

## TACOMA TRADE.

The *West Coast Trade*, of Tacoma, says: The volume of business for the week under review was about the same as for the week preceding. Merchants who had deterred visiting the market, or who had delayed sending in their orders, are now doing so more freely than for some time. But they are buying conservatively, and if they have anything like a fair trade, will be obliged to purchase more or less largely before the end of the year. The situation, as shown by the bank clearings of the three northwest cities, with Tacoma leading Seattle, is favorable for an expansion of business, and, notwithstanding the low price of wheat and the fact that farmers are holding back, country merchants are feeling more hopeful than they did a few weeks ago, when they affirmed that their customers would have no money to spend except for the necessities of life. Prices, which are exceedingly low on all lines of goods, have not varied materially since our last report."

## DAIRY PRODUCE.

The *Montreal Trade Bulletin* says: Butter receipts during the past week were 2,365 pkgs against 3,851 pkgs for the week previous. There is a better feeling in the market for late made creamery for the local trade, and a lot of 80 packages of September goods, which was bought at 19½c, was immediately resold at 21c. This, said the shipper, was better than shipping it. In reference to the shipment of creamery to the West referred to in our two former issues, some further lots have gone forward to Toronto, and about 500 packages to Brockville, but this last lot was believed to be destined for British Columbia. There is still considerable early made creamery butter in cold storage, a good portion of which it is expected will be put on board steamers during the next few weeks. In dairy butter, there has been some enquiry during the past few days for Western, and one lot changed hands at 16½c, but the lot was closely selected, and we quote 15c to 16c as a fair range. There are very few, if any, round lots of Eastern Townships dairy offering, as all of it seems to be taken for the local trade, the quantity being small even for this purpose. We have just heard of another sale of a round lot of September creamery at 21c for local requirements.

Creamery, September.....20 c to 21 c per lb  
Creamery, August. .... 19 c to 19½c per lb  
Eastern Townships dairy ....16½c to 18 c "  
Western.....14½c to 16 c "  
Add 1c to above for single packages of selected.

Cheese receipts during the past week were 49,371 boxes, against 34,556 for the week previous. The market has held well together, considering the drop in the cable to 50s, which would of course tend

to create an easier feeling on this side; but it has not exerted such a depressing influence on values here as was expected. Quite a number of small straggling lots, however, have been picked up at prices ranging from 9½c and 10c, amounting to several thousand boxes, but they were, of course, undergrades, and sold according to their respective merits as to quality. Fine Eastern goods have sold at 10½c to 10¾c. As regards finest Western Septembers, we do not hear of any particular lines offering; but it is safe to say they could not be had under 11c, while if a lot were thrown on the market for sale, it is doubtful if it would command over 10½c. About 5,000 to 6,000 boxes of Quebec goods, all September, sold at the boat at the beginning of the week at 10½c, one or two lots bringing 10¾c. We shall probably experience the quiet time which usually intervenes between the end of the contracting season and the close of navigation. We quote as follows:

Finest Western colored .....	10½c to 11 c
" " white.....	10½c to 10¾c
" Quebec colored.....	10½c to 10¾c
" " white.....	10½c to 10¾c
Under grades.....	9c to 10c
Cable .....	50s to 61

## TRADE REVIEW.

Messrs. R. G. Dun & Co's Review of Trade, Oct. 13, said: Business is still waiting for the development of retail trade. There is a little better demand in some industries, but not so good in others. Wholesale dealers in nearly all branches are halting because retail business does not yet show distinctly what it is to be. Lower prices for the great farm staples, and lower wages in some establishments, hinder purchases for consumption, while political interest and uncertainty also have some retarding influence. Meanwhile large imports and small exports of merchandise, with inadequate employment for money here, are raising the rates of foreign exchange, so that possibilities of gold exports somewhat affect the stock market. The halting attitude for the moment is disturbing to those who have looked for continued gain, though, rightly considered, it is the natural consequence of conditions which were to be expected at this season. The Government crop reports are not greatly trusted, and yet have an influence, and actually exaggerate the tendency and lower prices, because they are supposed to put all the crop too low. Men calmly reckon that if the Government report indicates over 400,000,000 bushels of wheat, the crop must be over 500,000,000 bushels, and though western receipts have been only 4,460,064 bushels, against 6,335,302 last year, and Atlantic ports only 617,244 bushels, against 900,564 last year, the price is slightly lower. Failures for the week ending October 7th show liabilities

of \$1,714,276, of which \$805,885 are of manufacturing and \$892,391 of trading concerns. The final report for September shows liabilities of only \$7,307,124, of which \$3,254,373 are of manufacturing and \$3,710,092 of trading concerns. The failures this week have been 231 in the United States, against 393 last year, and 43 in Canada, against 42 last year.

## THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH.

Did you ever stop to consider the fact that in all probability the centre of the earth is a globe of gold, iridium and platinum? These metals are, of course, in a liquid state, the iridium at the exact centre—that is, providing there is not some heavier metal at present unknown to man occupying that place—the platinum next and the globe of gold surrounding the other two.

"But," you say, "what proof have we that your proposition is a tenable hypothesis?" In answer I would say, two proofs at least, and perhaps more: First, the three metals mentioned are the heaviest known substances compared bulk for bulk. This being the case, they would be naturally attracted to the centre of our planet. "In the beginning," as Moses would say, the earth was liquid, if not gaseous. In either case the heavy metals mentioned were held in solution. By gradual condensation the metals settled to the centre. Iridium first (with the proviso above mentioned), platinum next, gold last.

Ages ago, when the crust of the earth was thin—very thin—all the gold now known was vomited out in volcanic eruptions. This last mentioned fact is the second reason for believing that our globe has a golden centre core woven around a nucleus of iridium and platinum. A third reason for believing that there is gold at the centre is this: The earth as a whole weighs five times as much as a globe of water of the same bulk, while the rocks forming the same outer crust are less than three times as heavy as water.—E.

This year's crop of cranberries in the Fraser valley is reported to be very good.

It does not appear at present as though an effort would be made to speedily repair the damage done by the fire at Nanaimo, in the way of rebuilding.

The Farmers' Convention, which adjourned at Agassiz in August, will meet again at Chilliwack on October 17th, during the Fair week.

A factory for the manufacture of giant powder is about to be established at Slo-can Lake close to New Denver. The projectors expect to be able to best all competition. The result of their labors will, anyhow, make a great noise there.