

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.
Tuesday Morning, March, 11.
VICTORIA.

Business continues about the same, with no changes of importance to note. The spring trade cannot be said to have opened up yet and until it does there cannot be any marked improvement looked for. Collections are about the same; no improvement is noted. The prospects for the lumber trade this season are certainly not very bright. The market is entirely bare of orders at present. The Fraser River sawmills are seeking to find a market in England. Parties there have been making inquiries about the navigation of the Fraser, and, as they have received satisfactory assurances concerning it, a number of cargoes may be shipped to the U. K. on mill account. The freight market is at present very low. Grain freights are reported as weakening and the tonnage lying idle at San Francisco is by no means decreasing. From all accounts, the situation in British Columbia bears a very satisfactory comparison with that of the other Pacific coast districts.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The following are the receipts of California fruits and vegetables from San Francisco by steamship Walla Walla March 13, for Victoria: 103 cs oranges, 8 cs lemons; 12 cs bananas, 42 crts cabbage, 9 crts cauliflower, 2 cs pine apples, 4 cs asparagus, 6 bxs apples, 3 cs rhubarb, 1 cs celery. Oregon Silverskin onions are much higher in price. Apples are very scarce and there is a steady demand for them. Oregon apples in boxes are selling at about \$2.50 per box. Canadian apples are growing in favor on this market and are quoted from \$7 to \$7.50 per bbl. An importation of one hundred tons of potatoes was received Monday by local jobbers, from Whitby Island, Wash. These are of very fair quality and are quoted at \$30 per ton. Bananas continue scarce, a ship load has recently arrived in San Francisco but were generally too green to ship by Walla Walla, although a few cases were received. They will be in fine condition to ship by the next steamer. rhubarb and asparagus are now on the market.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:—

Oranges—Navels, common to good	3 50 @	1 00
" fancy	1 25 @	0 00
Highland Seedlings	2 75 @	0 00
Riverside Seedlings	2 00 @	2 25
" fancy	2 35 @	2 50
Los Angeles	2 00 @	2 25
Lemons—California	1 50 @	5 00
Sicily	5 50 @	0 00
Apples—Red	2 50 @	0 00
Bananas	3 55 @	0 00

Vegetables are quoted:

Potatoes—Local	per ton	30 00 @	35 00
California Reds		30 00 @	30 00
" Early Rose		35 00 @	00 00
Onions—Red California		2 1/2 @	3
Oregon Silverskins		3 @	3 1/2
Cabbage		2 @	
Asparagus	per lbs	1 @	00
Rhubarb		13 @	00

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The following are the receipts of California butter from San Francisco, by ss. Walla Walla, March 13, for Victoria. 27 cs, 3,070 lbs; 3 kegs, 350 lbs; 10 pails, 250 lbs;

total 3,070 lbs. Receipts March 6, 1,705 lbs; Feb., 27, 2,175 lbs; Feb., 20, 2,705 lbs. The price of California butter has slightly declined since last week. Extra choice rolls have dropped from 2c to 3c per lb., and squares 1c per lb. Supplies are arriving quite freely in San Francisco. There are no Eastern eggs in this market, and importations are being made from San Francisco and Oregon to supply the demand.

A Portland advice says that eggs are becoming scarce there. There are a good many on the market, but big orders are pouring in from all parts and the probabilities are that there will be a scarcity within a week.

Oregon eggs are quoted at 29c to 30c per doz. by jobbers. Cured meats are, on the whole, unchanged. Armour's Gold Band hams have advanced 1 1/2c per lb. and breakfast bacon 1/2c per lb. The packers' prices of roast, corned and lunch beef have slightly declined. The sugar situation remains unchanged.

American canned meats, staples, are quoted to the jobbers in bond as follows. Roast corned and lunch beef, 1's per doz., \$1.15; do. 2's per doz., \$1.85; lunch tongues, 1's per doz. \$3.35; do. 2's, \$5.90. Armour's white label conserved soups in 2 lb. tins are quoted at \$3 per doz.

Commission agents quote American meats f. o. b. Victoria, duty paid as follows: Medium hams, 17 1/2c per lb; heavy hams, 17c; choice breakfast bacon, 18c; short clear sides, 11 1/2c, and dry salt clear sides, 11c. Armour's white label pure lard, 10 lb. pails, 19 1/2c per lb.

Armour's Gold Band meats, which are the finest quality on the American market, being a special grade for choice family trade, are quoted, (duty paid, Victoria), hams, 20 1/2c, breakfast bacon, 20 1/2c.

