

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE,
Tuesday Morning, May 2.
VICTORIA.

The principal feature of the past week has been the arrival of three large vessels with general cargoes from Liverpool. Part of the cargo of two of them is for Vancouver and portions for Nanaimo and New Westminster. Business was naturally quiet during the last week of the month, but this month is looked forward to as the opening of the summer season. The recent heavy rains have greatly retarded the progress of farm work throughout the country districts, but the warm weather will greatly favor agriculture. Arrangements have been completed with the C. P. R. for the new Australian steamship line via Honolulu. The *Miovera*, the pioneer of the line, is expected to leave Sydney May 10 and arrive here about June 4. The service will be monthly for the present.

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The following are the receipts of California butter from San Francisco, by ss. Walla Walla, April 28, for Victoria: 14 cs, 1,540 lbs; 46 hf-cs, 2,760 lbs; 5 kegs, 500 lbs; 58 tubs, 2,915 lbs. Total, 7,715 lbs. Receipts April 23 10,207 lbs; April 13, 12,605 lbs; April 8 3,839 lbs; April 2, 4,895 lbs.

There have been shipments received of Eastern Ontario eggs which are quoted at 20c to 21c per doz. The principal feature of the week is another advance in sugar. The Refinery advanced 1-16c on Friday and 3-16c on Monday, making $\frac{1}{2}$ c for the week and $\frac{3}{4}$ c in the past four weeks. The raw market is high and firm. Lard compound is slightly lower, about 1c per lb being the reduction. It is said that on account of the recent high market, inferior brands have been offered on the market at all sorts of prices, which was cutting into the trade of the standard brands so that their prices were reduced, it is said, to meet and hold the market. Armour's white label pure lard has been reduced $\frac{1}{2}$ c since last week. The American meat market is still reported firm, but it is believed in well informed circles that the market is bound to go down in the near future. The demand at present prices for lard and pork products has not been equal to the supply which is generally acknowledged to be light. It appears, therefore, that consumers are looking in other directions for food supply. Armour's canned meats in bond are a little lower this week, and Goldband hams and bacon have dropped 1c per lb. Wilson Bros., are offering Eastern American cheese, last fall make, at 13c. It is believed that there is an over supply of cheese on the American side, west of the mountains, and merchants there are seeking market for part of their surplus in British Columbia.

The British Columbia Sugar Refining Co. Ltd., quote as follows in their weekly price list: Powdered icing and bar, $\frac{7}{8}$ c; Paris lumps, 7c; granulated 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; extra C. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; fancy yellow, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; yellow 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; golden C. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Above prices are for barrels or bags; half-barrels and 100 pound kegs, $\frac{1}{2}$ c; more, boxes $\frac{1}{2}$ c more. No order taken for

less than 100 barrels or its equivalent.

They quote syrup as follows: Finest golden, in 30 gal. bls. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; ditto, in 10 gal. kegs, 3c; ditto, in 5 gal. kegs, \$2.25 each; ditto, in 1 gal. tins, \$1.50 per case of 10; ditto in $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. tins, \$6 per case of 20. Prices cover delivery in Vancouver, and at Victoria, New Westminster and Nanaimo, and are subject to a discount of $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. for cash in fourteen days. All prices subject to change without notice.

American canned meats, staples, are quoted to the jobbers in bond as follows. Roast corned and lunch beef, 1's per doz., \$1.10; do. 2's per doz., \$1.85; lunch tongues, 1's per doz. \$3.25; do. 2's, \$6.25. 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, 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per lb; heavy hams, 18c; choice breakfast bacon, 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; short clear sides, 15c, and dry salt clear sides, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Armour's white label pure lard, 10 lb. pails, 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ c 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, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, breakfast bacon, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

California evaporated fruits are quoted as follows:—Apples, evaporated, 50 lb. boxes, 14c per lb., 25 lb. boxes 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; apricots, 25 lb. boxes, 20c; prunes, 25 lb. boxes, 14c; plums, 25 lb. boxes, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ c; peaches, 50 lb. boxes, 16c, 25 lb. boxes 17c. Canadian evaporated apples, 50 lb boxes, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

