

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, June 15, 1896.

Business in the cities is dull. Many wholesalers, however, are busy filling orders for the interior. Collections are better than last month. The provincial fruit crop is very backward owing to the late spring. Root crops, however, promise very well. Old hay is rapidly moving out of the market, so that fair prices may be expected for the new crop. The lumber business is very dull at present, there only being three ships in port. Passenger traffic on the Oriental and Australian steamship lines is very brisk at present, the last Oriental steamer, the Empress of Japan bringing over the largest number of passengers on record. It took ten passenger cars to accommodate the passenger traffic on the arrival of the steamer. The run of spring salmon in the Fraser has been very light, but all the canneries are making elaborate preparations for a possible big sockeye run. A carload of live oysters and lobsters will arrive here on the 24th inst. from Nova Scotia to be transplanted in British Columbia waters as an experiment of Prof. Prince, government fishery commissioner. The freight business of the trans-Pacific lines is also brisk. The Keewatin Milling Co. have contracted with the Canadian-Australian Co. to carry 900 tons of flour to Australia every trip for the next two or three months. This flour is sold at 75c a barrel higher than Australian flour made from soft wheat.

British Columbia Markets.

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, June 20, 1896.

Receipts of Manitoba dairy butter are large, and both dairy and creamery are lower. Cured meats are firm and tending higher. Vegetables declining.

Butter.—Man. Dairy butter, 14 to 15c; Manitoba creamery, 18 to 19c; Local creamers 21 to 22c; Manitoba cheese, new, 10½ to 11c.

Cured Meats.—Hams 11c; breakfast bacon 11c; backs 11c; long, clear 8c; short rolls 9½c; smoked sides 9½c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 10c per pound; in pails and tubs 9½c. Mess pork 11½; short cut 15.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders 8c; smelt 4c; sea bass 4c; black cod 6c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 4c; herring 4c; spring salmon 7c; whiting 6c; soles 6c; steel heads, 6c; crabs 6c dozen; smoked halibut 10c; bloater 10c; kippered cod 9c; sturgeon 6c; salt colachan, 25 and 50 lb. kets 5c; smoked salmon 12½c.

Vegetables.—Potatoes \$5 to \$6 per ton; ash-croft potatoes, \$6 to 7 per ton; New potatoes, \$1.85 per 100 pounds; onions silver skins, 1½c lb.; California onions, 2c; sweet potatoes \$2.25 per 100 lbs.; cabbage, 1½c lb.; carrots, turnips and beets, \$10 a ton.

Eggs.—Local Ranch eggs, 20c. Manitoba, 14c.

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 lemons, 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 oranges. Mediterranean sweets, \$3; St. Michaels, \$3.25; blood oranges, \$3. California lemons, \$3 per box; Australian apples \$2.50 per box; bananas, \$1.75 per bunch, \$3.50 crate (2 bunches) \$3.50; Cherries, (10 lb box), \$1.40; Peaches, 20 lb boxes \$1.40; Pears, 20 lb boxes \$1.75; Apricots 20 lb boxes \$1.50.

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, 18c; filberts, 12½c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 12½c; walnuts, 10 to 16c lb.

Meal.—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb sacks, \$3.00; 45 pound sacks, \$3.10; 22½ pound sacks, \$2.60; 10.7 sacks, \$2.00. Oatmeal, 10-10½, \$3.25; 2-50's, \$3.00. Offgrades, 90 lbs, \$2.25; 2-45's, \$2.85. Manitoba Rolled Oats, 90's, \$2.25 45's \$2.85.

Flour.—Manitoba patent, per bbl., \$4.40; strong bakers, \$4.10; Oregon, \$4.20; Oak Lake patent \$4.30; do. strong bakers \$4.00.

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 \$28 per ton; ground barley, \$22 ton; shorts, \$16.00 ton; bran \$15.00; oil cake meal, \$26 ton; F. O. B. Vancouver, including duty paid on import stuff.

Hay.—Nominal at \$8 per ton.

Dressed Meats.—Beef, 6 to 7c; mutton, 6½ to 7½c; pork, 6 to 7c; veal, 7c.

Live Stock.—Steers, \$3.00 to \$3.50; per hundred lbs.; sheep, \$3.10 to \$3.50 per 100 lbs; hogs, \$5.50 to \$5.75 per 100 lbs; lamb \$2.75 to \$3 per head.

Poultry.—Chickens, \$5.50; ducks, \$5 per dozen.

Sugars.—Powdered and icing, 6½c; Paris lump, 6½c; granulated, 5½c; extra O, 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.

