

Commercial.

MR. HENRY DRIVER (on behalf of the N. Z. L. and M. A. Co.,) reports for the week ending April 10:—

The following fat stock was yarded at the market to-day:—200 head cattle, 20 calves, 2881 sheep, 303 lambs.

Fat Cattle.—The number forward was a good supply, but only one-half were fat, for which late prices were fully maintained, the balance being either withdrawn or sold as stores. Best pens of bullocks brought from £10 10s to £14 10s; do cows, from £7 10s to £10 10s—or fully equal to 30s per 100lbs for prime beef. We have placed 100 head privately at quotations.

Fat Calves.—All found buyers, at from 16s to 50s, according to weight and quality.

Fat Sheep.—The market was somewhat over-stocked, and about 500 head had to be turned out. Those sold found buyers at late quotations—say, for best cross-breds, 9s 6d to 12s 9d; merinos, 7s to 8s 6d—or 2½d per lb. for former and 2d for latter. We sold 500 at the yards.

Fat Lambs.—All found buyers at from 6s to 9s, according to quality. We sold 145.

Store Cattle.—There is but little demand for this description of stock. Grown quiet cattle are worth from £5 10s to £6 10s; and mixed herds, £1 10s to £5.

Store Sheep.—There is no change to report in store sheep. During the week we have sold 3000 of various sorts, at prices last quoted.

Our London office advices by cable:—"The sales closed at an average decline of ½d to 1d. About 213,000 bales were sold, and 37,000 held over for future disposal; 125,000 taken for export. The principal decline has been in medium and inferior greasy, averaging 1d. per lb. since the closing of previous series. Lambs' wool firmer; cross-bred descriptions easy. The home trade purchased but sparingly, and there was only moderate competition on French account. Trade in the manufacturing districts unchanged." We sold a few small odd lots at very fair rates; competition strong at our auction sale on Monday. Inquiry is good for well-bred wools, either merino or cross-bred.

Sheepskins.—At our weekly auction on Monday we offered a catalogue of about 1000 skins, which all sold at prices fully equal to last week's rates. Bare pelts, 8d to 1s 2d; cross-bred shearings, 1s 11d to 2s 9d; merinos, 1s 8d to 2s 7d; full-woolled skins, 5s 5d to 5s 8d.

Hides.—There is good demand for well-conditioned salted hides at 4d per lb; dry and inferior are neglected.

Tallow.—We have sold some small parcels of inferior to medium, £26 10s to £28; rough lot, 20s to 21s 6d.

Grain.—Wheat is in fair demand for prime milling at 4s 6d; inferior and secondary neglected; fowls' feed scarce and inquired for at 3s 6d. Oats have arrived more freely and are in good demand at 3s 3d to 3s 5d for good to heavy feed; milling, 3s 9d. Barley: Malting samples are in active demand, but little offering. Values, 5s for prime to 5s 6d for very choice. Feed and milling samples wanted, but none offering.

MR. A. MERCER reports for the week ending April 10:—retail prices only, fresh butter in ½lb. prints 1s 1d to 1s 2d; in lumps, 1s; powdered and salt butter, 1s; fresh butter is still keeping plentiful and the market is well supplied. Salt butter in kegs, good is scarce and enquired after at present 9½d to 10d per lb; cheese, best quality 10d to 1s; side and rolled bacon, 9d to 10d; colonial hams, 11d to 1s; English ham, 1s 2d to 1s 4d, no demand; eggs are in good demand, and rather scarce, retailing at 2s 9d the dozen.

MR. SKENE reports for the week ending April 10:—The rapid approach of winter is causing the usual reflux of people into Dunedin, of course, no one with country experience need turn his back on farming etc., etc. Every ploughman is now needed and there is a steady enquiry for shepherds, both these lines will be short of the incoming seasons demands. Couples are moving off every day. Masons, bricklayers, carpenters, and all in the building trade are very well employed. Girls in every degree can get their own terms. Hotel servants of experience are in fair demand. Dairy people, big and little are very scarce. Well trained shopmen and clerks only can get places. Wages:—Couples, £65 to £104; ploughmen, £52, £55, £60, and £65; shepherds, £65; day labour, 8s and 9s; dairymen 20s and 25s; shop, message, and dairy boys, 8s, 10s, and 15s; hotel hands, girls, 15s, 20s and 30s; private house girls, 10s 12s and 15s; cooks, waiters, barmen, gardeners, and grooms, etc., 20s to 60s.

MR. J. VEZBY reports for the week ending April 10, 1878, retail:—Roasting beef, 5d to 8d per lb; boiling do., 3d to 5d per lb; stewing do., 4d to 6d per lb; steak, 6d to 8d per lb; mutton, 2½d to 5d per lb; veal, 4d to 8d per lb; pork 6d to 8d per lb; lamb 2s 6d to 4s per quarter.

MR. J. FLEMING reports (wholesale prices) for the week ending April 10, 1878, as follows:—Oats (feed), 3s 4d per bushel. Wheat—milling, 4s 6d; chicks, 3s to 3s 4d. Barley, malting, 4s to 4s 6d; feed, 3s to 3s 6d. Pollard, £15 10s per ton. Bran, £4 5s, bags included. Flour, large bag, £12; small, £12 10s. Oatmeal, £17. New Potatoes, 4s per cwt. Old Hay, £7 10s per ton. New Hay, £4 10s per ton. Chaff, £4 10s per ton. Straw, £2 per ton.

