

the Hunt Catholic school. The presentation was made by Miss Dunne, the mistress, on behalf of the children, who, in a few choice words, commented on the good the rev. gentleman had done in the district, particularly in regard to the school. The rev. gentleman, who was visibly affected, suitably replied.

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ending July 11, as follows:—

Store Cattle.—We have no improvement to report in the demand for these. The market continues quiet, and with the exception of some slight inquiry for young cattle, and of these few change hands, sales are limited.

Store Sheep.—The market at present is very quiet. The only business passing is confined to occasional sales of small lots for fattening, otherwise there is nothing doing of any consequence.

Wool.—Owing to the break in the cables we are without any further advice as to how the London wool sales are progressing. In the local market small parcels of fellmongers' oddments are now and again offered in the skin sales, and realise satisfactory prices.

Sheepskins.—A good demand exists, but possibly owing to the uncertainty of the progress of the wool sales now held in London, buyers, although competing very spiritedly up to or very near last week's values, showed no desire to go beyond, except for fine merino skins, well woolled, these elicited some keen bidding, prices realised showing an improvement. On Monday, our regular weekly sale day, there was a full attendance of the trade, when our catalogue, which composed the usual varied assortments, was readily disposed of at the following prices: country day crossbreds low to medium, brought 1s 2d to 3s 6d; do do merino, 1s 3d to 2s 8d; medium to full woolled crossbreds, 3s 8d to 5s 2d; do do merino, 2s 9d to 4s 3d; dry pelts, 3d to 1s 1d; butchers' green crossbreds, 4s 8d, 4s 6d, 4s 4d, 4s 2d, 4s; medium, 3s 9d, 3s 7d, 3s 5d, 3s 2d, 3s, 2s 9d; green merinos, 3s 9d, 3s 6d, 3s 3d, 3s, 2s 8d, 2s 5d, 2s 2d, 2s, 1s 10d; lambskins, 1s 9d to 3s 3d.

Rabbitskins.—An active demand is experienced, but consignments still continue light. A much larger business could be done in this market if supplies came to hand with more freedom. Purchasers are in the market for an unlimited number, and at prices leaving but little margin to the exporter, compared with present rates now ruling in the London market. All sorts are saleable, while full-furred skins have the most attention. Quotations are: For suckers, 1½d to 3d; inferior and mixed, 4d to 5d; summers 5d to 8d; autumn, 9d to 1s; black and fawn, 7d to 11d; early winter greys, 1s to 1s 2d; best winter greys, 1s 3d to 1s 4½d per lb. On Monday we disposed of several lots at auction at the above quotations.

Hides.—During the week a fair supply came forward which meets with ready sale. Current values showing little change compared with last week's quotations. Local manufacturers are the principle operators. Heavy, free from cuts and offal, 3d to 3½d; medium, 3½d to 3¾; light, 2½d to 2¾; inferior and bulls, 2d to 1½ per lb.

Tallow.—A very fair demand continues to exist, and stocks limited, all available supplies are readily placed, chiefly for local consumption. There is no apparent change in either demand or values. Consignments being placed at up to late quotations, which are for prime rendered mutton, 18s 6d to 20s; medium to good, 15s 6d to 17 6d; inferior, 13s to 14s 6d; rough fat realises for inferior 8s to 9s; medium to good, 9s 6d to 11s 6d; good clean mutton tallow, 12s to 13s per cwt.

Grain—Wheat: There is no apparent improvement in the tone of the market, which still continues dull and unsatisfactory. The operations of the past week are confined to a few sales of prime milling, being the only quality millers will touch; some sales of fowl wheat have also been made for export principally to Sydney, but the market there being rushed with too many consignments lately, shippers are not so keen to operate at late quotations and can only be induced to purchase at a reduction. Large quotations of medium not considered in the meantime fit for milling and yet too good for fowl wheat are still in store, and no outlet except at the price of the latter. Quotations are for prime milling, velvet, Tuscan, and red straw 2s 10d to 3s 1d; extra choice might bring a shade more, medium, nominal, 2s 5d to 2s 9d; fowls' wheat, whole, in shipping condition, 2s 3d to 2s 4d; broken, 1s 9d to 2s 2d (ex store, sacks weighed in).—Oats: A moderately steady demand continues to exist both for local and export requirements. All sorts are firmer with the exception of black Tartars, which do not go off at the prices realised earlier in the season, especially lines. Deliveries of all sorts have almost now ceased, and the holders of the few lines still unsold are asking and getting slightly higher rates. Reports from Melbourne are somewhat more encouraging, while the Sydney market is showing a downward tendency. Stocks in agents' hands here are considerably lower than at the same time last season, and the indications are that prices are likely to further improve. We quote, from actual sales, stout bright Canadians, 1s 10d; stout bright Sutherlands, 1s 10d; bright sparrow bills, 1s 9d to 1s 9½d; medium, 1s 8½d to 1s 9d; Danish, 1s 7½d to 1s 8½d; long Tartars fit for seed, 1s 10d to 2s; black, 1s 9d to 2s—the latter price only for small parcels—(ex store, sacks weighed in).—Barley: Shows no improvement in the demand, and sales still difficult to effect, with the exception of prime bright malting. Milling is occasionally asked for, but the quantity required for this purpose is limited. Quotations are: For prime malting, 4s to 4s 3d; medium, in demand, nominal, 3s 6d to 3s 9d; feed and milling, 2s to 3s 3d, (ex store).

Ryegrass Seed.—Transactions are still limited to small trade sales. Quotations nominal.—Cocksfoot Seed: The same remark applies to this.

