

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.

Tuesday Morning, April 18.

VICTORIA.

Trade continues steady, and although there is not much activity manifested, the volume of business is very satisfactory with most of the wholesale houses. Hong Kong exchange remains at 66½c, and sterling exchange is firm. A slight improvement is noted in city collections. Very little change is expected in the situation until towards the end of May when the regular summer travel begins. It is expected that the tourist travel will be the greatest in the history of the city. The general outlook for provincial industries is bright for this year. Sealskins are high on the market, and the outlook for good prices is good. In some instances advances have been given to sealers on their probable catch of \$15 a skin, which is considered very good. The foreign lumber trade is brightening a little and in all probability the output will increase considerably this year. Coal is in fair demand in San Francisco. Glowing reports are received from the West Kootenay mining districts, and together with the present favorable outlook for the general agricultural development in the Province, the outlook is indeed one for which every citizen should be grateful.

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The following are the receipts of California butter from San Francisco, by ss. Walla Walla, April 13, for Victoria: 39 cs, 4,365 lbs; 40 hlf cases, 2,410 lbs; 76 tubs, 5,130 lbs; 5 birkins, 700 lbs—total, 12,605 lbs. Receipts April 8 3,830 lbs; April 2, 4,895 lbs; March 26, 2,150 lbs; March 19, 7,119 lbs., March 13, 3,670 lbs.

The Refinery list prices for sugar were advanced ½c all round, last week, making the advance ¾c for the past fortnight. Jobbers' quotations are up in sympathy. Large shipments of Mediterranean fruits, consisting of raisins, prunes, currants, nuts, etc., were received from New York, last week, by local jobbers, another shipment is expected in about three weeks. These are regular orders for replenishing stock in wholesale warehouses. The first lot of Turkish prunes for the season were received and are selling from 10½c to 12½c per lb, according to size and quality.

American canned meats, staples, are quoted to the jobbers in bond as follows. Roast corned and lunch beef, 1's per doz. \$1.25; do. 2's per doz., \$2.00; lunch tongues, 1's per doz. \$3.15; do. 2's, \$6.50. Armour's white label conserved soups in 2 lb. tins are quoted at \$3 per doz.

Commission agents quote American meats f. o. b. Victoria, duty paid, as follows: Medium hams, 18½c per lb; heavy hams, 18c; choice breakfast bacon, 18½c; short clear sides, 15c, and dry salt clear sides, 11½c. Armour's white label pure lard, 10 lb. pails, 19½c per lb.

Armour's Gold Band meats, which are the finest quality on the American market, being a special grade for choice family trade, are quoted, (duty paid, Victoria), hams, 20½c, breakfast bacon, 20½c.

California evaporated fruits are quoted as follows:—Apples, evaporated, 50 lb. boxes, 14c per lb., 25 lb. boxes 13½c; apricots, 25

lb. boxes, 20c; prunes, 25 lb. boxes, 14c; plums, 25 lb. boxes, 14½c to 14½c; peaches, 50 lb. boxes, 10c, 25 lb. boxes 17c. Canadian evaporated apples, 50 lb boxes, 8½ to 9c.

The British Columbia Sugar Refining Co. Ltd., quote as follows in their weekly price list: Powdered icing and bar, 7½c; Paris lumps, 6½c; granulated 5½c; extra C. 5½c; fancy yellow, 5½c; yellow 5½c; golden C. 5c. Above prices are for barrels or bags; half-barrels and 100 pound kegs, ½c; more, boxes ½c more. No order taken for less than 100 barrels or its equivalent.

