

and believe, the present condition of things will not last long, and, with patience, they will resume their former footing.

"We propose that the miners should agree to a reduction of 20 per cent. I do not think anything less will meet the case, and that the other employees of the company—trimmers, laborers, etc.—should accept a reduction of from 10 to 20 per cent. If this was agreed to we would then mine about one half the present output, working such mines as would most lessen the costs and at the same time cause the least inconvenience to the general body of employees."

After considerable negotiation and a great deal of discussion the mines have by a large majority agreed to the terms offered by Mr. Robins in whom they have as a body the utmost confidence, and for whom their respect is deserved and unqualified.

MINING—Notwithstanding the depression in silver and the financial stringency now almost universal, there are a number of mining deals consummated in British Columbia from week to week. Last week there has been reported the bonding of the Majestic gold quartz claim, seven miles from Nelson, for \$16,000, and the sale of the Blue Bird mine, Slokan, for \$65,000. The bond on the Great Northern has been taken up and \$9,000 paid down in cash. A syndicate, with a nominal capital of \$300,000 has been formed to operate the Robbie Burns gold mine in the McMurdo basin, East Kootenai. There is a good deal of activity displayed in the development of hydraulic claims, more than at any time since the old gold days, but returns as yet are insufficient for the purpose of drawing conclusions as to results.

The depression in silver does not altogether blight the prospects of mining at a profit in the rich silver districts of Kootenai. This is the way the Nelson *Tribune* figures it out:—

"Suppose the ore is silver and lead bearing, averages 100 ounces in silver and 70 per cent. lead. The smelter deducts 5 per cent. of the former, and 10 per cent. of the latter metal to make up for mechanical loss. Seventy per cent. lead would equal 1,400 pounds to the ton, less 10 per cent., leaves 1,260 pounds, at a market price say of \$3.55—the latest quotation at hand—equals \$44.73. Ninety-five ounces silver at 72 cents amounts to \$68.40, which added to the lead value make a total of \$113.13 per ton in the ore when laid down at the smelter.

"Now for the expenses: Suppose the ore was from the Slokan district. The following figures are given as approximate:—

Sacking of ore, per ton	\$ 1 50
Transportation to Kaslo, per ton	25 00
Transportation to smelter, per ton	8 00
Duty on 1,400 lead, per ton	21 00
Smelting charges, per ton	12 00

Total.....\$67 50

"This amount deducted from \$113.13 leaves a difference of \$45.63 per ton from which the cost of mining must be subtracted. Allowing handsomely for this expense, there is an apparent profit of \$40 per ton on such a grade of ore at the present low prices of the metals.

"With railway transportation to and from the near vicinity of the mines, it appears as though there are many claims in the Slokan belt which would pay fairly well should the prices of silver and lead not advance.

"Were we to admit that the silver remains as a commodity, and is only worth what it will bring, the very fact of so many low-grade silver mines being compelled to close, shuts off the supply of lead to such an extent, that, in the nature of things, that metal is bound to advance in price. This fact alone will have a tendency to cause the United States to repeal the lead clause in the McKinley bill.

Customs Returns for July.

New Westminster's customs collections amounted to \$11,083.14 as compared with \$7,742.94 during July, 1892. The Royal burg's exports amounted to \$19,141.

At Victoria the revenue derived from customs was \$63,103 38. The imports amounted to \$210,271, and exports to \$188,160.

The Victoria island revenue collections for the month of July were as follows:—

Spirits	\$5,928 34
Malt	3,716 63
Tobacco	3,969 37
Cigars	780 80
Licenses	1,260 00
Other receipts	7 20
In portion petroleum	28 55

Total.....\$15,700 94

The following are the Nanaimo customs returns for the month of July:—

Collections—Duty	\$ 1,586 99
Miscellaneous	379 56

Total.....\$ 4,966 55

Imports—Dutiable.....\$14,912 00

" Free.....\$12 00

Total.....\$15,724 00

The Vancouver customs returns for July are as follows:—

Duty collected	\$19,112 32
Other revenue	5,525 92

Total.....\$24,638 24

In July, 1892, the duty was \$15,933 69, and the other revenue \$6,130.89, making a total of \$22,064.48.

B.C. Market Quotations.

DRESSED MEAT, LIVE STOCK, ETC.—Live steers are 3½; cows 3c; beef, 7c to 7½; sheep, 4½c to 5c; mutton, 11½c; lambs, \$3.75 to \$4 each; lamb, \$5 for carcass; calves, 6 to 7c; veal, 11½; hogs, 8c; pork, 10½c.

