

a man of weight in more ways than one. He is about fourteen stone, broad chest, and tough of muscle. He tells with gusto how he stood up to Professor Millar in a bout with the gloves, and he is now willing to oblige a younger fisticuffily inclined. We arrived at Honolulu on 16th March, and were quarantined at once, as there was small-pox in San Francisco when we left, so that I could only gaze on the paradise of the Pacific from the deck of the *Alamada*. The doctor insisted on vaccinating everybody after leaving Honolulu to prevent detention in Australia. He was indefatigable in his exertions, and I heard a gentleman say, "The doctor would vaccinate the ship if it were possible." While in the tropics the gentleman, or, at least, most of them, took a salt water shower bath on deck every morning, an engine pumping salt water which came through an arrangement similar to a shower bath. The volume and force of the water was so great that it required a good deal of strength to be able to stand under it. This is absolutely an eventful voyage, and as I have described scenes on board the *Zealandia*, this would only be a repetition. Suffice it to say that on the 31st of March I arrived at Auckland, and when, in the course of the morning, having bade good-bye to my friends on board the *Alamada*, I got on the same train, and did the same little journey at the same rate from Auckland to Orehunga, and when the pleasant green of the paddocks and the golden bloom of the gorse caught my eye, and I heard the lowing of the cattle, I was glad, for I knew I was back in dear old lazy New Zealand once more, and though I had left a mighty country with almost everything in it the heart could desire, still I found coming to me a homelike feeling, and a sense of rest came over me.

And now I have done with this paper. I would wish it were more worthy of the subject, but in my own poor way I have striven to do my best, and if I have not wearied you and have interested you, my kind *confreres* and audience, I shall feel that I have not laboured in vain.

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ending February 19 as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—102 head only came to hand at the Burnside saleyards to-day, medium quality to good, none of which were extra prime, nor yet very heavy weights. There was a fair attendance of the trade, and competition moderately active, but the most of the butchers being fairly well supplied from last week's full market the small entry proved quite sufficient for requirements. Neither was there any improvement in price. Best bullocks brought £7 to £8 15s; ordinary, £4 2s 6d to £6 15s, and cows in proportion.

Fat Sheep.—1576 were penned, including about 114 merinos, which were not sold; all the rest were crossbred ewes and wethers, medium to prime, with a few pens heavy weights. For prime wether mutton there was a fair demand. Prime ewes also had good attention, prices ranging about the same as last week, while small and three-parts fat were neglected by the trade, and prices lower. The most of these being taken up by graziers. Best crossbred wethers brought 10s to 11s 9d; medium 8s 6d to 9s 6d; best do. ewes, 8s 6d to 9s 6d; one or two extra heavy pens, to 11s 3d; medium, 6s 9d to 8s. We sold on account of Mr. Alpheus Hayes, Waimate, and others 200 crossbred ewes at quotations.

Fat Lambs.—1061 were penned, a supply considerably beyond trade requirements, and the result a dull sale except for really prime, which brought fair prices, say 7s to 9s 3d; others, 4s 3d to 6s 3d.

Pigs.—Only 54 penned which met a dull sale. Suckers brought 7s to 12s; porkers, 26s to 32s; baconers, 35s to 52s; a few extra heavy to 65s.

Store Cattle.—A fair amount of business has been done in these lately, and the demand continues moderately active, particularly for well-grown steers in forward condition, but the season is now somewhat far advanced for very many more transactions, and until supplies are wanted for fattening on turmps, we expect to experience a quieter market.

Store Sheep.—These are in good demand, all the young sheep, both merino and crossbred, being picked up, also some transactions in aged merino ewes are passing. Buyers of the latter are still hesitating to give the prices asked, say from 5s to 6s 6d, but considering the small number of these offering it would be well not to forget the difficulty experienced in procuring requirements towards the end of the season last year, as it is quite clear from the inquiries being made that the number on hand for disposal will be considerably short of satisfactory demands.

Wool.—Latest cablegrams to hand report the London market firm, and prices really showing a slight advance. Locally there is less business transacted, owing to the bulk of the season's wool being now shipped and otherwise disposed of. Small consignments still continue to arrive into store, which will, no doubt, realise satisfactory prices at our next sale, which will very likely be held next week.

Sheepskins.—We offered a moderate catalogue at our regular weekly sale on Monday, which met with spirited competition from a good attendance of the trade, prices realised for green pelts and lambskins being slightly higher. Dry skins also had good attention and although the quality was not so good prices were relatively higher. Dry crossbreds, low to medium, brought 1s 2d to 3s 6d; do. do. merino, 1s 3d to 3s 4d; full-woolled crossbreds, 3s 9d to 5s 4d; do. do. merino, 3s 5d to 4s 9d; dry pelts, 1s 4d to 10d, green do. crossbred, 2s 5d, 2s 4d, 2s 2d, 2s, 1s 9d, 1s 8d, very bare 1s to 1s 6d; green lambskins, 2s 7d, 2s 6d, 2s 5d, 2s 3d, 2s, 1s 10d, 1s 9d, 1s 8d.

Rabbitskins.—The few that now come to the market, although saleable, do not command the same attention, partly owing to the drop in prices at Home, and largely to the indifferent quality of those coming forward, a large number of which must have been kept on

hand too long, and for the want of proper treatment invariably are in bad condition from weevils, and in other respects almost unfit for shipment. On Monday we disposed of a few lots of inferior spring and summer skins at from 4s to 9s per lb.

