

B. C. CUSTOMS RETURNS.

The following is a summary of the customs returns for the four ports of the Province of British Columbia for the month of February, 1893:

IMPORTS.

	VICTORIA	VANCOUVER	WESTMINSTER	NANAIMO	TOTAL
Dutiable Goods	\$133,151 00	\$36,151 00	\$7,783 00	\$10,971 00	\$188,056 00
Free Goods	37,071 00	9,060 00	816 00	1,115 00	48,062 00
Total Imports	\$170,222 00	\$45,211 00	\$8,629 00	\$12,116 00	\$236,178 00

REVENUE.

Duty Collected	\$50,019 54	\$15,618 05	\$3,075 10	\$3,453 71	\$72,171 40
Other Revenue	11,107 23	1,686 05	29 01	212 18	13,034 47
Total Collections	\$61,126 77	\$17,304 10	\$3,104 11	\$3,701 22	\$85,236 20

EXPORTS.

The Mine	\$9,174 00	\$12 00	\$274 00	\$17,250 00	\$26,710 00
The Fisheries	178 00	1,705 00			2,183 00
The Forest	301 00	17,191 00	150 00		17,642 00
Animals and their produce	5,361 00	22 00	130 00		5,513 00
Agricultural	151 00	2 00	1 00		154 00
Manufactures	6,125 00	14,279 00	520 00	202 00	21,126 00
Miscellaneous	1,591 00				1,591 00
Total Exports	\$23,187 00	\$33,211 00	\$1,075 00	\$17,452 00	\$74,925 00

† \$860 gold coin and \$250 silver coin.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.
Tuesday Morning, March 21.

VICTORIA.

There is no perceptible improvement in the general condition of affairs. Five lumber and two salmon charters have been reported during the past week, which indicates some activity in shipping circles. The salmon canneries are getting ready for this season's business. There is every probability of a good run and a consequent heavy pack. This produces a better feeling in business circles, in anticipation of the large amount of money that will flow through the different channels of trade, especially in New Westminster, near which place the majority of the canneries are located. The two lumber charters to Sydney also give strength to the lumber situation, for late advices from Australia have been far from encouraging, and charters have not been numerous of late. It is expected that business generally will open up nicely next month, for then the Lenten season is over and that certainly does not help trade in general. The farming districts are opening up, and the demand for agricultural implements goes to show that there will be a good increase in the acreage under cultivation this summer. Communications with the West Kootenay mining country will soon be established, and a great rush of miners, prospectors, merchants and other business people is sure to pour into that section of the province where there will be considerable activity this summer in the development of its rich mineral resources. Money continues tight, and no improvement is reported in collections. The situation is, however, more favorable.

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The following are the receipts of California butter from San Francisco, by ss. Umatilla, March 19, for Victoria: 28 cs, 3,319 lbs; 5 half cases, 300 lbs; 85 tubs, 3,500 lbs; total, 7,119 lbs. Receipts March 13, 3,670 lbs; March 6, 1,795 lbs; Feb., 27,

2,175 lbs; Feb., 20, 2,705 lbs. The American meat market is stronger and prices are slightly higher than last week. Quotations generally are steady with no special features to note.

American canned meats, staples, are quoted to the jobbers in bond as follows. Roast corned and lunch beef, 1's per doz., \$1.25; do. 2's per doz., \$2.00; lunch tongues, 1's per doz. \$3.45; do. 2's, \$6.50. Armour's white label conserved soups in 2 lb. tins are quoted at \$3 per doz.

Commission agents quote American meats f. o. b. Victoria, duty paid, as follows: Medium hams, 18½¢ per lb; heavy hams, 18¢; choice breakfast bacon, 18½¢; short clear sides, 15¢, and dry salt clear sides, 14½¢. Armour's white label pure lard, 10 lb. pails, 19½¢ per lb.

Armour's Gold Band meats, which are the finest quality on the American market, being a special grade for choice family trade, are quoted, (duty paid, Victoria), hams, 20½¢, breakfast bacon, 20½¢.

