

## TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.  
Tuesday Morning, March 28.

## VICTORIA.

The situation shows little change from last week. Business generally is expected to brighten up in April. Almost every one is looking forward to a turn in affairs. There is a strong feeling of confidence in the general result of the season's operations, but the present tightness of money cramps many of the smaller firms. Indications point to some activity in railway construction and other improvements this summer, which will relieve the present congested state of the labor market. The tenor of advices received from interior distributive points indicate a large increase in the volume of trade during the summer. The Great Northern Railway have chartered the steamer Dunsuir to carry through freight to and from Victoria. Advices from San Francisco say there is a lessening in the demand for coal, and the demand from British Columbia is expected to fall somewhat. With the advent of bright, warm spring weather, business circles are sure to show increased activity and a prosperous season is confidently expected in nearly all lines of trade. Hong Kong exchange is now quoted at 66½. The rate has been declining gradually, and of late has dropped as low as 65½, but the probability is that the market will become firmer.

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The following are the receipts of California fruits and vegetables from San Francisco by steamship Walla Walla, March 26, for Victoria: 43 crates cabbage, 14 crates cauliflower, 26 cs asparagus, 21 crates bananas, 74 cs oranges, 12 cs lemons, 2 scks cocoanuts, 1 bx peppers, 5 scks peanuts, 1 cs garlic, 9 cs celery, 2 scks beets, 5 bxs peas, 1 bxs rhubarb. All lines continue steady and but little variation in price is noted. Eastern apples are held firm for the supply is not plentiful. The weather during the past week has not been conducive to the brightening of trade. Demand is steady for the lines now in season. New California potatoes are expected toward the middle of April.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:—

Oranges	Navel, common to good	3 50 @ 4 00
	" fancy	1 25 @ 0 00
	Highland Seedlings	0 00 @ 0 00
	Riverside Seedlings	2 00 @ 2 25
	" fancy	2 35 @ 2 50
	Los Angeles	2 00 @ 2 25
Lemons—California		1 50 @ 5 00
	Sicily	5 50 @ 0 00
Apples—Red		2 50 @ 0 00
	bbls.	7 50 @ 0 00
Bananas		3 50 @ 7 75

## Vegetables are quoted:

Potatoes—Local	per ton	36 00 @ 35 00
Onions—Red California		22 @ 3
	Oregon Silverskins	3 @ 31
Cabbage		2 @ 24
Asparagus	per lb	20 @
Rhubarb		13 @

## GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The following are the receipts of California butter from San Francisco, by ss. Walla Walla, March 26, for Victoria: 26 cs, 2,450 lbs. Receipts March 19, 7,119 lbs., March 13, 3,670 lbs., March 6, 1,795 lbs., Feb., 27, 5,172 lbs., Feb., 20, 2,705 lbs.

Prices generally continues steady and but very minor factors can be noted in the general condition of business. Representatives of Eastern Canadian packing houses placed a quantity of meats with wholesale houses last week. Their prices are from 1½ to 2c less than the quotations for American meats. Canadian meats are giving better satisfaction on this market and the general verdict is that they are turning out well. Breakfast bacons are especially fine compared with the usual quality of the output of Canadian packing houses that reach this market. American meats are not in such demand on account in the difference of prices.

American canned meats, staples, are quoted to the jobbers in bond as follows. Roast corned and lunch beef, 1's per doz., \$1.25; do. 2's per doz., \$2.00; lunch tongues, 1's per doz., \$3.45; do. 2's, \$6.50. Armour's white label conserved soups in 2 lb. tins are quoted at \$3 per doz.

Commission agents quote American meats f. o. b. Victoria, duty paid, as follows: Medium hams, 18½c per lb; heavy hams, 18c; choice breakfast bacon, 18½c; short clear sides, 15c, and dry salt clear sides, 11½c. Armour's white label pure lard, 10 lb. pails, 19½c per lb.

Armour's Gold Band meats, which are the finest quality on the American market, being a special grade for choice family trade, are quoted, (duty paid, Victoria), hams, 20½c, breakfast bacon, 20½c.

California evaporated fruits are quoted as follows:—Apples, evaporated, 50 lb. boxes, 14c per lb., 25 lb. boxes 13½c; apricots, 25 lb. boxes, 20c; prunes, 25 lb. boxes, 11c; plums, 25 lb. boxes, 14½c to 11½c; peaches, 50 lb. boxes, 16c, 25 lb. boxes 17c. Canadian evaporated apples, 50 lb boxes, 8½ to ½c.

