

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[This department is in charge of R. E. Gosnell, who is permanently engaged as a regular member of THE COMMERCIAL staff, to represent this journal in British Columbia. Parties in British Columbia who wish to communicate in any way with this paper, may apply directly to Mr. Gosnell at Vancouver.]

British Columbia Business Review.

April 17.

Business is much more active in every line, the influences referred to in previous numbers being now at work. Orders are coming in from the upper country as a result of the opening up of the mining country. Next week navigation will be open on the Columbia from Revelstoke to Robson.

There is very little change in prices since last week. Potatoes are going up; flour is still very much depressed, owing to ruinous competition and over stocking; meats are slightly weaker; eggs and butter are steady with a tendency towards higher prices.

Since last writing it is understood that the Victoria & Sidney railway has passed into the control of the Dunsmuirs and construction will be proceeded with at once. It is understood that the delay of going on with it was want of financial ability and disagreement among members of the company.

Parliament, which prorogued last week, did some important work. It created a bureau of labor statistics; amended the cattle ranges act, so as to provide for district boards to regulate cattle and sheep ranges respectively; it gave a grant of \$15,000 per annum for seven years towards a traffic and railway bridge over the Fraser at Westminster; it gave guarantees to the Chilliwack Railway Co., the Nakusp & Slokan, the Cala Valley Railway, and an extension of time was granted to the Canada Western. The bill providing for the introduction of the Torrens system was withdrawn for this year, and also the creditor's execution abolition bill. This latter was asked for by the Board of Trade, but, as THE COMMERCIAL at the time said, there were grave doubts as to its constitutionality. A bill was introduced and carried through providing for the erection of \$600,000 parliamentary buildings in Victoria. An act was also passed, in conformity with the miners' generally expressed wishes, amending the mineral law.

B. C. Market Quotations.

VEGETABLES—Potatoes are getting scarcer and dearer. Fraser Valley potatoes are worth \$30 a ton and Ashcroft's \$35, with the prospect that there will be materially raised in a short time. Onions are quoted at 3½c.

Meats—Following are quotations: Hams, 16c; breakfast bacon 17c; short rolls 13½c; long rolls, 15c; dry salt, long clear, 13½c; pure lard, 50 pound, 16 to 17c; do, 20 pounds, 16 to 17c; lard, compound, 15½c.

Commission agents quote American meats f.o.b. Victoria, duty paid, as follows: Medium hams, 18½c per pound; heavy hams, 18c; choico breakfast bacon, 18½c; short clear sides, 15c, and dry salt, clear sides, 14½c. Armour's white label pure lard, 10lb. pails, 19½c per lb. Armour's Gold Band meats are quoted (duty paid, Victoria), hams, 20½c, breakfast bacon, 20½c.

DAIRY.—Dairy products are steady. California creamery is worth 27c and eastern 25c. Dairy is worth about 25c. Cheese 13 to 15c.

FRUIT—There is very little to report, and no change. Apples are worth \$7.00 per barrel; evaporated apples, 10c; lemons, 5c; dried apples 8c; evaporated peaches, 15c; Virginia peanuts, 13c; apricots, 20c; cranberries, \$11; California seedling oranges, \$2.75 to \$3; Navel, \$4 dates, 7c to 8c; figs, 18c; California peanuts, 10c.

FRIGHTS—The market continues weak all round. From San Francisco to U. K. for orders a grain charter has been made at 17s. 6d,

the lowest on record, while further offers of ships at 16s. 3d. have been declined. Freight from British Columbia or Puget Sound are quoted as follows:—Valparaiso for orders, 30s. to 32s. 6d; direct port, 30s; Sydney, 31s 3d; Melbourne, Adelaide or Port Pirie, 35s; United Kingdom, calling at Cork for orders, 50s; Shanghai, 45s. The latter two are nominal and for Yokohama no quotation can be had.

SUGAR—The British Columbia Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., quotes as follows in their weekly price list: Powdered, icing and bar, 6½c per pound; Paris lump, 6½c; granulated, 5½c; extra C, 5½c; fancy yellow, 5c; yellow, 4½c; golden C, 4½c. Above prices are for barrels or bags; half-barrels and 100 pound kegs, ½c more, boxes ¾c more. No order taken for less than 100 barrels or its equivalent.

They quote syrup as follows: Finest golden, in 30 gallon barrels, 2½c; do, in 10-gallon kegs, 3c; do, in 5 gallon kegs, \$2.25 each; do, 1-gallon tins, \$1.50 per case of 10; do, in ½-gallon 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.

DRESSED MEAT, LIVE STOCK, ETC.—There is no change from last quotations, which are as follows:—Live steers are quoted 5½c; cows, 4½c; dressed beef 9½c; sheep 7c; mutton, 14c; hogs, 7½c; pork 10½c; calves, 7c; veal, 11½c.

EGGS—Case eggs are worth 23c. British Columbia eggs are 25c.

