

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: The Government icebreakers are reported to be making very fair progress towards this city, and open water to the sea is looked for in the course of a few days, though considerable drift ice is still reported in the gulf at the moment of writing. The St. Lawrence canals are reported clear of ice, with the exception of the Soulanges Canal, which is always late in opening. Thus far there are no reports of lake grain boats moving downwards.

General trade conditions show little change. There is no abatement of activity in the dry goods trade, and houses in this line state that the proportion of customers taking their discounts this spring is larger than at any time in the history of the trade. Notwithstanding the reported difficulty in getting goods, quite a few buyers have left for Britain in the hope of picking up odd lots of dressed goods, cottons, linens, etc. Clothing manufacturers report good fall orders, but are entertaining serious misgivings as to supplies of woollens next year.

Fur travellers now out with full samples are reported to be doing well, though all prices are abnormally high.

In the boot and shoe manufacturing district there is not much cutting of stock, and the leather market is correspondingly quiet.

In the grocery line there is little new, and the sugar situation is unrelieved, with local refiners quoting standard granulated from \$8.40 to \$8.90. Late advices from Japan are to the effect that owing to the increased cost of labor and fertilizers, and unusually cold dry weather, which has affected some districts, prices of new crop teas are likely to rule high.

There is very little doing in the way of new construction, and the local trade in hardware is light, but there is a fair steady trade with the country. Paint manufacturers continue very busy in spite of constantly advancing prices.

The weekly failure list is a very light one, only four small insolvencies being reported, with liabilities of about \$20,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: The Daylight Saving Bill went into effect on Sunday last, all over Canada. There was no inconvenience caused either to railways or commercial houses, everyone being thoroughly satisfied with the change.

Weather conditions have been favorable, seeding operations have begun all over the West, but it is too early to start in the Province of Quebec. Navigation will soon be in full swing again, which is causing a more optimistic feeling amongst the commercial houses, especially as the monetary situation is very satisfactory.

Manufacturers are working to their full capacity. Prices in all lines of dry goods keep soaring, and in some lines it will be impossible to replenish stocks when the present supplies are exhausted.

It is stated that it is impossible to secure linen thread, and manufacturers of leather goods are now compelled to use cotton thread for sewing purposes.

The Dominion Sugar Refineries advanced their prices forty cents per hundred pounds on all grades of refined sugars. Large quantities of Canadian furs were sent down to the American fur sales for Montreal account; these consignments realized good prices.

The building trade is exceedingly dull, there are practically no new buildings being put up, the principal operations being confined to alterations of buildings.

Remittances are coming in well, but city collections are still rather slow. The retail trade report a very active week.

### LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL: The receipts of livestock at Montreal's two yards amounted to 1,450 cattle, 60 sheep and lambs, 1,700 hogs, and 7,550 calves. The quality of the cattle coming forward is improving steadily, and as the offerings are not large, and there is a good demand for them, prices remain very firm. Prices are not likely to be lower, as farmers are demanding good sums for all livestock. Supplies

of calves coming forward were larger, and an active trade at steady prices was done. The market for hogs became stronger in tone, and prices scored an increase of 25c. to 50c. per 100 lbs.

We quote the following Montreal prices:

Stags, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice	12.50	13.00
Good	12.00	12.25
Fairly good	11.50	11.75
Fair	11.00	11.25
Light steers	10.50	10.75
Common	9.75	10.25
Butchers' bulls—		
Choice	11.50	12.00
Good	10.75	11.25
Medium	10.25	10.50
Common	9.00	9.50
Butchers' cows—		
Choice heavy	11.00	11.25
Good	10.50	10.75
Medium	10.00	10.25
Light weights	9.50	9.75
Common	8.50	9.00
Sheep, per 100 lbs.—		
Ewes	13.00	14.00
Bucks and culls	11.00	12.00
Ontario lambs	00.00	17.00
Quebec lambs	00.00	16.00
Calves, per 100 lbs.—		
Good milk-fed stock	11.00	12.00
Good	9.00	10.00
Fair	8.00	9.00
Common	5.00	7.00
Hogs, per 100 lbs.—		
Selected lots	20.75	21.00
Sows	18.50	19.00
Stags	16.00	17.00

TORONTO: An exceptionally light run of very choice cattle was the feature of note of the Toronto markets last week. Record prices were obtained.

Duncan Barr, of Madorta township, shipped in four fine specimens of Durham steers, averaging 1,620 pounds in weight, selling them to the Harris Abattoir Company, through Dunn & Leveck, at \$15 per cwt., or a total of \$972, making an average of \$243 each. This is a record price for cattle, so far as actual price is concerned, but as these animals were possibly the finest and the most economical to butcher, that have been offered on the market for some time past, they will perhaps prove cheaper to the abattoir than some of the other cattle which sold at less money.

