

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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British Columbia Business Review.

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There has been a sharp spell of cold weather, with hard frost and snow, something unusual at this season of the year. It has had a great effect on Xmas goods and imparted to the season something of the spirit of eastern holiday weather.

Business, as always at the end of the month, is duller than a few weeks ago, except in holiday wares, which has formed a large part of the trade. As remarked in last week's issue the supply of holiday goods have been in excess of demand and necessarily heavy stocks must be carried over or sacrificed.

Though the quantity of meats in the market is large dealers are holding up prices, owing to the stiff prices maintained in the east. There has been no decline since last week as expected.

Dairy products are slow.

There is a prospect of a hard winter for cattle with a consequent stiffening in the prices of beef. At present there is no material change from former quotations, but there is already an appreciable difference in the quality of beeves from the upper country indicating at an early date considerable depreciation. There have already been six weeks of winter in the interior and continued cold weather must have a serious effect on stock. Navigation from Revelstoke to Robson has been closed for some time and communication with Nelson and the Kootenay country is now carried on by way of Spokane. An effort is being made to keep open the route on the Columbia River from Northport to Robson, making connection by rail from Robson to Nelson and from Northport to Spokane and the following circular has been issued from the three transportation companies, viz., the C. P. R. Co., the C. & K. N. Co. and the S. F. & N. Ry. Co. This will continue until navigation closes on the Columbia, after which a pack trail will be used:

"It is expected that the Columbia river, between Northport and mouth of Kootenay river will be navigable during the greater part of the winter months, but as we are not in a position to fix an absolute date when such navigation will close for a short time, on account of extreme cold weather, notice is given that, until otherwise advised, shipments of freight for the following points in British Columbia; Trail Creek, Waneta, Robson, Nelson, Ainsworth, Kaslo, Pilot Bay or Ba'four, routed via Northport, Wash., will be accepted, subject to the delay incident to the close of navigation, and to any additional charges which may be involved in forwarding to destination."

The success of the experiment of stocking the waters of the Californian coast is well known. Shad were placed years ago in the Sacramento river, and gradually worked their way northward until they have been found all along as far north as the northern boundary of Washington. In the Straits of Fuca, last year, they were netted at the mouth of the Fraser river. The remarkable way in which these fish propagate and distribute themselves, is evidenced by the fact that they were caught this year during the salmon season, at River's Inlet in northern coast waters. This is significant, and means that to the well stocked waters of B. C. another important food fish is to be added, the value of which can be best estimated by what has been realized in California, where the shad fishing has developed into an important industry, although the shad is not indigenous to the waters of the coast.

In line with the above reference may be made

to the shipment of 100 tons of frozen salmon from Port Eslington, on the Skeena. Some time ago THE COMMERCIAL contained a description of the refrigerator and the freezing process employed by R. Cunningham & Son, of that place, where during the salmon canning season, the white salmon principally, which are not put in cans, though quite equal to the pink salmon in every respect, were stored and frozen. The process itself is complete and the fish, if properly kept, that is, in frozen condition, may be carried any distance and afterwards thawed out in cold water are as fresh in texture and flavor as when first caught. Last year Messrs Cunningham & Son erected the freezer and put in the plant for Ald Bergoff, who perhaps had more enterprise than capital, but who was sanguine about an extensive foreign market. The 100 ton shipment, which came down to Vancouver on the steamer Danube was shipped by boat to Tacoma, there to be sent to Europe. The shipment, of course, is entirely experimental and was undertaken by Mr. Bergoff hampered by lack of capital to carry it through and it may be that of experience in the business and therefore if it be a failure in this instance it cannot be taken as a criterion of the possibilities of the process or even of the marketing of the fish, which can be applied to halibut, cod, skil, etc., as well as to salmon. Cunningham & Son are men of capital as well as business ability, and if there be anything in it they will undertake the shipment on their account. They have all the facilities for boxing and icing cheaply while the fish are plentiful and can be caught by Indians at a price, other things being equal, which renders the prospect feasible. The matter of transportation at the proper temperature and at a sufficiently cheap rate are the only two things which render the enterprise problematical, but which, if they can be accomplished, opens the way to the greatest industry on the coast, one which need only be limited by the limit of the demand itself.

B. C. Market Quotations.

FLOUR, FEED, GRAIN, ETC.—Continues steady. Quotations are: Flour Manitoba patents, \$5.50; strong bakers, \$5.20; ladies' choice, \$5.70; prairie lily, \$5.30; Oregon, \$5.50; Spokane, \$5.65; Enderby mills—Premier \$5.65; three star, \$5.25; two star, \$5.25; oatmeal eastern \$3.40; California granulated in gunnies, \$4.35; National mills, Victoria, \$4.25; rolled oats eastern \$3 to \$3.25; California \$3.75; National mills \$3.65; cornmeal \$3.10; split peas \$3.50; pearl barley \$4.50. Rice—The Victoria rice mill 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, \$31 per ton; bran \$24; shorts \$25; Man. oats, \$28 to \$32; B. C. oats; \$26; wheat \$27 to \$32; oil cake, \$10; hay, \$16. Wheat is quoted in car lots for feed No. 2 regular at \$22 to \$23 per ton; oats \$23 in bulk and in sacks \$25; chop barley \$25. California malting barley, \$26 to \$27 f.o.b. in San Francisco. California chop, \$32 to \$33. The Western Milling Co quote bran in car lots \$19.50 per ton; shorts, \$20.50; mixed chop, \$25; rye, \$38; patent flour, \$4.60; strong bakers \$5.30. Graham flour, \$4.40; B. C. wheat is quoted at \$29 to \$30 per ton, and oats at \$25; beans are 4c per lb. Hay is quoted at \$12 ton on the river bank or \$12.50 placed on the scoops.

