

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.
Tuesday Morning, Feb. 27.

VICTORIA.

The month of February is generally one of the quietest months in the year, and the one now drawing to a close has been no exception to the general rule. Certainly March will witness activity in the farming districts, and already preparations are being made toward putting in the crops. It is believed that with clear skies and passable roads trade will take on new life, for dealers in the interior, having been buying lightly for a couple of seasons, will necessarily buy quite freely. Collections are reported only fair both by banks and jobbing houses.

The Vancouver *News-Advertiser* says: "The past week has been a quiet one in every line. Owing to hard times, people are only purchasing actual staples, while the scarcity of ready money makes collections a difficult matter. The change in the weather has permitted outdoor work to be resumed, and consequently a number of those out of work have been provided with employment, though there are still a number of idle men around. Wholesale business has been very quiet during the past week with wholesalers. Retail merchants are carrying such large stocks at present, owing to dull times, and the consequent reduction in public demand, and this of course has its effect on wholesale men."

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The California butter market is reported considerably easier, and, in all probabilities, jobbers' prices will be reduced somewhat next week. Quotations at present range from 28½c to 31c for California creamery. Dried fruits of all kinds are advancing rapidly both in the New York and San Francisco markets. Jobbers' quotations are unchanged. Sugar remains the same. R. P. Rithet & Co., Ltd., quote China dry granulated at 4½c, while the B. C. Refinery granulated is quoted by jobbers at 4½c.

Jobbers quote:

Valencia raisins.....	per lb	\$ 7 @ \$ 0
Malaga raisins.....	per box	3 00 @ 3 25
Currents (barrels).....	per lb	5 @ 5½
" half bbls.....	per lb	5 @ 6
" (cases).....	per lb	5½ @ 7½
Sultana raisins.....	per lb	8 @ 10
Taragon almonds.....	per lb	14 @ 18
Grenoble walnuts.....	per lb	14 @ 18
Filberts.....	per lb	11½ @ 14

Dairy produce is quoted:

Butter—Eastern Creamery, tubs.....	29 @ 30
Manitoba dairy.....	00 @ 00
California creamery.....	28½ @ 34
Cheese—Canadian, lb.....	13 @ 14
California.....	16 @ 18
Eggs, pickled, case, per doz.....	00 @ 20

Smoked meats and lard are quoted:

Hams.....	13½ @ 14½
Breakfast bacon.....	14½ @ 15
Short rolls.....	10½ @ 11½
Dry Salt, long clear.....	10½ @ 11½
Bacon.....	13½ @ 14½
Pure Lard, 20 lbs, pails.....	14 @ 14½
" " 10 lbs, tins.....	14½ @ 15
" " 5 lbs.....	14½ @ 15
" " 3 lbs.....	14½ @ 15
Lard Compound, 10 lbs.....	11½ @ 12
" " 20 lbs.....	11 @ 12
" " 5 lbs.....	11½ @ 12
" " 3 lbs.....	11½ @ 12

Sugar—Jobbers' prices ½-barrels and kegs in each case being ½c higher:

Dry Granulated (China).....	43
Extra C, China.....	43
Australian Granulated.....	43
Dry Granulated (B. C. Refinery).....	43
Extra C.....	43
Fancy Yellow.....	41
Yellow.....	41
Golden C.....	41
Cubes.....	53
Powdered.....	61
Syrups, per lb.....	3
" 1 gal. tins, American (10).....	5 50
" " (16).....	5 35
" 1 " Vancouver.....	5 50
" 1½ " ".....	7 00

Jobbers' quotations for Armour Packing Company's brands per lb.:

Helmet brand sugar cured hams, medium.....	0 16
" " heavy.....	0 15½
" " breakfast bacon.....	0 16½
Fancy Gold Band hams.....	0 17½
" " breakfast bacon.....	0 18½
White Label pure leaf lard, tierces.....	0 14
" " 50-lb tins.....	0 14½
" " 20-lb ".....	0 14½
" " 10-lb ".....	0 14½
" " 5-lb ".....	0 14½
" " 3-lb ".....	0 14½
Lard compound (tierces).....	0 11½

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Apples are stiffer and are held by some dealers at \$1.50 per box. A supply of potatoes was received last week from Washington. Alice & Ault received the largest consignment, consisting of 60 tons Prolific and Early Rose varieties. They are quoted at \$25 per ton.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:—

Oranges—California navels.....	2 50 @ 3 00
" seedlings.....	2 00 @ 2 50
Japanese.....	50 @ 65
Lemons—California.....	3 00 @ 3 50
Bananas—New Orleans.....	3 00 @ 0 00
Apples.....	bxs 1 25 @ 1 50
" Canadian.....	Abbs 5 75 @ 0 00
Cocoanuts.....	per 100 8 00 @ 9 00

Vegetables are quoted:

Potatoes.....	per ton 22 50 @ 25 00
Onions—Silverskins.....	per lb 0 @ 2½

FLOUR AND FEED.

