

• W. J. STEIN, •

Chartered Accountant and Auditor,

513 COLUMBIA ST., NEW WESTMINSTER.

—AND—

P. O. BOX 636, VANCOUVER.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

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VICTORIA.

Business has been of very fair volume, preceding the holiday season, although both jobbers and retailers are working on more conservative lines. Two more vessels, the Astracna and Romola, have lately gone on berth at Liverpool and London for this province and these with the seven others now on the way from ports in the U. K. indicate that the importing trade is steadily increasing. A large consignment of frozen mutton was received by the Arawa from Australia. It was from a syndicate of grazers of New South Wales, and was sold to the butchers by the carcass at 7½c per lb. Arrangements were made so that the mutton was sold in the four cities of the province. It was retailed at 8½c by the carcass, and met with a good sale.

The action of the chartered banks is having a beneficial effect on credits generally throughout the Province. By the new system adopted the banks while still giving customers the usual lines of discounts will be enabled to hold their accounts well in hand and educate their customers to the system of prompt settlement.

Collections are still reported slow and on the whole unsatisfactory. It is believed that in future the wholesale trade will as far as possible seek to settle open accounts with their customers by note in sympathy with the system adopted by the banks.

The Vancouver News-Advertiser says: "An improvement is to be noted in most lines, and the holiday trade may now be said to have commenced. Money is, however, still scarce, and collections are accordingly slow, and two failures have to be recorded as having occurred during the past week. The chief feature of the week has been the arrival of the steamship Arawa, from Australia, with a cargo of mutton, fruit and other produce. Though her cargo was not so large as that of some previous vessels in the line, she will take a big load on the return trip. The steamship Empress of China has also sailed during the past week, while the Norwegian ship Beaconfield has arrived to load lumber. The heavy rain of the last few days has put a temporary stop to all building operations. There is still a considerable amount of work in hand, while the erection of several large blocks is contemplated next year. Wholesale business has improved during the week, as merchants are enlarging their stocks in view of the holiday trade. The chief feature to note is the decline in meats."

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The feature of the week was the arrival of the steamship Arawa from Sydney via Fiji Islands and Honolulu. She brought

a considerable quantity of fruit, both from Australia and the Islands. The first consignment of fruit from the Fiji Islands, consisting of pineapples, bananas and coconuts, was received and realized very fair prices. Oranges are coming in more plentifully from California, and prices are dropping. The crop in California will, it is generally believed, be a large one. A number of the bananas received ex the Arawa were over-ripe, and dealers have had to throw away quantities, and there are very few prime bunches remaining on the market. Prices are reported firmer. Grapes are nearly out, and any that are offered are worth \$1.75 per box. The Empress of India due about the middle of the week, will have fresh supplies of Japanese oranges for the X'mas trade.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:—

Oranges—Australian.....	2 50 @ 0 00
California navels.....	1 25 @ 0 00
" seedlings.....	3 25 @ 0 00
Japanese.....	75 @ 0 00
Lemons—California.....	3 50 @ 4 50
Australian.....	2 50 @ 0 00
Bananas.....	1 50 @ 1 75
Apples.....	bxs 1 25 @ 1 35
" Canadian.....	bbls 5 75 @ 0 00
Grapes, California.....	1 75 @ 0 00
Coconuts.....	per 100 8 00 @ 9 00
Pineapples.....	per doz 3 50 @ 4 00

Vegetables are quoted:

Potatoes—Local.....	per ton 17 00 @ 20 00
Onions—Silverskins.....	per lb 2 @ 2½

FLOUR AND FEED.

The only feature to note is the reduced prices of rolled oats and chop feed caused by competition between the two mills in the province. The effect of the low prices will, it is believed, stop to a large extent imports of these products from California. The National Mills are now showing a very superior ground barley feed for \$26 per ton. The British Columbia Milling & Feed Co., of New Westminster, quote their products to the trade as follows: Rolled oats \$3.00 per sack, oatmeal, \$3.50, Graham flour, \$1.50, split peas, \$3.25, chop feed \$23 to \$26 per ton.

