

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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British Columbia Business Review.

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Foggy weather has prevailed for nearly two weeks rendering navigation extremely uncertain and somewhat dangerous, and has thus interfered with business to some extent. The liability to accident during foggy weather and the inconvenience occasioned owing to delays in shipping, etc., has emphasized the necessity of increased protection to shipping by the erection of more beacon lights, fog horns, etc., especially at the entrance of harbors. Representations on this matter have already been made by the various boards of trade and business men interested.

There is little to report regarding the state of trade. It is usually duller at the end of the month than at the beginning, but October is the best month all round the merchants have experienced this year. There have been several assignments reported, but their occurring this month is simply an accident of time and not owing to any stringency.

Cured meats are declining, there being the usual rush of goods from the east. The market is likely to be glutted until spring opens again. Fish meats have shown as yet no signs of weakening owing to threatened competition in the butcher trade. Eggs are advancing rapidly and butter is much firmer, although the price of creamery has not advanced.

Grain, flour and feed are steady at low prices and show no signs of change for a time at least.

Fruits are scarce with the exception of apples, which are coming in from all sides, and especially from eastern Canada.

The retail price of coal has advanced. In Vancouver, the Island coal is restricted to two firms who have about exclusive control of the supply.

Gratifying news has been received by the promoters of the Canada Western railway. A telegram from Chicago announces that Henry Croft, M.P.E., who went there the other day has secured \$5,000,000 capital to build 30 miles of the road. A party of Chicago men will return with Mr. Croft and operations will begin at once. Construction will commence from the terminus of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railroad, over whose rails the Canada Western rolling stock will be operated to Duluth, a town which the railway is to create on Duncan's Bay. It is there that the terminal buildings will be erected and the ferry landings constructed. Thirty miles of plain sailing for the ferry steamers will place the cars at the Mainland terminus, a point not yet announced on the Canada Western Railroad, which will be 1,045 miles long, and will open up a most valuable agricultural country.

A new and important industry has been undertaken in Vancouver: A Company has been formed under the style of the British Columbia Cooperage and Jute Company for the purpose of manufacturing barrels, kegs and gunny sacks of all kinds, and in a short time it promises to be quite an important industry here. The company has taken over the cooperage business of Watson Eastman, whose factory is near the Sugar Refinery, and they will shortly erect a two story building with a wharf on the site. They will import the gunny cloth from Calcutta direct, and will make it into sacks and bags here, using machinery to cut out and sew the sacks. In the cooperage department all kinds of barrels and kegs will be made. At the present time the wood for the barrels used in the Sugar Refinery is imported but in the future the Company will only use British Columbia timber. The capi-

tal stock of the Company is \$50,000 in 5,000 shares of \$10 each. B. T. Rogers, Manager of the Sugar Refinery, is President of the Company, William Prentice, Secretary, and Watson Eastman, Managing Director.

Another industry is to be started, viz., the manufacture of Portland cement, reference to which is made elsewhere.

In regard to the Lardeau finds which have attracted so much attention, there are likely to be important results next season. The *Kerel-stoke Star* speaking of Mr. Wagner's opinion of it says: Mr. Wagner considers the Lardeau the greatest mining country on this continent. He has examined the ten locations made by J. W. Haskins, and considers them the greatest seen in any mining camp in America—and he has been in the most of them. Mr. Wagner has received letters from two companies desiring him to prospect for them next summer. His own company has appointed him manager and he intends to make things hum next season. In case a wagon road is constructed into the Lardeau (and a movement to that end is now on foot) he will commence shipping ore as soon as it is open, having about 3,000 tons ready for removal. He will be enabled to keep a large pack train on the go all the time, as his claims are favorably situated.

B.C. Market Quotations.

LUMBER.—Nominal. Quotations are as follows for export: Rough merchantable, ordinary sizes, in lengths to 40 feet, inclusive, \$9 per M feet; deck plank, rough, average length 35 feet, per M, \$10; dressed T. and G. flooring \$17; pickets, rough, \$9; lath, 4 feet, \$2 per M. It is reported however, that cargoes are being loaded for very much lower prices. Prices for lumber in British Columbia are very much demoralized, and absolute quotations cannot be given. Local prices are about as follows: Rough merchantable lumber per M. \$12.00; double dressed and edged \$22.50; single do \$20; No. 1 tongued and grooved flooring, 1 x 4, \$22.50; rough deck plank \$14, laths per M \$2.25; shingles, common, per m, \$2.25.

FISH.—Salmon is getting scarce, but all other lines are in good supply. Quotations are: Salmon, 6 to 7c; cod fish, 6 to 7c; flounders, 4 to 5c; sturgeon, 4 to 5c; soles, 10c.

VEGETABLES.—The market is well supplied in all lines. Cal. onions are quoted 1½c per lb; B.C. onions 1½c; turnips, beets and carrots, \$15 a ton; Fraser Valley potatoes average about \$14 a ton; and Ashcroft's, \$18.

DAIRY.—First class dairy is worth 24c. Creamery remains unchanged in 20 lb tubs, is 29c and in 50 and 70 lb tubs 28c. Manitoba dairy is 22 to 24c. Jersey creamery in tins is from 28 to 30c. Cheese is 13½ and steady.

