

British Columbia Markets.

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, January 4, 1896.

The only changes this week are an advance of 10 in eggs, an advance of 70c per ton on wheat and a decline of 50c per barrel for pork.

Butter.—Dairy butter, 20 to 22c; creamery 27c; Manitoba cheese 10 to 11c per lb.

Cured Meats.—Hams 12½c; breakfast bacon 18c; backs 12c; long, clear 9c; short rolls 9½c; smoked sides 10½c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 10½c per pound; in pails and tubs 10c. Mess pork \$14; short cut \$15.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders 8c; smolt 5c; sea bass 4c; black cod 6c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 4c; herring 4c; salmon 9c; halibut 7c; whiting 6c; soles 6c; crabs 60c dozen; smoked halibut 10c; bloaters 10c; kippered cod 9c; sturgeon 6c.

Game.—Mallards, 50c; pintails 40c; widgins, 35c; venison, 5c.

Vegetables.—Potatoes new, \$8 to \$10 per ton; onions silver skins, 1½c; cabbage, 1½c; carrots, turnips and beets, ¾ to 1c a lb.; sweet potatoes, \$2.50 per 100 lbs.

Eggs.—Fresh, local, 35c; Eastern 23c per dozen.

Fruits.—California seedling oranges \$3.50, navels, \$1.50; native apples \$1.00; California lemons, \$1.00 to \$1.50; California apples, \$1.20 to \$1.30; Jap oranges 50c.

Evaporated Fruits.—Apricots 11c per lb; peaches 7½c; plums 7c; prunes, French, 4c; loose Muscatel raisins 4c; London layer raisins \$1.65 box.

Nuts.—Almonds, 18c; filberts, 12½c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 12½c; walnuts, 10 to 16c lb.

Flour.—Manitoba patent, per bbl., \$1.40; strong bakers, \$1.10; Oregon, \$3.80; Oak Lake patent \$1.20; do strong bakers \$1.00.

Meal.—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb sacks, \$3.00; 45 pound sacks, \$3.10; 22½ pound sacks, \$3.30; 10.7 sacks, \$2.60. Oatmeal, 10-10's, \$3.00; 2-50's, \$2.75. Off grades, 90 lbs, \$2.70; 2-45's, \$2.80.

Grain.—Washington State wheat \$25.20 per ton f. o. b. Vancouver, duty paid. Oats 16.00 per ton.

Ground Feed.—National mills chop, \$20 to \$22 per ton; ground barley, \$22 ton; shorts, \$18.50 ton; bran \$16.50; oil cake meal, \$26 ton; F. O. B. Vancouver, including duty paid on import stuff.

Hay.—Nominal at \$8 per ton.

Dressed Meats.—Beef, 7c; mutton, 7½c to 8c; pork, 6 to 7c; veal, 7 to 9c per lb.

Live Stock.—Calves, 5 to 7c; steers, 3 to 3½c lb; cows 2½ to 3c; sheep, \$3.25 to \$3.50; hogs, 4½ to 5½c; lamb, per head \$3.00 to \$3.50.

Poultry.—Chickens, \$1 to \$6 per dozen.

Sugars.—Powdered and icing, 6c; Paris lump, 5½c; granulated, 4½c; extra C, 4c; fancy yellows 3½c; yellow 3½c per lb.

Syrups.—30 gallon barrels, 1½c per pound; 10 gallon kegs, 2c; 7 gallon kegs, \$1.25 each; 1 gallon tins, \$3.75 per case of 10; ½ gallon tins, \$1.50 per case of 20.

Teas.—Congo: Fair, 11½c; good, 18c; choice, 26c. Ceylons: Fair, 25c; good, 30c; choice, 35c per lb.

British Columbia Business Notes

Bromley & Nevin, blacksmiths, Chilliwack, have dissolved; David Nevin continues.

H. L. Lovering, butcher, Chilliwack, is succeeded by Lovering and Cruickshanks.

James L. Davis, hotel, NaKusp, has sold out to Mrs. Crawford.

Geo. Cassidy & Co. Ltd., sash factory, etc., Vancouver. Estimated loss by fire \$20,000; insurance, \$18,500.

A. McRa., tailor, New Westminster. Sheriff is in possession.

Walter Stoves, livery, Steveston, is deceased.

Epstein, Termey & Co., general store, Trail Creek, are selling out.

Theobald & Co., painters, Union, have dissolved; H. J. Theobald continues.

H. H. Spicer & Co., shingle mill, Vancouver. Estimated loss by fire \$10,000; insurance \$4,200.

Switzer & McClusky, hotel, Victoria, have sold out to F. M. Kettler.

L. A. Murphy, cigars, Victoria, has assigned.

British Columbia in 1895.

The years statistics, December approximated, show a splendid improvement in the trade of the province.

At this writing the only complete returns are from Westminster but even more satisfactory results are shown in Vancouver and Victoria.

