

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ending July 26, as follows:—

Fat Cattle—265 head were penned at Burnside for this week's sales, one half of which were good to prime, the balance only medium quality. There was a full attendance of the trade, but this number was rather beyond their requirements, resulting in less spirited competition, which caused prices to recede fully £1 per head, besides several pens being withdrawn from sale. Best bullocks brought £7 10s to £8 10s; one or two pens extra prime reached £9 15s; mediums, £5 5s to £7; others £3 10s to £4 10s. Cows in proportion.

Fat Sheep—3172 were penned, of which about 200 were merino wethers, fair to good; the balance crossbreds, the greater portion of which were ewes, the rest wethers of medium to good and prime quality. Competition was much duller to-day, partly owing to less demand for export, also from the fact that the trade were well supplied from last week's full supply, which caused a dragging sale all through, and prices realised were about 1s per head down from last week. Best crossbred wethers brought 12s to 14s—one or two pens 14s 6d to 14s 9d; ordinary, 8s 6d to 11s 6d; best crossbred ewes, 11s 6d to 12s 3d—a small lot to 14s; ordinary, 6s 9d to 10s; merino wethers, 7s to 8s 6d.

Figs—269 were penned, comprising all sorts. Competition was fairly active, but prices were in favour of buyers. Suckers brought 5s to 14s; light stores, 15s 6d to 19s 6d; porkers, 27s to 36s 6d; baconers, 38s to 57s; a few heavy weights, 74s to 80s. We sold 3 pens at 31s to 42s.

Store Cattle—There is nothing of any importance to chronicle with regard to the position of the market, which continues inactive. Some inquiry is experienced for both steers and mixed mobs, but buyers' and sellers' ideas of values differ so widely that little or no business in the meantime is passing.

Store Sheep—Owing to so few offering business at present is dull. Crossbreds of all descriptions are saleable, and small lots occasionally change hands, but no sales of any importance are transpiring.

Wool—Since our last report the third series of colonial wool sales in London has been brought to a close, and though fine wools have slightly advanced it is unsatisfactory to learn that coarse crossbreds and other medium descriptions have declined and were lower than at the close of the previous sales. We are in receipt of the following cablegram from our London office, dated 18th inst.—“The sales closed to-day at the level of last sales except for superior greasy, superior scoured and washed merinos, prices for which have advanced ½d to 1d per lb; while coarse crossbreds have declined ½d to 1d per lb; 157,000 bales had been taken for the Continent, 3000 for America, and 70,000 bales held over for future disposal.”

Sheepskins—These are always marketable, the supply never too heavy for requirements of the trade. On Monday, our regular weekly sale day, we had a numerous attendance of buyers when we offered a moderately full catalogue. Competition was spirited for all classes, the fine wools having the most attraction. Green crossbreds, although on the whole slightly higher than last week, considering the increased growth of wool, are not advancing in price to the extent that might be expected. Country dry crossbreds, low to medium, brought 1s 4d to 3s 6d; do do merino, 1s 3d to 2s 10d; medium to full-woolled crossbreds, 3s 9d to 5s 9d; do do merino, 3s 2d to 4s 8d; dry pelts, 3d to 1s 2d; butchers' green crossbreds, 4s 3d, 4s 6d, 4s 2d, 4s, 3s 10d, 3s 8d; do do merino, 2s 6d to 3s; quarter-breds, 3s 9d to 4s; lambskins, 2s 7d to 3s 7d.

Rabbitskins—Notwithstanding adverse reports from the London market the demand is good, and competition spirited. At our sale on Monday we had a full attendance of buyers, when we offered a catalogue of summer, autumn, and early winter skins. The summer skins brought 6½d to 8½d; autumn, 9d to 12½d; early winter, 13½d to 15½d per lb.

Hides—The market continues fairly steady, but there is no improvement to report in values. The demand at the moment is almost entirely dependent on the exigency of the local manufacturers. Shippers are unable even at the present low rates to operate to leave any margin. We have buyers for all coming forward at the following quotations, viz., for heavy weights, free from cuts or other faults, 3½d to 3½d; medium, 3½d to 2½d; light, 2½d to 2½d; inferior and bulls', 1½d to 2½d per lb.

Tallow—The regular demand for local consumption continues unabated, but there is very little doing in shipping lines. The London market shows a firmer tone, but although stocks here are not heavy, present prices are not likely to materially improve before we are advised of a further advance on Home rates. We have buyers for every description at prices according to quality, which are as follows:—For prime rendered mutton, 18s to 19s; medium to good, 15s 6d to 17s 6d; inferior and mixed, 13s to 14s 6d; rough fat, inferior, 8s to 9s; medium to good, 9s 6d to 11s 6d; clean mutton caul, fresh, 12s to 13s per cwt.

