

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

The condition of the country roads has interfered with the bringing in of country produce with the result that dealers in this line are finding trouble in getting supplies and some of them are buying in American markets. Trade in wholesale circles shows an increase this past week particularly in dry goods and groceries. In the former, orders for fall deliveries are still being received at a steady rate while many spring orders have not as yet been shipped. Immediate business has fallen off slightly. Oilcloths have advanced about 7 per cent, and linoleums 10 per cent. The feature in the grocery trade during the past week was another advance of 20c per hundred-weight in sugar, making a 40 cent advance within a week, and it is reported that still higher prices may be expected. Boot and shoe manufacturers in some cases have their travellers out on the road with fall samples and price lists that show a considerable advance over those of last year. Canned goods are advancing steadily and in all kinds there is a scarcity. The difficulty in securing seed to grind for oil is causing trouble to the paint manufacturers and some of them have had to refuse orders. There is a scarcity of eggs and dealers are buying across the border; the situation is expected to be relieved as soon as the roads become passable. Butter is still being received from the middle west and is helping to keep prices down, as local stocks are practically nil. Hardware dealers state that trade is looking up a little and expect that with the opening of navigation there will be a big improvement. With the steady upward trend in wheat during the early part of the week it was expected that prices in flour might advance, but the reaction last Friday left the market firm at the former week's prices. There is a good demand for winter wheat flour. Lumber merchants predict a drop in prices on account of the restricted building operations. No more fresh killed poultry is being received, but there is a good demand for the storage product. The fish trade looks for a decided revival this week on account of it being the last of the lenten season.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER: The market has been steady and quiet all week, with no changes of note. The demand has been limited, and prices are a little easier. Easter trade is picking up, and dealers report a welcome activity. Finest lots of fall creamery are being sold for 43c, though some wholesalers declare that they cannot secure more than 42½c. A few small lots of new milk creamery are on the market, and command 43½c, but liberal supplies of this class will not be on sale for some time yet. The middle west is still shipping butter east, a number of cars being received last week.

CHEESE: Business has been very quiet for some time back, with all the old stocks practically sold, and no new cheese coming forward. There has been a steady demand from local buyers for small lots of fodder goods, and sales as high as 26c. per pound have been made. It is expected that there will be considerable activity about the middle of this month, when new cheese will have come in. Advices from Ontario say that prospects for April cheese look particularly inviting, and high prices are expected to prevail. Lower prices are not anticipated for a long time, the army and domestic consumption using up all available supplies.

Current prices follow:

Butter:—		
Choe Fall Creamery Solids	0.42½	0.43
Fine Fall Creamery	0.42	0.42½
Winter Creamery	0.40	0.41
Fresh Creamery	0.43	0.43½
Finest Dairy Butter	0.35	0.36
Fine Dairy Butter	0.33	0.34
Undergrade Dairy	0.32	0.33
Cheese:—		
Finest Western	0.26½	
Fine Eastern	0.27	
Winter Make	0.23	0.25
City Selling Prices to grocers:		
Stilton cheese		
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: Prices during the past week have been fluctuating, but the general quotations of eggs in the country to stores is 32c. to 33c. The supply of the Canadian product is short, and dealers are buying in the Detroit and Chicago markets, claiming that they are securing just as good a quality at a cheaper price. The demand has been exceptionally heavy, and since the roads during the past week have been practically impassable, the deliveries are light. It is reported that farmers are holding large quantities, and that as soon as the roads are in better shape these will be placed on the market.

MAPLE PRODUCTS: The first maple syrup of the season was sold in the city last week, and it was of a very fancy quality. While the weather has not been ideal for sap, yet it has been fairly good. Maple sugar has dropped from 14 and 15 cents to 12 and 13 cents per pound.

POULTRY: The demand for poultry is picking up, and live fowls are now commanding about 2c. higher than before. There is no fresh killed poultry coming in, so that the trade is being supplied from storage.

POTATOES: The tone of the market is firm owing to the small offerings on spot.

BEANS: Prices steady, with a good demand; offerings small.

Eggs:		
New laid	0.35	\$ 36
Poultry—Live:		
Fowls, 5-lb. and over	0.25	0.28
Fowls, small	0.24	0.25
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	1.10	1.20
Pure maple syrup, 9-lb. tins	1.25	1.30
Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins	0.12	0.13
Pure Maple sugar, per lb.		
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	2.85	3.00
Green Mountains		3.15
Beans:		
Can. hand-picked car lots, per bu.	8.00	
Yellow eyes	7.25	7.50
Rangoon	7.25	7.25

SUGAR.

