

British Columbia Markets

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, January 18, 1896.

Business is keeping up fairly well since the holidays. Collections are good. A brisk spring trade is anticipated. An unusually large number of building improvements are spoken of in Vancouver, which will be a great boon to labor, as the labor union report many of their members in rather needy circumstances this winter. Mills are to be kept running at their full capacity. Changes in prices this week are confined to a further decline in butter. Dairy is 2c lower, and creamery 1 to 2c lower. Eastern eggs are out of the market, but Oregon eggs are offering, at a considerable advance on the last price of eastern stock.

Butter.—Dairy butter, 18 to 20c; creamery 25 to 26c; Manitoba cheese 11½c per lb.

Cured Meats.—Hams 12c; breakfast bacon 12½c; backs 11½c; long, clear 8½c; short rolls 9c; smoked sides 10c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 10½c per pound; in rails and tubs 10c. Mess pork \$11; short cut \$15.

Fish.—Prices are. Flounders 8c; smelt 5c; sea bass 4c; black cod 6c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tummy cod 4c; herring 4c; salmon 9c; halibut 7c; whiting 6c; soles 6c; crab 60c dozen, smoked halibut 10c, bloaters 10c; kippered cod 9c; sturgeon 6c.

Game.—Mallards, 50c; pintails 40c, widgeons, 85c; venison, 5c.

Vegetables.—Potatoes new, \$10 per ton; onions silver skins, 1½c; cabbage, 1½c; carrots, turnips and beets, ½ to 1c a lb.; sweet potatoes, \$2.50 per 100 lbs.

Eggs.—Fresh, local, 85c; Oregon, 27c per dozen.

Fruits.—California seedling oranges \$3.00, navels, \$4.00; native apples \$1.00; California lemons, \$1.00 to \$2.50. California apples, \$1.20 to \$1.30; Jap oranges 50c.

Evaporated Fruits.—Apricots 11c per lb; peaches 7½c; plums 7c; prunes, French, 4c; loose Muscatel raisins 4c; London layer raisins \$1.65 box.

Nuts.—Almonds, 18c; filberts, 12½c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 12½c; walnuts, 10 to 16c lb.

Flour.—Manitoba patent, per bbl., \$4.40; strong bakers, \$4.10; Oregon, \$3.80; Oak Lake patent \$4.20; do strong bakers \$4.00.

Meal.—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb sacks, \$3.00; 45 pound sacks, \$3.10; 22½ pound sacks, \$3.30; 10.7 sacks, \$2.60. Oatmeal, 10-10's, \$3.00; 2-50's, \$2.75. Off grades, 90 lbs, \$2.70; 2-45's, \$2.80.

Grain.—Washington State wheat \$25.20 per ton f.o.b. Vancouver, duty paid. Oats 16.00 per ton.

Ground Feed.—National mills chop, \$20 to \$22 per ton; ground barley, \$22 ton; shorts, \$18.50 ton; bran \$16.50; oil cake meal, \$26 ton; F. O. B. Vancouver, including duty paid on import stuff.

Hay.—Nominal at \$8 per ton.

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

Live Stock.—Steers, 8 to 8½c lb; cows 2½ to 3c; sheep, \$3.25 to \$3.50; hogs, 4½ to 5½c; lamb, per head \$3.00 to \$3.50.

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

Sugars.—Powdered and icing, 6c; Paris lump, 5½c; granulated, 4½c; extra C, 4c; fancy yellows 3½c; yellow 3½c per lb.

Syrups.—30 gallon barrels, 1½c per pound; 10 gallon kegs, 2c; 5 gallon kegs, \$1.25 each; 1 gallon tins, \$3.75 per case of 10; ½ gallon tins, \$1.50 per case of 20.

Teas.—Congo Fair, 11½c; good, 18c; choice, 28c. Ceylons, Fair, 25c; good, 30c; choice, 85c per lb.

British Columbia Business Notes

I here are seven ships in Vancouver loading lumber.

The stock of E. C. Davison, harness, Kamloops, has been sold to George Stuart.

J. H. Russell, hotel, Kamloops, has admitted P. Horod.

M. R. Counter, jeweller, Nanaimo, is selling out.

Martin & Co., hotel, New Westminster, have sold out to Teazze & McGregor.

Maurice, Salmon, fruits, etc., Victoria, advertising selling out.

E. W. Spencer, saloon, Victoria, sheriff in possession.

Goods valued at \$1,500,000 were exported through Vancouver to the States from the port of Vancouver last year.

From all parts of the province the fiscal returns show an increase in the business of the province. At the town of Kamloops the increase in the imports over the previous year was \$1,000, in duties collected \$150 and in inland revenue over \$1,000.

Strong representations are being made to the local legislature by the boards of trade of the province with a view of having the act requiring a mortgagee to pay an annual tax to his usually unfortunate encumbrance, wiped off the statutes. The government have made favorable promises.

