

## TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OFFICE,  
Tuesday Morning, March 31.

## VICTORIA.

The past week has been a most satisfactory one in all branches of trade, especially in the dry goods line. The activity is due to the fact that numerous out-of-town merchants have been in the city, buying well in all lines. Good Friday being observed as a holiday resulted in swelling the sales of Thursday and Saturday.

## FINANCIAL.

In financial circles, there is no change to note since last report. It is accepted as very satisfactory evidence of the firm financial standing of Victoria, that the Bank of Montreal will be ready to open its doors for business to-morrow (April 1st.)

## DRY GOODS.

There was a marked improvement in business last week. Country orders are coming in quite brisk, both through travellers and by mail. They are mostly of a sorting up nature and laying in of spring supplies. The wholesale houses have been unusually busy. Country dealers do not appear to be buying so heavy with eastern houses. They are beginning to realize the fact that they can do equally as well, if not better, with local houses than east. Canvassers are reported as buying careful. The market is firm and prices are unchanged. Collections are a little slow, but no uneasiness is felt on this account. Country dealers seem to be getting more careful and are not giving such big credits as formerly, consequently are in a better position to meet their own bills. The outlook is good, and the prospects for a large business this season will no doubt be realized.

## CLOTHING.

Business in the above line has opened up well. A leading manufacturer says the capacity of his establishment is far too small for the business offered. So late as March 30th he had to refuse a big order, not being able to manufacture it in the required time. There is a dearth of skilled white labor to make up the finer grades of goods. Competition is pretty keen but the outlook is bright. Collections are fair. In February quite a number of renewals were asked, but since March 4th notes have been met promptly. On April 4th, it is expected that returns will be highly satisfactory.

## HARDWARE.

Leading dealers assert that, all things considered, trade, during the past winter, has been most satisfactory. The outlook now is most cheerful. The canneries are laying in supplies. There is a good enquiry for building material. An increased acreage of crops, generally, throughout the Province, has resulted in a big demand for agricultural implements. The market is reported firm. The weather does not seem to have affected it at all. Stocks held are large. Collections tolerably fair. Long credits are asked by farmers, but notes are met better than a few years ago.

## GROCERIES.

Concerning the future of the sugar trade, there is a great deal of uncertainty. One wholesale man said: "The market is very unsettled. With free sugar in the United States, it is thought the demand will be so

large that they will have nothing to export. The drawback to foreign countries will be discontinued after to-morrow (April 1st), and as that was what enabled the United States refineries to export, it is believed that they will no longer be in a position to export." Another wholesaler remarked: "In anticipation of a rise in sugars, consequent upon a change in the United States tariff, merchants here have laid in large stocks, which are carried in bond. It is supposed that a good deal will be entered for consumption." Another merchant expressed the belief that at present prices the Vancouver Sugar Refinery will shut American sugars out of this market when the drawback is taken off. He also said that it largely depended on the state of the American market after April 1st whether or not the large stocks, now held in bond, would be re-shipped to the United States. A slight advance is expected in sugar. In general groceries, business is brisk. There is nothing special to note. Quotations remain unchanged.

## FRUIT AND PRODUCE.

There is a good demand for California fruit. California vegetables are now coming in. There is quite an active demand for asparagus, peas, beans, tomatoes, celery and cabbage, which are rather high at present, but will become lower as each steamer arrives. California butter is scarce, not coming in very freely, and is held firm at 31¢@32¢. There seems to be no eastern creamery on the market. Eggs, pickled, are held at 16¢@17¢; fresh Frazer river and Island eggs being in good demand at 25¢. Bananas are quoted at \$4 per box; asparagus, 12¢ per lb; cabbage, 2¢ per lb. Island potatoes have been offered at \$23 per ton; but Mainland potatoes hold firm at \$25.

## FLOUR AND FEED.

No change is reported in this market. Business is very good. No special features. Oats are holding firm, and likely to advance. Manitoba flour is firm, but an advance is anticipated. Victoria flour remains at same prices as quoted last week.

## LUMBER.

The lumber market is rather quiet just now. Tonnage is scarce, and freights are high and firm, at our last quotations. The Australian markets are reported fairly well stocked. Quite a number of ships are reported on the way to different British Columbia mills for cargoes, and considerable activity is anticipated. Quotations are unchanged.

## OTHER MARKETS.

SEATTLE, March 28.—Produce receipts and shipments of merchandise have been very good. A letter just received from the manager of a San Francisco tannery, by a local hide and skin dealer, states that the supply of hides has been larger than the tanneries of the country have been disposed to handle. And now it is proposed to still further limit the output of those tanneries, presumably for the purpose of keeping up the price of leather. From this the writer concludes that the prospects for an improvement in the hide and skin market are not very bright. The local dealer expressed the belief that there might be an advance of ½ cent all around

in a short time, but that would be about the limit.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.—Yesterday being Good Friday, no dispatches were received either from England or Eastern grain centres, and as a consequence dealers on the produce exchange refrained from trading very extensively. There is no material change in potatoes. The local demand is picking up, so the demand remains somewhat firm. Onions hold their own, and some Australian are selling at a slight advance. A goodly lot of oranges have arrived by steamer. The market is firm for choice navels of desirable size. Lots of poor quality of oranges are yet being sold to peddlers at nominal figures. Notwithstanding the fact that 500 boxes of Mexican limes arrived on the steamer Colima, the demand is so great and the market is so bare that prices are maintained at a firm figure. Lemons are slow, and apples are inclined to drag. There is no change in the butter market. Prices are held at 23¢@24¢ for fancy roll, but there are tendencies of weakness, owing to a falling off in shipments.

## BRADSTREET'S REPORT.

NEW YORK, March 28.—Bradstreet's says that while speculation has been of the duller and most limited kind, the week's proceedings have developed no little strength in the active share list, and a general but steady improvement has been shown in the price of leading shares. The stock exchanges were closed on Friday, and the London market suspends operations from Thursday till next Tuesday. This naturally tends to give a holiday temper to the market, while the exciting and active speculation in the produce markets of the country diverted attention from stocks. The main factors and developments of the week have, however, favored the bulls. No gold shipments have taken place and exchange rates are lower, although this was due to the absence of inquiry, and there is a prospect that next week may bring a higher exchange market and further gold exports. At the same time the condition of affairs in London has undergone a decided improvement, and the fortnightly stock market settlement there, which occurred this week, went through without the recurrence of any apprehension that has lately prevailed in that quarter. A quiet trade is reported from all leading wool markets. The demand is confined almost wholly to Australian and territory, and pulled wools are scarce and manufacturers have to take foreign fleeces in place of them. Sales have been made of small lots of Ohio and Michigan, and full prices have been obtained. Manufacturers do not want inferior wools, as they are making the finest grades of goods their mills can turn out. Texas wools are in fair demand, but the supply has become so reduced that the movement is light and fine. Territories are taken as fast as they arrive. Manufacturers are securing good results from mixing them with Australian wools. Pulled wools are in strong demand and prices are firmer because of reports from pullers of the scarcity of skins. Some large lots of choice Australian wools are due to arrive within the next few days. The supply of these wools, it is thought, will be ample. A receding movement in carpet wools is ex