

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ending July 9 as follows:—

Store Cattle.—We have no transactions to report.
Store Sheep.—There is a demand for cross-bred wethers for tripp fatting, but we have no sales to report.

Wool.—Locally there is nothing of any importance being done. Any now coming to hand is offered on Mondays at our skin sales.

Sheepskins.—We offered a full catalogue at our skin sale on Monday. There was a full attendance of buyers, and under fair competition prices realised more especially for green merino and fine half-breds, were slightly in advance of those obtained last week. Dry pelts brought 7d to 8d; do cross-breds, 1s 3d to 4s 5d; do merinos, 1s 6d to 4s 5d; green cross-breds, 2s 5d to 3s 7d; do merino, 2s 9d to 3s 5d; lambskins, 1s 6d.

Rabbitkins.—Our Monday's sale was well attended. A satisfactory demand still prevails, and the various lots offered were well competed for. The better qualities sold readily, at a distinct advance on previous quotations, while common and medium sorts fully maintain their position. We sold 13 bags good to prime at 1s 7½d to 1s 7¾d; 5 do mixed at 7¾d to 11¼d. Up to 1s 9¾d has been paid for a couple of bags extra large skins and splendidly furred.

Hides.—The market has not exhibited any change since our last. This week we disposed of 220 at from 3d to 4¾d for clean sound hides, and 2d to 2¼d for cut and slippy.

Tallow.—The market for this product is weak, and prices ruling recovery. We sold this week 26 casks good to prime at 30s; 10 do. lately are not now obtainable, and but little probability of an immediate medium, 25s to 28s; inferior, up to 23s 5d; and 35 bags rough fat at 19s to 23s 6d per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: There is no improvement in the market for this grain by way of higher prices, but parcels in good hard milling condition are easily disposed of at late quotations—namely, for prime velvet and Tuscan, 3s 2d to 3s 3d; red straw and such like, 3s 1d to 3s 2d; medium, 2s 9d to 3s. Fowls' wheat is in fair request, and if well filled, even if soft, is worth 2s 6d to 2s 8d; broken thin and frosted, 1s to 2s 3d. Oats: The market has lacked animation for the last week, the only demand existing being for bright short feed and milling; discoloured, such as sparrowbills, short Tartarians, etc., are neglected. Holders, however, are not pushing sales, and last week's quotations hold good—viz: Stout bright milling, 2s 1d to 2s 2d; short bright feed, 2s to 2s 1d; discoloured, such as those named above, 1s 10d to 1s 11d; long do, 1s 9d to 1s 10d. Barley: Plump bright milling is easily placed at 4s to 4s 3d; medium, 3s 6d to 3s 9d; but thin and discoloured is in no demand except for feed, at from 1s 6d to 2s; milling, 2s 6d to 2s 9d.

PRODUCE MARKET.—JULY 10.

MR. F. MERRAN, Great King street, reports:—Wholesale prices for the week are as follows, including bags: Oats, 1s 9d to 2s; milling wheat, 2s 9d to 3s 3d; fowls, 2s to 2s 10d; barley, maiting, 3s 6d to 4s 3d; milling, 2s 6d to 3s 6d; oatmeal, new, £3 5s to £3 6s; rye-grass, £3; chaff, £3 to £3 10s; straw, £2; bran, £4 5s; pollard, £4 10s; flour, £8 10s to £9; oatmeal, £11 10s; fresh butter, medium to prime, 10d to 1s 1d; eggs, 1s 6d; salt butter, 8d to 9d; cheese, 4½d; bacon, sides, 8d; hams, 10d; rolls, 8d; potatoes, £2 5s to £2 10s.

MESSRS. MERCER BROS., Princes street, report:—Fresh butter (in ½lb. and 1lb. prints), best quality, 1s 1d per lb.; ordinary butter, 10d per lb.; eggs, 1s 2d; roll bacon, 8d per lb.; good salt butter, in kegs, 9d per lb.; cheese, 4d per lb.

BLUNDER OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT.

FATHER MON, a distinguished Spanish member of the Order of the Jesuits, has lately drawn the attention of all Europe upon his person, very much against his will, by seeking to discharge his sacred duties as a Lenten preacher to the best of his ability. It is a usual thing for the Ladies' Association, connected with the Convent of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, at Madrid, to hold a course of spiritual exercises during Lent, and this year Father Mon, a near relative of Senor Pidal, the Minister of Public Works, was selected to preside. One night, recently, in addressing the ladies who formed his congregation, he passed some strictures on the reprehensive habit existing among some members of the nobility to attend balls and assemblies during Lent. It was made out at the time that he had insulted some foreign Powers by condemning the attendances at balls given by the ministers of Protestant potentates. But it was quite the reverse; he merely said:

"Protestants are in the habit of observing the laws of their religion; is it not a scandal in their eyes to see Catholics setting no store whatever by the laws laid down by the Church for their spiritual good?"