Sugar has been holding the centre of attention during the past week. After jumping 20c. on Friday, the 23rd, it took another 20c. rise on the following Tuesday, and now stands at \$7.80. The reason for the continued advance is evidently the strong market for sugar in New York and other centres, during the past week. Advices from Cuba are to the effect that many of the centrals are closed down on account of the unsettled state of the country. Transportation difficulties are also blamed, while reports say that damage to cane fields has been considerable. New York refineries have been active buyers lately, and seem to anticipate another rise in the near future.

Prices in effect 6.00 p.m., March 30th, were as follows:—

	Per 100 lbs.
Standard or Fine, bags, 100 lbs.	\$7.80
Do., Barrels	7.85
Do., Gunnies, 5-20's	7.95
Do., Gunnies, 10-10's	8.00
Do., Cartons, 20-5's	8.05
Do., Cartons, 50-2's	8.10
Light Yellow, Bags, 100 lbs.	7.40
Do., Barrels	7.45
Brilliant Yellow, bags, 100 lbs.	7.40
Do., barrels	7.45
Dark Yellow, bags, 100 lbs.	7.20
Do., barrels	7.25
Extra Ground (icing) barrels	8.00
Do., Boxes, 50 lbs. bulk	8.20
Do., Boxes, 25 lbs. bulk	8.40
Do., Cartons, 50-1's	9.30
Do., Cartons, 20-1's	9.55
Powdered, barrels	7.90
Do., Boxes, 50 lb. bulk	8.10
Do., Boxes, 25 lb. bulk	8.30
Do., Cartons, 50-2's	8.80
Do., Cartons, 25-2's	9.65

How the Markets Stand

Sugar has been much to the fore during the past week, scoring another advance of 20c., and selling now at \$7.80 in bags. Butter is a little easier at 42½ cents wholesale. Eggs remain unchanged, but with a firm undertone in the market. Live stock prices are about the same as last week. Easter trade counteracting the heavy receipts. Cheese has not moved from last week's quotations. The fruit market is active and prices in practically all lines have advanced, oranges selling from \$4 to \$4.35 per box. New maple syrup arrived during the week and sold for \$1.25 to \$1.50 per tin of 13 lbs. The steady tone of live stock, and particularly hogs, has kept the prices of pork products well up. Lard scored another advance of ½ cent per pound during the week. Canadian hand picked beans continue to sell well for \$8.00, with other lines at former prices. A firmer feeling has prevailed in potatoes, and prices are about 25c. per bag higher, Green Mountains selling for \$3.15 and Quebecs for \$2.75. The advance of 30 cents a barrel in flour made on March 24 stood during the past week, the strength displayed by wheat helping to maintain the rise. Oilcloth prices have been raised 7 per cent., and linoleums 10 per cent. Leather and hide quotations again show an advance, with the exception of calfskins, which are down to 42 and 40 cents. Poultry shows no change. The market in dried fruits is firm, with last week's prices unaltered.

PROVISIONS.

All pork products are remaining firm since the price of hogs still rules high, being \$16.00 for live hogs off the cars. The trade in smoked meats has been up to the present a bit quiet, but it is expected that from now on the market will be better. The Lenten season is given as the cause of the present dullness, which, after Easter, is expected to disappear. Prices of shortening are higher, due to the increase in cotton seed oil.

Current prices are as follows:

	Per lb.
Hams:—	
Smoked Hams, 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
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	0.25
Tubs	0.25½
Pails	0.25½
Tins	0.25½
Cases, 3, 5, 10's	0.26
Prints	0.26½
Compound Lard; Western Grades:—	
Tubs	0.18¾
Tins	0.19¾
Cases, 3, 5, 10's	0.19¾
Prints	0.20¼
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 brawn	0.11

FLOUR AND MILLFEED.

There has been a fair demand for flour with an active market. Local quotations, however, have not advanced, although Ontario millers are asking higher prices. The steady rise in wheat in the early part of last week seemed to predict another advance in flour, but the reaction in the latter part of the week offset this, without, however, making any change in prices. Stocks in bakers' hands are small. Inquiries from England for flour have been received, but it is impossible to secure shipping accommodation. Some dealers have advanced winter wheat flour 20c. to 25c. per bbl., but others are selling at the old levels.

Millfeed is in good steady demand, and prices are being well maintained. Supplies, which are much smaller than the demand, remain well sold up, keeping the market firm. It is reported that the British