

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report, January 19th, 1918. The heavy snow storms all over the country, has made this city, more or less snow-bound during the past week. Travellers have not been able to make much progress, in the first trip of the New Year. The food controller has as a war measure, the curtailment of the number of calls made by commercial travellers upon the retail grocery trade, opinions favor once a week call in cities and fewer calls in the country, in order to reduce the high cost of food products.

Since September last the prices of refined sugars have been gradually declining, a further decline of ten cents per hundred pounds being noted this week. Notwithstanding the increasing sales of margarine, there is a good demand for butter, and under lighter supplies prices have further advanced. Laundry soaps have advanced about sixty cents per box, and package lye sixty-five cents per box. Self raising flour shows a slight decline. There is an active demand for spring wheat grades of flour for both local and country account, millers are largely oversold on all grades of mill-feed.

The egg trade has been very active, and as supplies are limited, holders were asking higher prices. Dressed poultry is scarce and high prices are realized on all offerings. Small supplies of potatoes are coming forward, and as quantities held here, are limited, holders are asking more money.

Canadian life insurance companies, had a record year during 1917. The retail trade during the past week was not so active, due no doubt to the inclement weather. Remittances are good, but city collections are slow.

LIVE STOCK.

MONTREAL.—The receipts of livestock in Montreal last week amounted to 1,050 cattle, 2,300 sheep and lambs, 1,025 hogs, and 150 calves. As the supply of cattle was insufficient for the trade—due to bad weather and transportation difficulties—the undertone of the market became very strong. The supply of sheep and lambs was unusually large for the time of the year, but as buyers who were unable to secure cattle bought small meats, the tone became strong, and prices scored an advance of 50c per 100 lbs. The market for calves was very firm in tone, and there was a good demand for all offerings.

We quote Montreal prices as follows:

Steers, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice	\$12.50	\$13.00
Good	12.00	12.25
Fairly good	11.50	11.75
Fair	11.00	11.25
Light steers	10.50	10.75
Common	9.00	10.00
Butchers' bulls—		
Choice	10.00	10.50
Good	9.50	9.75
Medium	9.00	9.25
Common	7.50	8.50
Butchers' cows—		
Choice heavy	10.50	11.00
Good	10.00	10.25
Medium	9.50	9.75
Light weights	8.50	9.00
Canners' cattle—		
Bulls	7.00	8.00
Cows	6.00	7.00
Sheep, per 100 lbs.—		
Ewes	12.50	13.00
Bucks and culls	11.50	12.00
Ontario lambs	16.50	17.00
Quebec lambs	15.50	16.00
Calves, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice milk-fed stocks	14.00	15.00
Good milk-fed stock	12.00	13.00
Grass-fed calves	6.00	10.00
Hogs, per 100 lbs.—		
Selected lots	19.25	19.75
Sows	16.25	16.75
Stags	12.50	14.50

PROVISIONS.

Owing to the limited supplies coming forward which is due to the scarcity of stock throughout the country, the stormy weather and congested railway traffic, the undertone of the hog market continues very strong. In Toronto prices for live hogs have advanced 75c per 100 lbs., with sales on Thursday at \$20 per 100 lbs. weighed off cars. The trade on spot has been quiet with sales of odd small lots of selected stock at \$19.50 to \$20 per 100 lbs. weighed off cars. The tone of the market for dressed hogs has also been very strong and prices during the week were marked up \$1 per 100 lbs. The demand has been only for small lots to meet actual wants on account of the fact that the high prices now ruling have curtailed the consumption to some extent. Sales of abattoir fresh-killed stock in a wholesale jobbing way were made at \$27.50 to \$28, and country dressed light weight at \$25.75 to \$26.25 per 100 lbs.

There is nothing to record of the market of smoked and cured meats, the supplies on hand being sufficient to meet all demands; prices remain unchanged. There is a strong undertone in the market for lard, caused by the scarcity of this commodity but prices remain unchanged:

Hams:—		Per lb.
Smoked Hams, 8-10 lbs.	0.31	0.32
Do., 12-15 lbs.	0.30	0.31
Do., over 25 lbs.	0.29	0.30
Bacon:—		
Breakfast	0.40	0.41
Windsor Bacon, selected	0.42	0.43
Windsor Bacon, boneless	0.44	0.45
Pure Lard:—		
20 lbs. pails	0.27½	0.28
Compound Lard (Western Grades):—		
Tubs	0.25	0.26

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending January 19, 1918, were 1,242 packages, which shows a decrease of 1,328 packages as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 209 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date show a decrease of 146,438 packages as compared with the corresponding period last year.

