

TRADE AND COMMERCE

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.
Tuesday Morning, Dec. 26.

VICTORIA.

It is generally acknowledged that the Christmas trade this year was better than last season, although purchasers are said to have been conservative and seeking good values. The demand was principally for necessary and useful articles, and fancy goods with fictitious values are said to have found but a small place among the purchases made. The clear fine weather also made people feel like trading. It is believed that the trade in general here offers no reasonable grounds for complaint. The prospects for the new year are being talked about and while opinions differ slightly they generally agree that it will be a prosperous one, although the return of good times will be gradual and not readily noticed except by those who watch their business closely, and are able to feel its pulse month by month. The buying will be on conservative lines, which will necessitate sorting up throughout the season. The easy money markets along the coast are tending to give a more general desire to place funds as confidence grows. During the late depression there was a general weeding out of weak firms as credit narrowed and those that have continued have had their lines of credit cut, so that to day the business interests of the Province are conceded to be in a very healthy condition.

Of Vancouver trade, the *News Advertiser* says: "As is only natural, business in all lines has shown a great improvement during the last few days. Considering the existing hard times, it is very gratifying to learn that the X'mas trade has been fully equal to that of previous years, in fact some merchants state that the volume of trade has been even greater. It is also worthy of mention that the merchants have gone to far greater trouble in decorating the windows and stores for the festive season this year than has usually been the case. During the last few days a large amount of Australian mutton has been placed on the market, and has met with a good sale. Owing to the heavy duty, however, it is not very profitable to the shippers, but were the duty equalized to that on live sheep, the public would be afforded a much superior quality of mutton, while a large trade would be done. This matter is now under the consideration of the Government, who will no doubt act upon it at the next session. Wholesale business has been brisk during the past week and promises to keep up till the end of the holidays."

FLOUR AND FEED.

Values are reported steady, and no changes are given in quotations.

The *Portland Commercial Review* says: "The inquiry for flour is mostly of a local consumptive character, and it is not always possible to place standards at full quotations. A fair amount of Walla Walla has gone per steamer to San Francisco, but outside of that the export movement has been very light. We have in port three vessels leading or to load flour to Europe,

but it is doubtful whether any of them will get out this month. Prices show very little change, standard brands being quoted from \$2.75 to \$2.80 per bbl."

The Ogilvie Milling Co. quote their celebrated brands of Manitoba flours in car lots, on wharf in Victoria, as follows:

Ogilvie's Hungarian \$1 25
" Strong Bakers 1 05

The Columbia Flouring Mills quote Enderby flour in carload lots on wharf in Victoria:

Premier \$1 00
XXX 3 85
Strong Bakers or XX 3 45
Superfine 3 15

The Victoria Roller Mills quote Victoria flour in 10-bbl. lots at the mills as follows:

Delta \$1 00
Victoria XXX 4 00

Jobbers' quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills \$1 25 @ 0 00
Lion, " 1 25 @ 0 00
XXX 1 25 @ 0 00

