

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dispatches from branch offices of R. G. Dun & Co. in leading cities of the Dominion of Canada indicate that progress is steady, although conservative, and that there are very few points where optimism is not the keynote of the situation. Montreal reports that wholesalers express satisfaction with the current volume of business, the movement in practically all leading lines being now well ahead of that last year and well up to that of the best of previous corresponding periods. This includes dry goods, footwear, clothing, hardware, furniture and other staples, in all of which lines merchants are apparently preparing for an active spring business. Distribution of merchandise at Quebec, both wholesale and retail, has been quiet this week, but orders for spring delivery are coming in freely and prospects are considered bright. Trade conditions at Toronto continue fairly satisfactory and the financial situation is eminently favorable. Spring and summer merchandise is being bought in liberal amounts by country merchants, and local retail consumption is stimulated by the active employment of labor. In some directions it is claimed that improvement is rather slow, due to the fact that conservatism is not entirely absent, but it is encouraging to note that the trend towards betterment is steady and that the prevailing sentiment is cheerful. In the Far West and Northwest the weather has been an adverse factor, but the volume of trade in the aggregate is well maintained and much confidence is expressed in the future. Winnipeg reports a substantial improvement in most leading departments, there being a brisk call for clothing, dry goods, footwear, furs and house furnishings, and both wholesalers and retailers are looking forward to a profitable business during the coming spring and summer. Little change in trade conditions is reported at Calgary, sales generally being in satisfactory volume and the outlook for the immediate future encouraging. Wholesale business at Regina, as well as retail demand, is well maintained and there is little disposition on the part of merchants to complain regarding current conditions. The local movement of merchandise at Saskatoon has been a little quiet since the holidays, but sales, as a whole, exceed those of last year at this time and prospects are regarded as favorable.

Gross earnings of all Canadian railroads reporting to date for two weeks in January show an increase of 36.7 per cent as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. Commercial failures in the Dominion of Canada this week numbered 40 as against 53 last week and 71 the same week last year.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER: Although the receipts of butter to date are much larger than they were last year at this time, there is a continual falling off in current receipts, and the supply is nowhere near the present consumption. The stocks in local traders' hands, which will be compiled and issued next Wednesday, are expected to show a heavy decrease from those of the corresponding date last month. The business which has been doing during the last week has been purely of a local and outside nature. No export demand of any nature could be met at present, and consequently no offers from foreigners are being received.

CHEESE: The cheese stocks in the Montreal market are so small at present that no dealers would be in a position to accept an export order of any size and one would have to bid pretty high to get even 1,500 boxes. The exports from the ports of Portland, Me., and St. John, N.B., which arrived on the other side for the week ended January 26, 1916, amounted to 12,966 boxes as compared with 1,670 boxes for the same period last year. The total exports from the Ports of Montreal, Quebec, St. John and Portland from May 1, 1915, to January 26, 1916, amounted to 1,997,611 boxes, as compared with 1,548,835 for the same period a year previous, an increase for the current year of 45,481 boxes. Finest western Canadian cheese has been selling at 97s. to 98s. c.i.f. London. Montreal buyers have again been making purchases of American cheese in New York State at prices said to be around 17½c to 18c. The local trade is all of a jobbing nature.

Current quotations follow:—

| | Montreal. | Toronto. |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| Butter— | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Choicest Creamery | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.37 |
| Fine Creamery | 0.34½ | 0.32 | 0.33 |
| Seconds | 0.33 | 0.33½ | |
| Dairy Prints, best | 0.28 | 0.29 | 0.32 |
| Cooking | 0.23 | 0.24 | 0.25 |
| Cheese— | | | |
| Finest Colored | 0.18½ | | |
| Finest Eastern, white | 0.18½ | | |
| Finest Easterns | 0.17½ | | |
| Large | | 0.18½ | 0.19 |
| Twins | 0.20 | 0.18½ | 0.19½ |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|------|
| Geese | 0.16 | 0.18 |
| Chicken | 0.15 | 0.18 |
| Honey:— | | |
| Buckwheat, tins | 0.07 | |
| Strained clover, 60-lb. tins | 0.10½ | |
| Strained clover, in 10-lb. tins | 0.11 | |
| Strained clover, in 5-lb. tins | 0.11½ | |
| Comb honey, No. 1, doz. | 3.00 | |
| Comb honey, No. 2, doz. | 2.40 | |
| Peas:— | | |
| Guaranteed boilers, per 60 lb. bu. | 3.00 | 3.25 |
| Ordinary, per bushel | | 2.25 |

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

EGGS: An easier feeling has developed in the market for eggs during the past week owing to the mild weather which has caused an increase in the receipts and the local market has declined 3 cents per dozen. Storage eggs are scarce, and to supply the demand American storage eggs are being sold to the domestic trade. There has been practically nothing doing in the export trade. Although the English stocks of eggs are light the demand for this account is small. The exports from the ports of Portland, Me., and St. John, N.B., for the week ended January 26, 1916, reported as having arrived at their destination amounted to 13,303 cases, as compared with nil for the same period last year.

