

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: There is now open water to the sea, and the opening of navigation has been practically established by the arrival of a Government ice-breaker on Sunday last. The Soulanges Canal is still blocked by ice, but traffic with the upper lakes is expected to be established in the course of a few days. Roads in the interior are getting settled, the country trade is fairly active, but chilly weather has not been altogether favorable to the city retailer. General remittances are good, and the volume of failures remarkably light, only one minor insolvency being reported in the district for the week.

There have been rumors of possible increased duties on teas and sugars, but thus far there have been no indications of any pronounced tariff changes at the present session of Parliament.

The wholesale movement is just about as last noted. In groceries the distribution is normal, except in sugars, deliveries of which are still limited by refiners to very small proportions. For molasses as high as 90 cents has been paid in a jobbing way. The local milling company has this week established an advance in ground rice. Receipts of butter are more liberal, and some of the late strong advance has been lost. Flour is quoted easier.

Among the boot and shoe factories there is no great activity, and the local demand of leather is light. No. 2 Spanish sole is quoted all the way from 46 to 47 for ordinary manufacturers' No. 2 to 53 to 54 cents for choice plump jobbing selections.

In the dry goods line there is no slackening of activity. Some good-sized shipments from Britain are coming to hand this week, including much wanted lots of woollens, yarns, etc.

In other lines there is nothing specially new.

Bradstreet's Montreal weekly trade report says: Much needed rains fell during the week, but so far there has been very little seeding done in this province. Advices from the West, however, state that seeding is well advanced under increased acreage. In some places it is stated that the crops are above ground. The local grain business is very quiet, as most of the cars that are available are used to ship grain for the Allies. The quantity of grain to go forward this year is much less than it was a year ago.

Wool clipping in the Northwest will commence next month. It is reported that the clip will be much larger than that of a year ago, and that it will be all taken over by the Government.

The highest rate on New York exchange since the war began was recorded this week, when it reached two per cent. Financiers seem to see no relief from the high rate of exchange until this year's grain crop begins to be exported.

The lumber exporters say that it is impossible to export lumber to the English markets, as there is no freight space available, except what is being used by the Allies for war purposes. The rates by water to the United States are very high, being equal to ten dollars per thousand feet from our winter ports, while it is almost out of the question to get rail freights. A good many of our manufacturing industries, especially those working for war purposes, find it necessary to expand the plants.

English advices say that it is so difficult to get jute for manufacturing of carpets that the quality will have to be reduced from three to two strands in the stuffer used on the backs of the carpets. Cotton goods, window blinds, oilcloths and linoleums, cotton gloves, etc., are amongst the articles which have advanced in price during the week. Cigarettes made a substantial advance in prices, and so have also all lines of matches.

Some lines of ladies' boots are being offered by the retail trade at over twenty dollars per pair. Remittances are good, but city collections are still slow. The retail trade has been very fair.

LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL: The receipts of livestock at Montreal's two yards last week were 1,125 cattle, 70 sheep and lambs, 2,000 hogs and 4,800 calves. The supplies of cattle coming forward are not sufficient to meet the demand, but the quality is unusually good and prices remained very firm at Monday's increase. The market for hogs remained unchanged.

The trade in calves was very brisk and prices ruled steady.

We quote the following Montreal prices:

| Steers, per 100 lbs.— | | |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| Choice | \$13.00 | \$13.50 |
| Good | 12.50 | 12.75 |
| Fairly good | 12.00 | 12.25 |
| Fair | 11.50 | 11.75 |
| Light steers | 11.00 | 11.25 |
| Common | 10.00 | 10.50 |

| Butchers' bulls— | | |
|------------------|-------|-------|
| Choice | 11.25 | 11.50 |
| Good | 10.75 | 11.00 |
| Medium | 10.25 | 10.50 |
| Common | 8.50 | 9.50 |

| Butchers' cows— | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| Choice heavy | 11.00 | 11.25 |
| Good | 10.50 | 10.75 |
| Medium | 10.00 | 10.25 |
| Light weights | 9.50 | 9.75 |
| Common | 8.50 | 9.00 |

| Sheep, per 100 lbs.— | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|
| Ewes | 13.00 | 14.00 |
| Bucks and culls | 11.00 | 12.00 |
| Ontario lambs | 00.00 | 17.00 |
| Quebec lambs | 00.00 | 16.00 |

| Calves, per 100 lbs.— | | |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Good milk-fed stock | 11.00 | 12.00 |
| Good | 9.00 | 10.00 |
| Fair | 8.00 | 9.00 |
| Common | 5.00 | 7.00 |

| Hogs, per 100 lbs.— | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| Selected lots | 20.75 | 21.00 |
| Sows | 18.50 | 19.00 |
| Stags | 16.00 | 17.00 |

TORONTO: The run of cattle at the Toronto markets was light, but of very choice quality. Prices made big advances early in the week, and remained strong; calves were steady for choice quality. The offerings of sheep and lambs were very light. Prices of hogs fluctuated, first showing a decline and later an increase of 25c. per 100 lbs.

