

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, March 10, 1896.

Business is reported good in the different lines of retail trade. There is also activity among the wholesalers after an unusually quiet month. Collections are said to be fair. Several more wholesale firms, who have become identified with the prosperity of Victoria have established substantial branch houses in Vancouver. There are now few wholesale firms at the capital, of any importance, which are not represented in the terminal city. In the past twelve months the commercial development of the province, particularly of Vancouver has been remarkable. It is said by those who give such matters deep consideration that this branching out of wholesale firms, in the incorporation of numerous largely capitalised companies, together with the fact that long established industrial concerns are increasing their capacity is certainly warranted in view of the increasing coast trade, the rapid settling up of the country, the activity in mining and from the fact that a mining population is ever pouring into the interior in a constant ever increasing stream. The restless spirit of commercial enterprise is ever in advance of the times in a new country, but the very fact that the newly organized companies must labor to live gives us the assurance that trade will be stimulated, and should the boom strike us in the next two or three years as prophesied by every mining man in the country, the province will be prepared for it.

British Columbia Business Notes

Currie & Clemes, lumber, Sandon, have sold out.

John Keefer, tobaccos, etc., Rossland has sold out.

A. A. McKinnon, hotel, Ainsworth, is out of business.

J. G. Hutchison & Co, grocers, Vancouver, have sold out.

T. Brown & Co., men's furnishings, Victoria, are giving up business.

The stock of Perry & Turner, stoves, Victoria, is advertised for sale.

M. R. Counter, jeweller, Nanaimo has sold out to Wm. Stewart.

Wadds & Grant, stationery, Rossland, have sold out to J. E. Saucier.

G. A. Biglow, general merchant, Nelson is giving up his Rossland branch store.

In Vancouver building operations will be more numerous this summer than since 1892.

The wholesale markets have changed very little this week. The most important feature is the advance in sugar.

The salmon industry has commenced. One hundred and forty seven licenses have been issued. The run is very small and big fish unusually scarce in the market.

The mining tax bill before the local legislature is to be amended so that the tax will be on the net profit of the mine. There is now little opposition to the bill.

Numerous private syndicates are forming in the cities for the purpose of sending experienced miners into the interior to prospect for them. Everyone in Vancouver from the office boy to the bloated capitalist is now directly or indirectly personally interested in the mines of British Columbia.

In shipping circles the same activity is apparent. Saturday last the "Vancouver World" made the assertion "that Vancouver's harbor presented a spectacle which they were confident was not to be witnessed in any other port in the Dominion, as no less than 25 deep-sea-going vessels were there riding at anchor in front of the city." This is exclusive of a numerous fleet of small craft and local steamers. It is also reported that a large fleet of ships

are on their way here to load lumber at Vancouver.

Over crowding in the harbor has again suggested to the minds of the members of the local administration and trade board the necessity of more wharfage accommodation and no doubt the Canadian Pacific Railway will again be appealed to to extend their wharfage.

At this writing mining is creating unusual interest in the coast cities, and news from the mining districts is eagerly looked for. Word comes from Golden that the big gold bearing quartz vein at Bagaboo Creek assaying in parts \$140 to the ton is to be worked on a large scale this summer.

A company of British capitalists it is said will work the Daisy mine at McCallum Point near Victoria. Samples assay very high. The ore is said to resemble Trail Creek quartz.

There is a constant ripple of excitement at Trail Creek owing to the authentic reports constantly coming in to camp, of some big strike at one of the claims. The Josie mine provides the latest sensation. The whole face of the tunnel, striking the ore chute at a depth of 280 feet, is in ore running \$10 in gold. These discoveries demonstrate the permanency of the Trail Creek ore veins.

This week Inspector McNab will let loose in Harrison Lake 6,400,000 sockeye salmon and 4,000,000 whitefish fry. The latter were sent from Manitoba at the suggestion of the Dominion government, as it was too expensive to run the Manitoba hatchery for such a small batch of youngsters. Most of the whitefish will be liberated in Harrison River. The little immigrants are very lively and very healthy, and there is every indication that the experiment of introducing whitefish into the British Columbia rivers will be a success.

H. D. McGuire, the Oregon state fish protector, does not believe that salmon only return to the river from the sea every four years, as they differ so in size. He is going to test the matter by marking a number of youngsters with silver wire and offering a reward for any of them afterwards caught.

Creamery matters are progressing very nicely in this province. A co-operative creamery is to be established at Chilliwack, the garden of British Columbia. A meeting has been held and a site is being chosen. There are rumors of other creameries starting up.

