

British Columbia Trade Letter.

(SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.)

VANCOUVER, March 30.—Easter week has had a quietening effect in trade, and even the Legislature nodded. Weather has taken a very favorable turn and farming and gardening has commenced. There will be a very active demand for labour and material for building all over the Province this summer, and extensive preparations in that direction are apparent. Victoria and New Westminster as well as Vancouver will experience this boom. Your correspondent predicts that it will double for 1891 the record of any previous year. Business is feeling the impetus of this already. One evidence of it is seen in the unusual demand for money, loans on real estate, to meet building requirements. Merchants report collections slow and the cause of it is the amount of money being invested in building lots and homes. Residential property in Victoria is particularly in good demand. A good deal of speculation is going in lands lying adjacent to the tramway route between Vancouver and New Westminster and also in property in South Westminster. Victoria is just now in a mild whirl of excitement over the proposal of the Northern Pacific to enter that city by way of Port Crescent, ferrying a distance of nine miles to Beacher Bay to which point the E. & N. Railway would be extended. A bonus of something like one million dollars will be asked from the city, and the proposition in some form will be submitted in a few days and likely to meet with a good deal of favor. It is thought that if the N. P. R. makes a terminus of Victoria the C. P. R. will be forced to do the same. A move is on foot, too, to start an extensive creamery at Saanich; also one at Chilliwack, and the promoters are confident of success. An event occurred last week of considerable consequence, viz, the death of Dr. Whetham, Vancouver. He was a pioneer of the city, deeply interested in nearly every phase of its commercial and industrial life, vice president of the board of trade, an owner of mining property and with all very public spirited and a promoter of everything having for its object the development of the province. His loss will be severely felt.

Business is generally in a healthy condition, and with the opening of spring will come the benefit of the largely increasing trade of the interior. Navigation and communication are not opened up in many places. The northern trade is more promising than usual and several steamers now regularly ply. With the opening of navigation the Hudson's Bay Company intend putting a new steamer on the Skeena. With the large number of settlers who have gone on all the islands of the coast and the increase of logging, the coasting trade is developing rapidly and will be more considerable than ever. Flour and feed are firm, and so are all classes of provisions. Quotations are: Flour—Victoria Mills, Delta brand, \$5; Portland roller, \$5.40; Snowflake, \$5.40; C. & C., \$5.25; Manitoba Hungarian, \$6.40; Manitoba strong bakers, \$6.10; Oregon superfine, \$4.50; wheat \$34 per ton; oats, \$35; barley, \$33; corn, \$40; chop feed, \$35; bran, \$24; shorts, \$28; potatoes, \$25.

Very little change is reported in meats, which are steady and firm. Rice, oranges and lemons, and low grades of tea have advanced owing to scarcity in primary markets. Canned goods are higher in stock and advancing.

Local demand for lumber is strong, but the foreign demand, owing to weakness of prices and lack of tonnage is light at present. Fresh eggs are cheaper than usual at this season, owing to increase in poultry business; good butter scarce and largely dependent on the California supply.

Freight Rates.

Following are the freight rates in cents per 100 lbs on wheat, flour and millstuffs from Minneapolis and St. Paul, to the place named:

	All rail.	Via Mill- waukee Acres Lake
Millwaukee or Manitowoc	10	10
Chicago	10	
Buffalo and Suspension Bridge	25	28
Albany and Troy	34	32
Philadelphia	33	31
Baltimore	32	31
New York	35	33
Boston and Portland	40	38
Utica	32½	30½
Syracuse	35	28
Rochester	24½	20½
Corning and Elmira	31½	29½
Fremont and Lincoln, Neb.	27	

Grain and Milling.

The farmers' elevator scheme at Arden, Man., has fallen through. Sufficient stock could not be sold.

Two hundred and seventy five thousand bushels of grain have been marketed at Red City, Man., this winter to date. The buyers expect to get over 25,000 more.