Grain—Wheat: The tone of the market still continues weak, and the prospect of the disposal of most of the wheat now in store is not by any means encouraging. The operations of our local millers are almost entirely confined to the supplying of local requirements, which are limited. The quantity put through for this purpose does not assume to very large dimensions, and being under the impression that prices must still recede, purchases are only made just to keep moving in the meantime. Whole fowls' wheat has a very fair demand, and large quantities could be placed for export at prices lately quoted. There is no improvement whatever in the demand for medium. We quote prime milling, velvet, and red straw, 2s 10d to 3s 1d; small lots of extra choice tuscan have realised slightly over. Medium nominal, 2s 6d to 2s 8d; good

hard fowls wheat, whole, 2s 3d to 2s 4d; inferior and broken, 1s 9d to 2s (ex store, sacks weighed in).—Oats: Owing to the position holders have lately taken up, buyers who have no alternation have had to comply with sellers demands and pay higher prices in some instances and for special lines as much as 1d to 1½ over last week's rates. These purchases are on account of millers, who one and all are nearly out of stock, and in order to supply orders on hands, are thus obliged to give prices asked, but shippers, who are by far the largest buyers, decline to operate in the meantime at the advanced rates, expecting that speculators, rather than ship on their own account will be disposed sooner or later to put their stocks on this market; in the meantime, prices are very firm and rising, but it is somewhat hazardous to predict the future of the market. We quote prime milling, bright and stout, 1s 10½d to 2s; short bright feed, 1s 9½d to 1s 10d; medium, 1s 8½d to 1s 9d; inferior, 1s 6d to 1s 8d; long oats, fit for seed, 1s 9d to 2s; black, in poor demand, at 1s 9d to 1s 11d; retail lots to 2s (ex store, sacks weighed in).—Barley: There are considerable stocks of inferior and medium in this market for which there is no demand, except for milling occasionally; malsters are full and decline to purchase any but choice samples; quotations nominal.

Ryegrass Seed—During the week we placed some parcels Poverty Bay seed and have inquiries for Provincial, but as yet there is not much of the latter moving. We quote undressed, 1s 9d to 2s 6d; machine dressed, 2s 9d to 3s 3d; cocksfoot seed is still unsaleable except in very small lots, for which we quote 4d to 4½ per lb.

Potatoes—Good Northern are scarce and inquired for and are now worth 6s to 7s; Southern have more attention and also realising higher prices.

Dairy Produce—Butter. There is hardly any coming forward and the quantity on hand extremely limited, and prices very firm at 9½d to 10d. Factory-made cheese is also in limited supply.

GRAIN AND SEED REPORT.

MESSRS. SAMUEL ORR AND CO., Stafford street, report for the week ending July 26, as follows:—Wheat: Market without any change since last week, and only prime samples being saleable, principally of Northern grown. Fowl feed is not in the demand it was, neither on the spot nor in the intercolonial markets, consequently prices are if anything easier. We quote prime milling 3s to 3s 2d; medium, nominal, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; fowl feed, 1s 10d to 2s 3d.

Oats—The change in the market for these reported by us last week has still been maintained, and notwithstanding the determined attitude in buyers being unwilling to give late prices, still they have found it necessary to do so. During the week we sold a parcel of bright feed on account of J.B., Kelso, at 1s 11d, and for a parcel of milling we got 2s on account of J.E., Waveria. We must admit, then, that prices in our intercolonial markets do not warrant such figures, but time will bring them round, as it has done before. We quote prime milling, 2s; bright, heavy, short feed, 1s 10d to 1s 11d; medium, 1s 8d to 1s 9d.

Barley—The demand now is but slight, as few of the malsters are purchasing, and, consequently, stocks are difficult to quit at old rates. Nominally, prices are for prime malting, 4s 3d, sacks extra; milling, 3s 3d; feed, 2s 6d.

Chaff—Arrivals are not on such a large scale as they were, and all lots coming forward are disposed of more easily and at a shade more, running, say from 2s 6d to 5s; prime oat chaff, screened, being worth £3; ordinary, £2 10s to £2 15s.

Potatoes—Prices for these have undergone a great change on the other side, and holders North prefer quitting them for shipment, with the chance of getting the long figure there, than selling locally, and as a result higher prices on the spot have had to be given. During the week we placed some at equal to £3 10s for Northern, and £3 for Southern.

Seeds—Ryegrass Seed: The fine weather we see now experiencing has caused a bit of a demand, and with a continuance of it, it is bound to increase, as also with Cocksfoot, which has now seen its lowest, there being an inquiry for large parcels for shipment. We quote fine bright samples, 3½d to 4d; medium, 2½d to 3½d. During the week we sold several parcels of Poverty Bay ryegrass at recent quotations.—Clovers: Our seasons' requirements came to hand per “Westland,” and we will be pleased to forward samples and quotations to intending purchasers.

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices, bags included: Oats, medium to prime, 1s 6d to 1s 10½d. Wheat: milling, 3s to 3s 3d; fowls' 1s 9d to 2s 6d; Barley: Malting, 4s to 4s 6d; milling, 3s 6d; feed, 3s. Chaff: Best, £2 15s; medium, £2 5s. Hay: Oat, £3; rye-grass, £3. Bran, £3 5d. Pollard, £3 10s. Potatoes: Northern, £3 15s; Southern, £3 10s. 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 10s to £9. Roll bacon, 7d; sides, 7½d; hams, 9d, both scarce.

Messrs. Charles Begg and Co., Princes street, Dunedin, still maintain their superiority with regard to the hire system for the purchase of musical instruments. The firm were the first to introduce the system into New Zealand, and they hold the first place. None but good instruments are supplied by them, and their terms will be found most reasonable.

MYERS and CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee the best class work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth gives general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read—[ADVF.]