

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: While retail shopping hours have been somewhat extended by the city health authorities, the volume of business continues to be materially curtailed owing to the disinclination of many to mingle in crowds. Trading in the country does not appear to be affected to any very noteworthy extent, except in some of the larger towns. Among wholesalers business appears to be well sustained in volume, though during the past two weeks there has been a palpable reduction in the number of visiting buyers from nearby districts.

In the grocery line the distribution is seasonably normal, except in sugar, molasses, and a few other lines. Some moderate lots of molasses have come to hand recently, approximately 1,000 puncheons, but some orders placed as far back as last November are not yet fulfilled. Freightage from the West Indies figures now at \$12 a puncheon as against \$2 in 1914, with little cargo space available. Sugar quotations are unchanged at \$8.75 for standard granulated by the oldest local company, and \$9.50 by others, with deliveries still very limited. Fair deliveries are now being made by the canning companies, though only about 35 per cent. of orders for corn will be forthcoming. Further weakness has developed in prices for hogs, but the high figures for cured meats, by many considered unwarranted, are still maintained, though the demand is barely moderate. Butter and eggs rule high in prices, but potatoes are a little cheaper.

In general hardware business is fairly up to the average, notwithstanding curtailed city sales. Paint manufacturers are busy and report easier prices for linseed oil and turpentine, but the cost of all other raw materials rules very high.

Dry goods men report orders still coming to hand in goodly volume. Textile mills of all kinds are crippled by the sickness of operatives, but are nevertheless making fair deliveries.

Spring orders for boots and shoes are much ahead of last year, but in this industry also, factories are running with reduced staffs.

In the fur line orders for winter furs have been particularly good, and liberal orders are also reported for spring hats.

Payments are quoted as fair to good. Dry goods houses report October payments well ahead of last year, when little complaint was heard, but in some other lines sundry complaints are heard, of customers making the gripe epidemic an excuse for deferred payments.

For the week six district failures are reported, with liabilities of \$71,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: The change in the hours of the retail trade from 10.30 a.m. to 7 p.m., has been of some benefit, but owing to the severe epidemic the public are not patronizing the stores any more than to fill their actual requirements, and a good many will not make purchases at all except through the telephone.

The drug houses, both wholesale and retail, have been run off their feet, supplies in most cases are totally exhausted. Some of the wholesale drug houses have called their travellers in off the road, as they have more orders on hand than they can fill up to the end of the year. Prices on all drugs have advanced enormously, especially quinine, which is very scarce.

There has been some relief in the wool market, owing to the large quantities (some two million pounds), which are being shipped from New Zealand to the Canadian markets. This has had an effect on the local market for sheepskins, which are offering at lower prices, and holders are finding it difficult to make sales.

Orders for light leathers from France were received by the trade this week. There is a good demand for leather from the local manufacturers for army purposes. The wholesale boot and shoe trade is more active.

All manufacturers and wholesale houses are feeling the effects of labor shortage caused by the epidemic. The building trade is also suffering from want of various tradesmen.

Remittances and city collections are reported very good.

LOCAL FLOUR.

A temporary scarcity of rye, barley and flour was the main feature of interest in the milling industry, last week, and as the manufacturers have already oversold their output, millers and jobbers of wheat flour found it difficult to secure sufficient supplies.

There was no change in prices, although the tone of the market was firm, with sales of rye flour in broken lots at \$11.50 to \$12, oat flour at \$11.70, Graham flour at \$11.30 to \$11.50, white corn flour at \$9.20 per barrel in bags, delivered to the trade. The trade in spring wheat flour last week was quieter, and the movement for domestic and country account smaller, and a number of orders that were booked for delivery this month, especially for the latter, have been cancelled. Otherwise there was no change in the general condition of the market for this grade flour, Government standard in car lots selling at \$11.50 per barrel in bags, ex-track, and to city bakers at \$11.65 delivered with broken lots at \$11.75 delivered to grocers and city bakers, all less 10c per barrel for spot cash. Winter wheat flour has also ruled rather quiet, and prices are unchanged for broken lots at \$11.60 per barrel in new cotton bags, and at \$11.30 in second-hand jute bags ex-store.

