

B. C. CUSTOMS RETURNS.

The following is a summary of the customs returns for the four ports of the Province of British Columbia for the month of March, 1893:

IMPORTS.

	VICTORIA	VANCOUVER	WESTM'N	NANAIMO	TOTAL
Dutiable Goods	\$171,073 00	\$ 57,180 00	\$ 7,515 00	\$ 16,312 00	\$255,380 00
Free Goods	11,937 00	62,137 00	2,925 00	1,399 00	107,798 00
Total Imports	\$216,010 00	\$119,917 00	\$ 9,540 00	\$ 17,711 00	\$363,178 00

REVENUE.

	VICTORIA	VANCOUVER	WESTM'N	NANAIMO	TOTAL
Duty Collected	\$ 62,993 38	\$ 19,309 43	\$ 2,992 81	\$ 4,818 22	\$ 90,118 87
Other Revenue	6,171 00	2,118 47	171 26	377 33	8,868 16
Total Collections	\$ 69,169 38	\$ 21,428 30	\$ 3,164 10	\$ 5,225 55	\$ 99,017 33

EXPORTS.

	VICTORIA	VANCOUVER	WESTM'N	NANAIMO	TOTAL
The Mine	\$ 11,118 00	\$ 25 00	\$ 313 00	\$252,711 00	\$264,197 00
The Fisheries	12 00	1,380 00	1,267 00		2,659 00
The Forest	18 00	29,711 00	516 00		30,365 00
Animals and their produce	19,121 00	903 00		190 00	20,214 00
Agricultural	111 00	51 00			165 00
Manufactures	6,256 00	16,679 00	535 00	125 00	23,695 00
Miscellaneous	638 00	217 00	25 00		880 00
Total Exports	\$ 37,637 00	\$ 18,996 00	\$ 2,656 00	\$253,026 00	\$312,315 00

* \$2 1/2 gold coin and \$10 silver coin.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.
Tuesday Morning, April 11.

VICTORIA.

An improved feeling is noticeable in wholesale houses. The spring trade seems to be opening up. The wholesale grocery houses report country dealers ordering freely, noticeably outside of the cities. Business in nearly all lines is reported fair, but little improvement is noted in collections. Aside from the obstacles to trade incident to the break up of a long and backward winter, there is a very bright side to the business outlook in the really solid and conservative condition which obtains in general trade throughout the country. Merchants report improvement and a good movement of merchandise. The prospects of a large expenditure of ready cash consequent upon the erection of public buildings in this city has stimulated faith in the probability of a prosperous season, although it is not likely that much in the way of building will be done until late in the year. The announcement that a monthly steamship service will shortly be put in operation between British Columbia and Australia has been received with considerable satisfaction among the mercantile community. The first steamer of the new line, the *Miowera*, is announced to sail from Sydney May 10 for British Columbia. Five thousand pounds of salmon are being shipped east daily, while the orders call for more than three times that amount. The salmon run continues very light.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The following are the receipts of California fruits and vegetables from San Francisco by steamship City of Puebla, April 8, for Victoria. 105 bxs oranges, 11 bxs lemons, 38 crates cabbage, 10 crts cauliflower, 51 bxs asparagus, 17 crts bananas, 1 sk peanuts, 2 cs celery, 10 bxs apples, 1 bx sweet potatoes, 1 cs cucumbers, 4 bxs rhubarb, 6 bxs peas. Fruit trade is very fair in the lines now in season. Asparagus and rhubarb are coming in more freely and prices are declining slightly. Cherries are expected in about a month,

and apricots and peaches in about two months.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:—

Oranges—Navels, common to good	3 50 @	4 00
" fancy	1 25 @	0 00
Riverside Seedlings	2 00 @	2 25
" fancy	2 35 @	2 75
Los Angeles	2 00 @	2 25
Lemons—California	1 00 @	5 00
Sicily	5 50 @	0 00
Apples—California, bxs	2 50 @	0 00
lbs	7 50 @	0 00
Bananas	3 50 @	3 75

Vegetables are quoted:

Potatoes—Local	per ton	30 00 @	35 00
Onions—Red California		00 @	0
Oregon Silverskins		3 @	31
Cabbage		2 @	21
Asparagus	per lb	11 @	
Rhubarb		10 @	

