

blocks weighing exactly one pound or two pounds as the case may be.

Eggs are now coming in much better shape from Manitoba, perhaps in some degree owing to The Commercial's numerous warnings. The same cannot be said of the eastern market. The European market is now clamoring for eggs and as a dozen eggs is a dozen eggs in the west, regardless of size, but not to the same extent in Europe, the eastern Canadian shippers are packing their big eggs to Europe and sending their small eggs to British Columbia. Many of those arriving are no bigger than pigeon eggs and all are very small, while from Manitoba they are coming in fair condition and are a good average size.

A telegram shown to The Commercial to-day intimated that prices were stiffening and that the factories were not tumbling over one another to cut prices. Jobbers here claim they cannot sell the commodity in British Columbia under 11 and 12 cents to the retail trade.

The flour and feed trade is dull just now owing to its being between seasons, and it is extremely hard to quote prices that may be understood owing to dealers cutting rates. If a man sends to the jobber for a ton of hay for his horse, being a private citizen, he is charged \$15, but where competition is invited the same hay will go to a stable or for the camp at \$13 or perhaps \$12.50.

Word comes from the U. S. salmon banks that the traps are averaging 20,000 a day at this writing. This is above all previous records, and fears are dispelled as to their not being a big pack on the Fraser. The northern canneries are all through and report almost a full pack. San Jose scale and codlin moth are responsible for many seizures of California fruit by the government here.

British Columbia Board of Trade.

The annual meeting of the British Columbia Board of Trade of Victoria, B. C., was held on July 15th. The chair was occupied by President Kirk. The annual report summarized the progress of the principal industries of the province. We give some extracts: Notwithstanding the excitement caused by the discovery of placer gold in the Klondike region, mining in British Columbia has not been neglected, and the output of 1897 exceeded the previous year by 40 per cent.

The following table, prepared by the provincial mineralogist shows the yearly output of all the mines in the province since 1890.

Year.	Amount.	Per cent.
1890	\$ 2,608,803	
1891	3,521,102	35
1892	2,378,530	
1893	3,588,413	21
1894	4,225,717	18
1895	5,613,042	33
1896	7,507,956	34
1897	10,455,268	40

When it is considered that in 1892 the total output of lode mines was only \$100,000, against \$7,050,000 in 1897, a better idea can be formed of the progress made in silver-lead and copper-gold mining. The apathy which previously existed toward the smelting of ores in British Columbia is fast disappearing, with the certainty that they can be treated profitably. In this connection the following figures are interesting: 68,304 tons of Rossland copper-gold averaging \$30.48 per ton, returned a

profit of \$12 to \$16 per ton; 33,576 tons of Slooan ore assaying 103.5 silver per ton, and 45.7 per cent lead, gross value \$97.70 per ton, returned a profit of \$50 to \$55 per ton. The output of Vancouver Island coal in 1897 was 892,235 tons, of which 619,860 tons was exported. About one-third of the coal imported into California during the same period was from these mines. The manufacture of coke is progressing satisfactorily, 17,331 tons being the output in 1897. This is a new industry, only 1,565 tons being produced in 1895-96.

It was expected that the salmon pack of 1897 would be large, but the total pack of 1,015,577 cases, an increase of 55 per cent. over and above the previous highest record exceeded the hopes of the most sanguine. The increase was almost exclusively from the Fraser river and is accounted for principally by the hatchery established there in 1884: the diminution of seals in the Pacific ocean is believed to have had a beneficial effect on the salmon run. A combine of the principal salmon canners in British Columbia was formed in December last for the purpose of preventing undue competition in the British markets. This has had a beneficial effect, and has worked satisfactorily in the interests of all concerned. The Dominion government receipts from salmon fishing licenses in British Columbia amounted to about \$50,000 in 1897, whilst the total expenditure of the department of fisheries was not much over \$10,000. The knowledge of these facts adds to the disappointment caused by the department's failure to comply with the canners' request that salmon hatcheries be established on the Skeena and Naas rivers and on Rivers inlet and additional hatcheries on the Fraser river. It was expected, further, that a specialist would be stationed in British Columbia for the purpose of studying fish life more completely. Oysters and lobsters have been brought from the east and planted in British Columbia tidal waters, and the first reports of these experiments were favorable.