FLOUR, FEED, GRAIN, ETC.—The flour market shows no signs of improving, and is very much depressed. Grains have advanced. The Ogilvie Milling Company and Keewatin Mills quote standard brands of Manitoba flour, in car lots only, at Victoria, Vancouver and Westminster as follows: Patents, per bbl., \$4.75; strong bakers, \$4.45. The Columbia Flouring Mills quote Enderby flour in carload lots at Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster: Premier, \$4.75; XXX, \$4.60; strong bakers, or XX, \$4.50; superfine, \$3.75. Quotations small lots are: Flour, Manitoba patents, \$4.75; strong bakers, \$4.60; ladies choice, \$5.10; prairie lily, \$5.00; Oregon, \$5.10. Enderby mills—Premier \$5.00; three star, \$5.60; two star, \$4.75; oatmeal eastern \$3.40; California granulated in gunnies, \$4.35; National mills, Victoria, \$3.75; rolled oats eastern \$3.00 to \$3.25; California, \$4.10; National mills \$3.75; cornmeal \$3.10; split peas \$3.50; pearl barley \$4.50. 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 \$32 per ton; bran, \$24; shorts \$25; Man. oats, \$25 to 32; B. C. oats \$26; wheat \$27 to 32; oil cake, \$40; hay, \$20. Wheat is quoted in car lots for feed No. 2 regular at \$25 per ton; oats \$27 in bulk and in sacks \$28; chop barley \$25. California malting barley, \$26 to 27 f.o.b. in San Francisco. California chop, \$32 to 33. Oak Lake patent \$1.75; Oak Lake strong bakers, \$4.50. The Western Milling Co. quote bran in car lots \$20.50 per ton; shorts, \$21.50; mixed chop, \$25; patent flour, \$4.75; strong bakers, \$4.50. Brandon mills quote, patents per car \$4.70; strong bakers, \$4.50.

COAL.—J. W. Harrison writes from San Francisco as follows with reference to the present condition of the coal trade:

During the week there have been the following arrivals: From the coast mines 17,139 tons; from foreign sources, 3140 tons. Total, 25,279 tons. The continued inclement weather has increased the consumption of domestic grades, but the general consumption is considerably less than during the first quarter of 1892. The arrivals of the past week have been small, hence there is no accumulation in yards—in fact there are some grades that are in very light supply, but they can be substituted by

others of an almost similar character. The wholesale dealers are complaining of trade generally, as sales are slim, collections are light, and profits are out too fine. There is so much apathy in the future of grain freights the same feeling is conveyed to coal freights hence but little contracting is being done for future delivery. It would certainly appear that no mistake could possibly be made by ordering freely for future requirements upon the basis of existing present rates from England and Australia, yet our largest consumers are holding off anticipating a continuance of low prices. Higher outward grain freights would justify their position, but present rates should ordain otherwise.

The burning of an Australian coal ship has surprised every one in the trade. Insurance risks heretofore in this trade have been profitable, a casualty of any character occurring but seldom.

Brief Business Notes.

W. Alexander, jeweller, Donald; sheriff in possession.

Clay & Viles, bakers, have opened at Courteney, Comox.

W. J. Unwin has leased the Grand Pacific Hotel, Kamloops.

W. Beveridge has opened in gente furnishings, at Nanaimo.

Jos. Richards, Wilson hotel, Nanaimo. Sheriff in possession.

J. Renwick, blacksmith, Nanaimo, has sold out to Donaldson and Maneer.

Summers & Reisterer, hotel, Vancouver, have dissolved; Summers retiring.

Geo. Howe, butcher, Union, has admitted F. A. Auley into partnership.

Jas. A. Fraser, general dealer, Yale, has admitted R. L. Johnson into partnership.

W. H. Lennie & Co., stationers, Westminster, have closed out their Vancouver branch.

A number of the B. C. sealing schooners have been reported off the Japanese coast.

F. Bourne has been appointed liquidator of the Commonwealth Co., New Westminster.

Norman Lee and Hugh P. L. Bayliff, Chilcotin, have dissolved. Hugh P. L. Bayliff assumes the liabilities.

John Earsman & Co., wholesale commission merchants, Victoria, have dissolved. J. M. Maurice retiring.

The N. P. R. steamship Mogul arrived last week from Yokohama with a large freight list and over 700 Chinese.

J. C. Campbell, furniture, Vernon, has admitted his brother into partnership under the style of Campbell Bros.

Henry Croft has been appointed agent of the Sun Fire Insurance office, of London, Eng., for Vancouver Island.

The Empress of Japan has arrived with 1500 tons cargo, about 100 saloon passengers and about 1200 Chinese.

Mr. Appleton, of the Hudson's Bay Co., has succeeded Mr. Gibbs at Enderby, as manager of the Columbia Flour Mills Co.

The British ship British General, 1,750 tons, is on her way out from Java with a load of sugar for the British Columbia Sugar Refinery.

E. Dunderdale has been appointed general agent for Vancouver Island of the Confederation Life Association vice W. Montolth, resigned.

A scheme to construct an electric tramway between Nanaimo and Wellington is being agitated. Whilst ex-Mayor Hilbert was down in San Francisco recently he was approached on this subject by a local electrician, who made a proposition to install a plant and place it in thorough running order for the sum of \$30,000, also stating his willingness to become a shareholder in any company that might be organized to operate the line.

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