

TRADE AND COMMERCE

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.
Tuesday Morning, Feb. 14.

VICTORIA.

The moderation in the weather has naturally brightened the outlook, and a more cheerful feeling is noted in the mercantile community. Local dry goods trade has suffered considerably from the late severe weather. Dealers complain of very dull business, but hope for a good trade when the weather is fine enough for their customers to get around shopping. The wholesale dry goods trade report very satisfactory orders from the upper country. The sealers have also taken large supplies from their warehouses within the last month. The Canada Paint Co. will now become a prominent factor in the local paint and varnish trade. Their factory in this city starts operations this week and its product will go on the market at once. Complaints are general about collections, which is naturally expected at this season of the year. The 4th March and 4th April will be heavy days with the dry goods, clothing and kindred trades.

FLOUR AND FEED.

Since the advance in flour last week, the prices remain steady.

The Orlivie Milling Co. quote their standard brands of Manitoba flour, in car lots only, at Victoria, Vancouver and Westminster as follows:

Ogilvie's Hungarian, per bbl	\$1 95
" Strong Bakers	4 45

The Columbia Flouring Mills quote Enderby flour in carload lots at Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster:

Premier	\$1 95
XXX	4 75
Strong Bakers or XX	1 50
Superfine	3 75

Jobbers' quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills	\$1 75 @ 0 00
Lion	1 75 @ 0 00
Premier, Enderby mills	5 25 @ 0 00
XXX	5 00 @ 0 00
XX	1 75 @ 0 00
Superfine	4 00 @ 4 25
Ogilvie's Hungarian	5 25 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers	5 00 @ 0 00
H. B. C. Fort Garry Hungarian	5 25 @ 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	1 85 @ 0 00
Portland Roller	1 90 @ 5 00
Snowflake	1 90 @ 0 00
Royal	1 75 @ 0 00
Wheat, per ton	28 00 @ 35 00
Oats	25 00 @ 30 00
Oil cake meal	10 00 @ 15 00
Chop feed	28 00 @ 30 00
Shorts	26 00 @ 28 00
Bran	23 50 @ 25 00
National Mills oatmeal	3 50 @ 0 00
" rolled oats	3 50 @ 0 00
" split peas	3 50 @ 0 00
" pearl barley	4 50 @ 0 00
" Chop feed	26 00 @ 28 00
California oatmeal	1 25 @ 0 00
California rolled oats	3 75 @ 0 00
Corn whole per ton	37 50 @ 10 00
Cornmeal	2 75 @ 3 00
Cornmeal-feed per ton	40 00 @ 00 00
Cracked corn	40 00 @ 00 00
Hay, per ton	18 00 @ 20 00
Straw, per bale	1 00 @ 0 00

RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote whole-

Japan rice, per ton	\$ 77 50
Best China rice "	100 00
Chinarico No. 1 "	70 00
Rice flour "	70 00
Chit rice "	25 00
Rice Meal "	17 50

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The following are the receipts of California fruits and vegetables from San Francisco by steamship Walla Walla Feb. 12, for Victoria: 35 certs cabbage, 75 cs oranges, 36 cs lemons, 2 bbls chestnuts, 4 cts cauliflower, 450 sacks potatoes. The market is almost bare of local potatoes, and those offered of good quality are selling all the way from \$35 to \$40 per ton. California potatoes imported by the Walla Walla are selling at \$30 per ton and meet with a brisk demand. In all probability, potatoes will be high this spring. At present the situation is rather uncertain, and depends to a great extent on the condition of the potatoes in the pits. Farmers have not generally been prepared for a heavy frost, and, when the pits are opened, a large quantity of the potatoes will probably be frozen. The result will be that jobbers and commission houses will import the greater portion of their stocks from the United States and high prices will rule for a time. Manitoba potatoes will probably be imported heavily as soon as the spring opens out. Ascroft will also be a prominent factor in the supply. A carload of Sicily lemons will arrive early this week from Boston direct for Messrs. Wilson Bros., who quote them at \$6 per case. There is no change in the price of oranges.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:—

Oranges—Navels	3 50 @ 4 00
Riverside Seedlings	2 50 @ 3 00
Lemons—California	4 50 @ 5 00
Sicily	6 00 @ 0 00
Apples—Red	1 50 @ 1 75
" Green	1 50 @ 0 00
" Canadian, bbls	6 00 @ 0 00

