

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.
Tuesday Morning, April 17.
VICTORIA.

Business is reported steady in whole-sale lines, and the retail trade is expected to improve with the advance of spring. The strong tone of the market in many staple lines is considered a satisfactory index of returning confidence. An advancing market will induce capitalists to promote enterprises and consequently create business. It is said that there are large amounts of money in the banks awaiting investment, which shows confidence in all the banks but lack of confidence in business activity. The local situation has changed but little; that little has been for the better. Loans are said to be increasing both with banks and mortgage companies. The banks are following a liberal policy with business houses and first-class commercial paper is liberally discounted, but accommodation paper is carefully scrutinized. Shipping has been quite active. The arrival and departure of the Australian ss. Arawa, created the usual activity among merchants who are working up connections with that colony. Both of the China and Japan liners also arrived during the week. The export lumber trade shows more activity than for some time past.

The Vancouver News-Advertiser says: "Merchants report that business has been fairly good during the past week, and while there is no special feature to note, the volume of trade continues steady. Collections are reported as only fair."

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Jobbers' prices for California oranges and lemons have been advanced since last week, in sympathy with the recent advances of packers' prices in California. The steamship Arawa brought small consignments of apples and bananas. The apples were not equal in quality to the fruit usually sold in this market, but, as stocks were low, they were in fair demand. The bananas were received over ripe. The majority were sold for 50c a bunch, while some went as low as 25c. First class bunches of New Orleans bananas are quoted at \$3.00 per bunch. Potatoes are held steady at from \$20 to \$25 per ton, and the demand is reported quiet of late. Some of the jobbers expect to have California strawberries early in May. Cherries may also be expected in a week or two. They were on the market at this time last year.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:—

Oranges—California navels...	3 50 @ 4 00
seedlings...	2 75 @ 3 00
Lemons—California...	3 75 @ 4 00
Bananas	3 00 @ 0 00
Apples.....bxes	1 50 @ 1 75
Cocoanuts	per 100 8 00 @ 9 00

Vegetables are quoted:

Potatoes.....	per ton 20 00 @ 25 00
Onions—Silverskins...	per lb 3 1/2 @ 4 1/2
Cabbage.....	per lb 1 1/2 @ 2

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The feature of the week was the receipt of a fair consignment of Australian butter. It will take a little time to see whether it will take on this market. It is said to be finding a ready sale at prices slightly in advance of California

butter. The sugar situation remains unchanged.

The Toronto Empire says: "India and Ceylon teas are rather firmer in consequence of the new tariff regulation, which imposes a duty on teas not imported direct. This does not affect Japan and China teas, as a large part of importations are already brought in direct, India and Ceylon teas, however, come via London, and the bulk of the business has been done through London brokers. At first it was understood all teas not brought in by direct steamer would be subject to the duty, but the Finance Minister has made the point clear by stating that transshipment would be permissible."

Jobbers quote:

Valencia raisins.....per lb	\$ 7 @ \$ 0
Malaga raisins.....per box	3 00 @ 3 25
Currants (barrels)	5 @ 5 1/2
" half bbls.....per lb	5 @ 6
" (cases)	5 1/2 @ 7 1/2
Sultana raisins	8 @ 10
Taragona almonds.....per lb	11 @ 18
Grenoble walnuts.....per lb	11 @ 18
Filberts	11 1/2 @ 14

Dairy produce is quoted:

Butter—Eastern Creamery, tubs.....	
Manitoba dairy	00 @ 00
California creamery	25 @ 26
California rolls.....	25 @ 26
Cheese—Canadian, lb.....	13 @ 11
California.....	15 @ 16
Eggs, pickled, case, per doz	00 @ 00
Smoked meats and lard are quoted:	
Hams.....	13 1/2 @ 14 1/2
Breakfast bacon.....	1 1/2 @ 15
Short roll.....	10 1/2 @ 11 1/2
Dry Salt, low clear	10 1/2 @ 11
Backs.....	13 1/2 @ 13 1/2
Pure Lard, 20lbs, pails.....	11 @ 11 1/2
" " 10lbs, tins	11 1/2 @ 11 1/2
" " 5lbs	11 1/2 @ 15
" " 3lbs	11 1/2 @ 15
Lard Compound, 10lbs.....	11 1/2 @ 00
" " 20lbs.....	11 @ 00
" " 5lbs.....	11 1/2 @ 00
" " 3lbs.....	11 1/2 @ 00