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The following are the receipts of California butter from San Francisco, by ss. City of Puebla, April 8, for Victoria: 25 cs, 2,730 lbs, 20 hf cases, 1,100 lbs—total 3,830 lbs. Receipts April 2, 1,895 lbs, March 26, 2,450 lbs, March 19, 7,119 lbs., March 13, 3,670 lbs., March 6, 1,795 lbs. The price of California roll declined about 1c per lb., for all qualities. The price for Eastern creamery is slightly weaker, and the supply is heavy. The British Columbia Sugar Refinery have advanced their prices 5c per lb., and jobbers' quotations are up 5c in sympathy. There is a slightly easier feeling in the Eastern meat market, although the general situation continues strong for the stocks of cured meats are light and the visible supply of hogs is also light. It is believed that a number of dealers have not sufficient cold storage to carry their stocks of cured meats during the hot weather. This, together with the fact that the present high prices are to a certain extent lessening the consumption of packing house products, has caused some houses to push sales with the object of reducing stock within the limits of their cold storage capacity. Business generally has been very good for the past week, and prices on the whole are steady.

American canned meats, staples, are quoted to the jobbers in bond as follows. Roast corned and lunch beef, 1's per doz.,

\$1.25; do. 2's per doz., \$2.00; lunch tongue, 1's per doz., \$3.45; do. 2's, \$6.50. Armour's white label condensed soups in 2 lb. tins are quoted at \$3 per doz.

Commission agents quote American meats f. o. b. Victoria, duty paid, as follows: Medium hams, 18½c per lb; heavy hams, 18c; choice breakfast bacon, 18½c; short clear sides, 15c, and dry salt clear sides, 14½c. Armour's white label pure lard, 10 lb. pails, 10½c per lb.

Armour's Gold Band meats, which are the finest quality on the American market, being a special grade 1c choice family trade, are quoted, (duty paid, Victoria), hams, 20½c, breakfast bacon, 20½c.

California evaporated fruits are quoted as follows:—Apples, evaporated, 50 lb. boxes, 14c per lb., 25 lb. boxes 13½c; apricots, 25 lb. boxes, 20c; prunes, 25 lb. boxes, 14c; plums, 25 lb. boxes, 14½c to 14¾c; peaches, 50 lb. boxes, 16c, 25 lb. boxes 17c. Canadian evaporated apples, 50 lb boxes, 8½ to 9c.

The British Columbia Sugar Refining Co. L'td., quote as follows in their weekly price list. Powdered icing and bar, 6½c; Paris lumps, 6½c; granulated 5½c; extra C. 5½c; fancy yellow, 5c; yellow 4½c; golden C. 4½c. Above prices are for barrels or bags; half-barrels and 100 pound kegs, ¾c; more, boxes ¾c more. No order taken for less than 100 barrels or its equivalent.

They quote syrup as follows: Finest golden, in 30 gal. bls. 2½c; ditto in 10 gal. kegs. 3c; ditto in 5 gal. kegs, \$2.25 each; ditto, in 1 gal. tins, \$1.50 per case of 10; ditto in ½ gal. tins, \$6 per case of 20. Prices cover delivery in Vancouver, and at Victoria, New Westminster and Nanaimo, and are subject to a discount of 2½ per cent. for cash in fourteen days. All prices subject to change without notice.

The *Montreal Trade Bulletin* says: "Butter receipts during the past week were 401 pkgs., against 581 pkgs., for the week previous. The market is quiet, and prices continue to lean towards the easy side. A lot of over 100 tubs of creamery returned from Glasgow was sold at 19½c, and a portion of the lot from Liverpool is offered at 19c. A few tubs of new milk creamery have arrived and sold at 21c to 26c according to quality. Fresh made Eastern Townships dairy has been sold in single tubs at 21c to 23c as to quality. New creamery is expected to be on the market in good sized quantities next month. Creamery choice fall made, 21c to 21½c; Creamery good to fine, 20c. The market for roll butter is quiet, and sales have been made at 18c to 19c, a few fancy baskets bringing 20c. Cheese receipts during the past week were 18 boxes against 47 boxes for the week previous. The new fodder cheese reported by us as offered on the Brockville market last week were sold at 11c, and, since then, sales are reported in the same market at 10½c. It is believed that more April cheese will be made this year than last; but it is to be hoped that very few of this class of goods will be shipped to England, as it is by no means desirable as a rule. The Liverpool cable has remained at 15s 6d during the week, and here prices of old cheese are nominally quoted at 11½c to 11¾c for finest; but there is so little here that values are purely nominal."