MAPLE PRODUCTS: There is no change in the market for maple products; prices are steady and the demand is small.

BEANS: There is a firm undertone to the market for beans, but as the stocks on spot and offering are small, there is little trade passing at present. The demand is chiefly for three and five pound pickers.

POTATOES: The market for potatoes is very strong at the recent sharp advances, and as the supplies are not large, and the prices high at the points of producing, owing to the holding of producers, another advance is expected in the very near future.

DRESSED POULTRY: Most of the business being done in dressed poultry is in the cold storage line, as the arrivals of fresh-killed are very light. All lines, however, are meeting with ready sale wherever offered at very firm prices.

HONEY: There is a moderate trade being done in the market for honey at steady prices. The demand is mostly for white clover stock, and as this is scarce, prices are very firm.

PEAS: Some large purchases have been made of peas from sellers who have been in the local market during the past week. The quality bought has been poor, but it was the best that Canada has afforded in this year's crop. Prices are firm and the demand is good, but wholesalers will only make sales to retailers in small quantities, as they wish to conserve their small supply on spot.

| | Montreal. | Toronto. |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Eggs— | | |
| Fresh gathered. | | |
| specials | 0.40 | 0.42 |
| Storage, Extras | 0.00 | 0.33 |
| Do., No. 1's | 0.00 | 0.30 |
| Do., No. 2's | 0.00 | 0.28 |
| Cracks and Dirts, | | |
| No. 1's | 0.00 | 0.25 |
| Maple Syrup and Sugar— | | |
| Pure Maple Syrup, | | |
| 8 lb. tins | 0.95 | 0.97½ |
| Do., 10 lb. tins | 1.10 | 1.12½ |
| Do., 12 lb. tins | 1.40 | 1.50 |
| Pure Maple Sugar, lb. | 0.12½ | 0.13 |
| Beans:— | | |
| 3-lb. pickers, | | |
| carlots, bus. | 4.00 | 4.15 |
| 3 lb. pickers, do. | 3.90 | 4.00 |
| Undergrades, bus. | 3.60 | 3.70 |
| Potatoes:— | | |
| Green Mountains, | | |
| per bag, car lots. | 1.85 | 1.90 |
| Quebecs, do. | 1.85 | 1.90 |
| Job lots 10c. more. | | |
| Poultry:— | | |
| Frozen stock— | | |
| Turkeys | 0.24 | 0.26 |
| Fowl, large | 0.17 | 0.19 |
| Fowl, small | 0.12 | 0.16 |
| Ducks | | 0.20 |
| Geese | 0.16 | 0.17 |
| Roasting chicken, milkfed, 4 lbs. or over | 0.21 | 0.26 |
| Roasting chicken, ordinary | 0.18 | 0.22 |
| Spring broilers, dressed, pair | 0.75 | 1.00 |
| Squabs, Canadian, pair | 0.40 | |
| Squabs, Philadelphia, pair | 0.70 | |
| Pigeons, pair | 0.25 | 0.30 |
| Live stock— | | |
| Fowl, 5 lbs. and over | 0.20 | 0.23 |
| Fowl, small | 0.18 | 0.19 |
| Turkeys | 0.19 | 0.20 |
| Ducks | 0.22 | 0.25 |

LIVE STOCK.

The Montreal live stock market on Monday of last week, took on a decided boom, and every buyer seemed anxious to obtain a supply of live meats, and therefore all the offerings on the first day quickly disappeared. The same was the case on Tuesday, but the milder weather suddenly put a damper on this kind of trading, and on Wednesday there were a few left-overs, mostly common and canning beefs. Buying for the rest of the week was very dull, as those who needed supplies only purchased for actual wants and necessities. Supplies of dressed meats in butchers hands were small and with a turn to cold weather again buying, will, no doubt, be active. The quality of beefs offering were above the average, and accordingly the tops brought good prices, a few odd head selling as high as \$8 per cwt. This latter price, however, was received by few, as most of the choice stock brought only \$7.80 to \$7.90 per cwt. Mixed lots of choice steers and heifers brought as high as \$7.65 per cwt. for round lots. The offerings of butcher cows did not contain any amount of fancy stock, and while a few odd cows brought \$7 per cwt, these were very scarce, the average choice stock bringing \$6.75 per cwt.