California evaporated fruits are quoted as follows:—Apples, evaporated, 50 lb. boxes, 14¢ per lb., 25 lb. boxes 13½¢; apricots, 25 lb. boxes, 20¢; prunes, 25 lb. boxes, 14¢; plums, 25 lb. boxes, 14½¢ to 14½¢; peaches, 50 lb. boxes, 16¢, 25 lb. boxes 17¢. Canadian evaporated apples, 50 lb boxes, 8½ to 9¢.

The British Columbia Sugar Refining Co. Ltd., quote as follows in their weekly price list: Powdered icing and bar. 6½¢; Paris lumps, 6½¢; granulated 5½¢; extra C. 5¢; fancy yellow, 4½¢; yellow 4½¢; golden C. 4½¢. Above prices are for barrels or bags; half-barrels and 100 pound kegs, ¾¢; more, boxes ¾¢ more. No order taken for less than 100 barrels or its equivalent.

They quote syrup as follows: Finest golden, in 30 gal. bls. 2½¢; ditto. in 10 gal. kegs. 3¢; ditto. in 5 gal. kegs, \$2.25 each; ditto, in 1 gal. tins, \$4.50 per case of 10; ditto in ½ gal. tins, \$6 per case of 20. Prices cover delivery in Vancouver, and at Victoria, New Westminster and Nanaimo, and are subject to a discount of 2½ per cent.

for cash in fourteen days. All prices subject to change without notice.

The Montreal *Trade Bulletin* says: "Butter receipts during the past week were 618 pkgs., against 911 pkgs., for the week previous. Owing to the scarcity of fine qualities of dairy butter, buyers are compelled to run upon the creamery, but they will not pay the proportionately higher price for the much better quality; consequently holders have had to meet the views of buyers to some extent. A few tubs of fresh made Eastern Townships have been received, which sold in single tubs at 23¢; but the stable flavor was very clearly detected; it seems that it is impossible to avoid this in the first receipts of new milk butter. What dairy there is left is of poor quality. Creamery choice late made, 22¢ to 23¢; Creamery good to fine, 21¢ to 22¢; About 1¢ to 2¢ may be added to above prices for choice selections of single tubs. There is still a good demand for rolls, which sell at 19¢ to 21¢ as to quality, the sale of a lot in boxes and barrels being made at 19¢, but the color was mixed and flavor not of the sweetest. The cheese market is quiet, and prices are about as last quoted, namely 11½¢ to 11½¢, the drop of 6d in the Liverpool cable having had no effect here, as there is so little to sell. Our advices from Chicago say that the market there is firm owing to shipment being made to the West or in the very opposite direction to which it usually goes. It is expected that new cheese will be on the Brockville market shortly."

Dairy produce is quoted:

Butter—Eastern Creamery, tubs	27½ @ 23
Manitoba Dairy choice	18 @ 22
California rolls, extra choice	25 @ 27
" squares	28 @ 00
Cheese—Canadian, lb	12 @ 14½
California	16 @ 00
Eggs, case, per doz	29 @ 30

Smoked meats and lard are quoted:

Hams	15 @ 18
Breakfast bacon	17 @ 18
Short rolls	14 @ 15
Long rolls	15 @ 16
Dry Salt, long clear	13 @ 11
Pure Lard, 50 lbs	16 @ 17
" 20 lbs	17 @ 17½
Lard Compound	15½ @ 16

Sugar—Jobber's prices ¾-barrels and kegs in each case being ¾¢ higher:

Dry Granulated	5½
Extra C	5½
Fancy Yellow	5½
Yellow	5
Golden C	4½
Syrups, per lb	3
" 1 gal. tins, American	6 50
" " "	6 00
" 1 " Vancouver	5 50
" 1½ " "	7 00

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The following are the receipts of California fruits and vegetables from San Francisco by steamship Umatilla, March 19, for Victoria: 42 crates cabbage, 9 cts cauliflower, 19 crates bananas, 13 cs lemons, 1 bx celery, 70 bxs oranges, 1 sk coconuts, 6 cs asparagus, 2 sks onions, 2 bxs rhubarb. A car load of the Griffin and Skelly gold medal brand of Riverside oranges was received last week and also a car load of Los Angeles oranges. A car load of Canadian apples was received early last week. The jobbers quote them at \$7.50 per bbl. Bananas are slightly higher.