

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.
Tuesday Morning, Jan. 5.

VICTORIA.

Many merchants have either already completed or are now stock taking, and although there have been complaints during the year about dullness of trade, it is confidently expected that business will show a decided improvement on that of the previous year when the books are balanced. There has been but little shrinking in prices during the year, and therefore stocks will generally figure up at full or quite near first values.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Very fair shipments of Japanese oranges have been received ex-Empress of India. They are generally in good condition, fully ripe, and meeting with the usual demand at 75c per box. Nearly all of the jobbers have stopped importing grapes, so that the season may be said to be over. The receipts of California oranges continue to increase by each steamer. There are no changes to note in prices.

Quotations are: Pears, (winter), \$1.50; Japanese oranges, 75c per box; Oregon apples (greenings), \$1.00; Baldwin, Bellflower, Rose and Blue Pearmain, \$1.10; Santa Barbara oranges, \$3.50; Riverside seedlings, \$3.50; navels, \$5.00; California Messina lemons, \$6.00 to \$6.50; silverskin onions, 1½c. per lb.; island apples, \$1.25 per box; tomatoes, \$1 to \$1.25; sweet potatoes, 3½c. per lb. potatoes, island, \$20 per ton; Chilliwack, \$18 per ton; Fraser River, \$16 per ton; Bonapartes, \$25 per ton; persimmons, \$1.75.

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

Business is quiet, and most of the houses are busy stock-taking, and it is expected that when the balances are made, a large increase over the business of 1890 will be shown.

The local butter market is steady and firm with a good demand.

Quotations are: Eastern creamery, 28½c per lb. for large and 29½c for small; Manitoba creamery, 30c; dairy, 23c; Eastern Townships, first quality, 26c.

The Montreal *Trade Bulletin* says: "A moderately fair movement of butter is reported during the week, about 2,700 p'ks having changed hands for export account, but said to be at 23½c to 24c for choice, late-made creamery, some earlier makes being reported at 22½c to 23c. Quite a number of Eastern Townships have also sold at 18c to 20c."

Canadian meats are quoted: Hams, 13½c to 14c; breakfast bacon, 13½c; short rolls, 12c; dry salt sides, 11½c.

Mediterranean dried fruits are quoted by local jobbers as follows: Currants in bbls. 8½c, in half-bbls. 8½c.; valencias, 8½c; sultanas, 14c; London layers, \$2.25 a box; California sultanas, \$2.25 a box; dates, 9c; prunes, 9c to 12½c. California evaporated fruits in 25 lb. boxes are quoted as follows: Peaches, 12½c; apricots, 14c; nectarines, 14c; pitted plums, 11c. About the same grade of fruits in cotton sacks are quoted from 1c to 2c per lb. less. New Canadian evaporated apples are quoted at 11c per lb.

The Vancouver refinery has closed down

for a time, until present stocks are lowered. The Winnipeg market is now being supplied by the eastern refineries, which have been enabled by freight rates to cut prices below what the Vancouver refinery can afford to ship at. Vancouver granulated is still quoted at 5½c in bags or bbls., and Hong Kong, 5½c.

The local jobbers are now carrying full stocks of all the different kinds of jams put up in glass jars by Okel & Morris at the Victoria Preserving Factory, which include apricot, peach, plum, pear, apricot marmalade, etc. Quotations are 1½ lb. size, \$3 per dozen; 3 lb. size, \$5 per doz.

Falconer's Victoria War Works' goods are now carried by the leading wholesale grocers, comprising pure malt vinegar, tomato catsup, Worcesterhire sauce, mushroom catsup, apple and quince cider, lemon and vanilla extracts and fruit syrups—of home manufacture.

FLOUR AND FEED.

There are large quantities of oats being received from Manitoba points by local jobbers. There is a steady consumptive demand, but no especial features of interest, nor any change of jobbers' prices. The *Portland Commercial Review* says: "There is a fair call for flour for local purposes, and about the average quantity has been shipped to San Francisco. Receipts are light from both sections. Up the valley a few mills have temporarily suspended operations owing to high water."

