

TRADE AND COMMERCE

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE.
Tuesday Morning, Feb. 20.

VICTORIA.

The weather was fair last week and business was good in most lines. The storm, which commenced Sunday, will for the time almost block business in everything except fuel and staples. The jobbers say they expect but little business from the city houses, and mail orders are the principal features at the wholesale warehouses. Shipping has been far active during the week. The *Arawa* has sailed for Sydney with a fair cargo. The *Miowera* for England, and the *Empress of China* and the *Victoria* have arrived from Hong Kong.

The *Vancouver News-Advertiser* says: "Business has continued fairly steady during the past week though there is no special feature to record. Complaints are still made about the scarcity of money, and collections are not as good as could be wished. The weather is still unfavorable for outdoor work, and but little of the work provided by the council has as yet been done. Building work has been similarly retarded, so that there are still quite a number of men out of work. Wholesale trade continues steady, and there is nothing much to note."

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Jobbers' quotations for California oranges and lemons are lower than last week, on account of the free arrivals of fruit. Potatoes will probably advance, because of the change in the weather on Sunday. Twenty-five dollars is now the current price, but holders will realize more than that figure if the severe weather continues. Well informed persons state that California fruit will be plentiful and cheap on this market, during the coming spring and summer.

Alice & Ault were the first to receive a full carload of California oranges and lemons, this season. The fruit is of the Redland variety, and is said by competent judges to be superior to the Riverside brands. Washington navels are quoted at \$2.85 per box, seedlings (250 to 300) \$2.00, regular sizes (120 to 200) \$2.25, lemons \$3. They also received, last week, fifty bunches of choice New Orleans bananas, which were in great demand at \$3 per bunch. These southern bananas are the largest that have ever been offered in this market. Another shipment is now on the way, and is expected to arrive about next Monday. They will be quoted at \$3 per bunch. They are the only firm who are handling this fruit.

Jobbers' quotations for fruits are as follows:—

Oranges—California navels.....	2 50 @	3 00
" seedlings.....	2 00 @	2 50
Japanese.....	50 @	65
Lemons—California.....	3 00 @	3 50
Bananas—New Orleans.....	3 00 @	0 00
Apples.....	bxs 1 25 @	1 35
" Canadian.....	bbls 5 75 @	0 00
Cocoanuts.....	per 100 8 00 @	9 00

Vegetables are quoted:

Potatoes—Local.....	per ton 25 00 @	00 00
Onions—Silver-skins.....	per lb 0 @	2 1/2

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The butter situation is at present interesting. Late advices from Eastern Can-

ada state that all the stocks there are pretty well cleared up and none will be held over until next season. There is only a small quantity of eastern creamery in jobbers' hands in this Province and they are holding it stiff. Roll butter at present is quoted from 21 to 26c in California, which with duty and freight added, about 5c, makes the cost from 29 to 31c in this Province. The market in California was recently down to 22c, which is the lowest price reached there this season, but the weather, which has been cold and stormy, has sent prices up again. In a short time these conditions will change and the market will no doubt drop again. Some of the prominent dealers are of the opinion that there will be little or no cheap California butter this summer. The California creameries only got their product fairly into the Eastern market last year, where it was in good demand. This year they are preparing for a still larger trade with the east, and, considering their success last year, there will not, in all probability, be any accumulation of stock in March, April and May this year. Valencia raisins are held strong by local jobbers at 7c. Eastern prices are easier in currants and exceedingly strong in Valencias. Stories are in circulation of a probable famine in Valencias, and other reports which tend to strengthen the market. Pickled eggs are decidedly weak, and quotations are down. The stocks in this province are reported as being plentiful, but the change in the weather will probably strengthen the market. The sugar situation is unaltered, but all interested are looking forward eagerly to the meeting called for next week. At the present time, the Refinery are quoting dry granulated at 4 1/2c, and, at the same time, the eastern refiners are quoting, it is said, 4 1/2c in Toronto, leaving a difference of only 1/2c over Toronto. Last year, the usual quotation for sugar in this province was 1c per lb. over eastern refinery prices, which was just sufficient to make it unprofitable to import eastern sugar. The importing of Chinese sugar and the consequent war in prices has, it is acknowledged made sugar refining in this province unprofitable. It is hoped by many in the trade that an amicable arrangement will be made at the coming meeting between the contesting factions so that the sugar business will in the future be carried on as harmoniously as any other branch of the trade.

