

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

General wholesale conditions continue favorable, although there are many adverse influences hampering business, such as the somewhat unseasonable weather, difficulty in securing deliveries from primary markets, bad roads in the country, the lateness of the opening of navigation, and so forth, which cause some worry. Hardware houses report that country trade is brisk, but the inactivity of the building trades keeps city business quiet. Prices on iron and steel products are steadily advancing. Wire, nails, steel wire, fence wire, staples, and such lines as gunpowder, oakum, files, poultry netting, etc., are advancing. Binder twine is also quoted at 1/4c to 2c per lb. over last year's prices. Turpentine and linseed oil are lower. The trade feels that warmer weather will stimulate business in all lines.

Groceries are steady under a good, normal demand. Sugar is again higher, and the situation is very firm. The maple product crop is not reaching expectations and high prices are ruling. Canned goods are firmer, with tomatoes advancing. Flour is firm, but the demand is only fair. The dairy produce trade is brisk. Fresh butter and cheese are now on the market and prices are easier. Eggs are coming forward in good supply.

The dry goods trade is active and a fair placing business is reported. Wholesalers have bought heavily for the fall season in anticipation of a big demand. Deliveries of summer lines are away behind and the trade is hampered to some extent in this connection. Prices are very firm on all lines.

Other markets locally are firm. Live stock prices were advanced to a new high level last week on the small offerings. The leather market is firm and supplies of many lines are scarce. Boot and shoe factories are busy in regular and army business, but high prices are against a big business in the regular lines. Wholesalers report collections as favorable.

Dun's Review says of Western trade: "In the Far West and Northwest most centres report steady improvement in business and the outlook unusually favorable. Satisfactory conditions are reported to prevail in practically all lines at Winnipeg, country merchants buying with more confidence and city trade being on a steadily broadening scale, this being especially noticeable in dry goods, clothing, footwear, agricultural implements, hardware, building materials and groceries. Weather conditions have stimulated the movement of dry goods, footwear, clothing, groceries and other staples at Saskatoon, and the general situation is regarded as very favorable. The volume of business is showing steady increase at Calgary, and sales in most lines display a substantial improvement over this time last year. Local jobbers at Edmonton report business to be in satisfactory volume at wholesale, while retail trade has materially improved with the advent of more reasonable weather. The backward spring has retarded retail trade at Regina, but wholesalers report heavy orders and they feel hopeful regarding the future."

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER: In general this market is very quiet, except for the opening of factories from day to day at various country points. The Cowansville Exchange has now been open ten days, with prices very satisfactory and volume good. The chief feature in the market may be said to be the auction sale of summer creamery at Gould's cold storage on Thursday last, when 512 packages changed hands, realizing from 30c to 31c. New milk butter is quoted at from 31 1/2c to 33 1/2c, according to quality.

CHEESE: The cheese market remains quiet. A very little new cheese is arriving, which is quoted at 17 1/2c to 17 3/4c. Quite a number of factories will be opening up this week, and a large production is expected this season.

Butter—		
Fresh Creamery	0.35	0.35 1/2
Storage	0.34	0.34 1/2
Seconds	0.32	0.32 1/2
Dairy Butter	0.28	0.30
City Selling Prices, to grocers:—		
Choice Creamery Solids	0.35	
Do., Prints	0.35 1/2	
No. 2 Creamery Solids	0.34	
Do., Prints	0.34 1/2	
Choice Dairy Prints	0.32	0.32 1/2

Do., Rolls	0.31	
Cooking Butter	0.29	0.30
Cheese—		
Finest Eastern	0.18 1/2	0.19
Finest Western	0.19 1/4	0.19 1/2
Fine Cheese	0.18 1/4	0.18 1/2
Undergrades	0.17 1/2	0.19

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

EGGS: Deliveries of eggs during the past week have been very large, and considerably in excess of the figures for the corresponding week last year. The demand is very good, however, prices in the country being 21c to stores and at some points 1c less. That there will be no storing of eggs until after Easter is the general opinion in the trade, as eggs must get down to 19c in the country before dealers should take the risk. It is felt that there will be quite a risk in storing eggs this year at these prices, as the production is very large, with practically no prospect of any export trade.

POULTRY: The stocks of poultry in store have been cleaning up very fast, with some outside enquiry and several shipments. Fresh poultry of all kinds is now arriving in anticipation of the Easter market, which should be more successful than usual this year, owing to the prevailing high prices of meats. Deliveries of fresh poussins, spring ducklings and spring guinea chickens are expected at the end of the week. The size of fresh squabs is improving rapidly.

