

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.
Tuesday Morning, March 20.

VICTORIA.

The business situation shows no improvement. The weather has been very disagreeable for some time and has had a depressing effect on the retail trade. Collections are also slow. A feature of trade for some time has been a lessening in the demand for luxuries and a steady call for staples, but on conservative lines. Every dollar in the consumers' hands is made to go as far as possible. It is the long credit system with the attending losses that has been the main cause of failures in this province.

The Vancouver News-Advertiser says: "Though business is still somewhat dull, a slight improvement is noticeable in most lines. Collections are, however, still very unsatisfactory, and loud complaints are heard on this score. Two of the largest local manufacturing industries have started operations again during the week, thus affording employment to quite a number of men. Two lumber vessels are now in port, while two more are expected in about a fortnight, so that a slight improvement in the lumber trade may be recorded. Preparations for the coming canning season will shortly be started, though the prospects are not very bright, as a large amount of last year's stock is still unsold. Two of the Northern canneries have also been shut down, and will probably not be worked this season. On the other hand, however, it is satisfactory to note that a new cannery will be built on the Fraser, the capital having been successfully raised in the East. Business in shipping circles has been brisk during the past week, the ss. Empress of India and ss. Warrimoo, both having arrived, besides a lumber ship. The Warrimoo sailed on the return trip last week, taking a large cargo, and it is satisfactory to note that the freight was of a much superior class, as besides lumber, there was a quantity of machinery and general merchandise. In wholesale trade has shown a slight improvement during the past week. Prices for the most part are unchanged."

FLOUR AND FEED.

The event of the week was the advance of 20c in Manitoba Hungarian flour. Jobbers' prices are up in sympathy. Quotations for Enderby flour are unchanged.

The Portland Commercial Review says "The flour market at present time is very dull, in fact there is less flour consumed here than for the past two years. Prices are so low in Europe that there is nothing doing on foreign shipments. The China trade has not yet commenced. The steamer Signal now in port will take out from four to five thousand barrels on its return trip. Shipments to British Columbia and San Francisco are very light. Quote Portland, Salem and Cascadia \$2.55 per barrel and other brands from 5 to 10 cents per barrel less."

The Ogilvie Milling Co. quote their celebrated brands of Manitoba flours in car lots, on wharf in Victoria, as follows:

Ogilvie's Hungarian.....\$4 20
" Strong Bakers.....4 00

The Columbia Flouring Mills quote Enderby flour in carload lots on wharf in Victoria:

Premier.....\$3 90
XXX.....3 75
Strong Bakers or XX.....3 30
Superfine.....3 05
Bran, per ton.....16 50
Shorts.....17 50

The Victoria Roller Mills quote Victoria flour in 10-bbl. lots at the mills as follows:

Delta.....\$4 00
Victoria XXX.....4 00

Jobbers' quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills.....\$4 25 @ 0 00
Lion.....4 25 @ 0 00
XXX.....4 25 @ 0 00
Premier, Enderby mills.....4 25 @ 0 00
XXX.....4 10 @ 0 00
XX.....3 05 @ 0 00
Superfine.....3 40 @ 0 00
Ogilvie's Hungarian.....4 60 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers.....4 45 @ 0 00
H. B. C. Fort Garry Hungarian.....4 50 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers.....4 45 @ 0 00
Oak Lake Patent Hungarian.....4 60 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers.....4 45 @ 0 00
Regina Hungarian.....4 60 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers.....4 45 @ 0 00
Benton County, Oregon.....3 85 @ 0 00
Portland Roller.....3 85 @ 0 00
Snowflake.....3 75 @ 0 00
Wheat, per ton.....26 00 @ 30 00
Oats.....30 00 @ 32 50
Oil cake meal.....35 00 @ 40 00
Chop feed.....25 00 @ 30 00
Shorts.....22 00 @ 28 00
Bran.....20 00 @ 25 00
National Mills oatmeal.....3 50 @ 0 00
" rolled oats.....3 00 @ 0 00
" split peas.....3 50 @ 0 00
" pearl barley.....4 50 @ 0 00
" Chop feed.....23 00 @ 25 00
California oatmeal.....3 75 @ 0 00
California rolled oats.....3 75 @ 0 00
Corn, whole.....per ton 37 50 @ 40 00
Cornmeal.....2 75 @ 3 00
Cornmeal-feed.....per ton 40 00 @ 00 00
Cracked corn.....40 00 @ 00 00
Hay, per ton.....18 00 @ 20 00
Straw, per bale.....1 00 @ 0 00

RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton.....\$75 00 @ 80 00
Best China rice.....80 00 @ 100 00
China rice No. 1.....68 00 @ 70 00
Rice flour.....70 00
Broken rice.....30 00
Rice Meal.....17 50

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Quotations are in the main unchanged. Some potatoes are offered at \$20, but the best quality command \$25 per ton. A. Rice & Ault will receive a carload of Rosebud brand of Redland district fruit early in the week. This is the second carload of California oranges and lemons that this house have arranged for already this season.

The Riverside Fruit Exchange writes: "Some of the groves situated in the lower portion of the valley have been seriously injured by frost, while many are nearly free from any damage and are scarcely affected. From this date only first grade Riverside oranges will be packed under our Exchange brand, all others will be eliminated. We are willing to guarantee the oranges to give satisfaction. On and after the first of March, Riverside 250 size seedling oranges will be classed as regular. Owing to the fact that Florida oranges are nearly all large sizes our smaller sizes are in more demand than

the large. Any person or firm purchasing a car of oranges or lemons accepts such f. o. b. Riverside and pays spot cash. The Exchange cannot accept any orders for specific sizes, but will endeavor at all times to give as many as possible of most desirable sizes in each car."

The annual sales of Mediterranean fruit at Montreal, which take place shortly after the opening of navigation, will this year be larger than ever. Six fruit steamers will arrive there, and one steamer with wines and brandies. Reports from the fruit districts state that there is a large crop of oranges and lemons. Consignments of Fijian fruit were received at Vancouver by the Warrimoo. The market was entirely bare of tropical fruit, and the shipment arriving in good condition found a ready sale. The oranges arrived green, and are consequently unsalable at present. The bananas brought \$2.50 per bunch, pines \$3 per doz., limes \$4 per case and peanuts 10 cents per lb.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:—

Oranges—California navels.....2 50 @ 2 75
" seedlings.....1 85 @ 2 00
Japanese.....50 @ 65
Lemons—California.....3 00 @ 3 50
Bananas—New Orleans.....3 00 @ 0 00
Apples.....bxs 1 25 @ 1 50
Coconuts.....per 100 8 00 @ 9 00

Vegetables are quoted:

Potatoes.....per ton 20 00 @ 25 00
Onions—Silverskins.....per lb 3½ @ 4½

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

Jobbers' quotations for California butter are a little weaker than last week. Fair consignments were received per steamship Warrimoo of Australian canned meats—principally sheeps' tongues—also tropical canned fruits (pineapples and guavas). The sheeps' tongues in 1 lb. tins are said by the trade to be well suited for this market, for they can be sold for less than the American canned lunch tongues cost. The jobbers' quotation for American lunch tongues is \$3.00 per doz., while their price for Australian sheeps' tongues (1's) will be about \$2.85 per doz. A fair consignment of Queensland arrowroot, in 1 lb. packages, was also received. This will be put on the market at much the same price as prepared corn starch. The recognized excellence of arrowroot at one-third the price it was formerly sold at will, in all probability, in a short time altogether replace corn starch on this market. A small quantity of Australian golden syrup was received by some of the retail trade, and some large orders have been placed by wholesalers. The cost is about the same as the eastern article, and the quality is first-class. A consignment of 20,000 lbs. of Australian creamery butter is expected on the steamship Arawa. It will be landed for about 28c per lb. The quality is said to be equal to fine eastern creamery.

Jobbers quote:

Valencia raisins.....per lb \$ 7 @ \$ 0
Malaga raisins.....per box 3 00 @ 3 25
Currants (barrels).....per lb 5 @ 5½
" half bbls.....per lb 5 @ 6
" (cases).....per lb 5½ @ 7½
Sultana raisins.....per lb 8 @ 10
Taragona almonds.....per lb 14 @ 18
Grenoble walnuts.....per lb 14 @ 18
Filberts.....per lb 11½ @ 14

Dairy produce is quoted: