

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[This department is in charge of R. E. Gosnell, who is permanently engaged as a regular member of this 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.]

B. C. Market Quotations.

DRESSED MEAT, LIVE STOCK, ETC.—Live steers are 3½ to 3¾; cows 3c; beef, 7½c—sheep, 5 to 5½c; mutton, 11½c; lambs, \$3 75 each; calves, 6 to 6½c; veal, 9 to 10c; hogs, 7½c; pork, 10½c.

FLOUR, FEED, GRAIN, ETC.—The Ogilvie Milling Co. and Keowatin Milling Co. quote standard brands of Manitoba flour, in car lots only, at Victoria, Vancouver and Westminster as follows: Patent, per bbl., \$4.60; strong bakers, \$4 15. The Columbia Flouring Mills quote Enderby flour in carload lots at Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster: Premier, \$4.55; XXX, \$4.35; strong bakers, or XX, \$4.35; superfine, \$3.55. Quotations small lots are: Flour, Manitoba patents, \$4.70; strong bakers, \$4.30; ladies choice, \$4.75; prairie lily, \$4 50; Oregon, \$5.00. Enderby mills—Premier \$5 25; three star, \$4 90; two star, \$4.50; oatmeal eastern \$3 40; California granulated in gunnies, \$4.35; National mills, Victoria, \$3.75; rolled oats eastern \$1.00 to \$3.25; California, \$4.00; National mills \$3.60 per sack; Westminster Mills, 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, \$21; rice meal do, \$17.50; chopped feed \$30 per ton; bran, \$23; shorts \$23; Man. oats, \$33 to 35; wheat \$23; oil cake, \$50; hay, \$20. Wheat is quoted in car lots for feed No. 2 regular at \$25.50 per ton; oats \$30 in bulk; chop barley, \$32. California malting barley, \$26 to \$27 f.o.b. in San Francisco. California chop, \$32 to \$33. Oak Lake patent Hungarian \$4.65; Oak Lake strong bakers, \$4.25. The Western Milling Co. quote mixed chop, \$30; patent flour, \$1.60; strong bakers, \$4.30; Brandon Mills patents, \$4.60; strong bakers, \$4.40.

FISH—Prices are:—salmon, 5 to 6c; flounders, 4 to 5c; smoked salmon, 12½c; smoked halibut, 10c.

MEATS—Quotations:—Hams are 16½c; breakfast bacon, 17c; backs, 14 to 15½c; long clear, 14c; short rolls, 14c. Lard is held at the following figures: In tins, 17c per pound; in pails, 16½c; in tubs, 16½c. Corned beef \$3 per bbl; mess pork \$28; short cut \$23.

VEGETABLES—New potatoes \$32 per ton; red onions 1½c; silverskins 2½c; cabbage, 2c; rhubarb 4c; carrots, turnips and cels, 1c.

DAIRY—Eastern creamery is quoted at 21c, first quality Manitoba dairy, 18c.

EGGS—Eastern, case, 15½c; Manitoba, fresh, 16c.

FRUIT—Bananas, \$1.50 to \$2.75 per bunch; oranges, California, \$3 to 3.50; lemons, Sicilies, \$5.50; cherries, 90c to \$1 per box; peaches, \$1.25; apricots, \$1.25; plums, \$1 to 1.25; British Columbia cherries, \$1 per box; raspberries and currants, 8c; evaporated apples are quoted at 10c per lb; apricots, 20c; peaches, 11c; dates, 7 to 8c; Smyrna prunes, 9c.

Brief Business Notes.

A. G. Horner & Son, general store, Nanaimo, has assigned.

James Williams' hotel, Nanaimo, sold out to J. A. Thompson.

Carne & Numsie, grocers, Victoria, dissolved. F. Carne continues.

Kerr & Begg, books and stationery, Victoria, dissolved. Kerr continues.

J. A. Johnson, hotel, Victoria, sheriff in possession.

W. P. Sawyer, crockery, &c., Victoria, assigned in trust to James Hastie.

A. J. D. Umphoad, hotel, Westminster; stock for sale by sheriff.

McKay & McIvan, saloon; sold out to W. Tietjen.

R. W. Calvin, Victoria, shipbuilder; succeeded by Olando Warner.

W. Y. Myles, hotel, Nanaimo; sold out to Otto Wolf.

Matches are now being manufactured in Westminster.

Cold storage is being inaugurated in Westminster by private parties.

Parnell & Gunn have purchased the stock of A. Des Brisay, Westminster, and are opening an extensive stock of groceries at the old stand.

Clark & Sons, grocers, Vancouver, advertise giving up business.

Vaughan & Co. commission men, Vancouver, giving up business.

J. C. Leask & Co., Victoria, composed of J. C. Leask and D. Randall, have dissolved partnership, the latter retiring. Mr. Leask will continue the business in his own name.

