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TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.
Monday Morning, May 22.

VICTORIA.

The general situation remains unchanged, and retrenchment is the general policy of the financial and mercantile community. In fact it is acknowledged that merchants generally are ordering from hand to month and keeping their accounts well under control. The dry goods trade this spring has been dull and all houses are buying tight. The trade before the Queen's Birthday, which is generally a prominent feature of the spring business, is this year scarcely felt in comparison with the trade of the past few years. The clothing business is very fair. Boot and shoe dealers are at present doing a good trade, and stocks in this line are pretty full. Hardware is quiet this spring because of the small number of buildings in course of erection. Grocery and provision houses are doing a very fair business, but the volume of sales is not up to last month. The season for small fruits is coming in and the trade is expected to be active. Money continues tight and collections close.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The following are the receipts of California fruits and vegetables from San Francisco by steamship Umatilla, May 18, for Victoria: 175 cs oranges, 11 cs lemons, 58 crates bananas, 26 pkgs containing 79 bxs cherries, 17 pkgs containing 38 bxs strawberries, 8 cs beans, 49 cs asparagus, 13 cs peas, 21 crates cabbage, 5 cs cucumbers, 1 cs limes, 1 bx pineapples, 10 cs onions, 5 bxs rhubarb. 106 sacks pota-

atoes. A car of Griffin & Skelly brand of Riverside oranges was received Saturday. Prices are, on the whole, the same as last week. Cherries are the only fruit that are lower. Large shipments of small fruits, especially cherries and strawberries, are expected by the steamship City of Puebla in time for the Queen's birthday trade, and they will be cheaper than present quotations. The local market is entirely bare of old potatoes, and the shipments of this year's crop of new potatoes received from San Francisco are, for the present, light and too high in price to go into general consumption. It is believed that there are a few carloads on the way from Manitoba, which may arrive any day and will meet a brisk demand.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:

Oranges - Navels, common to good	3 00 @	3 50
" fancy	4 00 @	1 25
Riverside Seedlings	2 00 @	2 25
" fancy	2 35 @	2 75
Los Angeles	1 90 @	2 00
Lemons - California	4 00 @	5 00
Sicily	5 50 @	6 00
Bananas	3 75 @	3 75
Strawberries	per crate	1 00 @
Cherries		1 75 @
		2 60

Vegetables are quoted:

Potatoes	per ton	35 00 @	40 00
New California	per lb	3 @	3 1/2
Onions - Red California		00 @	0
Oregon Yellow Danvers		0 @	1 1/2
Cabbage		2 @	2 1/2
Asparagus	per lb	8 @	
Cauliflower, per doz		1 20 @	

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The following are the receipts of California butter from San Francisco, by ss. Umatilla, May 18, for Victoria: 3 cs 360 lbs; 11 hf cs, 665 lbs; 25 bbls, 1,100 lbs; 100 hf bbls, 22,450 lbs. Total, 24,575 lbs. Receipts May 13, 6,440 lbs; May 8, 6,310 lbs; May 3, 11,330 lbs. April 28, 7,715 lbs. April 23, 10,207 lbs; April 13, 12,605 lbs; April 8, 3,830 lbs; April 2, 4,895 lbs.

The only alteration in general quotations was a drop of 1c in the price of sugar by the Vancouver Refinery, early last week. Jobbers' prices were reduced in sympathy.

American canned meats, staples, are quoted to the jobbers in bond as follows. Roast corned and lunch beef, 1's per doz., \$1.20; do. 2's per doz., \$1.95; lunch tongues, 1's per doz., \$3.40; do. 2's, \$6.25. Armour's white label conserved 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, 18 1/2c per lb; heavy hams, 18c; choice breakfast bacon, 18 1/2c; short clear sides, 15c, and dry salt clear sides, 11c. Armour's white label pure lard, 10 lb. pails, 18 1/2c per lb.

