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The above firm will shortly open a first-class Optical Store. All work guaranteed and done in Victoria, including the grinding of special lenses. Mr. Nolte, the well known American optician, will take the management and give his personal attention to the business.

### TRADE AND COMMERCE

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE,  
Tuesday Morning, July 28.

VICTORIA.

Business, generally, for the past week, compares favorably with the same period in any former year. The consumptive demand is steady, but little activity is manifested, no doubt on account of the extremely hot weather and the absence of many on a vacation. In the money market, there is a healthy demand with a fair supply and no contracting. Messrs. R. P. Rithet & Co. will make a shipment of sealskins to London, England, this week.

#### DRY GOODS.

This month is reported much better than in this time the same time last year. In fact the first half of the year has shown a great improvement over last year, despite the fact that summer trade was very late in opening up. The Westminster Woollen mills closed down last week. It is stated that there was a brisk demand for the product of the mills, but enough stock was on hand to supply all possible calls for some time. The sorting trade is fairly active, the hot weather of the past week creating a demand for light goods.

#### LUMBER.

The Hastings saw mill closed on Saturday night, 25th, for an indefinite period. Mr. R. H. Alexander, the manager, says that if any ship arrives the cargoes will be cut for them, but no charters will be sought for some time. The falling off of the South America trade and a periodic dullness in the lumber trade of the world are the causes assigned. The ships now at the wharf are loaded and will sail shortly. Quotations are as follows for cargo lots for foreign shipment,

being the prices of the Pacific Pine Lumber Association: Rough merchantable, ordinary sizes, in lengths to 40 feet, inclusive, \$9 per M feet; rough deck plank, average length 35 feet, \$19; dressed flooring, \$17; pickets, \$9; laths, 4 feet, \$2. Local trade continues steady. The Rock Bay Saw Mill quotes:

Rough lumber, per M	\$12 00
Best quality dressed lumber, per M	20 00
Second " "	17 50
Laths, per M	2 50
Shingles, " "	2 50

with a discount of 5 per cent. if paid within 30 days.

The depression in the lumber business continues to be felt at Fairhaven as well as other points on the Sound. The big Bellingham mill is still idle, and it is reported, on good authority, that the great Cornwall mill at Sehome, which has been running to its full capacity for several weeks, loading seven vessels, will close down in a few days, or as soon as the last of the vessels, now there, receives its cargo. The impression that many seem to have that the Bellingham mill is owned by the Fairhaven Land Company, is erroneous. Half of it is owned by Hon. Edward Eldridge, of Whatcom, and Erastus Bartlett, of San Francisco, both of whom are old men, and to whose wishes in regard to the mill Mr. Larrabee seems disposed to defer. He is ready to resume operations whenever they are.

#### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

It is said that the plum crop is a little backward and it is expected that its ripening will be prolonged till well into the fall. The receipts by San Francisco steamer, this week, were very large. Quotations are: Peaches, \$1.40; apricots, \$1.25 to \$1.40; pears, (bartlett), \$2.25 to \$2.50; plums, \$1.00 to \$1.25; grapes, (white), \$1.75; apples, (green), \$1.40; apples, (red astracian), \$1.60 to \$1.75; Riverside oranges, \$1.25 to \$1.50; California Messina lemons, \$5.50;

bananas, \$3.25; cantilopes, \$6.50; nutmeg, melons, \$0.50; tomatoes, \$1.25; cucumbers, \$1.25; sweet potatoes, 5c. per lb.

According to Mr. Stacy, the agent, at Westminster, of Messrs. R. V. Winch & Co., wholesale fruit and produce dealers of Vancouver, there is a considerable difficulty in securing any quantity of small fruit grown in Westminster district. Large firms in Victoria and Vancouver, his among them, have agents in Westminster buying all the fruit in advance, and in some cases, even securing next year's crop. This being so, there is generally a brisk demand among wholesalers for any that may be offering, and good prices are paid. The firm that Mr. Stacy represents, confine themselves strictly to a wholesale business, and he reports trade to be steadily improving, although, from its very nature, it requires eternal vigilance to reap any benefit from it. The firm now have orders from interior points for over \$2,500 worth of British Columbia fruits, and they cannot get enough to supply the demand, so that their orders have to be filled in rotation.

#### RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton	\$90 00
China rice " "	70 00
Rice flour " "	70 00
Chit rice " "	25 00
Rice Meal " "	17 50

#### FLOUR AND FEED.

There is a good, steady consumptive demand, with but few features to note. The crop prospects are very encouraging, and a large yield is expected. Wheat has gone up to 2½c per lb—\$50 a ton. Bran has gone up a little. Royal brand Oregon flour declined 10c last week. Hungarian and Portland Roller now sell at \$6.25 per bbl. Quotations are: Enderby flour, for carload lots, Premier, \$5.75; XXX.,