

GREENE & SONS COMPANY

WHOLESALE

HATS and CAPS,

STRAW GOODS,

Etc., Etc.

Manitoba Fall Trade, 1892.

MEN'S
FURNISHINGS

Merino and Woolen Underwear

SCARFS, TIES, SHIRTS, COLLARS,

Waterproof Coats.

WAREHOUSE,

517, 519, 521, 523 and 525 St. Paul Street,

MONTREAL

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 19, 1892.

It has been somewhat cold of late and wet, but the sky has brightened and hopes are entertained that we have seen the last of the winter lingering in the lap of spring. Fears are entertained that the fruit crop will be injured in the same way as it was last year.

Business is improving fast and if it were not for the tightness of money among small traders, times might be regarded as thoroughly prosperous. There is a lack of money in the more retarded circle, but large enterprises are carried on with apparent ease and plenty of capital. The cheapness of money in the British market is regarded as favorable to investments in the province, and a greater inflow of capital in all circles.

Country trade is still unsatisfactory both in respect to orders and returns. Last was a very bad winter and country traders probably felt it more than business men in the city. Consequently orders are backward and small so far. However, their influence is beginning to be felt and in a month or so must be unusually brisk.

Fish are temporarily very scarce. The salmon run has been small but now looks more promising. There has been a very brisk export demand and most of the salmon caught has been shipped east. The oolochans are now on the run in the Fraser river. The oolochan is one of the most delicious of table fish and belongs to the salmon family of which there are nine divisions in the coast, embracing capelin, oolochan, smelt, snifsmelt, trout, charr, grayling, whiting and salmon. About the middle of March the run begins in the Naas river and extends on down the coast later in Gardner's canal, Kingcombe inlet, Knight's inlet. The Indians fish for them in the northern waters and catch them in enormous quantities. The extraction of oolochan grease, which is used very much as we use butter, is one of their favorite industries. The oolochan is about nine inches long and as might be inferred is very rich and full of oil. Cooked as smelts are it is delicious and if not too tender for carriage should become an article of considerable export. When the run is at its height oolochans may be taken out of the river by the basketsful. Oolochan are sometimes put up in pickle and sometimes cured and smoked like bloaters. Undoubtedly they will be largely utilized some day.

The British Columbia legislature is prolonging its session beyond what was anticipated. A very large amount of work has been accomplished and some very important legislation, principally affecting proposed railways, has still to be considered.

It is now pretty well understood that the Northern Pacific railway has abandoned the hope of obtaining a bonus of \$300,000 from the city of Vancouver and that negotiations are being carried on with the owners of North Vancouver property for \$500,000 worth of property to cross the second narrows by bridge and take the railway over there. A townsite would be laid out and the property throughout the municipality enhanced materially.

Some changes in the personnel of the C.P.R. officials here, it is said, are contemplated. D. E. Brown, general freight and passenger agent, will, it is understood, be made general manager of the Canadian Pacific steamship line, with headquarters at Hong Kong. The duties performed by him will be divided, with a head for the passenger and another for the freight departments. Geo. McL. Brown, passenger agent at Vancouver, will probably succeed D. E. Brown in the former and H. E. Common, agent, in the latter capacity.

THE COMMERCIAL has several times pointed out that the demands upon the Esquimaux dry dock would shortly result in another being built, if not on Burrard Inlet or somewhere else on the B.C. coast, on the sound. It is a matter that should have had the attention long ago of not only the Dominion and provincial governments, but local authorities as well, because while the docks are necessary to accommodate the increasing shipping, a third will be superfluous for some time to come. As will be seen by the following from the Seattle Telegraph, a golden opportunity has been lost:

"The United States government has issued a call for tenders for the dock to be erected at the new navy yard at Port Orchard on the Sound, opposite Seattle. The plans call for the construction of a dry dock 605 feet long, with 30 feet draft of water, with a body of timber and an entrance of concrete and masonry. In addition to this there will be a pump house, pumping plant, floating gate, culverts and all other appliances appertaining to a work of this kind. The work is to be done in accordance with plans and specifications, which may be had on application to the department at Washington city. The bids are to be opened on July 5, and the contract let immediately."

Real estate throughout the province has been moving much more freely and a number of transactions, some large, have been reported.

