

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE,
Tuesday Morning, May 10.
VICTORIA.

Business cannot be said to be rushing in all lines in Victoria this week. The dry goods people report an average trade while the grocers say that business is unusually good. The few warm days had an enlivening influence on the volume of trade.

FINANCIAL.

The action of the Bank of England last week, increasing the rate to 5 per cent. to all comers, and threatening to charge 5½, should the pressure continue, to check the export of gold, must have a slight hardening tendency on the money market here. It is expected that at the weekly meeting of the Bank of England directors on Thursday, the rate of interest will be raised to 5½ per cent.

DRY GOODS.

Beyond a steady trade, very little can be said concerning the dry goods business this week. Summer goods were in considerable demand, and a good season's trade is anticipated. Collections are fair, but could be much better both from city and country dealers. The West Coast Indian trade begins early in June, and merchants are looking forward to the trade generally received from this source.

FLOUR AND FEED.

Leading dealers say that nearly all the wheat in Oregon is in the millers' hands, consequently values are firmly maintained, raw material being still scarce and high. A rise is spoken of in Oregon grades. The Enderby brands, which were recently placed on the market, are meeting with a ready sale. Delta brand, Victoria Mills, is maintaining its popularity, and is being sold at a very reasonable price. Oats continue firm. Quotations are: Hungarian, \$6.85@7; Snowflake and Portland Roller, \$6.25@6.50; Superfine, \$1.50; C. & Co., \$5.50; Delta, \$5.25; Enderby brands—Premium \$6.50, XXX \$6.25, XX \$6. Wheat, \$40 per ton. Oats, \$12.50@45. Bran, \$25@28. Shorts, \$28@30. Chop Feed, \$35@40. Oil Cake Meal, \$10. Corn Meal, \$3 per sack. Sannich Oatmeal, \$1.50; California Oatmeal, \$1.55. California Rolled Oats, \$5.50; Tacoma Rolled Oats, \$1.75@5.00.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The demand for both fruits and vegetables continues to increase. Oranges—Los Angeles, \$2.75@3.00 per case; Riverside, \$3.50@3.75; Navel, \$5.50@6.50. Cherries, \$1.50@2; Bananas, \$1. In vegetables, green peas are quoted 5c. per lb.; asparagus, \$2.25@2.50 per box; cucumbers, \$1 per dozen; onions, 2½c. per lb.; cabbage, 2c. new potatoes, 2c., and old potatoes \$20 ton.

VANCOUVER.

The News-Advertiser reports business during the last week fairly brisk in all lines. Prices for the most part remain firm, and there is very little change to note. California butter still remains about the same, from 26@28c being the usual price asked. Cheese is still firm at 13 and 13½c per pound. Case eggs are worth from

18@20c per dozen. The present quotations for flour are as follows: Manitoba Patents, \$7; Manitoba Bakers, \$6.50; Oregon flour, \$6.25@6.50. The Lake of the Woods Milling Co. have sent in a car of flour here during the week, and there is a probability that a flour war between this company and Ogilvie's will now be commenced, as until the present date, the latter company have controlled the Vancouver market. Oatmeal still keeps firm. Rolled oats are quoted at \$1.25. The present prices of feed are as follows: Shorts, \$27 per ton; bran, \$25; wheat, \$36@40; oats, \$10@15. The prices of meats still remain the same, the quotations being as follows: Dry salt, 11½ cents; roll bacon, 11½ cents; breakfast bacon, 13½ cents; back, 13 cents; hams, 11½ cents; pickled pork bellies, 11½ cents; mess pork, 22½ cents. Lard is still held at the same prices: In tubs, 12 cents; in pails, 12½ cents; in tins, 13 cents; lard compound, 12 cents. The prices of sugar quoted by the B. C. Sugar Refinery have dropped a little; 7½ cents per pound is now the quotation for granulated and 6½ cents for yellow, while cube sugar is quoted at 8 cents. Maple syrup is held at \$1.25 per tin. Potatoes still remain about the same, \$23 per ton being the usual price paid. California cabbage is quoted at 2½ cents per pound.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

