

**British Columbia Business Review.**

Vancouver, Feb. 18, 1896.

Business improved last week. Collections are reported fair. Few changes have taken place in the markets. Cured meats have advanced half a cent. There is no change in groceries. Flour and wheat are firm at the advance. Oranges have declined, other fruits remain the same. Vegetables are rather firmer. There is great activity among the different industries. All the lumber mills are working over time. The shipping of British Columbia is greater at present than at any time in the history of the province. The following ships are in Vancouver's harbor, s.s. Empress of China, loading cargo; British ship Candida, discharging cargo; British barque Inch Keith, discharging cargo; British barque General Gordon, loading lumber; British ship Mooltan, loading lumber; British barque Altcar, loading lumber; American schooner Cyrus, loading lumber; American ship Eclipse, loading lumber; German ship Beschoff, loading lumber; Norwegian ship Prince Albert, loading lumber; Norwegian barque Prince Regent, loading lumber; American schooner E. K. Wood, loading lumber; British barque Clan Buchanan, loading lumber; British barque Jno. Gambles, loading lumber; British barque Berkdale, loading lumber; Chilean barque Lake Loman, loading lumber; American schooner, Aida, loading lumber. The destination of the lumber fleet is as follows: Three for Adelaide, Australia, two for Valparaiso, two for Shanghai, four for the United Kingdom, two for Cork, one for Queensland, one for South Africa and one for Freemantle. In all 17 ships with a total capacity of 23,017 tons. The mining world is all anticipation awaiting the coming spring revival. The mining gossip of the moment is the big 600 strike in the Le Roi, and the possibility that the surrounding mines are just as fabulously rich. If this is the case the bright future for Rossland can hardly be conjectured. A shrewd Vancouver business man said to the Commercial correspondent to-day: "Rossland is the one spot on earth at the present moment for an ambitious young man with \$1000 cash. Next summer monied men would flock in there, and as is the case in all other towns of sudden growth, specie will have no particular value and the shrewd long-headed ones, who embark in legitimate business and keep cool under circumstances which would turn the head of any ordinary man, they will come out on top, besides the capital coming in to Kootenay. Money is being rapidly taken out of the ground. There will be nine spenders to one saver. Young man, go to Rossland, and be a saver." There is also considerable excitement over minerals found nearer Vancouver. Taxada Island, a few hours ride by boat from the terminal city, said for some time to be one great mountain of mineral, has only lately been prospected, and now Victoria and Chicago capitalists are preparing to invest a quarter of a million dollars in developing their claims on this modern island of Monte Christo. Preparations are also being made for the development of Alberni district, Vancouver Island, as it is thought the mines there resemble exactly the rich leads of Trail district. Silver has also been found close to the boundary of Vancouver, which has created some excitement here.

**British Columbia Markets.**

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, February 22, 1896.

The only change this week is a further drop in eggs of 8c on Oregon and 5c on local fresh. Butter is easier. Fresh meats tend higher.

Butter.—Dairy butter, 13 to 20c, creamery 25 to 26c; Manitoba cheese 10½c per lb.

Cured Meats. — Hams 12½c; breakfast bacon 18c; backs 12c; long, clear 9c; short rolls 9½c; smoked sides 10½c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 10½c per pound; in rails and tubs 10c. Mess pork: \$14; short cut \$16.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders 3c; smelt 5c; sea bass 4c; black cod 6c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 4c; herring 4c; spring salmon 9c; halibut 7c; whiting 6c; soles 6c; steel heads, 8c; finnan haddies, 10c; crabs 60c dozen; smoked halibut 8c; bloaters 10c; kippered cod 9c; sturgeon 6c.

Game.—Mallards, 50c; pintails 40c; widgins, 35c; venison, 5c.

Vegetables.—Potatoes now, \$10 per ton; onions silver skins, 1½c; cabbage, 1½c; carrots, turnips and beets, ½ to 1c a lb.; sweet potatoes, \$2.50 per 100 lbs.

Eggs.—Fresh, local, 20c; Oregon, 19c per dozen.

Fruits.—California seedling oranges \$2 to \$2.25, navels, \$3.25; native apples \$1.00; California lemons, \$1.00 to \$1.50.

Evaporated Fruits.—Apricots 11c per lb; peaches 7½c; plums 7c; prunes, French, 4c; loose Muscatel raisins 4c; London layer raisins \$1.65 box.

Nuts.—Almonds, 18c; filberts, 12½c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 12½c; walnuts, 10 to 16c lb.

Flour.—Manitoba patent, per bbl., \$4.70; strong bakers, \$4.40; Oregon, —; Oak Lake patent \$4.50; do strong bakers \$4.80.

