

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

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VICTORIA.

Local jobbers state, that while business has not shown any material improvement, there is a much better feeling among the trade, who have more confidence that there will shortly be a change for the better. The strong tone of the wheat and flour market as well as the advances in coal oil and beef have created a better feeling with all classes of trade that are affected by the advance.

The announcement that the Br. s.s. Chittagong, 1,241 tons (net register) Capt. Davey, would sail from Hong Kong about May 15th, for Victoria and Portland, has settled the doubts that have for a time existed regarding this new oriental s.s. line. The service which will be monthly at the commencement will not pretend to compete for passenger business with the present oriental lines, freight traffic being the principle consideration.

A private letter received from Capt. Gould of the schr. Katharine under date of April 3, Sitka, Alaska, states that the weather has been very rough and that the Katharine arrived at Sitka with only one skin on board and had six of her canvas smashed. The Beatrice was spoken on March 16 off Cape Cook and reported having secured only 74 skins. The other schooners of the fleet on the coast, have not been heard from recently, but in view of the small catches secured before they went north. It is generally believed that the coast catch will be a small one this year.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The San Francisco market is largely overstocked with poor oranges, selling at low prices. Choice stock, merchantable sizes, finds sale at fair prices. Strawberries are arriving at San Francisco in an unripe condition and find slow sale at much reduced prices. The local market is unchanged.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:

Oranges—California Navals.....	3 00 @ 3 50
"    "    Common.....	2 25 @ 2 50
"    "    Seedlings.....	2 00 @ 2 50
Bananas, per bunch.....	3 00 @ 0 00
Lemons—California (Johnson's).....	3 00 @ 4 00
California selected.....	2 50 @ 3 00
Apples—British Columbia.....	1 40 @ 1 50
Oregon.....	1 25 @ 2 00
Coconuts..... per 100	8 00 @ 9 00

Vegetables are quoted:

Onions—Silverskins..... per lb	2 @ 2 3/4
Cabbage..... per lb	1 1/2 @ 2
Potatoes..... per ton	14 00 @ 20 00
Asparagus, per box.....	2 25 @ 00
Peas.....	2 75 @ 00

FLOUR AND FEED.

Oregon and Washington millers report an advance in the price of wheat, as a consequence flour prices are hardening although no change has yet been reported.

Since the failure of the Red Crown Mills, Snowflake has been out of stock with both jobbers and retailers and new brands are taking the trade. Telegraph advices received state that "flour advanced 30c per barrel in Minneapolis last week and looks like going much higher."

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

Ogilvie's Hungarian.....	\$1 50
"    Strong Bakers.....	4 20

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

Delta.....	\$3 50
Victoria XXX.....	3 50
Superfine.....	3 00

Jobbers' quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills.....	\$ 3 50 @ 0 00
Lion, ".....	3 50 @ 0 00
Victoria XXX.....	3 50 @ 0 00
Superfine.....	3 25 @ 0 00
Premier, Enderby mills.....	4 50 @ 0 00
XXX, ".....	4 35 @ 0 00
XX, ".....	0 00 @ 0 00
Superfine, ".....	0 00 @ 0 00
Ogilvie's Hungarian.....	4 85 @ 0 00
"    Strong Bakers.....	4 55 @ 0 00
H. B. C. Fort Garry Hungarian.....	4 85 @ 0 00
"    "    Strong Bakers.....	4 55 @ 0 00
Regina Hungarian.....	4 85 @ 0 00
"    "    Strong Bakers.....	4 55 @ 0 00
Benton County, Oregon.....	3 75 @ 0 00
Portland Roller.....	0 00 @ 0 00
Snowflake.....	0 00 @ 0 00
Superb.....	3 00 @ 0 00
Plansifter.....	3 80 @ 0 00
Gen.....	3 60 @ 0 00
Alliance.....	3 50 @ 0 00
White Lilly.....	3 40 @ 0 00
Wheat, per ton, feed.....	25 00 @ 00 00
Oats.....	25 00 @ 32 00
Oil cake meal.....	33 00 @ 45 00
Chop feed—California.....	27 50 @ 00 00
"    Washington.....	20 00 @ 28 00
Shorts.....	18 00 @ 23 00
Bran.....	16 00 @ 20 00
National Mills oatmeal.....	3 50 @ 0 00
"    "    rolled oats (90-lb sks).....	3 50 @ 0 00
"    "    "    10 7s, baled.....	3 00 @ 0 00
"    "    split peas.....	3 50 @ 0 00
"    "    pearl barley.....	4 75 @ 0 00
"    "    Chop feed.....	20 00 @ 25 00
California oatmeal.....	3 85 @ 0 00
California rolled oats.....	4 15 @ 0 00
Corn, whole..... per ton	35 00 @ 00 00
Peas, field..... per ton	40 00 @ 00 00
Cornmeal.....	2 65 @ 2 90
Cornmeal-feed..... per ton	40 00 @ 00 00
Cracked corn.....	37 00 @ 00 00
Hay, per ton.....	12 00 @ 18 00
Straw, per bale.....	1 00 @ 0 00

RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton.....	\$ 80 00 @ 90 00
"    "    (polished).....	90 00 @ 100 00
Best China rice.....	80 00 @ 100 00
China rice No. 1..... (mats).....	65 00 @ 00 00
"    "    "sacks).....	63 00 @ 00 00
Rice flour.....	70 00
Broken rice.....	30 00
Rice Meal.....	17 50

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

California Fancy Roll Butter has lowered in value. Meats are unchanged, al-

though eastern advices state that the market is excited and advancing steadily. Commission men at the Chicago stock yards now predict a shortage of hogs for the next three months, and also, that but for the tightness of the money market the prices would go higher and would advance at least \$3.00 per hundred lbs. Prices have gone up in the meantime and are just \$1.00 per hundred higher than a year ago. Beef is holding firm and packers are not inclined to shade prices for business.

Coal oil is now quoted at \$3.25 per case, being an advance of 50c on the former quotation. The market rose rapidly in advances of 10c, 10c, 20c and 10c, and is still unsettled.

An improved inquiry is reported in the tea market with the prospects of higher prices. A decidedly firmer feeling has been further emphasized by the firmness of the silver market.

Dairy produce is quoted:

Butter—Eastern Creamery, tubs.....	24 @ 26
Manitoba dairy.....	15 @ 20
"    creamery, in tins.....	27 @ 28
"    "    in tubs.....	26 @ 00
Australian.....	56 lb box 2 1/2 @ 00
California Roll-Fancy.....	19 @ 21
Cheese—Canadian, lb.....	12 @ 14
Canadian Stilton.....	17 @ 18
"    "    ".....	13
Eggs—Canadian..... per doz	10 @ 15

Smoked meats and lard are quoted:

Hams.....	12 @ 14
Breakfast bacon.....	11 @ 14
Short rolls.....	10 @ 11
Dry Salt, long clear.....	9 1/2 @ 10
Mess Pork, per bil.....	17 00
Bacon.....	11 @ 13
Lard Compound, 20 lbs.....	9 1/2 @ 10
"    "    10 lbs.....	9 1/2 @ 10 1/2
"    "    5 lbs.....	9 1/2 @ 10 1/2
"    "    3 lbs.....	9 1/2 @ 10 1/2
White Label pure leaf lard, tierces.....	0 12
"    "    "    50-lb tins.....	0 12 1/2
"    "    "    20-lb ".....	0 12 1/2
"    "    "    10-lb ".....	0 12 1/2
"    "    "    5-lb ".....	0 12 1/2
"    "    "    3-lb ".....	0 12 1/2

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

Helmet brand sugar cured hams, medium	0 14
"    "    "    heavy..	0 13 1/2
"    "    "    breakfast bacon	0 14
Fancy Gold Band hams.....	0 15
"    "    "    breakfast bacon.....	0 15

The British Columbia Sugar Refinery quotes prices as follows, for lots of one barrel and upwards, delivered into warehouse at Vancouver or Victoria, payment by net spot cash:

Granulated, in bbls. or 100-lb bags.....	4 1/2
Extra C.....	4
Fancy Yellow.....	3 1/2
Yellow.....	3 1/2
Golden C.....	3 1/2
Paris lumps in bbls. or 100-lb bags.....	5 1/2
Powdered Icing and bar, in bbls.....	5 1/2

Above prices are for barrels or bags, 100 lb. keg 1/2c. higher; half bbls. 1/2c. and boxes 1/2c.

Sugar—Jobbers' prices, ordinary terms 60 days.