

**TRADE AND COMMERCE.**

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE,  
Tuesday Morning, March 15.  
VICTORIA.

There has been a very fair demand from the distributive trade for staple merchandise. Building operations on an extensive scale are looked for the coming season. A few more weeks and then we will have in all probability settled weather, and an increase in the volume of trade will follow. Business men say there is nothing now to fear from the recent attempt to float alleged "townsite" property, as there has been nothing sold to speak of. Several of those who have been bitten are already trying to unload. The situation at present is somewhat quiet, but the future presents bright prospects for the whole Province.

**FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.**

It is claimed that all over the State of California the fruit crops are going to be larger than last year, with the exception that certain varieties which have been bearing heavily for a few years past, may be somewhat scarcer than last season; but generally the crop will be the largest ever raised. All California fruit will be exceptionally cheap this year, and with cheap sugar the imports will in all probability exceed those of last year. It is reported that the frost has spoiled fully two-thirds of the Riverside crop, and fruit in this damaged condition has been sold in San Francisco at 60c per box for seedlings and \$1.50 for Navals, while fruit in perfect condition is bringing \$2.50 for Riverside seedlings and \$1.50 to \$5.00 for Navals. Los Angeles and San Diego have, it is said, thus far escaped the frost. Oranges that are whole sound fruit are somewhat stiffer in price. Sound Navals are bringing about \$5 a box, and Riverside seedlings (150 to 170) \$3.25, while damaged seedlings are selling as low as \$2.00. There are some Tahiti seedlings on the market which are quoted at \$2.50. Rhubarb is now in and quoted at 11c. Asparagus has dropped to 15c. There have been large receipts of potatoes from the American side recently, and this market is rather glutted—selling from \$15 upwards according to quality. New potatoes are expected from California shortly. Quotations are:—Oranges—Riverside seedlings, \$2.35 to \$3.25; navels, \$1.50 to \$5; Los Angeles, \$2; California lemons, \$1 to \$1.75; Sicily lemons, \$7; bananas, \$3.75; silverskin onions, 2c per lb.; cabbage, 2½c per lb.; asparagus, 15c per lb.; Oregon yellow danner, 1½c; apples, \$1.62½ to \$2 per box; potatoes, \$15 to \$20 per ton. Rhubarb, 11c.

**GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.**

Oregon eggs are quoted at 19c. California roll butter is coming more freely into the market, and best quality of fancy is quoted at 29c. Consignments will be light for a steamer or two until the surplus stock of creamery now in jobbers' hands has been worked off. Manitoba dairy has weakened.

Quotations are: Eastern creamery, 29½c per lb. for large and 29c for small; Manitoba creamery, 30c; dairy, 15c; Eastern Townships, first quality, 20c; cheese is quoted at 11c and stiff. Meats are quoted: Hams, 11c per lb.; breakfast

bacon, 11c; backs, 13c; short roll, 11½c; long clear, 11c; pure kettle lard, 50 lb, 13c; pure steam do., 12c; lard compound, 10½c-11½c; lard tins, 12½-13½c. Granulated sugar is quoted by jobbers at 5½c, and yellows at 4½c to 4½c.

Cowan & Wilson, wholesale grocers, have made arrangements with manufacturers in Cuba, and are now receiving fortnightly shipments of the finest brands of Havana cigars, which are selling from \$50 per thousand upwards.

The local jobbers are now carrying full stocks of all the different kinds of jams put up in glass jars by Okel & Morris at the Victoria Preserving Factory, which include apricot, peach, plum, pear, apricot marmalade, etc. Quotations are 1½ lb. size, \$3 per dozen; 3 lb. size, \$5 per doz.

Falconer's Victoria Vinegar Works' goods are now carried by the leading wholesale grocers, comprising pure malt vinegar, tomato catsup, Worcestershire sauce, mushroom catsup, apple and quince cider, lemon and vanilla extracts and fruit syrups—of home manufacture.

**FLOUR AND FEED.**

The Hudson's Bay Company have advanced the price of their Port Garry Hungarian flour to \$6 per barrel in sympathy with the other brands of Manitoba Hungarian flour. It has been stated by a representative that the Manitoba millers have agreed not to cut, and that prices will now be uniform. Some parties, however, place little faith in this on account of the bitter feeling that has hitherto existed between the Ogilvie Milling Co. and the Lake of the Woods Co. Local trading is light, and prices in the main are unchanged.