The new offices of W. W. Ogilvie & Co., in Montreal, were opened with a banquet recently. During the dinner a number of his employees marched into the room, carrying a beautiful brass mounted oaken casket. This was found to contain a piece of plate—a silver bowl of heroic size, chased and engraved. It is solid silver, fifteen inches high, two feet in diameter, and valued at \$1,000. It is decorated with tassels of wheat, crests of the provinces and pictures of the firm's mills and branches. This was presented to Mr. Ogilvie, the head of the company.

Two or three weeks ago THE COMMERCIAL criticised a letter in the London *Miller*, from "W. W." Rockford farm, Port Arthur. "W. W." now writes this paper charging that we have misquoted him. He says he wrote that it was the "largest and best portion of the Northwestern crop that is going to feed the mills of Minneapolis," and not the "Manitoba" crop, as we put it. His information he says "was gained from farmers who sold their wheat to go to Minneapolis." The explanation does not improve "W. W." ridiculous position, unless he means "northwestern States" wheat, which evidently he does not. The use of the vague and geographically misleading term "Northwest," which is sometimes applied to the territories west of Manitoba, and sometimes to Manitoba and the territories combined, will not make any difference. The wheat crop of Manitoba and the territories is governed by the same conditions as to markets, freights, etc., and is one and the same crop.

The advance of 3c in currants in New York has stiffened local holders, says the *Toronto Empire*. They are now asking 3c better figures—6½ to 6¾ for barrels.

Vancouver Board of Trade.

At the last monthly meeting of the board, president elect, John Hondry, was installed.

Communications were read from H. Abbott, General Superintendent of the C. P. R., stating that he had forwarded a map on which were marked the shacks on the foreshores. From the Manufacturers' Locating Bureau, offering to exhibit specimens of the products of this province in their show rooms at Chicago for \$25 per annum.

SYDNEY, N. S. W., Jan. 26th, 1891.

To the Secretary Board of Trade, Vancouver.

DEAR SIR,—Seeing the progress now being made towards the establishment of the fast Canadian Pacific Mail service from Vancouver to Australia, we are now forming a committee of mercantile gentlemen who are desirous of opening up trade with British Columbia and the Dominion, and have much pleasure in asking your kind favor and assistance in supplying us with information in reference to the following:—

1st. Dominion tariffs and probable exports to Australia via Vancouver.

2nd. Quantity of fresh salmon caught adjacent to Vancouver terminus, wholesale prices, etc.

3rd. Quantity cases tinned salmon exported to Australia via San Francisco.

4th. High class fish and game, wholesale prices, etc.

5th. Fine dressed lumbers, doors, window frames and sashes, shooks, staves and fruit cases all in bundles, etc., quantity manufactured, wholesale prices, etc., whether manufactured adjacent to Vancouver terminus of the steamers, and any other information you may be pleased to furnish us with.

Sydney, Brisbane and Fiji exports:—

1st. Frozen mutton, butter, fruit.

2nd. Wool, wines, sugar copra. If sugar refineries are erected or likely to be erected in Vancouver adjacent to the steamers, etc? Are oil mills erected or likely to be erected in Vancouver adjacent to the steamers, etc.

3rd. Sisal, hemp and flax. What demand, if any; market price, etc.

4th. Wines. Shall be pressed with a special report in reference to this. We are turning out in these colonies first class wines, and in the course of a few years will be one of our principal industries.

5th. Have you cold storage rooms in Vancouver adjacent to the steamers? Our committee are desirous of promoting a profitable trade between Australasia and Vancouver and vice versa, and we have, therefore, taken the liberty in seeking the necessary information with a view to this object. In conclusion, we shall esteem it a great favor if you will comply with our request.

Mr. Cotton moved that the matter be left for the council to go into it, and take such steps as may be necessary, and then report. Carried. The Chicago communication and the matter of shacks was also left to the council.

Mr. Berteaux was elected vice-president to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Dr. Whetham.

Fred. Cockburn, manager of Dun, Wiman & Co.'s agency, was nominated as a new member.

A discussion then ensued as to the best manner to receive W. C. Van Horne, of the C. P. R., who would be out here at the arrival.