

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ended August 18, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—Only 123 were yarded to-day at Burnside. The greater proportion of these were medium quality, the balance fair to good, and nearly all light weights. Considering the state of the weather and the few buyers in attendance competition was fairly active, and prices realised compared favourably with last week's. Best bullocks brought L7 17s 6d to L9; ordinary, L4 5s to L7 10s; best cows, L6 10s to L7 12s 6d; light and medium, L3 7s 6d to L6. We sold on account of Mr. William Douglas, Gore, cows to L6 10s.

Fat Sheep.—1,718 were penned for the week's supply, of which 350 were merinos of fair to good useful quality; the balance were crossbreds. The most of them were only very medium, with a few pens good to prime. Competition for the latter was brisk and prices obtained were slightly higher, while medium quality was less in demand and prices easier. Best crossbred wethers brought 11s to 12s 9d—one pen 14s; medium, 9s to 10s 6d; best do ewes, 10s to 12s 6d; medium, 8s 6d to 9s 6d; merino wethers, 6s 9d to 9s. We sold on account Kuriwao Estate, crossbred wethers, from 11s to 14s; merino wethers, at 6s 9d.

Pigs.—The number forward to-day was a small one, viz., 54, representing all sorts. Competition was moderately active, and all sold at about late rates.

Store Cattle.—The market does not display very much animation, while any good lots offering do not fail to find buyers. Both privately and at auction sales are being effected, but at prices which do not leave much for the grower.

Store Sheep.—The market is quiet, and no inquiry of any consequence being made. Those offering being unsuitable, transactions are unimportant.

Sheepskins.—Our weekly auction sale on Monday was fairly well attended, when we offered a large catalogue of station dry skins with a good number of butchers' green ditto. For the former competition was fairly active, prices realised being equal to last week's, but, no doubt owing to the somewhat unfavourable state of the weather, the latter were in less demand, and, except for a few lots suitable for special purposes, prices obtained for the most part were lower than even last week's. Dry crossbreds (low to medium), brought 8d to 3s 5d; full-wool, 4s to 5s; dry merinos, 10d to 3s 6d; do. pelts, 1d to 7d; green crossbreds, 3s 6d, 3s 10d, 4s, 4s 2d, 4s 4d, 4s 6d, 4s 8d; do merino, 3s 4d, 3s 6d, 3s 9d, 4s.

Rabbitskins.—A very good demand exists for well-furred winter skins. At our weekly sale on Monday we offered a good catalogue to a full attendance of the trade. Competition was spirited, and a slight advance on last week's prices was obtained for best skins. Bidding was also brisk for medium, but suckers and inferior are not so much in request, and only saleable at very low prices. Our prices on Monday were for suckers and inferior, 2½d; black and fawn, 9½d; fair to good, 13d; best, 14½d per lb.

Hides.—The market continues fairly active. A good demand exists for all coming to hand at about late rates. At all times properly-flayed heavy hides, clean and free from cuts, have the preference and bring top price, while neglected and carelessly-saved lots are only saleable at prices very unsatisfactory to all concerned. We quote inferior and bulls, 1½d to 2½d; light, 3d to 3½d; medium, 3½d to 3¾d; heavy, 60lb and upwards, 4d per lb.

