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## COMMERCIAL.

MR. HENRY DRIVER, on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, reports as follows for the week ending December 8:

Fat Cattle.—150 head fair to prime quality yarded, all of which were sold at prices a shade easier than last week. Best bullocks brought from £12 10s to £16; ditto cows, from £9 10s to £13 10s; or equal to 32s 6d to 35s per 100lb. for prime pens and 27s 6d to 30s for medium. At the yards we sold 60 head on account of Messrs. Watt Brothers, Lindsay, Maunsell, and M'Donald, and 40 head winted. privately.

Fat Calves.—Only a few penned, which realised for prime vealers extreme rates, say up to 90s each, according to size and

quality

Fat Sheep.—1,600 came forward, but the trade being already fairly supplied, only about half this number were disposed of by auction at rates considerably below our former quotations, say from 16s to 18s for best cross-breds in the wool, or 3\frac{3}{2}\text{d} to 4\text{d per lb., and} 10s 6\text{d to 12s 6\text{d for shorn, or equal to 2\text{d to 2}\text{d per lb.}} At the yards, and privately, we disposed of 500.

Fat Lambs.—About 200 penned. Only a small portion sold at

7s 6d to 12s.

Store Cattle.—Owing to the abundance of grass, the demand still exists for cattle fit for grazing. We have during the week sold 200, at say £6 6s to £8 8s for bullocks, and £4 4s to £5 10s for

Store Sheep.—As yet little or no business has been done in this description of stock, and any quotations meanwhile must be purely speculative. We are, however, inclined to think that a reduction

speculative. We are, however, inclined to think that a reduction upon last year's prices must be submitted to.

Wool.—We are still without advices of the progress of November sales in London, owing to the continued interruption to cable communication. We received per Alhambra a telegram from our London office, bearing date 13th November, advising wool market unchanged; 80,000 bales arrived for November sales; Antwerp sales flat. We sold a few small lots of cross-bred fleeces on Thursday last:

TI 44 bales 10d nor lb in greess McK, 1 bale and 2 bags, 11dd. T fiat. We sold a few small lots of cross-bred fleeces on Thursday asso: TJ, 4½ bales, 10d per lb. in grease; McK, 1 bale and 2 bags, 11½d; T over T, 5 bales, 103d. We shall offer at our usual sile to-day several small lots.

small lots.

Sheepskins.—Owing to the holidays, our usual supply did not come forward last Thursday. We had brisk competition for green cross-breds at 6s 4d; dry, 5s 5d; merinoes, 4s 7d.

Hides sold freely. Green butchers', 21s to 32s 3d; wet salted, about 4d per lb; yearlings, 8s 6d; heifers, 14s.

Tallow.—Our London telegram quotes the market quiet. Mut-

tantow.—Our London telegram quotes the intract quest. State-ton, £48; beef, £46. In this market no business to report. Gram.—We cannot report any change in this market; millers are fairly supplied at 4s 4d to 4s 8d. Ours are more inquired for; sales are made at 2s to 2s 1d for feed, and 2s to 2s 3d for milling. Barley: 5s 3d is the top quotation for malting, at which rate we placed a small parcel; for milling there is a limited demand at 3s 6d to 3s 2d to 3s 9d.

Mr. A. Mercer reports for the week ending December 8—Retail prices only:—Fresh butter, in \(\frac{1}{2}\) and 1 lb. prints, is to 1s 2d; fresh butter, in lump, 1s; powdered and salt butter, 1s to 1s 2d; the supply of fresh butter is still very plentiful, but some of the dairies have commenced salting down, and making cheese. Falt butter in keg, 11d, but no demand; cheese, of the best quality, 1+ 2d; side and rolled bacon, 1s 2d to 1s 3d; colonial hams, 1s 3d; English hams, 1s 6d to 1s 8d; eggs are very scarce, and in good demand at 2s per dozen. dozen.

Mr. Skene reports for the week ending December 8:—Work is plentiful enough, especially out-doors, but it is seriously hindered with the unusual quantity of wet and broken weather. It has with the unusual quantity of wet and broken weather. It has prevented many from putting past their usual allowance for the Christmas holidays. Men who work from hand to mouth cannot be expected to look on complacently, and console themselves by saying we will have a splendid crop. The present is everything with them. The building trade in town and country is pretty active, but not so full of life as last year at this time, but we cannot always be under full steam. Business in Dunedin is reviving fast, but far too many shopmen and clerks come here, and spoil their own chances and those of their predecessors. Servant girls cannot be spoken to till after the holidays. Wages—Ploughmen, £52, £55, £60, and £65; shepherds, £70 per year, or 40s to 50s per week for short time; dairy and cattle men, 20s and 25s per week; couples, £75 to £90; house and hotel females, from 12s to 15s and 30s per week; useful boys and girls, 6s to 10s per week; carpenters, 12s and 13s per day; day laborers, 8s and 9s; sheep shearers, 20s per 100; wool classers, 20s and 25s per day.