MILLFEED.

The market for millfeed showed no changes, last week. There was a good demand, and an active business was done both for prompt and future delivery with sales of car lots of bran 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. Pure grain moulie is selling at \$68 to \$70, feed cornmeal at \$66, barley feed at \$62 to \$63, and mixed moulie at \$55 per ton, including bags, delivered to the trade.

ROLLED OATS.

In sympathy with the upward tendency of prices for the raw material, a very firm feeling prevailed in the market for rolled oats; prices, however, showed no change. Standard grades in broken lots were quoted at \$5.20 to \$5.30 per bag of 90 lbs. delivered. The demand for Golden cornmeal is steady at \$5.50 to \$5.75 per bag, delivered.

LOCAL GRAIN.

A strong feeling prevailed in all lines of grain, last week, and prices generally showed an advance over the previous week. The demand for cash grain was steady, and there was also a steady demand for Manitoba wheat, from millers, and sales of fair sized lots were made in most grades. Cash corn showed an advance of 20c per bushel for the week, but the volume of business with dealers was only fair; there was, however, a steady trade in car lots, with country buyers, and sales of sample grades were made at from \$1.35 to \$1.45 per bushel ex-store. These prices were 5c to 10c higher than a week ago. Trading in October oat option in the Winnipeg market was discontinued in the early part of the week, so that all interest centred in the December future, which sold on Friday as high as 81½c, making a net gain as compared with last Saturday's closing figure of 6c, per bushel, and it closed on Saturday with a net advance for the week of 4¼c. This naturally influenced the spot market for cash oats and prices during the week were marked up 4c to 5c per bushel. There was a good demand for supplies, and the market closed strong with car lots of Canadian western extra No. 1 feed quoted at 98c to 99c, No. 1 feed at 96c to 97c, No. 2 feed at 92c to 93c, Ontario No. 2 white at 94c, No. 3 white at 93c, and No. 4 at 92c per bushel ex-store. A feature of the trade in Manitoba barley was the demand for export account early in the week, and sales of some round lots of No. 3 were made, f.o.b. vessel here, but on account of the sharp advance in prices in the Winnipeg market late, which were away above export basis, further business was checked. There was also a fair trade done for domestic account, and prices for the week advanced 4c to 5c per bushel, with sales of car lots of Ontario extra No. 3 at \$1.31, No. 3 at \$1.29, Manitoba No. 3 at \$1.27, No. 4 at \$1.22, and No. 4 sample at \$1.17 per bushel ex-store.

LIVESTOCK.

TORONTO.—The receipts of livestock at the Toronto markets, for the week ending Saturday, October 26, amounted to 9,692 cattle; 2,112 calves; \$,895 hogs; 7,580 sheep and 1,402 horses.