MAPLE PRODUCTS: The weather during the week has been very favorable, and the sap has run freely. Deliveries of sugar and syrup have been very good, and the demand likewise has been exceptional in these lines, owing to the prevailing high prices in all food produce. The general selling price is 85c to 90 for 8 1/2 lb. tins, and \$1.40 to \$1.50 an Imperial gallon. Sugar is selling at from 12c to 15c per lb., according to quality.

Eggs—		
New Laid	0.25	0.26
Honey—		
Buckwheat, in combs	0.12	0.13
Buckwheat, extracted	0.10 1/2	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	1.85	1.90
Quebecs, do.,	1.85	1.90
Job lots 10c. more.		
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:		
Syrup, 8 1/2 lb. tins	0.85	0.90
Do., Imperial gallon	1.40	1.50
Sugar, per lb.	0.12	0.15

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 13, 1916.

To.	Local.	Thro.	Total.
Liverpool	331	331	
London	6,882	6,882	
Glasgow	902	902	
Leith	526	595	1,121
	526	8,710	9,236

Total exports, May 1, 1915, to April 13, 1916, boxes .. 2,150,322
Do, corres. period last year .. 365,904

PERSONALS.

G. M. Conrad, assistant manager of the Bemis Bros. Bag Company, Winnipeg, has resigned to take up similar duties with the Texas Bag and Fibre Co., Houston, Texas.

LIVE STOCK.

Prices opened higher and very firm at the live stock sales last week. At the Monday sales the run of cattle was light, and prices for the best grades were up 50c per hundred pounds. The new regulation enforced by the Exchange providing for the feeding of cattle with hay only, and prohibiting feeding of grain, also affected prices. On Wednesday the run was light, and prices held firm.

The hog market continues strong, and prices were advanced 25c per hundred pounds on the week's trading. The demand is keen for good quality stock, and dealers do not anticipate any lowering of prices for a time.

Sheep and lambs are scarce, and the market is firm for what is offering. There is some prospect of larger offerings this week, however. Arrivals of calves were heavy, but the demand is good and there has been no change in prices.

Current quotations are as follows:—

	Per cwt.
Butcher steers, best	\$8.50 to \$8.75
Do., good	8.15 to 8.40
Do., fair	7.65 to 7.90
Do., medium	7.15 to 7.55
Do., rough	6.90 to 7.40
Butcher bulls, best	7.50 to 8.00
Do., medium	6.75 to 7.25
Do., common	6.00 to 6.50
Canning bulls	4.00 to 5.00
Butcher cows, best	7.75 to 8.00
Do., good	7.25 to 7.50
Do., medium	6.75 to 7.00
Do., common	6.00 to 6.50
Do., rough	5.75
Do., canners	3.50 to 4.00
Sheep	6.00 to 8.00
Lambs	9.00 to 12.00
Hogs, selects, weighed off cars ..	10.50 to 12.00
Do., roughs and mixed lots ..	10.75 to 11.25
Do., common	10.50
Sows	9.25 to 9.75
Calves, milk fed	7.00 to 9.00

The total offerings of live stock at both sales last week were 850 cattle, 120 sheep and lambs, 1,650 hogs and 2,100 calves.

FISH AND OYSTERS.

The market is pretty well cleaned out in all kinds of frozen fish. All told there is only one car of frozen halibut due here for this week's trade. Frozen halibut therefore being very scarce, will likely advance in price, possibly as high as 20 per cent. Fresh halibut is a little easier in price, the quantities arriving being pretty large. This fish is finding a ready sale, however, owing to the general scarcity prevailing. Lake fish, such as dore, pike, carp and perch, are coming in fair quantities, and bringing good prices, due to the Jewish holiday. The close season for dore is from Saturday last to May 15. The trade in pickled and salt fish is very quiet and disappointing. Bulk and shell oysters are also very quiet.

Current wholesale prices are quoted as follows:

Fresh:—		
Haddock, per lb	0.07	
Steak Codfish, per lb	0.08	
Carp, per lb	0.10	
Lobsters, live, per lb	0.30	
Salmon, Red Cohoes, or Silvers, Round per lb.	0.16	
Salmon, Red—Cohoes or Silvers, Dressed and Headless, per lb.	0.18	
Halibut, medium, per lb.	0.16	
Herrings, medium, 60 lb. per 100 count ..	3.00	
Whitefish	0.14	
Dore	0.16	
Pike	0.09	0.10
Frozen:—		
Halibut	0.12	0.13
Whitefish	0.11	0.12
Mackerel	0.09	0.10
Oysters:—		
Selects—Solid Meats—No Water.		
No. 5 Can, containing 5 wine gals.	8.00	8.25
Ordinary Bulk Oysters, Standards, per Imp. gallon	1.40	
Ordinary Do., Selects, per Imp. gallon ..	1.70	
Shell Oysters, Cape Cods in large barrels ..	8.50	