

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

OFFICE OF THE COMMERCIAL

Business at Vancouver.

Vancouver, Nov. 26.—Trade has been somewhat slack this week and money has been tight. There is a rising tendency in the produce market, but no change in price. The retail price of local eggs, however, is now 60 cents, and local creamery butter is scarce.

Considerable news has been published this week in the local press regarding the different industries of the province. The saw mill owners are seriously considering the advisability of asking the provincial government to grant a tonnage bonus on all lumber ships built in the province, as owing to the high rates prevailing for California owned boats, and the great scarcity of foreign ships the lumber business has been seriously affected in British Columbia.

In salmon canning industry, several attempts to form a tighter combine have ended in failure, and it is likely that next year there will be no pooling arrangement, as the combine arranged for last season has been discontinued.

The famine in hard coal is still on in British Columbia and is causing much discomfort.

Owing to cold weather the weekly market in New Westminster was unusually short of supplies. Potatoes were scarce. Another feature of the New Westminster market was the great scarcity of eggs.

British Columbia Markets.

(All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and large quantities, and to cash discounts.)

PRICES AT VANCOUVER.

(By wire to The Commercial.)

Vancouver, Dec. 1
There has been a sharp advance in the price of fresh local creamery butter, which is now held at a fancy price. Other grades are unchanged. Cheese is 4c lower. Potatoes have fallen \$2 per ton. Apples and lemons are down 3c per box. Each dressed hogs are 1c lower.

GRAIN—Oats, \$26 per ton; wheat, \$23. FLOUR—Delivered B. C. points—Manitoba patent, per barrel, \$5.20; strong bakers, \$4.60; Oregon, \$4.50 per barrel; Enderby, B. C. patents, \$5.20.
FEED—Nutritional mills chops, \$24 per ton; bran, \$18; shorts, \$20; oil cake meal, \$33 ton, f.o.b. Vancouver, including duty paid on imported stuff.

HAY—Per ton, \$12.
MEAL—Rolled oats, 90lb sack, \$2.60; two 45lb sacks, \$2.70; two 22½lb sacks, \$2.80; ten 7lb sacks, \$2.50; oatmeal in 10lb sacks, per 100lb, \$3.25; in 50lb sacks, \$3.00 per 100lb.

HIDES AND WOOL—Sound heavy hides, 7½c per lb.; medium, 6½c; light cows, 5½c; sheep pelts, November killed, 30c each; deer skins, green, 8c lb.; deer skins, dry, 20c lb.; wool, 60/10c lb.

LIVE STOCK—Steers, \$4.50 per 100 lb.; butchers' cows, \$3 per 100 lb.; sheep, \$5.00 per 100lb; lambs, \$4.00/\$4.50 each; hogs, \$6.00 per 100lb.

POULTRY—Chickens, \$3.75 doz.; ducks \$4.75; geese, \$10 doz.; turkeys, 16/20c lb live weight.

DRESSED MEATS—Beef, 7½c; mutton, 11c; pork, 8c; veal, 8/10c.

GAME—Mallard ducks, 60c per pair; grouse, \$1.25 per pair; venison, 5/7c, snipe and plover, 18c.

OYSTERS—Cans, 65c dozen, shell, 30c dozen.

CURED MEATS—Hams 13½/14c; breakfast bacon, 16c; backs, 14½c; long clear, 12½/13c, ribs, 12½/13c; smoked sides 13½c.

LARD—Tins, 13c per lb.; pails, 12½c; tubs, 12½c.

BUTTER—Local creamery, fresh, 40/45c; Manitoba creamery, 24/25c; Govt. creamery, 20c; fresh dairy, 20/21c.

EGGS—Fresh local, 40c; eastern eggs, 24/25c.

CHEESE—Eastern, 13½c.

VEGETABLES—Potatoes, Fraser Valley \$12/14 per ton; Ashcroft potatoes, \$18 per ton; silver skin onions, 1½c per lb.; California onions, 1½c per lb.; lettuce, \$2 crate.

FISH—Flounders, 3c; smelts, 5c; sea bass, 4c; whiting, 5c; soles, 5c; halibut, 6c; salmon, 7c; cod, 6c per lb.; crabs, 60c per dozen; smoked salmon, 10c; smoked haddock, 10c.