We quote Montreal prices as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Choice heavy steers | .. . . . | \$13.00 to \$13.25 |
| Choice butchers | .. . . . | 12.25 12.50 |
| Good | .. . . . | 11.75 12.00 |
| Fairly good | .. . . . | 11.25 11.50 |
| Fair | .. . . . | 10.75 11.00 |
| Light steers | .. . . . | 9.00 10.25 |
| Common | .. . . . | 8.00 8.75 |
| Butchers' Bulls— | | |
| Choice, heavy | .. . . . | 9.50 10.00 |
| Choice, light | .. . . . | 9.00 9.25 |
| Good | .. . . . | 8.50 8.75 |
| Medium | .. . . . | 8.00 8.25 |
| Light weights | .. . . . | 7.50 7.75 |
| Butchers' cows— | | |
| Choice | .. . . . | 9.25 9.75 |
| Good | .. . . . | 8.75 9.00 |
| Medium | .. . . . | 8.25 8.50 |
| Common | .. . . . | 7.25 8.00 |
| Sheep and lambs— | | |
| Ontario lambs | .. . . . | 14.50 15.00 |
| Quebec lambs | .. . . . | 12.50 13.50 |
| Ontario sheep | .. . . . | 11.00 11.50 |
| Quebec sheep | .. . . . | 10.00 10.50 |
| Calves— | | |
| Choice, milk-fed stock | .. . . . | 14.00 15.00 |
| Good | .. . . . | 12.00 13.00 |
| Grass-fed, choice | .. . . . | 9.00 10.00 |
| Lower grades | .. . . . | 5.00 7.00 |
| Live hogs— | | |
| Selects | .. . . . | 18.00 18.25 |
| Good | .. . . . | 17.75 18.00 |
| Mixed lots | .. . . . | 17.75 18.00 |
| Sows | .. . . . | 15.00 15.25 |
| Stags | .. . . . | 14.00 14.25 |

Toronto quotations:—

| | | |
|---|----------|---------------|
| Heavy steers, choice | .. . . . | 13.75 14.50 |
| do, good | .. . . . | 12.00 13.25 |
| Butchers' steers and heifers, choice | .. . . . | 10.00 11.00 |
| do, good | .. . . . | 9.00 10.00 |
| do, medium | .. . . . | 8.25 8.75 |
| do, common | .. . . . | 6.75 7.50 |
| Butchers' cows, choice | .. . . . | 9.00 11.00 |
| do, good | .. . . . | 7.75 8.50 |
| do, medium | .. . . . | 7.00 7.50 |
| do, common | .. . . . | 6.75 7.25 |
| do, canners | .. . . . | 5.25 6.00 |
| Butchers' bulls, choice | .. . . . | 10.00 10.50 |
| do, good | .. . . . | 9.00 9.50 |
| do, medium | .. . . . | 7.75 8.50 |
| do, common | .. . . . | 7.00 7.75 |
| Feeders, best | .. . . . | 9.50 10.50 |
| Stockers, best | .. . . . | 9.00 10.50 |
| Milkers and springers, choice | .. . . . | 160.00 200.00 |
| do, common to medium | .. . . . | 65.00 100.00 |
| Calves, choice | .. . . . | 15.50 16.50 |
| do, medium | .. . . . | 12.00 13.00 |
| do, common | .. . . . | 8.00 10.50 |
| do, grass | .. . . . | 7.50 8.00 |
| Lambs, choice spring | .. . . . | 15.00 15.75 |
| Lambs, yearlings | .. . . . | 15.00 16.00 |
| Sheep, choice handy | .. . . . | 12.00 14.00 |
| do, heavy and fat bucks | .. . . . | 6.00 12.00 |
| Hogs, fed and watered | .. . . . | 18.25 |
| do, off cars | .. . . . | 18.50 |
| do, f.o.b. | .. . . . | 17.25 |
| Less \$1 to \$2 on light to thin hogs; less \$3 to \$3.50 on sows; less \$5 on stags; less 50c to \$1 on heavies. | | |

GRAIN AND FLOUR STOCKS.

The following table shows the stocks of grain and flour in store in Montreal on the dates mentioned:

| | Oct. 26, 1918. | Oct. 19, 1918. | Oct. 27, 1917. |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | bush. | bush. | bush. |
| Wheat | 646,548 | 406,325 | 3,531,867 |
| Corn | 133,790 | 114,501 | 23,327 |
| Peas | 41,420 | 41,420 | 1,243 |
| Oats | 4,047,350 | 4,681,486 | 173,000 |
| Barley | 137,339 | 181,816 | 267,859 |
| Rye | 2,349 | ..... | 3,201 |
| Flax | 1,714 | ..... | 6,614 |
| Flour, sacks | 5,254 | 5,515 | 52,007 |