They quote syrup as follows: Finest golden, in 30 gal. bls. 2½c; ditto, in 10 gal. kegs. 3c; ditto, in 5 gal. kegs. \$2.25 each; ditto, in 1 gal. tins, \$1.50 per case of 10; ditto in ½ gal. tins, \$6 per case of 20. Prices cover delivery in Vancouver, and at Victoria, New Westminster and Nanaimo, and are subject to a discount of 2½ per cent. for cash in fourteen days. All prices subject to change without notice.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: "Butter receipts during the past week were 560 pkgs., against 401 pkgs., for the week previous. The market is quiet, and lean in buyers' favor. It is now evident that there will be all the butter needed to tide us over till the new make comes in. It is understood that sales of creamery have been made for the Newfoundland trade at 19½c to 20c, and one lot is said to have sold as low as 19c. This confirms our statement some time ago, to the effect that creamery would have to sell at dairy prices before it could be all disposed of. New creamery is beginning to show up in larger quantities, sales of which have been made at 23c to 25c in small lots, and new Eastern Townships have sold at 21c to 22c. Sales of new creamery from the Government experimental farms have been made at within the above quoted range for new creamery: Creamery choice fall made, 20½c to 21½c; Creamery good to fine, 19c to 20c. A few lots of new Western rolls have been disposed of at 18c to 20c as to quality. Cheese receipts during the past week were 556 boxes against 18 boxes for the week previous. One or two lots of new fodder cheese have been received here from the West, the quality of which is said to be very fine for such early-made goods. Ingersoll has commenced to make early hay cheese, as well as Brockville. Private advices from England by cable reports a little better feeling, and as the English make is pretty well exhausted, they may have to run more exclusively on Canadian goods. Here prices are nominally quoted at 10½c to 11½c."

Dairy produce is quoted:

Butter—Eastern Creamery, tubs	27	@	23
Manitoba Dairy choice	18	@	22
California rolls, extra choice	21	@	00
" fancy	25	@	00
" squares, "	27	@	00
cheese—Canadian, lb.	12	@	14
California	16	@	00
Eggs, case, per doz	23	@	25

Smoked meats and lard are quoted:

H. as	15	@	18
Breakfast bacon	17	@	18
Short rolls	14	@	15
Long rolls	15	@	16
Dry Salt, long clear	13	@	14
Pure Lard, 50 lbs.	16	@	17
" 20 lbs.	17	@	17½
Lard Compound	15½	@	16

Sugar—Jobbers' prices ½-barrels and kegs in each case being ½c higher:

Dry Granulated	6½
Extra C	5½
Fancy Yellow	5½
Yellow	5½
Golden C	5½
Syrups, per lb.	3
" 1 gal. tins, American	6 50
" " " " " "	6 00
" 1 " Vancouver	5 50
" 1½ " " " "	7 00

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The following are the receipts of California fruits and vegetables from San Francisco by steamship Walla Walla, April 13, for Victoria: 148 cs oranges, 40 cs lemons, 36 crts cabbage, 10 crts cauliflower, 33 crts bananas, 45 bxs asparagus, 15 bxs rhubarb, 4 bxs peas, 3 bxs sweet potatoes, 2 bxs cucumbers. Potatoes are again very scarce and good quality are not generally sold below \$10 a ton. There was almost a famine on Monday. Reports from Seattle state that potatoes are scarce on the Sound. They are worth from \$8 to \$10 in Seattle. Other fruits remain steady at previous quotations.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:—

Oranges—Navels, common to good	3 50	@	4 00
" fancy	4 25	@	0 00
Riverside Seedlings	2 00	@	2 25
" " " " " "	2 35	@	2 75
Los Angeles	2 00	@	2 25
Lemons—California	1 00	@	5 00
Sicily	5 50	@	0 00
Apples—California, bxs	2 50	@	0 00
bbls	6 00	@	7 50
Bananas	3 50	@	3 75

Vegetables are quoted:

Potatoes—Local	per ton	40 00	@	00 00
Onions—Red California	00	@	0	
Oregon Silverskins	3	@	31	
Cabbage	2	@	21	
Asparagus	per lb	11	@	
Rhubarb	10	@		

FLOUR AND FEED.

Quotations remain steady, and there have been no changes during the week.

The Portland Commercial Review says: "The flour market remains in a very unsatisfactory condition. The pressure to place the product has resulted in some very sharp competition, and, if street reports can be relied upon, there have been sales of what are termed standard brands at as low a figure as \$3 per bbl., with possibly a still further deduction for spot cash. It would appear strange that flour should show such weakness in the face of an advancing wheat market, but the course of the flour market is as mysterious as are the ways of providence, and the trade is puzzled as to the outcome of present trade movement. The condition of the local market is even more surprising when we take into account the fact that there is a good demand from China and contracts for the shipment of fully 10,000 bbls. in that direction within the coming 60 days have been signed at something rather better than \$3.25 per bbl. Public price lists continue to quote standard brands at \$3.25 to \$3.50 per bbl., and these quotations cover both Valley and Walla Walla. Rail receipts last week were about up to the average, 2,000 bbls. coming down from the Valley and 3,000 from east of the mountains. Shipments include the usual amount to San Francisco