



Dominion Cotton Company continue their efforts to consummate a hard and fast combine by concentrating the whole mill capacity of the country within their control. Consequently the big cotton and woollen mills of Clayton, Slayter & Co., of Brantford, have passed into their hands for the sum of \$45,000 although the original cost was \$145,000. It is said that the Dominion Cotton Combine will soon make a supreme effort to either force the other mills that refuse to join the great compact to close down, or compel them to throw their interests into one of the greatest monopolies that ever threatened the cotton trade of the Dominion.—*Trade Bulletin.*

British Columbia Trade Letter

(SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.)

VANCOUVER, May 25.—The rush of business incident to spring trade is over and everything has settled down to a jog trot. Weather continues fine and warm, and vegetation is making rapid progress. The season's building has commenced and will continue for some months with increasing vigor. We are having now the genuine British Columbia weather, of which there is so much said and written. It is surprising how quickly the heavy dense forest becomes dry. Already there have been several forest fires.

Flour and feed maintain advanced prices. Good quality of butter remains high and is in keen demand. The California article forms the chief supply at from 26 to 30c. Eastern creamery is on the way. All kinds of fish are scarce and not equal to the demand. It is retailing all round at 10c per pound. Potatoes are very scarce and selling at about \$30 a ton, but very difficult to obtain. Eggs are principally sent in from the east now, and are jobbed at from 16 to 20c. Fresh ranch eggs retail at from 33 to 40c and are rather scarce at that. The stock of oranges is low, but will be replenished by the incoming boats from the Orient.

Prices are as follows:—

Flour and grain—Manitoba patents, \$7; bakers' \$6.50. Oregon flour, \$6.25 to \$6.50; oatmeal, 1, cornmeal, \$3.75 to \$4; rolled oats, \$4.25; shorts, \$27; bran, \$25; wheat, \$36 to \$40; oats, \$40 to \$45; oilcake, \$40 per ton.

Meats—Dry salt, 11½c; roll bacon, 11½c; breakfast bacon, 13½c; back, 13c; hams, 14½c;

pickled pork bellies, 11½c; mess pork, 22½c; lard, in tubs, 12c; in pails, 12½c; in tins, 13c; lard compound, 12c.

Californian butter, 26 to 30c; creamery, 28c; cheese, 13 to 13½ cents per pound.

Sugar—Granulated, 7½c; yellow, 6½ to 6¾c; white cube, 8c. Maple syrup is worth \$1.25 per tin.

Vegetables—Potatoes, \$22 to \$23 per ton; Manitoba potatoes, \$25 and \$26 per ton; new potatoes, 2 to 2½c per lb; cabbage, 2½ to 2¾c; onions 2½ to 3c.

Fruits—Oranges, Navals, \$5 to \$5.25; Riverside seedlings, \$3 to \$3.25. Sicilian lemons, \$7.50; Californian, do., \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Californian cherries are offering freely, and prices are rapidly declining. The British Columbia sugar refinery has been making large shipments throughout the province and as far south as Portland.

Shipping is still active and the volume large. Four ships have cleared from Burrard Inlet with lumber, with an aggregate cargo of four and a half million feet. The fourth of the Vancouver sealers has been launched. The steamers Parthia and Empress of Japan will arrive in a few days from the Orient and the SS. Gladholm has left Liverpool for the U. S. S. Co.'s wharves.

The principal transactions in real estate have been the auction sales of town lots in Mission, Chilliwhack and Abbotsford, all of which were fairly successful. Census work in the cities is drawing to a close and returns will be forwarded to Ottawa shortly. Victoria is holding and to-day her celebration of the Queen's birthday is at its highest. An immense turn out is expected.

Last night a public meeting was held in the Market Hall to discuss the dead-lock in the council over the appointment of a city engineer. A resolution was passed calling upon the council to resign as a body and appeal to the electors. A message was received from the Mayor signifying his willingness to resign and go to the people if the meeting so expressed itself. To the city of Vancouver the dead-lock has been a matter of great loss and injury, as all public works are at a stand-still, owing to the lack of a head to the engineering department, and the citizens are very much irritated over the matter.

It has been definitely decided to go on with several large blocks, in addition to those previously referred to. One of these is the new bank of Montreal block on Granville street. Building in Victoria, Westminster, Nelson and other places is going steadily on. Eighteen hundred and ninety-one will be recorded as the big year for British Columbia.

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