

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited), reports for the week ended June 8, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—This week's market brought forward a full supply 211 head being yarded, mostly prime quality, the remainder fair to good. A few prime bullocks brought prices up to last week's quotations, but on the whole the market was much easier and altogether void of animation. A number of pens had to be withdrawn, to be held over for further disposal. Best bullocks brought £7 to £8 10s; medium to good, £3 7s 6d to £6 10s. Cows from £2 17s 6d to £5 17s 6d; one or two heavy weights a shade more. We sold, on account of several vendors, cows at £4 5s to £5 2s 6d.

Fat Sheep.—A very moderate supply was penned to-day—viz., 1,593, consisting of 12½ merino wethers, fair to good; the balance crossbreds, medium quality, only a few pens being prime. The sales opened at about last week's quotations, but towards the close competition was more active, prices realised showing a slight advance. Best crossbred wethers brought 8s 9d to 10s 3d; ordinary, 7s to 8s 6d; best do ewes, 7s 9d to 9s 9d; ordinary, 6s to 7s 6d; merino wethers, 4s 6d to 6s 6d.

Fat Lambs.—There were only 220 penned, fair to good, but being now almost out of season, there was but little competition, prices ranging from 6s 3d to 7s.

Pigs.—The number to hand to-day was rather a small one, viz., 89, and in consequence biddings were a little more lively, but without any apparent improvement in values. Suckers brought 7s 6d; ordinary stores, 18s to 24s; porkers, 20s to 29s; baconers, 35s to 48s.

Store Cattle.—There is but little alteration to note in the state of the market for these. The fine open winter weather enjoyed being so far favourable, small lots still continue to change hands at from £3 7s 6d to £5, for three or four year-old bullocks; large-framed, quiet bullocks in forward condition, being mostly preferred for turnip fattening, would realise a shade more.

Sheepskins.—We held our regular weekly auction sale on Monday, when we submitted a large catalogue, comprising an assortment of both country dry and local butchers' green skins. There was a good attendance of buyers, nearly all the representatives of the trade being present, and competed spiritedly for every lot on the catalogue, green crossbreds being most in demand; the heaviest of which brought 3d to 4d per skin over last week's rates. Country dry crossbreds, low to medium, brought 8d to 2s 8d; do do merino, 9d to 2s 2d; good to best dry crossbreds, 3s 6d to 4s 1d; do do merino, 2s 6d to 3s 6d; dry pelts, ½d to 6d; butchers' green crossbreds, 2s 6d, 2s 9d, 2s 11d, 3s 1d, 3s 4d, 3s 6d, 3s 7d, 3s 8d; do do merino, 1s 7d, 1s 9d, 2s, 2s 3d, 2s 6d, 2s 9d, 3s; lambskins, 2s 9d, 2s 10d, 3s, 3s 1d.

Hides.—A steady demand continues to be experienced, but without any material alteration in prices. All descriptions are saleable, but heavy weights, clean and carefully flayed, are in most request. We quote for inferior and bulls 1½d to 2d; light, 2½d to 2½d; medium, 2½d to 3½d; heavy, 60lb and over, in a satisfactory condition, 3½d to 4½d per lb.