Vegetables are quoted:

Potatoes—Local	per ton 35 00 @ 40 00
Onions—Red California	2 1/2 @
Oregon Silverskins	2 1/2 @

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The following are the receipts of California butter from San Francisco, by ss. Walla Walla, Feb. 12 for Victoria: 24 boxes, 3,026 lbs., 46 half barrels, 6,910 lbs., total 9,935 lbs. The half-barrels are principally sold to shipping and is quoted at 22c per lb in bond, and 27c to 28c duty paid. The price of eastern creamery remains the same. Eggs continue very scarce at 25c for pickled, but the market will be easier as soon as the weather gets mild. There is a great scarcity of dried fruits in California this season, and there is said to be little or no stock obtainable. California evaporated apples in 50 lb. boxes are quoted by jobbers at 14c, while Canadian evaporated apples are quoted at 8 1/2c to 9c, the latter are said to be the better fruit and more in favor with the trade. The situation is an unusual one to see such a difference in the prices of Canadian and California fruits. The situation throughout the United States is a strong one, and it seems there can be no doubt but that the Canadian market will advance to closer sympathy with the

American. Nearly all of the stock for the B. C. trade came from Montreal this season. California evaporated fruits are quoted as follows:—Apples, evaporated, 50 lb. boxes, 14c per lb., 25 lb. boxes 13c; apricots, 25 lb. boxes, 20c; prunes, 25 lb. boxes, 14c; plums, 25 lb. boxes, 14c to 14 1/2c; peaches, 50 lb. boxes, 10c, 25 lb. boxes 17c. Canadian evaporated apples, 50 lb boxes, 8 1/2 to 9 1/2c.

There has been another advance in the price of lard. The Armour Packing Co., white label pure lard, 10 lb pails, has advanced from 17 1/2c to 10 1/2c to the wholesale trade. Local prices have all advanced in sympathy. American smoked meats, hams, bacon, etc., have all raised again. The advance amounts to about 1 1/2c per lb. all round. The present price of hogs in the United States is about as high as they have been any time within twenty-five years, excepting in 1882, when they were the highest ever known, not counting war times.

The Toronto Empire says: "Products are firm and unchanged. Demand is only moderate. The enquiry is chiefly for lard, which is scarce and firm; pure is now held at 12 1/2 to 13c for tubs and pails; tierces are wanted at 12 to 12 1/2c. Smoked hams and breakfasts are selling freely at former prices. Long clear is also more active; cars can be bought at 10c and 11c is asked for cases. Quotations are: Mess pork, Canadian, \$20 to 21.50; short cut, \$21 to 22; bacon, long clear, per lb. 10 1/2 to 11c; lard, Canadian, tierces, 12 to 12 1/2c; tube and pails, 12 1/2 to 13c; compound do, 9 1/2 to 10 1/2c. Smoked meats, hams, per lb. 13c; bellies, 13 1/2 to 14c; rolls, per lb. 10 1/2 to 11c; backs, per lb. 13c."

American canned meats, staples, are quoted to the jobbers in bond as follows: Roast corned and lunch beef, 1's per doz., \$1.30; do. 2's per doz., \$2.10; lunch tongues, 1's per doz. \$3.35; do. 2's, \$5.90. Armour's white label conserved soaps 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, 17c per lb; heavy hams, 17c; choice breakfast bacon, 18c; short clear sides, 14c, and dry salt clear sides, 14c. Armour's white label pure lard, 10 lb. pails, 10 1/2c 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, 18c, breakfast bacon, 19c.

The British Columbia Sugar Refining Co. Ltd., quote as follows in their weekly price list: Powdered icing and bar, 6c; Paris lumps, 6c; granulated 5c; extra C. 5c; fancy yellow, 4c; yellow 4 1/2c; golden C. 4 1/2c. Above prices are for barrels or bags; half-barrels and 100 pound kegs, 1c; more, boxes 1c more. No order taken for less than 100 barrels or its equivalent.

They quote syrup as follows: Finest golden, in 30 gal. bls. 2 1/2c; ditto, in 10 gal. kegs. 3c; ditto, in 5 gal. kegs, \$2.25 each; ditto, in 1 gal. tins, \$4.50 per case of 10; ditto in 1/2 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 2 1/2 per cent. for cash in fourteen days. All prices subject to change without notice.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: