

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE,
Tuesday Morning, Oct. 1.

VICTORIA.

Bradstreet's report says: "The Canadian Dominion, including Newfoundland, reports 1,287 mercantile failures to Bradstreet's for the past nine months, as contrasted with 1,320 in a like period of 1891, the decrease being only 30, but the general improvement in commercial conditions across the line is more particularly shown in the reduced total of liabilities, the aggregate being \$9,200,000, against \$11,139,000 in the preceding year, a decline of nearly 17 per cent. Each of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec reduced its failure total this year, the former to a marked degree. This year's decrease of the total liabilities of those failing in Ontario amounts to 32 per cent., Quebec, to 22 per cent, while Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and the Northwest Territories also show a radical improvement in this direction. In Nova Scotia, as in Manitoba and British Columbia, the increased liabilities shown, as compared with last year, are due to the relatively heavy failures early in this year. During the past quarter a marked improvement has been shown in this direction." Special telegrams to Bradstreet's indicate that general trade has fallen off somewhat in the Province of Quebec, but the volume is increasing in dry goods, and hardware merchants have made large sales. In Ontario a very fair trade is reported in the staple lines with excellent prospects. Stocks of wheat at the railway and country elevators are increasing. Export steam rates to Europe from Montreal are low. At Halifax, Montreal and Toronto the bank clearings this week, aggregate \$15,877,000, a decrease of 2.6 per cent. from the total week before, but an increase of 2.8 per cent. from the aggregate of the same week a year ago.

The leading feature in commercial circles last week was the activity in connection with the sealskin trade. The S. S. Coquitlam, released by the U. S. authorities in Sitka, returned to port and commenced discharging stores and sealskins. Of the latter she has some 6,500 on board, which, it is expected will be put on the market almost immediately. They are valued at about \$70,000. During the past week a local banking house paid out about \$150,000 for sealskins, purchased by New York houses, through their local representatives. It is expected that \$150,000 more will be paid out this week on the same account, making a total of \$300,000, for the fortnight. There are still a large number of skins in the city unsold, and it is believed that they will be offered to buyers almost immediately.

Friday, Sept. 30, was the last day allowed to make payments to the Government, for land purchased under the old regulations. It is said that there was considerable financing done to enable purchasers to meet their payments.

At Vancouver trade in all lines during the week showed a strong upward tendency. This was particularly noticeable in the fruit market, which was active, the volume of business being almost double

what it was last year. The demand for eggs far exceeds the supply, owing to the scarcity of the home article, which always prevails at this time of the year.

FLOUR AND FEED.

The situation is unchanged since last week, and trade is generally reported steady. Flour is about as low as it will go, seems to be the general opinion of dealers, who say that it is sold so close that there is very little in handling it. Oats are being brought forward in large supply, which, together with the low prices, is cutting down the imports from the Northwest. Jobbers' ideas of wheat are somewhat easier than they were last week, and they have lowered quotations \$2 a ton. Chop feed is also easier and quoted \$2 a ton less than last week. All other products are unchanged.

The Portland *Commercial Review* says: "The flour trade is not in a condition satisfactory to millers, competition being active and prices weak. While flour is depressed and very weak at present, the general impression among millers is that prices are now at the lowest notch and no further decline is anticipated. Shipments have been light and stocks on hand are quite large. We quote standard brands, both Valley and Walla Walla, at \$3.75 per bbl. The demand for Millstuffs has been fair throughout the week, but offerings have been equal to the call, and the best that can be said for the market is that no decline has occurred. We quote bran, per ton, \$10, shorts \$10 and chop barley \$21."

The Columbia Flouring Mills quote Enderby flour in carload lots:

Premier.....	\$5 20
XXX.....	5 10
Strong Bakers or XX.....	4 80
Superfino.....	3 80

Jobbers' quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills.....	\$ 5 00 @ 0 00
Lion, ".....	5 00 @ 0 00
Premier, Enderby mills.....	5 45 @ 0 00
XXX, ".....	5 35 @ 0 00
XX, ".....	5 05 @ 0 00
Superfino, ".....	4 05 @ 0 00
Ogilvie's Hungarian.....	5 55 @ 0 00
" " Strong Bakers.....	5 25 @ 0 00
H. B. C. Fort Garry Hungarian.....	5 55 @ 0 00
Benton County, Oregon.....	5 20 @ 0 00
Portland Roller.....	5 20 @ 0 00
Snowflake.....	5 30 @ 0 00
Royal.....	5 00 @ 0 00
Wheat, per ton.....	28 00 @ 35 00
Oats.....	25 00 @ 30 00
Oil cake meal.....	40 00 @ 45 00
Chop feed.....	28 00 @ 30 00
Shorts.....	26 00 @ 28 00
Bran.....	24 00 @ 25 00
National Mills oatmeal.....	3 50 @ 0 00
" " rolled oats.....	3 50 @ 0 00
" " split peas.....	3 50 @ 0 00
" " pearl barley.....	4 50 @ 0 00
" " Chop feed.....	30 00 @ 0 00
California oatmeal.....	4 25 @ 0 00
California rolled oats.....	3 75 @ 3 85
Corn, whole..... per ton	37 50 @ 40 00
Cornmeal.....	2 75 @ 3 00
Cornmeal-feed..... per ton	40 00 @ 50 00
Cracked corn.....	40 00 @ 45 00
Hay, per ton.....	17 00 @ 18 00
Straw, per bale.....	80 @ 1 00

RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton.....	\$ 77 50
Best China rice ".....	100 00
China rice No. 1 ".....	70 00
Rice flour ".....	70 00
Chit rice ".....	25 00
Rice Meal ".....	17 50

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The receipts of California fruits and vegetables from San Francisco by steamship City of Puebla, Sept. 20, comprised the following: For Victoria—508 cs grapes, 93 cs pears, 102 cs peaches, 110 cs apples, 40 crts bananas, 7 scks coconuts, 15 cs lemons, 15 crts nutmeg melons, 22 cs tomatoes, 12 cs quinces, 71 scks onions, 19 cs plums, 12 scks sweet potatoes, 1 cs garlic, 1 crt watermelons, 10 cs oranges, 2 cs peppers; total, 1,175 pkgs. The receipts by previous steamers were as follows:—Sept. 24th, 1,270 pkgs; Sept. 10th, 1,104 pkgs; Sept. 14th, 1,110 pkgs; Sept. 5th, 1,250 pkgs; Sept. 4th, 1,618 pkgs.

The fruit trade is declining as the season advances, and the supplies of fresh fruit are falling off. Prices on the whole show changes only in a few lines. Peaches are a little stronger. Pears are up to \$2.25 a box. Sweet potatoes are slightly cheaper. There are no more cantilopes in San Francisco, as the season for them is over. A car of Sicily lemons is due to arrive to-day, for a local wholesale house, which will quote them at \$7.50 to \$8.00 per case. They are the first of the new season's fruit and have come direct from New York.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:—

Oranges—Santa Barbara.....	\$0 00 @ 0 00
Tahiti Seedlings.....	4 50 @ 4 75
Riverside Seedlings.....	0 00 @ 0 00
Lemons—California.....	8 00 @ 8 50
Sicily.....	7 50 @ 8 00
Australian.....	7 00 @ 0 00
Bananas, crato.....	2 50 @ 3 75
Plums, box.....	1 25 @ 0 00
Peaches.....	1 65 @ 1 75
Pears.....	1 75 @ 2 25
Quinces.....	1 50 @ 0 00
Apples—Red.....	1 60 @ 1 75
" Green.....	1 25 @ 1 50
Crap apples.....	1 25 @ 0 00
Grapes.....	1 35 @ 1 65
Pine Apples, doz.....	5 00 @ 0 00
Coconuts, doz.....	1 00 @ 0 00
Watermelons, crato.....	4 50 @ 0 00
Musk ".....	0 00 @ 3 50
Nutmeg ".....	1 60 @ 0 00

Vegetables are quoted:

Potatoes—California, sweet.....	2 1/2 @
Local..... per ton	15 00 @ 00 00
Onions—Red California.....	1 1/2 @
California Silverskins.....	1 1/2 @
Tomatoes, bx.....	1 00 @ 1 10

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

A carload of Eastern Townships Creamery butter received last week by a local jobbing house is quoted by them at 27c for large and 28c for small tubs in quantities. Generally the trade ask 1/2c to 1c per lb more for small lots. Eggs continue scarce and quotations have advanced from 1c to 2c per doz. The American market for cured meats is very unsettled at present, but on the whole quotations show a slight advance on last week, but it is probable that they will decline toward the middle of this month. The experience of former years is that the meat market declines in the fall, or as the winter season approaches. Commission agents quote American meats f. o. b. Victoria, duty paid, as follows: Medium hams, 15 1/2c per lb; heavy hams, 15 1/2c; choice breakfast bacon, 14 1/2c; short clear sides, 13 1/2c, and dry salt clear sides, 12 1/2c. Armour's white label pure lard, 1c lb. pails, 13 1/2c per lb.

Canadian meats are quoted f. o. b. Victoria: Hams 14 1/2c, breakfast bacon 15c, long