

A San Francisco dealer the other day cleared the Victoria market of every skin at 20 per cent. advance on former prices, buying in all 2,000 skins at \$12 each. Owners of sealing schooners are consequently elated over the fact.

FRUITS, VEGETS, ETC.—The first consignment of California strawberries have been in the Victoria market and sold at fancy prices. They will be general in a week or two. There is a large proportion of California oranges injured by frost, and best qualities are high. A car of Sicily lemons are on the way and will be quoted cheap. A carload of eastern apples have been received and are selling at \$8-50. Quotations are: Riverside oranges, \$2 to \$3; coconuts, \$1 per doz.; Wash. navels, \$1.75; bananas, \$3.75 to \$4; Sicily lemons, \$3.50; Cal. lemons, \$4.75; Turkish figs, 15¢; almonds, 18¢; walnuts, 15¢; filberts, 15¢; brazil, 15¢; pine, 20¢; peanuts, 10¢; evaporated apples, 12¢; evaporated peaches, 10¢; evaporated apricots, 11¢; evaporated prunes, 9¢; California pitted plums, 10¢; Str'd honey, 13¢; raisins, \$2 to \$2.75; Oregon apples, \$1.75.

FISH—The oolachan run has commenced and oolachans are in good local demand. There is practically no other fish in the market, except salmon, which is high and export demand is so great to exhaust the supply. Boats from the north are expected daily, with deep sea catches, which is expected to replenish the market. Arrangements have been made, it is understood, with coast settlers to send down their catches in steamers to dealers, who will hereafter have a more or less regularity.

SUGARS—Jobbers quote sugar as follows: Granulated, 55¢; extra c., 54¢; yellow, 44¢; golden c., 43¢. A carload of maple syrup and sugar is on the way from the east.

VEGETABLES—A carload of Ashcroft potatoes are being jobbed from \$25 to \$27 per ton. Fraser river potatoes are selling at \$15 and under. California new potatoes are selling at 2¢ per lb.; cabbage 2½¢ per lb.; rhubarb, \$2.25 per box; asparagus \$2 to \$2.25. There is a plentiful supply of all small vegetables of the season.

COAL—Wellington coal is quoted at \$8 in San Francisco. A letter from there regarding the situation says: There are still general complaints of stagnation of trade in this line, and prices still rule very low. The jobbers report full sales, but the margin of profit is too small for the capital invested. Northern mines continue to ship liberally, in the face of an overloaded market. The quantity of coal due here in April and May from foreign sources is very light, and it is to be hoped that values may improve somewhat. No marked advance, however, can be expected, as it is almost an assured fact that no very high prices can be reached this year.

POULTRY—A consignment of poultry from Winnipeg sold at high prices, turkeys realizing 25¢ per pound and chickens \$10.50 per dozen.

CANNED GOODS—Canned vegetables are stiffening, but in fruit the market is filled with eastern goods. Fraser Valley Canning Co.'s goods are quoted as follows: 3 lb. table \$2.40 per doz.; 1 gal. pie fruit \$4.25; ½ gal. do. \$2.40; 1 lb. glass jams \$2.40. Pickles are firmer, although the market is well filled. Canadian pickles are quoted: 1 gal 75¢; pints \$1.90 doz.; quarts \$3.80; sauces, \$1.20.

LUMBER, ETC.—Situation remains unchanged. Freights to Australia have declined. Otherwise they remain steady. Rates are quoted: Sydney, 32s 6d; Melbourne, Adelaide or Port Pirie, 37s 6d to 49s; West Coast South America, 35s to direct port; United Kingdom, calling at Cork for orders, 62s 6d; Shanghai, 50s.

Brief Business Notes.

Bennet & Burns, sailmakers, Victoria, have dissolved; Burns continues.

There is talk of a vein of platinum having been discovered near Mission.

Allan McLean, New Westminster, has sold his grocery business to Donald A. McLean.

Crocket & Jackson, Westminster, have dissolved.

S. R. Jessop is opening a machine repairing shop in Vancouver.

John T. Papst, grocer, Victoria, has sold out to Juliano H. Frank.

Kerr & Begg have sold out the Victoria News Agency to Geo. Marsden.

The steamer Marion is making regular trips on the Columbia from Revelstoke.

A small steamer just built will be run as a ferry between Oak and Cadboro bays, Victoria.

The Chilean ship Emma Louisa is en route from Valparaiso to load lumber at Vancouver.

The bank rate of exchange in Nelson has been reduced from a half to a quarter of one per cent.

C. W. Bash has negotiated the sale of the Balfour townsite at the outlet of Kootenay Lake.

Gilmore & McCandless, Victoria, are closing out their merchant tailoring department.