F. C. Davidge, who has completed arrangements for placing a line of steamships on the Seattle Orient route in connection with the Great Northern railway, has returned home. The steamers will make a short stop at Victoria, the first one arriving in August. For the present steamers will be chartered for the route, but the company intend building steamers which will be ready by May 1st, 1891. These steamers will be principally for carrying freight, but there will be passenger accommodation. The line will be managed by Samuels, Samuels & Co., represented on the Sound and British Columbia by F. C. Davidge and Co.

Crop Failure in England.

The London *Mark Lane Express* depicts a sorrowful picture concerning British agricultural interests. We quote as follows: "Never before has the prospect for the farmer been so black as it is at the present moment. Years of low prices, cloudy skies and excessive rainfall have drained his capital and exhausted his energy, his resources and his hopes. The finishing stroke comes at last from the sunshine he has so much wanted, but of which he has now had, when combined with absence of rain, too much. His crops are destroyed in the parched soils and his cattle are starving from want of food which his farm has failed to produce. Such is the situation of the farmer to-day, and it is difficult to see clearly how he is to get out of the tight corner in which he is placed. His crop, it is true, sow catch crops and trust to our having a mud rainy season; he can clear off his miserable crops, and prepare the land quickly for others; he can also obtain meals and corn and cakes at reasonable prices—but all these things cost money, and money is a very scarce article on the farm in this year of grace 1891. It is here that the crucial point of the situation comes in, for whatever money is spent now cannot possibly be used to a profit, but only to save a part of the present small capital already invested in the soil. To bring in fresh capital for unprofitable use is hardly to be expected, and so the agricultural interest must jog on and do the best it can.

But we really think it high time that the government of the country did something for the farmer. The United Kingdom is still a wealthy country in spite of bad times and a diminished revenue, and unless it is to cease to be so, it must see that its only really productive industry is restored to a state of prosperity. "Agriculture is the basis of all wealth; 'the plow is the first creditor of every State;' and it behooves every nation to see that the profitable productions of the soil are maintained. This is the teaching of both ancient and modern alike, and it seems strange that even a national calamity like the loss of

our crops this year from drouth cannot rouse the government of the day to do its duty.

The disaster of British agriculture is more widespread in its ruin and heartrending effects than would be the loss of at least twenty ships like the *Victoria*, and yet it goes on without a word of sympathy from Parliament, or the slightest attempt to throw out a legislative life-buoy. Let those who doubt our assertion just consider a few facts. The deficiency from an active crop of hay in England at home in the two years 1891-92 was no less than £15,000,000 sterling, while if our crop this year is two-thirds less than an average one, the loss (at £4 per ton, on which the above is computed) will be over £20,000,000. If we divide this loss by two, we have nearly £10,000,000, or enough to purchase eighteen such vessels as the one whose loss the whole nation is deploring, and this gigantic loss is from one crop alone. This year all our crops are failing us more or less, and the total loss of income to the agriculturists of this country, from all these sources, cannot be far short of £2 per acre, and as there are over 21,000,000 acres under cultivation in England—where the disaster of the year is more felt—it follows that the losses from this source alone cannot be far short of £50,000,000, the value of fifty full equipped ironclads.

Crops throughout the Province of Ontario are reported as follows:—"Spring and fall wheat and barley, reduced acreage but fair crops; peas damaged by spring rains, but otherwise up to average; other grains above average; hay, largest crop cut for many years; roots promise well; large fruit, fair crop, except apples, which will be a failure; small fruits abundant. On the whole farmers are well satisfied with the summer's prospects."

The department of the interior at Ottawa has been notified that Immigration Agent Crosswhite has left the Sault with a party of thirty-five farm delegates selected from different points in Michigan, to visit Manitoba and the Territories and report their observations. Agent Williams, of the interior department, has also left the Sault with a party of forty-five settlers from Michigan for Manitoba.

One New York broker reports having sold a line of about 25 cases Jersey canned tomatoes at \$1.47½ on the spot. Despite this there was an offer of a lot at \$1.42½ on dock for similar goods. Illinois pack were offered at \$1.21½ delivered here for standard and \$1.30 for fancy quality. The difference in prices speaks for itself. Some Canadian stock was offered at a cost of \$1.25 landed here, duty paid.—N. Y. *Journal of Commerce*.

The hay crop of England and Wales is about 5,000,000 tons when an average yield is secured. Last year the production fell to 5,555,000 tons, but the importations were comparatively small, 61,000 tons. This year the crop is estimated at figures ranging from 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 tons. It is clear that importations will be far short of the difference between the production this season and what is regarded as an average crop. The production in the United States will probably be fully 50,000,000 tons.

A new commercial journal reaches us from England this week. It is called *Commerce*, and will be published weekly. The monthly publication known as the *Chamber of Commerce Journal*, of London, has been incorporated with *Commerce*, and the former will now cease to exist as a separate publication. *Commerce* is a finely printed paper, handsomely illustrated, and generally carries the appearance of a high class journal. Its special mission is to promote intercommunication between boards of trade and chambers of commerce throughout the world. The prestige which it will start with as successor to the *Chamber of Commerce Journal*, will give it a standing at once, while the appearance of the first issue would indicate a great expansion of influence and usefulness, as compared with the *Chamber of Commerce Journal*.