Premier, Enderby mills 1 35 @ 0 00

XXX, " 1 20 @ 0 00

XX, " 3 80 @ 0 00

Superfine, " 3 50 @ 0 00

Ogilvie's Hungarian 4 65 @ 0 00

Strong Bakers 4 50 @ 0 00

H. B. C. Fort Garry Hungarian 1 65 @ 0 00

" Strong Bakers 1 50 @ 0 00

Oak Lake Patent Hungarian 1 65 @ 0 00

" Strong Bakers 1 50 @ 0 00

Regina Hungarian 1 65 @ 0 00

" Strong Bakers 1 50 @ 0 00

Benton County, Oregon 1 00 @ 0 00

Portland Roller 1 05 @ 0 00

Snowflake 1 05 @ 0 00

Wheat, per ton 28 00 @ 30 00

Oats 30 00 @ 32 50

Oil cake meal 45 00 @ 00 00

Chop feed 25 00 @ 30 00

Shorts 28 00 @ 30 00

Bran 25 00 @ 27 50

National Mills oatmeal 3 50 @ 0 00

" " rolled oats 3 00 @ 0 00

" " split peas 3 50 @ 0 00

" " pearl barley 4 50 @ 0 00

" " Chop feed 23 00 @ 25 00

California oatmeal 3 75 @ 0 00

California rolled oats 3 80 @ 0 00

Corn, whole per ton 37 50 @ 10 00

Corameal 2 75 @ 3 00

Cornmeal-feed per ton 40 00 @ 00 00

Cracked corn 10 00 @ 00 00

Hay, per ton 18 00 @ 20 00

Straw, per bale 1 00 @ 0 00

RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton \$ 75 00 @ 80 00

Best China rice " 80 00 @ 100 00

Chinarice No. 1 " 68 00 @ 70 00

Rice flour " 70 00

Broken rice " 30 00

Rice Meal " 17 50

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Japanese oranges have been one of the principal features of the fruit market last week. The consignments ex Empress of India arrived in good time for Christmas trade and were quickly taken up by the retail dealers. They sold at first at 65c per box, but were held later at 75c and still reported in good demand at the latter figure. Messrs. Wm. L. Keene & Co., of Vancouver, one of the largest importers by the last steamer, advise their customers that they have fears that the arrivals by the next Empress will be overripe. In view of this several large import orders have been cancelled by cable. Australian oranges and lemons are reported out of the mar-

ket. Bananas are scarce and not in much demand. Alice & Ault have received a car of Oregon apples. They are quoted at \$1.35 per box, and consist of the choicest grades of Oregon winter apples. Quotations on the whole show but little change.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:—

Oranges—Australian 0 00 @ 0 00

California navels 1 25 @ 0 00

" seedlings 3 25 @ 0 00

Japanese 75 @ 0 00

Lemons—California 3 50 @ 1 50

Australian 0 00 @ 0 00

Bananas 1 25 @ 1 50

Apples, bxs 1 25 @ 1 35

" Canadian bbls 5 75 @ 0 00

Grapes, California 1 75 @ 0 00

Cocoanuts per 100 8 00 @ 9 00

Pineapples per doz 3 50 @ 4 00

Vegetables are quoted:

Potatoes—Local per ton 17 00 @ 20 00

Onions—Silverskins per lb 2 @ 2 1/2

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

Butter quotations are steady. It is difficult to secure carlots of good creamery butter in the East, and there is very little dairy in the market. A prominent jobber says that the Australian butter received by the ss. Arawa is not to be compared with the choice Eastern creamery that is generally supplied to the trade by the jobbers. The Australian butter is said to contain no grain, but is greasy, as if melted like lard.

Telegraphic advices received last Friday report the American lard market strong and advancing but no changes in quotations. American hams and breakfast bacon have dropped about 1c per lb. on packers' quotations. Canadian meats are easier and jobbers' prices are reduced about 1/2c.

Australian canned sheeps' and lunch tongues without patent key openings, are reported in demand, and are taking fair hold of the market. Most of the brands received have been of good quality, but two or three have only been fair. They are very low in price, which is giving them an advantage for the present on the American brands of established excellence. Australian canned mutton is said to be ahead of the California. It is very low in price but not in much demand except for the sealing schooners. Two cars of corn syrup are on the way for local jobbers. The price is lower than has been known for some years. The present quotation is 16 1/2c per gallon, bbl. basis in car lots at Davenport, Iowa.

The *Montreal Trade Bulletin* says: "Butter receipts during the past week were 3,305 pkgs against 2,382 pkgs for the week previous. The market remains firm, with the chief demand from the local trade. Sales of creamery have been made at 23c to 23 1/2c, and a few small jobbing lots have brought 24c, but 23 1/2c about represents top figures for round lots of finest late made. Although stocks are by no means large with the supply from the winter creameries, it is thought that it will be ample to fill all wants between now and the spring. Regarding dairy butter, the supply is very small, but the trade depends less on this every year, creamery being the main product. A few lots of Kamouraska have been purchased in Quebec and the district below in place of Western for the Newfoundland