Sugar—Jobbers' prices 1/2-barrels and kegs in each case being 1c higher:

Dry Granulated (China).....	4 1/2
Extra C, China.....	4 1/2
Australian Granulated.....	4 1/2
Dry Granulated (B. C. Refinery).....	4 1/2
Extra C.....	4 1/2
Fancy Yellow.....	1 1/2
Yellow	3 1/2
Golden C	3 1/2
Cubes.....	5 1/2
Powdered	6 1/2
Syrups, per lb.....	3
" 1 gal, tins, American (10).....	5 50
" 1 " " (16).....	5 25
" 1 " Vancouver.....	5 50
" 1 1/2 " "	7 00

Jobbers' quotations for Armour Packing Company's brands per lb.:

Helmet brand sugar cured hams, medium	0 16
" heavy.....	0 15
" breakfast bacon	0 16 1/2
Fancy Gold Band hams.....	0 17 1/2
" breakfast bacon.....	0 18 1/2
White Label pure leaf lard, tierces	0 14
" " " 50-lb tins	0 14 1/2
" " " 20-lb "	0 14 1/2
" " " 10-lb "	0 14 1/2
" " " 5-lb "	0 11 1/2
" " " 3-lb "	0 14 1/2
Lard compound (tierces).....	0 11 1/2

LOUR AND FEED.

There is a stronger feeling in the flour and feed line now than has existed for some months past, although no actual advances can be noted in jobbers' quotations. Wheat is said to have advanced

\$3 per ton last Saturday, which has not as yet affected prices here. Chop feed has been advanced \$1.50 per ton in San Francisco. Shorts and bran are also reported stiffer. Various rumors are afloat regarding a rise in the flour market, but facts to substantiate these reports are lacking.

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

Ogilvie's Hungarian	\$1 20
" Strong Bakers.....	1 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

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

Delta	\$1 00
Victoria XXX	1 00

Jobbers' quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills	\$ 1 25 @ 0 00
Lion, "	1 25 @ 0 00
XXX	1 25 @ 0 00
Premier, Enderby mills.....	1 25 @ 0 00
XXX, "	1 10 @ 0 00
XX, "	3 65 @ 0 00
Superfine, "	3 40 @ 0 00
Ogilvie's Hungarian.....	4 55 @ 1 60
" Strong Bakers.....	4 15 @ 0 00
H. B. C. Fort Garry Hungarian..	4 55 @ 1 60
" Strong Bakers.....	4 45 @ 0 00
Oak Lake Patent Hungarian.....	4 55 @ 1 60
" Strong Bakers.....	4 45 @ 0 00
Regina Hungarian.....	4 55 @ 1 60
" 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.....	25 00 @ 30 00
Oats.....	30 00 @ 32 50
Oil cake meal.....	35 00 @ 50 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
" " Special chop feed ..	20 00 @ 20 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.....	15 00 @ 18 00
Straw, per bale.....	1 00 @ 0 00

RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote whole:

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

DRY GOODS.

The Toronto Empire says: "The cooler weather of the past day or two has checked buying, but the total sales for the week have been quite up to the average. A good many buyers have been here, and both letter and travellers' orders have been fair. The principal movement is much in the same lines as noted last week, with the addition of challies, muslins and other light summer fabrics. The next few weeks will be comparatively uneventful. Orders for both cottons and woollens for autumn delivery are now pretty well placed.