We quote the following prices for livestock at the Toronto markets:

| | | |
|---|--------|--------|
| Heavy steers, choice | 13.75 | 15.00 |
| Do., good | 13.22 | 13.75 |
| Butchers' steers and heifers, choice | 12.75 | 13.00 |
| Do., good | 11.75 | 12.00 |
| Do., medium | 10.50 | 11.50 |
| Do., common | 8.50 | 10.25 |
| Butchers' cows, choice | 10.75 | 12.50 |
| Do., good | 9.50 | 10.50 |
| Do., medium | 8.25 | 9.00 |
| Do., common | 6.75 | 7.50 |
| Do., canners | 6.00 | 6.25 |
| Butchers' bulls, choice | 10.50 | 11.00 |
| Do., good | 9.25 | 10.00 |
| Do., medium | 8.25 | 9.00 |
| Do., common | 7.50 | 8.00 |
| Feeders, best | 9.50 | 10.75 |
| Stockers, best | 9.50 | 10.00 |
| Grass cows | 7.00 | 7.75 |
| Milkers and springers, choice | 100.00 | 150.00 |
| Do., common to medium | 65.00 | 90.00 |
| Calves, choice | 14.00 | 15.50 |
| Do., medium | 12.10 | 12.50 |
| Do., common | 8.50 | 10.50 |
| Heavy fat | 10.00 | 12.00 |
| Lambs, choice | 19.50 | 21.75 |
| Sheep, choice handy | 13.50 | 16.00 |
| Do., heavy and fat bucks | 11.00 | 12.25 |
| Hogs, fed and watered | 20.50 | 20.75 |
| Do., off cars | 20.50 | 20.75 |
| Do., f.o.b. | 19.00 | 19.25 |

Less \$1 to \$2 on light or thin hogs; less \$3 to \$3.50 on sows; less \$4 on stags; less 50c. to \$1 on heavies.

PROVISIONS.

Live hogs scored a further decline of 25c. per 100 lbs. The offerings throughout the week were of a good quality, and were quickly disposed of. In the trade for dressed meats some lines seemed to be a little easier, while others showed firmer prices. We quote current prices as follows:

| Hams:— | | | Per lb. |
|----------------------------------|------|-------|---------|
| Smoked Hams, 8-10 lbs. | 0.36 | 0.38 | |
| Do., 12-15 lbs. | 0.34 | 0.35 | |
| Do., over 25 lbs. | 0.32 | 0.33 | |
| Bacon:— | | | |
| Breakfast | 0.40 | 0.42 | |
| Windsor Bacon, selected | 0.43 | 0.44 | |
| Windsor Bacon, boneless | 0.44 | 0.45 | |
| Pure Lard:— | | | |
| 20 lbs. pails | 0.31 | 0.31½ | |

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending April 27th, 1918, were 6,576 packages, which show an increase of 3,698 packages as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 1,572 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date show a decrease of 149,353 packages as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. As the weather has become more favorable the new make of butter has steadily increased, throughout to the Dominion which has led to increased offerings. As the consumption of butter is decreasing, due to the fact that oleomargarine is being used in place of it a weaker feeling developed in the market and prices scored a sharp decline. One day last week, at Gould's Cold Storage some 200 packages of creamery butter were offered and sold at 49c per lb. f.o.b. country points, but at the first Quebec Agricultural Co-operative Society sale held for the season 1918 there were 407 packages offered, of which 196 packages of finest sold at 45½c per lb., and at the regular weekly board meeting held at St. Hyacinthe 41c per lb. was guaranteed by buyers with conditions that, if the market here during the coming week warranted a higher figure, the sellers would receive the benefit. There was no regular board meeting held at Cowansville as was expected, but it was reported that sales in that district were made to-day at 44c. The prices for butter realized at the auction sale at Montreal on Friday were 4¼c to 4½c per lb. higher than the corresponding date a year ago.

We quote the following prices:

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| Finest Sept. and Oct. creamery | 0.46½ | 0.47 |
| Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery | 0.45 | 0.45½ |
| Fine dairy | 0.39 | 0.40 |

Margarine:—

| | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| Prints | 0.29½ | 0.34 |
| Bulk | 0.28½ | 0.31½ |

Cottonseed (Shortening):

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Tierces, per lb. | 0.26½ |
| Tubs, per lb. | 0.26½ |
| Pails, per lb. | 0.27 |
| Cartons | 0.28 |

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending April 27th, 1918, were 3,203 boxes, which show an increase of 1,271 boxes as compared with the previous week and a decrease of 6,978 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date show a decrease of 436,090 boxes as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. A few of the country boards held their first meeting of the season and some business was transacted at them. The offerings at Stirling were sold at 21 11-16c per lb. as compared with 25¼c for the same date last year, and at Picton at 22¼c, against 26¼c a year ago. At St. Hyacinthe the price paid was ¾c per lb. higher than a week ago at 20¼c. At Gould's Cold Storage sales were made at 20¼c, but on Friday prices were advanced 1¼c to 1½c per lb. to 21¼c to 21½c. The local trade during the week has been steady, there being a fair demand for small lots and sales of 20-lb. cheese were made at 22¼c to 23c per lb.

The announcement by the Dairy Produce Commission that it would pay for the season's make of 1918 for export 23c per lb. for No. 1 grade f.o.b. steamer at Montreal, 22¼c per lb. for No. 2 grade, and 22c per lb. for No. 3 grade.

The Commission is paying the following prices: No. 1 cheese 0.23 No. 2 cheese 0.22½ No. 3 cheese 0.22

EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending April 27th, 1918, were 14,944 cases, as compared with 17,052 for the previous week, and 12,930 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date