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## COMMERCIAL.

MR. HENRY DRIVER (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Co.) reports for the week ending December 20, as follows :-

follows :--Fat Cattle.--Only a small supply of 50 head were yarded, graziers, no doubt, anticipating that Christmas requirements would have been supplied by previous purchases and yesterday's sale at the Fat Strök Exhibition. The small number offered to day, however, brought rather better than last week's quotations--say up to 32s 6d per 100lb. The Fat Stock Exhibition proved a great success, as it brought to-gether a large number of both cattle and sheep, which, for breeding, quality, and weight, could not easily be beaten in the Colonies. Be-sides 30 head privately, we sold Mr. Malcolm Carmichael's five first prize oxen at £18 to £23 each, and Mr. George Wilson's first prize heifers at £31 each. heifers at £31 each.

heifers at £31 each. Fat Calves.—A fair supply of about 20 head were yarded to-day, and brought from 25s to 70s, according to size and quality. Fat Sheep.—2800 came forward, of which only one-helf were sold. Best quality cross-berds realised from 10s to 12s each, with exceeding dull competition. Medium quality merinos, 6s each. Some extra-ordinarily good sheep were shown yesterday at the Fat Cattle Exhibi-tion, the prize pen realising as high as £2 each. These prices, how-ever, were simply fancy rates, the butchers competing with each other who should obtain the prize pens for their Christmas show of meat. We sold Messrs. Blues and Duthie's first prize ewes and lambe at full rates.

rates. Fat Lambs.—About 300 were penned, best quality bringing 8s 6d to 10s; inferior to medium, 5s to 7s 6d. Store Cattle.—We have no alteration to make in quotations for this description of stock, the demand continuing good at £7 10s to £8 10s for bullocks, and £5 to £6 10s for cows. We shall sell at Mosgiel on Friday' 22nd inst., a very superior lot of bullocks and spayed cows. Store sheep.—We are not aware of any important transactions having yet taken place. Enquiries, however, are being made, more particularly for young breeding merino ewes and merino lambr. Cross-breds are also wanted, but prices have not yet been arranged bta tween buyers and sellers.

Cross-breds are also wanted, but prices have not yet been arranged bts tween buyers and sellers. Wool.---Up to the present time no public sales of any importance have been held, owing, no doubt, to the bad weather, which has re-tarded shearing operations. As yet only a portion of a few clips has reached town. We have little doubt there will be buyers for all wool offering at a fair margin on late London prices, and there is every pros-pect of large transactions, unless holders demand prices beyond which buyers will not be justified in going. At our ordinary weekly sale to-day we offered 30 farmers' lots, all of which sold at---for greasy merino and cross breds, 7<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>d to 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>d; washed do, 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>3</sub>d to 15<sup>3</sup>/<sub>3</sub>d. Sheepskins were in small supply. Dry cross-breds sold 5s 1d to 5s 3d; merino, 3s 10 to 4s 10d; lambskins, 6d to 1s 1d. Hides were in good demand at the late advance. Wet salted, 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>3</sub>d to 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d to heavy weights; green butchers, 21s 6d. Tablow sells readuly at advanced rates: 30s to 31s 6d for medium country rendeced.

country rendered.

Grein.—There is no alteration in price of wheat or flour; fowls' wheat scarce at 5s. Oats—Few offering; feed, 2s 3d; milling, 2s 4d, Barley for feeding purposes much inquired—little offering; malting samples are more firmly held.

MR. SKENE reports for the week ending December 20, 1876, as follows:--Affairs in the labor market are sound; mostly all can get work who are willing, although, perhaps, not in all cases to their liking. Neither masters nor men are inclined to enter into fixed engagements Who are whing, although, perhaps, hot in all cases to their hirng. Neither masters nor men are inclined to enter into fixed engagements until after the holidays, when, with the certainty of a heavy harvest, employment will be easily found. The demand for hotel servants, and for females for all departments is very brisk. Couples are more asked for. Day labor at pick and shovel is plentiful; but working men spoil their prospects by sticking too closely to town. A few shopmen and clerks are moving. The building and iron trades are quiet. Wages-Couples, £55, £70, and £80; ploughner, £52, £55, and £60; shep-herds, £60 to £70; day labor, 8s and 9s; shearers, 17s 6d to 20s per 100; dairy hands, 15s to 20s; house girls, 10s to 15s; hotel girls, 12s, 15s, 20s, and 25s; cooks, waiters, gardeners, &c, 25s to 50s. Mr. A. MERCER reports as follows for the week ending December 20, 1876, retail prices obly :--Fresh butter, in  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 11b prints, 1s to 1s 2d; fresh butter, in lumps, 10d; powdered and salt butter 1s; 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 hans, 1s 2d; English hams, 1s 6d; eggs are now very scarce and retailing, 1s 8d to 1s 9d per dozen. MR. J. VEZEY reports for the week ending December 13, 1876:---Retail: Roast beef, 6d to 8d per 1b.; boiling do., 4d to 5d per 1b;

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, 3s and 4s per quarter.

As per quarter.
MR. M. C. FLEMING reports for the week ending December 20, 1876, as follows:—Oats (feed), per bushel, 2: 1d to 2s 2d; milling, 2s
4d. Wheat, milling, 6s to 6s 3d; fowls, 3s 6d to 4s. Barley, malturg, 4s to 4s 6d; feed, 2s 3d to 2s 6d. Pollard, £6 10s, bags included. Bran, £5 15s, bags included. Flour, large bags, £16; small, £16 10. Oatmeal, £12. Potatoes, old, 6s to 8s per cwt; potatoes, new, 10s to 11s per cwt. Hay, £4 per ton. Chaff, £4 pr ton. Straw, ±2 per ton.

The hearing of spiders is very acute, and it is affirmed that they are attracted by music. Disjouval relayes an instance of a spider which used to place itself on the ceiling of a room over the spot where a ledy played a harp, and which followed her if sharemoved to an ther part; and he also says that the celebrated violinist Berchome, when a boy, saw a spider habitually approach him as soon as he began to play and which eventually became so familiar that it would fix its. If on his desk and on his arm. Betting noticed the same effect with a puitton on a spider which accidently on and it as the mark guitar on a spider which accidentally cristed over it as she was playing.

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