

ing taken the initiative. THE COMMERCIAL views with satisfaction the action of the insurance men, it having long ago advocated more systematic and concerted action among them.

A new oatmeal and feedmill is to be erected in New Westminster, upon the city supplying a site and exempting the industry from taxation. There is already an oatmeal mill in the province likely to supply its wants for some time, but the feed feature is a good one, and it is a wonder it has not been undertaken before. Feed is one of the articles in greatest demand. It is bulky and light and therefore freight sales are high. A mill to utilize wheat, oats and barley for feeding purposes should supply a long felt want.

Several new municipalities in Westminster district have been recently formed—South Vancouver, Dowdway and one or two others. Councils have been elected and the usual work of such bodies entered upon. The principal thing for these infant municipalities is to make roads of which the district is lamentably deficient.

Two representatives of the British government are in the province taking particulars of the losses to sealers and claims therefor. The sealers' association has met and formally protested against the admission of such evidence as was taken at Victoria by the Treasury Agent of the United States Cpt. Williams. It is pointed out that the evidence he secured is neither reputable nor competent and that the testimony of only one of the sealer owners themselves had been recorded. The news has been forwarded that another agent of the Behring sea commission has left for the sealing grounds, in the person of J. Macoun, of the geological survey, Ottawa.

#### B. C. Market Quotations.

Flour and feed, etc.—Unchanged. Quotations are: Manitoba Patents \$6.00; strong bakers, \$5.60; ladies choice, \$6.00; prairie Lily, \$5.75; Oregon, \$6.00; Spokane, \$5.65; Endorby mills: Premier, \$5.85; threestar, \$5.70; two star, \$5.35. Oatmeal, eastern, \$3.40; California, \$4; National mills, Victoria, \$3.65; rolled oats, eastern, \$3.00; California, \$3.90; National mills, \$3.75; cornmeal, \$3.10; split peas, \$3.50; pearl barley, \$4.50. Rice—The Victoria rice mills quote wholesale: Japan rice per ton, \$77.50; China rice, do, \$70; rice, flour, do, \$70; chit rice, do, \$25; rice meal, do, \$17.50; chopped feed, \$33 to \$35 per ton; bran, \$24; shorts, \$25; oats, \$30 to \$32; wheat \$35 to \$40; oil cake, \$40. Wheat is quoted in car lots No. 2 regular for feed \$27 per ton; oats \$25; chop barley, \$25 to \$26. California molting barley, \$26 to \$27 f.o.b. in San Francisco.

Dairy—Cheese scarce and steady at 14c. California creamery rules the market and is of good quality from 25 to 27c. Eastern creamery is not plentiful and quoted at 28c.

Eggs—Eggs are temporarily out of stock but the scarcity will not last long and prices though stiff for the moment will not appreciate with four or five carloads eastern eggs on the road. Oregon eggs are out of the market. What imported eggs there are quoted at 19c. Fresh eggs from 25 to 26c.

Meats—Remain practically unaltered:—Hams, 13c; bacon, 13c; rolls, 11c; backs, 13c; dry salt clear, 10½c; in case lots, 10½c; lard kegs, 13c; do pails, 13½c; do, kettle rendered, 12½c; do steam rendered, 11½c; do compound, 11; Bologna sausage, 11c.

Coal—J. W. Harrison in his weekly report says: There is no perceptible change in values for the week. Jobbers report good sales, but at or about cost to them. When the stocks on hand become a little more reduced, prices will be advanced to such figures that moderate living prices may be insured to the sellers, hence, consumers who make early engagements for their future requirements, will be the gainers. Fuel was considered to be selling at very reasonable figure in April, 1891, whereas the same grades of coal can be had today at \$1.25 per ton less than one year ago.

Fruits, nuts, etc.—The first consignment of California strawberries to Vancouver has been received. The fruit was firm and in good condition and sold like hot cakes at \$4 per 15 box case. A carload of Iowa apples are on the way and will sell at \$7 a barrel. They are made up of Ben Davis wine sap and pippin varieties. There is also a carload of oranges on the way from Redlands, Cal. They will be quoted: Seedlings, \$2.75 to \$3 a box; navals, \$4.75 to \$5; bloods and St. Michaels, \$4.50; fancy seedlings, \$3; Mediterranean sweets, \$3.25; Liver-sides, \$2.00 to \$3.00. Dried fruits have advanced about a cent all round. Quotations are: Cocoanuts, \$1 per doz.; bananas, \$3.75 to \$4; Cal. lemons, \$4.75; Sicilies, \$6.50; Turkish figs, 15½ cents; almonds, 18 cents; walnuts, 15 cents; filberts, 15 cents; brazil, 15c; pine, 20c; peanuts, 10c; evaporated apples, 10c; evaporated peaches, 11c; evaporated apricots, 11c; evaporated prunes, 11c; California pitted plums, 11c; Str'd honey, 13c; raisins, \$2 to \$2.75.

Fish—More plentiful and lower in price. Quotations are: Halibut, 8c; salmon, 8 to 9c; sturgeon, 4 to 5c; codfish, 5 to 6c; smelts, scarce, 6c; oolachan, 10c; flounders, 5c.

