

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

The clear cold weather of the past week has added just that zest to retail trade required to give a Christmas spirit. An increased demand has resulted for all lines of seasonable clothing, furs and sporting goods. In wholesale circles the dry goods trade reports satisfactory returns from the travellers booking spring orders, as retailers are stocking up more heavily than usual this year as they realize the increasing shortage of goods. Prices continue to advance on all lines of woollens, underwear in particular having advanced 15 to 20 per cent of late. We learn that an order has been placed for sixteen million yards of khaki overcoating. Cotton mills are still working to capacity, and fixed quotations are withheld, being subject to advance at any moment.

Hardware markets are advancing on almost every line, and higher prices still are expected in the near future, the price of the finished article has not kept pace with the advance in raw materials. This trade, which has been very busy of late is now entering the quiet time preceding the holidays. Paint and lead manufacturers report a good year's business. Leather has gone up again during the week in sympathy with higher values on raw hides. Boot and shoe manufacturers are very busy as orders are coming in heavily. Dealers are freely predicting a 50% advance in boots between now and the spring.

The wheat markets crashed to pieces during the week and although present values of \$1.50 to \$1.65 a bushel look very high when compared with normal values, a drop of 55c in three week's time is fairly staggering. Peace proposals not only caused an uproar in wheat circles, but the stock exchange is also demoralized. Many prominent business men have taken to themselves a funereal look that even a good dinner cannot dispel. At the end of the week when it became apparent that actual peace was not likely to result the markets reacted sharply.

In grocery circles a heavy decline in flour of 70c for the week is the outstanding feature. Sugar is also 10 cents lower in an inactive market. This decline, however, only applies to the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Currants are in low supply and prices are consequently soaring.

## DAIRY PRODUCE.

**BUTTER:** The butter market is now of a Christmas character and very little trade will be done until after New Year. The outstanding feature of the week was the decided weakness in winter made butter which sold at the Board of Trade auction at 2 1/4c under the previous week's quotation. Receipts are becoming smaller every week, as very few factories are still operating. Holders of September butter are not offering just now as it will be wanted later on. According to advices from Great Britain a fair amount of butter is expected to arrive from Australia and New Zealand, but we understand that a large proportion of these consignments is already commandeered by the Government. There was a certain amount of demand over the cable last week. Two fairly large lots of butter sold for shipment, which means that it is a better paying proposition to sell butter for export than to sell in the home market at the reductions that have been made recently.

**CHEESE:** There is no material change in the price of cheese. The export demand continues good in spite of the fact that the winter cheese is not nearly so favorably received as that made a month or two ago. The Liverpool cable recorded an advance of 1s per cwt. last week, Canadian white being quoted at 128s and colored at 131s. Stocks of cheese in store are lower this year than usual as a result of the increase in exports made this season.

<b>Butter:</b>		
Choice Creamery Solids	0.43	0.43 1/2
Winter Creamery	0.42	0.42 1/2
Undergrade Creamery	0.41 1/2	0.41 1/2
Cooking butter	0.38	0.39
Do., Prints, City Cut	0.38	0.45 1/2
Cooking Butter	0.38	0.39
City Selling Price to grocers:		
<b>Cheese:</b>		
Choice Creamery Solids	0.45	
Finest Western	0.24	0.25 1/2
Fine Eastern	0.23 1/2	0.24 1/2
Fine Eastern	0.23 1/2	0.24 1/2
City Selling Prices to grocers:		
Stilton cheese	0.26	0.27

Large	0.25	0.26
Twins	0.25 1/2	
Quebec Cheese	0.24	
Canadian Strong Cheese	0.27	0.28
Roquefort	0.65	

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

**EGGS:** New laid eggs are very scarce. Dealers are paying 65c a doz. for the real article, and state that they cannot get enough of them to supply requirements. The market for cold storage eggs remains steady and firm, export shipments still going forward on old orders. Thus we understand that the supply of storage eggs in Montreal is not large and in the course of a few weeks we shall have to look to the Chicago market for our requirements.

At 65c a dozen farmers should arrange to have their fowls and pullets laying eggs at this season of the year, as there should be big money in producing eggs at these prices.

**POULTRY:** The market on all lines of poultry continues steady. Supplies in the country are reported to be small so that we do not look for very heavy deliveries during Christmas week. Deliveries this past week were fairly satisfactory, although there are some sections of the country in which very little poultry is offering. Farmers should be very happy this year, as they have been selling their poultry at from 3c to 8c per pound higher than last year.

**HONEY AND MAPLE PRODUCTS:** Supplies of honey are becoming limited, as there does not appear to be very much unsold in the country, and consequently prices are very firm. Maple syrup and sugar are also firmly maintained.

**POTATOES:** The price of potatoes shows no change, the market remaining easy owing to the heavy supplies that are said to be in the Montreal storage houses.

