British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, Feb. 25, 1896.

Business has been quieter this week though money is still fairly easy. Great activity still exists in the lumber trade and fresh charters for foreign parts are constantly being secured. There are very few changes in the market at this writing, though there are indications of still higher prices in meats and still lower prices in dairy produce.

British Columbia Markets.

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, February 29, 1896.

Eggs have declined a further 2c per dozen and fresh local are now offering at 18c. Oregon eggs are out of the market. Butter is about the same. Some fresh Ottawa creamery is offering here at 27c per lb. Fresh meats are advancing and some lines are very scarce. Cured meats are firm. Poultry is very scarce. Prices are:

Butter.—Dairy butter, 18 to 20c; creamery 25 to 26c; Ottawa creamery, 27c' Manitoba cheese 10½c per lb.

Cured Meats. — Hams 12½c; breakfast bacon 13c; backs 12c; long, clear 9c; short rolls 9½c; smoked sides 10½c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 10½c per pound; in pails and tubs 10c. Mess pork $14; short cut $15.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders 3c; smelt 5c; sea bass 4c; black cod 6c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 4c; herring 4c; spring salmon 9c; halibut 7c; whiting 6c; soles 6c; steel heads, 8c; finnan haddies, 10c; crabs 60c dozen; smoked halibut 8c; bloaters 10c; kippered cod 9c; sturgeon 6c.

Vegetables.—Potatoes new, $10 per ton; onions silver skins, 1¾c; cabbage, 1¼c; carrots, turnips and beets, ¾ to 1c a lb.; sweet potatoes, $2.50 per 100 lbs.

Eggs.—Fresh, local, 18c.

Fruits.—California seedling oranges $2 to $2.25, navels, $3.25; native apples $1.00; California lemons. $4.00 to $4.50.

Evaporated Fruits.—Apricots 11c per lb; peaches 7¾c; 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 16c lb.

Flour.—Manitoba patent, per bbl., $4.70; strong bakers, $4.40; Oregon, —; Oak Lake patent $4.50; do strong bakers $4.80.

Meal.—National mills rolled oats. 90 lb sacks, $3.00; 45 pound sacks, $3.10; 22½ pound sacks, $3.30; 10.7 sacks, $2.60. Oatmeal, 10-10's, $3.00; 2-50's, $2.75. Off grades, 90 lbs, $2.25; 2-45s, $2.35. Manitoba Rolled Oats, 90's, $2,25 45's $2.35.

Grain.—Washington State wheat $28.00 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, 7c; mutton, 8c; pork, 7c; veal, 8 to 9c per lb.

Live Stock.—Steers, 3½ to 4c lb; cows 3 to 3½c; sheep, $3.75 to $4.00; hogs, 5 to 5½c.

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

Sugars.—Powdered and icing, 6½c; Paris lump, 6c; granulated, 5c; extra C, 5½c; fancy yellows 4½c; yellow 4c per lb.

Syrups.—30 gallon barrels, 1¾c per pound; 10 gallon kegs, 2c; 5 gallon kegs, $1.25 each: 1 gallon tins, $3.75 per case of 10; ½ gallon tins, $4.50 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.

Dennis Jordan, coal, Nanaimo, has assigned.

H. M. Herrim & Co., produce and commission, Nelson, have sold out to Hyde, Titsworth & Co.

George Stuart, harness, Nicola Lake has moved to Kamloops.

Clair & Brown, dry goods, Sandon, advertise selling out.

Smith & Freeland, grocers, Vancouver, have assigned.

E. Baines & Co., machinists, etc., Victoria, bailiff in possession.

Thos. Haughton & Co., dry goods, Victoria, have assigned.

Albert Curto, candy, etc., Wellington, is reported to have left this place.

S. A. Shatford, dry goods, Vernon and Russell, has sold out his Rossland business.

H. W. Suckling, of Vancouver, died suddenly at Vancouver on Sunday.

Chinamen have made a rich strike in the bench on Slough Creek, above Nelson Creek.

W. N. Carmichael & Co., mens furnishings, Victoria, are succeeded by Carmichael & Hood.

The French Creek Mining Co. has just been incorporated. Capital $200,000. Head office Revelstoke.

The Canadian Pacific Railway are to spend a large sum improving their roadbed in the province.

The Slough Creek Mining Co., are also at work night and day on the tunnel which they are driving toward the bed rock at the mouth of Nelson Creek.