Tallow.—The demand for local consumption continues to show no signs of weakness; and as supplies are not in over-abundance, values remain unaltered. Suitable lots for shipment are inquired for, and could be placed, but prices offered scarcely come up to holders' ideas of value. We quote inferior and mixed, 13s to 15s; medium, 16s to 17s; prime mutton, 18s to 20s; rough fat, inferior, 6s to 7s; medium to good, 8s to 10s; prime mutton, 10s to 12s per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: Notwithstanding reports of anticipated shipments from America and India, all coming to hand, which is very limited in quantity, find ready sale, but as millers in the meantime are fairly well supplied, and any purchases they make now are for future requirements, they are not inclined to advance on late quotations, more especially as Northern wheat can be laid down at the wharf for slightly less than local agents have been asking. On the whole, the market is very firm, and prices are likely to remain good, which we quote as follows:—Prime milling velvet and Tuscan, 4s 8d to 4s 9d—extra choice lots might bring a shade over; fair to good, 4s 6d to 4s 7d; ordinary, 4s 3d to 4s 5d; inferior and fowls' wheel, 3s 9d to 4s 2d (ex store, bags weighed in).—Oats: These are still firmly held, and we have made sales during the week at prices equal to the highest obtained this season for best quality. Medium, however, is in much easier demand, except at prices below those obtainable previously, and, in the absence of a marked change in the Australian markets, we fail to see what there is to warrant the expectation of higher prices here; at the same time it would be unwise to rush the market, which would certainly have the effect of lowering prices. Stocks are not heavy as compared with other seasons, but yet there is more that will be required for local consumption. We quote stout bright milling, 2s 5d to 2s 6d; best short bright feed, 2s 3½d to 2s 4d; medium, 2s 2d to 2s 3d; inferior and musty, 2s to 2s 1d; long Tartars, fit for seed, 2s 7d to 2s 9d (ex store, bags in).—Barley: the demand is limited, and very little animation in the market. Late rates, however, are obtainable for all sold, but the general tone of the market is towards easier prices. We quote prime malting, 3s to 3s 1d; medium, 2s 9d to 2s 11d; feed and milling, 2s 3d to 2s 8d (ex store).

Grass Seed.—Rye-grass would have had much better attention but for the continued inclemency of the weather, and owing to this cause less business is being transacted. A few lots are changing hands, but until proper spring weather sets in the demand will be

slow. We quote farmers' undressed medium at 3s 9d to 4s 3d; good to prime (off old pasture), 4s 6d to 5s; extra good lots, a shade more; imported and machine-dressed, 5s 3d to 5s 6d (ex store).—Cocksfoot: Only small lots, and few of these, are being disposed of. The demand is not by any means extensive. Quotations are from 4½d to 5d per lb.—Linsed: The market continues barely supplied. A good demand exists, but fair quality could be placed at 4s 9d to 5s 3d per bushel of 60lb.

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports—Wholesale prices, including bags: Oats, inferior to prime, 2s to 2s 6d; good seed samples in request. Wheat: milling, 4s 3d to 4s 8d, quieter; fowls' wheat, 3s 6d to 4s. Barley: malting, 2s 9d to 3s 3d; prime milling, 2s 9d; feeding, 2s 3d to 2s 6d. Chaff: straw, £2 15s to £3; sheaf, £4 10s to £4 15s. Straw, £2 per ton; hay, oaten, £5; rye grass (scarce), £4 10s; bran, £5 10s; pollard, £6. Potatoes: Derwents, £3 10s to £4; kidney, for seed, £3 10s to £4. Butter: fresh, 1s 3d to 1s 4d; best brands inferior, 1s 1d; salt butter, best, 8d. Flour: £10 10s to £11; roller, £12 to £12 15s. Oatmeal, £12.

CANTERBURY MARKETS.

Messrs. MATSON, COX AND CO. report upon the Live Stock Market for the Ashburton district for the week ending August 10 as follows:—On Tuesday, at the Ashburton Yards, we held our usual sale of sheep, cattle and pigs. The entry for the day was a small one, especially in fat sheep, two pens only coming forward, and these were very medium quality. In stores there were two or three lines of crossbred and merino ewes, and one line of very good three-quarter-bred ewes in lamb, which realised 8s 6d. Crossbred lambs were poorly represented, and owing to the very wet weather of last week looked in miserable condition. The attendance throughout the sale was poor, and bidding very slack. In fat cattle none came forward, and in stores only a few springers and cows in profit. The prices realised were—For crossbred ewes in lamb, 5s, 6s to 8s 6d; mixed crossbred ewes and wethers, 4s; crossbred lambs in poor condition, 4s; in cattle, springers £3 17s 6d, £2 17s 6d, £5 2s 6d, £6 5s and £7; 18-month heifers, 18s.