The customs returns show a large increase in trade as do the Inland Revenue receipts. The duty collected in Vancouver for February was \$21,455.60 an increase of \$5,090.01 over the corresponding month of last year. The duty collected in Victoria for February was \$16,749.77, and in Nanaimo \$8,706. The largest increase is shown in Vancouver. In Vancouver there was in February 10,100.76 collected as inland revenue, which is almost double the amount collected for a similar period last year, the increase being \$1,833.25. The inland revenue collected in Victoria was \$18,116.40. In February, Victoria exported \$36,937 worth of goods and imported goods to the value of \$121,814, while Vancouver imported goods valued at \$155,489. The exports amounted to \$59,100. The export credit to Westminster was nearly a million and a half dollars. From the present date the export and import figures will be largely increased by the returns from Nelson, British Columbia and other ports in the interior.

In West Kootenay there will be great activity this summer, particularly at Trout Lake. The district is said to be rich in gold, silver, bismuth, lead and asbestos. The Silver Cup, Abbott Group and America mines were worked all winter with good results, particularly the Silver Cup. The Great Northern Mine Co. have exposed a 5 foot vein running \$150 to the ton. The Albert Group

are all rich in mineral and are being rapidly developed and will ship ore shortly. The America vein is 2 feet thick running 120 ounces of silver to the ton. The Badshat, to be worked this summer, assayed 300 ounces in silver. The Black Prince, Poole Group, True Fisher, Jenny Lind, Horn, Blackhorn, Par-sold, are all rich in silver and will be worked this summer. Lardo Creek will be exclusively placer mined from the commencement of mild weather. The same encouraging reports come from all parts of West Kootenay.

British Columbia Markets.

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, March 14, 1896.

Business is improving steadily. Cured meats are lower all around about 1/2c. Wheat has advanced \$2 per ton. Fruits are lower. Fresh meats are firm.

Butter.—Dairy butter, 18 to 20c; creamery 25 to 26c; Government creamery, 27c; Manitoba cheese 10 1/2c per lb.

Cured Meats.—Hams 11 1/2c; breakfast bacon 12c; backs 11 1/2c; long, clear 8 1/2c; short rolls 9c; smoked sides 10c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 10 1/2c per pound; in rails and tubs 10c. Mess pork \$14; short cut \$15.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders 9c; smelt 5c; sea bass 4c; black cod 6c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 4c; herring 4c; spring salmon 9c; halibut 7c; whiting 6c; soles 6c; steel heads, 8c; finnan haddies, 9c; crabs 60c dozen; smoked halibut 8c; bloaters 10c; kippered cod 9c; sturgeon 6c.

Vegetables.—Potatoes now, \$10 per ton; onions silver skins, 1 1/2c; cabbage, 1 1/2c; Ashcroft potatoes, 75 to 76c; carrots, turnips and beets, 3/4 to 1c a lb.

Eggs.—Fresh, local, 18 to 19c.

Fruits.—California seedling oranges \$2 to \$1.85, navels, \$3.00; native apples \$1.00; California lemons, \$3.50, Oregon apples, \$1.75.

Evaporated Fruits.—Apricots 11c per lb; peaches 7 1/2c; plums 7c; prunes, French, 4c; loose Muscatel raisins 4c; London layer raisins \$1.65 box.

Nuts.—Almonds, 18c; filberts, 12 1/2c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 12 1/2c; walnuts, 10 to 16c lb.

Flour.—Manitoba patent, per bbl., \$4.70; strong bakers, \$4.40; Oregon, —; Oak Lake patent \$4.60; do strong bakers \$4.40.

Meal.—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb sacks, \$3.00; 45 pound sacks, \$3.10; 22 1/2 pound sacks, \$3.30, 10.7 sacks, \$2.00. Oatmeal, 10-10's, \$3.00, 2-50's, \$2.75. Off grades, 90 lbs, \$2.25; 2-45's, \$2.85. Manitoba Rolled Oats, 90's, \$2.25 45's \$2.35.

Grain.—Washington State wheat \$30.00 per ton f. o. b. Vancouver, duty paid. Oats 16.00 per ton.

Ground Feed.—National mills chop, \$21 to \$23 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, 7 1/2c; mutton, 8 1/2 to 9c; pork, 6 to 7c; veal, 7 to 10c per lb.

Live Stock.—Steers, 3 1/2 to 4c lb; cows 3 to 3 1/2c; sheep, \$1.00 to \$1.50; hogs, 5 1/2 to 5 3/4c.

Poultry.—Chickens, \$6 per dozen, scarce.

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

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

Teas.—Congo: Fair, 11 1/2c; good, 18c; choice, 26c. Ceylons: Fair, 25c; good, 30c; choice, 35c per lb.