TRADE AND COMMERCE.

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VICTORIA.

The most important feature of the past week was the inauguration of the Oriental steamship line in connection with the Northern Pacific Railway by the arrival of the Pha Nang from Hong Kong. This being the third line which makes this city its first and last port of call, indicates an increasing trade between this country and the Orient.

Business in all lines continues steady, with no special features. The demand for dry goods is falling off somewhat, the summer orders being mostly filled, and the trade at present is principally sorting and making preparations to show fall samples, with which travellers will go on the road in July and August. Merchants are buying in a conservative way, and principally in staple lines of all classes of merchandise.

Strong efforts are being made to curtail credits, and wholesale merchants are striving to introduce the note system of collecting accounts, rather than carrying open accounts with customers, and were all the wholesale trade to adopt this system it is claimed that it would have the desired effect.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The following are the receipts of fruit and vegetables from San Francisco per SS. Puebla June 16. For Victoria—142 bxs oranges, 170 bxs apricots, 59 bxs peaches, 38 bxs plums, 5 bxs lemons, 4 sacks cocoanuts, 10 bxs pears, 59 bxs apples, 268 drawers and 193 bxs cherries, 73 crates bananas, 99 sacks onions, 731 sacks potatoes, 10 crates cabbage, 1 crate cauliflower, 35 cs tomatoes, 5 bxs cucumbers, 2 cs beans, 2 bxs garlic, 1 cs squash; total, 1,925 pkgs. For Vancouver—85 bxs oranges, 3 bxs lemons, 53 crates bananas, 9 bxs plums, 5 bxs peaches, 5 bxs gooseberries, 99 bxs apricots, 29 bxs peaches, 2 bxs apples, 1 sack cocoanuts, 11 cs tomatoes, 91 pkgs containing 303 bxs cherries, 145 sacks onions, 54 crates cabbage, 419 sacks potatoes, 22 sacks turnips, 29 sacks carrots, 2 bxs garlic, 8 bxs asparagus, 5 bxs beans, 4 bxs cucumbers, 4 crates cauliflower; total, 1,357 pkgs. Grand total, 3,282 pkgs.

A late advice from San Francisco says: "No more good navel oranges are coming on the San Francisco market. Plums are scarce at present but will be plentiful shortly." Bananas have declined about 25c a crate. All good oranges are somewhat higher. Mediterranean sweets and California Highlands have advanced 25c per case. Apricots are coming forward more freely and of better quality. The prices have been reduced 50c a case since last week. Pears continue the same. Green apples are coming forward more freely and the price has gone down considerable. Tomatoes have been received in fair quantities and are quoted at $2.75 a box. Peaches in large boxes are quoted at $1.75 a box. Cherries are slightly lower all round—black have been reduced 25c and white have declined 10c. Royal Anns were a little higher by last steamer, but were sold in many cases at the same price as ordinary whites. Local cabbage has been received and finds a ready sale at 2½c per lb. Strawberries have been coming in quite freely both from Island points and from the Sound. The Sound berries sold for 8c per lb. and the native Island berries for 10c, and 15c was paid for prime local fruit. A small quantity of early California carrots and turnips were received by last steamer, also a little garlic, but not sufficient to give quotations. Business in the fruit and vegetable line continues active. Quotations are: Oranges—Riverside seedlings, $3 to $4, navels, $5 to $6; Mediterranean sweets, $4 to $4.25; California Highland oranges, $4 to $4.25; California lemons, $5.50; Sicily lemons, $5 to $5.50; bananas, $3.50; cabbage, 2c per lb.; potatoes, $17 to $18 per ton; new potatoes, 1½c per lb.; strawberries, 10c per lb. box; cherries—white, $1.15 to $1.30 per box; black, $1 to $1.25 per box; Royal Anns, $1.15 to $1.30; red California onions, 1½c per lb.; pineapples, $6 a doz.; cocoanuts, 90c a doz.; peas, 5c per lb.; beans, 20c; apricots, $1.30 to $1.50; plums, $1.25; peaches, $1.75; pears, $1.25; green apples, $2.25 to $2.50.

FLOUR AND FEED.

The markets are unchanged and quotations are steady.

