

# BRITISH COLUMBIA

## OFFICE OF THE COMMERCIAL

### Business at Vancouver.

Vancouver, Oct. 30, 1899.

Bank clearings for the week ending October 25th were, for Victoria, \$618,025, balances \$221,033, and for Vancouver \$1,033,863, balances \$218,029. There has been much activity this week in all business circles. Salmon lumber and coal ships have been arriving and departing in unusual numbers. Sealers have reported a good catch and a portion of the sealing fleet are preparing for winter hunting. Three Americans, Messrs. Eckhardt, Horton and Hague are starting a box factory in New Westminster to supply a large demand. Fruit growers have not been successful in placing their fruit in Manitoba in good condition and these Americans learning that American experts were teaching the B. C. fruit growers how to pack fruit for export decided to make the special boxes and baskets required for packing, besides boxes, baskets, tubs and pails required for other exporters in British Columbia.

At New Westminster, British Columbia's only retail produce market of importance, the volume of goods sold on Friday was exceptionally large. Eggs were very scarce and eagerly bought at 40c, when they could be obtained at that figure. Butter was not plentiful enough to meet the demand. There was a large stock of meat and poultry which sold at good prices. Apples were plentiful and sold well.

There were no changes of consequence in Vancouver's jobbing market this week. Manitoba produce houses are reported as not anxious to dispose of their dairy butter, to Vancouver buyers. They have a ready sale for it in Manitoba at 19 and 20 cents and are not encouraged to send it to Vancouver, where the best prices that obtain are from 19 to 20 cents. This explanation should be made however that dairy butter in Manitoba is of a very excellent quality as sold direct, or almost direct, to the consumer, in fact is often preferred to creamery. The Manitoba farmers, as one produce merchant described it, have not been learning how to make butter in vain and their product is in a great many instances highly prized by Manitoba consumers. Thus there is a demand at home that checks to a great extent the export of butter made on the farm. This same produce merchant stated that in many cases the genuine Manitoba dairy was superior to the much-kent, much-frozen, much-stored so-called eastern creamery sold on the British Columbia market and that Manitobans would not give 20 cents for the dairy butter sold in Vancouver at that figure. A Chicago party has passed through British Columbia and bought up all the butter a year and a half and two years old he could secure and is supposed to have left here for Manitoba on the same mission. This grease, which is not saleable at any price in the ordinary way is to be taken to Chicago, subjected to a chemical process and sold to very poor people in small lots the same day as manufactured. After the rank smelling mess has been made to look, taste and smell like fairly good butter it must be sold immediately in a large market for immediate consumption or in twenty-four hours it throws off the artificial semblance of butter and

lapses back again into its original condition.

Eastern eggs are very firm at present prices and it is expected they will advance next week. Lard is considered very low at present figures, but owing to competition there is no advance. The United States article is considerably higher although not so pure. As a lard manufacturer explained, United States makers extract from their lard, lard oil, the very essence of the product, and replace it by a substitute which does not cost so much and they are still able to sell it at a higher price than Canadian and so their lard oil as well, a sub-refuse of lard as it were, which is not saleable in British Columbia.

### British Columbia Markets.

(All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reductions on large quantities, and to cash discounts.)

### PRICES AT VANCOUVER.

By wire to The Commercial,

Vancouver, Nov. 1.

Fresh case eggs are weaker this week owing to free arrivals of pickled stock. Cheese is very firm. Butter steady. Lard is firm. Breakfast bacon and hams are higher.

**BUTTER**—Manitoba creamery, 25c, Manitoba dairy, 19 to 20c.

**EGGS**—Fresh local, 40 to 50c per doz. as to quality; eastern eggs, 21c.

**CHEESE**—15c.

**GREEN FRUIT**—Oranges, \$4.75 to \$5 per box; California lemons, \$4.00 to \$4.25; peaches, \$1.15; apples, \$1.60 to \$1.75 box; pears, \$2; bananas \$2.85 bunch. These prices are for imported fruits. British Columbia fruits are quoted as follows: Apples, \$1 to \$1.50 box.

**MEAL**—Rolled oats, 30 lb. sack, \$2.30; two 45 lb. sacks, \$2.60; four 22 1/2 lb. sacks, \$2.80; ten 7 lb. sacks, \$2.50; oatmeal, in 10 lb. sacks, per 100 lbs. \$3.25. In 50 lb. sacks, \$3 per 100 lbs.

**FLOUR**—Delivered B.O. patents—Manitoba patent, per barrel, \$4.70; strong bakers, \$4.50; Oregon, \$4.50 per barrel.

**GRAIN**—Oats, new, \$20 per ton; wheat, \$22 for new.

**CURED MEATS**—Hams, 15c; breakfast bacon, 15c; back, 12 1/2 to 13c; long clear 10c; short rolls, 12 to 13 1/2c; smoked sides, 11c.

**LARD**—Tins, 10c per lb.; in pails and tubs, 9 1/2c.

**FISH**—Flounders, 5c; smelts, 5c; sea bass, 4c; whiting, 5c; coles, 6c; smoked 10c; fresh halibut 6c; salmon 6c; honters 8 1/2c; cod 6c per lb.; crabs, 60c dozen.