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, \$4.70; 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, \$1.25; National mills, Victoria, \$3.60; rolled oats eastern \$3.00 to \$3.25; California, \$4.00; National mills \$3.60 per sack; Westminster Mills, 4½ 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 \$23; oil cake, \$50; hay, \$20. Wheat is quoted in car lots for feed No. 2 regular at \$25.50 per ton; oats \$31 in bulk; chop barley, \$32. California malting barley, \$28 to \$27 f.o.b. in San Francisco. California chop, \$32 to \$33. Oak Lake patent Hungarian \$4.65; Oak Lake strong bakers, \$4.25. The Western Milling Co. quote mixed chop, \$00; patent flour, \$1.60; strong bakers, \$1.30; Brandon Mills, patents, \$1.60; strong bakers, \$1.40.

FISH—Prices are:—salmon, 5 to 6c; flounders, 4 to 5c; smelt, 6c, sturgeon, 6c; sea-bass, 5c; smoked salmon, 12½c; smoked halibut, 10c.

MEATS—Quotations are as follows:—Hams, 16½c; breakfast bacon, 17c; backs, 14 to 15½c; long clear, 14c; short rolls, 14c. Lard is held at the following figures: In tins, 17c per pound; in pails, 16½c; in tubs, 16½c. Corned beef \$3 per bbl; mess pork \$28; short cut \$28. Commission agents quote American meats f.o.b. Victoria, duty paid, as follows: Medium hams, 16½c per pound; heavy hams, 16c; choice breakfast

bacon, 17c; short clear sides 14½, and dry salt clear sides, 13½c. Armour's white label pure lard, 10-pound pails, 14½c per pound.

VEGETABLES—New potatoes \$25 per ton; red onions 1½c; silver skins, 2½c; cabbage, 2c; rhubarb 4c; carrots, turnips and beets, 1½c.

DAIRY—Eastern creamery is quoted at 21c; Manitoba dairy, 18c; cheese 13½.

EGGS—Eastern, case, 16c; Manitoba, fresh, 16c.

FRUIT—Bananas, \$2 00 to \$2 75 per bunch; oranges, California, out of the market; lemons, Sicilies, \$5.50; cherries, 90c to \$1 per box; peaches, \$1.25; apricots, \$1.25; plums, \$1 to \$1.25; watermelons, 35c; grapes, \$1.85; apples \$1.75 per box; tomatoes, \$1; pears, \$1 60; raspberries, 10c per lb; evaporated apples are quoted at 8c per lb; apricots, 20c; peaches, 14c; dates, 7 to 8c; Smyrna prunes, 9c; layer raisins \$3.

COAL—J. W. Harrison writes as follows relative to the present condition of the San Francisco coal market:—

During the week there have been the following arrivals: From the coast mines 25,927 tons, from foreign sources 9,819 tons. No changes of any moment are to be recorded this week. Sales are up to the average, but collections are hard to make. Fuel is an article of absolute necessity to make the wheel to turn and the pot to boil, hence hard times cut but a small figure in regulating coal consumption. We have had free arrivals this week, but every cargo at hand had been sold by the shippers prior to arrival, either direct to consumers or to the wholesale dealers. Changes are being generally made in values at varied foreign loading ports in Australia after August 1st, and cables were received yesterday marking up Cardiff coals 1s 6d per ton at the pit, occasioned by the impending labor troubles, while Liverpool steam coals are not procurable from the same cause. These sudden fluctuations upset all calculations, and make our jobbers somewhat chary about making figures on future deliveries. This mundane sphere is all topsy turvy, out of plumb for a moment; and if we could all take a rest and do nothing for three months, at least, or until our financial nervous system is righted, we would all be bettered.

LUMBER—Quotations for Douglas fir lumber, in cargo lots for foreign shipment, being the prices of the Pacific Pine Lumber Association: Rough merchantable, ordinary sizes, in lengths to 40 feet inclusive, per M feet.....\$ 8 50
Deck plank, rough, average length, 35 feet, per M.....19 00
Dressed T. and G., flooring, per M.....17 00
Pickets, rough, per M.....9 00
Laths, 4 feet, per M.....2 00

Brief Business Notes.

The Idaho saloon, Kaslo, closed. Dull times the cause.

The Victoria agricultural show will be held this week.

A by-law to raise a loan of \$10,000 to enlarge and improve the Westminster market is to be submitted.

James Harling, Westminster, has transferred his cigar factory to Vancouver and commenced operations in the latter place.

Mr. Barlow, chief engineer of the Burrard Inlet and Fraser Valley Railways, says the finances of the Company have been arranged so as to allow the work to proceed.

The Yorkshire Guarantee Company has decided to establish a bank at Chilliwack, where a farmers' business will be done. L. N. Smith, late Secretary of the New Westminster-Vancouver Tramway Co. is manager.

The foreign coal shipments from Nanaimo amounted last month to 52,000 tons, of which the New Vancouver Coal Company sent 25,376, Wellington collieries 17,792, East Wellington, 1,525 and the Union Mines, 9,167.

(Continued on page 1295.)