Canned goods—Canned vegetables are stiffening, but in fruit the market is filled with eastern goods and California goods. Fraser Valley Canning Co.'s goods is quoted as follows: 3 lb table \$2.40 per doz.; 1 gal. pie fruit \$4.25; ½ gal. do. \$2.40; 1 lb. glass jars \$2.40. Pickles are firmer, although the market is well filled. Canadian pickles are quoted: 1 gal. 75c; pints \$1.90 doz.; quarts \$3.80; sauces, \$1.20.

Vegetables show no change except that they are more plentiful and gradually reducing in price. Quotations are: Ashcroft potatoes, \$22.50 to \$25, or cwt. Fraser river potatoes are selling at \$15 and under. California new potatoes are selling at 2c per lb; carrots and turnips, 6½c; parsnips and beets, 1c per lb; cabbage, 2 to 2½c per pound; rhubarb, \$2.25 per box; asparagus \$2 to \$2.25. There is a plentiful supply of all small vegetables of the season.

Dressed meats live stock, etc.—There is little or no change in the situation. The supply of beef from the prairies is ample. Hogs as usual are very scarce, so is mutton, the supply being obtainable from the coast and partly from the Northwest. Prices are: Steers, 5½c; lambs, \$5 a piece; sheep, 7 to 7½c; hogs, 8c. Dressed beef, 9c; mutton, 13½ to 14c; pork, 12c.

Hides skins, etc.—Show no change. The market for these is in San Francisco the prices there ruling about one cent higher than in Victoria which practically represents freight.

Sugars—Sugars are steady at the following wholesale quotations. Granulated, 5½c; extra c., 5¾c; yellow, 4½c; golden c., 4¾c. A carload of maple syrup and sugar is on the way from the east.

#### Brief Business Notes.

Another find of quicksilver has been made on Barclay Sound.

James Neelands and the Stanley Bros., Vancouver, have gone to Nelson.

A branch of the Arcade grocery, Vancouver, has been started on Mt. Pleasant.

Kelley's hotel, Westminster junction, has been destroyed by fire; loss, \$3,000.

Hayden & Walker, boat builders, Vancouver, have dissolved. Hayden continues.

Godfrey & Co., Vancouver, are establishing a branch hardware store on Mount Pleasant.

Freeman & Smith have opened a grocery and hardware store on Mt. Pleasant, Vancouver.

Samuel Dresden, contractor, Nanaimo, has left for parts unknown, owing money it is said.

H. G. Foote and David Anderson, recently members of the City Fuel Co., Vancouver, have entered partnership as insurance agents representing the London & Lancashire Life Assurance Company.

The steamer Danube on her last trip from the north brought down \$10,000 worth of furs.

Mr. Pierce has completed his survey of the Revelstoke townsite for the Dominion Government.

Louven & Erb's Brewing Co., Victoria, is now carried on as the Victoria Brewing and Ice Co.

P. Gardener has started a factory in Vancouver, to manufacture wire nails and wire fencing.

The Western hotel, Victoria has been purchased from J. C. McAlpine by George Walker.

The C. P. N. Co. is surveying the water front adjacent to their present wharf for purposes of extension.

Port & Winch have a second car of fresh salmon on to New York. Mr. Port accompanies the shipment.

The S.S. Comox, owned by the Union Steamship Co., Vancouver, now makes regular trips up the coast.

The S.S. Batavia has sailed for Japan and China with 260,000 feet of lumber and 2,800 sacks of flour.

A. Bailey, Vancouver, is erecting a furniture factory. He will manufacture spring mattresses principally.

Valuable mineral finds of gold and silver are said to have been made on both Valdez and Salt spring islands.

Price Ellison, has purchased the Simpson ranch at Okanagan, comprising between 400 and 500 acres for \$8,000.

The Empress of Japan took 1,700 tons cargo for the Orient, consisting principally of flour, cotton goods and machinery.

Heisterman & Co. have been appointed agents in Victoria for the Canada Permanent Building and Loan Association.

C. W. Henry, of Port Hammond, has received a full carload of fruit trees and plants for the Goldstream estate, Okanagan.

The U. S. Consul at Victoria is completing a very carefully prepared report on the coal mining industry on the Pacific coast.

The barque Ursus Minor has arrived at Brunette saw mills, Westminster, and will load 750,000 feet lumber for Sydney, N.S.W.

A. H. Sterret's stock of carriages, etc., Vancouver, was sold by sheriff, realizing \$1,525. Sterret left town before the seizure was made.

R. J. Hamilton, of the firm of McMillan & Hamilton, Vancouver, has gone on a two month's business and pleasure trip to the east.

Work on the Upper Columbia Tramway Co.'s line of six miles will be commenced at once and it is expected will be completed by July.

J. Whitty, Waverly Hotel, Vancouver, has been appointed agent for the American Company arranging for excursions to the World's Fair.

The law firm of Walker, Pemberton & Dumbleton, Victoria, has dissolved. The latter two continue. Mr. Walker has opened another office.

Robertson & Hackett have secured the contract for the buildings both of the Bank of Montreal and the Bank of British North America. The combined cost will be \$150,000.

A. Fader has retired from the British Columbia Fishing and Trading Company, Vancouver, and has started in the fish business himself, and will sell retail and wholesale.

Over 3,450 tons of freight have passed during the last six months over the Shuswap & Okanagan railway, including the local freight between stations on the line. The managing contractor says that notwithstanding that the railway has not yet been completed both the passenger and freight trains are paying well, and have in fact, done so since the commencement.