Attention is now being directed to the northern interior, the greater part of which was surveyed by Mr. Pondrier last and previous summers. This great plateau or succession of valleys, which begin at the southern boundary, contains millions of acres of grazing land, some of it excellent for agricultural purposes. One tract of 1,000 square miles of rich meadowlands

and boundless agricultural resource, has been recently located and settlers are already on their way there. It is several hundred miles from the line of the railway, but the advent of a railway is certain within a few years and it is accessible by wagon road and trail. These lands are now open at \$1 an acre for actual settlement. A railway is the great desideratum. Two charters already obtained contemplate bisecting this region.

The manufacture of ice has been taken in hand. Factories will be located at Victoria, Vancouver, Westminster and Nanaimo, and will be turning out ice within 60 days.

B. C. Market Quotations.

There has been little change to report since last quotations. Several lines have become firm with prospects of advance.

FLOUR AND FEED, ETC.—Oregon flour in Victoria has declined, but elsewhere no reduction is noted. Following are quotations: Manitoba Patents, \$8; strong bakers, \$5.60; ladies' choice, \$6.00; prairie Lily, \$5.75; Oregon, \$6.00; Spokane, \$5.65; Enderly mills: Premier, \$5.85; three star, \$5.70; two star, \$5.35. Oatmeal, eastern, \$3.40; California, \$4; National mills, Victoria, \$3.65; rolled oats, eastern, \$3 per 80 lb bags; California, \$3.90 per ninety pound bags; 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, \$33 to 35 per ton; bran, \$24; shorts, \$25; oats, \$30 to 32; wheat \$35 to 40; oil cake, \$40. Wheat is quoted in car lots No 2 regular for feed \$27 per ton; oats \$25; chop barley, \$25 to \$26.

DAIRY—Cheese is 14c and scarce. California butter is quoted at 26½c and not in favor. Good eastern creamery, of which several shipments have been made is firm and in good demand at 28c. Dairy is anything from 10 to 20c and none of it good.

EGGS—Eggs have not advanced but are firm and salable. Oregon eggs are weaker at 17 to 18c, several carloads eastern eggs have been ordered. Eastern fresh are quoted at 18c. Strictly fresh home eggs are from 20 to 25c. The local supply is much more plentiful than it ever has been before.

MEATS—Are in much better shape than a few weeks although dealers are not at all certain about prices being maintained even yet. Hams, are 13c; bacon, 13c; rolls, 11c; backs, 13c; dry salt clear, 10½c; in case lots, 10½c; lard kegs, 13c; do pails, 13½c; do, kettle rendered, 12½c; do steam rendered, 11½c; do compound, 11; Bologna sausage, 11c.

Dressed meats, live stock, etc.—The principal source of supply is east of the mountains but some good cattle are being furnished by the Douglas Lake cattle syndicate. Lambs are now in the market, though scarce. A portion of the supply is local. Hogs are scarce. Quotations for live stock are: Steers, 5½c; lambs, \$5 a piece; sheep, 7c to 7½c; hogs 8c. Dressed beef, 9c; mutton, 13½ to 14c; pork, 11½c.

Hides and Skins.—Prices in San Francisco are as follows, the quotation in Victoria being one cent less.—Dry Hides, sound, 10c per lb; culls, 7c; brands, 7c; Kip, 9c; culls and brands, 6c. Heavy salted steer, sound, 7 to 7½c; brands and culls, 6 to 6½c; do medium, 6c; brands and culls, 5c; do light, 4 to 4½c; do brands and culls, 3½ to 3¾c. Salted cows, 4 to 4½c; do brands and culls, 3½ to 3¾c. Salted kip, 3½ to 4c; do brands and culls, 3c. Salted veal, 5c; do, brands and culls, 4c. Salted calf, 6c; do, brands and culls, 5c. Long wool pelts, 90c to \$1.40 each; medium, do, 70 to 90c; short, do, 40 to 70c; shearling, 10c to 25c. Deerskins, summer, 37½c per pound; do, medium, 30 to 32½c; do, winter and long haired skins, 20 to 25c. Elk hides, 10 to 13c. Goatskins, prime and perfect, 30 to 50c each; damaged, 10 to 25c. Kids, 5 to 10c.

SEALSKINS—Sealskins have taken a very perceptible and not altogether unexpected rise,