Potatoes.—This market is barely supplied, and a firmer tone prevailing. Growers preferring to ship has had an effect on deliveries

to the local market. Latest advices from Sydney report heavy shipments to arrive, and do not anticipate that present prices will be maintained. Quotations for best Northern, 52s 6d to 57s 6d; Southern, 45s to 50s per ton.

Butter.—Owing to a slight depression in the Sydney market prices here are easier. Stocks are bare, and an idea prevails that further on an improvement in value is inevitable. Quotations for prime quality, 8½d to 9½d per lb.; medium, 5d to 7d.

Cheese.—Stocks are low and an improvement in price anticipated. Factory made sells readily now at 4½d to 4¾d per lb.

GRAIN AND SEED REPORT.

MESSES SAMUEL ORR and Co., Stafford street, report for the week ending July 11 as follows:—

Wheat.—There is no change whatever to report in the market for this cereal, millers not yet being inclined to lay up stocks in anticipation of an advance, which, judging from exports north, must take place in a short time, as supplies for the south must come from there. The exports from north and the quantity for which freight has been engaged—not taking into account casual crafts which may come in, or what steamers may take—amounts to date to over 300,000 sacks. We are strongly of opinion that, taking this quantity into consideration as going out of the Colony, and that stocks in the South are comparatively nothing of prime quality, that in the course of a month or so prices will improve. Meantime, we quote prime milling, Tuscan, and red straw up to 3s 2d; medium, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; inferior and fowls' feed, 1s 10d to 2s 4d.—Oats: It may now be fairly stated that these are on the "spring," and notwithstanding our inter-colonial markets being somewhat paralysed with the continuous flow from the South, they have been able to withstand it all, and from latest advices their stocks are not too heavy, and prices firming, while the demand is expected, Melbourne especially, to be unusually heavy this season. With such information before us, and the fact of the bulk of those in store being held by speculators, it cannot be wondered at that prices are improving, and should the latter maintain their idea of holding, prices cannot fail to go up still. During the week we placed a large quantity at from 1d to 2d a bushel more than we could have got for them a few weeks ago, and now we quote extra prime milling up to 1s 9½d, while for a beautiful line of bright Canadians we were offered 1s 11½d; good, bright feed, 1s 8½d to 1s 9d; medium, 1s 7½d to 1s 8½d; inferior, 1s 4d to 1s 6d.

Barley.—Malsters are all nearly supplied, and even though offered prime samples they are not inclined to go over 4s 3d; sacks extra. Milling and feed even also easier, and prices nominally 3s 4d and 2s 6d respectively. We have an exceptionally fine lot for seed purposes for sale, but quantity being limited early application is necessary.

Chaff.—The arrivals recently have exceeded the demand, and as a result several good lines had to be quitted at under value, but now that the weather has broken, a much better spirit will be introduced and prices will improve.

Potatoes.—It is now being recognised what we pointed out some time ago, that the crop would be a short one, and what with this and the frost, which seems to have been general both North and South, which cut them up terribly, supplies will be scant and barely sufficient for all requirements, as some of the markets on the otherside are also low. Prices during the week have improved from 2s 6d to 5s, and Northern may be quoted at £3; Southern from £2 10s to £2 12s 6d according to quality.

Seeds.—Ryegrass: We sold several lots of Poverty Bay, from old pasture, but local grown is without sale. Cocksfoot: We sold another large line during the week, and as stocks here are not so large, we are of opinion that prices will be better as the season advances. Clovers: Our supplies for the season are now to hand, and will be pleased to forward samples and quotations to any wishing to purchase.

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices, bags included: Oats, medium to prime, 1s 6d to 1s 10d. Wheat: milling, 3s to 3s 3d; fowls' plentiful, 1s 9d to 2s 3d. Barley: malting, 4s to 4s 6d; milling, 3s 6d; feed, 3s. Chaff: best, £2 15s; medium, £2. Hay: oat, £3; ryegrass, £3. Bran, £3 10s. Pollard, £3 10s. Potatoes, Northern, £3; Southern, £2 12s 6d. Butter: fresh, 10d to 1s 2d; salt, good demand, prime, 8½d. Cheese, 3d to 4d. Eggs, 1s 2d. Flour, roller, £8 10s to £9; in 50lb stone, £7 15s to £8 5s. Oatmeal, £8 11s to £8 5s. Roll bacon, 7d; sides, 7½d; hams, 9d, both scarce.

The *Moniteur de Rome* in the course of an article on "Leo XIII. and Ireland," says: "In all that concerns Ireland, the attitude of Leo XIII. has never varied. He has always carefully avoided interference with the political and constitutional question, properly so-called, as outside of his province. Home Rule, for example, the Pope neither condemns nor approves. With that tender and fatherly affection which he entertains for all his children, especially the unfortunate, Leo XIII. has been able to follow with sympathetic and benevolent eyes the efforts which Ireland is making to reconquer peacefully a portion greater or less of her legislative independence; but while the agitation is conducted on purely political ground, the Pope as such, does not interfere. But when in the stress and excitement of the battle, the combatants exceed permitted limits, and endanger the observance of the superior law of morality and justice which none may blamelessly transgress, then it is not merely the Pope's right, but his duty to interfere." . . . The *Moniteur* says in conclusion: "It is only in remaining faithful to that ideal of justice and virtue which the great patriot, O'Connell, maintained in his time, and which Pope Leo XIII. has not ceased to uphold in our own, that Ireland will preserve the universal sympathy which goes out to her cause, and that she will bring to a triumphant end her lawful struggle for just rights."