Stocks of frozen mutton are still quite large. Dressed hogs are coming in freely. We quote: Beef, city dressed, 6 to 7½c per pound; country stock, ½ under these figures; mutton, 8 to 9c; lamb, 11½c; hogs, 7 to 7½c, packers price, for best weights; lights and heavies, ½ to 1c less.

HIDES—There are not many hides coming at present and the market is quiet and steady. We quote: Frozen hides, 5½c per lb., less 5 lbs.; city butchers, 6¼c per lb. for No. 1's; 5¼ for No. 2s and 4¼c for No. 3s. Sheepskins, 30 to 90c each.

WOOL—Market nominal.

TALLOW—No. 1 tallow is worth 5½c per pound delivered here, and No. 2, 4½c.

SENECA ROOT—Market nominal.

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE—Receipts are light and there has not yet been any change in the market. There is still considerable cold storage beef on hand and the demand is being supplied with this. We quote: Best steers, 4½c; butchers' ordinary, 3½ to 4c. Stockers, yearlings, $17. Two-year-old, $22 each.

SHEEP—Market nominal.

HOGS—Receipts are fairly active. The good demand for cured meats is making a big enquiry for hogs and some packers are willing to pay high for good stock. While the regular open quotation is still 5½c per pound, a good deal of business has been done on a 6c basis this week and even higher than that has been paid. This quotation is for choice hogs weighing from 150 to 250 pounds. Heavy and light weights are low.

MILCH COWS—There is a good demand for all the cows offering at prices ranging from $30 to $45 each.

HORSES—Farmers are now buying freely for the spring and the horse market is active. Railway contractors are also taking all the horses they can get for work on the various extensions projected. Prices are high, the range being worth all the way from $300 to $450, according to weight and quality. Drivers are also in good demand at high prices.

Dominion Estimates.

The estimated cash requirements of the Dominion government for the year 1903-04 were presented in the House on Monday. The total amount asked for is $57,109,974.35, a decrease of $1,437,-950 as compared with last year. Some of the most interesting items are:—Public debt, sinking funds, $13,574,-306.15; civil government, $1,644,243.16; justice, $996,360; police, $30,000; penitentiaries, $474,420; legislation, $980,-551; arts, agriculture and statistics, $589,000; immigration, $590,000; militia, $1,777,308; public works, $3,415,-800; scientific instructions, $120,503; subsidies to provinces, $4,402,292.08; Indians, $1,106,759; mounted police, $900,000; government N. W. T., $550,-259; government Yukon, $405,000.

There is an increase of $1,039,000 for railways, $150,000 for immigration; $90,220 for quarantine; $100,000 for customs; $144,000 for mail subsidies. The principal decreases are, $1,122,481 for public works; $192,600 for public debt, $36,069 for militia.

Public works buildings in Manitoba are to get a vote of only $5,000 compared with $21,967 this year. For the same service in the Territories $32,000 is asked compared with $60,500. For harbors and rivers in Manitoba $34,-250 is asked compared with $48,700 this year.

For protection of timber lands in Manitoba and the Territories and tree culture, $25,000 is asked compared with $15,000 this year. There is a new item $10,000 for the construction of roads, bridle paths and other necessary work in connection with the Yoho Park reserve. There is an increase of $17,000 for the astronomical and demarkation work of the department of the interior.

Zurowski and Kuhluross have opened a butcher shop at Balgonie, Man.

J. Nichol has sold his interest in the implement business of Nichol & Richard at Crystal City, Man., to A. Riddell.

WANTED—SEVERAL PERSONS OF character and good reputation in each state (one in this county required) to represent and advertise old established wealthy business house of solid financial standing. Salary $21.00 weekly with expenses additional, all payable in cash each Wednesday direct from head offices. Horse and carriage furnished when necessary. References. Enclose self-addressed envelope. Colonial Co., 334 Dearborn St., Chicago.

British Columbia
OFFICE OF THE COMMERCIAL

Vancouver Business Review.

Vancouver, March 21.

The results of the strike in tying up freight is about over, the master teamsters with their office hands state that in about ten days more they will have relieved the blockade. Dispatches continue to come through from Winnipeg that freight is all tied up there. These dispatches are sent by strike sympathizers to the brotherhood here, if this is the case the same conditions do not prevail in Vancouver. All trains and boats are running on time.

Mr. Peters, freight agent of the C. P. R., who has been here for some time in connection with the strike, has been again appealed to by the board of trade to arrange that Vancouver shall have the same advantages as Winnipeg in reaching the markets of Calgary and Edmonton. Mr. Peters, who has already refused a similar request, has now asked the board of trade to furnish him with a complete statement of the case from their viewpoint. The wholesale men who acted on a resolution to secure their freight by another road until the C. P. R. consented to comply with their request, were acting upon the resolution, and would have continued to do so had not the strike come upon them, and freight already ordered over the C. P. R. been lost to all. All the energies were then bent to relieve the strike situation, and it was through the efforts of the wholesalers in signing an agreement to stand by the master draymen that freight was moved to and from the C. P. R. After the strike is over, however, the question of putting Vancouver on a par-pegging on the same basis regarding common markets will be again taken up.

