TRADE AND COMMERCE

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.
Tuesday Morning, Feb. 2.

VICTORIA.

Trade in all lines is generally quiet, and collections are reported slow. The sealers are fitting out as usual for their season's work, despite the depressed state of the London fur market. A good demand is reported for money for investing and building purposes and supplied, it is said, from sources other than regular banking channels. Rates differ slightly according to amount of the loan and the class of security offered.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The demand for California oranges is increasing, as the large imports of Japanese are used up and there will be no more arriving this season It is stated that the California stock is of a superior quality and cheaper than last year. In fact they are at present as low as can be looked for. The season for shipping to the eastern cities is fairly opening up, but the demand from that quarter is not yet sufficient to cause an advance in prices. Last season, it was about the end of February and the early part of March that the prices of California oranges took a jump, and this season, as the demand from the East increases, the prices will probably go up. At present, no changes in prices are noted. Quotations are: Oranges—Riverside seedlings, $3.00; navels, $4.25 to $4.50; Los Angeles, $2.50; California Messina lemons, $6.50; California lemons, $4.50 to $4.75; silverskin onions, 2c per lb.; Oregon yellow danver, 1½c; island apples, $1.25 to $1.35 per box; potatoes, island, $18 per ton; Chilliwack, $16 per ton; Fraser River, $14 per ton; Bonapartes, $25 per ton.

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The compact referred to in the last issue of THE COMMERCIAL JOURNAL was among the packers of canned meats, and not Canadian meats. The Armour Packing Company has advanced prices for its canned tongue, and there has been a general advance in the prices of Eastern American lard, and a general rise in American meats is likely. Eastern packed eggs are quoted by jobbers at 23c per dozen. On account of the open winter supplies of fresh eggs are coming in freely and retailing at from 40c to 50c. Importers are not buying any more creamery butter in the East, and the stocks in store in the local warehouses are considerable. In about six weeks' time it is expected that the price of California roll butter will be low enough to import it for this market. Last year the first importations of California roll were received in April. Prices in the meanwhile are reported steady.

Quotations are. Eastern creamery, 28½c per lb. for large and 29½c for small; Manitoba creamery, 30c; dairy, 23c; Eastern Townships, first quality, 26c.

Mediterranean dried fruits are quoted by local jobbers as follows. Currants in bbls. 8¼c, in half bbls. 8½c.; valencias, 8½c, sultanas, 11c, London layers, $2.25 a box, California sultanas, $2.25 a box; dates, 9c; prunes, 9c to 12½c. California evaporated fruits in 25 lb. boxes are quoted as follows: Peaches, 12½c; apricots, 14c; nectarines, 14c; pitted plums, 11c. About the same grade of fruits in cotton sacks are quoted from 1c to 2c per lb. less. New Canadian evaporated apples are quoted at 11c per lb.

The local jobbers are now carrying full stocks of all the different kinds of jams put up in glass jars by Okel & Morris at the Victoria Preserving Factory, which include apricot, peach, plum, pear, apricot marmalade, etc. Quotations are 1½ lb. size, $3 per dozen; 3 lb. size, $5 per doz.

Falconer's Victoria Vinegar Works' goods are now carried by the leading wholesale grocers, comprising pure malt vinegar, tomato catsup, Worcestershire sauce, mushroom catsup, apple and quince cider, lemon and vanilla extracts and fruit syrups—of home manufacture.

FLOUR AND FEED.

Business is rather slack. There is, however, a steady consumptive demand, and prices generally are reported firm and unchanged. Oregon Snowflake flour is reported as having dropped 10c a barrel, and straw is slightly stronger.

The *Commercial Review* says. Although there is a very small call for flour outside of the local consumptive demand and a weaker feeling for wheat, flour quotations remain steady. The local oat market is slow, and the bulk of the receipts are sent to San Francisco for a market, in spite of the weakness prevailing there.