The British Columbia Sugar Refining Co. Ltd., quote as follows in their weekly price list: Powdered icing and bar, 6½c; Paris lumps, 6½c; granulated 5½c; extra C. 5c; fancy yellow, 4½c; yellow 4½c; golden C. 4½c. Above prices are for barrels or bags; half-barrels and 100 pound kegs, ½c; more, boxes ½c more. No order taken for less than 100 barrels or its equivalent.

They quote syrup as follows: Finest golden, in 30 gal. bls. 2½c; ditto, in 10 gal. kegs. 3c; ditto, in 5 gal. kegs, \$2.25 each; ditto, in 1 gal. tins, \$1.50 per case of 10; ditto in ½ gal. tins, \$6 per case of 20. Prices cover delivery in Vancouver, and at Victoria, New Westminster and Nanaimo, and are subject to a discount of 2½ per cent. for cash in fourteen days. All prices subject to change without notice.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: "Butter receipts during the past week were 1,056 pkgs, against 618 pkgs for the week previous. Last week we stated that holders of creamery had to meet the views of buyers in order to do business, and this week that feeling is more generally acquiesced in. To move a round lot of creamery (and round lots need moving) 2½c would have to be accepted for the best lots' offering. Fresh made Eastern Townships dairy has sold at 23c to 21c as reported by last week in single tubs. Calves are coming in more freely and consequently fresh made butter will increase in proportion. Several lots of fresh rolls have been received. Western selling at 20c to 21c. Creamery,

choice late made, 21½c to 22c; creamery, good to fine, 20c to 21c. About 1c may be added to above prices for choice selections of single tubs. The cheese market is unchanged, and prices are more or less nominal in the absence of stock to dispose of, and we quote 11½c to 11½c. The English market rules easier, and holders there appear to offer more freely at the concessions they have been compelled to make of late. The first new lot of fodder cheese may be expected at any time. The easier feeling in England has no doubt been induced by the free offerings of Antipodal cheese."

## Dairy produce is quoted:

Butter—Eastern Creamery, tubs	27½ @ 23
Manitoba Dairy choice	18 @ 22
California rolls, extra choice	25 @ 27
" squares, "	23 @ 00
Cheese—Canadian, lb	12 @ 14½
California	16 @ 00
Eggs, case, per doz	29 @ 30

## Smoked meats and lard are quoted:

Hams	15 @ 18
Breakfast bacon	17 @ 18
Short rolls	14 @ 15
Long rolls	15 @ 16
Dry Salt, long clear	13 @ 14
Pure Lard, 50lbs	16 @ 17
" 20lbs	17 @ 17½
Lard Compound	15½ @ 16

Sugar—Jobber's prices ½-barrels and kegs in each case being ½c higher:

Dry Granulated	5½
Extra C	5½
Fancy Yellow	5½
Yellow	5
Golden C	5½
Syrups, per lb	3
" 1 gal. tins, American	6 50
" " " "	6 00
" 1 " Vancouver	5 50
" 1½ " " "	7 00

## FLOUR AND FEED.

The flour trade continues dull and depressed, consequently prices are weak.

The Portland Commercial Review says: "In the flour market, values show no change and the trade is somewhat of a dragging character. Shipments have been large, including 22,713 bbls on the East Lothian; sailed 1st inst., and 20,850 bbls on board Dundale, now at Astoria ready for sea. A moderate amount went to China, via British Columbia, and steamer shipments to San Francisco for the month foot up nearly 6,000 bbls. Quotations unaltered at \$3.30 to \$3.40 for standard brands."

The Columbia Flouring Mills quote Enderby flour in carload lots at Victoria:

Premier	\$1 80
XXX	4 75
Strong Bakers or XX	4 40
Superfine	3 75

## Jobbers' quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills	\$ 4 75 @ 0 00
Lion, " "	4 75 @ 0 00
Premier, Enderby mills	5 05 @ 0 00
XXX, " "	4 90 @ 0 00
XX, " "	4 65 @ 0 00
Superfine, " "	4 00 @ 4 25
Ogilvie's Hungarian	5 15 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers	5 00 @ 0 00
H. B. C. Fort Garry Hungarian	5 15 @ 0 00
" " Strong Bakers	5 00 @ 0 00
Oak Lake Patent Hungarian	5 25 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers	5 00 @ 0 00
Regina Hungarian	5 25 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers	5 00 @ 0 00
Benton County, Oregon	4 85 @ 0 00
Portland Roller	4 90 @ 5 00