The recent favorable change of weather has caused a very material improvement in trade throughout the city and district. Builders, particularly, have been benefitted by the change, and it is noted by the Ledger, that the demand for hardware and rough and dressed lumber is therefore brisk. Large quantities of stone have been received from Bowen Island. Brick is coming in freely from Port Haney and Port Kells, but the stock in dealers' hands is very small. Lime and cement are still scarce, and the prices show a tendency to advance. Paints and oils are very steady, whitelead being quoted at \$9.00 per 100 lbs., and turpentine and linseed oil at the same prices at last week. Fish is scarce, and for this season of the year, prices are exceedingly high. The poor salmon run is the cause of it. A small quantity of sturgeon has been caught. During the week, large consignments of salt water fish have been received from Vancouver, and have sold readily. Flour is still plentiful, and the price is steady at \$6.50@6.75 per sack. The demand is steady and growing. Business is improving in eggs and dairy produce. There is a plentiful supply of fresh eggs at 30 cents per dozen. Eastern eggs are seldom called for, and are selling at 20 cents per dozen. Cheese rules steady with a brisk demand, from 13 to 15 cents per lb. Fine English and imported cheeses are scarce and prices are heavy. Butter is fairly plentiful and the up river product has fairly ousted the imported article. Butchers' meat is much the same as last week, with a good demand. Cattle are being received every day, thus ensuring a good supply. Potatoes are scarce at \$19.00 per ton, but the supply will be much better in a few weeks. Hay is plentiful at \$12@15 per ton, with a steady demand. Large shipments are expected shortly. The ensuing week will see a great improvement in all lines of trade.

THE SEALING INDUSTRY.

Collector Milne has forwarded to Ottawa the following particulars of this year's sealing fleet. The list includes all Victoria schooners which have so far sailed for Behring's Sea:

CANADIAN SEALING VESSELS CLEARED FROM VICTORIA, B. C., 1891.

Name.	Value, with outfit.	Tons Reg.	Indian Crew.	White Crew.
Sch. Venture...	\$ 5,000	48	18	4
" Mascot...	6,000	40	18	5
" Mag. Mc...	10,000	70	..	23
" Lily...	8,500	67	20	5
" Triumph...	11,000	98	..	23
" Sea Lion...	7,000	50	..	19
" Beatrice...	7,000	66	20	5
" Aurora...	8,000	41	20	4
" Penelope...	10,000	70	..	20
" Carmelite...	13,000	90	..	33
" Ocean Belle...	10,000	83	..	23
" Katherine...	5,500	82	20	5
" Annie C.	..	..	..	..
" Moore...	15,000	113	..	23
" M. Chief...	1,000	23	12	2
" W. P. Say...	..	..	..	..
" ward...	8,000	60	22	5
" Sapphire...	14,000	124	23	6
" Minnie...	8,000	46	20	5
" E. B. Mar...	..	..	..	..
" vin...	12,000	117	..	24
" Teresa...	10,000	63	..	25
" Martha...	1,000	12	..	5
" Ariel...	9,000	90	21	8
" Pioneer...	10,000	65	..	23
" M. Ellen...	7,250	63	24	8
" M. Taylor...	8,000	43	..	18
" Viva...	12,000	92	..	23
" Rosie Ol...	..	..	..	..
" sen...	7,500	39	20	6
" Wanderer...	5,000	25	12	4
" Kate...	4,000	53	24	5
" Str. Thistle...	22,000	117	..	27
Sch. Favorite...	8,000	80	21	6
" Walter L.	..	..	..	..
" Rich...	7,000	76	..	22
" C. H. Tup...	..	..	..	..
" per...	13,000	99	..	24
" Oscar and	..	..	..	..
" Mattie...	12,000	81	26	6
" Carlotta C.	..	..	..	..
" Cox...	13,000	76	..	20
" Geneva...	13,000	92	..	23
" Lotia...	1,000	28	11	..
" Umbrina...	14,000	58	..	23
" Sierra...	1,200	25	12	2
" May Belle...	10,000	58	..	21
" Winifred...	1,200	13	..	8
" S. Handy...	10,000	68	..	22
" Labrador...	7,000	25	..	10
" City of Sh	..	..	..	..
" Diego...	7,500	46	..	17
" Maud S...	12,000	97	..	24
" Laura...	5,500	19	12	4
" Henrietta...	5,000	31	12	4
" Borealis...	8,000	37	18	5
" Ainoko...	8,000	75	22	6
" Annie E.	..	..	..	..
" Paint...	11,000	82	..	20
	\$424,150	3,203	439	613

Last year, says the Colonist, 29 Canadian schooners cleared from Victoria for Behring's Sea, representing a valuation of \$248,250, and a registered tonnage of 2,042; this year, 49 vessels, owned and fitted out in Victoria, have sailed North, their tonnage aggregating 3,203, and their value being \$425,150.

Capt. Ribber of the bark *Julie* reports having spoken the bark H. B. Cann, Capt. Foote, lumber laden from Port Discovery to Callao, in 53 S. lat., 92 W. long., 53 days out.

American schooner *Sailor Boy*, 316 tons Capt. Jones, sailed from Caleta Buena about April 10th for Nanaimo, and will be due June 10th to 15th. Her cargo consists of 1,500 tons of nitrate for the Hamilton Powder Co.

Messrs. Dobson & Taylor, representing the Taylor Mill Company, formally took possession of the Queen City Planing Mills Monday, Messrs. Johnson, Walker & Flett retiring. The new owners will commence work to-day, it being their intention to refit the premises, add a saw-mill with a capacity of 25,000 feet per diem as well as enlarge the mill in other respects