

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: A good indication of the amount of business doing in Canada during these strenuous war times, may be taken from the returns of our railroads for the past month, which show the greatest volume of traffic in their history. The arrivals of grain, both by rail and water, show a considerable increase, the stock of oats in store increasing this week by one million bushels. There has been a good inquiry for car lots of mixed flour and feed from both the City and Country trade.

The stocks of butter held in this market show a decrease of about thirty thousand packages as compared with the stocks held here a year ago, prices were slightly firmer. In the grocery trade several staple articles show advanced prices, such as baking powder, baking soda, cream of tartar, condensed milk, jams, sardines, coffee, teas and cocoa, cotton twines and clothes lines. The sugar refiners and wholesalers are distributing their stocks amongst their customers to the best advantage by spreading them as far as possible. The food controller has prohibited the sale of cereals in packages by the wholesale trade after December 1, 1917, and by the retail trade after January 1, 1918.

In the hardware trade lead products of all description, show a falling off in prices. The standard weight of potatoes in this province is now ninety pounds instead of eighty pounds as heretofore. Farmers state that they never remember a fall season of the year when farm work was so far behind as it is this year, due to the heavy rains, and scarcity of farm labor.

Retail trade shows some increase, and has been benefited by the changeable weather. Remittances are good, but city collections are rather backward.

Dun's Bulletin says: Montreal reports more activity in retail lines, and wholesalers, as a rule, busy, although there is much complaint regarding the scarcity of certain kinds of merchandise.

## LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL.—At the two Montreal stock yards, the offerings last week, amounted to 4,800 cattle, 5,450 sheep and lambs, 3,000 hogs and 1,250 calves.

The trade in livestock was slow during the past week and only a fair trade was done. The prices asked for butchers' cattle having increased the demand was limited as buyers generally were not disposed to pay the prices asked. However as the supply was comparatively small drovers showed no inclination to come down in prices. The demand for canning cattle, the supply of which was fairly large was good, and trade was active although at firmer prices. Lambs continue to come forward in liberal supplies, but owing to the higher prices asked the demand for shipment to the United States has fallen off. An easier tone developed in the market for calves and prices scored a decline of \$1 per 100 lbs., with sales of choice milk-fed stocks at \$13 to \$14 per 100 lbs. The supply of hogs on sale was limited, and as prices at other Canadian centres are high the market became strong and prices scored an increase of from 25c to 50c per 100 lbs.

### 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		
Do., good	8.00	8.25
Do., medium	7.50	7.75
Do., common	7.00	7.25
Canners' cattle:		
Do., bulls	6.50	7.00
Do., cows	5.25	5.50
Sheep and Lambs.		
Ewes	10.50	11.00
Bucks	9.50	10.00
Ontario lambs	15.50	16.00

Quebec lambs	14.50	15.00
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	14.00
Stags	11.50	12.50

TORONTO.—The offerings for the week at the two Toronto yards amounted to 7,274 cattle, 584 calves, 6,411 hogs, 8,748 sheep and 29 horses. Last week the cattle trade displayed a decidedly improved tone on the opening day, which led to a firmer feeling generally, with prices 15c to 25c higher than those of the previous week. The demand for butcher cows was steady and the trade in hogs was also steady. The demand for cattle remained good throughout the week and the hog market held firm. Spring lambs became easier at from \$15.75 to \$16.00 at the close of the week. Sheep remained steady at from \$10 to \$13, and calves sold well with choice veal at from \$14.00 to \$15.50.

### Quotations:

Choice export steers	11.50	12.25
Butchers' choice handy	10.25	10.50
Do., good	9.25	9.75
Do., medium	8.50	8.75
Do., common	7.50	8.00
Butchers' bulls, choice		
Do., good	8.00	9.25
Do., medium	7.50	8.25
Do., common	6.25	7.25
Butchers' choice cows		
Do., good	8.25	9.00
Do., medium	7.25	8.00
Do., common	6.50	7.00
Feeders		
Do., good	8.00	9.25
Stockers, good		
Do., medium	7.25	8.00
Canners		
Do., good to choice	9.00	125.00
Do., common and medium	65.00	85.00
Calves, veal, choice		
Do., medium	6.00	6.50
Do., common	6.00	7.00
Do., grass	6.00	7.00
Do., heavy fat		
Do., medium	8.00	10.50
Spring lambs, cwt.		
Do., good	15.75	16.00
Sheep, ewes, light		
Do., heavy and bucks	10.00	13.00
Do., culls	7.50	9.50
Hogs, fed and watered		
Do., off cars	4.00	5.50
Do., f. o. b.		
Do., good	17.00	17.25
Do., off cars	17.25	17.50
Do., f. o. b.	16.00	16.25

