

## TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE,  
Tuesday Morning, April 28.  
VICTORIA.

The weather for the past week has had a depressing effect on business, and nearly all lines report things quiet. In financial circles, money is still in good demand. The increase of the discount rate by the Bank of England from 3 to 3½ per cent. has not yet been felt here, but it is thought that it will have a slight hardening tendency.

## DRY GOODS AND CLOTHING.

In textile lines, trade has been quiet the past week, this line being particularly affected by the backward spring. Trade in staple lines has been very good, but in light seasonable goods, little has been sold. Straw goods, lawns, etc. are being bought from hand to mouth. If the present weather does not change before May 24th, it will seriously affect the trade. Sorting orders will be very poor.

## GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

There is a fair volume of business in groceries and provisions. Sugars are still strong, granulated being quoted at 7½c; yellows, 6c. Canned vegetables are still on the rise. Canadian canned peaches are very scarce; the eastern market is said to be exhausted. American meats continue firm, and advancing, and the same may be said of canned meats. Dried fruits are holding at high prices. Oranges are very strong, and will continue to advance from now on. Collections are reported fair.

## FLOUR AND FEED.

The flour and feed market continues strong, being affected materially by the present unsettled state of the wheat market. There has been a rise of 50 cents a barrel in Manitoba brands, Hungarian being now quoted at \$7; strong bakers, \$6.50; Delta brand is still held at \$5, notwithstanding the advances in all other grades of flour. There is an increasing demand for this brand, and it may be expected to go up. Oregon brands have again advanced the past week, and are quoted at \$6.10 per barrel. Wheat here has not felt the influence to any extent of the recent advances in the east. It is still held at \$40 per ton. Oats have advanced to \$45 per ton and seed oats, \$50. No other line of feed has changed perceptibly in price. California oatmeal has advanced to \$1.75 per sack. Potatoes have weakened slightly, and are now quoted at \$20 per ton.

## HARDWARE.

The demand for finishing hardware is being felt, on account of the large number of buildings that are approaching completion. A slight advance has taken place in the east on iron, nails and other heavy hardware, but is so slight that it will not have any effect on prices here. The season for cultivation implements is about over. Dealers are now getting ready haying and harvesting machinery and rakes, mowers etc., are coming into demand.

## DRUGS.

In the drug business there is very little change. Citric acid is somewhat higher, corks have advanced, and sulphur is on the rise. Quinine and morphia have low-

ered slightly. Oil of lemon and oil of orange show a slight advance.

## LUMBER.

Late advices from Australia tend to show that the outlook is a little more encouraging than it was. South American trade is being seriously affected by the turbulent state of affairs in Chili, but it is expected that trade will improve when matters become more settled.

## SALMON.

The salmon market is reported quiet in England. The arrival of the *Titanica* at London, together with recent arrivals from San Francisco, approximating 80,000 cases, is sufficient to supply the market until the spring enquiry sets in, which, this year, will be very late. The weather is unpropitious for the consumption of such salmon. The future market in England looks bright.

## VANCOUVER.

Business during the week has been better than for some time past, and, according to the *News Advertiser*, merchants expect that trade will continue to be brisk for some time to come.

Plenty of orders still continue to come in to the Sugar Refinery, which now gives employment to some eighty men. During the past week, syrup has been shipped into Portland, and several hundred barrels of sugar will probably be shipped to the same place next week.

There are very few changes in quotations to note during the past week. California roll butter has dropped a little, and is now quoted at 26 and 27 cents. California creamery 28 cents, cooking butter 10 to 15 cents, and there is not very much of that to be had. Cheese is stiffening, and quoted at 13 cents per lb but it will probably advance shortly.

The flour market still remains in a very unsettled state, and a still further advance is predicted. American flour has advanced exactly \$1, and Manitoba flour about a similar amount. Feed is quoted as follows: Shorts, \$20 per ton; bran, \$24; wheat, \$36 to \$38; oats, \$10; hay, \$17 to \$18. The advanced price of oats is still maintained, and there is a general scarcity of them in the market.

Oranges are still coming in plentifully, and the demand for them has largely increased. The orange trade is principally done by two firms, both of whom ship heavy consignments, one firm having ordered two car loads to meet the demand. California cherries will be on the market in about two or three weeks time.

Potatoes are a trifle stiffer in price, as the farmers are getting cleared out, and merchants will shortly begin to import new potatoes from California. Quotations are \$22.50 to \$30 per ton, for Ashcroft potatoes \$28 to \$30.

## NEW WESTMINSTER.

The past week has been uneventful in business circles, although every line of trade has been fairly busy. Country orders have fallen off slightly, which the Columbian attributes to the fact that the farmers are busy seeding, and have no time to spare for shopping. Receipts of produce by steamer have been light, which, also, may be accounted for by the fact that the farmers have no time to spare from

spring work. The demand for hay has fallen off considerably during the past two weeks, owing to the grass crop, no doubt, but the price remains firm, and \$15 is paid for prime timothy. Oats and wheat are in good demand, and prices remain unchanged. Potatoes have taken a bound upwards \$5 per ton—to the surprise of every one. It was thought the farmers were holding back considerable quantities in the expectation of realizing high prices, but this proved to be erroneous, and the supply getting short the price was not long in reaching the present figure—\$24 per ton for the best quality. When seeding is over and the surplus stock is marketed the figures may change slightly.

There is nothing to regard in the dairy line. Fresh butter, of local make, is badly wanted, but the dairy farmers have not commenced making in any quantity as yet, and the supply is still drawn from the south.

## OTHER MARKETS.

SEATTLE, April 25.—Shipments of merchandise to surrounding towns were very large yesterday, nearly all the boats taking out good loads. The receipts were light. Flour continues to advance steadily. The Rainier and Olympic brands are now quoted at \$5.35@ \$5.50. Sugars have dropped ¼c.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 25.—The produce markets were quiet yesterday, and prices of the leading cereals are practically unchanged. Quotations of spot wheat are mostly nominal, the only buyers at present are millers and they are buying sparingly. The call board markets are quieter and quotations lower. Oats, corn and barley are steady and unchanged. Bran and middlings are higher. There is no change in other millstuffs. Old potatoes remain weak. Australian onions are selling readily at \$4.50 per cental. New potatoes are very dull. Receipts are coming freely and prices lower. Fruit is fairly active in a general way. Choice oranges are none too plentiful, and prices are very firm. Small oranges, varied sized, are selling readily. Strawberries are in liberal supply, and a shade lower. Good apples are scarce. Butter is doing somewhat better; fancy roll sold slightly advanced this morning. Eggs are easier, and the market is dull. Early vegetables are arriving freely, and prices are rather easier than yesterday. Asparagus was a little lower this morning for choice. Rhubarb is neglected. Peas are slow. String beans are doing very well, and the receipts are light.

WINNIPEG, April 23.—Wheat deliveries are exceedingly light, not amounting to 10,000 bushels for the week in Manitoba from farmers' hands. From 90c to 95c has been paid to farmers for No. 2 hard. Farmers are all busy sowing, the exceedingly summerlike character of the weather enabling them to work under the most favorable advantages they probably ever experienced in the country. Wheat is showing well above ground already in some parts of the province, notably in the case of the Souris district.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: "The exports of potatoes from this province and Ontario have been large during the past