

The Victoria Prices Current, AND SHIPPING LIST.

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Victoria Prices Current

AND SHIPPING LIST.

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MARKET AND GENERAL REPORT.

Some slight sign of reviving life in the business of the place is discernible since the last issue, but no change of importance has taken place. Confidence in the future seems to be generally shared in, and stockholders are disposed to hold for full prices, having in view the piping times expected by a great influx of population from California and other places.

Through the transit of goods up the Fraser River is now in no way impeded, yet the road to the Big Bend Digging has for some time been blocked against everything but the sure-footed pack mule, owing to the avalanches across the lower part of the road, caused by the melting snow. The last impediment has now just been removed, and save about 40 miles from Seymour Town (at the head of Shuswap Lake) over a deep snow covered divide to the gold bearing gulches (or creeks) good travelling can be made.

Various rumors are in circulation as to the probable number of persons that will be attracted to the colony by the golden era which appears to be before the future. By some authorities it is put down at 5000 and by others 10,000. That great numbers however will be induced to try their luck in these extensive gold fields is certain. Our American neighbors (little blame to them) have been straining every nerve to persuade travellers to visit all common reasoning and geographical position, to take the route via Portland and the Columbia River, but on the principle of the Chinese proverb "burn twice shy," the unvarying traveller will find by experience that no has been duped, and since his credulity. It is therefore most inconceivable that a second season will find any number preferring the route through the American territory.

In another column will be found a mining company giving a short notice of all organizations for coal mining purposes that have recently taken the form of companies. We give this with a view to bringing to the notice of capitalists in the north country the greatness of the inducements for embarking their capital in developing the minerals with which the whole country is pregnant. There are many capitalists in England who are ever ready to invest their money in Spain and other equally mis-governed countries; on the most slender chances of success; yet here, on British soil, where the numerous outcroppings of coal, copper, and other minerals tell all but the blindest eye that the country contains unlimited mineral wealth, and with all the natural facilities at hand of fine timber and fine harbors for shipping but few English capitalists have embarked their money in any mining operations, remaining contented with their miserable 3 per cent Consols instead of counting their interest by tens.

BACON & HAMS, (Oregon)—Prime, scarce, and tendency to rise in price.

BRANS—remain firm at quotations.

BITTERS—All American varieties have risen much in price in consequence of heavy duties on from 300 to 400 per cent having been imposed by Congress on the raw materials of which they are manufactured.

BLANKETS—2½ point scarce, but prices of all sizes low.

UTER—Island, Fresh, commanding very high prices, Oregon, California, and Italian, also bringing prices leaving a good margin.

CHICKENY—Sticks very low, a shipment of 2 or 3 tons would meet ready sale.

CIGARS—Manilla Cheroots much wanted, none in the market, other kinds, fair stocks.

CURRENTS—Zante scarce, slight rise in prices.

COFFEE—No addition to stocks since last issue, and good qualities very scarce.

CHEESE—English, no good qualities to be had, no double Gloucester has hitherto been offered in this market, if shipped in hermetically sealed packages to stand the long voyage and changes of climate, it would doubtless become one of the leading articles of trade in these colonies.

DRIED FRUITS—Apples and Turkey Figs, scarce and much wanted.

FLOUR—Very little moving, some small sample lots have been sold at Auction, realizing about 10 per cent below quotations, but the bulk was held for higher prices.

LIQUORS—Brandies are held firm, having advanced in California—Ginger Brandy, market very bare, slight advance—Whisky, Scotch and Irish, very small quantity in importers hands, and prices advancing, American, (Daly's) scarce, none in first hands, prices firm.

NUTS—All kinds, scarce, and much wanted.

OIL—Lined, (bottled) none, and much wanted, Oil of, only a small quantity of plots in the market, half pints none, and wanted.

OLIVAN'S STORES—Though large quantity of inferior on hand, stocks of good brands very low, and prices looking up.

RICE—Tendency to fall, stocks pretty large.

SOAP—Yellow English Good brands scarce and prices advancing.

SUGARS—(Yellow) Stocks of finer grades are light, and prices firm with slight advance.