GREEN FRUITS—California apple oranges, \$5.50/\$6.00; pomegranates, \$1.20; local apples, 50c/\$1; Oregon apples, \$1/1.50 box; California grapes, \$1.00/\$1.75 box; lemons, \$3.00/\$3.50.

DRIED FRUITS—Apricots, 11c; peaches, 10c; platted plums, 11c; prunes, French, 5/6/10c; London layer raisins, \$2.25 per box; Muscatel raisins, 2 crown, 8c; 6 crown, 9c; 4 crown, 9½c; dates, 9c; black figs, 9c; white figs, 9½c; layer figs, 10lb box, \$1.25; silver prunes, 9½c; quartered prunes, 10/11c; half prunes, 11/12c; no. 1 raisins, 11c; salted raisins, 11/12c; blackberries, 15c; raspberries, 25c; seeded raisins, 11c.

NUTS—Almonds, 17c; filberts, 12½c; pecans, 8½/10c; Brazil, 16c; walnuts,

14c per lb.; peanuts, 8c per lb.; cocoanuts, 90c/\$1 doz.

PUGAUS—Powdered, icing and bar, 7c; Paris jump, 6½c; granulated, 6½c; extra C, 4½c; fancy yellows, 4½c; yellow, 4½c per lb.

SYRUPS—30 gal. barrels, 2½c lb; 10 gal. kegs, 2½c; 5 gal. tins, \$1.75 each; 1 gal. tin, \$4.00 case of 10; ½ gal. tin, \$3.25 case of 20.

TRASS—Congo, fair, 1½c; good, 18c; choice, 20c; Ceylon and India, fair, 20c.

RICE—Chinese rice, \$74 ton; Japan rice, \$93/\$94 ton; tapioca, 5c; sago, 5c.

CANNED GOODS—Corn, \$1.03/\$1.10; peas, \$1.03/\$1.10; tomatoes, \$1.25; beans, \$1.10.

HARDWARE—Bar iron—Base, \$2.75; horse shoe nails, discount, 40 per cent; horse shoes, kegs, \$5.25. Wire nails—Base price, \$4.00, cut \$3.35. Rope nails—15½c. Bolled oil, \$1.00. White lead, 30. Putty, \$3.60. Barbed wire, \$4.75 per 100 lb. Glass, first break, \$4.75.

PRICES IN THE KOOTENAY.

Special to The Commercial.

Nelson, Dec. 1.

Business has been quieter here this week in produce lines, as merchants have been carrying heavy stocks and have not been placing new orders. Oats are \$1 per ton lower. Flour is down 20c per barrel. Potatoes have advanced \$1 per ton. Eggs are 1c to 2c higher. Butter and cheese unchanged.

Butter—Choice dairy, 20c, creamery, 24 to 25c.

Cheese—New cheese, 13c.

Eggs—25 to 28c.

Oats—Per ton, \$23.

Millfeed—Bran, \$20; shorts, \$22 per ton.

Flour—Manitoba patent, \$5.20.

Hay—Per ton, \$23.

Potatoes—Per ton, \$18.

Winnipeg Prices Paints, Oils Glass, Etc.

ALABASTINE—Cases of 20 packages, \$3.50; Muralo, do., \$3.50.

BENZINE—Case, \$3.50.

DRY COLOIS—White lead, lb, 7½c red lead, kegs, 7c, yellow ochre in barrel lots 2½c, less than barrel lots, 3c; golden ochre, barrels, 3½c; less than barrels, 4c; Venetian red, barrels, 3c; less than barrels, 3½c; American vermilion, 15c; English vermilion, \$1 per lb; Canadian metallic oxides, barrel lots 2½c, less than barrels, 3c; English purple oxides, in casks, 3½c, less quantities, 4c lb.

GASOLINE—Stove, per case, \$3; naphtha, \$2.50.

GLASS—Single glass, first break, 16 to 25 united inches, \$2.50; 26 to 40, \$2.75; per 60 feet boxes: 40 to 50, \$3; 51 to 60, \$4.50; 61 to 70, \$7 per 100 feet boxes.

LINSEED OIL—Raw, gal., 87c; boiled, gal., 90c in barrels, less than barrels, 5c gal. extra, with additional charges for cans and cases.

OILS—Black, 25 to 30c gal.; clear machine oil, 30c; cylinder oil, 32c/33c, as to quality; castor oil, 11½c per lb.; tanners' or harness oil, 45c; neatsfoot oil, \$1; steam refined oil, 85c; pure winter bleached sperm oil, \$2 gal.

