

TRADE AND COMMERCE

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.
Tuesday Morning, Dec. 22.
VICTORIA.

Trade is very satisfactory, taking all things into consideration. The heavy rains of the past week have had a tendency to put a damper on the holiday trade. They have also seriously hindered building operations at all points of the province. The dullness of the lumber trade and the lull in the export of coal, besides a short pack at the salmon canneries, leave a bad influence, and, as a consequence, trade, in the localities where these industries are carried on, is rather slow. Country trade is, however, reported good, as are also collections from the country districts. But, in all of the cities, collections are not up to what was expected. The sailing fleet is now being fitted out for next year's catch, and causes considerable money to circulate. The demand for investment is also reported good, which goes to show the faith our people have in the country.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The grape crop is feeling the effects of the rains in California, and about the last shipment of grapes has been received. They are getting scarce and prices are slightly higher. Cornichon grapes in boxes are quoted at \$2. The last shipment of Japanese oranges are said to be all in the hands of retailers. The first shipments of the famous Riverside fruit were received Saturday, and a big demand is expected for the holiday trade. There is a fair supply. Riverside seedlings are quoted at \$3.50 per case, and navels at \$5.00. They are fully ripe and well colored. Messrs. Lowe & Alice have received a carload of Riverside and Washington navels of the celebrated Griffin & Skelley brand shipped direct from the growers.

Quotations are: Pears, (winter), \$1.50; grapes, Tokays, Black Ferrara and Verdal in boxes, \$1.75, in crates, \$1.80; Cornichon, in boxes, \$2.00; Oregon apples (greenings), \$1.60; Baldwin, Bellflower, Rose and Blue Pearmain, \$1.10; Santa Barbara oranges, \$3.50; Riverside seedlings, \$3.50; navels, \$5.00; California Messina lemons, \$6.00 to \$6.50; silverskin onions, 1½c. per lb.; island apples, \$1.25 per box; tomatoes, \$1 to \$1.25; sweet potatoes, 3½c. per lb. potatoes, island, \$20 per ton; Chilliwack, \$18 per ton; Fraser River, \$16 per ton; Bonapartes, \$25 per ton; persimmons, \$1.75.

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

Trade has continued of much the same character that has been noted for some weeks past. The demand for fancy lines continues, and all indications go to show that December 31 will have witnessed a most satisfactory year's business. Collections are fair, in some parts of the province, but, in others, they are very slow, but, taken all round, there seems no reason for complaint.

The prices of butter remain unchanged. There is a good demand and supplies are coming forward in sufficient quantities.

Quotations are: Eastern creamery, 28c per lb; Manitoba creamery, 30c; dairy, 2½c; Eastern Townships, first quality, 26c.

The *Trade Review* says: "The butter

market in Montreal rules quiet, and, in the absence of any large transactions, prices are nominal, as far as wholesale business is concerned. Shippers contend that values are too high for business for export, while holders claim that stocks of finest here are not excessive and the home demand will make a big hole in them between now and next spring. The fact is the butter cost them pretty high, and if they are to let out at all 2½c is about the figure. No such a bid is obtainable for creamery, except for what business is doing on local account. There still appears to be some Townships stock in the country, and offers were made for a round lot at 20c, but the holders would not accept it. In western dairy, business is dull." Canadian meats are quoted: Hams, 13½c to 14c; breakfast bacon, 13½c; short rolls, 12c; dry salt sides, 11½c. It is reported that there is more enquiry for pure lard, as consumers appear to be tiring of the compound article. The business in dried fruits continues good with no change in prices. Mediterranean dried fruits are quoted by local jobbers as follows: Currants in bbls. 8½c, in half bbls. 8½c; valencias, 8½c; sultanas, 14c; London layers, \$2.25 a box; California sultanas, \$2.25 a box; dates, 9c; prunes, 9c to 12½c. California evaporated fruits in 25 lb. boxes are quoted as follows: Peaches, 12½c; apricots, 14c; nectarines, 14c; pitted plums, 11c. About the same grade of fruits in cotton sacks are quoted from 1c to 2c per lb. less. New Canadian evaporated apples are quoted at 11c per lb. From rumors that are current, it seems probable that there may be lively competition in the sugar business shortly. There has been no change for the last couple of weeks. Hong Kong granulated is quoted by R. P. Rithet & Co., ld., at 5½, and sales are reported free enough to retail dealers, both in the city and country points, to be highly satisfactory to the importers.

