

J. A. M. A. C. E. D. O.

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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 November 22, 1876:—

**Fat Cattle.**—A large supply of about 185 head were yarded to-day, a large proportion of which were of good to prime quality. In consequence of the number yarded, prices slightly receded, best quality realising—say, for bullocks, from £12 to £17; cows, £8 10s to £12— or equal to 32s to 33s per 100lbs for prime quality. At the yards we sold 40 head, and have during the week sold 50 head privately.

**Fat Calves.**—A few offerings. Good vealers are worth 40s to 60s, according to weight and quality.

**Fat Sheep.**—About 1800 were penned, consisting of cross-breeds, all of which were shorn with the exception of one lot of 500. We quote shorn sheep at from 12s to 13s 6d— or equal to 2d to 2½d per lb; in the wool, at 17s— or 3d to 3½d. At the yards we sold 300 at above rates.

**Fat Lambs.**—A large supply of 300 penned, which sold at from 8s to 12s 6d, according to size and quality. At the yards we sold 120, and during the week have placed 1000 privately for forward delivery.

**Store Cattle** continue in good demand at late quotations—say, from £6 10s to £9 for bullocks, and £4 10s to £5 10s for cows. We shall offer 300 head at Mosgiel on the 5th prox.

**Wool.**—Cablegrams dated London, November 8, advise continued great competition at the sales in progress, prices have advanced to February rates, thereby recovering the total fall in prices from that date. This has taken all interested in this staple by surprise, gratifying to growers, however perplexing for buyers to guide their operations. Some small clips were offered at the sales this afternoon, for which there was keen competition, greasy cross-breeds realising 8½d to 9½d; merino, 8d to 9½— shewing a near approach to last season's rates.

**Sheepskins.**—We catalogued 1500 skins, which participated in advanced rates for wool; green cross-breeds, none; merinoes, 5s 1d; dry cross-breeds, up to 5s 3d; merinoes, 4s 9d.

Hides are exceedingly dull. It was with great difficulty we effected a clearance of the lots we offered. Wet salted at 3d to 3½d per lb for good conditioned; inferior lots very low prices. The fall in leather has so reduced the value of hides in all markets that shippers cannot operate.

Tallow continues in brisk demand, very medium quality bringing 25s 6d to 30s 6d.

**Grain.**—Wheat is chiefly out of farmers' hands and not obtainable, though with a further advance in flour to £16 per ton, high rates could be obtained. It is satisfactory to be able to report that the next harvest promises to be large, and will be four weeks earlier than usual, if propitious ripening weather succeeds the favorable growing, almost forcing season. New wheat is expected in the mills in the Oamaru district in January. Oats are in better supply and reported to be a little easier; we made sales of fine feed to-day at 2s 3d. Barley is more enquired for, feeding samples being required to take place of fowls' wheat, of which there is little in the market. Malting samples are still neglected.

MR. SKENE reports for the week ending November 22, 1876, as follows:—The demand for station and farm people is almost satisfied for the present; for ordinary day laborers there is a steady enquiry, but employers complain of the quality of the men. Couples, with country training, are at last moving off. Skilled trades are more active, and men, with colonial experience, can easily get work. Hotel servants are more asked for with the near approach of the holidays. Female servants, trained, are very rare. Storemen and clerks must show good references to get placed. Wages—Couples, £65, £70, and £80; shepherds, £65 and £70; ploughmen, £52, £55, and £60; day labor, road, rail, and bush, 8s and 9s; cooks, waiters, barmen, groomers, &c., 25s to 50s; house girls, 10s, 12s, and 15s; hotel girls, 12s, 15s, 20s, and up to 30s; dairy people, 15s to 20s; boys and girls, 6s to 10s; shopmen and clerks, 30s, 50s and 60s; shearers, 17s 6d and 23s.

MR. A. MERCER reports as follows for the week ending November 22, 1876, retail prices only:—Fresh butter, in ½ and 1½ prints, 1s to 1s 2d; fresh butter, in lumps, 11d; powdered and salt butter, 1s to 1s 2½; fresh butter is still very plentiful, and the grocers are salting down large quantities every week, and no demand for salt butter. Cheese, best quality, 1s 2d; new season cheese (fine), 1s 2d; side and rolled bacon, 11d to 1s; Colonial hams, 1s 2d; English hams, 1s 6d; eggs are now very scarce and retailing, 1s 6 to 1s 8½ per dozen.

MESSES. M. AND J. MEENAN, George Street, report the following as the latest quotations:—Flour—Large bags, £16; small do, £16 10s per ton. Oatmeal—£13 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—£4 per ton. Potatoes—£4 to £4 10s per ton. Carrots—£2 10s per ton. Wheat—4s 6d to 6s per bushel, for good milling samples. Barley—2s 3d to 2s 9d per bushel. Oats—2s 1d to 2s 3½d per bushel. Cheese—8d to 9½d per lb.

MR. J. VEZEY reports for the week ending November 22, 1876:—Retail: Roast beef, 6d to 8d per lb.; boiling do., 4d to 5½d 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, 3s 6d and 4s 6d per quarter.

A touching reception took place in the Vatican on the 24th July, when the Holy Father gave audience in the Loggia of Raphael to the old lady inmates of the charitable institution on the Janicula, founded and maintained by Prince Torlonia. These old ladies, some of whom were over ninety years of age, were accompanied and literally sustained by the Daughters of Charity having charge of the institution. The Holy Father passed among them, talking to them, giving each his hand to kiss, exhorting them to patience and resignation, and, finally, conferring upon them the Apostolic benediction.