

POULTRY—The market is now stocked up heavily with poultry from Eastern Canada, and prices are consequently easier for lots of native poultry shipped in. Prices will likely be lower after the holidays, if not before. Ontario poultry is selling in small lots at about the following prices. Turkeys, 12½c. geese, 10½c. and large lots ½c to 1c lower, according to quantity wanted. Some of the retail butchers have brought in car lots of poultry from Ontario, and are selling it here retail at as low prices as small lots are jobbing at. This has demoralized the market some and causes a lower tendency. For native poultry, dealers are paying 9½ to 10c for turkeys, 8½ to 9c for geese and ducks, and 6½ to 7c for chickens. Choice lots will bring the top price.

DRESSED MEATS—The quantity of dressed meats offering so far this season has been much less than last year, but offerings increased yesterday in beef. Country frozen beef ranges from 8 to 1c as to quality for sides, most bringing 8½ to 1c, and a little pickled quality has brought 4½c for sides. Unfrozen city dressed has sold at 5 to 5½c for ordinary, and fancy Christmas beef has ranged up to 6 to 6½c. Hogs have been sparingly offered, and have held at 5c as the general price, and yesterday prices advanced to 5½c, though this is looked upon as only a temporary spurt. Winnipeg prices for hogs are far above eastern Canada markets. At Toronto the other day 4½c was the top price quoted for choice selected weights of hogs. Mutton is quiet here at 6c for butchers, and country at 5 to 5½c as to quality. Meats are all low east, recent quotations from Montreal quoting beef at 8 to 8½c for farmers' beef and 4½c to 6c for mutton.

GAME—Rabbits, 80 each; jack rabbits, 50c each.

VEGETABLES—Following are prices on the street market: Potatoes, 20c per bushel, cabbage 25 to 40c per dozen, as to size, celery 25 to 40c per dozen bunches; onions 40 to 50c per bushel; turnips 10 to 15c per bushel; parsnips, 40 to 50c bushel; carrots 25c; beets 25c bushel.

HIDES—Hides have been rather firmer here, and Chicago was reported firmer, at 6½c for No. 1 buff hides. Montreal was ½c lower, but that market was out of parity with prices elsewhere. Winnipeg has been a good market for some time for sellers, prices here averaging high in comparison with Chicago, Toronto or most other markets. Eastern tanners are trying to secure the compulsory inspection of hides at all inspection points in Canada. We quote prices here as follows: Green frozen hides, 4 to 4½c, 5 lbs tare off. We quote: Calf, 8 to 15lb skins, 5 to 6c per lb; deacons, 15 to 20c each; Eips, 4 to 5c; sheep and lambskins recent kill, 40 to 50c. Tallow, 4 to 5c rendered and 2 to 3c rough.

WOOL—Manitoba fleece, nominal 10 to 12c per lb.

SENECA ROOT—Nominal at 18 to 20c per lb.

HAY—Baled prairie is offered at about \$5.75 to \$6 on cars here. Loose hay on the street market, \$1.50 to \$5 per ton.

LIVE STOCK—The only business has been in choice to fancy cattle for the Christmas market, at about 4c for real good stuff, though higher has been paid for a few head of extra fancy animals for Christmas display. In hogs business has been more active, a large number of good packing hogs having been received, with the quotation steady at 8½c off cars here. Sheep nominal. About 3c was the price paid for the best lots for the Christmas market, but these were mostly contracted for some time ago.

Donald Leslie, of Winnipeg, has opened a private bank at Stonewall, Man.

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, Dec. 17, 1895.

There are few changes in the market this week. Creamery butter is a trifle lower owing to the arrival of eastern consignments. It is now held at 27c to 29c. Eggs have advanced another cent during the week, and are now quoted at 23 cents. There was some decrease in the volume of business done in fruits last week. Custom is evidently waiting for the fresh Christmas consignments. Several lots of Australian fruit arrived by the last ship, and large consignments of Japanese oranges will arrive by the next oriental steamer. California seedling oranges are now quoted at \$3.50 and navels at \$4.50. California grapes are scored off the reports. The following reductions has taken place in meal: 90 lb. sacks, \$3.00; 45 lb. sacks, \$3.10; 22½ lb. sacks, \$3.80; 10.7 sacks, \$3.60.

British Columbia Markets.

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, Dec. 21, 1895.

Oats are easy and offering very abundantly. Wheat is advancing in Washington state, which influences the market here. Dressed hogs are easier. Cured hams and smoked bacon ½c lower.

Butter—Dairy butter, 18 to 20c; creamery 27 to 29c; Manitoba cheese 10 to 11c per lb.

Cured Meats—Hams 12½c; breakfast bacon 18c; backs 12c; long, clear 9c; short rolls 9½c; smoked sides 10½c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 10c per pound; in cails and tubs 9½c. Mess pork \$15; short cut \$18.

Fish—Prices are: Flounders 3c; smelt 5c; sea bass 4c; black cod 6c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 4c; herring 4c; salmon 9c; halibut 7c; whiting 6c; soles 6c; crabs 60c dozen; smoked salmon 12½c; smoked halibut 10c; bloaters 10c; kippered cod 9c; sturgeon 6c; trout 10c per lb.; salt salmon \$7.50 per barrel.

