

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal Trade: Trade conditions are not greatly altered since a week ago, but the influenza epidemic is now generally prevalent throughout the country districts, even in the most isolated locations, and wholesalers report a noticeable, but not very marked falling off in orders. For the same reason general collections are not up to the late standard, but failures are few and comparatively insignificant in volume of liabilities.

With regard to values there are few noteworthy changes. Sugars remain on the basis last quoted, with no improvement in deliveries from refiners. The grocery trade has been advised that the American Government has prohibited the export of prunes, dried peaches, apricots, raisins, and practically all dried fruits, except dried apples, and as there will be few if any Valencia raisins, Sultanias or currants coming from Mediterranean ports, while stocks of last year's fruit are almost negligible, prospects are that Christmas plum puddings will be few and far between. The prices of cattle and hogs show some easiness. The continued exorbitant prices for hams and bacon are evidently curtailing consumption. Dairy products and eggs continue to rule high.

City retail trade continues to be adversely affected, and all manufacturing establishments report being more or less inconvenienced by sickness among their employees.

Only three minor failures are reported in the district for the week, with liabilities of about \$11,000. Their orders farther behind.

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: We have had a week of extraordinary warm weather for this season of the year. The influenza all over this province has been keeping back business. Wholesale houses have called their travellers in off the road owing to the prevalence of the influenza in all the country districts. The health board has not released the restricted hours of trade, and business in both the wholesale and retail trade is very quiet. Manufacturers also complain of the large number of hands who are away sick, which severely interferes with their output, and which still puts

The bank clearings show an increase of 23.3 per cent for the week ending October 24, 1918. An order has been issued restricting the trading in October oats, 85½c per bushel, is the price limit for the limited trading that will be permitted.

Spring wheat flour has declined 10c per barrel. Owing to liberal offerings and the limited demand the cattle markets show a decline of 25c to 75c per hundred pound. Sheep and lambs are also 50c to \$1 lower. Eggs are very firm with a tendency to higher prices. New raisins are up 1c to 2c per pound.

Everybody here this week is working for the success of the Big Victory Loan.

Collections are reported good.

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

### EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending November 2nd, 1918, were 3,466 cases, as compared with 4,064 for the previous week, and 6,674 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date were 241,040 cases, as against 266,465 for the corresponding period in 1917, which show a decrease of 25,425 cases. The local egg situation remained unchanged last week, prices being maintained. The receipts were small of new laid and fancy stock, and buyers found it difficult to fill their wants at 65c. to 67c. per dozen for new laid, and 70c. for fancy. The supplies coming forward show a marked falling off as compared with those of a year ago, showing that the production throughout the country is small. Trade in cold storage stock was active in a wholesale jobbing way, with a good demand for small lots for immediate consumption.

We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:—  
Strictly new laid eggs . . . . . 0.65 0.70  
Fresh selected stock . . . . . 0.50 0.54  
Storage selected stock . . . . . 0.00 0.53  
Storage No. 1 stock . . . . . 0.00 0.49

### BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending November 2nd, 1918, were 18,375 packages, which show a decrease of 2,371 packages, as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 9,547 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date show an increase of 90,028 packages as compared with the corresponding period in 1917. A stronger feeling developed in the market for dairy butter, and prices scored a sharp advance. A few small lots of high grade dairy butter were made as high as 46c. to 47c. per lb., finest at 44c. to 45c., and fine at 40c. to 42c. The condition of the market for creamery butter was unchanged, prices being firmly maintained, with a steady demand and a fair amount of business was done in small lots.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest creamery . . . . .	0.49	0.50
Fine creamery . . . . .	0.48	0.48½
Finest dairy . . . . .	0.44	0.45
Fine dairy . . . . .	0.40	0.42

### CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending November 2nd, 1918, were 34,836 boxes, which show a decrease of 8,255 boxes, as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 3,273 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date, show a decrease of 86,621 boxes, as compared with the corresponding period in 1917. The stock of Canadian cheese in London on October 5th, was 123,307 boxes, as against 90,487 boxes last year, and the stock of New Zealand cheese was 3,125 crates.

The following prices are being paid by the Commission:

No. 1 cheese . . . . .	0.25
No. 2 cheese . . . . .	0.24½
No. 3 cheese . . . . .	0.24

### POULTRY.

The receipts of poultry showed a marked increase the latter part of the week, but are not excessive, considering the season of the year. The market is firm in all parts of the country, and well finished birds are absorbed quickly at full market prices. The receipts show a large proportion of unfinished stock which is difficult to move except at a discount. Some light chickens are being taken by dealers for crate-feeding. The reserve stock in the freezers is still very low, and dealers would take all surplus of good poultry available for this purpose if they could handle it.

The United States markets weakened towards the close of the week under a large increase in receipts, much of which was in poor condition. A Western Ontario dealer who ships very largely to Buffalo states he found Toronto a better market for chickens and fowl, but did better at Buffalo for ducks and cocks.

We quote prices for dressed poultry as follows:

Turkeys, per lb. . . . .	0.36	0.38
Chickens . . . . .	0.28	0.32
Ducks . . . . .	0.28	0.30
Fowl . . . . .	0.27	0.30

### BEANS.

The market for beans continued quiet, the market showing no special feature. Reports from the West stated that about one-quarter of the early crop, will grade high, but the late crop beans have been more or less damaged by the recent wet weather. The first business in new crop beans here was reported this week, when a sale of a car of hand-picked was made at \$6.50 per bushel, ex-track for November shipment.

We quote car lot prices as follows:

Hand-picked beans . . . . .	\$6.50
No. 1 grade . . . . .	6.40
No. 2 grade . . . . .	6.30
No. 3 grade . . . . .	6.20

### LOCAL FLOUR.

The announcement that prices for Government standard spring wheat flour has been reduced 10c. to 25c. per barrel, in bags, was the theme of interest, on the market, last week. The market became weaker for flour in bags, and the fact that prices for both jute and cotton declined 7c. each. The ex-

port flour department of the Wheat Export Co., Ltd., were now paying for 75% per cent. extraction Government standard spring wheat flour, \$10.85 per bbl., in bags for rail and water shipments from the mills in the west, and \$10.90 for all rail shipments. The offerings from millers have been liberal, and a large volume of business has been done in this direction.

The trade in spring wheat flour, both for country and domestic needs, was fair. There was a steady demand for supplies, and sales of car lots of Government standard grade were made at \$11.40 per bbl. in bags, ex-track, and to city bakers at \$11.40 delivered, while to grocers and bakers broken lots sold at \$11.50 to \$11.60 as to quantity, delivered, all less 10c. per bbl. for spot cash.

The market for winter wheat flour showed no changes; prices were maintained, although only a small trade passed is a jobbing way at \$11.60 per bbl. in new cotton jute and at \$1.30 in second-hand jute bags, ex-store. According to advices received here from Ontario millers the prospects for future supplies of this grade of flour are not very encouraging, as they claim that the mills generally have been running on winter wheat, and as the crop was light one farmer's deliveries were decreasing fast, and in consequence they were not disposed to enter into contracts for flour for future delivery.

The Canada Food Board has passed an order which defines the only flour wheat flour substitutes as oat, barley, corn and rye flours. All consumers must now take 1 lb. of substitutes to 4 lbs. of wheat flour. The order also allows anyone to have on hand 100 lbs. of flour, or sufficient for 60 days' ordinary requirements; while any farmer, whose home-grown wheat has been ground by or exchanged directly with a miller, and any person living more than five miles from a mill or licensed dealer, may keep on hand 200 lbs. of flour or what is sufficient for 200 days.

The demand for substitutes continues firm, due to the scarcity of substitutes, and prices have ruled firm, with sales of broken lots of rye flour at \$11.50 to \$12, oat flour at \$11.70, Graham flour at \$11.30 to \$11.50, white corn flour at \$10.20, barley flour at \$10, and mixed corn flour at \$9.20 per bbl., in bags, delivered to the trade.

### MILLFEED.

Trade in all lines of millfeed was active, and as supplies were not sufficient to meet demands, prices generally were maintained. Car lots of bran sold at \$37.25, and shorts at \$42.25 per ton, including bags, ex-track, and bran at \$39.25, and shorts at \$44.25 per ton, ex-warehouse, including cartage, less 25c. per ton for spot cash. Sales of pure grain moultrie were made at \$68 to \$70, feed cornmeal at \$60, barley feed at \$62 to \$63, and mixed moultrie at \$55 per ton, including bags, delivered to the trade.

### ROLLED OATS.

Rolled oats remained unchanged with sales reported at \$4.70 per bag of 90 lbs., ex-track, here, for December delivery, and broken lots of standard grades sold at \$5.10 to \$5.25 per bag of 90 lbs., delivered. The demand for cornmeal is steady, at \$5.50 to \$5.75 per bag, for Golden grade, delivered.

### LOCAL GRAIN.

Prices in the grain market closed at a much lower level on Saturday than on Saturday of the previous week, due to the weak feeling which developed. Snow's Corn Crop showed an increase of 100,000,000 bushels over the estimate for October. The trade in cash grain on spot was quieter, but the limited supplies available being limited owing to the embargo on all shipments east of Toronto, the tone of the market has been steady, and prices show no important change as compared with those of a week ago. Some trade was done in Manitoba wheat for milling purposes, and sales of a few lots of barley were made for export, and some round lots of Canadian Western oats were sold to local dealers e.i.f., the Bay for shipment. The country demand for American corn was quiet, and prices ruled unchanged, with sample grades quoted at \$1.25 to \$1.45 per bushel ex-store. On account of the temporary scarcity of oats on spot sales of car lots of extra No. 1 feed were made as high as \$1 per bushel, ex-