

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Business continues to be very active in wholesale lines, and distribution of merchandise is very satisfactory at most Canadian centres. Many firms report an overflow of orders and factories working overtime in consequence. High wages are the order of the day and a large amount of money is circulating freely. There is a good demand for such staples as dry goods, hardware, footwear and clothing. Groceries report a good trade passing but imported products of all kinds are very difficult to obtain. Wholesale hat and fur houses report autumn orders equal in volume to the corresponding period last year. Leather is very scarce with an active demand for both local and United States account. Prices consequently are very firm with a tendency to advance. Lumber firms report a slight improvement as the demand from the United States is stronger, but prevailing freight rates are practically keeping trade with Great Britain at a standstill. The hardware market is very firm at advanced prices in many lines which have gone up in sympathy with higher prices for raw products. Stocks are very short with prospects of actual scarcity in the near future. An active trade is passing in most varieties of fish, Gaspé Salmon being the most attractive feature of the market. Lobsters are almost over, and although the pack is the smallest for years, lower prices are predicted, as France, with whom our packers did a large business, has now prohibited all imports. The demand for imported fruits and vegetables is slackening off slightly as the first Canadian produce is arriving on the market. An advance in the price of currants is the chief feature of the dried fruit market. The flour market is very dull and mill-feed shows a decline in price in all leading lines as the demand with the summer weather is falling off. The wheat market has been weak of late with a sharp drop at the close of last week. This is attributed to improved crop reports and an irresponsible export inquiry. Butter has declined slightly and cheese is very weak, although the latter market last week showed an improvement over the rock bottom prices of the week before.

Reports from the West are very encouraging. Business shows an improvement over last year in all staple lines, and expectations are for a good volume of sales during the summer. Vancouver wholesale and retail trade is very satisfactory although unseasonable weather has interfered with sales to some extent. Commercial failures in the Dominion of Canada this week were 27, as against 34 last week and 61 the same week last year.

### SUGAR.

There is a considerably easier feeling in the New York sugar market, due in part to the waiting policy followed by the British Commission, and the consequently slack export demand. Dealers are looking for a stronger market in the near future, as European countries are bound to require large supplies before long, and with the advent of warmer weather bringing a greater consumption for soft drinks, and fruit preserving, the domestic trade will greatly increase. The Canadian market is very strong, being influenced by similar conditions. No change in price is reported.

### DAIRY PRODUCE EXPORTS.

	Cheese.		
	Local.	Through	Total
	boxes.	boxes.	boxes.
To Liverpool .....	6,975	4,977	12,952
To Glasgow .....	3,082	1,893	4,975
To London .....	18,388	12,892	31,280
Total .....	28,445	19,762	48,207
Corr. week last year ..	33,582	16,297	49,879
Total, May 1 to date ....	54,993	35,966	90,959
Corr. period last year ..	65,932	38,539	104,471
Butter and Eggs.			
To Liverpool .....			900
To Glasgow .....			450
To London .....	1,953	1,953	
Total .....	1,953	1,953	1,350
Corr. week last year ..		90	
Total May 1 to date ....	1,953	1,953	4,500
Corr. period, 1915 ..		1,390	

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

**EGGS:** There is no special feature in the egg situation. Receipts of eggs at Montreal continue good, showing very little decrease from week to week, although at this season production is always less than in May. At present prices are very high for storage, and in consequence all buyers are buying loss-off which means they deduct for bad eggs. The demand continues very good as eggs are always a cheap article of consumption. During the past week there has been some export enquiry, but no business has resulted. It is hinted that owing to more steamers being on the Canadian route ocean freight rates will decline. This is good news for the exporters as the present rate of 5c per dozen is making export business almost impossible. Some eggs have been exported, but these are United States eggs recanded by Canadian houses in transit. Throughout Canada all dealers who are interested in the export business have decided they will not sell except on an f.o.b. Montreal basis, which means they will be paid for their eggs as soon as they are shipped and all responsibility of ocean transport will rest with the buyer.

**Poultry:** There is very little to report in poultry. Cold storage stocks are gradually diminishing and therefore the market is very firm. Broilers are now commencing to arrive and are meeting with a ready sale.

**MAPLE PRODUCTS:** Owing to the duty of 3c per pound on maple sugar into the United States the demand is very much less, as American dealers feel they cannot afford to pay such high prices. The Canadian market is therefore easier as more sugar has been produced than is required for the home trade. Unless more is exported the market will seek lower levels.

**BEANS:** During the past week the American buyers have cleaned up the market pretty well. It is reported that this heavy buying was to fill large contracts for those who have canning orders for pork and beans. Consequently the market is very firm and prices are up 25c per bushel.

**POTATOES:** The potato market has been very strong of late showing a marked advance at the beginning of last week. Prices are now ruling 20c higher than formerly.