G. B. Wright has been appointed managing director of the Ainsworth Land & Improvement Co.

A. W. Levery has opened a bakery and confectionery store in the Begbie block, Westminster.

The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association will meet in Chilliwack on the 10th of May.

The C. P. ss. Empress of Japan, now on her way, has 250 passengers and 2,500 tons of cargo on board.

Arthur Englehardt has resigned the Northern Pacific office, Victoria, to go into business for himself.

There is some stir in Kamloops about sinking for coal in the district, which was discovered three years ago.

The new Vancouver Coal Co. has struck a lower seam of coal on Protection island, four feet in thickness.

It has been decided to subsidize the steamer Telephone as a mail boat between Westminster and the South Arm.

The British ship Bushmills, consigned to Baker Bros., has sailed from Liverpool for British Columbia ports.

South Vancouver has been organized as a municipality. It includes the county lying south of Vancouver to the Fraser river.

Carney & Birret's store at Nelson has been destroyed by fire. The loss, covered by insurance, is estimated at between \$7,000 and \$8,000.

The British ship Burmah has been chartered to load lumber at Moodyville for Valparaiso. The Norwegian bark Emblem will load lumber at Vancouver for Cork, Ireland.

Wulfssohn & Bewicke, Ltd., will open a branch of their banking, real estate and insurance business at Vernon, in charge of J. P. Brophy and J. McIvor Campbell.

Two shifts of men continue development work on the main tunnel of the Silver King, which is now in 834 feet, at 1½ feet being driven per day. The character of the ore remains unchanged.

The Marine and Fisheries Department, Ottawa, have replied to a petition from the settlers on Squamish river, stating the Government could not stock the river this year with sockeye salmon but will next season.

In the Supreme Court, Judge Walkem decided that real estate men could not legally collect conveyance fees, being the outcome of a suit brought by Woods & Gamble against Mrs. Brighouse to recover conveyance fees.

D. C. Cubin, president of the Spokane & Northern, says the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway will be built for the 10,000 per mile of

land grant from the provincial legislature whether the Dominion government grants a charter and subsidy or not.

G. S. McTavish, who came out of Cassiar, via Wrangell, on snowshoes, says that if Cassiar is to remain a mining district, a trail must be built from Telegraph Creek to Tackoo Lake. Though rich, Tackoo county is not worked, there being no convenient way of getting in.

Several mining men recently purchased for a small price the Black Bear and War Eagle mines in the Okanagan district. A letter has just been received at Nelson from one of the owners, stating that a tremendously rich strike has been made. The gold in the ore is in its native state, and the rock assays from \$20,000 to \$50,000 per ton.

An order in council, throwing open the agricultural lands of the Kamloops land agency, situated north of the line between townships 15 and 16 and east of the seventh meridian of the Dominion lands system of survey, for homesteading by actual settlers, on conditions and at the price prescribed by the regulations of September 17th, 1889, has been published in the Canada Gazette.

Grain and Milling.

Grain shipments from Morden, Minn., to date are 550,000 bushels.

Melita farmers have applied for the ground to build an elevator. Carson Bros. are also building an elevator at this Manitoba town and still a third new elevator is talked.

F. W. Thompson, manager of the Ogilvie Milling company, Winnipeg, returned last week from an extended trip south. Mr. Thompson has been much benefited in health by the trip and comes back ready for a busy season.

Jas. A. Jamieson, general superintendent of elevators on the C.P.R. system, states that the plans have been received for a 1,500,000 bushel elevator in Boston for the reception of western grain arriving in that city over the Boston & Maine, and that its construction will be proceeded with forthwith.

According to the Minneapolis Market Record of Monday last a great deal of grain was in the ground in South Dakota. The acreage is larger than last year, of wheat that will be soon. Drouth is completely broken and the streams and roads are full of water. The general outlook for a wheat crop in Minnesota is called favorable. The south half is nearly half done, with sowing wheat. The north half is only fairly begun, with evidence of much grain going in late.

Lumber Cuttings.

Dick, Banning & Co., expect to start their mill at Keewatin on Monday. Other Lake of the Woods mills are expected to commence cutting soon.

A Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, correspondent says: "The fine spruce and pine wood of which there is any quantity around Prince Albert, is in great demand at Regina and Moose Jaw, and a large trade in fire wood has arisen between the three towns."

W. J. Macauley at one time the lumber king of Manitoba, was in Winnipeg last week on his way to his home in Victoria, B.C. Mr. Macauley is vice-president of the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company and is on his return from an extended trip to Chili and Peru. He was delighted with the countries he visited and has decided to open mills in South America this summer, where there is plenty of timber to be procured.

An observant reporter has noticed that when a woman asks to be taken to the silk counter she speaks in a much louder voice than when she asks to look at the calicoes and silks.