The *Montreal Trade Bulletin* says: "Butter receipts during the past week were 1,990 pkgs., against 1,270 pkgs., for the week previous. There are too distinct markets, one comprising the finest grades, which are very firm, and the other has reference to the poorer qualities, which are weak and declining. In choice creamery the sale is reported of a car load at 24 1/2c, and a smaller lot of fresh winter creamery at 24 1/2c at the factory. All finest late made creamery will no doubt be wanted at present prices; but the June creamery that is coming out from hidden quarters and off flavor is not wanted even at the lower prices it can be bought for. We quote prices as follows: Creamery, early made, 22c to 23c per lb., Creamery, late made, 21c to 25c. For single tubs of selected, 1c per lb. may be added to the above. A good

many rolls are coming in and selling fairly well at 19c to 20c, a few extra fine lots bringing 21c. Receipts of cheese during the past week were 178 boxes against nil for the week previous. The past week has been an exceptionally quiet one in cheese, English buyers having held off with a dogged pertinacity that has proved little less than provoking to holders here. Still, the latter need not grow anxious yet, as stocks on the other side are dwindling down to small proportions under a steady consumptive demand, and a matter of about two or three weeks' steady buying would clean us out of every box. Besides, it will be more than three months before the new make commences to move in any quantity, and as stocks here are so small, no apprehension need be entertained on the part of holders as to the final outcome. The recent lull has no doubt been caused by the good sized shipments of Australian cheese."

Jobbers quote:

Valencia raisins.....	per lb \$ 7 @	\$ 0
Malaga raisins.....	per box 3 00 @	3 25
Currants (barrels).....	per lb 5 @	5 1/2
" half bbls.....	per lb 5 @	6
" (cases).....	per lb 5 1/2 @	7 1/2
Sultana raisins.....	per lb 8 @	10
Taragona almonds.....	per lb 11 @	18
Granoble walnuts.....	per lb 11 @	18
Filberts.....	per lb 11 1/2 @	14

Dairy produce is quoted:

Butter—Eastern Creamery, tubs.....	29 @	30
Manitoba dairy.....	00 @	00
California creamery.....	28 1/2 @	00
Cheese—Canadian, lb.....	13 @	14
California.....	16 @	18
Eggs, pickled, case, per doz.....	00 @	20

Smoked meats and lard are quoted:

Hams.....	13 1/2 @	14 1/2
Breakfast bacon.....	14 1/2 @	15
Short rolls.....	10 1/2 @	11 1/2
Dry Salt, long clear.....	10 1/2 @	11 1/2
Becks.....	13 1/2 @	13 1/2
Pure Lard, 20-lb, tubs.....	14 @	14 1/2
" 10-lb, tins.....	14 1/2 @	14 1/2
" 5-lb.....	14 1/2 @	15
" 3-lb.....	14 1/2 @	15
Lard Compound, 10-lb.....	11 1/2 @	00
" 20-lb.....	11 @	00
" 5-lb.....	11 1/2 @	00
" 3-lb.....	11 1/2 @	00

Sugar—Jobbers' prices 1/2-barrels and kegs in each case being 1/2c higher:

Dry Granulated (China).....	42
Extra C, China.....	42
Australian Granulated.....	42
Dry Granulated.....	42
Extra C.....	42
Fancy Yellow.....	42
Yellow.....	42
Golden C.....	4
Cubes.....	5 1/2
Powdered.....	6 1/2
Syrups, per lb.....	3
" 1 gal. tins, American (10).....	5 50
" " " (16).....	5 35
" " " Vancouver.....	5 50
" " " " " ".....	7 00

Jobbers' quotations for Armour Packing Company's brands per lb.:

Helmet brand sugar cured hams, medium 0 16	
" " " heavy.. 0 15 1/2	
" " " breakfast bacon 0 16 1/2	
Fancy Gold Band hams.....	0 17 1/2
" " " breakfast bacon.....	0 18 1/2
White Label pure leaf lard, tierces.....	0 14
" " " 50-lb tins.....	0 14 1/2
" " " 20-lb ".....	0 14 1/2
" " " 10-lb ".....	0 14 1/2
" " " 5-lb ".....	0 14 1/2
" " " 3-lb ".....	0 14 1/2
Lard compound (tierces).....	0 11 1/2