

Aug 19/95

WILLIAM L. KEENE & CO

(Successors to Chipman, Morgan & Co.)

SHIPBROKERS & COMMISSION MERCHANTS

632 Cordova St., Vancouver, B.C.

Importers of Rice, Sacks, Japan, Indian and China Teas, Steel, Iron, Rope, Cement, Oils, Fruit, Canned Goods, Etc., Etc.

BRITISH COLUMBIA BUSINESS REVIEW

Vancouver, Aug. 13, 1895.

The volume of trade for the past week was fully up to the average, while money if anything is a little easier. The feature of the market is the drop in potatoes. The lumber trade is very brisk, three more vessels arriving to load lumber this week. The free entry of dressed lumber being still under dispute, somewhat checks the export lumber trade to San Francisco. From indications meats will be stiffer on receipt of next quotations.

British Columbia Markets.

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, August 17, 1895.

The total salmon pack to the end of this week is placed at 400,000 cases. Flour has declined 20c per barrel this week. Oats from Washington state are \$2 per ton lower again. Meats are easy.

Butter.—Manitoba dairy butter, old 8 to 8c, new 10 to 12c; Manitoba creamery, 17 to 18c, do. off grade 15 to 16c per lb.; Manitoba cheese 8 to 10c per lb.

Cured Meats.—Hams 13½c; breakfast bacon, 14c; backs, 12c; long clear, 10c; short rolls, 10c; smoked sides, 11½c. Lard is held at the following figures: tins 11c per pound; in pails and tubs, 10½c; mess pork, \$17; short cut, \$18.00.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders, 3c, smelt, 5c, sea bass, 4; black cod, 6c; rock cod, 4c; red cod, 4c; tommy cod, 4c; herring, 4c; halibut, 7c; whiting, 6c; soles, 6c; crabs, 60c doz.; smoked salmon, 12½c; salmon 7c; smoked halibut, 10c, bloaters, 10c; kippered cod, 9c; sturgeon, 6c; trout 10c per lb.; salt salmon, \$6 per barrel.

Vegetables.—Potatoes new, \$10 to \$12 per ton; onions, silver skins, 1½c; cabbage, 1½c; carrots, turnips and beets, ½ to 1c a lb.

Eggs.—Fresh, local, 25c; Eastern 17c per dozen.

Fruits.—Lemons, California, \$6.50 per box; California plums, \$1.00, apricots \$1.50; peaches, \$1.10 per box; oranges, Mediterranean sweets, \$2.75; St. Michael's \$3.00 per box; raspberries \$2 crate; apples \$1.75 per box; tomatoes \$1.50; pears \$2.50 box.

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Nuts.—Almonds, 15c; filberts, 14c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 15c; walnuts, 10 to 16c lb.

Flour.—Manitoba Patent, per bbl., \$4.70; strong bakers, \$1.50; Oregon, \$3.80.

Meal.—Oatmeal—National mills, Victoria, at Victoria, 90-lb sacks, \$3.15. Cornmeal, per 98-lb, sacks, \$2.15; Manitoba 80-lb sacks, \$2.50.

Grain.—Washington State wheat \$25, do. oats \$25 per ton f.o.b. Vancouver, duty paid.

Ground Feed.—Manitoba chop feed, \$28 per ton; chop barley, \$28; United States, chop, \$25.00 ton; ground wheat, \$27.50 ton; ground barley, \$22.00 ton; shorts, \$19.00 ton; bran \$17.00 ton; oil cake meal, \$39 ton; F.O.B. Vancouver, duty paid.

Dressed Meats.—Beef, 6½ to 7c; mutton, 7½ to 8c; pork, 8½ to 9c; veal, 8 to 9c per lb.

Hay.—Weak at \$8 per ton.

Live Stock.—Calves, 5c, steers, 8 to 8½c lb, cows 2½ to 3c; sheep, \$3 to \$3.25; hogs, 5½ to 6c; lamb, per head, \$2.50 to \$3.00.

Sugars.—Powdered and icing, 6½c; Paris lump, 5½c; granulated, 4½c; extra C, 4½c; fancy yellows 4c; yellow, 3½c per lb.

Syrups.—50 gallon barrels, 1½c per pound; 10 gallon kegs, 2c; 5 gallon kegs, \$1.25 each; 1 gallon tins, \$3.75 per case of 10; ½ gallon tins, \$1.50 per case of 20.

Teas.—Congo: Fair, 11½c; good, 18c; choice, 25c. Ceylons: Fair, 25c; good, 30c; choice, 35c per lb.

British Columbia Business Notes.

The British Columbia board of trade are jointly urging the government at Ottawa to hasten the work of making improvements to the channel of the Fraser river.

At present, salmon nets are admitted free, and the lines used in manufacturing them are subject to duty. The board of trade of British Columbia are jointly urging the Dominion government to remove the duty on salmon net lines.