### Eggs:—

No. 1 .....	0.25
Extras .....	0.27
Special New Laid .....	0.30

### Poultry:—

Poultry—Live:	
Fowl, 5 lbs. and over .....	0.20 0.23
Fowl, small .....	0.18 0.19
Turkeys, cocks .....	0.21 0.22
Do., hens .....	0.22 0.23

Fresh Killed Poultry:	
Turkey, cocks .....	0.25 0.27
Do., hens .....	0.28 0.30
Chickens .....	0.23 0.24
Fowls, hens .....	0.24 0.25
Do., roosters .....	0.21 0.22
Broilers, 2½ to 3 lbs. per pair ..	1.00
Do., 2 to 2½ lbs. .....	0.75

Frozen stock:—	
	per pound.
Turkeys .....	0.29 0.30
Fowls, large .....	0.22 0.23
Fowls, small .....	0.20 0.21
Ducks .....	0.25
Geese .....	0.16 0.17
Roasting chickens, ord. ....	0.23 0.25
Chickens, milk fed .....	0.27 0.28
Capons .....	0.29 0.30
Spring broilers, dressed, pair ..	1.20 1.50
Squabs .....	0.65 0.75
Squabs, Phila., pr. ....	0.85

### Maple Products:

Pure maple syrup, 8-lb. tins ..	0.85 0.90
Pure maple spruy, 9 lb. tins ..	1.00 1.10
Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins ..	1.40 1.50
Pure maple sugar, per lb. ....	0.12 0.14

### Honey:—

White clover, in comb .....	0.15 0.15½
Brown clover, in comb .....	0.12 0.13
White extracted .....	0.12 0.13
Brown extracted .....	0.10 0.11
Buckwheat honey .....	0.09 0.10

### Beans:—

Can. hand-picked, car lots .....	5.15 5.25
Five-lb. pickers .....	4.65 4.75
Seven-lb. pickers .....	4.25 4.55

### Potatoes:—

Green Mountains, per bag, car lots ..	2.00
Do., Quebec .....	1.90
Job lots, ex store, per bag .....	2.00 2.10

## DAIRY PRODUCE.

**CHEESE:** The cheese market seems to have touched bottom and prices are now on the upward trend, whether temporarily or not remains to be seen. A good export enquiry at higher figures which has led to considerable business, accounts for the favorable change. Prices both at Montreal auction sales and country boards have shown a steady advance all through the past week. From present prospects dealers generally feel that cheese will remain pretty firm throughout the summer. Receipts to date are under those of last year. The English demand is very active as the production in the United Kingdom has fallen off considerably. A shortage of rennet, both in Canada and Great Britain, is causing difficulty, but experiments are being made at Finch, Ontario, to replace it with pepsin.

**BUTTER:** The market is easier owing to heavier receipts and a less active export demand at present prices. It is felt that the market must go lower before a great deal can be done in the way of export. There is some difficulty in obtaining cool air space for butter on the steamers, and this may have a tendency to keep the market low, as Montreal dealers think that present prices are too high for storage purposes.

### Current quotations follow:

Butter:—	
Fresh creamery, solids .....	0.29 0.29½
Do., prints .....	0.28½ 0.28¾
Seconds .....	0.26¼
Dairy butter .....	0.22 0.23

### City Selling Prices to grocers:

Choice Creamery Solids .....	0.31
Do., Prints .....	0.31
No. 2 Creamery Solids .....	0.29
Do., Prints .....	0.29
Choice Dairy Prints .....	0.27 0.28
Do., rolls .....	0.27
Cooking butter .....	0.25

### Cheese:—

Finest Western .....	0.18 0.18½
Finest Eastern .....	0.16½ 0.17½
Fine Cheese .....	0.16½ 0.17
Undergrades .....	0.16

## MONTREAL PRODUCE RECEIPTS.

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

	Week end- June 10.	Week end- June 3.
Wheat, bushels .....	1,389,476	2,165,381
Oats, bush. ....	646,303	353,845
Barley, bush. ....	153,889	15,248
Flour, barrels .....	173,702	185,526
Eggs, cases .....	16,696	18,782
Butter, packages .....	16,138	16,106
Cheese, boxes .....	82,749	85,139
Potatoes, bags .....	13,743	18,874
Hay, bales .....	27,510	39,690

## FOOD PRICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

A recent report of Canadian Trade Commissioner Harrison Watson from London, includes a table showing the increase in food prices in the United Kingdom. Sugar (granulated) shows the greatest advance in price, having increased 128 per cent in twenty months, from July, 1914, to April 1, 1916. Bacon comes next with an advance of 91 per cent in the same period. Potatoes, of all staple commodities, shows the least advance, 3 per cent. The average increase for all staple commodities was 49 per cent. In commenting on these figures, Mr. Watson says that the increase is no doubt due to the fact that the United Kingdom has in the past depended so largely on outside sources for her food supply.

The report also gives a table of figures showing the foreign trade returns of the United Kingdom for April to be £120,596,650, a decrease of 9 per cent on the returns of the previous month, but was an increase of 4 per cent over the returns of April, 1915.

A further table showed Great Britain's trade with other countries during 1916, as compared with 1915 and 1914. With the colonies, trade with Canada and South Africa showed a substantial increase, while with Australia and the British West Indies it declined. Great Britain's foreign trade in 1915 was marked by considerably increased intercourse with France and Belgium.