SUGARS.—Jobbers prices are:—Cuba, 5½c; powdered, 6½c; dry granulated, 5½c; extra C. 5½c; fancy yellow, 5c; yellow, 4½c; golden C, 4½c; syrups 4c per lb.

The British Columbia Sugar Refinery quote sugar as follows in their weekly price list: Powdered icing and bar, 6½c; Paris lump, 6½c; granulated 5½c. extra C 4½c; fancy yellow 4½c; yellow 4½c; golden C 4½c. Above prices are for barrels or bags; half-barrels and 200 lb kegs ½c more. No order taken for less than 100 barrels or its equivalent.

They quote syrup as follows:—Finest golden, in 30 gal. bls, 2½c; ditto, in 10 gal. kegs, 3c; 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.

These prices are subject to 2½ per cent discount for cash in fourteen days, and cover delivery in Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo, or New Westminster.

FREIGHTS.—Lumber freights from British Columbia or Puget Sound are quoted as follows: Valparaiso for orders, 36; 61; direct port on West coast, South America, 33; 91; Sydney 30; Melbourne, Adelaide or Port Pirie, 65c; United Kingdom, calling at Cork for orders, 45c; Shanghai, 42; 61; Yokohama, 40; nominal.

Coal freights are quoted. Nanaimo or Departure Bay to San Francisco, \$1.75 to \$2; to San Diego or San Pedro, \$2.25 to \$2.50.

DAIRY.—Creamery butter is steady at from 27 to 28c; cheese, 13 to 13½c.

FRUITS.—There are few coast apples in the market; a stern apples range from \$5.25 to 5.50 per box. Cranberries are quoted at \$12 per barrel for Cape Cods, and 40c a gallon for natives. Oranges, seedlings, \$4; navels, \$5.50; Japs. 50 to 75c; dates, 7 to 8c; figs, 18c.

FISH.—Prices are: Halibut, 8c; Salmon, 10 to 12c, codfish, 6 to 7c; flounders 4c to 5c; sturgeon 4c to 5c; sole 10c.

VEGETABLES.—No change. Californian onions are quoted 1½c; B. C. onions 1½c; turnips beets and carrots, \$15 a ton; Fraser Valley potatoes average about \$16 a ton; and 1 Ashcroft \$18.

DRESSED MEAT, LIVE STOCK, ETC.—Quotations are: Live steers are quoted at 4c; cows, 3½c; dressed beef, 7½ to 7¾c; sheep, 7½ to 7¾c; mutton, 13c; hogs, 7½c; pork, 10½c, calves, 6½c. veal, 11c.

GAME, POULTRY, ETC.—Blue grouse, per pair, is worth 75c; pintails, 35c; mallards, 50c; teal, 20c; partridges, 50c; chickens, \$4.50 to \$5.50; ducks, \$6; geese, \$7; turkeys, 18c per pound, live weight. Venison, 5 to 6c per pound.

COAL.—J. W. Harrison writes as follows in reference to the San Francisco coal market: The receipts for the past week consists of 23,015 tons from the coast mines and 3,556 tons from Australia. There has been but one cargo received from foreign ports during the week. The quantity to arrive from foreign sources within the next few months is very light, and as a result very little business is being done for future delivery, and prices must strengthen. From now on the coast mines will have an opportunity to make their products profitable, as they will have control of the market for three or four months at least. The Washington coal agents have advanced their prices this week 50c a ton, and their sales have not fallen off in consequence. The next advance will probably be in the British Columbia product, which is in light supply.

SHIPPING.—During the past week the tonnage has been as follows:

Port.	No.	Tonnage.
Vancouver.....	6	8,507
Victoria.....	3	3,100
New Westminster.....	1	1,125
Nanaimo.....	8	11,775
Cowichan.....	1	1,026
Total.....	19	25,534

Mining in West Kootenay.

Mr. Fitzstubs, gold commissioner for West Kootenay, has paid a visit to the coast, and in speaking of the country among other things said:

"The season past has been a very good one and a number of rich prospects have been added to those already found. These, as well as the older claims, have, in most cases, been taken in hand by American capitalists, and will be pushed from prospect holes to mines as rapidly as circumstances will warrant.

"The character of the ores of this section is principally argentiferous. Galena and its richness is shown by the ten ton shipment of the Dardanelles mines which was sent to a Tacoma smelter, and which yielded an average of over \$400 per ton.

"Taking Slocan as a center, the furthest out