

BRITISH COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE COMMERCIAL

Business at Vancouver.

July 3, 1900.

The customs house returns at the different ports in British Columbia show the volume of business being done in the province is steadily increasing. The following figures are for the fiscal years ending the 30th of June, in Vancouver: 1898, \$608,253.96; 1899, \$764,142.37; 1900, \$906,811.07. The duties for the month of June are \$81,142.26, showing an increase over the corresponding month last year of \$6,824.89, while there is an increase of over \$36,000 in the value of exports.

British Columbia has a stable government at last. Premier Dunsmuir may be trusted to do nothing antagonistic to the best interests of the province as he has perhaps a larger stake in British Columbia than any one man in the province, while his cabinet is generally conceded to be composed of good tried men. The new government has already inspired a better feeling in the business world.

Sir Henri Joly, the new lieutenant-governor, has also met with a warm reception at the hands of the people, for British Columbia was weary of uncertainties, doubts, and apprehensions which existed in the business and political world during the regime of the late lieutenant-governor, and Sir Henri was accepted as a happy compromise, local jealousies making the choice of a British Columbian impossible as representing the crown in the province.

At this writing Vancouver is on the eve of her annual celebration, some \$5,000 being spent in prizes, decorations, etc., and as if to demonstrate that the people are tired of the sectional feeling existing between Victoria and the mainland, Premier Dunsmuir sent a cheque for \$50 towards the expenses of the celebration and wired that himself and the members of the cabinet would be present in Vancouver to take part in the big parade on Dominion Day.

Perhaps the most startling development of the past month in the industrial world is the event of the Jap in to the households of British Columbia. There was a great cry raised regarding cheap John Chinaman when the hired girl had to make way for the heathen Chinese, because "John" worked cheaper and did the work as well, never entertained callers, and never wanted to go out. Now John Chinaman has to go to make way for the little Brownies. John would not work in the kitchen under \$6 a month and would not do the cooking under \$12. Now the little Brownies are offering to work for \$2 a month and board and are a glut on the market at that, while at the ranches and farms on Lulu Island they are replacing white and Chinese farm hands doing the work of a farm laborer for \$5 a month and board.

They have almost entirely driven out the white fishermen on the Fraser, having rented all the fishermen's cabins and boarding houses in advance of the season and are applying to join the unions in the different trades so that British Columbia is facing a worse evil than the Chinese immigration, in the Japanese tidal wave.

British Columbia Markets.

(All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reductions on large quantities, and to cash discounts.)

PRICES AT VANCOUVER.

(By wire to The Commercial.)

Vancouver, July 7.

Business is much improved. Hay is easier at \$12 per ton. Rolled oats in 90 lb sacks have advanced 10c. Manitoba butter is unchanged from a week ago. Ontario creamery is 1/2c dearer. Manitoba eggs are 1c dearer. Old potatoes are out of the market.

GRAIN—Oats, \$24@25 per ton; wheat, \$25.

FLOUR—Delivered R. C. points—Manitoba patent, per barrel, \$5.50; strong bakers, \$5.10; Oregon, \$4.50 per barrel.

FEED—National mills chop, \$25 per ton; bran, \$18; shorts, \$20; oil cake meal, \$35 ton, f.o.b. Vancouver, including duty paid on imported stuff.

HAY—Per ton, \$12.

MEAL—Rolled oats, 90lb sack, \$2.60; two 45lb sacks, \$2.70; four 22 1/2lb sacks, \$2.90; ten 7lb sacks, \$2.60; oatmeal in 10lb sacks, per 100lb, \$3.25; in 50lb sacks, \$3.00 per 100lb.

LIVE STOCK—Steers, \$4.75@5 per 100 lb; butchers' cows, \$4@4.25 per 100lb; sheep, \$5.00 per 100lb; lambs, \$5@5.50; each; hogs, \$6.75 per 100lb.

DRESSED MEATS—Beef, 9c; mutton, 10 1/2c; Australian frozen mutton, 8 1/2c per lb.; pork, 9c; veal, 11c.

CURED MEATS—Hams, 15c; breakfast bacon, 14@14 1/2c; backs, 13c; long clear, 11c; rolls, 12 1/2@13c; smoked sides, 12c.

LARD—Tins, 12c per lb; pails, 11c; tubs 10 1/2c.

BUTTER—Local creamery, 25c. Ontario creamery, 21c; Manitoba creamery, 22 1/2@23c; fresh dairy, 16@17c.

EGGS—Fresh local, 23@25c. Manitoba eggs, 19@20c.

CHEESE—California cheese, 14c; eastern, 13 1/2@14c.

VEGETABLES—New potatoes, 13 1/2@2 1/2c per lb; carrots, turnips and beets, \$12 per ton. California onions, 1 1/2@1 3/4c.

FISH—Flounders, 3c; smelts, 5c, sea bass, 4c; whiting, 5c; soles, 6c; halibut, 6c; salmon 8c; cod 6c per lb; crabs, 60c per dozen; smoked salmon, 12c.

