

BRITISH COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE COMMERCIAL

Business in British Columbia.

Vancouver, Jan. 8.—The post holiday trade is again reported dull while there are reports of over competition predicted in The Commercial some time ago. This over competition is being severely felt by the smaller firms in some instances with serious results.

The trading stamp craze is another feature working seriously against the success of the smaller merchants, at least so it is claimed by wholesalers. In an interview with a wholesale grocer, the opinion was expressed to the effect that the trading stamp system was a menace to the retail trade, particularly in the grocery business where the margin of profit on staple goods is extremely small. Several merchants organized a competing company to the one that had the field to itself. This not proving effective, a third company was organized among all the smaller and many of the large merchants, significantly called the People's Trading Stamp company, the merchants taking stock in the company, they purchased the stamps from; or rather purchasing the stamps from themselves, and should there be any profit in the venture, applying it to decrease the costs of the stamps to the merchants. Should the pioneer company decide to retire the other two companies would consider that their mission had been fulfilled and they would at once discontinue business.

There are no changes to note this week in the market. The flour and feed business is reported dull. Ontario butter is in demand, and it is thought the price of eggs will be cheaper next week.

British Columbia Markets.

(All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reductions on large quantities, and to cash discounts.)

PRICES AT VANCOUVER.

By wire to The Commercial.

Jan. 13.

The market is quiet and few changes are taking place in prices. The only change this week is a decline of \$1 per ton on bran and shorts.

BUTTER—Local creamery, 30c; Australian fresh grass butter, 25 1-2c; Manitoba creamery, 27c; Manitoba dairy, 19c.

EGGS—Fresh local, 50 to 60c per dozen, as to quality; eastern case eggs, 18 1-2c.

CHEESE—15c.

GREEN FRUIT—Oranges, navel \$3.75; seedlings, \$3.25; California lemons, \$1 to \$1.25; bananas, \$2.85. Local apples, 90c to \$1.25 per box; grapes, \$1.75. Japan oranges, 50c per box. Eastern apples, \$3.50 per barrel. Local cranberries, \$7 per bushel.

MEAL—Rolled oats, 90 lb. sack, \$2.30; two 45 lb. sacks, \$2.60; four 22 1-2 lb. sacks, \$2.80; ten 7 lb. sacks, \$2.50; oatmeal, in 10 lb. sacks, per 100 lbs. \$3.25. In 50 lb. sacks, \$3 per 100 lbs.

FLOUR—Delivered B.O. points—Manitoba patent, per barrel, \$4.60; strong bakers, \$4.30; Oregon, \$4.50 per barrel.

GRAIN—Oats, \$24 to \$25 per ton; wheat, \$25.

CURED MEATS—Hams 14c, break; fast bacon 13 to 13 1-2c; backs, 12 1-2c; long clear, 10c; short rolls, 12 to 12 1-2c; smoked sides, 11c.

LARD—Tins, 10c per lb., in pails and tubs, 9 1-2c.

FISH—Flounders, 3c; smelts, 5c; sea bass, 4c; whiting, 5c; soles, 6c; smoked

10c; fresh halibut 6c; salmon 6c; blon-
tons 8 1-2c; cod 6c per lb.; crabs, 60c
dozen.

GAME—Mallards, 60c; pintail 40c;
teal 25c; wildgeon 40c per pair; venison
7c; bear 6c lb.

POULTRY—Turkeys, 14c; geese, 12c.

VEGETABLES—Potatoes, \$16 per
ton; Ashcroft potatoes, \$19 to \$20
ton; cabbage, 11-12c per lb.; carrots, tur-
nips and beets, \$12 per ton; red onions,
1c per lb.; silverskins, 2c; tomatoes, \$2
per box; cucumbers, \$2 per box.

FEED—National mills chop, \$25 per
ton; shorts, \$22 ton; bran, \$20; oil
cake meal, \$35 ton; f.o.b. Vancouver,
including duty paid on imported stuff.

HAY—Per ton, \$16.

DRESSED MEATS—Beef, 8 to 8 1-2c.
mutton, 10 to 11c; pork, 9 to 9 1-2c,
veal, 10 1-2 to 11c lb.

LIVE STOCK—Steers, \$3.50 to \$3.75 per
100 lbs.; cows, \$3.25; sheep, \$3.50 per
100 lbs.; hogs, 5c per lb.

DRIED FRUITS—Apricots, 17c; peaches
10 to 12c, pitted plums, 12c; prunes,
French 5 to 7 1-2c per lb.; London
layer raisins, \$2 box; Italian prunes, 6
to 8 1-2c lb.; Muscatel raisins, 2 crown
6c, 3 crown 8 1-2c, 4 crown 9c; dates 9c;
black figs, 6c; white figs, 9 1-2c;
layer figs, 10 lb. box \$1.45; silver prunes,
9 1-2c; quartered pears, 11 1-2c; half
pears, 12 1-2c; nectarines, 15 1-2c; Va-
lencia raisins, 7 1-2c; sultanas, 11 to 14c;
blackberries, 16c; raspberries, 25c; seed-
ed raisins, 9 1-2c.

NUTS—Almonds, 16c; filberts, 12 1-2c;
peanuts, 9c; Brazil, 12 1-2c; walnuts,
13c lb.