The next egg claim is very favorably spoken of at Rossland. The shares started at 10 cents each some time ago and are rapidly increasing in value.

Vernon, B. C. is the last place in the province to take advantage of the military spirit and start a rifle company. The muster role was full before permission was granted to organize.

Alberni is rapidly coming to the fore as a mining center. Vancouver and Victoria citizens have capitalized a company at half a million dollars to work prospective claims.

A board of trade has been chartered at Kamloops. At its first meeting Jas. McIntosh was elected president and P. A. Jenns secretary. It will be known as the Inland Board of Trade.

Three small claims in Trail Creek district, the "Lake View," "Jim Dandy" and "Red Jacket" have been sold to a Rapid City, S.D. man for $10,000.

Harry Qussing has been sentenced to four months imprisonment by a Revelstoke magistrate for collecting money for an advertising scheme he never intended to fill.

All the ore in the Trail Creek, South Kootenay groups are increasing in richness as work progresses downward. The famous Le Roi as anticipated is paying a dividend of $50,000 per month. One hundred and fifty tons recently shipped smelted out $9 000. This nine thousand dollars represented a fraction over one days work.

A company is asking the Westminster council for a bonus to start a factory for the manufacture of twine. They want a five per cent. guarantee on $10,000 worth of their bonds and a grant of five acres of land, water front and improvements, and exemption from taxation for five years.

The Vancouver board of trade and the conservative asssociation of Vancouver are making stout representation to the governments that the next Supreme Court judge appointed for British Columbia be resident at Vancouver. Great inconvenience has been caused in the past by Supreme Court people being resident either in Victoria or Westminster, when their immediate services were urgently required by the Vancouver bar.

The city smelter is still the chief topic of conversation in Vancouver trade circles. There are three companies after what is considered a splendid financial investment. A European Co. is so rich and long established that it prefers to forego the cash bonus and only asks certain privileges. The board of trade and council have unfavorably considered the bonus question, and Vancouver is to be advertised broad just as a favorable site as a no bonus smelter town.

The single tax theory is being persistently advocated by the Nationalists Association here. They are making many converts at their numerous public meetings. Few leading men are fair enough to repeat their arguments in public fearing ostracism by the society.

Two big companies want to build a railway between New Westminster and Steveston, thus connecting the famous salmon city with its natural shipping port. One company asks for a bonus of $50,000, the other asks the city to raise $85,000 and they will pay 4% interest on the amount, and equip the road built by the city, for the privilege of running it.

In local political circles, the latest sensation is the new tax bill, by which the provincial legislation proposes to raise some half a million dollars more taxes. This step is rendered necessary owing to the continually increasing expenses of the province. Public land will also be sold in an endeavor to meet educational purposes. The realestate income, personal property and wild land tax will be increased and a two per cent rate will be placed on all ore mined in the province. The taxation of mines is popular, and although some British Columbians will suffer, United States citizens, Britishers and Eastern Canadians will pay the bulk of the new tax imposed on those developing the mining country.

The different public boards on the mainland of British Columbia, anticipating the annual application for a provincial money grant for the much talked of British Pacific Railway, which it is proposed should have its terminus in Victoria and cut the continent to Winnipeg across Seymour Narrows, are passing resolutions asking the government not to consider such a proposition, on the grounds of "no funds." Mainlanders do not want to be taxed for the commercial enterprises of the island. The feeling against the British Pacific Railway on the mainland is very very strong, and provokes much intemperate talk.

A wave of economy is sweeping over the province. It is ever becoming cheaper to live in British Columbia and, as values fall, wages and salaries drop correspondingly. The time has come for another curtailment. Private concerns have either reduced their wage list or have such a step in contemplation, while public offices are worth about two-thirds what they were some months ago, in many cases scarcely half as much. The Victoria council has reduced the running expenses of the municipal machine by $500 a month, while the Victoria teachers have received severe cuts and will hereafter be appointed only by the year. The position of headmaster in a British Columbia public school is now only worth $85 per month. Vancouver is contemplating a still further reduction in civic salaries. Nanaimo is asking the Lieutenant-Governor to appoint a new police magistrate at $600 a year, instead of present salary of $1,200 and Westminster has made another big cut in the municipal list, reducing the civic expenses in readjusting of offices by nearly 50 per cent.