

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, B. C., July 13.—Trade continues up to the average and wholesalers are reaching out with more energy for the Northern and Kootenay trade. They believe they are not getting as much as their share both in Vancouver, Westminster and Victoria and in the struggle for supremacy the trade itself is being much stimulated.

In the British Columbia markets there has been a decline in the price of meats. But butchers claim this will not last. The ranchers have had abundant rain in the interior and the pasture is better than it has been for years, but unfortunately ranchers have been thinning out their herds each day and luck have they had in the way of providing for their cattle in former years so that meats will be higher than they are now. There is none but grass fed cattle on the market. Grain and feed are firm. Customers are waiting for the new crop which will be in shortly. If the present fine weather continues even a day or two longer farmers will commence cutting their hay. They will be able to get it in early and although the crop is only a half a one. They will more than make up the difference on oats. This crop being early and heavy and will be harvested before the rainy season commences. In other years in British Columbia oats have been invariably caught in the rain and spoiled.

Lumbering is very quiet as is usual at this time of the year. There have been but three ships loading lumber during the week. The sockeye salmon are commencing to run hard, but all is not joy among the canners. Owing to low price of salmon in England they are obliged to offer but 7 cents for fish; this it is said the fishermen have refused to accept, and as a consequence they held a meeting at which 1,000 fishermen attended, and sent word to the canners that unless they were prepared to give them fifteen cents for the entire season they would strike. The canners have refused, and speak of the fishermen's demands as absurd. A strike is threatened. It is also rumored that the government are to charge one cent a box on all salmon coming in from Pt. Roberts.

A creamery has been started in Westminster, and is making excellent butter. The outgoing steamer Warahoo carried 60 tons of butter for export shipped from New York in 2,000 boxes. Surely if New York can ship butter to Australia so can Manitoba.

The following are the inland returns for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1897, at Vancouver, showing the increase in business:

July	\$12,056.14
August	14,453.20
September	12,536.75
October	12,178.46
November	10,006.80
December	10,519.75
January	12,597.09
February	10,164.92
March	20,680.71
April	17,056.16
May	12,635.32
June	15,383.53

Grocery Trade Notes.

Cables recently received quote an easier market on fliberts in Sicily, the damage to the coming crop not having been as great as was expected.

Reports from Smyrna are to the effect that the fig crop will be smaller than in former years, and will be two weeks later in arriving. The quality is expected to be good.

Advices from Smyrna state that the prospects for the growing crop of Sultan raisins continue to be favorable, and that a large output of fine quality is expected. The first shipment to New York will probably be made about the middle of August, arriving here a month later.

Cable advices report cream of tartar firmer and note an advance of 6d to 75s 76s, and are the lowest figures makers will accept. Tartaric and citric acids are in good demand on spot and the market for such has been stronger and prices have advanced 2c per lb.

The Montreal Gazette says Outside of a few small lots of new Japan tea changing hands at prices ranging from 18c to 25c, the market is dull and without any new feature of note.

A large sale of Dutch sugar is reported from New York at .02 under U. S. refined.

Lemons are advancing in the eastern cities in Canada and the States, owing to the big demand, and caused by the long spell of excessively hot weather. Prices went up 75c to \$1 per box at Montreal, and buyers from the States were picking up surplus stock.

Strawberries sold as low as 1 cent per box in Montreal recently, owing to large receipts, but the quality of the fruit was not the best. Good fruit sold at 6c to 7c per box.

The California Fruit Growers says, There has been a change in the general condition of the growing crop. The sudden change of the weather from hot to cold, and the damage from vine hoppers has caused the grapes to drop heavily in some sections. Clusters and layers will not be abundant, while loose and seedless will be a heavy supply. The crop as a whole does not promise to be as heavy as a few weeks back, but there will be enough for all demands.

Prices for shipment of new crop currants from Greece have been made at a sterling figure equivalent to about 5c. This is said to be a purely speculative price, and as the outlook for the crop is somewhat uncertain, owing to vine diseases, the trade seems to be doubtful as to the results.

Grain and Milling News.

The Lake of the Woods Milling company have shipped a consignment of flour to British Guiana, South America.

An exchange says: "President Jas. J. Hill, of the Great Northern railway, makes the statement that the road will ship not less than 90,000 bushels of wheat from the Northwest to China and Japan by way of Seattle." There is, of course, a big blunder somewhere about this item, as the Northwest has no such quantity of wheat to export over home milling requirements.

Oats advanced 1-4c at Montreal on July 8, with sales at 28 1-2c in store.

The Montreal Gazette of July 8 says: "Owing to the continued good

demand for Manitoba feed and the small offerings of such, the tone of the feed market is strong, and prices have advanced \$1 per ton, with sales of bran at \$13 and shorts at \$14 per ton, including bags.

The Toronto Globe of July 7, says of flour. There is more enquiry and the market is steadier. Two cars of straight roller sold Toronto freights to-day at \$3.40 and bids of \$3.20 west for cars of straight roller were refused. Manitoba flour was advanced 10c to-day at \$4.30 for patents and \$3.84 for strong bakers'.

Jas. Modeland and P. Parker, a couple of farmers residing in the Elva district, have decided to erect a 25,000 bushel elevator at Elva, Man. It will be furnished with steam power, elevator and all the latest machinery.

Law & Tyron bankers and general merchants of Grenfell, have formed a partnership with T. W. Brady, a well known Winnipeg grain man, with the object of entering the grain trade. The firm will buy grain at country points and have an office in Winnipeg. A line of elevators will probably be established by the firm.

Hides, Wool, etc.

Bradstreet's says of the United States wool market: There is a good speculative demand for wool, and owing to the prospect of the tariff being settled soon, prices are advanced about 1c on domestic grades.

The drop of 1c in hides at Montreal, reported by wire in The Commercial last week, was due to the 20 per cent. duty imposed by the new United States tariff on hides. At Toronto, however, hides advanced 1-2c the same week, as also noted by this journal last week.

Hides were firm at Toronto at 81-2c for No. 1 green.

On July 8 and 9 the London wool sales were active at about 5 per cent. higher for merinos. United States buyers purchased freely on July 8 for immediate shipment.

A Winnipeg wool dealer says that he believes a considerable quantity of wool is imported into Canada without the duty being paid thereon. Wool coming into this country is free, except such as are known as lustre or coming wools, which are dutiable at the rate of 3 cents per pound. This takes in Leicester, Cotswold, Lincoln and other combing wools, which form the bulk of the wool grown in Canada.

The Boston Commercial Bulletin says of the wool market. "The bottom of the wool market was reached in August, 1893. At that time fine staple Wyoming wool was sold in the Boston market at 35c the scored pound. This week fine Idaho staple has been sold in Boston on a basis of 43c the scored pound. This price and other prices that have risen to correspond mark the highest level reached since July, 1896. Growers in Montana are getting 12c a pound for wool. A year ago they were shipping wool on consignment, with no advances, but of cost of freight.

EPITAPH ON A FURRIER.

He dyed so many skins, and with such tact,
That finally he died himself—a fact:
In life his business thrived on cold and snow,
And still he craves for ice—ahem—you know!