Armour's Gold Band meats, which are the finest quality on the American market, being a special grade for choice family trade, are quoted, (duty paid, Victoria), hams, 19 1/2c, breakfast bacon, 19 1/2c.

California evaporated fruits are quoted as follows: Apples, evaporated, 50 lb. boxes, 11c per lb., 25 lb. boxes 13 1/2c; apricots, 25 lb. boxes, 20c; prunes, 25 lb. boxes, 14c; plums, 25 lb. boxes, 11 1/2c to 11 1/4c; peaches, 50 lb. boxes, 10c, 25 lb. boxes 17c. Canadian evaporated apples, 50 lb boxes, 8 1/2 to 9 1/2c.

The British Columbia Sugar Refining Co. Ltd., quote as follows in their weekly

price list: Powdered icing and bar, 7 1/2c; Paris lumps, 7c; granulated 6 1/2c; extra C. 5 1/2c; fancy yellow, 5 1/2c; yellow 5 1/2c; golden C. 5 1/2c. Above prices are fo. barrels or bags; half-barrels and 100 pound kegs, 1c; more, boxes 1/2c more. No order taken for less than 100 barrels or its equivalent.

They quote syrup as follows: Finest golden, in 30 gal. bbls. 2 1/2c; 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 1/2 gal. tins, \$6 per case of 20. Prices cover delivery in Vancouver, and are subject to a discount of 2 1/2 per cent. for cash in fourteen days. All prices subject to change without notice.

Dairy produce is quoted:

Butter - Eastern Creamery, tubs	27 @	00
Manitoba Dairy choice	00 @	00
California rolls, extra choice	26 @	00
" fancy	27 @	00
" squares	28 @	00
" tub	26 @	00
Cheese - Canadian, lb	12 @	14 1/2
California	16 @	00
Eggs, case, per doz	18 @	20

Smoked meats and lard are quoted:

Hams	15 @	18
Breakfast bacon	17 @	18
Short rolls	14 @	15
Long rolls	15 @	
Dry Salt, long clear	13 @	11
Pure Lard, 50lbs.	16 @	17
" 20lbs.	17 @	17 1/2
Lard Compound	14 1/2 @	15

Sugar - Jobbers' prices 1/2-barrels and kegs in each case being 1/2c higher:

Dry Granulated	6 1/2
Extra C.	6
Fancy Yellow	5 1/2
Yellow	5 1/2
Golden C	5
Syrups, per lb	3
" 1 gal. tins, American	6 50
" " " " " " "	6 00
" 1 " Vancouver	5 5
" 1 1/2 " " "	7 00

FLOUR AND FEED.

The markets are weak, and quotations unaltered. The demand continues steady, and low prices do not seem to induce any activity in the business.

The Columbia Flouring Mills quote Enderby flour in carload lots delivered at Victoria:

Premier	\$4 75
XXX	4 65
Strong Bakers or XX	4 25
Superfine	3 65

Jobbers' quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills	\$4 75 @	0 00
Lion	4 75 @	0 00
Premier, Enderby mills	5 00 @	0 00
XXX	4 90 @	0 00
XX	4 50 @	0 00
Superfine	3 90 @	1 25
Ogilvie's Hungarian	5 00 @	0 00
Strong Bakers	4 85 @	0 00
H. B. C. Fort Garry Hungarian	5 00 @	0 00
" Strong Bakers	4 85 @	0 00
Oak Lake Patent Hungarian	4 80 @	0 00
" Strong Bakers	0 00 @	0 00
Regina Hungarian	4 80 @	0 00
" Strong Bakers	0 00 @	0 00
Benton County, Oregon	4 65 @	0 00
Portland Roller	4 85 @	0 00
Snowflake	4 75 @	0 00
Royal	4 60 @	0 00
Wheat, per ton	28 00 @	35 00
Oats	32 50 @	00 00
Oil cake meal	40 00 @	50 00
Chop feed	25 00 @	32 00
Shorts	28 00 @	32 00
Bran	27 50 @	00 00