

Our Travellers have commenced the campaign for 1891.

Their Sundry Samples are larger than ever, and prices better than ever.

Cigar Samples represent the largest stock and largest variety west of the Great Lakes.

Tobacconists' Sundries were never more complete.

In Drugs and Medicines, our representatives are able to quote with any house in Canada.

WAIT UNTIL THEY CALL.

Dawson, Bole & Co.

WINNIPEG, - MANITOBA.

British Columbia Trade Letter.

(SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.)

VANCOUVER, Feb. 9.—Trade for the past week or two has been eventless. January is always a dull month. In regard to the present situation there is little in my last letter but what would apply now. The fine weather still continues with an inclination to be cold and clear. Such lovely weather as has been enjoyed during the past month cannot but have affected trade very beneficially. Since writing last your correspondent interviewed one of the leading commission men of the coast in regard to the egg question. He says the low price of eggs is largely due to the bad quality of the stock imported, which is simply without a redeeming feature. The eastern dealers evidently imagine that anything is good enough to ship to B. C., a principle that Manitoba shippers of butter acted upon for a long time, until stern experience opened their eyes. But there never was a greater mistake. It should be understood that B. C. people will have nothing but the best and they are both willing and able to pay for it. Without exception, the best livers on the continent are in this province and if eastern dealers imagine they can palm off poor stock on us they will not only get "left", to use the common slang, but they will bid fair to lose the trade of B. C. altogether. Rather should they regard us in the same light as the English market and select the very best stock they can find to ship. It is not price but quality which sells out here and the sooner this fact is appreciated the better. Medium and poor qualities of butter, cheese, eggs and so on only glut the market and cause loss to those who try to handle them. There is no large class of poor consumers here who are

obliged to subsist on the dregs of the market. Unscrupulous dealers who have endeavored to make this a dumping ground for surplus and unsaleable stock have only succeeded in increasing the trade between B. C. and California and Oregon where the commission men if not more honest are too worldly wise. Talking of eggs, the home supply is rapidly increasing and fresh eggs are much cheaper than they were last year. It is only a matter of a short time when we will be independent of the outside world.

Fruit, game, poultry and fish are all very scarce, while vegetables are less abundant. In the latter respect, however, the province never suffers much. In the general feed and supply line there is an upward tendency all round. Shipping continues active.

Last week the project of a railway connecting Vancouver with Alaska has been set actively on foot and there is considerable enthusiasm about it in the terminal city and two meetings at which the scheme was discussed were largely attended. The most feasible route seems to be that of bridging the second narrows of Burrard Inlet and following up the Seymour valley, striking the Chilcotin plains and continuing on the line of valleys to Alaska. As was pointed out by those who have explored this northern country, there is an immense extent of agricultural and grazing lands, and rich mineral deposits, while undoubtedly valuable timber tracts would be tapped. The climate as far north as the line would extend is tempered by the Japan currents and is much milder than would be supposed, judged solely by the lines of latitude. Your correspondent has strenuously contended that British Columbia has, excluding Manitoba and the Territories, a greater agricultural area than any province in the Dominion, and in this north country alone there are millions of acres adapted to the growth of cereals, grazing, dairying and so on. It only requires a railway to

open it up. The people of the United States are very much interested in securing direct railway connection with Alaska and it is supposed that all the capital required would be readily furnished by American capitalists. A charter will be asked for at the present session of the legislature.

Another industry about to be extended in the cities of British Columbia is the manufacture of ice. Owing to the mildness of the weather on the coast, natural ice has to be brought long distances, and an artificial supply is necessary. The promoters of this enterprise are from the Sound cities.

Current prices are as follows: Meats—Dry salt, 10½ cents; breakfast bacon, 12½ cents; roll bacon, 10½ cents. Lard, in pails, 12 cents; in tins, 12½ cents; Chicago lard, compound, 12 cents. Sugar—Granulated, 7½ cents and yellow 6½ cents. Sugar from the British Columbia refinery is now on the market, and is quoted to the wholesale houses at the following prices: Granulated, 7½ cents and yellow, 6½ cents. New Japanese rice, 5½ cents per pound. Salmon, salt, \$9 per 210 lbs. barrel and canned, \$4.50 to \$5.50 per case. Shorts, \$26 per ton, chopped feed, \$32 to \$40, bran, \$24, local wheat \$35; Oregon wheat, \$37.50 per ton; Flour—Manitoba Patent, \$5.75; Manitoba Bakers, \$5.50; Portland and Morning Star, \$5.25; Dayton, \$5.10; 2 Star, \$5.25. Manitoba Patents are retailed at \$1.50 per sack. Rolled oats \$3.50 per sack, oatmeal, \$5.25, cornmeal, \$2.15. Potatoes, \$19.50 to \$22.50; per ton; Ashcroft potatoes, \$25 per ton; hay, \$16 to \$17 per ton; Manitoba oats, \$35 per ton; turnips and carrots, \$10 to \$12 per ton for common, and \$15 per ton for table use, onions, natives, \$3.50 to \$4.50 per 100 pounds, and Spanish \$3 per 50 lbs. Best oil cake, \$40 per ton. Eggs, 22 cents per dozen for best Ontario pickled, and 40 to 45 cents per dozen for local fresh. Butter—Dairy, 15 to 22 cents per pound; cooking, 12 cents; creamery, 25 to 28 cents. Cheese, 12½ cents per pound. Oranges, \$5.25 per box for best Washington Navals. Lemons, \$8 per box for Sicily, and \$5 for California.