**GAME**—Mallards, 60c; pintail 10c; teal 25c; wildgeon 40c per pair; venison 7c; bear 6c lb.

**VEGETABLES**—New potatoes, \$16 per ton; Ashcroft potatoes, \$18 to \$19 per ton; cabbage, 1 1/2c per lb.; carrots, turnips and beets, \$12 per ton; red onions, 1c per lb.; silverskins, 2c; tomatoes, \$2 per box; cucumbers, \$2 per box.

**FLOUR**—National mill chop, \$25 per ton; shorts, \$23 ton; bran, \$21, all cake meal, \$35 ton; f.o.b. Vancouver, including duty paid on imported stuff.

**HAY**—New hay, \$14; old, \$10 per ton. **DRESSED MEATS**—Beef, 7 to 8c; mutton, 11c; pork, 9 to 9 1/2c; veal, 12 1/2c lb.

**LIVE STOCK**—Steers, \$4 per 100 lbs.; cows, \$3.50; sheep, \$3.50 per 100 lbs.; hogs, 7 to 7 1/2c per lb.

**POULTRY**—Chickens, \$6 per dozen.

**EVAPORATED FRUITS**—Apples, 10 to 17c per lb.; peaches, 10 to 12c; plums, 9 to 10c; prunes, French, 5 to 7 1/2c per lb.; loose unsalted raisins, 6c; London layer raisins, \$1.90 box; Italian prunes, 6 to 8 1/2c lb.

**NUTS**—Almonds 12c; filberts 12 1/2c; peanuts 10c; Brazil 12 1/2c; walnuts 12c lb.

**SUGARS**—Powdered, icing and bar, 6 3/4c; Paris lump 6 1/4c; granulated 5

1-4c; extra O. 4 3/8c; fancy yellows 4 1/2c; yellow 4 3/8c lb.

**SYRUPS**—30 gallon barrels, 2 1/4c lb.; 10 gallon kegs 2 3/4c; 5 gallon tins \$1.75 each; 1 gallon tins \$4.50 case of 10; 1 1/2 gallon tins \$5.25 case of 20.

**TEAS**—Congoo Fair, 11 1/2c; good, 18c; choice, 23c; Ceylon and India fair 20c.

**HARDWARE**—Bar iron—Base, \$3.50. Horse shoe nails, discount, 40 per cent; horse shoes, keg, \$5. Wire nails—Base price, \$4.50; cut, \$3.75. Rope, Manila, 16c. Boiled oil, 75c. White lead, \$7.50. Putty, \$3.50. Barbed wire, \$4.75 per 100 lbs. Glass, 1st break, \$6.

### PRICES IN THE KOOTENAY.

Nelson, B. C., Nov. 1.

The only change in prices this week is for oats, which are down \$2 per ton, to \$30.

**Butter**—Manitoba fresh creamery, 24 1/2c; choice dairy butter, 19c.

**Cheese**—15c.

**Eggs**—Fresh eastern, 23c per dozen, pickled, 20c.

**Oats**—Per ton, \$30.

**Flour**—Manitoba patent, per barrel, \$5.00.

**Potatoes**—Per ton, \$19.

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### British Columbia Items.

E. B. Jones, grocer, has opened business at Victoria.

Belding, Paul & Co., silks, Montreal, have opened a branch at Vancouver.

J. F. Jacobson, hay and grain merchant, Nelson, is giving up business.

C. R. Slater, of Coeur, Slater & Co., wholesale cigars, Vancouver, is dead.

The Badminton hotel, Vancouver, is offered for sale by tender to Nov. 5, by the assignee.

Wells & Squire, of Central Park, have dissolved partnership, Mr. Malcolm R. Wells continuing.

J. C. McLaren has taken over the Grand Pacific hotel at Kamloops from Dupont & Corning.

G. B. Matthew, of Ymir, has bought out R. Luce, proprietor of the Nelson Cigar Store, at Nelson.

The stock of Chin Yon, fruits, confectionery, etc., New Westminster, has been sold by the sheriff.

A charter is being asked for at the next session of the legislature by a company which intends operating a line of telephones in the district of East Kootenay.

A company is seeking incorporation in British Columbia to build and operate a line of railway from a point on or near Dryden River to a point on or near Lake Bennett, and from there to the 60th parallel of latitude.

T. A. Harman, gents' furnisher, and James W. Loughheed, tailor, of Rossland, have both assigned to Edward Baillie, accountant. The creditors of the former met, on November 10, and of the latter on November 11.

### Manitoba Wheat Stocks.

There was 1,570,072 bushels of wheat in store at Fort William on Oct. 25. Receipts for the week were 324,438 bushels, and shipments were 1,125,359 bushels. Stocks of wheat at Fort William, Port Arthur, Keewatin, Winnipeg and interior country points were estimated approximately at 7,350,000 bushels compared with about 2,550,000 bushels a year ago.

Cranberries have advanced in the States and are costing higher to lay down here.