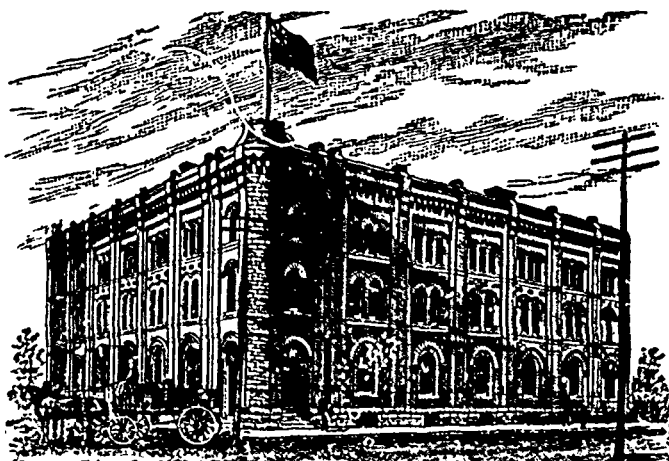


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### British Columbia Trade Letter

(SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.)

VANCOUVER, July 21.—The warm weather is upon us and fruit has ripened splendidly. Crops throughout the province are looking in the best possible condition and hay is being harvested in good form. Regarding fruit the same complaint is made this year as last that the canneries are unable to obtain fruit at a price which will make the industry profitable. There is not enough fruit grown in the country yet to produce a surplus and the mercantile spirit of selling fruit upon its merits does not pervade the farming community. A good many ranchers would sooner apparently let the fruit rot on the trees than sell it at prices less than they have been accustomed to receive. Conditions are now altering and only first-class fruit put up in good form will command the best prices. That class of goods always sell well, but the inferior grades such as canners can utilize can be sold profitably at a much reduced price. Considering the prodigious yields of this country farmers can afford to dispose of their secondary grades even at eastern prices and still make money. It is doubtful then if the output of the canneries will be equal to anticipations, although the volume of the B. C. fruit handled in the aggregate will exceed that of any previous year. Prices are high and the

demand greater than the supply. Cherries and small fruits are of exceptionally fine quality.

Shipments in foreign export and import continue good and a larger number of lumber ships are now in port than usual. The Duke of Argyle from Liverpool is discharging freight here and the sailing vessel loaded with iron for the tramway has arrived. The B. C. refinery is operating at its fullest capacity and is supplying an increasing market. The various iron foundries and machine works and wood working establishments in the province are working full time and having a large output, showing that the various energies are active and developing. The Moodyville mill under its new management is about to be greatly enlarged and created, so it is understood, into a mammoth industry. This was the mill lately taken over by a foreign syndicate. With the Hastings saw mill, Royal City planing mills, McLaren-Ross, Brunette, Chemisious and other large saw mills the province is well supplied with first-class lumber establishments. There has been a wonderful improvement in cutting facilities during the past two years, so much so that the industry may be said to have been entirely revolutionized.

Another event of real estate interest occurred last week, viz.; The sale by the government of the Moodyville timber limit some 1,000 acres west of Capilam creek, and nearly opposite

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## OXFORD TIES.

Vancouver, in the municipality of North Vancouver. Mr. Beattie, the auctioneer, sold the whole land offered in blocks for \$52,000 the price per acre varying from \$10 to \$150, the result being a demonstration of the stability of inside property and the faith which exists in this province in land investments. From this point of view as well as financially it was a great success. Another feature of the real estate market is the offering of lots in the Fort Simpson townsite, which is now being boomed in the prospects of it one day being a second Vancouver. The agricultural exhibition movement is strong. Victoria and Westminster will each have a provincial exhibition, while the fruit growers' association has its show in the former place on the 11th and 12th of August. A number of the municipalities are also preparing. The provincial exhibit association expects to outstrip all previous efforts and make the British Columbia exhibit back east the largest and finest ever yet sent to the big fairs. The project is exciting a great deal of enthusiasm.

Business generally is good but not rushing. Building is active in all parts of the province. Westminster is going ahead with a number of fine new blocks. The salmon canning is in full swing with indications that the market will be healthier than last year. The Alaska catch is reported poor. There have been heavy importations of California fruit, and British Columbia fruit is coming in more freely. There is a shortage in first class butter, a result without any doubt of having entered dog days. Good fresh ranch eggs are also scarce, and prices generally are stiff. Following are quotations:

Flour and Grain—Manitoba patents \$6.50; Manitoba bakers, \$6.25; Oregon flour, \$5.75 to \$6.25; oatmeal and cornmeal, \$3.75; rolled oats, \$5; shorts, \$2.60; bran, \$2.40; wheat, \$3.50 to \$3.80; oats, choice, \$4.50, do. common, \$4.00; chopped feed, \$3.50 to \$4.00; hay, \$15 to \$16.

Meats—Dry salt, 12c; roll bacon, 12c; breakfast bacon, 14c; backs, 13½c; hams, 15c; lard, in tubs, 12c; in pails, 12½c; in tins, 13c; lard compound, 12c.

Sugar—Granulated, 5½c per lb; yellow, 5½c; cube, 6½c; syrup, 3½c.

Butter—Creamery 24½ to 26c; dairy, 15 to 20c.

Cheese—12½ to 13c

Eggs,—18½ to 19c,

Vegetables—New potatoes, \$1.30 to \$1.40 per 100 lbs. Local potatoes, \$20 per ton.

Fruit—Apples and pears, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box. Bartlett pears, \$3.25; peaches, apricots, \$1.40 per box; prunes, \$1.95, and plums, \$1.25 to \$1.75.