California evaporated fruits are quoted as follows:—Apples, evaporated, 50 lb. boxes, 14c per lb., 25 lb. boxes 13 1/2c; apricots, 25 lb. boxes, 20c; prunes, 25 lb. boxes, 14c; plums, 25 lb. boxes, 14 1/2c to 14 3/4c; peaches, 50 lb. boxes, 16c, 25 lb. boxes 17c. Canadian evaporated apples, 50 lb boxes, 8 1/2 to 9c.

The British Columbia Sugar Refining Co. L'td., quote as follows in their weekly price list: Powdered icing and bar, 6 1/2c; Paris lumps, 6 1/2c; granulated 5 1/2c; extra C. 5c; fancy yellow, 4 1/2c; yellow 4 1/2c; golden C. 1 1/2c. Above prices are for barrels or bags; half-barrels and 100 pound kegs, 1/2c; more, boxes 1/2c more. No order taken for less than 100 barrels or its equivalent.

They quote syrup as follows: Finest golden, in 30 gal. bls. 2 1/2c; ditto. in 10 gal. kegs. 3c; ditto. in 5 gal. kegs, \$2.25 each; ditto, in 1 gal. tins, \$1.50 per case of 10; ditto in 1/2 gal. tins, \$6 per case of 20. Prices cover delivery in Vancouver, and at Victoria, New Westminster and Nanaimo, and are subject to a discount of 2 1/2 per cent. for cash in fourteen days. All prices subject to change without notice.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: "Butter receipts during the past week were 911 pkgs., against 1,806 pkgs., for the week previous. We see no reason to alter our quotations, which are steady under a fair local demand. The Lenten demand has been very good, and a large quantity of butter has gone into consumption.

Still there is enough left for all current needs, and we expect prices to rule steady, for the balance of the season. Had it not been for the duty, we should undoubtedly have had Australian butter in this market before now; and should prices go much lower on the other side, we may see it here yet. Jobbers have pretty well picked over all the desirable lots of dairy butter, and anyone wanting a choice tub of butter are compelled to go upon the creamery. Western has been sold in jobbing lots to Bonsecours cutters at 20c to 21c. Creamery choice late made, 22c to 23c; Creamery good to fine, 21c to 22c. About 1c to 1 1/2c may be added to above prices for selections of single tubs. A very nice lot of Western rolls in barrels was sold yesterday at 20c and we quote 20c to 21c. An ordinary lot in boxes and cases sold at 19c. Cheese receipts during the past week were 20 boxes. The market in England has not exhibited the firmness that was so confidently expected, owing probably to the Australian imports, and the bad state of trade in the cotton districts caused by strikes and other causes, where great distress prevails among the working classes. There is comparatively little cheese left in Canada, so that the market here will not be much affected. The Liverpool public cable was down 6d yesterday, to 55s 6d. Here prices are purely nominal at 11 1/2c to 11 3/4c. We stated last week that it would not be long before new fodder cheese was on the market, and we find that already a Brockville factory has commenced."

Dairy produce is quoted:

Butter—Eastern Creamery, tubs	27 1/2 @	23
Manitoba Dairy choice	18 @	22
California rolls, extra choice	25 @	27
" squares, "	28 @	00
Cheese—Canadian, lb.	12 @	14 1/2
California	16 @	00
Eggs, case, per doz	29 @	30

Smoked meats and lard are quoted:

Hams	15 @	18
Breakfast bacon	17 @	18
Short rolls	14 @	15
Long rolls	15 @	16
Dry Salt, long clear	13 @	14
Pure Lard, 50lbs.	16 @	17
" 20lbs.	17 @	17 1/2
Lard Compound	15 1/2 @	16

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

Dry Granulated	5 1/2
Extra C.	5 1/2
Fancy Yellow	5 1/2
Yellow	5
Golden C	4 1/2
Syrups, per lb.	3
" 1 gal. tins, American	6 50
" " " " " "	6 00
" 1 " Vancouver	5 50
" 1 1/2 " " " "	7 00

RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton	\$ 77 50
Best China rice	100 00
China rice No. 1	70 00
Rice flour	70 00
Chit rice	25 00
Rice Meal	17 50

FLOUR AND FEED.

Prices remain unchanged. Outside of a steady consumptive demand there are no features worthy of mention.

The Oxtlie Milling Co. quote their standard brands of Manitoba flour, in car