

BRITISH COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE COMMERCIAL

Business in British Columbia.

Vancouver, March 26.

Wholesalers report business dull, money tight and collections slow. The feature of the week is the slump in eggs, caused by the continued mild weather and the abundant supply of imported case eggs. Eggs for cooking purposes are retailing at 10 cents, while fresh laid eggs can be purchased at the stores for 20 and 25 cents. Fraser valley potatoes are offering more freely and are consequently cheaper this week.

The Kootenay trade is still demoralized owing to the eight-hour law. Commissioner Clute is at Rossland, making a final effort to arrive at some means by which the difference between the mine owners and miners can be adjusted. The Hon. Smith-Curtis, the new minister of mines, is in Rossland co-operating with Mr. Clute.

The committee chosen by the salmon canners combine to allocate the season pack and decide upon the output of each company have visited all the canneries and collected the data on which they will base their calculations. The price to be paid for fish will not be decided upon until the last moment. In the meantime the fishermen have also combined. The Japanese being allowed to join the union to strengthen the combination. As for the canners they say they will offer a fair price for the fish, and if this price is not accepted they will be content with a small pack and use their own fishermen, (each cannery is allowed a certain number of licenses) to supply them with fish.

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, March 31.

The only change this week is in butter, California creamery being quoted 1c lower. Potatoes firmer.

BUTTER—Local creamery, 51c. California is selling at 28 to 29c. Fresh dairy, 20 to 27c.

EGGS—Fresh local, 20c; eastern case eggs, 10 to 15c, as to quality. Oregon eggs, 21c per doz.

CHEESE—15c.

GREEN FRUIT—Oranges, n. vel, \$2.50 to \$3.00; seedlings, \$2.00; California lemons, \$3.50 to \$4.00; bananas, \$2.75.

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, \$3.00 per 100 lbs.

FLOUR—Delivered B. C. points—Manitoba patent, per barrel, \$1.60; strong bakers', \$4.30; Oregon, \$4.50 per barrel.

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

CURED MEATS—Hams, 14 to 14 1/2c; breakfast bacon, 13 to 13 1/2c; backs, 12 1/2c; long clear, 10c; rolls, 12 to 12 1/2c; smoked sides, 11c.

LARD—Tins, 10c per lb.; in pails and tubs, 9 1/2c.

FISH—Flounders, 3c; smelts, 5c; sea bass, 4c; whiting, 5c; soles, 6c; halibut, 6c; salmon, 9c; hloaters, 7c; cod, 6c per lb.; crabs, 60c per dozen.

GAME—Mallards, 70c. pintail, 40c teal, 25c; widgeon, 40c per pair.

POULTRY—Turkeys, 14c; geese, 12c.

VEGETABLES—Potatoes, Fraser river stock \$15 to \$18 per ton; Ashcroft potatoes, \$20 to \$22 ton; cabbage 2 1/2c lb.; carrots, turnips and beets, \$12 per

ton; red onions, 1 1/2c per lb., silver-skins 2 1/2c.

FEED—National mills chop, \$25 per ton, bran, \$20; shorts, \$22; oil cake meal, \$35 ton, f.o.b. Vancouver, including duty paid on imported stuff.

HAY—Per ton, \$16.

DRESSED MEATS—Beef, 8 1/2 to 9c; mutton, 11c; pork, 8 1/2 to 9c; veal, 10 1/2 to 11c per lb.

LIVE STOCK—Stoers, \$1.75 to \$4.00 per 100 lbs.; cows, \$3.25; sheep, \$5.60; per 100 lbs.; hogs, 5c per lb.

DRIED FRUITS—Apricots, 17c peaches, 10 to 12c; pitted plums, 12c; prunes, French 5 to 7 1/2c lb.; London layer raisins, \$2.00 to \$2.25 box; Italian prunes, 6 to 8 1/2c lb.; Ass-catel raisins, 2 crown 8, 3 crown 8 1/2c, 4 crown 9c; dates, 9c; black figs, 6c; white figs, 9 1/2c; layer figs, 10 lb. box, \$1.45; silver prunes, 9 1/2c; quartered pears, 11 1/2c; half pears, 12 1/2c; nectarines, 14c; Valencia raisins, 7 1/2c; sultanas, 11 to 14c; blackberries, 16c; raspberries, 25c; seeded raisins, 9 1/2c.

NUTS—Almonds, 16c; filberts, 12 1/2c; peanuts, 9c; Brazil 12 1/2c; walnuts, 13c lb.

