

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

According to Bradstreet's the general Christmas trade in Canada this year has been exceptionally heavy.

Toronto reports to Bradstreet's says that the lull which is being experienced in both wholesale and retail lines comes as a sharp contrast to the activity of the Christmas trade. The period of quiet is not altogether unwelcome, as it affords opportunity of taking stock, and for getting ready for a distribution of spring goods, the magnitude of which is assured by the volume of orders which travellers brought in during the closing months of this year. Price changes continue to come into effect with unceasing regularity. Drygoods wholesalers report a steady upward movement of prices; their business is practically at a standstill now, and they are taking advantage of the lull to unpack goods, to get ready for next year's trade. One representative firm reported an increase in the annual turnover amounting to close to three-quarters of a million, and another wholesaler stated that this week was the first in eighteen months, for which an increase had not been noted over the corresponding period twelve months before. The holiday trade in hardware was stated to be very satisfactory. The brisk cold weather was favorable for the movement of skates, and other winter lines, and some sorting orders have already been received. Bank clearings continue to give a favorable impression of the commercial situation, and payments are fairly satisfactory.

Montreal reports to Bradstreet's say that wholesalers, jobbers and retailers are recovering from one of the busiest Christmas seasons that have been experienced. The seasonable weather exerted a powerful effect in stimulating buying just prior to Christmas, and many repeat orders were filled at the last minute. Travellers are preparing to take the road soon after New Year's Day, and wholesalers will begin to get ready the extensive spring orders that have already been placed. Exports of flour from Montreal for the seven months of the navigation season ending December 1st, totalled 4,575,989 sacks as compared with 1,613,214 for last year. Exports of rolled oats were much lighter, on account of Canadian millers being unable to compete with those of the United States, because of the demand for army supplies. Textile mills are very busy. Demand for cured meats and all lines of provisions has been marked. The supply of poultry was more than adequate to meet demands, resulting in a shrinkage in prices. Hardware and groceries are experiencing a moderate movement. The sugar situation is quiet, and an easier feeling is predominant.

Winnipeg reports to Bradstreet's say that final reports on Christmas trade show an unusually active movement. Furs, heavy winter clothing, boots and shoes, etc., were especially good sellers. There is a fairly active demand for all staples. The transportation difficulties appear to be no nearer solution than ever and if anything they have become more complicated within the last two weeks. In sympathy with the stronger feeling in the Chicago grain pit, Canadian wheat prices went higher, with the export demand for United States wheat as one of the largest factors. The movement of grain eastward is at a standstill, but very large quantities of the British purchases are on the other side of the lakes, awaiting transportation to the seaboard. Grocery lines are fairly active. Country trade is reported generally good for the closing months of the year, and the same conditions are assured for the beginning of 1917.

Calgary reports to Bradstreet's declare that trade in the Northwest was entirely favorable for the holiday season, and that business is expected to go ahead with little interruption for the next few months. Fancy lines were quite active during December. Furs, woollens, and all kinds of drygoods and clothing were active, Regina, Saskatoon and Edmonton also report a good trade in staple lines.

Vancouver reports to Bradstreet's say that the trade situation is showing improvements, and reports of Christmas that have just come to hand indicate substantial increases over last year. Wholesalers appear to be quite satisfied with the conditions of the last few months, and both staples and specialties moved out in considerable volume for holiday requirements.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

EGGS: The market for eggs remains steady, although prices are just a shade easier. The export demand is over for the present season, and most dealers have not more than enough eggs for the current month. New laid eggs are a little more plentiful and prices are somewhat weaker. It will not be very long before the receipts of new laid increase considerably in Canada, as many farmers are arranging to have their hens lay earlier in the season in order to take advantage of midwinter prices.

POULTRY: The demand for poultry for the New Year's trade was not quite so good as for Christmas. Dealers report that the quantity of poultry held in cold storage for winter, spring and summer requirements is less than last year's. This is particularly the case with turkeys which are very scarce. For the next few weeks there will be a good demand for live fat fowls. Some export business in poultry has been completed and inquiries are still coming in.

HONEY: The demand for honey this year has been very much heavier than last season, and lately there has been an extra demand for both local and out of town shipment. This has resulted in unusually light stocks which will tend to increase prices.

BEANS: The market in this line remains steady but is very quiet at the present time. A number of cars of Japanese beans have arrived, the quality of which is quite as good as that of Canadian beans, and they are cheaper in price as well. Some dealers predict a shade easier prices on beans, as farmers are asking almost double their last year's prices.

