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TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE,
Tuesday Morning, August 22.

VICTORIA.

The most important matter affecting British Columbia commerce since our last issue was the award of the Behring Sea arbitrators. The new regulations, as now understood, would certainly kill the industry, but it is believed by certain interested persons that when the full text of the regulations arrive matters may assume a different aspect. An additional sum of \$25,231 has been received from the Imperial Government on account of the losses to sealers through enforcing the *modus vivendi* in 1891. This sum is for distribution to the "lay" men.

Business, it is said, is beginning to show signs of moving in money lines. Confidence is stronger among all lines and a good fall trade is expected. There is a general impression that the values of nearly all lines of goods have been to the bottom and that any changes which occurs later in the season will show an advancing market. Collections are not improving.

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

Jobbers' quotations for creamery butter have been advanced 1c per lb in sympathy with the recent advance in eastern markets. Recent advices from eastern factories state that their quotations will be from 1c to 1c higher than last year for fancy grades. Since the decline during the past two weeks the American meat

have advanced 1c during the week and choice breakfast bacon 1/2c. Dry salt clear sides are also up 1/2c. Lard, however, is unchanged. Jobbers' quotations for pure lard and lard compound have been reduced in sympathy with the American market. Canadian cheese is a little stronger.

Advices have been received that the first shipments of new season's Mediterranean fruits are expected in New York about the middle of September.

The *Montreal Truth Bulletin* says: "Butter receipts during the past week were 20,512 pkgs. against 6,181 pkgs., for the week previous. The market is quiet all round, the big decline in the English market reported by us last week having made shippers more cautious and caused them to reduce their former limits. The sale, however, is reported of the July make of a factory at 20c in the country, notwithstanding that shippers say 20c is the outside price they can pay. It was hinted that the factory referred to might be for local account. From what can be learned, there is evidently a little prospecting going on, but whether or not the intention is to make a scoop if prices can be got down to a reasonable basis, it is difficult to say. We are informed that a creamery has an offer for its July and August make at above our outside quotation. There is very little business to report in Eastern Townships, for the reason that there is so little to offer. A lot of 68 tubs was sold at 19 1/2c, said to be of very fine quality. Single packages would bring more money. In Western, the market is quiet but steady at 17c to 17 1/2c for fine lots, the latter figure for selected. The shipments last week were 2,100 pkgs, against 3,400 pkgs for the corresponding period last year. The total shipments of butter for the season up to the close of last week were 20,300 pkgs, against 14,200 for the same period last year, showing an increase of 6,100 pkgs. We quote: Creamery, 20c to 20 1/2c; Eastern Townships, 18c to 19c. Receipts of cheese during the past week were 32,617 boxes against 70,874 boxes for the week previous. The market is in that peculiar shape at the moment, that it is strong to buy on and weak to sell on. Upon a parity of prices ruling in the West, this market is a 10c one for finest Western colored, and yet these same goods cannot be sold here for export at a profit at over 9 1/2c, so that values at the moment are purely nominal and very irregular. Some further contracting has been effected in the Belleville section at 10c for balance of July, and 10 1/2c for August, September and October. Statistically, the market is strong, but financially it is weak; and it is said to be a question whether the 200,000 to 225,000 boxes supposed to be held in cold storage can be carried. If by the aid of English capital they can, then the outlook is not as blue as some would have us believe, as it should be remembered that the chances of a big fall make are not as bright as they were, the shrinkage in the milk supply being more than has been generally supposed. At Belleville on Tuesday there were free buyers at 9 1/2c to 9 11/16c, and at Ingersoll sales were made at 9 1/2c to 9 1/4c. The shipments last week were 27,200 boxes against 27,200 boxes

for the same week last year. The total export for the season up to the close of last week were 682,400 boxes against 726,000 boxes for the corresponding period last year, showing a decrease of 43,600 boxes."

American canned meats, staples, are quoted to the jobbers in bond as follows: Roast corned and lunch beef, 1's per doz., 7c; do. 2's per doz., \$1.05; lunch tongues, 1's per doz. \$3.00; do. 2's, \$6.00. Armour's white label conserved soups in 2 lb. tins are quoted at \$3 per doz.

Commission agents quote American meats f. o. b. Victoria, duty paid as follows: Medium hams, 15 1/2c per lb; heavy hams, 15 1/2c; choice breakfast bacon, 17 1/2c; short clear sides, 14 1/2c, and dry salt clear sides, 12 1/2c. Armour's white label pure lard, 10 lb. pails, 13 1/2c per lb.

Armour's Gold Band meats, which are the finest quality on the American market, being a special grade for choice family trade, are quoted, (duty paid, Victoria), hams, 18 1/2c, breakfast bacon, 21 1/2c.

Dairy produce is quoted:

Butter—Eastern Creamery, tubs.....	26 @ 00
Manitoba creamery, 5-lb. tins	27 @ 00
" dairy.....	17 @ 18
Cheese—Canadian, lb.....	13 @ 11
California.....	16 @ 00
Eggs, case, per doz.....	17 @ 00
Smoked meats and lard are quoted:	
Hams.....	16 1/2 @ 18
Breakfast bacon.....	17 @ 18
Short rolls.....	14 @ 15
Dry Salt, long clear.....	13 @ 11
Pure Lard, 50lbs.....	16 @ 17
" " 20lbs.....	16 @ 16 1/2
Lard Compound, 10lbs.....	13 1/2 @ 11
Sugar—Jobber's prices 1/2-barrels and kegs in each case being 1/2c higher:	
Dry Granulated.....	63
Extra C.....	52
Fancy Yellow.....	51
Yellow.....	53
Golden C.....	53
Dry Granulated (China).....	61
Syrups, per lb.....	3
" 1 gal. tins, American.....	6 50
" " " ".....	5 75
" 1 " Vancouver.....	5 50
" 1 1/2 " ".....	7 00

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The demand for small fruit continues brisk. Plums and peaches are slightly cheaper this week. There has been a good demand for bananas. It is reported that bananas are ripening rather quickly, and some dealers will probably have to force sales to work off surplus stock of over-ripe fruit. The retailer will get the benefit for prices will in that case drop considerably. Watermelons are cheaper—small sell for 25c each and large for 50c. Oranges are firm, as there are only Tahiti seedlings and Australian on the market. Lemons are also confined to Santa Barbara and Australian brands. A few native plums have been received, but not in sufficient quantity to effect prices.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:—

Oranges—Australian.....	2 50 @ 0 00
Tahiti seedlings.....	3 00 @ 3 25
Lemons—Santa Barbara.....	6 50 @ 0 00
Australian.....	2 50 @ 0 00
Bananas.....	1 35 @ 2 25
Apples, Red Astrakan.....	1 50 @ 0 00
Nectarines.....	1 25 @ 0 00
Plums.....	85 @ 1 15