The Columbia Flouring Mills quote: For Enderby flour in carload lots, Premier, \$5.50; XXX., \$5.30; Strong Bakers or XX., \$5.00; Superfine, \$4.00. Quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills.....	\$5 50 @ 0 00
Lion, " " " " " " " "	5 50 @ 0 00
Premier, Enderby mills.....	5 50 @ 0 00
XXX., " " " " " " " "	5 50 @ 0 00
XX., " " " " " " " "	5 25 @ 5 70
Superfine, " " " " " " " "	4 25 @ 4 50
Ogilvie's Hungarian.....	6 00 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers.....	5 75 @ 0 00
H. B. C. Fort Garry Hungarian ..	6 00 @ 0 00
Benton County, Oregon.....	6 00 @ 0 00
Snowflake ..	6 25 @ 0 00
Portland Roller.....	6 10 @ 0 00
Royal.....	6 00 @ 0 00
Oregon Superfine.....	4 25 @ 0 00
Wheat, per ton.....	\$10 00 @ 15 00
Oats.....	32 50 @ 35 00
Oil cake meal.....	32 50 @ 35 00
Chop feed.....	33 00 @ 35 00
Shorts.....	28 00 @ 30 00
Bran.....	26 00 @ 27 50
National Mills oatmeal.....	3 50 @ 0 00
" " rolled oats.....	3 25 @ 0 00
" " split peas.....	3 50 @ 0 00
" " pearl barley.....	4 50 @ 0 00
California oatmeal.....	4 35 @ 0 00
California rolled oats.....	3 90 @ 4 00
Corameal.....	2 75 @ 3 00
Cracked corn.....	15 00 @ 50 00
Hay, per ton.....	18 00 @ 20 00
Straw, per bale.....	1 25 @ 0 00

**RICE.**

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton.....	\$77 50
China rice " " " " " " " "	70 00
Rice flour " " " " " " " "	70 00
Chit rice " " " " " " " "	25 00
Rice Meal " " " " " " " "	17 50

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**

The spring trade is opening up nicely, and all indications point to a fair season's business. Collections are reported fair. In drugs, ergot continues to advance, and a further advance is reported in insect powders. The American market for gum shellac has not yet been effected, although the reports from Calcutta indicate higher prices. In oils, cruise and cassia continue firm, and bergamot is reported higher. The price of eucalyptus has somewhat receded as supplies are coming forward, but the article is still high. Lemon is in good demand and advancing. Orange is also higher. The reports about cod liver oil are very conflicting. Opium—Recent advances to New York are to the effect that the coming crop will be a good one, although the sowings were less than for the previous year. The market is dull and weak. Large sales have lately been made in the east at a slight decline. In roots—African ginger is high and still advancing. Orris is scarce and high, and sarsaparilla is advancing. Chemicals—A sharp advance in citric acid is advised. Tartaric is flat. Borax has an upward tendency: Camphor, both English and foreign, are lower. Cream of tartar continues low. Dextrine is much higher. Quinine has made a slight advance. Mercurials have declined. The demand for bluestone is increasing, but the price is ruling lower than for some time past.

**LUMBER.**

The Kathinka has finished loading for Australia. The cargo consists of 1,142,212 feet rough, 61,693 feet pickets, and 25,020 feet laths, valued at \$9,251. The W. H. Taibot has also completed loading a cargo, consisting of 930,805 feet rough and 49,840 feet T. & G. flooring, valued at \$10,272, for Tientsin. The cargo of the schooner Reporter, from Chemainus to San Pedro, consisted of 416,380 feet, composed of stringers and railway ties, bridge and car timbers, for the Southern Pacific Railway Company. There are no arrivals to note since last week. Quotations are as follows for cargo lots for foreign shipment, being the prices of the Pacific Pine Lumber Association: Rough merchantable, ordinary sizes, in lengths to 40 feet, inclusive, \$9 per M feet; rough deck plank, average length 35 feet, \$19; dressed flooring, \$17; pickets, \$9; laths, 4 feet, \$2.

The arrangement entered into by the local mills to establish a uniform scale of prices has been broken by the action of a concern which would not conform to the rules of the organization. Prices are somewhat cut up, and dealers do not wish to give quotations.

The newly elected Council of the Vancouver Board of Trade held its first meeting last Thursday night. Present: Mr. W. F. Salisbury, vice-president, in the chair; Thomas Dunn, W. Skeene, W. Godfrey, H. Bell-Irving, J. C. McLagan, S. Oppenheimer, Mayor Cope, R. A. Anderson, Walter Taylor, and A. H. B. Macgowan, secretary. Resolutions were passed regarding the salmon industry for presentation to the Fisheries Commission, also referring to the redistribution of seats for the House of Commons.