The Crops.

N. P. CROPS.

* The Northern Pacific crop report for the week ending July 31st, is as follows:

Brandon—The weather continues cool with frequent showers and the crop has improved wonderfully the last two weeks. Potatoes and other root crops are doing remarkably well. With present weather harvesting will not commence for three weeks.

Rounthwaite—Weather since last report has been rather dry for the crops. The average yield promises to be rather low. There are some very good fields, while the greater part of them are fair to very poor. Vegetables, oats and barley are suffering for want of moisture. Hay is a very light yield. Wheat may yield an average of fifteen bushels to the acre.

Wawanesa—Weather during the past week has been favorable for the growing crops. Temperature moderate, with light showers of rain. The crops are well advanced and looking fine. The yield will be much larger than at first expected, the wheat is heading out much better than last year. No damage by hail in this vicinity.

Hilton—Weather since my last report has been favorable for the crops which are now looking much improved. Wheat promises a yield of eighteen to twenty bushels per acre on an aver-

age. Harvesting will not commence for about three weeks yet. Farmers are now busy haying but are being delayed considerably by wet weather.

Belmont—The weather during the last week has been mostly cloudy and cool with a few light showers. The wheat is all well headed out and with favorable weather harvesting will commence in about three weeks. All garden stuff and roots are looking well. Haying is well under way.

Baldur—Since last report weather has been very favorable and it is remarkable the way crops are improving. Some fields of wheat will yield thirty bushels per acre, and it is estimated that the average will be eighteen bushels to the acre. Oats are ripening fast and cutting should commence about the middle of this month, wheat a week later with favorable weather.

Somerset—Weather past week has been fine for growing crops, everything looking fine.

Altamont—Crops of all kinds doing well. Farmers looking forward to a bountiful harvest. Most farmers expect to begin harvesting in ten days or two weeks.

Miami—The weather during the last week has been rather cool for forcing the ripening of the wheat. The fields are turning yellow showing that in a few warm days the rattle of the binder will be heard. The crop could hardly look finer than at present and the yield should be good. Next report will give an estimate of the probable yield. Roots are an immense crop, especially potatoes. Cannot say as yet how they will yield.

Roland—Crops continue to do well. Several pieces of barley and oats will be cut in the course of a week or ten days. Wheat turning fast. The weather is cooler, several light showers, but no rain. Winds chiefly north-west and westerly.

Morris—Wheat, oats and barley looking well. Should wheat have as favorable weather as last week we will have an early harvest; some of it on the turn now. Have seen a number of fields during week and have never seen better prospects at this time of year. Oats and barley also out in head, and they are good and plump. Haying is general and is good.

St. Jean—Light rain July 27th and 30th. Ground considered in good condition.

Letellier—Crops in good condition, maturing rapidly. A few small pieces of early barley have been cut. Wheat and oats are turning. Weather favorable, prospects good. Cannot say at present what the average yield will be, but expect it will be almost double that of last year.

Emerson—Crops of all kinds looking well. Weather during the past week all that could be desired. Wheat filling rapidly and indications point to an early harvest. Looks now as if a week or ten days would see harvesting quite general.

Portage la Prairie—Since last report the weather has been generally cool with rain nearly every day. Crops are looking well, and with a few warm days the grain will mature rapidly, and some fields may be ready for the binder next week, in fact, some barley has been cut already, and one or two fields of wheat can be cut as soon as the weather is favorable. Harvesting will not be general, however, for ten days or two weeks. The damage from hail in this district covers a very small area and the damage is only partial where it struck, and will probably not amount to more than five