BRITISH COLUMBIA BUSINESS REVIEW

Vancouver, Oct. 7, 1895.

All agree that there is a decided improvement in trade on the Canadian Pacific coast, but opinions differ widely as to the cause. There are many who say that merchants are deceived as to the volume of trade they are doing by the increase of cash sales alone, and that such increase is due to the lines of credit being shortened all over the province, and not due to better times. But eight out of ten merchants interviewed state positively that this is not the case, as their gross sales have increased in value, cash and credit, every month since January until the month of September which was their record month.

Wholesalers claim that trade is still steadily improving and their faith in the future is shown by several of the houses branching out on a larger scale. There is one feature of the market greatly in evidence and that is the fact that money is easier than it has been for the past 12 months. There are but few changes in the market not already recorded. Tomatoes are much cheaper selling at $1.25; watermelons are out of the market, and grapes are selling at $1.25; sheep are selling at from $3 to $3.25. There is still a lot of old dairy and creamery butter on hand which is being disposed of at any price, the nominal quotation being 5 cents. Cheese is a little firmer at 9 to 10. To illustrate the great demand for butter: On Saturday night Major & Eldridge received 1,000 pounds of block butter from Winnipeg; on Monday in spite of the supply carried by all the other houses, it was gone and at the market price. This firm is starting a creamery over their warehouse. The cream will be separated at the dairy station about 25 or 50 miles away and sent in by train arriving fresh the same morning. Another partner has been admitted into the firm to attend exclusively to the dairy department. Several other creameries are contemplated as a result of Prof. Robertson's visit. The Delta Creamery is turning out about 250 or 300 pounds daily, and with the exception of one day's output is being sold in the Victoria markets. It is delivered in Victoria some 35 miles distant at the stores of the merchants at 25 cents per pound and retailed at 35 cents. One of the partners in this experiment dairy informed your correspondent that if a big creamery were running in every municipality of British Columbia they could not supply the demand. It is said to be actually cheaper to run a dairy in British Columbia than it is in Manitoba for the reason that the season is so long that the employees will accept a lower wage than in Manitoba. Lard in tins is selling at 10½ cents and in tubs at 10c. Salmon are out of the market; fowl are selling at from $1 to $5 per dozen.

British Columbia Markets.

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, October 12, 1895.

Butter is very firm and advancing. Some lots of butter which were refused by parties to whom they were shipped sold at a sharp advance soon after. Oats are very low in this market, owing to the importation of cheap oats from Washington state, the latter being laid down here, duty paid, at $16.50 per ton.

Butter.—Manitoba dairy butter, old 3 to 8c, new 12 to 18c; Manitoba creamery 21 to 22c; do. off grade 6 to 12c per lb.; Manitoba cheese 9 to 10c per lb.

Cured Meats.—Hams 14c; breakfast bacon 14½c; backs 12½c; long, clear 10c; short rolls 10c; smoked sides 11½c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 10¾c per pound; in pails and tubs 10c. Mess pork $17; short cut $18.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders 3c; smelt 5c; sea bass 4c; black cod 6c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 4c; herring 4c; halibut 6c; whiting 6c; soles 6c; crabs 60c dozen; smoked salmon 12½c; smoked halibut 10c; bloaters 10c; kippered cod 9c; sturgeon 6c; trout 10c per lb.; salt salmon $5 per barrel.

Vegetables.—Potatoes new, $8 to $10 per ton; onions silver skins, 1½c; cabbage, 1½c; carrots, turnips and beets, ¾ to 1c a lb.; sweet potatoes, $3.50 per 100 lbs.

Eggs.—Fresh, local, 25c; Eastern 16c to 18c per dozen.

Fruits.—Australian lemons, half boxes, $2.50; Australian oranges, half boxes, $2.50; B. C. plums, 30 to 60c per box; peaches, $1.10 per box; oranges, Mediterranean sweets, $2.75; St. Michael's $3.00 per box; apples 75c to $1.85 per box; tomatoes, $1.25; California pears $2.00 per box; grapes, $1.25 per box.

Nuts.—Almonds, 15c; filberts, 14c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 15c; walnuts, 10 to 16c lb.

Flour.—Manitoba patent, per bbl., $4.70; strong bakers, $4.50, Oregon, $4.80.

Meal.—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb sacks, $3.25; 45 pound sacks, $3.35; 22½ pound sacks, $3.45; 10.7 sacks, $2.65. Oatmeal, 10-10's, $3.21; 2-50's, $3.00

Grain.—Washington State wheat $24 per ton f. o. b. Vancouver, duty paid. Oats 16.50 per ton.