Meal.—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb sacks, \$3.00; 45 pound sacks, \$3.10; 22½ pound sacks, \$3.30; 10.7 sacks, \$2.60. Oatmeal, 10-10's, \$3.00; 2-50's, \$2.75. Off grades, 90 lbs, \$2.25; 2-45's, \$2.35. Manitoba Rolled Oats, 90's, \$2.25 45's \$2.35.

Grain.—Washington State wheat \$28.00 per ton f.o.b. Vancouver, duty paid. Oats 16.00 per ton.

Ground Feed.—National mills chop, \$21 to \$23 per ton; ground barley, \$22 ton; shorts, \$18.50 ton; bran \$16.50; oil cake meal, \$26 ton; F. O. B. Vancouver, including duty paid on import stuff.

Hay.—Nominal at \$8 per ton.

Dressed Meats. — Beef, 7c; mutton, 7½c to 8c; pork, 6 to 7c; veal, 7 to 9c per lb.

Live Stock.—Steers, 8½ to 4c lb; cows 8 to 8½c; sheep, \$3.75 to \$4.00; hogs, 5 to 5½c.

Poultry.—Chickens, \$4 to \$6 per dozen.

Sugars.—Powdered and icing, 6½c; Paris lump, 6c; granulated, 5c; extra C, 5½c; fancy yellows 4½c; yellow 4c per lb.

Syrups.—30 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, \$4.50 per case of 20.

Teas.—Congo: Fair, 11½c; good, 18c; choice, 26c. Ceylons. Fair, 25c, good, 30c; choice, 35c per lb.

**British Columbia Business Notes**

A. M. Herring & Co., drugs, New Westminster, is burned out; fully insured.

M. Mason, tailor, New Westminster, loss by fire.

W. H. Beardsley, lumber, etc., Trail, has sold out to J. D. Mossman.

John Tapley, confectionery, Vancouver, is dead.

The stock of Thomas Houghton & Co., dry goods, Victoria, is in the hands of the chattel mortgagee.

At the request of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council, the Vancouver Council are petitioning the government against passing Bill No. 12, now before the House of Commons, relating to "Conspiracies and Combinations formed in restraint of trade."

The boards of trade of the province are petitioning the Dominion government to build a bridge across the Fraser river near Westminster.

A linseed oil mill will be in operation on the Fraser river at Mission city this summer. Until farmers are encouraged to grow the seed it will be imported from Manitoba.

The Columbia river has been open all winter, and boats have been running continuously. This fine river gives a means of communication into the famous Kootenay country.

The British Columbia boards of trade have passed resolutions favoring imperial federation in commerce. They will send representatives to the conference of the Chambers of Commerce in London, in June next.

The co-operation craze has extended to all industries and trades in the province. Labor is well organized and is a power in elections. The big combine in lumber is in force here. The fruit growers of the Fraser river valley co-operate. The farmers of Burnaby district have pooled their interests. The salmon business it is said, will be largely represented by English syndicates next year. There is a monopoly in the coal business, and last but not least, the dairymen have joined their forces, and it is altogether likely the provincial government will aid by land grants this organization with a view to lessening the enormous imports of dairy produce from Manitoba and States every year. The druggists co-operate in prices, and the man who undersells is downed by wholesalers. All professions have strong organizations for mutual benefit, the last one organized being that of mining engineers.

**Grain and Milling Notes.**

An answer has been received by the Winnipeg grain exchange from the commissioner of inland revenue at Ottawa, in reply to a telegram from the exchange, in which he says that the department has not considered the matter of changing the regulations regarding the grading of Manitoba wheat; and in any case, nothing will be done without every interest being given a chance to be heard.

The Commercial was asked the other day why we did not report the Montreal wheat market. The reply is, that Montreal has no local wheat market. While there are some large grain exporters located at Montreal, there is practically no local spot market there for wheat.

At the last meeting of the Winnipeg grain exchange the secretary was instructed to wire the department at Ottawa inquiring if it were intended to make any changes in the grain inspection act, and if so that this exchange be given full opportunity to make representations regarding such changes. In regard to the talked of dairy section of the exchange the opinion of the meeting was that dairy men should be admitted as associate members and that if necessary a reduced fee be established for the dairy section.

The Commercial has received a very fine calendar from The Richardson Stationery Co., Winnipeg. The excellence of the work is added to from the fact that it is a local production.

**S. A. D. BERTRAND, OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE**

For the province of Manitoba, under the recommendation of the Board of Trade of the city of Winnipeg. Insolvent and Trust Estates Managed with Promptness and Economy.

Special attention to Confidential Business Enquiries.

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