's admission of oleomargarine. Offerings from Northwestern Canada continue to come in freely and are the cause of continuance of the lower butter prices which are quoted as follows, wholesale:

Finest Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.45	0.45 1/2
Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.43 1/2	0.44
Current receipts, creamery	...	0.43
Finest dairy	...	0.40
Lower grades	0.37	0.39

### CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending November 17th, 1917, were 34,263 boxes which show a decrease of 1,632 boxes as compared with the previous week when the receipts were 35,895 boxes. Most of the cheese factories are now closed down as the season is drawing to a close.

The Commission is paying the following prices:—

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

### POTATOES.

The receipts of potatoes, in Montreal, for the week ending November 17th amounted to 9,483 bags. The market was steady throughout the week, Green Mountains being sold at \$2.20 per bag of 90 lbs. Prince Edward Island potatoes were steady at \$1.90 to \$2.00, and Ontario white potatoes \$1.80 to \$1.90. Quebec potatoes, quoted at \$1.65 to \$1.80 per bag of 80 lbs., for car lots, were in large supply.

### EGGS.

The receipts of eggs in Montreal for the week ending November 17th, 1917, were 6,790 cases, as compared with 8,097 for the previous week. New laid eggs come in very slowly with the result that dealers can get any prices, in reason, that they ask. The market for eggs for storage account is very easy as the demand for eggs for storage for export has been disappointing of late. This is attributed to the difficulty of obtaining freight. There seems to be a difference of opinion regarding export prices, some shippers claiming they can get 50c to 51c f.o.b. steamer providing freight was obtainable, whilst others claim that their cables will not net them over 47c or 48c f.o.b. steamer.

We quote current prices as follows:

Strictly new laid	0.53	0.55
Selected stocks	0.46	0.47
No. 1 candled	0.42	0.43
No. 2 candled	0.39	0.40

### BEANS.

The market for beans remains steady and prices show no changes.

We quote prices as follows:

Can. 3-lb. pickers	8.50	8.75
Can. 5-lb. pickers	8.00	8.25
Yellow eye beans	7.00	7.25
Japan beans	7.75	8.00

### HONEY.

The market for honey is very quiet, but as stocks on hand are not large prices remain firm.

We quote prices as follows:

No. 1 white clover, in comb	0.21	0.22
No. 2 white clover, in comb	0.19	0.20
No. 1 brown clover, in comb	...	0.19
No. 2 brown clover, in comb	...	0.17
White extracted, in 30-lb. pails	0.17	0.18

### MAPLE PRODUCTS.

No improvement is shown in the demand for maple products and the trade remains quiet with only a few jobbing sales for domestic account.

We quote prices as follows:

Extra choice syrup, 18-lb. tins	1.70	1.80
Choice syrup	1.55	1.65
Good syrup	1.40	1.55