TEA—No Green in the Market except a little of inferior quality, and much wanted.

WOODEN-WARE—(American) Scarce, and commanding high prices.

YEAST POWDERS—Best Brands scarce, and prices high.

N. B.—All Provisions, Olivan's Stores and articles of consumption shipped to this market, should as a general rule be of the best qualities and brands.

MINING.

VANCOUVER COAL COMPANY NANAIMO—There is the usual steady demand for this Coal and a brisk business is carried on. The yield is now 180 tons per diem a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent was declared for the last half of the year 1865.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLAND COAL CO., (LIMITED)—A small quantity of this Coal, (Anthracite,) was put on board the American Steamer "Del Norte" and the Engineer has certified that the Coal gives greater promise than any he has seen tried on the Pacific Coast—A parcel of 7 tons was forwarded on the last Mail Steamer to San Francisco, to have the quality more fully tested; if it gives as good a result as anticipated from past experiments, the Company will possess the only mine of good Anthracite Coal known on this Coast. They have a lease of 42 years from Government of 5000 acres of land at a nominal rental of \$150 per annum, with privilege of purchase at will of 1000 acres out of that quantity, at \$1.00 per acre. A temporary reserve has been made by Government of 20,000 acres in the locality, until the exact boundaries of the 5000 acres shall be determined. A tramway of 1 ½

The facilities for shipping are everything that could be desired, a beautifully sheltered harbour, and 40 feet of water 30 feet from the shore, at the spot where the wharf is being constructed. A sum of \$25,000 has already been expended in carrying on the works of this Company, which considering the present monetary depression, indicates great confidence in the safety of the investment; sales of shares as yet are nearly all local.

HAREWOOD COAL COMPANY—This Company has obtained by purchase from Government a tract of 2902 acres of land of a rectangular shape, on the south and west side of the Vancouver Company. The Coal, of which they have several promising veins is considered equal in quality and extent to that of the first mentioned Company. About \$30,000 have already been expended in the purchase of land, and the construction of Roads, Bridges, and Buildings, &c. The debouché will be at a neck of land on the south side of Departure Bay, distant 5½ miles to which place a railway it to be constructed. A company under the title of the Harewood Railway Company has been formed for this purpose, and the Colonial Legislature has passed an Act granting certain privileges to the Company, amongst which are 10 acres of land at the site for the wharf and 1 acre at any place where a station may be made.

The Chief resident shareholders are now in England making arrangements, with others interested for pushing forward the work. As it is generally known that Coal underlies nearly all the section of the Country, there are good grounds for feeling secure of good returns being ultimately received for any outlay in opening the mines.

NORTH PACIFIC COAL CO, Fort McNeil—Although the quality of this Coal does not at present equal that of the Vancouver Company, it is expected that it will improve when worked a little deeper. This Company hold a Government Mining permit over 12160 acres of land containing several very promising veins conveniently situated for shipping purposes.

During the ensuing summer these mines will doubtless be more fully proved.

BAYNES SOUND COAL CO.—This Company holds a Government Mining permit over 6500 acres of land situated to the westward of Denman Island and Baynes Sound. The organization was only commenced as the winter set in so that very little has been done towards opening the mine. The samples of Coal brought down are good and the veins are said to be extensive.

SILVER ORE—A few weeks since, 1000 lbs of quartz from Cherry Creek (stream running into the Shuswap Lake) was sent down to San Francisco to be assayed. The return given by the Assayer was \$6.00 of silver in 100 lbs of Gold.

As the spot is near the head of Navigation on the road to the Big Bend diggings, and easy of access, doubtless more will be heard of this as the summer draws on.

According to the Newspapers the ore attracted much attention in San Francisco.

TELEGRAPHIC—The Marine Cable to connect Vancouver Island and the main land, is now on the way from San Francisco per "Heloise". As the land portions on each side have been ready for some time, it will be but the work of a few days to connect them. This done we shall have unbroken communication with New York, and when the Russo American line now in progress via Behring's Straits, St Petersburg &c. is completed, or the Atlantic Cable successfully laid, we shall be in the direct line of London