Nelson was made a customs port from Aug. 1st, and for the five months to the end of the year \$872,917 worth of ore have been shipped, which, with other data that cannot readily be secured, brings up the total exports of the province to over \$10,000,000. If 60,000 white people export \$10,000,000 worth of resources in one year, how many years will it take at the same rate to make them a prosperous people?

At Trail Creek, during 1895 there were 2000 rock claims and 4 placer claims, or an average of one to every unit of the population. Previous to that date there were but 100 recorded. Two hundred and fifteen of these claims have been worked this year.

As far as mining is concerned in British Columbia, those who run can read. Lectures on mining are being delivered in all the cities by all men. Mr. Monckton, assayer, aided by the city, lectures three times a week. While under the auspices of the provincial government Mr. Carlyle, provincial mineralogist, will periodically lecture free of charge on mining, geology and ore. While Mr. Carmichael, provincial analyst, will lecture on chemistry, and Mr. Pellier Harvey on metallurgy.

Inspector McNab of the Dominion fisheries department informed The Commercial correspondent that on the suggestion of Commissioner Prince, of Ottawa, he ordered 4,500,000 white fish eggs from the Selkirk, Man., hatchery to the B. C. hatchery. It is rather expensive running the Selkirk hatchery, as the water has to be pumped and tempered, and as all the eggs available this season is the number mentioned, it was thought best to ship the lot to B. C. and not work the Manitoba white fish nursery this season.

A \$160 nugget has been brought down from Stanley, Cariboo. It was found on Lightning Creek. Another \$80 nugget was found in the vicinity about the same time. In fact, the locality is noted for its big nuggets for it was in the same place that the famous \$180 nugget was found by a Chinaman, and one for \$100 by a prospector in the bottom of Williams Creek.

There is abundance of snow at Rossland and 100 teams are being employed at War Eagle and Le Roi mines. The ores in these mines is rapidly increasing in value as the veins deepen, and have increased from \$50 to \$100 per ton. The mines are turning out 200 tons. It is expected next summer that 20

more mines just as good will be turning full blast.

Rossland is preparing for a big increase in population. There are 20 saloons in the city, the electric light system is nearly ready to turn on, and the mains for the new water works are being laid on the principal street. It is expected that the present population of 2,000 will be increased to 4,000 in the spring.

Vancouver has 22 miles of sewers and 60 flush tanks. In 1895 \$62,898.09 was spent in improvements. There are 68 miles of sidewalk, 13 miles of surface drains, two miles of base drains, 15 miles of graded lanes, 75 miles of graded streets, 11 miles of gravelled street, 20 miles of macadamized street, and 2 miles of bituminous rock paved street.

Live Stock Markets

English cattle markets were weak, prices declined ½c per lb. at Liverpool on Monday, best States cattle being quoted at 10½c, and sheep at 10½c. At London best States cattle were quoted at 11c.

At Montreal on January 18 prices declined fully ½c per lb., the very highest figure obtained being 8½c for cattle. At the East End abattoir, the feature of the trade was the weaker feeling which prevailed. This is due principally to the supply being far in excess of the requirements of the local trade, and a number will be left over. There is no demand from shippers. The demand was fair for good stock, at the reduction in prices. Best Beeves sold at 3½c to 3¾c; fair at 3 to 3½c; common at 2½ to 2¾c, and inferior, at 2 to 2½c per lb. Owing to the light receipt of sheep and lambs for the past two or three weeks, there was an active demand and holders in consequence demanded higher figures. Sheep sold at 3 to 3½c and lambs at 3½ to 4c per lb., live weight. The demand for live hogs was fair and prices steady. There were about 200 head, which sold at from \$3.50 to \$1 per 100 lbs.

Receipts of hog at Chicago yesterday were again light and prices advanced 5 to 10c more. Prime droves of medium weights bring \$1 to \$1.05. Sales were at a range of \$3.75 to \$1.05 for common to choice with the bulk of the transactions at \$3.95 to \$4. Pigs sold about the same. These prices show an advance of 20c to 25c over a week ago, which is owing to lighter receipts.

At Toronto on Tuesday there was a large run of poor cattle and many were not sold. Most sales of good cattle were made at 3½ to 3¾c and a few at 3½c. Common sold at 2 to 2½c as to quality. Lambs sold at 3½ to 4½c per lb. Hogs sold at \$3.70 to \$3.80 for choice bacon, off cars, stores \$1.10 to \$3.50; heavy hogs, \$3.60 to \$3.65. Receipts sold well.

Foreign Crop Situation.

Dornbusch of Jan. 3 reports as follows on the crops:—

Russia—Latest advices say that snow covering has greatly increased and the fields in all southern governments are well protected from the 11 to 18 degrees of frost registered early this week.

India—The want of rain in Punjab and Northwest Provinces has reduced the area under wheat and already fears are entertained that there will be little or no surplus available for export. In the central provinces the outlook is more favorable.

Argentina.—Our correspondent at Buenos Ayres cabled on Saturday that storms and rain were interfering with the harvesting of wheat and linseed, and on Monday a cable from another source stated that estimates of the wheat crop must be greatly reduced—much damage done by rain to the wheat and linseed.