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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 October 18, 1876:—

Fat Cattle.—A short supply of about 100 head were yarded today, and in consequence there was a considerable improvement in the demand, prime quality realising up to 37s 6d. We sold 60 head at yards on account of Messrs. Patrick, Gall, M'Donald, and others, and have placed 40 head privately.

Fat Sheep.—There was a moderate supply of between 1100 and 1200, and a very material improvement in the prices obtained for those. Best cross breeds realised as high as 17s each, or equal to 31 per lb.

Store Cattle.—During the week we have sold 250 head cows and bullocks, at an average of about £5 15s for former and £3 for latter.

Store Sheep.—With the exception of a few odd lots of ewes with lambs at various prices, we have no important transactions to report.

MR. SKENE reports for the week ending October 18, 1876, as there is a decided improvement in all departments. Laborers, farm and station people, and female servants are short of the demand. Town trade and general business is much improved. Storemen and clerks have a better chance now, but salaries are low. Couples are beginning to move; upon the whole, the labor market is in a very good position to test, who are and who are not really anxious to stick into work. Wages—Couples, £70 to £80; shepherds, £60 and £65; ploughmen, £52, £55, and £60; dairy hands, 10s, 15s, and 20s; day labour, 8s and 9s; female servants range from 10s. 12s, 15s, 20s, 25s, and 30s; boys and girls, 6s to 10s; storemen, 36s to 50s; cooks, waiters, gardeners, grooms, &c., 25s to 60s.

MR. A. MERRIN reports as follows for the week ending October 18, 1876, retail prices only:—Fresh butter, in ½ and 1lb prints, 1s 3d to 1s 6d; fresh butter, in lumps, 1s 3d; powdered and salt butter (new season), 1s 4d to 1s 6d. Fresh butter is now very plentiful, and prices still falling. Cheese, of the best quality, 1s 2d; side and rolled bacon, 1s; Colonial hams, 1s 2d to 1s 3d; English hams, 1s 6d to 1s 7d. Eggs are still very plentiful, and selling well at 1s 3d per doz.

MESSRS. M. AND J. MERRIN, George Street, report the following as the latest quotations:—Flour—Large bags, £13; small do, £13 10s per ton. Oatmeal—£11 10s per ton. Pearl barley—£22 per ton. Bran—£5 15s per ton, including bags. Pollard—£6 10s per ton. Chaff—£4 per ton. Hay—£3 15s to £4 per ton. Potatoes—£3 10s to £4 per ton. Carrots—£2 10s per ton. Wheat—4s 6d to 4s 9d per bushel. Barley—2s 9d to 3s 6d per bushel. Oats—2s to 2s 2d per bushel. Cheese—9d to 10d per lb.

MR. J. VEZEY reports for the week ending October 18, 1876:—Retail: Roast beef, 6d to 8d per lb.; boiling do., 4d to 5d per lb.; stewing do., 4d to 6d per lb.; steak, 6d to 9d per lb.; mutton, 3d to 6d per lb.; veal, 4d to 8d per lb.; pork, 9d to 10d per lb.; lamb, 4s 6d and 5s per quarter.