The Columbia Flouring Mills quote: For Enderby flour in carload lots, Premier, $5.40; XXX., $5.30; Strong Bakers or XX., $5.00; Superfine, $4.00. Quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills	$ 5 25	@	0 00
Lion, " "	5 25	@	0 00
Premier, Enderby mills	5 75	@	0 00
XXX., " "	5 55	@	0 00
XX., " "	5 25	@	5 50
Superfine, " "	4 25	@	4 50
Ogilvie's Hungarian	5 85	@	0 00
" Strong Bakers	5 50	@	0 00
H. B. C. Fort Garry Hungarian	5 85	@	0 00
Benton County, Oregon	5 50	@	0 00
Snowflake	5 75	@	0 00
Portland Roller	5 50	@	0 00
Royal	5 35	@	0 00
Wheat, per ton	35 00	@	40 00
Oats	30 00	@	32 50
Oil cake meal	35 00	@	00 00
Chop feed	30 00	@	00 00
Shorts	28 00	@	30 00
Bran	25 00	@	27 50
National Mills oatmeal	3 50	@	0 00
" " rolled oats	3 50	@	0 00
" " split peas	3 50	@	0 00
" " pearl barley	4 50	@	0 00
" " Chop feed	30 0	@	0 00
California oatmeal	4 35	@	0 00
California rolled oats	3 85	@	4 00
Cornmeal	2 75	@	3 00
Cracked corn	45 00	@	50 00
Hay, per ton	18 00	@	20 00
Straw, per bale	1 25	@	0 00

RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton		$77 50
China rice	"	70 00
Rice flour	"	70 00
Chit rice	"	25 00
Rice Meal	"	17 00

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The receipts of butter from San Francisco by SS. City of Puebla June 15 consisted of 25 cs and 5 tubs for Victoria, and 13 tubs, 17 kits and 5 cs for Vancouver. The receipts from the East are increasing, although they have been light up to the present. The Manitoba dairy butter now coming forward is of very good quality and fine color. A fair sale is reported for consignments at 21c to 22c. Dairy butter in two, three and four pound boxes is sold at 23c. Shipments of eastern creamery are on the way from Montreal and are expected this week. Quotations are: California fancy roll, extra choice, 20c per lb; California, in kits and tubs, 27c; Manitoba creamery, 26½c; Manitoba dairy, 21c to 22c; Canadian cheese, 14c; new California cheese, 16c; eggs, 18 to 20c.

The Montreal *Trade Bulletin* says: "Although there are no indications of stocks accumulating at present, dealers are anxious to realize as quickly as possible after the goods are in, as supplies may increase at any moment beyond the requirements of the trade. There is some enquiry for sample lots of creamery, presumably for the Scotch market, and a few lots have changed hands at 18c, a lot of 54 tubs selling at that price and a further lot was sold subsequently at 18c, the latter being a lot of choice June goods with grass flavor. Small jobbing lots have sold at 18½c to 19c. A good sized lot of June creamery was offered at 18c, yesterday. In Eastern Townships dairy, buyers are paying 14c to 15c in the country, and 16c to 17c here. Morrisburg and Brockville are quoted at about the same prices. Western is in very limited supply in this market, although a liberal make is said to be in progress throughout the West, and we quote 14c to 15c. Lower Ports buyers are looking around for Western at 14c."

The American market for preserved meats is quite high and prices are firm. Quotations are about 2½c over figures quoted two months ago. American canned meat prices are steady and the demand continues greater than the supply. An advance is probable in Canadian meats, in sympathy with the firmness of the American market. The best quality of Canadian meats are quoted by local jobbers: Hams, 15c; breakfast bacon, 15½c; long roll, 13½c; short roll, 13c; backs, 14½c; pure lard, 50 lbs, 13½c and 20 lbs, 13½c. The prices of ordinary Canadian meats are unchanged by local dealers.

Quotations are: Hams, 14c per lb.; breakfast bacon, 14c; backs, 13c; short roll, 11½c; long clear, 11c; pure kettle lard, 50 lbs, 13c; pure steam do., 12c; lard compound, 10½@11½c; lard tins, 12½@13½c.

Sugar quotations by jobbers are as follows: Granulated, 5⅝c; extra C, 5⅛c; yellow, 4⅞c; golden C, 4⅞c.

It is reported through semi-official sources that the cocoa crop of Ecuador has failed again this year, and it is also thought that the shipments of Guayaquil will be considerably reduced, owing to troubles caused by yellow fever.

Reports from Yokohama state that the wet season has not only damaged the tea crop but interfered with the bringing in of supplies, and settlements up to time of writing, are only 18,000 piculs, against 39,000 piculs at same time last year. Quality and quantity are both a good deal below what they were last year.

The Montreal *Trade Bulletin* says: "The first samples of new Japan teas has not met with the demand that was generally expected, considering that the market was almost bare of fine qualities. Receivers of new crop Japans are, therefore, much disappointed, only a few small lots having been disposed of. A great deal of the stock of Japans held here has been shipped to New York, where the market is very