SUGARS—Powdered, icing 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, 2 1/4 lb.; 10 gallon kegs, 2 3/4c; 3 gallon tins, \$1.75 each; 1 gallon tins, \$4.60 case of 10; 1 1/2 gallon tins, \$5.25 case of 20.

TEAS—Congo, Fair, 11 1/2c; good, 18c; choice, 29c; Ceylon and India, fair, 20c.

HARDWARE—Bar iron—base, \$3.50. Horse shoe nails, discount, 40 per cent; horse shoes, keg, \$5.00. Wire nails—base price, \$4.50; cut, \$3.75. Rope, Manila, 16c. Boiled oil, 75c. White lead, \$7.50. Putty, \$3.50. Barbed wire, \$4.75 per 100 lbs.

PRICES IN THE KOOTENAY.

Nelson, March 31.

Cheese—Large, 15 1/2c; small sizes, 16c per lb.

Eggs—Fresh Washington eggs, 20c.

Oats—Per ton, \$27.

Millfeed—Bran, \$20; shorts, \$22 per ton.

Flour—Manitoba patent, \$1.80.

Hay—Per ton, \$28.

Potatoes—Per ton, \$23.

British Columbia Notes.

James Haddock is opening in small wares at Ashcroft.

The British Columbia provincial elections will take place on June 15.

Rendell & Co., dry goods, Greenwood, will open a branch at Phoenix.

R. Howson & Co., furniture, Revelstoke, are opening up a branch in Ferguson.

Thos Cowan, of Wellington, will open a general store at Nanaimo on April 1.

Geo. Bell & Co., have bought out Hyde, Tiltsworth & Co., produce and commission, Nelson.

W. W. Moore has commenced business as commission broker and manufacturer's agent at Vancouver.

The Grand Forks Lumber, Sash and Door Company have been incorporated with a capital of \$15,000.

The British Columbia Manufacturing Co. has been incorporated at New Westminster with a capital of \$25,000.

Wallace Bros., Vancouver, have purchased the Claxton salmon cannery on the Skena river and will operate it this year.

The Peoples' Steam Laundry Company of Grand Forks has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$10,000.

The Victoria board of trade has passed a resolution urging the Dominion and provincial governments to grant subsidies to secure an extension

of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railroad to the northern end of Vancouver island.

Two men were instantly killed and a building wrecked by an explosion of powder in the packing house of the Ontario Powder company at Nelson on the 29th inst.

The Slave Lake Powder Company, Limited, is being organized at Vancouver for the purpose of developing water power at Slave River Falls, and transmitting it by means of electricity to Vancouver, a distance of 42 miles. J. B. Ferguson is managing director.

The town of Kuskanook was almost wiped out by fire on the 21st inst. Several hotels and Fraser's and Wright's stores were destroyed. The loss is placed at \$15,000. No insurance. Kuskanook is a little town on Kootenay Lake at the northern end of the Beddington railway.

British Live Stock Market.

London, March 26.—Considerable strength has developed in this market since this day week, as prices show an advance of 1c for cattle, and 1 1/2c to 2c for sheep. Trade to-day was firm with a good demand, and choice States cattle sold at 13c; Argentine at 12c, and Argentine sheep at 15c to 15 1/2c.

Liverpool, March 26.—This market was also much stronger for Canadian cattle, and prices are 1-2c higher at 12c.

A private cable received from Liverpool quoted choice Canadian cattle at 11 1/2c to 12c; sheep at 15c, and lambs at 17c.

Western Business Items.

The Hudson's Bay Company have decided to close their branch store at Morden, Man.

Hiram Jekling has bought out the lumber business of J. E. Campbell at Carman, Man.

Postill & Wright, general merchants, Red Deer, Alberta, have dissolved partnership, Postill continues the business.

J. W. Lord, who has been for a number of years accountant and office manager for Thos. Ryan Winship, has been appointed agent for Manitoba and the Northwest Territories as far west as Medicine Hat, for the Ottawa Fire Insurance Company of Ottawa, Ont. This company comprises among its shareholders and officers some of the leading business men of Ottawa. Mr. Lord commences business on Monday in the McIntyre block. He proposes also to give attention to assignee business, for which his experience in mercantile pursuits should thoroughly fit him.

The iron will of a selfish man is undoubtedly made from common pig iron.

Ottawa Fire Insurance Co.

OF OTTAWA.

Authorized Capital - \$1,000,000

A. B. POWELL, General Manager. CHAS. MAGEE, President

JOHN W. LORD, Agent for Manitoba and the Northwest.

ROOM 212 MCINTYRE BLK., WINNIPEG P. O. Box 276.

Good live agents wanted in all principal centres.