

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, February 2.

There are several features of importance to record this week. The mild weather still continues which has had a tendency to further weaken dairy products in price, and though feed and hay have not fallen in price they do not show any tendency to advance. Potatoes in some cases are being sold cheaper than the normal market price of \$16, owing to competition from the south. The effect of an advance in potatoes in Seattle has not yet been felt here. A peculiar feature in the market is that while Oregon flour has advanced ten cents Manitoba article has dropped off in sympathy with the foreign market thirty cents a barrel. In the meat market butchers' report a fractional advance all round and state that prices will rule still higher next week. Frozen chickens are selling readily at ten cents a pound. The poultry market otherwise remains unchanged. Money in the wholesale market has been unusually tight this week although a large amount of current cash is changing hands in the mining world which would lead a casual observer to suppose that to some extent money is being diverted from its legitimate channel for speculation in mining ventures.

British Columbia Mining News.

Coal was sold this week for the first time in Vancouver mind at Queen Charlotte Sound.

There are practically no mining stock shares being transferred on the local market. All those sold going to outside parties, a large amount of money however is being ventured in ground floor interests chiefly in prospects within a radius of two or three hundred miles from Vancouver. This makes things very lively in the mining world here. An excellent report comes from the Queen mine at Yale. The company are now in a position to ship ore but will wait until a lower tunnel is cross cut at 2,000 feet to make development work easier. Two ore which averages over \$100 a ton in precious metal it is said will likely be accepted at a premium at the smelter on account of the fluxing properties in its composition.

Two mills are going up probably within the next month on free mining properties which are highly thought of here, the Athabaska at Nelson and the Orphan Boy in the Big Bend country. Both these properties are amongst the promising in British Columbia. The Orphan Boy ore assays from a few dollars to \$1,280.00 per ton. An immense quantity of ore is all ready for crushing. Mr. Haskins the president is now in San Francisco purchasing a mill for the property. The Athabaska assays from the surface into the main tunnel 100 feet average \$115.00 per ton and in some cases particularly rich samples assay over \$1,000. This company are energetically pushing development work and are getting ore ready for the mill.

British Columbia Markets.

[All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reduction on large quantities and to cash discounts.]

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, February 6, 1897.

Butter.—Manitoba Dairy butter, 17c; Manitoba creamery, 22c; small tubs, 23c; eastern creamery, 22c; local creamery, 25c; Manitoba cheese, 10c to 11c; local cheese, 11c lb.

Cured Meats.—Hams 12½ cents; breakfast bacon 12½ to 18c; backs 9c; long, clear, 7½ to

8c; short rolls 9½ to 10c; smoked sides 9½c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 9½c per pound; in pails and tubs 9c lb.

Game.—Mallards, 25c; wildgeon, 25c; teal, 20c; grouse, 85c to \$1; geese, 75c to \$1.25; Vancouver, 4c; sand snipe, 85c.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders 8c; smolt 6c; sea bass 1c; black cod 5c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tummy cod 5c; herring 4c; spring salmon 8c; steelhead, 7c; whiting 5c; soles 6c; smoked halibut, 10c; kippered cod 9c; sturgeon 6c; smoked salmon, 10c; finnie haddie, 10c; kippered herring 12c.

Vegetables.—California potatoes, \$20.00 per ton; local potatoes, \$16.00 per ton; onions, silver skins, 1c per pound; California onions 1½c; cabbage, 4c lb; carrots, turnips and beets, \$7.50 a ton.

Eggs.—Ranch 20c; Eastern eggs, 19c doz.

Fruits.—Fruit is sold by box unless otherwise quoted. Standard American boxes measure one foot ten and a half inches by eleven and a half inches with depth of eleven inches, inside measurement, and contain from 280 to 350 lemons, from 125 to 300 seedling oranges, or from 125 to 150 naval oranges. Japanese oranges 6 to 7 doz. in box, 40 to 45c. California lemons, \$3.50; California oranges, seedling, \$2.75 to \$3.00; naval oranges \$3.50 to \$3.75; British Columbia apples, 50 lb. box, 75c to \$1; Eastern apples \$3.00 barrel.

Evaporated Fruits.—Apricots 11c per lb; peaches 9c, plums 9 to 10c; prunes, French, 5c to 7½c; loose Muscatel raisins, 6c; London layer raisins \$1.65 box; Italian prunes, 6 to 8½c lb.

Nuts.—Almonds, 18c; filberts, 12½c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 12½c; walnuts, 18c lb.

Meal.—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb sacks, \$3.10; 45 pound sacks, \$3.10; 22½ pound sacks, \$3.20; 10.7 sacks, \$2.00. Oatmeal, 10-10's, \$3.25; 2-50's, \$3.00. Off grades, 90 lbs, \$2.70.

Flour.—Delivered B.C. points.—Manitoba patent, per barrel, \$5.60; strong bakers, \$5.30; Oregon, \$5.80.

Grain.—Local wheat, \$30 to \$35. Oats, \$25 per ton.