The Columbia Flouring Mills quote: For Enderby flour in carload lots, Premier, $5.60; XXX., $5.30; Strong Bakers or XX., $5.00; Superfine, $4.00. Quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills	$5 50 @ 0 00
Lion, " "	5 50 @ 0 00
Premier, Enderby mills	5 85 @ 0 00
XXX., " "	5 55 @ 0 00
XX., " "	5 25 @ 5 50
Superfine, " "	4 25 @ 4 50
Ogilvie's Hungarian	5 85 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers	5 75 @ 0 00
Snowflake	6 25 @ 0 00
Portland Roller	6 10 @ 0 00
Royal	6 00 @ 0 00
Oregon Superfine	4 25 @ 0 00
Wheat, per ton	$40 00 @ 45 00
Oats	32 50 @ 35 00
Oil cake meal	32 50 @ 35 00
Chop feed	33 00 @ 35 00
Shorts	28 00 @ 30 00
Bran	26 00 @ 27 50
National Mills oatmeal	3 50 @ 0 00
" " rolled oats	3 25 @ 0 00
" " split peas	3 50 @ 0 00
" " pearl barley	4 50 @ 0 00
California oatmeal	4 35 @ 0 00
California rolled oats	3 90 @ 4 00
Cornmeal	2 75 @ 3 00
Cracked corn	45 00 @ 50 00
Hay, per ton	18 00 @ 20 00
Straw, per bale	1 25 @ 0 00

RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton	$77 50
China rice "	70 00
Rice flour "	70 00
Chit rice "	25 00
Rice Meal "	17 50

LUMBER.

Since last week, the American schooner Reporter, 333 tons, has been chartered to load at the Chemainus mills for San Pedro, on private terms. She is on the way from San Francisco. The cargo of the Morning Light which sailed Jan. 22 for Melbourne from the Hastings saw mills, consisted of 912,986 feet rough lumber, 41,130 feet pickets and 943 bundles laths valued at $9,193. Quotations are as follows for cargo lots for foreign shipment, being the prices of the Pacific Pine Lumber Association: Rough merchantable, ordinary sizes, in lengths to 40 feet, inclusive, $9 per M feet; rough deck plank, average length 35 feet, $19; dressed flooring, $17; pickets, $9; laths, 4 feet, $2.

For local trade, the Rock Bay Saw Mill quotes:

Rough lumber, per M	$10 00
Best quality dressed lumber, per M	00 00
Second " " "	00 00
Laths, per M	2 50
Shingles, "	2 25

BRADSTREETS' REPORT

NEW YORK, Jan. 29.—Special telegrams to *Bradstreets'* record one striking change in the general trade situation as compared with that of a week ago, a distinctly better demand for strong dry goods at the West. It is added that preparations are making to distribute larger stocks of hardware, boots and shoes and groceries at the West than in 1891, and Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Omaha, St. Louis, Memphis, St. Joseph and Kansas City announce varying features looking to such a movement. Further east no such uniformity of gain is found. Boston reports a better feeling, which a better demand for dry goods must account for, as copper is lower and wool is dull. Philadelphia's favorable report is confined to an improved outlook for dry goods, though some woolen machinery is now running full time. On the Pacific coast the business is very quiet.

The Chilian settlement has resulted in the reassertion of "bullish" influences in the stock market, the covering of short contracts by professional traders, combined with the efforts of some of the large interests which are acting on the "bull" side, resulting in a sharp advance of prices. The improvement has been general, though in the southern stocks, it is noted, are the object of some "bearish" sentiment, based on the unfavorable view taken of the conditions in that section. Money at New York is in plethoric supply. The exports of wheat (including flour as wheat), both coasts, as reported to *Bradstreets'*, amount to 3,557,000 bushels this week. Last week, the total was 4,322,000, and the week before it was about 4,300,000 bushels.

General trade in Ontario and Quebec remains about as heretofore, in the former about equal in volume to the total of a year ago. The weather has helped the trade in dry goods. The Quebec shoe manufacturers are ordering leather more freely. The Ontario farmers are holding their wheat rather than sell it at 85 to 87 cents.

The business failures in the Dominion this week equal 44, against 72 a week ago, and 59 in this week a year ago.

The Bank clearings at Halifax, Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton aggregate $17,349,000 this week, a trifle less than last week.

THE largest raisin vineyard in the world now in bearing is owned by A. B. Butler, of Fresno, Cal. It contains 610 acres. The annual income from this vineyard has reached $200,000.