Oats are reported weaker in Manitoba, but local quotations are unchanged. Jobbers report the market featureless and quotations steady.

The *Portland Commercial Review* says: "There is not much inquiry for flour beyond the ordinary local consumptive demand, and as the mill output is rather in excess of local requirements, and the outside coastwise and foreign inquiry is unimportant, the mills have been forced to lower quotations. We quote standard roller brands at \$2.55 per bbl."

The Ogilvie Milling Co. quote their celebrated brands of Manitoba flours in car lots, on wharf in Victoria, as follows:

Ogilvie's Hungarian.....	\$4 00
" Strong Bakers.....	3 80

The Columbia Flouring Mills quote Enderby flour in carload lots on wharf in Victoria:

Premier.....	\$4 00
XXX.....	3 85
Strong Bakers or XX.....	3 45
Superfine.....	3 15

The Victoria Roller Mills quote Victoria flour in 10-bbl. lots at the mills as follows:

Delta.....	\$4 00
Victoria XXX.....	4 00

Jobbers' quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills.....	\$ 4 25 @ 0 00
Lion.....	4 25 @ 0 00
XXX.....	4 25 @ 0 00
Premier, Enderby mills.....	4 35 @ 0 00
XXX.....	4 20 @ 0 00
XX.....	3 80 @ 0 00
Superfine.....	3 50 @ 0 00
Ogilvie's Hungarian.....	4 10 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers.....	4 25 @ 0 00
H. B. C. Fort Garry Hungarian.....	4 10 @ 0 00
" " Strong Bakers.....	4 25 @ 0 00
Oak Lake Patent Hungarian.....	4 10 @ 0 00
" " Strong Bakers.....	4 25 @ 0 00
Regina Hungarian.....	4 10 @ 0 00
" " Strong Bakers.....	4 25 @ 0 00
Benton County, Oregon.....	3 85 @ 0 00
Portland Roller.....	3 85 @ 0 00
Snowflake.....	3 85 @ 0 00
Wheat, per ton.....	26 00 @ 30 00
Oats.....	30 00 @ 32 50
Oil cake meal.....	12 50 @ 15 00
Chop feed.....	25 00 @ 30 00
Shorts.....	22 50 @ 28 00
Brans.....	25 00 @ 25 00
National Mills oatmeal.....	3 50 @ 0 00
" " rolled oats.....	3 00 @ 0 00
" " split peas.....	3 50 @ 0 00
" " pearl barley.....	4 50 @ 0 00
" " Chop feed.....	23 00 @ 25 00
California oatmeal.....	3 75 @ 0 00
California rolled oats.....	3 75 @ 0 00
Corn, whole.....	per ton 37 50 @ 40 00
Cornmeal.....	2 75 @ 3 00
Cornmeal-feed.....	per ton 40 00 @ 00 00
Cracked corn.....	10 00 @ 00 00
Hay, per ton.....	18 00 @ 20 00
Straw, per bale.....	1 00 @ 0 00

RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton.....	\$ 75 00 @ 80 00
Best China rice.....	80 00 @ 100 00
China rice No. 1.....	68 00 @ 70 00
Rice flour.....	70 00
Broken rice.....	30 00
Rice Meal.....	17 50

LUMBER.

There are no charters to report since last week, and but little can be said of the situation. The following from the *Ottawa Journal* will no doubt be of interest: "British Columbia lumbermen are asking Government to try their pine in public works, alleging that it is better than oak and cheaper. They claim that tests made at McGill University show that British Columbia pine has greater strength either for pillars or beams. This is a very important claim, and it would be well worth the Government's while making a series of official tests. True, no test could show which timber is the more durable—time only could do that—but if it can be proved that the Pacific pine is stronger, that alone would be a tremendous advertisement of a great Canadian staple."

There is at present one vessel of 397 tons, loading at British Columbia ports for foreign. Am. schr. Pioneer, 397 tons, loading poles for Santa Rosalia.

Quotations for Douglas Fir Lumber in cargo lots for foreign shipment:

Rough Merchantable, ordinary sizes, in lengths to 40 feet inclusive, per M feet.....	\$ 8 00
Deck plank, rough, average length, 35 feet per M.....	19 00
Dressed T. and G. flooring, per M.....	15 00
Pickets, rough per M.....	8 00
Laths, 4 feet 6 in, per M.....	1 90

The following are the current city prices; quotations are at the mill and subject to the usual discounts: Rough, \$7.50 per M ft; rough clear, \$14; ship lap, \$9 to \$10; flooring and rustic, No. 1, \$16; do., No. 2, \$12; shingles, \$1.50; lath, \$1.50.