Westminster is considering the advisability of subsidising the ocean going vessels to call at the port of Westminster, in connection with their transcontinental passage.

Birchall & Howie, of Manitoba, are making trial export shipments of Chilcotan cattle from Ashcroft. The shipment will comprise 300 head of cattle. The result of the venture will be watched with great interest by ranchers here. Three hundred head of cattle per month are now being sent from the upper country to the Kootenay district. The big boom in mining all through Kootenay will increase the population very much and cattle men in Kamloops and the surrounding country are hopeful that there will be good times for them very shortly.

In the valley haying is over and grain cutting has commenced. The crops are the best ever seen in the province. Oats, peas and wheat look extremely well. Oats will yield from 80 to 90 bushels to the acre.

If the new Delta creamery is a sample of what can be done in dairying in this province British Columbia is going to be a great dairying country. From the time that the first pound of butter was turned out the demand has been far in excess of the capacity and unfilled orders are getting more numerous every day.

The stormy weather experienced in the gulf at the mouth of the Fraser river, interfered very much with the fishing this week, but the catch nevertheless has been a good average one and the pack for the season promises to be larger than at first expected. There are now over two thousand fishermen fishing for salmon and many of them are making a large amount of money, at times over \$100 at one take. As they are principally Japs, Italians and Indians—all spenders—the money is being constantly circulated to the great benefit of Westminster and Vancouver.

Gideon Robertson, who has just returned from Rossland, the Eldorado of British Columbia, says that Winnipeg is getting a footing in Trail Creek district, and in spite of the long haul and Spokane as keen competitor Winnipeg is even now doing a large business at Rossland. Mr. Robertson says that Winnipeg seems to have an advantage in freight rates over the wholesalers on the Canadian coast. The immense development at Trail Creek has overshadowed for the time being every other mining locality. In a short time there will be 25 mines shipping ore instead of only three as at present. There are now 97 square miles of claims staked out in the district.

There will be 1,200 classes in which competition is invited in the coming agricultural show in Westminster. The exhibition will be larger and better than ever before. The Governor-General has promised to formally open the exhibition.

Manitoba Wheat Grades.

It was understood for some time back that changes would be made in the act governing the grading of wheat grown in Manitoba and the territories, to come into effect in time for the beginning of the movement of the new crop. These changes have now been announced and they are as follows:

Manitoba wheat grades are the same as before, except that the wording is changed to read that Manitoba No. 1 hard wheat shall be composed entirely of wheat grown in Manitoba and the territories of Canada, shall be sound, clean, and weighing not less than 60 pounds to the bushel, and shall consist of at least two thirds hard red fye wheat. The former reading was open to the construction that if containing two-thirds hard red fye grown in Manitoba the other one-third might be grown elsewhere. A clause will be added to the act to provide that no wheat which has been scoured or brushed for the removal of smut, burnt, or any other fungoid growth, shall in any case be mixed with No. 1 hard.

It will be remembered that last winter quite a hubbub was stirred up about the alleged mixing of scoured wheat with the regular grades. Eastern millers and grain men took an active part in this agitation and made charges against Manitoba shippers in this connection, and they sent deputations to Ottawa asking for changes in the act. The regulations relating to the inspection of grain we may here say come under the control of the department of inland revenue. Last spring the comptroller of inland revenue visited Winnipeg, where he had a conference with the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, and the changes now made in the act are very much in line with the resolutions passed by the Winnipeg exchange. No eastern grown wheat can now be mixed with the Manitoba grades.

The clause preventing the mixing of scoured wheat with the No. 1 hard grade will not prove any disadvantage to western grain shippers, and in fact they recommended that very action by resolution of the local grain exchange. The Manitoba Farmers' Institute at its last meeting, also passed a resolution against the mixing of scoured wheat with regular grades, so that for once the farmers and grain men are in the same boat, a rather exceptional circumstance. At the same time it is very difficult to see how the farmers are going to gain anything by this prohibition, and we rather think they will lose, if any difference at all is made by the change.

The date of meeting to select standards for this crop has not yet been fixed. C. N. Bell, secretary of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, has received authority from Ottawa to call the meeting, and it will be held some time in September in Winnipeg. The following persons are named as members of the grain standards board for Manitoba and the Territories: S. Spink, chairman, J. D. Mitchell, S. A. McGaw, Jos. Harris, Winnipeg; C. B. Watts, C. A. Chapman, Toronto; T. A. Crane, Jas. Carruthers, Montreal, W. R. Bell, Angus McKay, Indian Head; Jas. Elder, Virden; Wm. Postlewaite, Brandon; T. B. Baker, Moose Jaw; Charles Braithwaite, Portage la Prairie; E. E. Gibbs and D. Horn, inspectors.

The opinion of The Commercial is that this board is altogether too cumbersome. One half this number, or even one-quarter the number would give just as good satisfaction.