

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE COMMERCIAL

## Business in British Columbia.

Vancouver, Nov. 18.

Several months ago the Commercial correspondent was asked by a gentleman connected with the Manitoba Dairy Association to wire quotations for dairy produce posted that day in Vancouver. The quotations were sent local creamery being quoted some 10 cents higher than Manitoba creamery and local eggs 25 cents higher than fresh Manitoba eggs laid down here. A letter was promptly received saying that the members of the Dairy Association could not understand nor would they believe it possible that there was such a disparity between prices of Manitoba eggs and butter, and the local British Columbia articles, and that more care should have been used in wiring the quotations, etc. As a matter of fact the quotations were precisely correct, as they are to-day in The Commercial. In fact Manitoba creamery is retailing at 25 cents in many of the stores, and Chilliwack, British Columbia, creamery at 40 cents, while many of the stores are charging 60 cents for absolutely fresh eggs and are selling Manitoba or eastern fresh eggs, or case eggs as they are called, at 25 cents. As regards the difference in the price of local and imported butter it is explained as follows by one dealer: "The butter is collected in Manitoba, choice and sweet and placed in a warehouse. From there it is stored in refrigerator cars with, say a temperature of 30. It remains there several days and is then shipped to the cold storage at Vancouver with a temperature of 15 or 20. From there it is taken out in parcels and stored for quick sale in warehouses with a temperature of 50, and a damp, mucky temperature at that. It is then taken to stores in small lots and placed in open windows for display at 25 cents a pound. In the meantime the local creamery is sent by express direct to retailers and sent by them direct to consumers. It is not displayed for sale. It is high priced, scarce, and kept for regular customers willing to pay the price. They arrange with their grocer to have so many pounds a month delivered at 35 or 40 cents a pound as the case may be and there is not enough—never enough—to go around. As long as the freezing process goes on the Manitoba butter keeps fresh, although it may lose somewhat in flavor by the absorption of moisture in cold storage, but when it is taken out of cold storage no doubt it fails in quality very rapidly. It must also be remembered that the different temperatures the butter is subjected to before it reaches the table of the consumer must also affect its staying powers." With this theory the Commercial correspondent is perhaps, able to satisfy the sceptical why there is such a difference in price between Manitoba and Vancouver creamery. In a great measure the same argument will apply to eggs.

In the flour and feed market there is no change. It was thought better as a guide to farmers to quote the price paid to farmers in British Columbia for oats and wheat. This has recently lead to confusion, and like all other prices quoted in the Vancouver market the jobbing quotation will be hereafter listed, so that the price named for oats and wheat is the price which would be charged to retailers by wholesale houses.

Potatoes are being held for higher prices, and Ashcroft are advancing. The cured meat market is not satisfactory. Word has come to British Columbia from the east that owing to the enormous orders for the Transvaal troops cured meats are advancing, or rather that wholesalers, taking advantage of the fact that big orders were coming in, were stiffening prices. Wires to large eastern houses for certain standard lines of goods brought the response, "none for sale," presumably these houses are holding out. In the meantime, local dealers are not able to charge any more for their goods in British Columbia. It is as if used to be in Winnipeg, but isn't now. In British Columbia if a buyer goes to a retailer for a jobbing order of hams, very often the retailer will either say "I haven't got them" and then from pure cussedness quote them below the market, or he will quote them at 1-2 per cent advance of close wholesale prices with 2 per cent off for cash, which gives him an advance of about 1-4 of a cent or so over the wholesaler for the trouble in placing and delivering the goods, while in Winnipeg as a rule, so we are led to believe in British Columbia, should a customer ask for a lot of hams in a big retail store he would be promptly directed to the nearest wholesale establishment that made a business of curing hams and selling them in wholesale lots or importing them for sale, as jobbers. This competition between the wholesalers, jobbers, wholesale grocers, and big retail houses, keep the profits pared down to a fine point.

## 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.

Vancouver, Nov. 18.

Choice fresh eggs are scarce and local fresh are bringing fancy prices. Local iron butter is also bringing a high price. Other lines unchanged.

