

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

The present soft weather is causing some inconvenience in the country, putting the roads into such shape that it is difficult to travel or for farmers to come any distance to the city. Wholesale houses report an improvement of trade especially the paint and oil dealers who have advanced prices a little. Grocers are doing well as also the dry goods trade. Buyers in the latter field are coming forward, but very cautiously to avoid overstocking. A deputation of egg dealers is going to Ottawa to-day to see about the securing of steamer space for export trade. Maple products are expected any time now, the warm weather and rain of the past week starting the sap to run. The intention signified by the British Government to purchase 600 tons of Canadian canned salmon monthly is looked upon favorably and the only trouble will be to secure tin for the cans. The refusal of the English Government to receive imports of leather has dampened the trade somewhat. Wholesalers in boots and shoes report a quiet season, but retailers say that sales are continuing well. Hardware is slow in builders supplies, but staple lines are about normal. Supplies coming forward more rapidly have caused potatoes to drop, but beans remain firm. Oranges lead the fruit market in sales and dealers cannot guarantee prices or supplies. All cattle offerings are snapped up in quick order. The continued upward tendency of wheat prices scored another advance in flour yesterday. Dairy produce has been quiet and probably will so remain until new butter comes in, in about another month and a half. Breadstuffs reports that remittances are coming in well, but that city collections are slow.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER. The market after easing off $\frac{1}{2}$ cent at the beginning of last week remains firm at the lower price, with a good local and outside demand. Business is steady, and dealers declare that present stock are none too big to meet the anticipated requirements during the next two months, as it will be that long before new butter comes in. Manitoba dairy butter has been received here lately, but it is the last that will come from the west, and of poor quality. Receipts are better than at this time last year.

CHEESE. Trade in cheese is very quiet, with prices firm and both supply and demand small. There is some sale for export as prices are exceptionally high in England. April make of cheese is expected to be larger than other years, as the cows are in excellent condition. Farmers are expecting 22c. to 25c. for new foddens, goods for which they secured only 17c. last year. Receipts are away ahead of last year at this time.

Current prices follow:

Butter:—	
Choice Fall Creamery Solids	0.43 0.43½
Fine Fall Creamery	0.42 0.42½
Winter Creamery	0.40 0.42
Fresh Creamery	0.41 0.43
Dairy Butter	0.37½ 0.38
Undergrade Dairy	0.36½ 0.37½
Cheese:—	
Finest Western	0.26½
Fine Eastern	0.27
Winter Make	0.25½ 0.26½
City Selling Prices to Grocers:	
Stilton cheese	0.28
Large	0.26 0.28
Twins	0.26½ 0.28
Quebec Cheese	0.25½ 0.26½
Canadian Strong Cheese	0.26½ 0.27
Roquefort	0.28
Roquefort	0.65
Do. No. 2	0.44

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

EGGS.—The market in eggs is fairly steady, with prices the same as last week. The demand is increasing and dealers report buying in the country at 30c. to 32c. Chicago quotations are firm at 26½c. to 27c., and many dealers are bringing in Chicago eggs on account of the scarcity of the Canadian product, but a big increase in the domestic production is looked for with the warmer weather. A deputation of produce men is going to Ottawa to-day to interview the Government with a view of getting suitable transportation for eggs this year. There

is no steamer space now, as what little is left after that commandeered by the Admiralty is more than taken up with goods already booked.

POULTRY.—Deliveries of live poultry continue small, but the demand remains steady. Prices of storage poultry have not changed, and the supplies are ample to cover requirements.

MAPLE PRODUCTS.—Reports indicate that sap is commencing to run, and the season looks very favorable. The deep snow in the woods will make operations difficult, but dealers are looking for a good run. It is too early to indicate what prices will be.

POTATOES.—Supplies are coming forward more rapidly and prices consequently are on the downward trend. Green Mountains are scarce, and still command high prices.

BEANS.—Market is very firm, the demand being heavy, particularly for Rangoon beans, which are selling at \$7.00 to \$7.50 per bushel. Hand picked are scarce.

Current prices follow:

Eggs:	
New laid	0.35 \$ 36
Poultry—Live:	
Fowls, 5-lbs. and over	0.24 0.26
Fowls, small	0.22 0.23
Fresh Killed Poultry:	
Turkeys	0.32 0.33
Old Turkeys, cocks	0.27 0.28
Fowls, hens	0.20 0.21
Do., roosters	0.17 0.18
Chickens	0.22 0.23
Do., crate fattened	0.25 0.28
Squabs, per pair	0.35 0.45
Geese	0.18 0.19
Ducks	0.21 0.22
Maple Products:	
Pure maple syrup, quart cans	0.40
Pure maple syrup, 9-lb. tins	1.10 1.20
Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins	1.25 1.30
Pure Maple sugar, per lb.	0.14 0.15
Honey:	
Buckwheat, 5-10 lb. tins	0.12
Clover, in comb	0.16 0.18
Do., in 5-10 lb. tins	0.14 0.15
Potatoes:	
New Brunswick, Delawares, 90-lb. sacks	3.00 3.10
Quebec's, 90-lb. bags	2.50 2.90
Green Mountains	3.00 3.10
Beans:	
Can. hand-picked car lots, per bu.	8.00
Yellow eyes	7.50
Rangoon	7.00 7.50

PROVISIONS.

