

**WILLIAM L. KEENE & CO**

(Successors to Chipman, Morgan &amp; Co.)

**SHIPBROKERS & COMMISSION MERCHANTS**

632 Cordova St., Vancouver, B.C.

Importers of Rice, Sacks, Japan, Indian and China Teas, Steel, Iron, Rope, Cement, Oils, Fruit, Canned Goods, Etc., Etc.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

[This department is in charge of R. E. Gosnell, who is permanently engaged as a regular member of THE COMMERCIAL staff, to represent this journal in British Columbia. Parties in British Columbia who wish to communicate in any way with this paper, may apply directly to Mr. Gosnell at Vancouver.]

**British Columbia Business Review.**

August 21, 1893.

Little can be said more than was remarked last week. Business, considering general dullness, is good. Bankers and wholesale men report collections as well up to the mark as could be expected, with trade very firm, although money for most purposes is tight and hard to get.

Fruit is generally downward in tendency and is plentiful. In tropical fruits the Australian shipments have had a cheapening effect all round. Californian fruit, outside of those, is the only kind in the market.

Potatoes have taken a big tumble, and are now very cheap, with improved prospects of going down still more. Hay is steady at \$18.

Dairy products have become firmer and are advancing, especially Manitoba dairy.

Meats show no change. Lard is slightly easier in price. Fresh meats, especially mutton, are down somewhat and the market is amply supplied. One reason for the cheapness of mutton is the depression down the Sound, from which the principal supply is drawn. The banks there practically own the sheep of the farmers, who have to realize on them.

There is no change in the flour and feed situation. The former remains in a depressed and overstocked condition. Wheat, for feed is cheap. Oats are steady at about \$30 in bulk by the car.

Fish remain cheap, with just at present, little outside demand. Export by carload of fresh fish has been practically stopped by what amounts to a raise in rates.

On all sides there is a heavy drain on the province for agricultural and other produce, which is generally being imported.

**FRESH FISH EXPORT.**—This new business, which was just about to assume respectable proportions, has been brought to a standstill. This is explained by the following extract from the *Columbian*:—

"Fresh salmon shipments to New York and other eastern points, in carload lots, have ceased, owing to the action of the C.P.R. in advancing the rates, or rather demanding freight charges on the ice in which the fish are packed. The company allows four tons of ice free in each car, and has decided to insist on regular freight charges for anything over that amount. Each car contains from 10,000 to 15,000 lbs. of fish, and as every pound of fish requires the same weight of ice, the over-charge would so largely increase the cost of the fish, laid down in Montreal or New York, that the exporter's profit would be wiped out. The C.P.R. charges \$650 per car to New York, which would appear to be a very satisfactory rate, but the overcharge for ice would bring the cost of transportation up to

about \$900 per car—a figure simply prohibitory. Therefore, until a more satisfactory arrangement is arrived at, the exporting business will remain at a standstill. The C.P.R. Co. claims that it cannot afford to carry ice free any more than any other commodity. The fish dealers, on the other hand, point to the long, cheap hauls of carloads made by the C.P.R. under stress of competition.

**SHIPPING.**—Since last report the Australian steamship has gone outwards with a full cargo. The *Empress of Japan* is in with 1,400 tons weight cargo and 63 saloon passengers, 23 intermediates, 326 in steerage. The Northern Pacific steamer *Tacoma* is also in with a full cargo. Another of the C.P.R. fleet of tea ships has arrived. The American barque *Sonoma* has finished her cargo at Hastings Mills and sailed for Iquiqui with 811,133 feet of rough lumber valued at \$9,289. The tonnage of shipping in port is as follows:—

Port.	No.	Tonnage
Vancouver .....	8	12,015
Victoria .....	2	1,878
Nanaimo .....	3	4,454
Cowichan .....	1	672

Total .....	14	19,019
Total previous week .....	17	22,894

**THE AUSTRALIAN TRADE.**—To show the success that has already attended the Australian line of steamships, the freight list outward is given: Her cargo consisted of about 3,500 tons, made up as follows: For Honolulu—Twenty boxes dried codfish; 90 barrels box salmon; 907 bundles box shooks, 359,000 shingles, 27,323 feet lumber. For Brisbane—Four cases portraits, 200 cases canned salmon, 140 barrels salt salmon, 508 frozen salmon, 3 packages samples barrels and boxes. For Sydney—974 packages agricultural implements, 6 cases plows, 60 barrels salt salmon, 920 pieces lumber, 13,052 feet lumber, 12,000 pickets, 1,213 bundles laths, 3 bundles shingles, 9 cases advertising matter, 1 box rugs, 5 boxes biscuits, 1 barrel whiskey, 1 case confectionery, 1 box ore sample, 1 case porcelain. For Melbourne—735 cases canned salmon, 130 barrels salt salmon, 52 boxes fresh salmon, 601 packages machinery, 135 packages agricultural machinery, 5 cases biscuits, 1 box shooks. About 300 tons of her cargo was taken at Victoria. She carried away 35 cabin and 35 steerage passengers.

**SEALS.**—Sealskins are being packed and shipped to London. Turner, Beton & Co have forwarded via C.P.R. 54 cases, or \$65,000 worth, and Marvin & Co. are packing 8,000 skins for immediate shipment. The former have been sold, but prices are not given.

**LUMBER.** There has been some improvement in the foreign demand, though prices are much the same. There has been some movement of shingles to the Northwest, 12 carloads having been shipped recently.