Regarding the big strike of coal and petroleum reported in Boulder Kootenay some time ago, the Canadian Pacific Railway contemplated building through this section of the country, and the government is said to have placed a reserve on a large section of land at that time for the purpose of dealing with the Canadian Pacific or any other railway asking for land concessions in that part of the country. This was a fortunate chance move for the government, for the new coal measures now owned by the government as an asset are said to be as extensive and the coal as valuable as the Crow's Nest Coal. The big area is near the boundary line between Alberta and British Columbia, and not over twenty miles at the nearest point from the Alberta petroleum lands.

The activity in real estate continues in Vancouver. Many handsome blocks are under contemplation, and a large number of new homes are being built.

The bank returns have for this week fallen under the million dollar mark for the first time in many months. This is in a large measure due to the strike. The manufacturers' agents who have been assessed on profits from transactions consummated in the province, are going to appeal from the court of revision, which sustained the assessors' action. The agent of the Ogilvie Milling Company stated to The Commercial correspondent, that, carried to its logical sequence, this assessment would be so far reaching as to be entirely out of the bounds of reason and common sense. If the Ogilvie Milling Company are to be assessed and taxed on profits of business done in another province, so must every agent of an outside house be taxed, including every commercial traveler that passes through the city, and so must every can of salmon sold outside of British Columbia be taxed, and so on without end.

The local market has but few changes. The most interesting feature is the dairy market. It is almost impossible to get good butter for table use. The weather has been incement, and snow, a very unusual happening in Vancouver, has covered the ground for the past week. Besides this the butter made in the local creameries is not made to keep as export butter is, and not made in large quantities at a time. It is now between seasons as far as butter is concerned. The butter market on Puget Sound is very interesting to British Columbia at this time. It is well stocked, and the price is falling rapidly, and it will not be long before Oregon butter will be placed in Vancouver for sale, which will relieve the situation. As regards eggs, they are now offered wholesale, fresh, guaranteed, at 22 cents. These are from San Francisco. Eggs in the Frisco market are selling freely at 15 cents, the duty is 2½ cents and the freight 1½ cents, so that it cost 19 cents to lay them down in Vancouver. The local fresh laid eggs are still selling for 30 cents, but are expected to fall in price to the San Francisco level in another week.

British Columbia Business Notes.

A. Bennison and A. Williamson are arranging to start a bakery in Revelstoke.

The Denver Light & Power Company, Limited, with a capital of $20,-000, is being incorporated.

W. E. Hunting, of Minneapolis, contemplates erecting a shingle mill on the coast of 200,000 capacity.

The Oak Bay Hotel Company, Ltd., has been incorporated for the purpose of erecting a hotel at Oak Bay.

Wm. Jensen and Capt. Wm. Meyer will erect a hotel and general store building at Hardy Bay, at the north end of Vancouver Island.

H. E. Whitworth has purchased a mill site at Vancouver and will erect a lumber and shingle mill upon it for the purpose of catering to Manitoba trade.

A sawmill will be erected on Quatsino Sound by the Yreka company for the purpose of supplying its mine with timber and boards. Other mines in the same vicinity will also be supplied.

Notice of incorporation for the Daly Reduction Company, Ltd., appears. It is capitalized at $300,000. The objects of the company are to carry on an ore smelting and reduction business.

The sawmill of W. L. Tait, at Vancouver, which is one of the largest in that city, has been purchased by the Rat Portage Lumber Co., for $100,000. The sale includes limits along the coast comprising in all about 6,000 acres.

The Victoria Lumber Company is extending its capacity by 400,000 to 500,-000 additional feet per day in order to meet the growing demand from the Northwest and over sea shipments. This company is also erecting a shingle mill at Chemainus.

During the week ended Saturday last the mines of Rossland district shipped 7,957 tons of ore to smelter.

The crews employed in Rossland mines at present are as follows: Le Roi, 330; War Eagle and Centre Star, 200; Josie mine, 75; Kootenay, 30; Velvet, 50; Number One, 21; White Bear, 18; Silica Reduction Works and O. K. mine, 15; total, 868.

The American Smelting & Refining Co. has advanced its price for lead $5 per ton. This is taken by the silver-lead miners of British Columbia to mean a big increase in the returns for their products, and that the industry will now reach a paying basis.

The shipments of ore through Kaslo from February 13th to March 12th were as follows: Slocan Star, to Denver, 325; Rambler, to San Francisco, 107; Reco, to Nelson, 63; American Boy, to Everett, 63; American Boy, to Denver, 21; American Boy, to Helena, 21; Ruth, to Nelson, 43; Antoine, to Nelson, 21; total, 664 tons.

At the Green Mountain mine, Rossland district, a diamond drill ran for forty or fifty feet through a body of concentrating ore, containing patches of high grade shipping ore. The management announces that the workings will be carried immediately to the 600 foot level, an additional depth of 200 feet, and cross-cuts turned off to tap the ore bodies at that depth. It is expected that good pay streaks will be disclosed.

We have it from good authority, says the Northport News, that the Northport smelter will start by blowing in at least two furnaces in a few days. The management has arranged to get all the coke it wants from the east, and shipments have already been started. As soon as it begins to arrive every furnace will be blown in and the plant run at full blast. An official of the smelter states that there will be 750 men put to work on the Le Roi mine, and the smelter will not only be run at its full capacity, but other furnaces will be built and possibly a refinery. All this will occur in a very short time.

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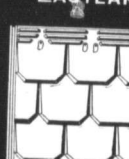

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