Receipts of butter continue rather small, and as the demand is good, a stronger feeling developed in the market, and prices increased 1c per lb. in a wholesale way, and 1c to 1½c in a jobbing way. A fair amount of business was done.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.46½	\$ 47
Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.45½	0.46
Current receipts, creamery	0.44½	0.45
Finest dairy	0.38	0.39

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending January 19th, 1918, were 1,410 boxes, which show a decrease of 197 boxes as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 3,159 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date show a decrease of 395,559 boxes as compared with the corresponding period last year. Of the total receipts for this week a year ago there were 2,365 boxes received from the United States as against nil this year. There is nothing to report in the cheese market, receipts continue small, as is usual at this time of the year.

The Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese	21¼c
No. 2 cheese	21¼c
No. 3 cheese	20¾c

EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending January 19th, 1918, were 1,913 cases, as compared with 1,232 for the previous one, and 563 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date were 304,420 cases, as against 627,751 for the corresponding period last year. The market for storage eggs developed a very strong feeling due to the fact that supplies of fresh gathered eggs were delayed in shipment by the stormy weather. As the extreme cold in the west has materially affected laying, and as the embargo is still on, shipments from the United States prices may be expected to go still higher.

We quote current prices as follows:

Strictly new laid eggs	0.70
Fresh eggs	\$ 58
Fall fresh eggs	0.52
Selected cold storage	0.48
No. 1 cold storage	0.45

POULTRY.

Supplies of dressed poultry from the interior continue small, and as the demand has been steady, a very firm feeling prevails in the market. Good chickens show an advance in price of 2c to 3c per lb. as compared with the previous week. Prices of live poultry scored a sharp advance.

We quote prices as follows:

Turkeys, per lb.	0.34	0.35
Chickens, per lb.	0.25	0.29
Fowl, per lb.	0.19	0.23
Ducks, per lb.	0.26	0.27
Geese, per lb.	0.22	0.23
Live chickens, per lb.	0.24	0.28
Live ducks, per lb.	0.32	0.33
Live geese, per lb.	0.24	0.25

LOCAL FLOUR.

The tone of the market remains firm although only a moderate amount of business is passing. Owing to the difficulties of getting supplies due to lack of transportation millers have in some cases had to close down their mills for many days a week in order to keep operating. The volume of business in spring wheat flour has been small, due to the fact that millers have so many unfilled orders on hand that they have withdrawn their travellers from the road as it is useless for them to accept new orders. Stocks of flour in transit and on spot are fair. The trade in winter wheat flour has continued quiet but prices are firmly maintained.

MILLFEED.

The market for millfeed remains unchanged. There is a steady demand but as some of the mills are closed down supplies are not large and buyers in some cases find it impossible to fill orders. Prices are firm.

ROLLED OATS.

The scarcity of desirable grades of oats for milling purposes has developed a very strong tone in the market although there has been no change in the price of bulk oats, but family size in cases have advanced 85c per case to \$5.65, and the regular size 25c to \$2, while standard grades in broken lots are selling at \$5.30 per bag of 90 lbs., in jute, and at \$4.77½ per bag of 80 lbs., in cotton, delivered to the trade.

We quote current prices as follows:

Flour:		per barrel.
First patents	11.60	
Second patents	11.10	
Strong clears	10.90	
Cereals:		
Rolled oats, 90 lb. bag	5.30	
Feed:		per ton.
Bran	35.00	
Shorts	40.00	
Middlings	48.00	50.00
Moullie, pure grain grades	61.00	63.00
Moullie, mixed	56.00	58.00

LOCAL GRAIN.

The condition of the local market for cash oats has been strong during the week, prices scoring 3½c to 4c per bushel over those for the previous week. There was little change in the Winnipeg option market, and the changes here are ascribed to the limited supplies on spot and the difficulty getting supplies forward with railway traffic so congested. The demand from local buyers for all offerings has been keen and sales have been made at the highest prices in the history of the trade. On Saturday the market closed strong with car lots of No. 3 Canadian western quoted at 99c, tough No. 3 C.W. at 97c, No. 1 feed at 96¼c, and No. 2 feed at 93¼c per bushel, ex-store. Early in the week sales of round lots of No. 3 Canadian western, amounting to 25,000 bushels, were made at 96¼c, and 15,000 No. 1 feed at 93¼c, ex-store. The only other business transacted during the week was a sale of 20,000 bushels of choice Ontario malting barley at \$1.56 per bush, ex-track, which figure showed an advance of 8c per bushel.