

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, May 5, 1896.

Merchants report a still more decided improvement in trade this week, while collections are easier. The lumber mills are still busy and there is every prospect of their continuing so for some time to come. Active building operations are in progress in Victoria, while considerable outdoor work is going on in other cities. There are many changes in the market this week and prices are quoted as unsteady.

British Columbia Mining News.

The Slocan Star has \$500,000 in sight.

Half a million dollars has been subscribed by Victoria parties to work the Freeman claim, regarded as one of the most promising mines in the province.

T. G. Blackstock, George Gooderham and R. W. Gooderham, of Toronto, are spying mining claims in Kootenay.

The Gold King mine, Rossland, has been stocked by a syndicate.

A gold quartz claim has been located near Lillooet. It is a very rich one. Many claims have been staked in the vicinity of Lillooet recently.

For the week reported ending April 4th, 461 tons of ore have been shipped from Southern Kootenay. The Slocan heads the list with 165 tons.

The British Columbia Miners' Association is taking steps to test the validity of the claims of the assessment act which imposes a tax of the gross output of quartz mines.

I. N. Peyton is attempting to regain control of the famous Le Roi. He is buying blocks of stock. H. C. Stimmel who bought 13,666 shares when stock went begging at a few cents a share, sold out for \$63,330 to Mr. Peyton.

W. Kirkwood and Geo. Atkins, a Revelstoke report says, have closed a big mining deal with Chicago capitalists and a capital account of \$2,000,000 has been started. The purchasers have organized the French Creek Hydraulic Mining Co. and will work French Creek with expensive modern machinery.

Two Kootenay mines are quoted above par. Hall mines \$1.86 are quoted \$5.50. Holders will not sell, claiming shares will go to \$25. War Eagle shares, par \$1, are quoted \$1.40 and none to be had. The Hall mines include the Silver King and the Bonanza, the richest silver mines in the world. The War Eagle is stocked at half a million dollars, and no Hall mines at less than that.

An old man arrived at Port Townsend last week with a bag containing 82 pounds of gold, the result of 3 years labor on the Yukon. He worked absolutely alone during his 36 months hunt for the yellow metal.

There is still a great deal of snow in the mountains which is extremely aggravating to prospectors. The Colville reservation near Nelson is full of miners in a state of "inocuous desuetude" owing to the snow. The air is blue with miners' talk.

The Canadian Pacific Navigation Co.'s steamer Thistle is to be placed on the run between Victoria and Alberni to accommodate prospectors at the Vancouver Island gold mines.

At Alberni development work is pushing right and day. The Dansmuir claim looks very promising, and like the Kootenay mines the veins are increasing in width as they go down.

The Lily May Mine Co., Trail, has been incorporated with a capital of \$500,000. The mine is very promising. The ore is easily mined and runs \$10 in gold and silver. The mine was discovered in 1870.

The Commander mine at Rossland is being worked and shows a rich vein of ore, stripped 1,500 feet.

Two more smelting plants will shortly be erected at Trail Creek.

The Consolidated St. Elmo Co. has been incorporated to work the St. Elmo at Red Mountain in Trail district.

The International gold mine has been sold to Easterners. The ore of the International runs from \$300 to \$1000 per ton. The vein is narrow, but total values of ore in sight is very large.

British Columbia Business Notes

The spring salmon run is increasing rapidly.

The Bank of Montreal are erecting a handsome \$25,000 block on Government Street, Victoria.

Semon Leisser is building a large and thoroughly modern mercantile establishment on the corner of Yates Street and Waddington Ave. Victoria.

There are 13 ships in British Columbia ports with 23,239 aggregate tonnage.

The Canadian Pacific Navigation Co. have purchased the steamer Tees for service on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

The Brunett saw mills this week shipped the longest length of fir lumber yet sent east. The lumber was 91 feet in length.

The carnival by-law granting \$5,000 city funds for a world's regatta in September next was endorsed by the people of Vancouver last week by a large majority.

Many tons of potatoes are sprouting and rotting in the barns all along the Fraser. The reason is farmers refuse to send them to market or sell them at current rates. They sell at \$3 per ton. The freight is something less than \$2. In the meantime large quantities of potatoes are being imported from California.

The Canadian Pacific Navigation Co. are putting a steamer on the route between Chilliwack and Vancouver to accommodate farmers wishing to trade at the Vancouver market.

Shops, liquor licenses, it is said, are to be raised from \$100 to \$300 in Vancouver, owing to the prevalence of the custom of selling liquor by the glass in wholesale shops.

Vancouver's Marine Railway Co., has been incorporated with a capital of half a million dollars. The company will build on Deadman's Island, Burrard Inlet, Vancouver British Columbia.