SUGARS—Powdered, icing and bar, 3
3-4c; Paris lump 6 1-4c; granulated 5
1-4c; extra C, 4 5-8c; fancy yellows 4
1-2c; yellow 4 5-8c lb.

SYRUPS—30 gallon barrels, 21-4c lb.;
10 gallon kegs 23-4c; 5 gallon tins \$1.75
each; 1 gallon tins \$4.50 case of 10; 1-2
gallon tins \$5.25 case of 20.

TEAS—Congo, Fair, 11 1-2c; good, 18c;
choice, 25c; Ceylon and India: fair 20c.

HARDWARE—Bar iron—Base, \$3.50.
Horse shoe nails, discount, 40 per cent;
horse shoes, keg, \$5. Wire nails—Base
price, \$4.50; cut, \$3.75. Rope, Manila,
16c. Boiled oil, 75c. White lead, \$7.50.
Putty, \$3.50. Barbed wire, \$4.75 per
100 lbs. Glass, 1st break, \$5.

PRICES IN THE KOOTENAY.

By wire to The Commercial.

Nelson, B. C., Jan. 13.

Butter—Creamery, large packages,
25c; choice dairy, 21c per lb.

Cheese—Large, 15 1-2c; small sizes,
16c per lb.

Eggs—Washington state, fresh, 30c;
Ontario held fresh, 24c; pickled, 20c per
dozen.

British Columbia Notes.

Chas. H. Macdonald, general mer-
chant, of Nelson, has assigned.

F. E. Burns intends opening in the
gents' furnishings at Kamloops.

Jos. Fisher has arrived at Vancouver
from Winnipeg to take temporary
charge of the Anderson Produce Com-
pany.

The members of the Vancouver Poul-
try and Pet Stock Association are ar-
ranging for their annual exhibition to
be held early in February.

The Brackman-Ker Milling Company
have bought out the firm of Thomas
& Smith at Rossland, and will carry
on the business as a branch.

Over a million dollars worth of new
buildings have been erected in Van-
couver during the past 12 months, and
over \$700,000 worth in New West-
minster.

There is a good outside and foreign
demand for lumber. Local firms are
figuring on tenders for several mil-
lion feet each from different firms in
China and Japan.

In Victoria the loss by fire for 1899
was about \$35,000. In Vancouver
\$18,000. Owing to the improved fire
fighting apparatus insurance companies
are reducing rates in both cities.

M. Penikese & Co., Grocers, Nelson,
have turned their business into a joint
stock company, and will hereafter do
business under the name of The
Western Mercantile Company, Limited.

The halibut fisheries continue a
great source of revenue to the United
States firms in the business. The
steamer Thistle was the last boat to
arrive from the banks with 110,000
pounds of fish.

Two car loads of frozen salmon
have been shipped to Liverpool from
New Westminster, leaving about three
car loads still in stock here. When
the last lot is gone, the shipments
will total twenty-eight car loads.

The steamer Senator recently sailed
from a British Columbia port with
what is said to have been the largest
cargo of salmon ever shipped from that
province. The shipment totalled 68,
901 cases, valued at \$440,000, and
was consigned by A. L. Russell to
Liverpool and London.

A company is being formed at the
coast for the purpose of erecting a
cannery or the Skeena river about
twelve miles from Port Essington,
where besides canning salmon in the
ordinary way, salmon, halibut, her-
ring, and cod, and probably solachans
will be prepared by other systems
for export. Salmon, halibut, cod and
herring will be smoked and canned
by a special system.

B. C. Coal Industry.

The following is the output of coal
from the Vancouver Island collieries for
1898 and 1899, in tons:

	1898.	1899
New V. C. Co. ...	520,222	611,808
Wellington ...	315,736	237,443
Union ...	236,395	206,871
Alexandria ...	45,560	17,129
Wellington Extension		40,000

Total tons ... 1,117,915 1,166,251

FOREIGN COAL SHIPMENTS.

	1898.	1899
New V. C. Co. ...	403,535	463,109
Wellington ...	232,642	206,422
Union ...	129,684	88,174
Wellington Extension		11,386

Total tons... 765,861 769,091

The following is the approximate
value of the output from British Colum-
bia mines:

District.	1898.	1899.
Carlisle ...	\$ 389,360	\$ 500,000
Cassiar (Atlin) ...	107,300	900,000
Kootenay East ...	133,368	160,000
Kootenay West ...	6,042,975	4,869,000
Lillooet ...	47,814	55,000
Yale ...	432,512	500,000
Other districts ...	19,437	150,000

Total ... \$7,172,766 \$7,134,000

The West Kootenay table set out in
divisions shows as follows:

Division.	1898.	1899.
Athworth ...	\$ 159,801	\$ 100,000
Nelson ...	694,860	500,000
Stewart ...	2,619,852	1,158,000
Trail Creek ...	2,470,811	3,014,000
Other camps ...	97,631	27,000

The public revenues of Newfoundland
for the six months ending with Dec.
31, 1899, were \$1,043,000, which is
\$230,000 over the figures reached dur-
ing the corresponding period of 1898.
This is the largest showing ever made
in the history of the colony.