Ground Feed.—National mills chop, $20 to $22 per ton: ground barley, $22 ton; shorts, $19.00 ton; bran $17.00; oil cake meal, $30 ton: F. O. B. Vancouver, including duty paid on import stuff.

Dressed Meats.—Beef, 6½ to 7c; mutton, 7½c to 8c; pork, 8 to 9c; veal, 6 to 8c per lb.

Hay.—Nominal at $8 per ton.

Live Stock.—Calves, 4 to 6c; steers, 3 to 3½c lb; cows 2½ to 3c; sheep, $3 to $3.25; hogs, 5¾ to 6c; lamb, per head $2.50 to $3.00

Poultry.—Chickens, $4 to $6 per dozen.

Sugars.—Powdered and icing, 6¼c; Paris lump, 5¾c; granulated, 4⅞c; extra C, 4¼c; fancy yellows 4⅛c; yellow 4c per lb.

Syrups.—30 gallon barrels, 1¾c per pound; 10 gallon kegs, 2c; 5 gallon kegs, $1.25 each; 1 gallon tins, $3.75 per case of 10; ½ gallon tins, $4.50 per case of 20.

Teas.—Congo: Fair, 11½c; good, 18c; choice, 25c. Ceylons: Fair, 25c; good, 30c, choice, 35c per lb.

British Columbia Business Notes

Adderton & Rowbotham, bakers, Union, advertise their business for sale.

The Burrard Inlet Red Cedar Lumber Co., Port Moody, have leased their mill to W. Marriot. & Co.

P. F. Emerson, of the Manor House hotel, Vancouver, has been forced out of business by the landlord.

The canning business has stopped, although the cohoes are still running strong. On the whole this season has been a very successful one.

The Victoria board of trade members are reported to have taken a great many orders on their last trip to the Kootenies and many rumors of branch stores are being talked of. It is claimed that the Kootenay trade is being diverted to the coast cities.

From South Kootenay, comprising Rossland, Three Forks and Nelson, the ore shipments for one week ending the 26th of September were 1,831 tons valued at $99,200. The total output so far for the season for South Kootenay alone is valued at $1,706,500 and still some say that the mining possibilities of the Kootenay are overestimated. It is sad to contemplate that nearly all this wealth goes to Spokane.

The cinnabar deposits at Savona, near Kamloops, are under Californian direction being worked to good advantage. About 250 flasks have been filled although operations have hardly yet well got set in at the retorts. There is no doubt that all the quicksilver that the mine can produce should in the early future find ready and profitable sale in the neighboring gold country.

An important deal, in which American capitalists are interested, is taking place in connection with the gold and copper claims of Texada Island. L. M. Turner of Seattle and Wm. Woodruffe of Chicago who represent the syndicate concerned, are now visiting the island and inspecting the claims which they have bonded. They are accompanied by the present owners and also by the government agent, who proposes, if the result of the inspection proves as favorable as is expected, to make a number of necessary road connections with a view to mine development. The recent visits of numerous United States mining capitalists to this Province are causing great excitement in British Columbia circles interested in the various mine districts. Although many possible British investors have also lately visited the province, greater confidence is expressed as to the results of the action of the former since it is felt that western mining capitalists more fully appreciate local conditions than Europeans.

It is here considered likely that an early counterpoise may develop as against the recent Anaconda deal, since it is an open secret that a representative of the largest copper interests in the United Kingdom is now visiting the gold and copper district of West Kootenay with a view doubtless to considerable investment in respect of the immense copper deposits which are known to exist in many parts of the province, and more especially in the region now visited. He is accompanied by the most noted metallurgist and assayer in British Columbia, and the latter speaks confidently of copper smelting in the province on a large scale in the very early future. It is evident that Welsh copper men mean business and are determined to do their utmost to break up any copper corner that may be formed in the States.

The customs collections in Victoria for September were $32,174.33, Vancouver $31,239.00, Westminster $10,400.00, Nanaimo $50,015.17, or a total for the four cities of $209,114.00. The most remarkable feature in these returns is the increase at Vancouver, which is in excess of the returns for the corresponding month last year by nearly $6,000. Vancouver also shows an increase in Inland Revenue in 1895 of $1,035.00. There is also an increase of $750 in Nanaimo customs. From Westminster the exports amounted to $88,775, Victoria $218,310, Vancouver $87,291 and imports, Vancouver $85,991, Victoria $193,539, Westminster $59,659.

The department of fisheries is advised that Overseer Chadwick has seized a quantity of pound nets in the Lake of the Woods. It is reported that considerable poaching has been going on in the Canadian portion of the Lake of the Woods on the part of United States fishermen.