Eggs:—
Special New Laid 0.60 0.65
Extras 0.42 0.42
No. 1 0.38 0.38

Poultry—Live:

	per pound.	
Fowls, 5 lbs. and over	0.16	0.17
Fowls, small	0.13	0.14
Fresh Killed Poultry:		
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, 2½ to 3 lbs., per lb.	0.20	0.22
Do., 2 to 2½ lbs., per lb.	0.21	0.23
Squabs	0.35	0.45
Geese	0.16	0.17
Ducks	0.17	0.18

Maple Products:—
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

Potatoes:—
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

Beans:—
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

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER: The market for fine and finest fall creamery holds firm owing to the scarcity of supplies available. Winter creamery, however, is easier. A good trade was reported last week on domestic account, with enquiries from outside points which resulted in several sales of fair sized lots. A certain amount of butter went forward for export via St. John and New York, consisting of American butter purchased by Canadian houses and shipped to their customers in the United Kingdom.

CHEESE: Stocks of cheese are comparatively small for the time of year and current receipts are at a very low ebb. Prices during the week varied according to the quality offered. Any September or October cheeses on the market are bringing 25c to 25½c, but winter made goods are selling as low as 20c. A sale is reported of 1,000 boxes of cheese at 23½c f. o. b. Chicago, bringing the cost up to 24c here. There was a certain amount of demand for winter cheese over the cable, but no response to offers for pure goods. This has created a steady demand from exporting houses for all winter cheese

coming forward. The Liverpool public cable last week quoted Canadian finest white at 130s and colored at 131s, being an advance of 1 shilling for white.

Butter:—
Choice Creamery Solids 0.43 0.43½
Winter Creamery 0.42 0.42½
Undergrade Creamery 0.40 0.41½
Dairy butter 0.37½ 0.38
Cooking butter 0.38 0.39

City Selling Price to grocers:
Creamery, Solids 0.44
Do., Prints 0.44½
Do., No. 2 0.42
Do., Prints 0.42½
Cooking Butter 0.38 0.39

Cheese:—
Finest Western 0.25 0.25½
Fine Eastern 0.24 0.24½
Winter Make 0.20 0.22

City Selling Prices to grocers:
Stilton cheese 0.26 0.27
Large 0.25 0.26
Twins 0.25½
Quebec Cheese 0.24
Canadian Strong Cheese 0.27 0.28
Roquefort 0.65

LIVE STOCK.

Receipts of live stock at the Toronto stockyards last week amounted to 1,267 cattle, 293 calves, 5,184 hogs, and 612 sheep and lambs. Trade during the past week was unusually dull even for the holiday season. Receipts were very light, cattle offerings being only 1,267 head as compared with 8,618 the preceding week, and 2,456 for the same week last year. Similarly small receipts were noted in all other lines. Prices show no change from the preceding week. A good demand was reported for the few sheep and lambs on the market. Choice veal calves were also strong. Hog prices were advanced 10c to 25c per 100 lbs. in a strong market.

Shipments of horses for the year to Toronto markets numbered 87,061, which is nearly 30 per cent less than the number recorded for 1915. This is accounted for by the fact that purchases for army purposes fell off to a marked degree in Canada, and in the United States as well.

Current prices are as follows:

	Per cwt.			
	Montreal.		Toronto.	
Butcher steers, best	9.50	9.75	8.75	9.25
Do., good	9.00	9.25	8.00	8.75
Do., fair	8.50	8.75	8.30	8.60
Do., medium	7.50	7.75	7.50	8.00
Do., rough	7.00	7.25	6.25	6.75
Butchers' cows				
Choice	7.50	7.75	7.00	7.25
Do., good	7.00	7.25	6.50	6.80
Do., fair	6.50	6.75	5.00	5.50
Butcher bulls, best	8.25	8.50	7.25	7.50
Do., good	7.75	8.00	6.00	6.50
Do., medium	7.25	7.50	5.40	5.80
Canners' cattle, bulls	5.50	5.75	4.10	4.30
Do., cows	4.50	4.75		
Heavy Sheep	8.25	8.50	7.50	8.50
Light Ewes	8.75	9.00	9.00	9.75
Culls	7.75	8.00	3.00	5.00
Lambs	12.50	13.50	8.50	13.25
Calves, milkfed.	10.00	11.00	11.00	12.00
Do., grassfed.	6.50	7.50	5.00	6.00
Hogs, selects, weighed				
off cars	12.90	13.00		12.35
Do., heavy				
weights	12.50	12.60		12.25
Sows	10.90	11.00		

WINNIPEG GRAIN RECEIPTS.

The receipts of grain at Winnipeg for the week ended December 30, 1916, compared with last week and the corresponding week a year ago were as follows:

	This week.	Last week.	Last year.
No. 1 Northern	277	234	....
No. 2 Northern	436	437	....
No. 3 Northern	462	525	....
No. 4 Northern	267	309	....
No. 5 Northern	120	135	....
No. 6 Northern	74	84	....
Feed Wheat	65	55	....
Rejected	43	48	....
No. grade	427	609	....
No. 4 Special	92	102	....
No. 5 Special	76	104	....
No. 6 Special	36	36	....
Winter Wheat		2	....
Totals	2,315	2,584	3,499
Oats	794	934	921
Barley	114	141	64
Flax	90	98	56