British Columbia Colliers are rather alarmed at the fact that the Southern Pacific have been using petroleum instead of coal in their engines experimentally and with success.

Sibbald & Pease, of Revelstoke, write The Commercial denying the report current in mercantile circles that they had dissolved partnership.

The Canadian Australian line Miowera, just arrived, has a big freight and passenger list. The freight amounted to 2,000 cases of fruit, 1,733 ignots of tin, 236 bars of lead, 15 barrels of molasses and bananas and coconuts. She had 60 cabin passengers. Outgoing she will have 1900 tons of freight, consisting of wheat, flour, feed, agricultural and other machinery.

The customs and inland revenue returns for Vancouver for April still indicate an increase in trade over last year. The returns in British Columbia are as follows: Inland revenue Vancouver 10,451.05 (an increase over April 1895 of \$2,581.82) Victoria \$14,919.83 (increase of 3,131.10). Customs returns. Victoria, duty collected \$70,721.23, Vancouver, \$5,850.18 (increase of \$12,595.21) Westminster 7,129.85, Nanaimo, 3,986. Victoria imports, 239,885, exports, 76,551. Vancouver, imports 128,291, exports, 63,419. Nanaimo, imports 16,676, exports, foreign coal shipments 50,583 tons. Westminster, imports, 47,714, exports \$119,029.

British Columbia Markets.

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, May 9, 1896.

There are a number of changes in prices this week, the most important of which is the drop in butter.

Butter.—Man. Dairy butter, 16c; California dairy, 18 to 20c; creamery, 22c. Manitoba cheese 10 to 10½c per lb.

Cured Meats.—Hams 11c; breakfast bacon 11c; backs 11½c; long, clear 8½c; short rolls 9c; smoked sides 10c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 10c per pound; in rails and tubs 9½c. Mess pork \$11; short cut \$15.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders 3c; smelt 4c; sea bass 4c; black cod 6c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 4c; herring 1c; spring salmon 7½c; whiting 6c; soles 6c; steel heads, 6c; crabs 60c dozen; smoked halibut 8c; blenters 10c; kippered cod 9c; sturgeon 6c; oolachan 5c; smoked salmon 12½c.

Vegetables.—Potatoes \$3 to \$8 per ton; ashcroft potatoes, \$10 per ton; onions silver skins, 4½c lb; sweet potatoes \$2.25 per 100 lbs.; cabbage, 1½c lb; carrots, turnips and beets, \$10 a ton.

Eggs.—Fresh, local, 16 to 17c. Oregon eggs, 16c.

Fruits.—Fruit is sold by box unless otherwise quoted. Standard American boxes measure one foot ten and a half inches by eleven and a half inches with depth of eleven inches, inside measurement, and contain from 280 to 360 lomons, from 125 to 300 seedling oranges, or from 125 to 150 naval oranges. Standard Australian boxes for apples, etc., are smaller and contain from 125 to 150 apples in a box. California seedling oranges \$2 \$2.50 per box; navels, \$3.50 per box; Modieranau navels \$3.00 per box, California lomons \$3.00 per box, Australian apples \$2.50 to \$3.00 per box; bananas \$1.75 per bunch.

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, 13c; filberts, 12½c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 12½c; walnuts, 10 to 10c lb.

Meal.—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb sacks, \$3.00; 45 pound sacks, \$3.10; 22½ pound sacks, \$3.30; 10.7 sacks, \$2.00. Oatmeal, 10-10's, \$3.25; 2-50's, \$3.00. Off grades, 90 lbs, \$2.25; 2-45's, \$2.35. Manitoba Rolled Oats, 90's, \$2.25 45's \$2.35.

Flour.—Manitoba patent, per bbl., \$1.70; strong bakers, \$1.10, Oregon, \$1.70, Oak Lake patent \$1.40; do strong bakers \$1.20.

Grain.—Washington State wheat \$30.00 per ton f.o.b. Vancouver, duty paid. Oats 16.00 per ton.

Ground Feed.—National mills chop, \$21 to \$23 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, 8½ to 9c; mutton, 9c; pork, 6 to 7c; veal, 7 to 8½c per lb.

Live Stock.—Steers, 4½c lb; sheep, \$1.00 to \$1.50 per 100 lbs.; hogs, 5½ to 5¾c; lamb \$3.50 to \$4 per 100 pounds.

Poultry.—Chickens, \$6 per dozen, scarce.

Sugars.—Powdered and icing, 6½c; Paris lump, 6½c; granulated, 5½c; extra C, 5½c; fancy yellows 4½c; yellow 4½c per lb.

Syrups.—30 gallon barrels, 1½c per pound; 10 gallon kegs, 2½c; 5 gallon kegs, \$1.50 each; 1 gallon tins, \$1 per case of 10; ½ gallon tins, \$1.75 per case of 20.

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