There have been no special features in the Provision Market during the past week. Prices for live hogs are fairly steady, and for this time of year deliveries are good. Lard continues to advance, being up another $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Since March 1st it has advanced 1½c., while dressed hogs have advanced 1½c. Shortening is higher owing to the high price of oil. The demand for smoked meats is quiet, but a brisk trade is anticipated for Easter.

Current prices are as follows:

Hams:—	
Smoked Ham, 8-14 lbs.	0.28
Do., 14-20 lbs.	0.27
Do., 20-25 lbs.	0.25
Do., over 25 lbs.	0.24
Bacon:—	
Breakfast	0.28 0.30
Windsor Bacon, selected	0.29
Windsor Bacon, boneless	0.32
Barrel Pork:—	
Short cut pork	44.00
Clear fat pork	45.00
Mess pork	42.50
Bean pork, American	42.00
Plate pork, 200 lbs.	42.00
Pure Lard:—	
Tierces	0.24½
Tubs	0.24½
Pails	0.25
Tins	0.25
Cases, 3, 5, 10's	0.25½
Prints	0.26
Compound Lard; Western Grades:—	
Tubs	0.18¾
Tins	0.19¾
Cases, 3, 5, 10's	0.19¾ 0.20
Prints	0.20½
Cooked Meats:—	
Roast shoulder pork	0.33
Roast hams, boneless	0.35
Cooked hams, boneless	0.39
Cooked hams, rind off	0.40
Head cheese	0.12
English brawls	0.11

How the Markets Stand

Dairy Produce has remained unchanged during the week and trade is quiet. Eggs are somewhat easier but provisions on the whole are remaining firm. Flour has been fluctuating with the price of wheat and is now 30c above its former level. Refined sugar advanced 20c per hundredweight on Saturday. Dried fruits are steady in price though Lent has created a good demand. Nuts are in a strong market, peanuts advancing in price because of being used as a source of oil. Scarcity of both domestic and foreign supplies keeps the demand for beans steady and prices are firm. Vegetables have scored slight advances, Spanish Onions being up to \$9.00 per case, and cabbage from \$6.50 to \$8.50 per bbl. Fruit has risen a little, import transportation difficulties being given as the cause. Potatoes are slightly easier. Cattle offerings are small tending to keep the market firm. There is a strong steady demand for hogs from packers. There is also a keen demand for calves. Eggs are steady at 35c to 36c. Lard has advanced another $\frac{1}{2}$ c and pork ranges from \$42.00 to \$45.00 per bbl.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

Oranges lead the fruits in demand and prices have advanced slightly in some lines. The restriction on imports through steamer shortage is the cause to which this is attributed. Fruits in general are steady, but consumption is not up to the usual mark. Grapefruit has dropped, while lemons have taken another jump. Sound apples are in good demand, and prices are a trifle higher owing to a meagre supply.

Spanish onions are attracting attention again, with a rise to \$9.00 a crate, due to a decreased supply. Cabbage acted in sympathy, and are selling at \$6.50 to \$8.00 per bbl. Florida celery is down to \$6.00 a crate, while Boston lettuce has advanced 25c, making the price \$3.50 per box. Canadian endive makes its first appearance on the market this season at 25c a bundle.

Current quotations are as follows:

Fruit:—	
Baldwins, per bbl.	5.50
Cranberries, per bbl.	9.00 10.53
Cranberry pippin, per bbl.	5.00
Mackintosh Reds, per bbl.	8.00
Fameuse, per bbl.	7.00
Russets	5.50 7.00
Spies, per bbl.	6.00 9.00
Bananas, per bunch	2.75 3.00
Grapes, Almeria, per keg	7.00 9.00
Grapefruit, Florida and Cuban	4.00 4.50
Do., Jamaica	3.75
Lemons, Palermo, per box	4.25 4.50
Oranges, California, Navel, per box	3.00 3.25
Do., Floridas	3.00 5.50
Do., Mexican	2.00 2.75
Pears, Winter Nellis, per box	4.50 5.00
Vegetables:—	
Artichokes, per bag	1.25
Beets, per bag	1.50
Beans, American, per hamper	4.50
Brussels Sprouts, per qt.	0.15 0.25
Cabbage, Montreal, per bbl.	6.50 8.50
Carrots, per bag	1.50
Cauliflower, California, per doz.	3.00
Celery, Florida, per crate	6.00
Do., California, per crate	9.00 9.50
Endive (Canadian) bunch	0.25
Garlic, lb.	0.12
Horse Radish, per lb.	0.25
Leeks, doz. bunches	3.00
Boston Lettuce, head, per box	3.00
Do., curly, per doz.	0.75
Mint, doz.	0.50
Onions, Spanish, per case	9.00
Do., red, per 75 lb. bag	6.00 6.50
Do., white, per 100 lb. bag	6.00
Potatoes, Quebec, per 80 lb. bag	2.50 3.00
Do., Green Mountains, per 80 lb. bag	3.10
Do., Sweet, per basket	3.50
Parsley, per doz. bunches	0.50 1.50
Rhubarb, doz.	1.25
Turnips, per bag	1.00 1.25
Tomatoes, hothouse, per lb.	0.25 0.30
Cuban, per crate	3.50
Florida, per crate	5.00 6.00
Watercress, doz.	0.50

British shipping profits in 1916 were \$675,000,000 after deducting excess profits and other taxes, compared with only \$105,000,000 profits in 1913.