**SALMON.**—The following from the *News-Advertiser*, Vancouver, will describe the run:—

"The largest catch on record in the Fraser River was recorded on Monday, August 21st, 1893. The average has been somewhere about 500 fish to the boat, which simply means the carrying capacity of the fishing boats, some of which could not manage the hauls. Many of the canning factories were obliged to refuse to accept consignments from their customers. They were literally over stocked by their own boats, but as far as heard of not a fish has been wasted, the salmon curing firms taking every fish they could get and asking for more.

All sorts of yarns have been spun regarding the jam of salmon in the river on Sunday night. The C.P.N. boats, it was said, were unable to force their way up the river. The Westminster and Surrey ferry boat was obliged to cancel her Sunday trip, having been carried up past the Brunette Mills by the overwhelming force of sockeyes and general navigation between the Sand Heads and Langley was temporarily suspended. These reports are not materially exaggerated, in fact it would be

almost impossible to tell too big a fish story of the Fraser fishing of the last 24 hours. In this term fact was even more remarkably mantic than fiction.

**S. C. Market Quotations.**

**DRESSED MEAT, LIVE STOCK, ETC.**—Live steers are 3½; cows 3c; beef, 6½ to 7½—sheep, 4½ to 5c; mutton, 1½; lambs, \$3.75 to \$4 each; lamb, \$5 for carcass; calves, 6 to 7c; veal, 9 to 10c; hogs, 7½; pork, 10½.

**FLOUR, FEED, GRAIN, ETC.**—The Ogilvie Milling Co. and Keewatin Milling Co. quote standard brands of Manitoba flour, in car lots only, at Victoria, Vancouver and Westminster as follows: Patent, per bbl., \$4.40; strong bakers, \$4.10. The Columbia Flouring Mills quote Enderby flour in carload lots at Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster: Premier, \$0.00; XXX, \$4.35; strong bakers, or XX, \$4.05; superfine, \$3.55. Quotations small lots are: Flour, Manitoba patents, \$4.05; strong bakers, \$4.30; ladies choice, \$4.75; prairie lily, \$4.50; Oregon, \$4.90. Enderby mills—three star, \$4.75; two star, \$4.50; oatmeal eastern \$3.00; California granulated in gunnies, \$4.25; National mills, Victoria, \$3.60; rolled oats eastern \$3.00 to \$3.25; California, \$4.00; National mills \$3.60 per sack; Westminster Mills, 4c per lb., cornmeal \$3.10; split peas \$3.50; pearl barley \$4.50. Rice—The Victoria rice mills quote wholesale Japan rice per ton, \$77.50; China rice do \$70; rice flour, do, \$70; chit rice, do, \$25; rice meal do, \$17.50; chopped feed \$30 per ton; bran, \$23; shorts \$25; Man. oats, \$33 to 35; wheat \$28; oil cake, \$50; hay, \$18. Wheat is quoted in car lots for feed No. 2 regular at \$24.50 per per ton; oats \$20; chop barley, \$32. California malting barley, \$26 to \$27 f.o.b. in San Francisco. California chop, \$32 to \$33. Oak Lake patent Hungarian \$4.65; Oak Lake strong bakers, \$4.35. The Western Milling Co. quote mixed chop, \$30; patent flour, \$4.60; strong bakers, \$4.30; Brandon Mills, Hungarian, \$4.50; strong bakers, \$4.40.

**FISH.**—Prices are:—salmon, 5 to 6c; flounders, 4 to 5c; smelt, 5c; sturgeon, 6c; seabass, 5c; cod, 6c; halibut, 7c; smoked salmon, 12½; smoked halibut, 10c.

**MEATS.**—Quotations are as follows:—Hams, 16½; breakfast bacon, 17c; backs, 14 to 15½; long clear, 14c; short rolls, 14c. Lard is held at the following figures: In tins, 17c per pound; in pails, 16½; in tubs, 16c. Corned beef \$8 per bbl; meat pork \$28; corn cut \$28. Commission agents quote American meats f.o.b. Victoria, duty paid, as follows: Medium hams, 15½c per pound; heavy hams, 15½c; choice breakfast bacon, 17c; short clear sides 14½, and dry salt clear sides, 12c. Armour's white label pure lard, 10 pound pails, 13½c per pound.

**VEGETABLES.**—New potatoes \$18 per ton; onions, silver skins, 2c; cabbage, 2c; rhubarb, 4c; carrots, turnips and beets, 1½c.

**DAIRY.**—Eastern creamery is quoted at 25c; Manitoba dairy, 20c; cheese, 12½c.

**EGGS.**—Eastern case eggs, 16c; Manitoba, fresh, ditto.

**FRUIT.**—Bananas, \$2 to 2.75 per bunch; lemons, Sicilies, \$5.50; Australian, \$3; peaches, \$1.15; apricots, \$1.15; plums, 90c to \$1.25; watermelons, 30c; grapes, \$1.65; apples \$1.50 per box; tomatoes, \$1; pears, \$1.30; evaporated apples are quoted at 8c per lb; apricots, 20c; peaches, 14c; dates, 7 to 8c; Smyrna prunes, 9c; layer raisins, \$3; cocoanuts, \$1 per doz; pineapples, \$3 to 4.50 per bunch; Australian oranges, \$1.75 to 2.50 per box.

**Brief Business Notes.**

J. P. Matthews & Co., grocers, Victoria, have assigned.

Winchester & Campbell's saloon at Kaslo has been closed.

The Grady group of mines have been bonded for \$100,000 to the McNaught's, of Seattle.

John L. Retallack has been appointed receiver of J. M. Burke & Co.'s bank at Kaslo.