Game—Mallards, 50c; pintails 40c; blue grouse 75c; wildings, 35c; venison, 5c.

Vegetables—Potatoes new, \$8 to \$10 per ton; onions silver skins, 1½c; cabbage, 1½c; carrots, turnips and beets, 3 to 1c a lb.; sweet potatoes, \$2.50 per 100 lbs.

Eggs—Fresh, local, 35c; Eastern 23c per dozen.

Fruits—California seedling oranges \$3.50, navels, \$1.50; native apples \$1.00; California lemons, \$1.50 to \$5.00, California apples, \$1.20 to \$1.30; California pears, \$1.50 per box; local pears, \$1.00; Japanese oranges, 75c; Jap oranges 75c.

Nuts—Almonds, 15c; filberts, 14c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 15c; walnuts, 10 to 16c lb.

Flour—Manitoba patent, per bbl., \$1.40; strong bakers, \$1.10; Oregon, \$3.80; Oak Lake patent \$1.20; do strong bakers \$1.00.

Meal—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb sacks, \$3.00; 45 pound sacks, \$3.10; 22½ pound sacks, \$3.80, 10.7 sacks, \$3.60. Oatmeal, 10-10's, \$3.00; 2-50's, \$2.75. Off grades, 90 lbs, \$2.70; 2-45's, \$2.80.

Grain—Washington State wheat \$21.50 per ton f. o. b. Vancouver, duty paid. Oats 16.00 per ton.

Ground Feed—National mills chop, \$20 to \$22 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.

Dressed Meats—Beef, 6½c; mutton, 7½c to 8c; pork, 7½ to 8c; veal, 7 to 9c per lb.

Hay—Nominal at \$3 per ton.

Live Stock—Calves, 5 to 7c; steers, 3 to 3½c lb; cows 2½ to 3c; sheep, \$3.25 to \$3.50; hogs, 4½ to 5½c; lamb, per head \$3.00 to \$3.50.

Poultry—Chickens, \$4 to \$6 per dozen.

Sugars—Powdered and icing, 6½c, Paris lump, 5½c; granulated, 4½c; extra C, 4½c; fancy yellows 8½c; yellow 8½c per lb.

Syrups—30 gallon barrels, 1½c per pound; 10 gallon kegs, 2c; 5 gallon kegs, \$1.25 each. 1 gallon tins, \$3.75 per case of 10, ½ gallon tins, \$1.50 per case of 20.

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

British Columbia Business Notes

A. W. Harding, drugs, Kamloops, has sold out to R. G. McPherson.

Sloan & Scott, dry goods, Nanaimo, have assigned.

W. J. Van Houten, hardware, etc., Nanaimo, is advertising selling out.

The stock of F. Landsberg, curios, Victoria, is advertised for sale by the sheriff.

The Queen Charlotte Oil Co., Victoria, has been incorporated.

The effects of the Sehl Hastie Erskine Furn Co., Victoria, has been sold to L. E. Erb.

Business still improves as the holidays approach. Money is easier and collections are fairly good.

The shipping this season is larger than at any period since the incorporation of Vancouver. There are ten crafts in port, and their carriage capacity aggregate 14,608 tons.

The sawmills are all busy, and trade seems to have recovered to such an extent that there are few idle men seen on the streets.

The coal war is still raging here. Gilman coal is being shipped from Seattle and being sold in competition with the British Columbia article. It is sold cheaper than our Wellington coal, but should be sold cheaper yet, as the difference in price does not yet make up for the inferior quality.

The last Australian steamer was crowded to the decks with freight on her outward voyage. She was obliged to decline 500 tons of freight. The incoming Oriental steamer has outward freight waiting for her which will tax her to carry.

The fruit growers of British Columbia have formed a co-operative association for 1896, and an executive committee is going through the province instructing fruit raisers and intending shippers.

A new kind of salmon, about 10 inches long, and resembling the spring salmon, is being caught in immense quantities by the Indians in the interior. The little strangers spawn in the small lakes, fed by the inland streams. They are of very fine flavor. Specimens have been sent to Prof. Prince, Dominion commissioner, for his opinion as to their identity.

It is difficult to keep track of the numerous companies being rapidly organized to develop the different resources of the province. The organization of some of these, it is feared, will have but one result, to empty the coffers of British capitalists and fill the purses of unprincipled promoters, but instances of this kind are remarkably few and not so numerous as might be expected in these nervous times, while the capital involved is not large. In view of the very large number of legitimate enterprises under way, one cannot conceive how it is possible for British Columbia's prosperity to be retarded another year, for millions of dollars of capital that will flow in here next summer to develop our marvellously rich resources. The fishing industry will receive a tremendous impetus; an army of prospectors will disclose millions of tons more of our vast mineral wealth. Lumber will recover under the influence of the big Pacific Coast Trust, and all other industries will boom from sympathy. There is not any intelligent business man in British Columbia who does not predict a revival of trade for this province in 1896.