The second record-breaking price was \$21.75 per hundredweight for some very fine black-faced lambs, which were sold by Fred Dunn, of Dunn & Leveck. These choice little animals attracted a good deal of attention, and sold to the same buyers as the Duncan Barr steers. The general run of cattle sold at steady prices. Small meats prices were firm, and those for hogs decidedly weaker.

We quote the following prices for livestock at the Toronto markets:

Heavy steers, choice	13.50	15.00
Do., good	13.00	13.40
Butchers' steers and heifers, choice	12.00	12.50
Do., good	11.50	11.75
Do., medium	10.00	10.50
Do., common	8.50	9.50
Butchers' cows, choice	10.00	11.25
Do., good	9.25	9.75
Do., medium	7.75	8.00
Do., common	6.50	7.25
Do., canners	6.00	6.25
Butchers' bulls, choice	10.25	11.00
Do., good	9.25	10.00
Do., medium	8.25	9.00
Do., common	7.50	8.00
Feeders, best	9.50	10.75
Stockers, best	9.50	10.00
Grass cows	7.00	7.75
Milkers and springers, choice	100.00	135.00
Do., common to medium	65.00	90.00
Calves, choice	16.50	17.00
Do., medium	14.00	14.75
Do., common	8.00	10.00
Heavy fat	10.00	12.00
Lambs, choice	19.50	21.75
Sheep, choice handy	13.00	15.00
Do., heavy and fat bucks	11.00	12.25
Hogs, fed and watered	20.25	20.50

Do., off cars	20.50	20.75
Do., f.o.b.	19.00	19.25
Less \$1 to \$2 on light or thin hogs; less \$3 to \$3.50 on sows; less \$4 on stags; less 50c. to \$1 on heavies.		

### PROVISIONS.

The trade in dressed hogs was quiet during the week with a small demand for small lots to meet immediate wants. Sales of abattoir fresh-killed stock in a wholesale jobbing way were made at \$28.50 to \$29 per 100 lbs. In sympathy with the markets at Toronto and Winnipeg the local market for live hogs developed, a weak feeling early in the week, and prices scored a decline of 75c. to \$1.00 per 100 lbs., but towards the end of the week prices firmed up, having scored an advance of 25c. to 50c. per 100 lbs.

Prices for smoked and cured meats showed no change, but the tone of the market was firm.

The market for lard showed a firm tone throughout the week, but prices showed no change.

We quote current prices as follows:

Hams:—		Per lb.
Smoked Hams, 8-10 lbs.	0.35	0.36
Do., 12-15 lbs.	0.33	0.34
Do., over 25 lbs.	0.31	0.32
Bacon:—		
Breakfast	0.40	0.41
Windsor Bacon, selected	0.42	0.43
Windsor Bacon, boneless	0.44	0.45
Pure Lard:—		
20 lbs. pails	0.31	0.31½

### COUNTRY PRODUCE.

#### BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending April 20th, 1918, were 2,378 packages, which show an increase of 1,349 packages, as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 1,507 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date, show a decrease of 150,825 packages, as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. A weaker feeling developed in the butter market toward the end of last week and prices declined 1c. per lb. This condition was attributed to the increased receipts of fresh-made creamery from the West and also from factories in Québec. Buyers are not disposed to buy more than they absolutely need at present prices so the trade is quiet.

We quote the following prices:

Finest Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.51	0.51½
Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.50	0.50½
Fine dairy	0.43	0.44
Margarine:—		
Prints	0.29½	0.34
Bulk	0.28½	0.31½
Cottonseed (Shortening):		
Tierces, per lb.	0.26	
Tubs, per lb.	0.26½	
Pails, per lb.	0.26%	
Cartons	0.27%	

#### CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending April 20th, 1918, were 1,932 boxes, which show an increase of 387 boxes as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 3,669 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date, show a decrease of 429,112 boxes, as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. Of the total receipts for this week last year there were 554 boxes received from the United States. A fairly good trade was done in small cheese for domestic consumption during the week, but otherwise there were no developments. The fodder cheese coming forward was bought at 20c. per lb. f.o.b. country points.

The Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese	21½c
No. 2 cheese	21¼c
No. 3 cheese	20¾c

#### COUNTRY DAIRY BOARDS.

At St. Hyacinthe one hundred and fifty boxes of cheese sold at 20½c. One hundred and fifty packages of butter sold at 49c. Meeting was well attended for opening. Election of officers will be held on the first Saturday of May.

#### EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending April 20th, 1918, were 17,032 cases, as compared with 9,518 for the previous week, and 9,617 for the same week last year.