Hides.—This market continues steady. No change can be reported in either demand or values. Shippers are unwilling to operate at present quotations, and local manufacturers are the principal purchasers, to whom nearly all consignments coming forward are disposed of at the following quotations, viz.—for heavy weights, clean, and free from cuts, over 60 lb, 3s 4d to 3s 7d; medium, 2s 7d to 3s; light, 2s 4d to 2s 7d; inferior shippy and bulle, 1d to 1s 4d per lb.

Tallow.—We are in receipt of a cablegram from our London office reporting prime mutton tallow £29. A considerable drop from late quotations, and must be very unsatisfactory to both shippers and producers. Stocks in hands locally are at present bare, but sufficient for requirements, and consumers will now hesitate to give prices lately quoted. On Monday we disposed of several packages tallow and fat. The former brought 18s to 22s, the latter 17s to 18s per cwt.

Grain—Wheat: The tone of the market remains unaltered and a considerable amount of indisposition is still shown on the part of millers to make purchases pending the arrival of the new crop. Very prime northern wheat could be placed at about 3s 3d, but beyond this buyers will not operate. There is a moderate demand for inferior, for fowl feed, and sales are daily effected in small lots. But both millers and buyers being fully supplied with flour there is little or nothing going on. The weather so far has been very favourable for the wheat crop, but harvesting has hardly begun south and it will be two or three weeks at any rate before it is general. Quotations for milling are simply nominal, for prime, 3s 3d to 3s 6d; medium, 2s 9d to 3s; inferior, 2s to 2s 6d, ex store.—Oats are moving off slowly but demand is not by any means active. Some of the local millers are buying, but only in a hand-to-mouth fashion, just enough to satisfy present requirements. There are no orders from the Australian market and the few shippers who are purchasing are merely for speculation and have but little effect on the position of the market. We quote prime milling, bright and stout, 2s 4d to 2s 5d; best feed, 2s 2d to 2s 3d; inferior to medium, 1s 9d to 2s, ex store.—Barley: With the exception of some sales of Cape from the North Island there is nothing passing. No doubt when the new crop is to hand considerable business will ensue. Inquiry is now made both for shipment and local requirements. In the absence of sales, quotations nominal.

Ryegrass Seed.—The market this week is extremely dull. In the meantime, it is not necessarily required, and buyers are not disposed to operate until there is some certainty as to the quantity available. Some of the new seed is now on the market, and farmers' undressed held for 2s 9d to 3s, but these prices are not obtainable; machine-dressed is offering at 3s 6d to 3s 9d.—Cocksfoot: New seed is offering in small lots, but very little business is being done. Quotations nominal.

Potatoes.—The market is fully supplied, and with only a very moderate demand. Prices this week are slightly lower. We quote fresh dug, £4 5s to £5 5s per ton.

GRAIN AND SEED REPORT.

MESSRS. SAMUEL ORR AND CO., Stafford street, report for the week ending February 19 as follows:—

Wheat.—Our market is still in the same condition as it was last week, with few sales of prime quality taking place, though in secondary quality, as fowls' feed, a fair business has been done, but only at a ridiculously low figure; speculators, of course, cannot help it, having themselves low limits. English cablegrams just to hand give a more hopeful view of the markets at Home and on the Continent, and it is to be hoped will continue; but it must be three months at least before the growing crops in America or Europe can be known so as to affect us here. We quote—extra prime—milling up to 3s 4d; medium, 3s to 3s 3d; fowls' feed 2s 6d to 2s 11d, according to quality.

Oats.—There has been a very fair local demand, but speculative, barely any, though if it did set in we could hardly supply any quantity, the market being now almost bare, and just as well, as we have already been offering samples of the new crop. We quote prime milling 2s 3d to 2s 4d; ordinary, 2s to 2s 2d; inferior, 1s 8d to 1s 10d.

Barley.—Sales of Northern Cape have been made in the market, but of no other, as there is none forward. It is one of the best crops for the grower this season as Australia is certain to want a lot.

Caff.—Arrivals have been limited so that last week's prices have been maintained.

Potatoes.—The market is now getting better supplied and arrivals are more than demand warrants, so that prices are a bit easier, say from £5 5s to £5 10s.

Grass Seed.—There are no samples offering, and from all accounts it is good stock as there is nothing like the quality grown anywhere that has been in former seasons. As a matter of fact inquiries have already been made from a district that in former years used to supply this market. Cocksfoot.—The samples this year promise to be unusually good as the weather for harvesting has been most propitious. Prices, too, will if anything be easier as stocks at home over from last year are heavy. We sold during the week about five tons at late quotations.

Corn Sacks and Twine.—We have now our supplies forward, and will gladly forward samples of the latter to our friends on application with low prices.

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices, bags included: Oats, 2s 3d to 2s 6d, nominal. Wheat, milling, 4s; fowls' 2s 6d to 3s 1d. Caff, £3 10s to £4. Hay, new oaten, £3 10s; rye-grass, £3 10s. Bran, £3 15s. Pollard, £4 5s to £4 10s. Flour, stone, £10 to £10 15s; roller, £11 to £11 15s. Potatoes, Derwents, £5; kidneys, £4 10s. Oats, £12 10s. Butter, fresh, 8d to 10d; salt, nominal, 8d. Eggs, 1s.

Kirkpatrick's "K" jams for the season are now ready. Made of fruit fresh gathered from the garden, their quality cannot be surpassed.