GREEN FRUITS—Oranges, navel, \$4; Valencia, \$4.50; St. Michaels, \$4.25; seedlings, \$2.75@3.00; lemons, \$4.00@4.50; bananas, \$3.00; strawberries, \$1.50@2.00; raspberries, \$2.00; peaches, \$1.25@1.35; per box; apricots, \$1.20 per box; plums, \$1.50; prunes \$1.35; pears, \$2.35; tomatoes, \$1.60; cherries, \$1.10@1.25 per box; Tasmania apples, \$3 per box. California apples, \$1.50@1.75 per box.

DRIED FRUITS—Apricots, 17@18c; peaches, 10@11c; pitted plums, 12 1/2@13 1/2c; prunes, French, 6 1/2@7c; London layer raisins, \$2.75@2.25 per box; Muscatel raisins, 2 crown, 8c; 3 crown, 8 1/2c; 4 crown, 9c; dates, 9c; black figs, 6c; white figs, 9 1/2c; layer figs, 10lb box, \$1.45; sultanas, 9 1/2c; quartered pears, 11 1/2@12 1/2c; half pears, 12 1/2@13c; nectarines, 14c; Valencia raisins, 7 1/2c; sultanas, 11@14c; blackberries, 16c; raspberries, 25c; seeded raisins, 9 1/2c.

NUTS—Almonds, 16c; filberts, 12 1/2c; peanuts, 9c; Brazil, 12 1/2c; walnuts, 16c per lb.

SUGARS—Powdered, icing and bar, 6 1/2c; Paris lump, 6 1/2c; granulated, 5 1/2c; extra C, 4 1/2c; fancy yellows, 4 1/2c; yellow, 4 1/2c per lb.

SYRUPS—30 gal. barrels 2 1/2c lb; 10 gal. kegs, 2 1/2c; 5 gal. tins, \$1.75 each; 1 gal. tins, \$4.50 case of 10; 1/2 gal. tins, \$5.25 case of 20.

TEAS—Congo, fair, 11 1/2c good, 18c; choice, 29c; Ceylon and India, fair, 20c.

HARDWARE—Bar iron—Base, \$3.25. Horse shoe nails, discount, 40 per cent; horse shoes, e.g. \$2.25. Wire nails—Base price, \$4.50, cut, \$3.85. Rope, Manila 18c. Rolled oil, \$1.10. White lead, 50. Putty, \$3.50. Barbed wire, \$4.75 per 100 lb. Glass, first break, \$5.

PRICES IN THE KOOTENAY.

Special to The Commercial.

Nelson, July 7.

Ontario eggs are supplying the market at the moment. Dairy butter is 1c lower at 17c per pound. New

potatoes are down to \$30 per ton. Trade is quiet. Prices are:

Butter—Manitoba creamery, 21c; choice dairy, 17c.

Cheese—New cheese, 13c.

Eggs—Ontario, 18c.

Oats—Per ton, \$26.

Millfeed—Bran, \$20; shorts, \$22 per ton.

Flour—Manitoba patent, \$5.85.

Hay—Per ton, \$25.

Potatoes—Per ton, \$16. New potatoes, \$30 per ton.

British Columbia Notes.

Main Bros. have succeeded to the wholesale liquor business of Edwin Comings at Sandon.

Wm. Meadows has purchased the general merchandise business of Olsson & Phalen, at Rock Creek.

Golden Star mining stock slumped badly at Toronto on Thursday on a rumor that the new vein had pinched out.

Manitoba Wheat Stocks.

There were 1,894,000 bushels of wheat in store at Fort William on June 30. Receipts for the week were 203,000 bushels, and shipments were 110,000 bushels. A year ago stocks in store at Fort William were 1,775,000 bushels. Stocks of wheat at Fort William, Port Arthur, Keewatin, Winnipeg and interior points were estimated approximately at 3,825,000 bushels compared with 5,800,000 bushels a year ago; 1,200,000 bushels two years ago.

A Big Transaction.

A financial transaction on a scale of magnitude heretofore unequalled in Canada, is under arrangement, in the proposed purchase of the business of the Bank of British Columbia by the Canadian Bank of Commerce. The details of the transaction, so far as arranged, provide for the purchase of the British Columbia bank for the sum of \$312,000 in cash and \$2,000,000 in stock of the Bank of Commerce, to be allotted to the shareholders of the Bank of British Columbia. The capital of the Bank of Commerce, which is now \$6,000,000, will be increased to \$8,000,000, to provide for the purchase. The property of the bank will be taken over at a valuation, subject to ratification. The proposed purchase has yet to be considered by the shareholders of the two banks, and some time must elapse before it can go into effect.

The head office of the Bank of British Columbia is in London, England, where the stock is mostly held. The bank carried on business at Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster, Nanaimo, Kamloops, Nelson, Rossland and Sandon, in British Columbia, and at San Francisco, Portland, Oregon, Seattle and Tacoma, in the United States, thus giving it a wide connection throughout the Pacific slope on both sides of the boundary. The Bank of Commerce also has about half a dozen branches west of the Rocky Mountains, including branches at Vancouver, Atlin, in northern British Columbia, Skagway, in Alaska, and Dawson, in Yukon. The business of the Bank of British Columbia at Seattle and Tacoma has already been taken over by the Bank of Commerce. If this vast transaction is carried through, the interests of the Bank of Commerce in the Pacific coast region will vastly exceed that of any other financial concern.

The Bank of British Columbia was incorporated by royal charter in 1862. Paid in capital, \$2,920,000. Reserve, \$486,666.