**BUTTER**—Local creamery, 40 to 45c; Manitoba creamery, 24 1-2 to 25c; Manitoba dairy, 19 to 20c.

**EGGS**—Fresh local, 60c per dozen, as to quality; eastern eggs, 20 to 21c.

**CHEESE**—15c.

**GREEN FRUIT**—Oranges, \$4.75 to \$5 per box; California lemons, \$4.00 to \$4.25; apples, \$1.60 to \$1.75 per box; pears, \$2; bananas, \$2.75 to \$2.85; fruits. British Columbia fruits are quoted as follows: Apples, \$1 to \$1.25 box; local pears, \$1.50 box.

**MEAL**—Rolled oats, 90 lb. sack, \$2.50; 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, \$4.70; strong bakers, \$4.50; Oregon, \$4.50 per barrel.

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

**CURED MEATS**—Hams, 15c. Breakfast bacon, 14c; backs, 12 1-2 to 13c; 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, 2c; smelts, 5c; sea bass, 4c; whiting, 5c; soles, 6c; smoked 10c; fresh halibut 6c; salmon 6c; bloater 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.

**VEGETABLES**—Potatoes, \$15 to \$16 per ton; Ashcroft potatoes, \$19 to \$20 ton; cabbage, 11-2c 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, \$23 ton; bran, \$21; oil cake meal, \$35 ton; l.o.b. Vancouver, including duty paid on imported stuff.

**HAY**—New hay, \$14; old, \$10 per ton. **DRESSED MEATS**—Beef, 7 to 8c; mutton, 11c; pork, 9 to 9 1-2c; veal, 12 1-2c lb.

**LIVE STOCK**—Steers, \$4 per 100 lbs.; cows, \$3.50; sheep, \$5.50 per 100 lbs.; hogs, 7 to 7 1-2c per lb.

**POULTRY**—Chickens, \$6 per dozen.

**EVAPORATED FRUITS**—Apricots, 10 to 17c per lb.; peaches, 10 to 12c; plums, 9 to 10c; prunes, French, 5 to 7 1-2c per lb.; loose muscatel raisins, 6c; London layer raisins, \$1.90 box; Italian prunes, 6 to 8 1-2c lb.

**NUTS**—Almonds 12c; filberts 12 1-2c; peanuts 10c; Brazil 12 1-4c, walnuts 13c lb.

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

**SYRUPS**—30 gallon barrels, 21 1-4c lb.; 10 gallon kegs 2 3-4c; 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, 22c; 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, \$2.75. 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.

Nelson, B. C., Nov. 18.

The market has been steady this week. The only change noted is a decline of \$2 per ton on oats.

**Butter**—Manitoba fresh creamery, 25c; choice dairy butter, 20c.

**Cheese**—15c.

**Eggs**—Fresh eastern, 22c per dozen; pickled, 21c.

**Oats**—Per ton, \$27.

**Flour**—Manitoba patent, per barrel, \$5.00.

**Potatoes**—Per ton, \$20.

## British Columbia Items.

High McCausland has opened in the boot and shoe business at Nelson.

John Gallipeau, of Huntingdon, Que., will establish a machine shop and foundry at Grand Forks.

A. McLean, gent's furnishings, boots and shoes, etc., Kamloops, is opening in the same business at Revelstoke.

L. Monier, of Cascade, is establishing a bonded warehouse at Columbia, which he will make the headquarters for his wholesale business.

The wholesale cigar firm of Creed, Slater & Co., Vancouver, has assumed. One of the partners, Mr. Slater, died in October, and to this fact is partly attributed the failure.

Superintendent Sharp, of the Dominion government farm at Agassiz has shipped his fruit exhibit for the Paris exposition. An attempt has been made to choose quality rather than quantity or variety.

R. P. Rickett & Co.'s annual report of the Canadian sealing fleets catch in the Pacific shows a total catch for this year by 25 vessels and the Indians of 36,471 seal skins, 23,969 of which were taken in Behring Sea. This is the largest catch since 1896.

The village of Port Essington was destroyed by fire on Monday, Nov. 10. The loss will amount to \$70,000. The cannery of Robert Cunningham, warehouse, wharf, and a lot of Indian dwellings were burnt. Cunningham will rebuild the cannery. Port Essington is situated at the mouth of the Skeena river.