The *Canadian Trade Review*, of Montreal, says of groceries: "In this branch of trade a fair amount of business is reported in all lines, there being a good demand for small parcels, to fill actual requirements, but outside of this, the markets are quiet, as buyers are holding off to some extent until navigation is opened. In sugar trade has been slow, owing to the fact that buyers generally stocked up pretty well on the recent advance, and until such is worked off, little activity is looked for unless the foreign markets make a sudden change. Advices from New York state that a large business is doing, and that refiners are sold away ahead. On spot granulated is quoted at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c and yellows at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c@1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c as to quality at the factory. A late cable from London says: Cane, firm; beet, steady; little doing; others unchanged. There is a very quiet feeling in syrups, and prices are steady at 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ @2c per lb. A lot of American stock changed hands on western account at 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. In molasses, the movement is small at about 31c. The tea market has ruled rather quiet during the past week, the principal business being the filling of retail country and city orders. A very fair business has been transacted in rice. The new crop will arrive about the end of May, and, as values are ruling lower, millers will be able to make contracts at lower figures than last year. There has been more inquiry for dried fruit at unchanged prices. Valencia raisins off stalk have sold at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for fine and 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ c for good to common. Valencia layers sell at 6c. Currants are quiet and easy at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c@5 $\frac{1}{4}$ c."

Dairy products is quoted:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Butter—Eastern Creamery, tubs.... | 27 @ 23 |
| Manitoba Dairy choice. | 18 @ 22 |
| California rolls, extra choice | 21 @ 00 |
| " fancy | 25 @ 00 |
| " squares, " | 26 @ 00 |
| " tub ... " | 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ @ 00 |
| Cheese—Canadian, lb | 12 @ 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| California | 16 @ 00 |
| Eggs, case, per doz. | 20 @ 21 |

Smoked meats and lard are quoted:

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|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Hams | 15 @ 18 |
| Breakfast bacon | 17 @ 18 |
| Short roll | 14 @ 15 |
| Long rolls | 15 @ 16 |
| Dry Salt, long clear | 13 @ 14 |
| Pure Lard, 50lbs | 16 @ 17 |
| " " 20lbs | 17 @ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Lard Compound | 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ @ 15 |

Sugar—Jobber's prices $\frac{1}{2}$ -barrels and kegs in each case being $\frac{1}{2}$ c higher:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Dry Granulated | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Extra C. | 6 |
| Fancy Yellow | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Yellow | 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Golden C. | 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Syrups, per lb. | 3 |
| " 1 gal. tins, American | 6 50 |
| " " " " | 6 00 |
| " 1 " Vancouver | 5 50 |
| " 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " " | 7 00 |

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The following are the receipts of California fruits and vegetables from San Francisco by steamship Walla Walla, April 28, for Victoria: 51 crts cabbage, 11 crts cauliflower, 209 cs oranges, 14 cs lemons, 33 bxs asparagus, 9 cs peas, 22 crts bananas, 3 bxs cucumbers, 4cs rhubarb, 4 sks new potatoes, 4 cs sweet potatoes, 2 bxs berries. Potatoes are still scarce and unobtainable except at very high figures. Manitoba is being looked to for to supply the demand and a number of cars which are on the way will be due here shortly. The dealers will probably put them on the market at from \$32 to \$35 per ton. A few new potatoes have arrived from San Francisco but they are not expected in any quantity for a month yet. Fancy naval oranges are said to have advanced 15c a case in San Francisco last week. The recent heavy rains there have prevented much shipping and now orders are pouring in to the Riverside growers from all parts. Cabbage and onions are both firm at quotations.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:—

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Oranges—Navels, common to good | 3 50 @ 0 00 |
| " fancy | 4 00 @ 0 00 |
| Riverside Seedlings | 2 00 @ 2 25 |
| " fancy | 2 35 @ 2 75 |
| Los Angeles | 2 00 @ 2 25 |
| Lemons—California | 1 00 @ 5 00 |
| Sicily | 5 50 @ 6 00 |
| Apples—California, bxs | 2 00 @ 2 50 |
| bbls. | 6 00 @ 7 50 |
| Bananas | 3 50 @ 3 75 |

Vegetables are quoted:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Potatoes—Local | per ton 40 00 @ 00 00 |
| Onions—Red California | 00 @ 0 |
| Oregon Yellow Danvers | 0 @ 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Cabbage | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ @ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Asparagus | per lb 9 @ |
| Rhubarb | 10 @ |
| Cauliflower, per doz | 1 20 @ |

FLOUR AND FEED.

The Columbia Flouring Mills have reduced their list prices of Enderby flour and jobbers' quotations are down in sympathy. Manitoba flour dropped last week and standard brands of Hungarian are selling by jobbers at \$5 a bbl., other grades