From the Royal city the exports for the last three years have been as follows: 1893, \$830,501; 1894, 1,818,689; 1895, 2,933,417, showing an increase of over \$1,000,000 a year. Of this export the products of the mines were valued at \$1,629,095 and the fisheries \$1,200,729. The imports of the past twelve months were \$158,758 in excess of last year, and the duty \$31,076.35 more than in 1894. These figures cannot be appreciated unless the fact is taken into consideration that Westminster only has a population of 6,000 or 8,000 people including Chinese, Japanese and Indians.

Your correspondent has made enquiries for The Commercial from Victoria, Vancouver and Westminster merchants as to the state of trade compared with last year.

In Victoria they profess not to have felt the hard times in 1894 as keenly as other cities. So that the increase of business in 1895 was not so apparent. There is great wealth centred in the capital of British Columbia, and business does not fluctuate materially from year to year.

In Vancouver it is quite different. The hard times were keenly felt in the baby city of the Canadian coast, but the revival of trade has more than made up for the dull panicky season, and the composite opinion of the merchants is to the effect that trade has increased in the last six months from 30 to 60% and in the six months preceding from 15 to 25%. The same satisfactory reports come from Westminster.

The Texas Lake Ice Co., are disposing of their business and good will to an English syndicate for \$750,000. The company has shipped in the past season 150 tons of frozen salmon to London with complete success.

There is an increase in the salmon pack of the Fraser over 1894. The figures being as follows: 1894, 363,967 cases; 1895, 370,852. Eighteen ninety five was supposed to be an off year, so that the result is a genuine surprise to the fishing world. There were more canneries in operation and more men employed than ever before. There being 2,100 fishermen actively employed.

British Columbia Petroleum.

One of the various resources of East Kootenay waiting for development says a correspondent in that district, is the southeastern portion of this district. This is a section of country but little known, and which is separated from the remainder of the district by a high range of mountains. The natural outlet to the valley is down the Flathead River into Montana, and the nearest railroad is the Great Northern. Some years ago attention was called to this section through the finding of crude oil in the possession of

some Stony Indians, who annually hunted in this valley, and they were induced to show some miners where they obtained the oil, which they (the Indians) were in the habit of using as a medicine for complaints of all kinds. The surface indications are good, and two different qualities of oil have been obtained. On Kishneena Creek, a short distance north of the international boundary line, a black oil, similar to the Pennsylvania and Ohio oils, is found. But on Sage Creek, some eight miles north, there is found an oil that is nearly pure, of a light yellow color, which will burn in a lamp as it comes from the ground. Close by, there is natural gas escaping from the bedrock, which burns freely on ignition. Some of this oil sent to the Geological Museum at Ottawa caused considerable excitement and comment, and was pronounced a fraud on account of its purity. Dr. Selwyn, the head of the department, made a special trip to the valley, and was surprised to find the oil genuine, and also that this oil was found in the Cambrian formation, which was something unknown, as all the oil fields hitherto discovered have been in the Trenton limestone. Directly due east of Sage Creek, and on the eastern slope of the main ridge of the Rocky Mountains, in Alberta territory, there is plenty of surface indications of crude oil. And the finding of these indications over such a large area, and in the same formation, would go to show that there is a large oil field awaiting capital to develop it.—News-Advertiser.

Toronto Grain and Produce Market.

Wheat.—Red wheat is quoted at 64c asked and 63c bid, north and west, and white is held on the northern at 63c. Manitoba wheat is steady at 72c for No. 1 hard grinding in transit, and 71c for No. 1 northern; No. 1 hard is quoted at 71c, and No. 1 northern at 70c, Toronto and west.

Flour.—Cars of 85 per cent patents sold high freights west at \$8.15, 90 per cent. patents at \$3 west and straight roller at \$2.90 west.

Millfeed.—Cars of shorts sold west at \$12.50 and bran at \$11.

Barley.—No. 1 is quoted east at 48 to 44c; extra choice No. 1 at 45 to 46c east; No. 2 at 40c outside.

Oats.—Cars of mixed are quoted west at 22½c and white at 23c. A car of heavy choice white sold on the track here at 27c and cars of ordinary oats are quoted at 26 to 26½c.

Butter.—The receipts of creamery and large rolls continue liberal and these are in good demand. We quote 15 to 16c for good dairy tubs and 8 to 11c for medium, 14 to 15c for large rolls, 21 to 22c for creamery rolls and 21c for creamery tubs.

Eggs.—Prices are steady at 14 to 14½c for pickled, 16 to 17c for held fresh, 17c for cold storage and 17 to 17½c for late gathered. New laid are nominal at 22 to 24c.

Baled Hay.—The market is dull but steady at \$14 to \$14.50 for No. 1 and \$13 to \$13.50 for No. 2 in car lots on the track here.

Dressed Hogs.—Prices are steady at \$4.40 and \$4.50 for choice selected weights delivered here.—Globe, January 1.

British Grain Trade.

The Mark Lane Express of December 30, in its weekly review of the British grain trade, says: "English wheats have been steady and foreign wheats firmer. California wheat on passage has been quoted at 27s 3d and the best Manitoba at 25s 6d. To-day English wheats are firm and foreign dearer. Foreign barley was 6d higher."

During 1895, 8,643 immigrants registered at the immigration office in Winnipeg.