<b>Eggs:</b>		
Special New Laid	0.65	0.70
Extras		0.44
No. 1		0.40
No. 2		0.36

<b>Poultry—Live:</b>		
	per pound.	
Fowls, 5 lbs. and over	0.13	0.14
Fowls, small	0.12	0.13
Old Turkeys, cocks	0.24	0.25
Do., hens	0.25	0.26
<b>Fresh Killed Poultry:</b>		
Turkeys	0.29	0.30
Old Turkeys, cocks	0.27	0.28
Do., Roasting	0.29	0.30
Fowls, hens	0.15	0.16
Do., roosters	0.14	0.15
Broilers, 2 1/2 to 3 lbs., per lb.	0.20	0.22
Do., 2 to 2 1/2 lbs., per lb.	0.21	0.23
Squabs	0.35	0.45
Geese	0.16	0.17
Ducks	0.17	0.18

<b>Maple Products:</b>		
Pure maple syrup, quart cans		0.40
Pure maple syrup, 9-lb. tins	1.00	1.10
Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins	1.25	1.30
Pure Maple sugar, per lb.	0.13	0.14

<b>Potatoes:</b>		
Green Mountains, per bag of 80 lbs. ex-track		1.75
Do., to jobbers, ex-store, per 80lb. bag	2.10	2.20
Quebec's, per bag of 80 lbs. ex-track		1.65
Do., to jobbers, ex-store, per 80 lb. bag	1.75	1.85

<b>Beans:</b>		
Can. hand-picked car lots	6.75	7.00
Three-lb. pickers	6.50	6.65
Five-lb. pickers	6.00	6.25
Six to seven-lb. pickers	5.00	5.90

## CAR SHORTAGE CONTINUES.

Both the G. T. R. and the C. P. R. are embargoed as far as shipments from the United States are concerned when destined to Canadian points. The C. P. R. will not allow their equipment to go off their tracks. We understand that these embargoes on the part of the Canadian roads has greatly affected shipments of corn, causing losses to the country buyers and unpleasantness to the Montreal grain firms who have sold.

Mr. Williamson of the Dominion Flour Mills has gone to England to look after the interests of his firm.

Sales in the New York Stock Exchange broke all records last Friday, totalling 2,464,650, compared with 2,421,180 on Tuesday, the previous high record of the year.

## LIVE STOCK.

**MONTREAL:** The offerings on the Montreal live stock market last week amounted to 2,100 cattle, 700 sheep and lambs, 2,000 hogs, and 700 calves. A marked increase took place in the cattle market amounting as much as a rise of 75c to \$1.00 in some of the best grades. This is attributed to the increased strength in other live stock centres, but more particularly to the heavy demand for better grades as a result of the seasonable weather now prevailing. The demand for inferior cattle for canning was also good, and owing to the light supplies coming forward, prices rose 25c to 35c per 100 lbs.

The holiday trade also had a strengthening effect on small meats. Owing to the limited supplies coming forward quotations were marked up 50c to 75c on sheep and 50c on lambs. Calves likewise rose in sympathy, the advance amounting to one cent a pound. Offerings were so light that buyers were unable to fill their requirements. Hogs shared in the general movement upward, the advance amounting to 40c for the week. The demand from packers was good and an active trade was done.

**TORONTO:** Offerings at the Toronto live stock yards last week amounted to 8,672 cattle, 1,122 calves, 18,403 hogs and 5,662 sheep and lambs. Last week's market was characterized by a decided firmness in price and heavier offerings of choice stock than usual. With the high levels obtained in the auction ring in the Fat Stock show in the previous week as a basis, sellers were able to realize high figures for their choice stock. There was a strong demand for best butchers' cows and bulls, and choice milkers and feeders are still meeting a good market. The demand for small meats was fluctuating, but satisfactory on the whole. Sheep and lambs were strong at the beginning of the week, but easier at the end. The hog market was steady, although the run was heavier, being 2,548 over the previous week. Attempts to bring down prices brought no results.

Currents prices are as follows:

	Montreal.		Toronto.	
	Per cwt.		Per cwt.	
Butcher steers, best	9.00	9.25	9.25	9.50
Do., good	8.75	9.00	8.75	9.00
Do., fair	7.75	8.00	8.00	8.40
Do., medium	7.25	7.50	7.00	7.40
Do., rough	6.00	6.25	6.25	6.75
<b>Butchers' cows</b>				
Choice	6.75	7.00	7.00	7.50
Do., good	6.25	6.50	6.50	6.80
Do., fair	5.25	5.50	5.00	5.50
Butcher bulls, best	7.00	7.25	7.25	7.75
Do., good	6.50	6.75	6.00	6.50
Do., medium	6.00	6.25	5.40	5.80
Canners' cattle, bulls	5.25	5.50	4.40	4.60
Do., cows	4.25	4.50		
Heavy Sheep	7.75	8.50	7.50	8.50
Light Ewes	8.25	8.50	8.75	9.25
Culls	7.75	8.00	3.00	5.00
Lambs	11.75	12.50	10.75	12.75
Calves, milkfed.	10.00	11.00	11.00	12.00
Do., grassfed.	6.50	7.50	5.00	6.00
Hogs, select, weighed				
off cars	12.50			12.00
Do., heavy				
weights	12.00	12.15	11.75	11.85
Sows		10.25		

## U. S. DAIRY PRODUCE STOCKS.

The stock of dairy produce on December 1st as issued by the United States Department of Agriculture were: Two hundred and thirty-nine storage houses reported 60,774,859 lbs. of creamery butter. Of these 189 houses reported 58,627,236 lbs., compared with 71,848,767 lbs. the same date last year. This shows a decrease in holdings of 23.9 per cent. during November, which is practically the same percentage as reported by the Associated Warehouses.

Reports from 238 storage houses on eggs showed 2,103,869 cases on hand December 1st. Of these 193 houses report 1,794,740 cases on hand December 1st, compared with 2,787,802 cases the same date last year, showing a decrease of 40.6 per cent. during November. This again is practically the same percentage of decrease as reported by the Associated Warehouses.

Cheese holdings were reported by 282 storages as 33,205,484 lbs. Of these 203 houses report 25,754,366 lbs., compared with 30,943,632 lbs. the same date last year. Holdings during November decreased 15.3 per cent.