The Columbia Flouring Mills quote: For Enderby flour in carload lots, Premier, \$5.00; XXX., \$5.30; Strong Bakers or XX., \$5.00; Superfine, \$4.00. Quotations to the trade are:

Delta, Victoria mills.....	\$5 50 @ 0 00
Lion, " ".....	5 50 @ 0 00
Premier, Enderby mills.....	5 85 @ 0 00
XXX., " ".....	5 65 @ 0 00
XX., " ".....	5 25 @ 5 50
Superfine, " ".....	4 25 @ 4 50
Ogilvie's Hungarian.....	6 00 @ 0 00
Strong Bakers.....	5 75 @ 0 00
Snowflake.....	6 25 @ 0 00
Portland Roller.....	6 25 @ 0 00
Royal.....	6 00 @ 0 00
Oregon Superfine.....	4 25 @ 0 00
Wheat, per ton.....	\$40 00 @ 45 00
Oats.....	28 00 @ 35 00
Oil cake meal.....	32 50 @ 35 00
Chop feed.....	33 00 @ 35 00
Shorts.....	28 00 @ 30 00
Bran.....	26 00 @ 27 50
National Mills oatmeal.....	3 50 @ 0 00
California oatmeal.....	4 35 @ 0 00
California rolled oats.....	3 75 @ 4 00
Corameal.....	3 00 @ 3 25
Cracked corn.....	45 00 @ 50 00
Hay, per ton.....	18 00 @ 20 00
Straw, per bale.....	1 00 @ 1 25

RICE.

The Victoria Rice Mills quote wholesale:

Japan rice, per ton.....	\$77 50
China rice ".....	70 00
Rice flour ".....	70 00
Chit rice ".....	25 00
Rice Meal ".....	17 50

LUMBER.

The bark Hesper, 664 tons, now at San Francisco, was chartered last week to load lumber for Shanghai, at 50s., by the Hastings Mill Co. The British ship Athlon, 1371 tons, Capt. Dexter, has completed her cargo for Adelaide, and will sail early in the week. It is composed of 866,430 feet rough lumber, 2,389 bbls of lath and 850

bbls of pickets, valued at \$8,265. The Norwegian ship Morning Light, 1,310 tons, Capt. Johansen, is still loading, and is not expected to finish for a couple of weeks. The Titania, loading for London, will also be on berth for some time yet. Quotations are as follows for cargo lots for foreign shipment, being the prices of the Pacific Pine Lumber Association: Rough merchantable, ordinary sizes, in lengths to 40 feet, inclusive, \$9 per M feet; rough deck plank, average length 35 feet, \$10; dressed flooring, \$17; pickets, \$9; laths, 4 feet, \$2.

For local trade, the Rock Bay Saw Mill quote:
Rough lumber, per M.....\$10 00
Best quality dressed lumber, per M..... 00 00
Second " "..... 00 00
Laths, per M..... 2 50
Shingles, "..... 2 25

The notice of intention of Vancouver to apply at the next session of the Legislature for amendments to and consolidation of the city charter has been advertised.

The sealing schooner Beatrice, belonging to Vancouver, will be the first of the British Columbia sealing fleet to start out for this year's operations. She was to leave for sea to-day.

In the mining line there is very little being done at Lillooet; however, better prospects are being looked forward to in the early spring. The weather is really nice and mild for this time of the year.

Mr. W. Hoyt will open business in part of the old premises recently vacated by Gordon & Raab, at the corner of Columbia and Blackie streets, New Westminster, under the name of the California Fruit Depot.

The *Inland Sentinel* says that Mr. E. H. Fletcher, Postoffice Inspector, will open a new postoffice at Abbotsford. He will institute a money order department at the Agassiz postoffice, and will open a postoffice at Nicomekl, on the line of the Great Northern Railway.

Some months ago, when McConkey & Co. began in the bakery business at Vancouver, they instituted a cut in the price of bread, and the price of the pound and a half loaf came down to 5 cents. That firm have given up business, and the bakers have mutually agreed to raise the price of bread to 16 loaves for \$1.

The steamer City of Nanaimo is now rapidly approaching completion, and it is expected that very shortly she will make her trial trip. The interior arrangements will soon be finished, and will be very handsome. The main saloon and ladies' cabin are beautifully painted in light colors, white predominating. The floor is nicely carpeted, and the curtains and upholstery in red give a most comfortable appearance. The dining-room is situated on the lower deck, and is in keeping with the rest of the boat, while forward on the saloon deck is the smoking-room, the woodwork here being grained in oak. The staterooms are large and airy, the beds fitted with wire spring mattresses, and the basins being porcelain-lined fixtures. Hot water radiators of neat design heat the saloons and dining-room, and everything is being done to make the vessel as comfortable and complete as possible.—*Colombian*.