Very choice lambs were scarce, while the demand was good, and this caused a stronger feeling to develop, and prices to advance 50 cents per cwt., for this quality to \$1.50 per cwt. Old sheep were easy at \$6.25 to \$6.75 per cwt.

The market for hogs showed material change from the week previous, with a few exceptions, where the offerings of selects were small and the demand keen. One load was reported at \$10.60, and a few more at \$10.50, but the average brought around \$10.10 to \$10.25 per cwt., all weighed off cars.

In the market for calves there was no particular change, except that owing to the mild weather the demand was not quite so heavy. Good veals brought from \$8.50 to \$9.50, and grassers \$5.00 to \$5.25 per cwt.

Representative sales of the week as compiled by Mitchell and Maher were as follows:—

| No. | average | per |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------|
| Head. | lbs. | cwt. |
| 13 steers | 1,180 to 1,270 | @ 7.90 |
| 2 steers | 1,425 | @ 7.85 |
| 5 steers | 1,125 | @ 7.75 |
| 41 steers and heifers | 1,123 | @ 7.65 |
| 6 steers | 1,180 | @ 7.65 |
| 18 steers and heifers | 1,020 | @ 7.40 |
| 16 steers and heifers | 1,000 | @ 7.30 |
| 12 steers | 1,100 | @ 7.25 |
| 28 steers | 970 | @ 7.00 |
| 14 steers | 920 | @ 6.90 |
| 5 cows | 1,310 to 1,380 | @ 6.75 |
| 4 cows | 1,210 | @ 6.40 |
| 8 cows | 1,180 | @ 6.25 |
| 14 cows | 1,140 | @ 6.10 |
| 10 cows | 1,190 | @ 5.80 |
| 12 cows | 1,030 | @ 5.60 |
| 6 cows | 960 | @ 4.75 |
| 8 cows | 1,030 | @ 5.25 |
| 6 cows | 960 | @ 4.75 |
| 33 canners | 920 | @ 3.60 |
| 5 bulls | 1,500 to 1,620 | @ 7.00 |
| 6 bulls | 1,400 | @ 6.60 |
| 6 bulls | 1,240 | @ 6.40 |
| 8 bulls | 1,460 | @ 6.75 |
| 4 bulls | 1,450 | @ 6.50 |
| 6 bulls | 1,260 | @ 6.00 |

FORT WILLIAM GRAIN STOCKS.

The stocks of wheat and oats in store at Fort William on January 22, 1916, as compared with a week and a year ago, were:—

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Week ended Jan. 22, 1916 | 21,676,745 | 7,937,712 |
| Week ended Jan. 15, 1916 | 20,636,619 | 7,394,822 |
| Increase | 1,040,125 | 542,891 |
| Week ended Jan. 23, 1915 | 5,132,926 | 1,872,068 |
| Shipments | 593,892 | 61,287 |

FLOUR

The feature of the week has been the falling of the price of wheat, but the very low price has not yet reached the wheat option market, and the week's total, nearly 14 cents, and the year, and the totalling \$1.10 of the new crop, and the porters are sack for export, and this for consequence, port account, outside trade, waiting in wheat market, Exports from land, Me., the week of sacks, as compared with period last year.

The feeling is owing to the fact that there is no more are being received for supplies from this quarter, and the strong material has been ket for roll. There is a hay dealers being paid these prices which is causing hardship and storage selling well. not large, and Spring

First patents bbls. in bbls. Seconds patents Strong clear 30c per bbl

Winter Fancy Patent 90 per cent. 90 per cent.

Cereals: Cornmeal, y bags, 98 Rolled oats, in wood, per bag

Roller wheat bbl. Rye flour, 98 Graham flour, Barley pot., Barley, pearl, Whole wheat

lbs. Baled Hay No. 1 per ton Extra Good, No. 2 per ton No. 3 per ton

Mill-feed Bran, per ton Shorts, per ton Middlings, per ton Feed flour, per ton

Moullie, per grades, per Do., mixed Moullie price

There has for live hogs the top price was a little buyers paid cars. The account of supply among offerings. P to the count that they are ing the prop ing to take no change in mild weather and therefore killed at \$14. weights at \$14.