

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE,
Tuesday Morning, May 12.
VICTORIA.

Merchants state that despite the past unfavorable weather for trade, the volume of business in all lines has steadily increased, but had the spring not been so backward, there would have been a considerable difference. On all sides the belief is expressed that the coming season will surpass all previous ones for business generally.

FINANCIAL.

Business engagements are being met punctually, and it is pleasing to note the elasticity with which merchants have been taking up their paper. Collections in the city are excellent, renewals rarely being asked for. A few renewals, however, are required by up-country dealers. The demand for money is still active, 10 per cent. being willingly paid on loans and mortgages, where 8 per cent would have been accepted three months ago. There is still a large demand for money for speculative purposes, which is difficult for the borrowers to obtain.

DRY GOODS.

There are no special features to report in the dry goods trade this week. Good, steady sorting up orders are coming in steadily, and the warmer weather of the last few days has imparted a better tone to the trade. Dealers are expecting a couple of big months on sorting orders. All paper maturing on the 4th was promptly taken up. No renewals were asked. Remittances are reported as generally improved, but a little extension is asked by up-country merchants. The market remains firm, although cottons in the east are still a little weak. A leading wholesale merchant said that the volume of business in the retail dry goods trade, since January 1st, has been considerably more than at any previous corresponding season.

CLOTHING.

A leading dealer said that the amount of of trade was considerably greater than for the corresponding term last year. The recent bad weather stopped spring goods from moving very freely, but still spring sorting up orders are keeping manufacturers busy. Collections for the past month show a considerable improvement.

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

Business in the grocery trade is steady. Owing to the uncertainty that exists as to the probable action of the government in regard to the removal of the duty on sugar, the market is rather quiet, and buyers are very cautious. There was a slight decline in granulated last week, but yellows remain steady. Quotations are: Granulated, 7½@7½c; yellows, 6½@6½c. There is a brisk demand for canned fruits and vegetables. The stocks imported last autumn by retailers are now running short, and, in consequence, they are drawing heavily on stocks, in wholesalers' hands. Prices generally are steady, although tomatoes and peas are strong. Dried fruits are about the same as last week. Meats maintain a firm, steady price; an advance is spoken of among dealers. The consumptive demand will

slightly decrease with the advent of warm weather. Oranges are stiffening up. Choice navels are quoted at \$6.50 a case; Riversides are held from \$3.50@3.75; Los Angeles, \$2.50@2.75. California lemons are quoted: \$1.25@1.50. Recent advices report that the lemon crop of Italy has been almost a complete failure, which will have a tendency to keep up prices. They are now quoted \$7.25@8.00 per case. New cherries are worth \$2.50@2.75 for 10 pound boxes, but this price will considerably lower next week.

FLOUR AND FEED.

There are no changes to note in the flour and feed trade this week; prices remain as quoted. It is believed that there are enough oats in farmers' hands to supply the demand until the new crop comes in, and that little, if any, importation will be required. Ground barley and rolled barley declined \$1 per ton in San Francisco last week. A leading dealer says that he does not expect to see another rise in the flour market. California potatoes (new crop) are quoted at \$10 per ton. Fraser River potatoes are reported plentiful, and it is not expected they will advance beyond last quotations.

SALMON.

Cable advices indicate an improvement in the salmon market in England. There is considerable inquiry for this season's pack, and a good many sales have been consummated. There was an offer from England of 21s 6d per case for tolls, C.I.F. Flats are in request at 25s 6d per case. Last season's pack is for the most part disposed of, a few lots remaining on hand in England, being held beyond the market. The Brodick Bay arrived at London May 7th, with 32,000 cases, the greater part of which has been sold to arrive. Nominal quotations in Victoria are: Talls, \$1.50 per case; flats, \$5.60.

VANCOUVER.

Business has been brisk during the past week, and many of the produce merchants have only a very little stock on hand. The large number of people that have been staying in the city during the last few days, have caused the hotels to largely increase their orders, while the supplies required for the Empress of India have also been considerable, says the News Advertiser. California butter has slightly advanced this week, and is quoted from 27 to 29 cents per lb., as much as 30 cents being obtained for California creamery. The supply is now getting rather limited, and consequently the price has advanced about 2 cents in the San Francisco market. Cheese still remains firm at 13 and 13½ cents per lb. The price of potatoes now ranges from \$22 to \$30 per ton. Ashcroft potatoes still fetch \$28 and \$30 per ton. The advanced prices of flour are still maintained here, and the general expectation is that they will go up still more. The total advance has now been about \$1.25 in both the Eastern and American markets. The present quotations in the local market are the same as last week, and are as follows: Manitoba Patent, \$7; Manitoba Baker, \$5.50; Oregon flour, \$6 to \$6.50. The prices of sugar quoted by the British Columbia Sugar Refinery Company are 7½ cents per lb. for granulated, and 6½ cents

for yellow. Maple syrup is fetching \$1.25 per tin, and strained honey 13 cents per lb.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

Reports from all parts of the District are the same. Spring farming operations and seeding are very backward, and the farmers are becoming anxious for fine weather. Business has been rather dull throughout the District, but in the city there has been no cause for complaint, although it is admitted that fine weather would have a very noticeable effect on trade generally, and more particularly in the dry goods line. The five steamers plying regularly on the river brought a large quantity of produce to the city during the week, for which, the Columbian says, a ready market was found. Lambs and calves are coming in freely, and are in even greater demand than the supply. Prices are considered very satisfactory. The price of potatoes continues firm at last week's quotations, notwithstanding the fact that the new California crop is on the market. The price of the latter, however, is still so high that the demand is very small as yet. Dealers are confident that old potatoes will remain in good demand for another month at least. Receipts of butter from the district have been increasing daily, and the foreign article has disappeared from the market. The quality of the article now being received is excellent, and much superior to what is usually expected at this season of the year.

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

The following are the customs returns for the port of Nanaimo for the month of April, 1891:

IMPORTS.	
Free goods	\$ 8,740
Dutiable goods	27,802
Tobacco for excise	233
Total	\$36,825
EXPORTS.	
Coal, 66,158 tons	\$253,800
Pices, to Alaska	416
Woodware to U. S.	46
Total	\$254,271

CUSTOMS RETURNS

at the port of New Westminster for the month of April:

Total value of imports	\$17,115
Duties collected	4,912
Total value of exports	3,17

FOREIGN COAL SHIPMENTS.

NEW VANCOUVER COAL CO. SHIPPING.

The following are the shipments for the week ending May 9th:

Date.	Vessel and Destination.	Tons.
2-	West Indian, ss., San Francisco	1,867
5-	Mexico, ss., Portland	611
7-	Brittain, ss., Whatcom, Wash.	201
8-	Remus, ss., San Francisco	4,005
9-	Brittain, ss., Whatcom, Wash.	205
Total		6,889

WANTED.

An active, reliable man, to represent our mill in British Columbia. Fine tweeds, pure homespun, etc. Address, with references, stating commission expected.

YARMOUTH WOOLEN MILL, CO.
Yarmouth, Nova Scotia,
April 29th, 1891. Canada.