COAL.—J. W. Harrison writes as follows in reference to the San Francisco coal market: The receipts for the past week consist of 6,613 tons from England and 17,166 tons from the coast collieries. Nothing has been received this week from Australia, and the quantity now en route from the colonies is very light as compared with former years. The change in the weather has caused a marked increase in orders for home consumption. Jobbers report an improved demand for domestic coals, with the outlook for better prices shortly. Cable advices report an advance of 2s per ton on coal freights from Great Britain and Australia within the past fifteen days, and owners do not seem at all anxious to accept charters, even at the figures quoted. This clearly intimates that a still further advance is looked for. The receipts of coal from the coast mines are gradually decreasing in volume and stocks in hand are steadily diminishing.

POULTRY, GAME, ETC.—Game is very plentiful. Quotations are: Blue grouse, per pair, is worth 75c; pintails 35c; mallard, 50c; teal, 20c; partridges, 50c; chickens, \$3.50 to \$5.50; ducks, \$6; geese, \$7; turkeys, 18c per lb, live weight. Venison, 5 to 6c per lb.

HONEY.—Sales of local honey are now about completed.

SUGARS.—Quotations for B. C. refinery stock are: Dry granulated, 5½c; extra C 5½c; fancy yellow 5c; yellow 4½c; golden C 4½c; syrups per lb 4c; Rudolph's syrups 2 lb tin 15c; do 8 lb tins 50c; do kegs 3½c per lb.

FREIGHTS.—An advance in freights is reported. Lumber freights from British Columbia or Puget Sound are quoted as follows. Valparaiso for orders, 36s 3d; Sydney, 30s; Melbourne, Adelaide or Port Pirie, 35s to 37s 6d; United Kingdom, calling at Cork for orders, 50s; Shanghai, 45s nominal and Yokohama, 40s nominal. Coal freights are quoted: Nanaimo or Departure Bay to San Francisco, \$1.75 to \$2; to San Diego or San Pedro, \$2.25 to \$2.50.

SHIPPING.—The volume of shipping is quite as large as last week. The tonnage in port is:

Port.	No.	Tonnage.
Vancouver	7	8,006
New Westminster	5	802
Nanaimo	5	6,832
Total	17	15,390
(last week)	14	10,251

FLOUR, GRAIN AND FEED.—No change is reported. Quotations are: Flour, Manitoba patents, \$5.65; strong bakers, \$5.30; ladies' choice, \$5.70; prairie lily, \$5.30; Oregon, \$5.55; Spokane \$5.65; Enderby mills—Premier \$5.65; three star \$5.25; two star \$5.25; oatmeal eastern \$3.40; California granulated, in gunnies, \$4.35; National mills, Victoria \$4.25; rolled oats eastern \$3 to \$3.25; California \$3.75; National mills \$3.65; cornmeal \$3.10; split peas \$3.50; pearl barley \$1.50. 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 \$31 per ton; bran \$19; shorts, \$21; Man. oats, \$28; B.C. oats, \$26; wheat \$29; to \$32; oil cake \$40; hay, \$16. Wheat is quoted in car lots for feed No. 2 regular at \$22 to \$23 per ton; oats \$24; chop barley \$25. California malting barley \$26 to \$27 f.o.b. in San Francisco. California chop \$32 to \$33. The Western Milling Co.'s quota bran in car lots \$19.50 per ton; shorts \$20.50; mixed chop, \$25; rye \$38; patent flour \$4.60; strong bakers \$5.30; Graham flour \$4.40; B. C. wheat is quoted at \$29 to \$30 per ton, and oats at \$25; Beans are 4c per lb. Hay is quoted at \$12 a ton on the river bank or \$12.50 placed on the scows.

EGGS.—Fresh eastern eggs have advanced to 24c.

FRUITS, NUTS, ETC.—The market is full of Ontario apples, which are quoted at \$5.75 per bbl. B.C. apples are selling firm \$1 to \$1.50. Foreign fruit is nearly all out of the market. Quotations are: lemons \$8.50 to \$10; coconuts, \$1.10 per doz; bananas \$3.75 to \$4; almonds 20c; walnuts 13c; filberts 15c; pine 20c; Virginia peanuts 13c; California, 10c; Brazil, 15c; evaporated apples 17c; do prunes 10 to 13c; do peaches 18c; apricots 19c; raisins \$2 to \$2.75; tomatoes 90c to \$1.10; pears \$2.15; grapes \$1.75. Dried fruits are moving freely now that the green fruits are going out. Cranberries imported are \$12; native stock is quoted at 8c per lb.

DRESSED MEATS, LIVE STOCK, ETC.—Quotations so far remain unchanged. Live steers, are quoted at 4c; cows, 3½c; dressed beef, 7½c; lambs \$4.50 apiece; dressed \$5; sheep 5½c; mutton, 12c; hogs 8c; pork, 11c; calves, 7c; veal, 11c. Pork is plentiful and shows a tendency to weaken in price.

MEATS, ETC.—Meats are declining and the market is likely to be overstocked shortly. Quotations are: Wiltshire cured hams, 15½c; do backs, 14c; do sides, 14c; eastern hams, 15c; bacon, 14 to 14½c; rolls, 12c; smoked sides, 12½c; 11c; long clear 11c; barrel pork, \$24; 3 5 and 10 lb tins lard, 13c; 20 lb pails lard, 12½c; 50 lb tubs lard, 12c; tierces lard, 11½c. Lard compound is 11c; Commission agents quote American meats f.o.b.