Ground Feed.—National mills chop, \$23 to \$24 per ton; ground barley, \$22 ton; shorts, \$20.00 ton; bran \$18.00; oil cake meal, \$30 ton; F. O. B. Vancouver, including duty paid on import stuff.

Hay.—\$15.00 per ton.

Dressed Meats.—Beef, 7 to 7½c; mutton, 8c; pork, 6; veal, 7 to 9c lb.

Live Stock.—Steers, \$3.50 per hundred lbs.; sheep, \$1.00 to \$1.50 per 100 lbs; hogs, \$1.50 to \$1.00 per 100 lbs.

Poultry.—Chicken, 10c lb.. Turkeys, 12c lb., ducks, 12c lb. Geese, 11c lb.

Sugars.—Powdered and icing, 6½c; Parilump, 5½c; granulated, 4½c; extra C, 4½c. fancy yellows 4½c; yellow 4c per lb.

Syrups.—30 gallon barrels, 1½c per pound; 10 gallon kegs, 2½c; 5 gallon kegs, \$1.50 each; 1 gallon tins, \$1 per case of 10; ½ gallon tins, \$1.75 per case of 20.

Teas.—Congo: Fair, 11½c; good, 18c; choice 26c. Ceylons: Fair 25c, good 30c, choice 35c per lb.

British Columbia Business Notes.

The effects of W. S. Godwin, Esq. malt general store keeper, have been sold to C. F. Gardiner.

J. J. Sehl, Nanaimo, furniture and house furnishings, advertises retiring from business.

W. Hopple, Nanaimo, hotel, has sold out to Hugh J. McDonald.

Steen & Co., Nelson, liquors, are said to be giving up business.

Wm. Cowan, Revelstoke, wholesale liquors, is succeeded by Cowan, Hallins & Downs.

Manfred & Larsen, Rossland, bakers, have dissolved.

Hayt & Craddock, Trail, hotel, are succeeded by Dawson & Craddock.

Mrs. Pen, Trail, saloon, is out of business.

The British Columbia Electrical Construction Co., Vancouver, has dissolved. D. Brown continues.

Priestman & Co., Vancouver, tanners, have dissolved.

Scoullar & Co., Vancouver, stoves, has assigned.

Collins & Glawson, Victoria, hotel are succeeded by Robt. Ewing.

Louis Lawrence, Victoria, manufacturer of soda water, has been closed under chattel mortgage.

The stock of H. Savage, tobaccos, advertised for sale.

The Live Stock Trade.

At London on February 1 the milder weather and the heavy supply of United States cattle was greatly depressing and prices declined ½c per lb., choice States' cattle being quoted at 11½c, Argentines at 10½c and sheep at 11½c.

A cable from Liverpool on Feb. 1 noted an advance of ½c per lb. in prices for Canadian cattle, and quoted choice at 10½c, and best States' cattle at 11c. Sheep declined 1c per lb. to 10½c to 11c, and lambs were quoted at 15c.

At the East End Abattoir market, Montreal, on Feb. 1, an easier feeling prevailed, and prices for good cattle were fully ½c per lb. lower owing to large supply. Choice steers and heifers sold at 11½c to 12c; good at 11c to 11½c; fair at 10½c to 11c, and lower grades at 10c to 10½c per lb. The market for lambs was strong and prices advanced ½c to ¾c per lb. with sales at 11c to 12c and mixed lots of sheep and lambs brought 11½c; while sheep were just about steady at 10c to 11c per lb. The market for hogs was firm and the offerings were cleaned up at \$1.25 to \$1.40 per 100 lbs., live weight.

At Chicago on Feb. 5 prices for hogs for best drovers ranged from \$3.15 to \$3.50, sales being largely at \$3.20 to \$3.40; packing hogs sold mostly at \$3.15 to \$3.40.

At Toronto on Feb. 2 there were not many export cattle offered. Prices were nominal at 8½c to 9c per lb. Trade was poor in butchers' cattle and quite a few were left unsold at the close. Prices to-day ruled for good choice at 2½c to 3½c per lb., medium at 2½c to 2¾c, and common at 2c. There was a fair demand to-day for medium good stockers to go to Buffalo. Prices rule from 2½c for light stockers to 3c for good feeders and 3½c for choice. A few bulls were taken for export at 3c to 3½c per lb. Some stocker bulls sold for Buffalo at 2½c to 3c per lb. Export beef were dull. They sold at 3½c to 3¾c per lb. Limbs were plentiful and quiet at 4½c per lb. Butchers' sheep were dull at 2½c to 3c each. Choice hogs were in good demand and firm at 4½c to 4¾c per lb., weighed in cars. Thick fat firm at \$3.50 to \$3.65 or cwt. Sows, 3c, and stags, 2c, per lb.

A Toronto report of Feb. 5, says there is a rumor there that the cotton mills in the country, or most of them, contemplate closing down for three months on account of large stocks and poor business.