

Business at Vancouver.

Vancouver, June 27.

Alternate rain and sunshine has hastened on the small fruit, and abundance of strawberries are being offered at \$1.50 per crate of 24 boxes. Cherries are also very plentiful, while raspberries are rapidly ripening on the bushes. There has been a large increase in the crop area this year and the weather has been propitious while prices will be fairly high. Reports from jobbers continues favorable in some lines, although dairy produce is more abundant than the demand would warrant, and as a consequence only the best article commands even market prices quoted. This is owing, as far as butter and eggs are concerned, to large consignments of butter, eggs and cheese from Ontario and Manitoba, when the market is receiving large consignments from the British Columbia farmers. Old potatoes are out of the market and new pota-

Grocery Trade Notes.

The downward turn in foreign sugar markets is the cause of the decline reported last week at Canadian refineries.

Advices from Halifax state that the back of lobster so far has been the smallest on record. The market is tending upward.

Advices from Smyrna confirm previous reports that the crop of figs will be considerably less than 50 per cent of an average crop.

Several merchants at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, have been fined \$50 to \$100 each and cost, for having smuggled tobacco, cigars and cigarettes in their possession.

The Hudson's Bay Co., Winnipeg, have received a letter from Havana, to the effect that a firm had been able to ship them a consignment of cigars from an eastern port on the island, notwithstanding the blockade.

Insurance Items.

The Edinburgh Life Assurance Co. has obtained a license authorizing the company to carry on its business in Manitoba.

The New York Life has issued a folder giving interesting colored war maps, showing the position of the West Indies, the Philippines, etc.

The legality of the levy by the liquidator of the Select Knights for six months' assessments upon ex-members of the organization, is being tested before the local master at St. Catharines, Ontario, the headquarters of the defunct assessment society.

The Northwestern Life Assurance Company of Chicago, an assessment concern, has been compelled to seek permission to raise its rates 50 per cent. The amount of losses from Jan. 1 to May 1 were \$630,000, and the amount received from assessments during that time \$187,000, and there is now outstanding unpaid \$307,000.



HORSE PARADE AT WESTERN FAIR, BRANDON

atoes are becoming much cheaper. May is quoted still lower. In the ice market, however, it is not thought that lower prices will prevail until the old crop of feed stuffs is disposed of which will be done, it is thought, before the new crop is ready for market. Jobbers are complaining again of the indifferent way eggs are packed for shipment in Manitoba, as compared with Ontario eggs. In the latter case there are comparatively no losses in shipment, except when water gets in the refrigerators on the train, which rarely happens; but shipments from Manitoba often arrive in Vancouver, according to produce handlers here, in a half spoiled condition. These remarks in a much less degree also apply to butter.

Ontario will have an immense all around crop this year, if the harvest comes off all right. Apples are a large crop.

A Montreal report says: The feature in the canned goods trade during the past week has been the demand for new pack salmon and sales aggregating between 3,000 to 4,000 cases of Clover Leaf brand have been made for future delivery at \$3.50 per case f.o.b. coast, which is the same figure this brand opened at last season.

Two big independent sugar refineries will begin operations in the United States competition with the Havemeyer trust within a few weeks. One of them is the property of Arbuckle Bros., whose venture into the sugar trust's field drew the latter into the coffee-roasting business and caused the fight which brought package coffee down to nine and eight cents a pound, or little more than one-half what it was formerly selling for. If it leads to a war with the trust of similar effect upon prices of sugar the public will not mourn.

The last assessment in 1897 produced \$310,000, while the call of April last realized only \$175,000. In view of these facts the increase requested does not seem excessive, and is therefore approved. The company which was originally the Northwestern Masonic Aid Association was incorporated in Chicago in 1874.

Druggists Sundries.

Manufacturers have advanced the price of white castile soap.

The British pharmacopoeia, 1898 edition, has been issued, and shows that some changes are important.

The new war stamp tax on patent medicines, which went into effect in the United States on July 1, is tending to an advance in prices of a number of articles for the domestic trade in the United States, but prices for the Canadian and foreign trade are not likely to be advanced as a general rule.