Tallow.—There is no alteration to speak of in the tone of the market. A moderate demand continues to exist—all consignments coming forward are readily taken up for local consumption; but there is very little inquiry for shipment, and for this purpose sales could only be effected at a reduction on present quotations, which we give as follow:—For best mutton, 16s to 17s 6d; medium to good, 14s to 15s; inferior and mixed, 10s to 13s; rough fat, inferior 7s to 8s, medium to good, 9s to 10s; best caul fat, 11s to 12s per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: The position of the market with regard to prices for milling is much about the same as last week. Fowl wheat is scarce, and in large demand at an advance. On the whole, the tone of the market for all sorts is firm, with a tendency to harden. We quote prime milling velvet, red straw, and Tuscan at 3s 11d to 4s 1d; good to best, 3s 10d to 3s 11d; medium, 3s 7d to 3s 9d; whole fowl wheat, 3s 3d to 3s 6d; inferior and broken, 2s 9d to 3d (ex store).—Oats: There has been a slight improvement in the demand this week. Fair feed and good milling have been in request, the former having been dealt in to a considerable extent at an advance of quite 1d per bushel. Buyers, however, in the meantime are rather unwilling to submit to an equal advance on the price of the latter; but, now that the deliveries from the country have almost ceased, the position is somewhat more in favour of sellers. We quote prime milling at 1s 8d to 1s 9d; best bright feed, 1s 8d to 1s 8½d; medium, 1s 7½d to 1s 8d; inferior and discoloured, 1s 5½d to 1s 7d (ex store). Long oats are not very much in request.—Barley: A somewhat easier tone pervades the market with respect to malting. Most malsters being fairly well stocked for the time being they are less inclined to operate, except at reduced prices, but as the market is comparatively bare, quotations are unaltered. Milling is in good demand, and but little of this class offering. We quote prime malting 4s to 4s 3d; medium, 3s 8d to 3s 11d (bags extra); feed and milling, 2s 6d to 3s 6d (ex store, bags weighed in).

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports—Wholesale prices, bags included: Oats, medium to prime, 1s 6d to 1s 8d. Wheat: milling 3s 6d to 3s 9d; fowls, 2s to 3s 6d. Barley: malting, 3s 3d to 3s 6d; milling, 2s 6d; feed, 2s 3d. Chaff, best, £2 10s; straw chaff, dull of sale, nominal. Straw, £2; hay, new oat hay, £3; ryegrass (new), £3. Bran, £3 10s. Pollard, £4 10s. Potatoes: kidneys, £2; Derwents, £1 10s. Butter: fresh, 6d to 10d; salt, n.m.n.a., 7d. Cheese, 3d to 5d. Eggs, 1s 6d. Flour: sacks, £10; 50lbs., £10 10s. Oatmeal, £9 10s. Roll bacon, 6½d; sides, 6½d; hams, 9d.

GRAIN REPORT.

MESSRS. SAMUEL ORR AND CO., Stafford street, report for the week ending June 8, as follows:—Wheat: Our market has elicited nothing new since last week. The millers, having fairly large stocks to work upon, do not show any inclination to operate at the high rates ruling

unless it is essential. Owners are, however, firm in their demand for top prices. Fowl feed is practically unprocurable, and anything broken or unfit for grinding is eagerly sought for, and as much as 3s 5d paid for it. We quote: Prime milling sorts at up to 4s 1d; ordinary, 3s 9d to 3s 11d; medium, 3s 7d to 3s 8d.—Oats: Our intercolonial market shows no improvement in prices whatever; but a better demand exists now than for some time past, but which we may say is purely speculative, the markets as we have already said not warranting any better prices being given. Freight are still difficult to obtain, so that those bought now must wait in store pending shipment, which is most satisfactory for both buyer and vendor. Millers, we might add, have large orders for oatmeal, but on the basis of late prices, so that all parcels of quality suitable for their purpose find a ready market at quotations. We quote: Prime milling up to 1s 8½d; heavy bright feed, 1s 7d to 1s 8d; ordinary, 1s 6d to 1s 7d; dark and discoloured, 1s 3d to 1s 5d.—Barley: If anything the market is quieter, malsters having got just about sufficient to satisfy them in the meantime. Milling and feed is in demand, the latter especially. We quote: Prime Blenheim and Lake malting up to 4s 3d; ordinary, 3s 8d to 4s; milling, 3s 6d; feed, 2s 6d to 3s 2d.—Our sales of all classes of grain for the week exceed 20,000 bushels.—Grass Seed: Nothing doing in ryegrass, but cocksfoot is in slight demand; and ere long better prices will be got, stocks being out of growers' hands.—Potatoes: Large quantities continue to come forward, while prices are as last reported. The demand in Sydney is slow, and North prices have also receded. We quote: Derwents, 30s to £3 7s 6d; kidneys, 45s to 50s, and in good demand.