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

### BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending November 10th, 1917, were 7,395 packages which show a decrease of 1,433 packages as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 2,999 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May to date show a decrease of 135,536 packages as compared with the corresponding period of a year ago. Of the total receipts for the same week last year there were 4,166 packages received from the United States consequently the receipts of Canadian butter this week are really 1,167 packages larger than the same week in 1916. Prices on spot and in the country both showed an increase last week due to the stronger feeling which prevailed on the market. This feeling was attributed to the fact that the receipts for the week showed a decrease of 3,000 packages as compared with the same week last year. On Tuesday prices at St. Paschal advanced 1c per lb., all the offerings selling at 42c. Last week the Quebec Agricultural Co-operative Society held only one auction when 512 packages were offered which sold at an advance of 1/4c to 3/4c per lb. over the previous sale, pasteurized creamery bringing 43 3/4c, finest 43 1/2c, and fine 42 1/2c. At St. Hyacinthe on Saturday prices were 2c per lb. higher than two weeks ago at 42c. The trade on spot in round lots of creamery butter has been rather quiet, but holders of finest September and October make are firm at 45c to 45 1/2c while current receipts are offering at 43c to 44c. A good demand for dairy butter was the feature of the week, and several round lots were sold at 38c to 39c per lb. which

practically cleaned up all there was on the market for sale.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest creamery	0.43 1/2	0.44
Fine creamery	0.00	0.43
Finest dairy	0.00	0.40
Lower grades	0.37	0.39

## CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending November 10th, 1917, were 35,895 boxes which show a decrease of 2,214 boxes as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 23,483 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date show a decrease of 362,520 boxes as compared with the corresponding period in 1916. Of the total receipts for the same week last year there were 7,686 boxes received from the United States. Cheese prices, at three country boards scored a decline last week. At Picton the offerings sold 1/4c lower than the previous week at 21 1/4c, at St. Paschal 5-32c at 21c, and at Cornwall 3-16 at 21 1/4c while prices at the balance of the boards were unchanged which ranged from 21 1/4c to 21 3/4c. Otherwise prices showed no changes. There is a marked decrease in the offerings throughout the country.

The Commission is paying the following prices:—

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

## EGGS.

The receipts of eggs in Montreal for the week ending November 10th, 1917, were 8,097 cases, as compared with 6,674 for the previous week, and 42,046 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st to date were 274,562 cases, as against 538,646 for the corresponding period in 1916. The local trade was fairly active during the week, but the main feature of interest was the fact that more shipping has become available for eggs. As shippers and packers have a number of orders on hand the trade was considerable.

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

## HONEY.

The supplies of new crop honey coming forward continue small, and as stocks on hand are not large the market remains very firm. The demand in a wholesale jobbing way has been good and especially so for comb and extracted honey consequently a fairly active business was done.

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	0.20
No. 2 brown clover, in comb	0.17	0.18
White extracted, in 30-lb. pails	0.17	0.18

## BEANS.

There was an increased demand for small quantities, in the bean market last week, and a fairly active trade was done in a wholesale jobbing way. New crop beans have been coming forward from both Quebec and Ontario. The trade in car lots has been quiet and prices for such are somewhat difficult to quote at present.

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

## POTATOES.

Owing to the fact that the receipts of Ontario and Quebec potatoes for the last week, were large, the market became easier and holders in many instances found it impossible to place all the stock they had on track in Montreal. This led to the development of an easier tone in the market for Green Mountains, but there has been no actual decline as yet, car lots being quoted at \$2.20 to \$2.25 per bag of 90 lbs. extra track and sales in a wholesale jobbing way were made at \$2.30 to \$2.40 per bag of 80 lbs. extra track.