The jobbers are handling only Vancouver sugars, and there seems to be a little timidity on their part to taking hold of the foreign article, although they acknowledge that it holds the refinery in check. One of the best informed men in the trade says: "The consumer is now paying 1c per lb less for sugar than they would do if the Hong Kong article had not been put on this market by Messrs. R. P. Rithet & Co., who have done this in the face of all the threats of the B. C. Refinery." It is reported that the Canada Sugar Refinery Co., of Montreal, is offering, through their agents, to lay down the Redpath brand of dry granulated at 5½c in Vancouver. This intrusion on the home field of the B. C. Refinery is the result of the cutting they have been doing in the Winnipeg market. The result will be watched with interest. Vancouver granulated is quoted at 5½c in sacks or barrels. The refinery at Vancouver will close down for a week for repairs but they have a sufficient stock on hand to meet demands.

The local jobbers are now carrying full stocks of all the different kinds of jams put up in glass jars by Okel & Morris at the Victoria Preserving Factory, which include apricot, peach, plum, pear, apricot marmalade, etc. Quotations are 1½ lb. size, \$3 per dozen; 3 lb. size, \$5 per doz. Falconer's Victoria Vinegar Works'

goods are now carried by the leading wholesale grocers, comprising pure malt vinegar, tomato catsup, Worcester'shire sauce, mushroom catsup, apple and quince cider, lemon and vanilla extracts and fruit syrups—of home manufacture.

FLOUR AND FEED.

There is no change to report in prices, although it is believed the Ogilvie Milling Co. will slightly reduce the prices of their Hungarian and Strong Bakers. Prices in Manitoba are weakening. The lake route for export being closed, nearly all grain is going into store, and it is reported the mills are cutting prices to force sales. Manitoba flour will probably be sold as cheap as Oregon this winter.

The *Commercial Review* says: "The Portland flour market has held steady during the week, notwithstanding the weakness of wheat, owing to difficulty of interior mills obtaining supplies within a reasonable limit, and reports are current of mills having worked up stock on hand and closed down. The local demand is steady and there is a fair call for our product from California. There is a firm tone to the oat market, owing to light deliveries by neighboring farmers and comparatively small rail receipts. Prices of mill stuffs are steady to firm, the demand being constant and receipts very little in excess of local requirements. River boats are bringing down fair loads but there is apparently no accumulation of stock."

The Columbia Flouring Mills quote: For Enderby flour in carload lots, Premier, \$5.60; XXX., \$5.30; Strong Bakers or XX., \$5.00; Superfine, \$4.00. Quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills.....	\$5 50 @ 0 00
Lion, " "	5 50 @ 0 00
Premier, Enderby mills.....	5 85 @ 0 00
XXX., " "	5 65 @ 0 00
XX., " "	5 25 @ 5 50
Superfine, " "	4 25 @ 4 50
Ogilvie's Hungarian.....	6 10 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers.....	5 85 @ 0 00
Snowflake.....	6 10 @ 0 00
Portland Roller.....	6 10 @ 0 00
Royal.....	6 00 @ 0 00
Oregon Superfine.....	4 25 @ 0 00
Wheat, per ton.....	\$40 00 @ 45 00
Oats.....	28 00 @ 35 00
Oil cake meal.....	32 50 @ 35 00
Chop feed.....	33 00 @ 35 00
Shorts.....	28 00 @ 30 00
Bran.....	26 00 @ 27 50
National Mills oatmeal.....	3 50 @ 0 00
California oatmeal.....	4 35 @ 0 00
California rolled oats.....	3 75 @ 4 00
Cornmeal.....	3 00 @ 3 25
Cracked corn.....	45 00 @ 50 00
Hay, per ton.....	18 00 @ 20 00
Straw, per bale.....	1 00 @ 1 25

RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton.....	\$77 50
China rice "	70 00
Rice flour "	70 00
Chit rice "	25 00
Rice Meal "	17 50

LUMBER.

The situation remains without change. Orders are few and far between. The absence of demand from the regular markets is, however, stimulating shippers to look out for fresh fields, and several charters have recently been made for hitherto untried markets. The *Commercial News* says that it has been reported in San