HORSE MARKET.

MESSRS. WRIGHT, STEPHENSON, AND CO. report as follows:—For last Saturday's sale about 60 horses came forward, including some really good draughts from Messrs. Chas. McLean (Kelso) and H. Craig (Lawrence), which were sold at quotations. The sale was dull, owing to most of the shippers being out of the market. We quote first-class heavy draughts at from £20 to £25, medium, £10 to £16; first-class hacks and light-harness horses, £15 to £20; medium, £8 to £12; light and inferior, £1 10s to £5.

DUNEDIN CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY.

THE above Society held their usual weekly meeting in the Christian Brothers' schoolroom, Battray street, on Wednesday, June 1. Mr. R. A. Dunne, Vice-president, occupied the chair, and there was an excellent attendance of members. The evening was devoted to Dickens, the great English novelist and humourist, and was productive of much pleasure and instruction to those present.

Mr. P. Carolin read a very meritorious paper on "Dickens," dealing principally with the author's life. Commencing with his birth, Mr. Carolin traced his subject's career to the period when, in his own words, "I have lounged about the street insufficiently and unsatisfactorily fed, and but for the mercy of God, I might easily have been, for any care that was taken of me, a little robber or a little vagabond"; and thence through his adventures to his successful reportership in the House of Commons, concluding with the period when he was yet a young author, but had for established himself an imperishable name (in the annals of English literature. In Dickens' life we had a powerful lesson of the supporting hand of Providence, of self-help, of perseverance; and the many beautiful traits in his character could not but excite admiration. An apt quotation from a speech of Professor Wilson, of "Tales of the Borders" fame, concluded the paper: "Dickens has not been deterred by the aspect of vice and wickedness from seeking a spirit of good in evil things, but has endeavoured by the might of genius to transmute what was base into what is precious as the beaten gold. How kind and good a man he is, I need not say; nor what strength of genius he has acquired by that profound sympathy with his fellow-creatures, whether in prosperity or overwhelmed with unfortunate circumstances, but who yet do not sink under their miseries, but trust to their own strength of endurance—to that principle of truth, honour, and integrity, which is no stranger to the uncultivated bosom, and which is found in the lowest abodes in as great strength as in the halls of nobles and palaces of kings."

Mr. J. B. Dundon read what was pronounced to be an excellent paper entitled "A Half-hour with Dickens," in which he treated of some of the author's works. He endeavoured to convey to his hearers some idea of Dickens' writings—their truthfulness, in the main, to nature; their abundant humour, their pathos, their happy phraseology, their benevolence and charity, their effect upon society, its fads and indifferences to suffering humanity. In so doing he treated of the "Sketches by Boz" (Dickens' first contribution to literature), "Pickwick Papers," "Nicholas Nickleby," "Oliver Twist," "David Copperfield," and "The Old Curiosity Shop"—these were only a few out of the many productions of Dickens, but they were a mirror in which could be seen the wonderful genius of the man, and the characteristics which Mr. Dundon in the beginning of the paper said he would endeavour to point out. Dickens had wished for no other monument than his writings, and the essayist could not conceive a monument which would be capable of shedding more honour or more lustre on so brilliant a man. In one little couplet was concentrated the whole man:—

"How'er it be, it seems to me,
'Tis only noble to do good."

Both papers were criticised in favourable terms by Messrs. Deehan, Hayes, J. Eager, J. G. McKelvey, and Cantwell, and votes of thanks awarded.

Readings from Dickens, all of which were humorous, were given by Messrs. J. G. McKelvey, J. J. Dunne, and F. Cantwell. The readings were well delivered and very amusing, and votes of thanks were accorded.

The usual compliment to the chairman terminated the meeting.