ON one point, at least, the San Francisco "communists," as the labouring men there are loosely called by some of the newspapers, are perfectly sound. They want malfeasance in office to be punished with imprisonment for life, with no possibility of pardon. This sort of communism might have a wholesome effect if it were put in practice. But of course the men in public office have a very low opinion of the uncultivated persons who propose anything so vulgar.—Pilot.

EMIGRATION to Australia continues, and the agents report that all who have gone there from the United States are doing well. This may be, but again it may not. Men who can make any sort of decent living here should think twice before paying money for a passage to Australia. Hard times and all, America is still as good a country as any we know of for an industrious man to push ahead in.—Pilot.

General News.

WE have already learned by cable that the Irish Amendment to the Queen's Speech was moved by Mitchell Henry and was heavily defeated, the following was the Amendment:—"We also think it right humbly to represent to your Majesty that, while we are glad to observe that the questions of the Grand jury laws and intermediate education in Ireland are to be brought before Parliament, and while we await information as to the nature and scope of the proposals which may be submitted to Parliament, we humbly assure your Majesty that we shall regard it as the duty of Parliament in the present condition of public affairs on the earliest opportunity to consider in a wise and conciliatory spirit the demands which the Irish people have repeatedly raised." The Irish members propose to give parliament some trouble this year, judging from the number of motions handed in, which are at present more than enough to occupy the entire attention of Parliament for two or three years to come.—Pilot.

SOME misconceptions have prevailed even among certain Catholics as to the importance and real effects of the last rites of the sick; and the eloquent Jesuit Father Maguire, in his sermon at the Mission in St. Mary's Church, Boston, recently, declared that physicians too commonly deceive their patients, and act as if the service of a priest would disturb them. So far from this fear being well founded, he pointed out that Extreme Unction is for the benefit of the body as well as the soul, and proved, from statistics published in Europe, that more than half the patients, after being anointed recovered.—Pilot.

THAT the Irish are a healthy and long-lived people is proved by statistics in this country and Ireland. The Registrar-General of Great Britain and Ireland has just issued his quarterly report, from which we learn that the Irish are longer-lived than the English or Scotch. The report shows that whereas in England only 23.3 per cent. of the persons who died in the quarter under review had reached or passed the age of 60, the number was 37.8 per cent. in Ireland. The Irish registers for the quarter record the deaths of twelve persons stated to be 100 years old or upwards, and in three of these instances the local registers declare the age well authenticated. The registrar of Kilsannig, Mallow, adds that there is in his district a man of at least 102 years old, who is able to walk to Cork, which is seventeen miles from his house, and who planted his own potatoes in 1877 entirely himself. The Irish death-rate is also materially lower than that of England and Scotland. In England the death rate for the year was 17.7; in Scotland 17.9; and in Ireland only 14.3 per 1,000 persons. The birth-rate was proportionally favourable to Ireland.—Pilot.

"I do not see why a premium should be placed upon drunkenness. I therefore decided to open a school for the children of the most frugal and well-conducted among the poorest of the poor Irish—such children as would inevitably become mere waifs and strays of the streets. After a time I saw that the day would come when these children would pass from us, and be sent to earn a living without help or guidance. I therefore established, in connection with the school a place where the girls might be trained as domestic servants; some as housemaids, some to wait at table, and others of the more intelligent kind to go out as lady's maids. A kind hearted lady has given us great assistance, and I can assure you that the servants we turn out are far above the average. They know how to do their work properly. When they go out to service they return us a little of their savings in return for the money they have cost us—but, of course, I could not go on with even this limited experiment without help."—Mgr. Capel.

DR. LIVINGSTONE, in his "Missionary Travels in South Africa," ch. vi., p. 117: "This place has been what the monasteries of Europe are said to have been when pure. The monks did not disdain to hold the plough, they introduced fruit trees, flowers and vegetables, in addition to teaching and emancipating the serfs, Their monasteries were mission stations, which resembled ours in being dispensaries for the sick, alms-houses for the poor, and nurseries of learning. Can we learn nothing from them in their prosperity as the school of Europe, and see nought in their history but the pollution and laziness of their decay? Can our wise men tell us why the former mission stations (primitive monasteries) were self-supporting, rich and flourishing, as pioneers of civilization and agriculture, from which we even now reap benefits, and modern missions are mere pauper establishments without that permanence or ability to be self-supporting which they possessed?"

THAT was a brave lad who found himself suddenly adrift in a dilapidated schooner off Atlantic City, N.J., the other day. He was a little fellow, but when he saw the surf boat which had put out to his assistance turn back to shore, the cruel crew probably concluding that it wasn't worth while to make much of an effort for only a boy, and when he fully realized the peril of his position, he didn't drop down and sob, he didn't despair, nor did he lose his head. But he set resolutely to work and prepared his crazy craft as best he could for the struggle with the waves. The first night out, he says in his homely narrative, "a heavy sea broke over the vessel and rolled me over the wheel. The rigging and deck were covered with ice, and it was with difficulty I kept myself from freezing." The next day he thought he was near the Gulf Stream. "There was about a foot of water in the hold, and a heavy sea rolling. The pumps gave out, and I was forced to bale her out with a bucket." At about ten o'clock the next night he was hailed by a barque, which cleared the schooner by only about ten feet. "But the barque sailed away, though the little fellow promptly hung out a signal light; and his struggle continued. The next morning the plucky lad sighted land near Beach Haven. "After beating about all day," he says, "I headed up abreast Absecon Light. The sea was very rough, and, failing to bring the vessel into the inlet, and as the water was up to the cabin floor, I heaved her on Little Brigantine Shoals, where I was taken off after having been without sleep for four days and three nights."

FOURTY-FIVE millions is the estimate of the St. Louis Republican for the population of the model republic in 1880.