

TRADE AND COMMERCE

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE,
Tuesday Morning, Jan. 22.

VICTORIA.

There has been no material improvement in general trade. Reports from important trade centres do not reveal any specially hopeful signs as to a probable improvement in the near future. One of the favorable conditions is that the stocks of goods of all descriptions in the hands of jobbers and retailers are much smaller than usual at this season of the year.

The British bark *Canemoney*, 1,255 tons, has arrived with a general cargo from Liverpool, consigned to R. P. Rithet & Co., Ltd. The manifest appeared in THE COMMERCIAL JOURNAL of December 25.

The Victoria & Sidney Railway Co. will shortly place a small steamer on the Island routes, with headquarters at Sidney. A regular service will be given the principal settlements on the Gulf islands, which will do much to develop trade with Victoria merchants.

The dry goods, gents' furnishings and boot and shoe trades are, it is said, getting a little anxious as the 4th of February draws nearer. The heavy fall bills in those lines, dated 1st Oct.—4 months—fall due on that date.

Money has been generally scarce since the beginning of the year, but it is expected that the great majority of the trade will meet their obligations promptly.

The Vancouver *News-Advertiser* says: "Trade is still somewhat quiet and there are no special features to note. In shipping circles alone has there been any activity, two ocean liners having arrived and one lumber vessel completed her cargo during the week. In wholesale, though local trade is reported as dull at present, an improvement is noticed in trade with outside points, especially Nanaimo, doubtless owing to increased exports of coal."

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Business in this line is quiet and quotations are generally steady.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:

Oranges—Japanese	0 00	0 65
" California Navals	3 75	4 00
" Seedlings	2 50	2 75
Lemons—California (Johnson's)	1 00	1 50
California selected	3 50	4 00
Apples—California	1 35	1 65
Oregon	1 25	1 50
Coconuts	per 100	\$ 8 00 @ 9 00

Vegetables are quoted:

Onions—Siverskins	per lb	1 1/2	@	2
Cabbage	per lb	2	@	
Potatoes	per ton	15 00	@	18 00

FLOUR AND FEED.

The Ogilvie Milling Co. announced an advance on Saturday of 10c per bbl. on their standard brands of Hungarian and Strong Bakers' flour, making their car lot

quotation on wharf at Victoria, \$4.50 for Hungarian and \$4.20 for Strong Bakers. An advancing wheat market is the cause for the advance. It is said that the export of last year's wheat crop has exceeded the estimate, and that the supply in the Northwest is somewhat short and is commanding higher prices. A prominent wholesaler expressed the opinion that flour will go up again shortly, but he added that he was not prepared to back his opinion.

The Portland *Commercial Review* says of flour: "There has been little change in the general situation. In short it is hardly reasonable to suppose that local dealers and shippers will jump right in and buy freely. It is true, however, that buyers have been more numerous and have manifested a greater degree of interest, but they are merely feeling the pulse of the market and are confining their purchases to small lots to meet immediate requirements. Prices are irregular and unsettled without essential change although holders remain firm in their views. Receipts are small. The majority of the mills, especially small ones at interior points, find it difficult to secure sufficient wheat to keep on grinding. We quote standard brands \$2.40 per barrel; inferior grades \$2.10@2.25 per barrel."

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

Ogilvie's Hungarian	.....	\$1 50
" Strong Bakers	.....	1 20

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

Premier	.....	\$1 25
XXX	.....	1 10
Strong Bakers or XX	.....	3 65
Superfine	.....	3 10

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

Delta	.....	\$3 50
Victoria XXX	.....	3 50
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, " "	.....	4 35 @ 0 00
XX, " "	.....	3 90 @ 0 00
Superfine, " "	.....	3 65 @ 0 00
Ogilvie's Hungarian	.....	4 85 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers	.....	4 55 @ 0 00
H. B. C. Fort Garry Hungarian	.....	1 85 @ 0 00
" " Strong Bakers	.....	1 55 @ 0 00
Oak Lake Patent Hungarian	.....	4 85 @ 0 00
" " Strong Bakers	.....	4 55 @ 0 00
Regina Hungarian	.....	1 85 @ 0 00
" " Strong Bakers	.....	1 55 @ 0 00
Benton County, Oregon	.....	3 75 @ 0 00
Portland Roller	.....	3 75 @ 3 85
Snowflake	.....	3 75 @ 0 00
Gold Drop	.....	3 65 @ 3 75
Wheat, per ton	.....	25 00 @ 00 00
Oats	.....	21 00 @ 28 00
Oil cake meal	.....	33 00 @ 45 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.-ks.)	.....	3 50 @ 0 00
" " " 10 7s, baled	.....	3 00 @ 0 00
" " " split peas	.....	3 50 @ 0 00
" " " pearl barley	.....	1 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
Peas, field	.....	per ton 10 00 @ 00 00
Cornmeal	.....	2 40 @ 2 75
Cornmeal-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 Japan rice market is reported strong and values have been advanced about \$5 per ton.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton	.....	\$ 80 00 @ 90 00
" " (polished)	.....	90 00 @ 100 00
Best China rice	.....	50 00 @ 100 00
China rice 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.

Prices on pure lard have been reduced $\frac{1}{2}$ c all round and lard compound $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Lard compound is at present very low, and wholesale merchants state that it is the lowest they have known in many years' experience in the trade. Meats continue weak, but there are for the present no indications pointing to an advance. The B. C. Sugar Refinery reduced quotations $\frac{1}{2}$ c on Saturday. A carload of refined white granulated beet sugar, direct from Germany, was received by a local jobbing house on Saturday. The sugar is a little coarse, but is said to carry a high percentage of saccharine matter. This shipment was due three weeks ago and may explain the drop in refinery prices. R. P. Rithet & Co., Ltd, will reduce prices to meet the market, but state that they "can sell at a higher price, because the trade are finding out that the sugar we handle is a superior article."

The Montreal *Trade Bulletin*, of Jan. 11, commented as follows on the German sugar situation: "It seems that the Montreal sugar refiners are bound to drive out the imported German granulated sugar, as they are now selling a very good second grade of granulated which is said to be better than the German imported at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, while firsts are selling at 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. Thinking there was money in German granulated, it is said that some of the leading flour merchants of Quebec have been buying pretty freely, one firm investing in 1,500 bags. It is reported, however, that the agents of the German imported sugar are determined to make an obstinate fight, and that some of them are now going past the wholesale trade to the retailers. Raw beet sugar is cabled 8s 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d f. o. b. Hamburg, which