

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.
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VICTORIA.

The few warm days last week had an enlivening influence on trade. Dry goods are opening out well, but the late cold spring has had an injurious effect on the trade for the season. The volume of business for the past four months has been fair, and, if the warm weather continues, expectations are that the season will turn out satisfactory. Collections still continue slow. Trade in the boot and shoe line is very slow. The orders received from the trade are mostly of a sorting up nature. Light orders are reported for new lines, as dealers are conservative and determined to keep their stocks down. There has been a certain activity in many lines preparing for the celebration which will be followed by the customary holiday lull. A number of buyers from Mainland points are expected in the city during celebration week.

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The following are the receipts of California butter by the steamship City of Puebla May 18 from San Francisco: For Victoria—49 cs, 5,570 lbs; 25 tubs, 1800 lbs; 40 kits, 1,000 lbs. Total, 8,370 lbs. For Vancouver—6 cs, 675 lbs; 45 tubs, 2,500 lbs. Total, 3,175 lbs. Grand total, 11,545 lbs. The receipts by the previous steamer were 12,245 lbs. The market, in San Francisco, is reported firm. California fancy roll is still quoted at 20c per lb, and tubs 27c. It is said there is no eastern butter on this market; stocks are completely cleaned up. Canadian cheese is quoted at 14c, and new California cheese at 10c. Eastern eggs are quoted at 18c and fresh Oregon at 22c.

The prices of American meats are hardening. Canadian meats and lard are both stiff but changes are advised in prices.

Quotations are: Hams, 14c per lb.; breakfast bacon, 14c; backs, 13c; short roll, 11½c; long clear, 11c; pure kettle lard, 50 lbs, 13c; pure steam do., 12c; lard compound, 10½@11½c; lard tins, 12½@13½c.

Sugar quotations by jobbers are as follows: Granulated, 5½c; extra C, 5½c; yellow, 4½c; golden C, 4½c.

The local wholesale trade are selling considerable quantities of canned vegetables for future delivery. One house reports that orders have been received by them for 1,000 cases on the basis of \$1.00 per doz., f. o. b. at the canneries in the east.

Falconer's Victoria Vinegar Works' goods are now carried by the leading wholesale grocers, comprising pure malt vinegar, tomato catsup, Worcestershire sauce, mushroom catsup, apple and quince cider, lemon and vanilla extracts and fruit syrups—of home manufacture.

FLOUR AND FEED.

It is stated by dealers that the low price of Hungarian flour is stimulating the demand, and the receipts of Manitoba flour on this market show a large increase over last year. As a consequence, the demand for American flour is falling off, and importations are becoming lighter. The Victoria customs returns show that, for the past three months the importations of American flour were 2,979½ barrels,

while for the corresponding period last year they amounted to 5,480½ barrels, which figures substantiate the statement made by dealers. The Brackman & Ker Milling Co. received a large shipment of Strong Bakers or XX flour from the Enderby Mills last week. This brand is meeting with a large demand from bakers. The feed market is becoming somewhat easier. Stocks of bran are fuller and the price has been reduced \$1 per ton.

The Columbia Flouring Mills quote: For Enderby flour in carload lots, Premier, \$5.10; XXX., \$5.30; Strong Bakers or XX., \$5.00; Superfine, \$4.00. Quotations to the trade as follows:

Delta, Victoria mills	\$ 5 25 @ 0 00
Lion, " "	5 25 @ 0 00
Premier, Enderby mills	5 50 @ 0 00
XXX., " "	5 50 @ 0 00
XX., " "	5 25 @ 5 50
Superfine, " "	4 25 @ 4 50
Ogilvie's Hungarian	5 85 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers	5 50 @ 0 00
H. B. C. Fort Garry Hungarian	5 85 @ 0 00
Benton County, Oregon	5 75 @ 0 00
Snowflake	5 75 @ 0 00
Portland Roller	5 75 @ 0 00
Royal	5 45 @ 0 00
Wheat, per ton	35 00 @ 40 00
Oats	30 00 @ 00 00
Oil cake meal	35 00 @ 00 00
Chop feed	30 00 @ 00 00
Shorts	28 00 @ 30 00
Bran	25 00 @ 27 50
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	30 0 @ 0 00
California oatmeal	4 35 @ 0 00
California rolled oats	3 85 @ 4 00
Cornmeal	1 75 @ 3 00
Cracked corn	45 00 @ 50 00
Hay, per ton	18 00 @ 20 00
Straw, per bale	1 25 @ 0 00

RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton	\$77 50
China rice " "	70 00
Rice flour " "	70 00
Chit rice " "	25 00
Rice Meal " "	17 50

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The following are the receipts of fruits and vegetables from San Francisco by steamship City of Puebla May 16: For Victoria—230 cs oranges, 19 cs lemons, 4 bxs pineapples, 77 crates bananas, 20 pkgs containing 40 drawers strawberries, 35 pkgs containing 112 bxs cherries, 66 crates cabbage, 133 sacks onions, 55 sacks potatoes, 1 bx artichokes, 1 crate cauliflower, 2 cs tomatoes, 1 cs asparagus, 25 cs peas, 3 cs beans: total, 672 packages. For Vancouver—43 cs oranges, 2 bxs lemons, 10 pkgs containing 61 bxs cherries, 49 crates bananas, 54 crates cabbage, 42 sacks onions, 6 bxs peas, 6 bxs asparagus, 39 sacks potatoes, 11 cs honey comb, 1 bx pineapples, 2 cs cauliflower, 5 bxs beans, 1 bx horseradish total, 277 packages. Grand total, 949 packages. The receipts by the previous steamer amounted to 641 packages. A private advice from San Francisco says: "Cherries are coming in slowly, and the prices continue to be high. There are no navels that we can recommend. Mediterranean sweets are taking the place of navels. The prices are held high. All oranges are coming in slowly." Another says: "There are lots of cherries but very few are in a condition to ship, the late

rains have swelled and burst them. Hope for good ones soon." Dealers in San Francisco have been unable to supply the fruit ordered by local houses. Orders have been received from dealers in the Northwest for small fruits, but, so far, the supply has been so limited that no shipments have been made there. Lemons are a little higher. Oranges are also up in price. New potatoes were higher last week and some were sold for 2c. Cherries were sold above quotations last week, but the price has gone down a little. There is very little asparagus coming forward now, and the market is said to be completely bare of apples." Quotations are: Oranges—Riverside seedlings, \$3 to \$3.50; navels, \$5.00 to \$5.50; Mediterranean sweets, \$4.00; Highland oranges, \$3.75; Los Angeles, \$2.75; California lemons, \$3.50 to \$4.75; Sicily lemons, \$5.00; bananas, \$3.50 to \$3.75; cabbage, 2c per lb.; potatoes, \$17 to \$18 per ton; rhubarb, 5c; cranberries, \$3.75@4 per box; new potatoes, 1½c per lb; strawberries, \$1.00 a drawer; cherries—white, \$1.50 per box, black, \$2.00 per box; red California onions, 1½c per lb.; pineapples, \$6 a doz.; coconuts, 90c. a doz.; peas, 5c per lb; beans, 20c.

LUMBER.

The Toboggan sailed from Vancouver May 20 for Wilmington, Del., with a cargo consisting of 605,328 feet rough lumber and 275,000 shingles valued at \$9,330. The Antonietta received orders and has gone to load at Chemainus for Valparaiso on owners' account. The Chil. bark Guinevere, 960 tons, is on the way from Autofogasta to load lumber.

The outlook in the lumber trade is more hopeful and a better feeling is manifested among the trade. The demand from South America continues fair. There is but little going forward to Australia. Stocks there are being gradually reduced, and it is believed the market is approaching a healthy condition. There are now only four vessels on the way to load lumber at B. C. ports, while at the same time last year there were about fourteen on the list under charter. The lumber dealers of Vancouver have adopted a uniform schedule of prices for the city trade. There are, at present, seven vessels loading at B. C. ports for foreign. Quotations are as follows for cargo lots for foreign shipment, being the prices of the Pacific Pine Lumber Association: Rough merchantable, ordinary sizes, in lengths to 40 feet, inclusive, \$9 per M feet; rough deck plank, average length 35 feet, \$19; dressed flooring, \$17; pickets, \$9; laths, 4 feet, \$2.

SALMON.

Recent advices from London state that the market is improving. There is more of a feeling of confidence, as dealers realize that the Alaska canners' combination is holding firm and that the pack both of the British Columbia and Alaska canneries will be curtailed according to the agreement entered into some time ago. An offer on English account for a large lot of salmon was recently declined by the agents of the cannery, who anticipate a better market.

The *Commercial News* says: While salmon remains unchanged here, it is also dull in New York, although a more favor-