PREPARED PAINTS—Pure liquid colors, gal., \$1.30/\$1.50, as to shade and quality.

PAINTS—In bladders, barrel lots, 2½c lb; in 100lb kegs, 2½c; do. less than barrels, 3c lb.

REFINED PETROLEUM—Silver Star, 19c; Oleophene, 21c; Sunlight, 22c; Eocene, 24c per gallon; Diamond, 25½c. T. & P., 24c; Solar, 22c; Brilliant, 21½c per gal. in barrels. T. & P., cases, \$2.75; Solar, case, \$2.55.

SURPETINE—Pure spirits in barrels, 7½c less than barrels, 70c per gal. An additional charge for packages of small quantities.

VARNISHES—No. 1 furniture, per gal., \$1; extra furniture, \$1.35; pale oak, \$1.50; elastic oak, \$1.75; No. 1 carriage, \$1.50/\$1.75, hard oil filled, \$1.50/\$1.75; brown Japan, \$1; house painters' gold size Japan, \$1.70; coach painters' do., \$2.25/\$2.50; No. 1 broom shellac, \$2.25; pure orange shellac, \$2.50.

WHITE LEAD—Pure, \$7.25 per 100lb; No. 1, \$7.00.

WHITING—\$1.25 per 100lb gross weight.

MINING MATTERS.

CENTRE STAR MINE.

The annual meeting of the Centre Star Mining Company was held at Toronto, on Nov. 27. The directors' report showed that a reduction of over 30 per cent in the cost of mining had been made during the year; that development was proceeding rapidly; labor troubles had been happily settled at Rossland, while a superior class of miners were coming into camp. The Canadian Pacific Railway had offered to reduce the rate for freight and treatment of the company's ores by 1.25 in consideration of their obtaining a larger tonnage. The directors, however, had not been able to see their way to accept it. Negotiations were still pending on other lines, which it was hoped would soon put the smelting question on a permanent and satisfactory basis. It being the general feeling of the shareholders that dividends should be resumed, a resolution to that effect was passed. George Gooderham, T. G. Blackstock, W. H. Beatty, W. C. Gooderham and Charles R. Rosmer were elected directors. At a subsequent meeting of the board, Mr. Gooderham was re-elected president, and T. G. Blackstock, vice-president. A dividend of 1 per cent was declared payable on the 1st of January next. It is understood that this means the resumption of monthly dividends at that rate.

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B. C. MINING.

Last week the Payne shipped 213 tons, Ruth 16, American Boy 20, Last Chance 98.—New Denver Ledger.

The Le Roi Company are figuring on getting another hoist to place alongside the 1,000-horse power engine.

Some twelve carloads of machinery for the Mother Lode mine have so far been received and others are en route.

The first consignment of machinery for the pyritic smelter, under construction by the Standard Pyritic Smelting Company at Boundary Falls arrived recently.

A shipment was recently made to the Hall Mines smelter from the Havana, and returns of \$40 in gold and silver were received a ter paying all expenses.

The Granby smelter, at Grand Forks, made the record of its existence the other day, when it finished a run of 763 tons for the day, with a normal capacity of 500 tons.

Last Saturday was pay day at the office of the Miner-Graves syndicate, when over 200 men received their monthly checks, amounting to something like \$30,000.—Rossland Miner.

The last month's pay roll at the Phoenix Mines, viz., Knob Hill, Old Ironsides, and Grey Eagle, ending November 10th, reached \$26,933.67, the number of hands paid being 270.

Work upon the Mother Lode smelter, near Greenwood, is being pushed. When the whole system is complete the Mother Lode will be in a position to ship 300 tons per day to the smelter.

The Copper King mine, at Cherry Creek, is to commence work next week. This property is to be floated as a limited liability company, called the Cherry Creek Copper Co.—Kamloops Sentinel.

The total shipments from the St. Eugene Consolidated for the month of October were 3,007 tons, breaking all previous records, and distancing for the month a silver-lead mines in the Coeur d'Alenes.

The Crow's Nest Coal Company is to have a competitor in a United States syndicate, says the Victoria Colonist, at the head of which is M. H. Cowan. This syndicate owns coal measures at Pincher creek, which are now being developed.

Preparations are being made for mining on a large scale on the Mother Lode mine in Deadwood camp. The 40-drill compressor is on the ground and the assembly should be completed within the next three weeks, says the Rossland Miner.