The EXECUTORS of the late Robert Wilkin report:—Since our last report, the weather has continued wet and stormy. The effect on all descriptions of live stock has been anything but beneficial. Notwithstanding this the Addington Yards were over-supplied with all lines of stock, though the quality as a rule was below the average standard. The total number of stock brought forward for the week's supply was as follows:—4112 sheep, 438 head of cattle, and 147 pigs. **Fat Cattle.**—A full average number was brought forward, but as a rule there was a marked want of quality, anything like prime being exceptional. Best steers sold at from £7 to £9; heifers, from £6 to £7 10s, and as low as £4 5s for inferior. Best quality beef made equal to about 22s per 100lb; medium and inferior, 16s upwards. **Store Cattle.**—A better yarding than for some weeks past, and a little better enquiry. A few good four-year-old bullocks made a shade over £6, and good three-year-olds from £4 12s 6d; heifers, dull of sale, as also were dairy stock. **Fat Sheep.**—Though not so numerous as the previous week, there were more brought forward than required. Really prime quality wethers were scarce, and anything fit for freezing commanded good prices. Best crossbred wethers sold from 14s 6d to 16s; medium, 10s 6d upwards; inferior, 8s upwards; best merino wethers, from 9s to 10s 6d; crossbred ewes, from 10s to 13s. **Pigs.**—A small supply, which ruled at about last week's quotations. **Sheepskins, Hides, Fat, and Tallow.**—Our entry, though a small one, was eagerly competed for by the usual gathering of the trade. Owing to the bad state of the weather, butchers' skins came to hand in a very wet, and in some instances very dirty, condition, which certainly did not enhance their value. Consequently prices were, on the whole, a shade easier than last week. For good lines top values were maintained, one very good and heavy lot realising, for crossbreds, 5s 1d, and merinos up to 4s 3d. Only a few country skins came forward, and were bought up at market rates. **Fat, tallow, and hides** were all cleared at late quotations, with little prospect of any alteration in prices. We sold butchers' crossbreds at 3s, 3s 3d, 3s 6d, 4s, 4s 3d, 4s 4d, 4s 7d, 4s 8d, to 5s 1d; ditto merino, 2s 9d, 3s, 3s 3d, 3s 6d, 4s, 4s 1d, 4s 2d, 4s 3d; country skins, as per quality, 1s to 3s 6d; rough fat and tallow, ½d to 1½d per lb.; hides and calfskins at late quotations.

CANTERBURY CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY.

August 13, 1886.

At the usual weekly meeting the following suggestions from the Council were adopted:—"That 100 silver Maltese crosses be obtained to be used by the members as badges." "That a suggestion book be placed in the Society's rooms, in order to enable members to make any suggestion they may wish regarding the management of the Society." Also, "That a general meeting be held at an early date."

The address to the Rev. Father Bowers was unanimously adopted. In some future letter, reference will be made to the address. Suffice it now to say, that it was the gratuitous work of Mr. T. Lonargon, for which a hearty vote of thanks was accorded him. It was the intention of the Society to present it at the Society's late concert, but the Rev. Father Bowers telegraphed that it would be impossible for him to leave Geraldine (where he is now parish priest) just then.

Owing to the office of Vice-President having become vacant, Mr. W. O'Shaughnessy was elected to fill the position. Owing to Mr. O'Shaughnessy being hon. secretary, another vacancy was caused, and Mr. P. Leahy was unanimously elected hon. secretary. Mr. Geoghan was also elected councillor.

The programme for next evening is a debate; the subject being, "Should the halfpenny postage on newspapers be abolished?" On the 24th of August, a draught and chess tourney will take place, and in all probability, another social concert will take place in September next.