These remarks were made in the presence of the Infanta Eulalia, the youngest sister of the King of Spain. Father Mon was reprimanded with on that account by the Government, and, to prevent any unpleasantness, he left Madrid for Seville; but so little did the Infanta feel hurt by his remarks, as had been erroneously reported, that, on finding Father Mon's place taken by another preacher, she kept away from the convent, so as to mark her disapproval of the way in which Father Mon had been treated. This is the true version of the matter.—*London Universe.*

A German paper says that the latest calculations give the total strength of the Freemasons all over the world as 17,160,643 members.

TO THE ELECTORS OF ROSLYN DISTRICT.

GENTLEMEN,—The result of the recent session of Parliament has been that in consequence of a vote of no confidence in the present Ministry being carried by a majority of nine, they have asked and obtained an appeal to the country. They might have followed a more dignified course by at once resigning their posts and leaving to their opponents the task of forming a Government and carrying on the public business. They have preferred to remain in office, and Parliament has been at their request dissolved. The main issue now before the electors is whether or not they are prepared to endorse the action of the majority of their representatives in declaring they have no confidence in the "Continuous Ministry." I now respectfully solicit a renewal of your suffrages on the ground that I am opposed to the continuance of the present Government in office. They have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. For five sessions they have had the control of public affairs. During all that time the Colony has been more or less in a depressed state, and yet no enquiry has been made into the causes of the depression, and not the slightest effort made towards its alleviation. The ordinary yearly expenditure has been heavily increased. A million and a half has been borrowed for public buildings, and our permanent burdens improperly enlarged for unproductive purposes. A wasteful centralisation has been steadily developed, and both the current expenditure and the appropriation of funds from loans have been partial and injudicious, intended more for the object of securing political support than for the general welfare of the Colony. The construction of the Otago Central, upon which the prosperity of Dunedin and suburbs, as well as a productive interior, so much depends, has been wilfully delayed in spite of urgent remonstrances, and money voted by Parliament for its prosecution has been culpably spent elsewhere without authority. The policy of the Government, if policy it can be called, is ended in a large deficit, with the prospect of additional taxation. Much might have been done in the way of settling the Crown lands by the immigration of substantial farmers with capital, but no exertion has been made in that direction, and the Colony has been deprived of the remedy of an increase of skilled producers, bringing means with them, to the enrichment of the country. Instead of that the Government have added to our difficulties by bringing in labour not at present required. The people ask for wise legislation and active encouragement to local industries, and they are treated to an importation of torpedo boats and munitions of war. They ask for leave to manage their own affairs locally, and they are recommended to surrender their powers to a Federal Parliament. The whole expense of the armed Constabulary has been charged against revenue, and the reduction of taxes rendered impossible. By a proper organisation of our Volunteer force, and effective aid to it, the cost of the standing army might have been altogether avoided. If, in the face of all this, you have confidence in the present Government, and are of opinion that there should be no change, then I cannot hope for the honour of being your representative.

If, on the other hand, you approve of the withdrawal of confidence from the Ministry, I will be gratified by having your support, will be prepared to follow any Government who will endeavour, so far as lies in their power, to alleviate our existing depression; who will be prepared to promote decentralisation and efficient local government; who will prosecute vigorously the construction of the Otago Central Railway; who will manage to the best possible advantage the remnant of our public estates; who will alter the present incidence of taxation which is now eventually rolled over on the overloaded shoulders of the mass of the people; and who will countenance every well-digested plan of social reform brought forward by private members having in view the promotion of temperance, the regulation of the hours of labour and the development of industry. There are other important topics which the limits of this address prevent me going fully into, but I may add that I am desirous to see the establishment of technical education, and amendments made in our educational system to lessen its cost and to do justice to all classes in the community. I am ready to advocate the establishment of Corporate Boards to manage our railway system. I am opposed to parting with so valuable and improving an asset as our railways. I am opposed to any change in the duration of triennial Parliaments. I will support amendments in our system of representation, including female suffrage, and every measure which in my opinion will aid in promoting the comfort, happiness, and prosperity of the people. Your local interests will always command my best attention, and I shall be prepared to bring before Parliament the subject of our paper currency, with the view of protecting the holders of notes and promoting enterprise. The importance of this matter may be seen in the fact that the Victorian Government find it necessary to take up the question owing to the loss the community has sustained through the insolvency of the Oriental Bank. I am aware that many thoughtful men there are of opinion that the subject demands serious consideration. Thanking you sincerely for the confidence hitherto enjoyed,

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN BATHGATE.

June 30th.

TO THE ELECTORS OF DUNEDIN SOUTH.

GENTLEMEN,—I respectfully beg to intimate that I am a Candidate for your suffrages at the ensuing election. As I am conscious of having faithfully, to the best of my ability, fulfilled all the pledges I gave you three years ago, I feel that I can with confidence ask for a renewal of the support you then favoured me with.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. S. FISH, JUNR.

Dunedin, July 3, 1884.