It is announced at Toronto that the Brooklyn, Stenwinder and other properties of Mackenzie & Mann, known as the Dominion Copper Company, at Phoenix, B. C., will resume active operations at once, followed by shipments to the Trail smelter.

The secretary of the White Bear Mining Company, at Toronto, received a telegram from the managing director at Rossland to the effect that work had been commenced with the drill on Thursday, and that development was proceeding rapidly.

The Crow's Nest Coal Company are now making a daily output of 1,200 tons, and the Michel creek coal seams are also being developed. The company have at present 281 bee hive coke ovens in operation and the number is being rapidly increased.

The Iron Horse recently bonded to Spokane and Pittsburg people, has been stocked. The company is called the Burlington company, with a capital of \$150,000 in unassessable ten-cent shares. Most of the stock will be sold in Pittsburg.—New Denver Ledger.

The following statement of ore shipments for the quarter ending 31st of August, 1900, has been issued by the North Star Mining Company, Limited: Tons of ore shipped, 6,193; net profit, \$113,513.40; less dividend

for quarter paid 15th of September, \$30,000; surplus, \$74,513.40.

The Gooderham-Blackstock syndicate, which already controls large holdings in British Columbia, will examine the property and the financial position of the Fairview Corporation, and if a satisfactory condition of affairs is revealed as a result of this examination the syndicate will probably finance this company in future. This has caused an advance in Fairview stock.

Hon. Clifford Sifton, minister of the interior, now in British Columbia, says that he intends at once to propose the appointment of a commission of competent men who have a practical and scientific knowledge of mining and legislation affecting that industry, to examine and report upon the best methods to be adopted by the government to foster its development, especially in regard to the smelting, refining and manufacture of the products of the great galena districts of Kootenay.

T. Reed has sold a one-half interest in the Montezuma, a Ten Mile claim, to the Enterprise people.—Silvertonian.

Our table of ore shipments this week shows a total of 4,004 tons sent out this year as compared with a total for last year of 3,078 tons. Before December 31st this total will easily reach 5,000.—Silvertonian, Silverton.

The Early Bird property on Ten Mile Creek is to be opened up and worked this winter, J. M. M. Benedum and C. H. Aborombie, of Silverton, having secured a lease and bond upon that property.

The Slocan Star Company have issued a circular saying that a dividend of \$25,000, payable Dec. 1, was declared at a recent meeting. This is the first dividend for this company in four years.

Mr. Russell, manager of the Fairview Co., reports that the deal with the Gooderham-Blackstock syndicate to control the mine has been closed and the papers signed. Mr. Russell will go to Rossland shortly to call a meeting of shareholders to ratify the deal.

Trading on the Toronto Mining Exchange on Monday was brisk, 7,000 shares changing hands. Big blocks of Golden Star sold around 4½, one lot of 10,000 shares changing hands at 4½. The tone of the stock was weaker. C. G. F. S. sold at 8½, Morrison at 2½. Van Anda at 1¼ and North Star at 98. Cariboo (McKinney) changed hands at 65.

NORTHWEST ONTARIO.

The Glass Reef mine has become a producer, the first gold brick having been turned out by the new mill.

MISCELLANEOUS MINING.

A meeting of the St. Elmo Mining Company was held at Toronto recently. The financial report showed the company to be in a good position. A resolution was passed cancelling all stock upon which no assessments have been paid.

The shareholders of the Mugwump Mining Company at their annual meeting in Toronto were told that the property would remain idle for at least another year, and that no attempt would be made to further develop the property until it could be more economically worked than at present. The old board was re-elected. The annual meeting of the Montana Gold Mining Company, which is also controlled by the Gooderham-Blackstock interests, was held at the same time. The same board of directors as that of the Mugwump was elected, and the same report applies to it.

Wheat Movement.

A feature of the Manitoba wheat movement this season has been the absence of shipping via Buffalo, while in former years the bulk of the crop has been exported by Buffalo. This is partly due to the fact that the crop is light this year and that home millers are buying a large portion of the wheat that has been marketed. Millers have paid high prices ever since the season opened, prices ruling in Manitoba country markets being so high, compared with export values, that shippers have not been able to do business at a profit, consequently there has been little inclination to push wheat forward for export. This week holders are endeavoring to make up some cargoes for shipment eastward before the close of navigation. About three cents per bushel has been quoted on wheat, Fort William to Buffalo.