The Portland Commercial Review says of flour: "For standard brands the local call continues fair, but the output is much in excess of requirements and consequently prices have favored buyers. The demand from China appears temporarily checked and but little is now going in that direction. Two cargoes cleared during the week for Europe, aggregating 45,500 bbls., which will probably pass out before Saturday. Standard brands are listed at from \$2.75 to \$2.80 per bbl., and country brands correspondingly weaker.

The Ogilvie Milling Co. quote their celebrated brands of Manitoba flours in car lots, on wharf in Victoria, as follows:

Ogilvie's Hungarian.....	\$4 25
" Strong Bakers.....	4 05
The Columbia Flouring Mills quote	
Enderby flour in carload lots on wharf	
in Victoria:	
Premier.....	\$4 00
XXX.....	3 65
Strong Bakers or XX.....	3 45
Superfine.....	3 15

The Victoria Roller Mills quote Victoria flour in 10-bbl. lots at the mills as follows:

Delta.....	\$4 00
Victoria XXX.....	4 00

Jobbers' quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills.....	\$4 25 @ 0 00
Lion.....	4 25 @ 0 00
XXX.....	4 25 @ 0 00
Premier, Enderby mills.....	4 35 @ 0 00
XXX.....	4 20 @ 0 00
XX.....	3 80 @ 0 00
Superfine.....	3 50 @ 0 00
Ogilvie's Hungarian.....	4 05 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers.....	4 50 @ 0 00
H. B. C. Fort Gar " Hungarian.....	4 05 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers.....	4 50 @ 0 00
Oak Lake Patent Hungarian.....	4 65 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers.....	4 50 @ 0 00
Regina Hungarian.....	4 65 @ 0 00
" Strong Bakers.....	4 50 @ 0 00
Benton County, Oregon.....	4 00 @ 0 00
Portland Roller.....	4 05 @ 0 00
Snowflake.....	4 05 @ 0 00
Wheat, per ton.....	28 00 @ 30 00
Oats.....	30 00 @ 32 50
Oil cake meal.....	45 00 @ 00 00
Chop feed.....	25 00 @ 30 00
Shorts.....	28 00 @ 30 00
Brans.....	25 00 @ 27 50
National Mills oatmeal.....	3 50 @ 0 00
" rolled oats.....	3 00 @ 0 00
" split peas.....	3 50 @ 0 00
" pearl barley.....	4 50 @ 0 00
" Chop feed.....	23 00 @ 25 00
California oatmeal.....	3 75 @ 0 00
California rolled oats.....	3 80 @ 0 00
Corn, whole.....per ton	37 50 @ 40 00
Cornmeal.....	2 75 @ 3 00
Cornmeal-feed.....per ton	40 00 @ 00 00
Cracked corn.....	10 00 @ 00 00
Hay, per ton.....	18 00 @ 20 00
Straw, per bale.....	1 00 @ 0 00

RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton.....	\$75 00 @ 80 00
Best Chin rice.....	80 00 @ 100 00
Chin rice No. 1.....	68 00 @ 70 00
Rice flour.....	70 00
Broken rice.....	30 00
Rice Meal.....	17 50

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

A small consignment of Reynolds & Co's. New Zealand creamery butter was received by Erskine, Wall & Co. for their retail trade. It is the same article that is shipped by the makers to the London market in large shipments and is reported to give satisfaction in that market. Eastern gold medal creamery butter is quoted by jobbers at 20½c per lb. Clover Leaf creamery has advances ½c per lb., and is now quoted by Allice & Ault at 23½c per lb.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: "Butter receipts during the past week were 2,362 pkgs., against 2,154 pkgs., for the week previous. The butter market is inactive, as much from limited supplies as the unwillingness of buyers to pay asking rates. Stocks here are comparatively very light for the season. It is said that factorymen are supplying West End grocers in lots to suit them at 22½c to 23c, thus going past our wholesale dealers and commission houses. But this is nothing new at this time of the year. If factorymen cannot get their price from the wholesale trade, some of them go into the peddling business. In dairy butter, stocks are light, and full prices are obtained for all fine offerings. A lot of 30 tubs of choice Eastern Townships was sold at 21½c, and a lot of Perth goods brought 20½c. Western has been sold at 19c to 20c. At the moment, it certainly looks as if there would be no surplus left over to speak of next spring. We quote prices as follows: Creamery, August, 22c to 22½c, per lb.,