

TRADE AND COMMERCE

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE,
Tuesday Morning, Dec. 25.

VICTORIA.

The local situation remains unchanged. Money is reported tight, but retail business appears fairly good. Wholesale trade is generally easing off toward the end of the year. The only point of note in the markets is the advance of 20c on Ogilvie's Hungarian Flour Columbia Mills, Enderby, has also been advanced in sympathy. An advancing flour market is the only bright feature of the situation, and is taken by many as an indication of strong confidence and better times.

The Vancouver *News-Advertiser* says: "Merchants are naturally busy at the present time, and the general report is, that despite hard times, business compares favorably with that at this season in former years. Notwithstanding the slackness in all branches of trade, most of the local industries are running at the present time, although of necessity, wages have been reduced. The lumber trade at present is not in a flourishing condition, but there is, however, a small export demand, and British Columbia is certainly getting her share of the trade. In wholesale, with the exception of perhaps, fruit merchants, wholesalers report trade as rather quiet at present, retail merchants having completed their stocks for Christmas some days ago."

The Montreal *Trade Bulletin* says: "It is questionable if there was ever before a larger amount of surplus funds in the banks than at present, and yet, strange as it may sound, there is a competitive demand for deposit balances among some of the banks, for which 3½ per cent. is readily paid. This would seem to denote that large as is the amount of unemployed money, some banks are always eager for more. But possibly some have better facilities for placing their funds than others. Time loans have been effected at 4½ to 5 per cent., and call loans at 3½ to 4 per cent., so that there is not much profit in borrowing and lending at about the same rate. Mercantile paper is discounted at 6 per cent. where names are good, this being the general rate. Judging from the liberal amounts of idle capital in the banks, one would imagine that they would not be very anxious to increase it. Owing to the unprofitable nature of business in different lines, traders in many instances have found it to their advantage to place their money on deposit, as they had no faith in stocks, which were considered too high for investment. There is, however, an under current of improvement in some

quarters, and should this develop into a better condition of things along the whole line, a considerable portion of the dividend-drawing deposits will no doubt be withdrawn to find employment in more profitable channels."

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The supply of California oranges has increased. The fruit is getting riper and prices are lowering. Seedlings are quoted 50c a case lower than last week. Another supply of Japanese oranges was received ex Empress of India, and being in prime condition found a ready sale at 40c a box.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:

Oranges—Japanese	0 10 @	0 00
" California Navals	1 50 @	1 75
" " Seedlings	2 75 @	3 00
Lemons—California (Johnson's)	6 25 @	0 00
Australian	2 75 @	0 00
Apples—California	1 35 @	1 65
Oregon	1 25 @	1 50
Cocoanuts	per 100 \$	0 00 @ 0 00
Pears	1 65 @	1 75
Bananas—bunches	1 25 @	0 00
crates	2 75 @	0 00

Vegetables are quoted:

Onions—Silverskins	per lb	11 @	2
Cabbage	per lb	2 @	
Potatoes	per ton	15 @	18 00

FLOUR AND FEED

The Ogilvie Milling Co announce an advance of 20c per bbl. on their standard brands of Hungarian and Strong Bakers Flour, making the car lot rate on wharf at Victoria \$1.40 for Hungarian, and \$1.20 for Strong Bakers. The Columbia Flouring Mills have also advanced their quotations for Enderby flour 25c per bbl. all round, making the standard quotation for Premier at \$1.25 for car lots on wharf Victoria. Jobbers have advanced quotations in sympathy. Oregon flours are as yet unchanged, but a stiffening in prices is generally looked for.

The Portland *Commercial Review* says: "The flour market continues very dull with no very favorable prospects ahead. It is due mostly to the same old complaint, lack of transportation facilities to the Orient, though the condition of the European markets are somewhat to blame. Standard brands are still quoted at \$2.40, while some few mills are putting out some inferior brands which they hold at \$2.00 @ \$2.29 as mentioned in our last issue."

The Ogilvie Milling Co., quote their celebrated brands of Manitoba flours in car lots, on wharf in Victoria as follows:

Ogilvie's Hungarian	\$1 10
" Strong Bakers	1 20
The Columbia Flouring Mills quote Enderby flour in carload lots on wharf in Victoria:	
Premier	\$1 25
XXX	1 40
Strong Bakers or XX	1 35
Superfine	1 30

The Victoria Roller Mills quote Victoria flour in 10-bbl. lots at the mills as follows:

Delta	\$3 50
Victoria XXX	3 20
Superfine	3 00

Jobbers' quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills	\$ 3 50 @	0 00
Lion	3 50 @	0 00
Victoria XXX	3 50 @	0 00
Superfine	3 25 @	0 00
Premier, Enderby mills	1 50 @	0 00
XXX	1 35 @	0 00
XX	3 99 @	0 00
Superfine	3 65 @	0 00
Ogilvie's Hungarian	1 75 @	0 00
Strong Bakers	1 25 @	0 00
H. B. C. Fort Garry Hungarian	1 75 @	0 00
Strong Bakers	1 25 @	0 00
Oak Lake Patent Hungarian	1 75 @	0 00
Strong Bakers	1 25 @	0 00
Regina Hungarian	1 75 @	0 00
Strong Bakers	1 25 @	0 00
Benton County, Oregon	3 75 @	0 00
Portland Roller	3 75 @	3 85
Vashon, Washington	3 90 @	0 00
Snowflake	3 75 @	0 00
Gold Drop	3 75 @	0 00
Wheat, per ton	25 00 @	00 00
Oats	27 00 @	30 00
Oil cake meal	35 00 @	50 00
Chop feed—California	27 50 @	00 00
Washington	22 50 @	00 00
Shorts	20 00 @	25 00
Bran	17 00 @	20 00
National Mills oatmeal	3 50 @	0 00
rolled oats (90-lb. bks)	3 50 @	0 00
" 10 7s, baled	3 00 @	0 00
split peas	3 90 @	0 00
pearl barley	4 75 @	0 00
Chop feed	20 00 @	25 00
California oatmeal	3 85 @	0 00
California rolled oats	1 15 @	0 00
Corn, whole	per ton	35 00 @ 00 00
Feas, field	per ton	10 00 @ 00 00
Commeal	2 10 @	2 75
Commeal-feed	per ton	10 00 @ 00 00
Cracked corn	37 00 @	00 00
Hay, per ton	15 00 @	18 00
Straw, per bale	1 00 @	0 00

RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton	\$ 75 00 @	80 00
" (polished)	90 00 @	00 00
Best China rice	80 00 @	100 00
Chinarice No. 1 (mats)	68 00 @	00 00
" (sacks)	65 00 @	00 00
Rice flour	70 00	
Broken rice	30 00	
Rice Meal	17 50	

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

All quotations are steady. New Mediterranean dates have been received and found a ready sale at 8½c per lb. They are very fine in quality. There has been a good demand for fruits, nuts, and fancy lines during the past couple of weeks, but the rush in those lines is now over.

The British Columbia Sugar Refinery quotes prices as follows, delivered in warehouse at Vancouver or Victoria, payment by spot cash:

Granulated, in bbls. or 100-lb bags	4½
Yellow, according to quality	4 to 4½
Paris lumps, in bbls. or 100-lb bags	5½
Powdered icing and bars, in bbls.	6½

Jobbers quote:

Valencia raisins	per lb	\$ 6 @	\$ 6½
Valencia Layers	per lb	7 @	7½
Malaga raisins	per box	3 00 @	3 25
California London Layers	per box	2 00 @	2 25