British Columbia Mining News.

The British Columbia Iron Works, Vancouver, are putting in \$250,000 worth of new machinery for the manufacture of mining plants.

Several new ledges have been discovered at Alberni. One of them is reported 800 feet wide and running about \$10 in gold, the ledge extending 6000 feet.

SLOCAN.

Total shipments from Kootenay for year \$1,559,910.

The Regina has a tunnel in 28 feet, it is showing 300 ounces of silver and \$25 in gold.

The longest chute of silver ore probably in the world is in the Bondholder at Shipinger Creek. The ore chute is 4,200, 12 inches wide and runs as high as 1200 oza. silver.

Very rich ore has been struck in the Ottawa, Springer Creek. The vein is three feet wide.

GRAND FORKS.

Wages are good and carpenters in demand. Railroad facilities are all that is wanted. Good mines are numerous at Greenwood, Anaconda and Midway.

ROSSLAND.

MINING STOCK LIST.

War Eagle.....	\$1 75	St. Elmo....	\$0 14½
Jumbo	1 10	Good Hope ..	7½
Josie	52½	Gertrude ..	10
O. K.	83	Even's Star ..	15
Iron Mask	85	High Ore ..	09
West Le Roi Josie ..	16	Phoenix ..	10
Poorman	18½	St. Mary ..	06
Virginia	30	Monte Cristo ..	20
Homestake	05	Silverine ..	10
Great Western ..	18	Commander ..	25
Nest Egg	12	Deer Park ..	10
Caledonia Con...	06½	Eureka Con ..	06
Mayflower	16	Consol.....	06½

The bond on the Mayflower No. 2 has been taken for \$15,000.

The Miami mineral claim has been sold.

The Stockton and San Jose have been purchased by an American for \$20,000.

The Red Mountain has been sold to an American for \$18,000.

The Dunning & Kamloops claims on Murphey Creek have been bonded for \$30,000 by Americans.

Iron Horse group No. 2 has been sold to Chicago men for \$25,000.

The El Dorado has been sold to a Quebec citizen for \$22,000 cash.

Manitoba Produce at the Coast.

J. Y. Griffin, of J. Y. Griffin & Co., produce and provision dealers and packers, Winnipeg, returned recently from the Pacific coast. While at the coast Mr. Griffin went south to California, where he found politics the principal source of excitement. Speaking to a representative of The Commercial regarding British Columbia as a market for Manitoba produce, Mr. Griffin said that people here have too high an idea of the consumptive requirements of the British Columbia coast cities. The population is not large as yet and it is an easy matter to overstock the market. Shippers should use judgment in sending goods there, and not expect too much of the market. He found British Columbia people very friendly toward Manitoba and they will give our produce the preference over other sources of supply, but they could not be expected to consume more than the natural requirements of the population. Once the coast markets are overstocked in excess of their local requirements, there is no outlet for the goods, and this leads to sacrificing the stuff. In this respect Winnipeg is a better market for country shippers to ship to, as produce sent here can have the option of either the eastern or western markets.

Mr. Griffin found the coast markets well supplied with Manitoba butter, cheese and eggs. These lines were not coming in from any other market at present. Butter was weak, creamery selling at 18c and buyers would not stock heavily at that price. Dairy butter was in too large supply, as creamery is so cheap that consumers do not take much dairy. Still there was lots of dairy coming in on consignment all the time. He thought it unwise for Manitoba parties here to consign goods to the coast markets unless they had good arrangements to dispose of it.

Mr. Griffin further stated that he thought business was improving at the coast cities. Profits were cut down there to a reasonable basis, the "boom" spirit had largely disappeared and business appeared to be on a solid basis.

Mr. Griffin says that his agents at the coast—Knowler & Macaulay, of Vancouver—are having a splendid demand for Red Cross hams and bacon, the product of the Winnipeg packing house of J. Y. Griffin & Co., and these goods are now in good demand throughout the far west.

Fur Trade News.

Mr. Stobart has a curiosity in the fur line, selected from a consignment of raw furs sent to Stobart, Son & Co., Winnipeg. In this consignment of furs two very peculiar specimens were found, of a kind of fur never before seen here. Mr. Stobart showed the skins to some of the largest fur traders here, but they had never seen anything like them. The skins were finally discovered to be what is known as cotton mink. These skins are occasionally found further south, but are very rare here. The fur is of a light grey color, turning to white, and is soft and downy, which gives it the name of "cotton" mink. Mr. Stobart has had the skins tanned as curiosities.