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# THE VICTORIA PRICES CURRENT AND SHIPPING LIST.

Vol. 3.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1865.

No 127

We take great pleasure in recording a decided improvement in all branches of commerce connected with this city. Considerable sales for export consumption have been effected at fair prices, and the unusually protracted winter has doubtless reduced the stocks of all descriptions of goods to a very low ebb in British Columbia, and these must be replenished at whatever cost it may be to the consumers.

The "Domatila," which up to the present time has been trading between this port and the Sandwich Islands, is about to be placed in the China trade. She will load for the flowery land on her voyage, and the "Alberni" will replace her to the Sandwich Islands.

Our readers will be pleased to note in the above the opening of a new era for this port, and we may safely look forward to the time when our regular traders may be found in every quarter of the Pacific. In this we put forth no idle boast—our numerous and safe harbours, open throughout the year, our central position, our products and our climate, pre-eminently fit us for the great trading post of the Western World.

Governor Seymour has at last determined on opening up the route via Kamloops and Shuswap lakes to the great bend of the Colum-

bia. This is a step in the right direction, that will ultimately be productive of great result, but unfortunately too late to have much effect on the passenger trade. In the present season the most extraordinary reports as to the present and future prospects of New Westminster merchants for direct importations have been industriously circulated, leading us simply to the ingenious stratagems of rival shopkeepers. All these absurdities, however, can only tend to place these gentlemen in a more ridiculous position, as they demonstrate the folly of their proceedings. Commerce has determinedly fixed upon Victoria as the mart whence the sister colony must draw her supplies, and any efforts on the part of needy speculators to divert the trade of this port, must only prove futile and destructive to themselves.

Our Legislature presents a favourable contrast to that of British Columbia. All measures that pass the House of Assembly are well considered and based on the general good; the consequence is, that however slow her progress may be, we are always advancing towards the great end of all good government—sound political economy. We would congratulate our neighbours if we could observe any leniency on their part to follow in our wake; but unhappily for the

sister colony her scattered population precludes the possibility of a fair representative government for the present.

The ship "Frigate Bird" was towed into Esquimalt Harbour yesterday from Port Gamble, W. T. We trust that this indicates the settlement of all the difficulties in which this fine vessel has so long been immersed, and that she will now proceed on her voyage.

In the sugar market prices are very firm, stocks in first hands are quite exhausted, though jobbers are well supplied. No supplies are looked for until the return of the "Domatila" in May.

No Auction Sales of any magnitude have taken place since our last, as buyers have been compelled to supply themselves from first hands.

In Flour and Grain prices still rule high, and stocks are not greater than what will be required for present consumption, owing to the enhanced values in Oregon and California. By the arrival of the "Kliza Anderson" today the quotation for best White by the ear is \$13 per bu, at San Francisco, and for Golden Gate, Commercial and Pioneer, \$18 is now demanded here, with \$16 for best Chile.

The last two or three trips of the Enterprise steamer to New Westminster have been highly profitable to the owners, as she has been crowded with miners, and others bound for Cariboo; the Fraser River being open to Yale.

The "John Stephenson" sailed for Australia with a cargo of lumber, from the Alberni mill. There is now no vessel at that place, and none expected for some time.

## MONTHLY RETURN OF IMPORTS, To the Port of Victoria, V. I., for the Month ending March 31, 1865.

FROM ENGLAND.	
Wine, 22,000	110
Brandy, 400	450
Whisky, 250	150
Tea, 400	100
Coffee, 200	100
Sugar, 100	200
Spices, 50	200
Chocolate, 50	400
Total \$2941	

  

FROM THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.	
Alcohol, 1	20
Barley, 125	84
Beef, 1	90
Bacon, 80	150
Bread, 50	300
Butter, 200	200
Cheese, 50	250
Eggs, 100	100
Flour, 100	100
Ham, 100	100
Wine, 100	100
Whisky, 100	100
Tea, 100	100
Coffee, 100	100
Sugar, 100	100
Spices, 100	100
Chocolate, 100	100
Total \$2941	

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Sugar, 100	100
Spices, 100	100
Chocolate, 100	100
Total \$2941	

RATES OF EXCHANGE.	
London—60 days	\$5 00 Sterling
do. 30 days	\$5 05 do.
do. 15 days	\$5 10 do.
San Francisco	9 per cent. premium
Canada and New Brunswick	1 per cent. premium
Nov Scotia	2 1/2 per cent. premium
New York	1 per cent. premium