

Diary of the Week.

WEDNESDAY, 20th.

MEETING of Tuwharatua tribes at Taupo to elect chief; proposal to overthrow Te Kooti's influence and Haubau religion.—Great competition at Wellington for Horowhenua block; 470 applicants for 48 sections.

THURSDAY, 21st.

Extensive bush fires in New South Wales; much damage done.—Death reported of Sir Thomas Gladstone, aged 85.—Goschen advocates committee of House to promote emigration.

FRIDAY, 22nd.

U.S.S. Company arranges service between Auckland, Tonga and Samoa.—Sir W. Jervois leaves New Zealand for Melbourne.—Disastrous effects of drought reported from Western Queensland.—Carnarvon's Bill for disqualification of immoral Peers rejected by House of Lords.

SATURDAY, 23rd.

Floods at Blenheim and in West Coast rivers.—Death of Count Schuvaloff announced.—Mather (Parnellite) beats Tory candidate for Gorton, Lancashire, by majority of 846.—Bismarck pronounces peace assured.

MONDAY, 25th.

Professor Black on returning from Tasmania gives preference to Stewart Island tinfield.—Meeting at Napier pronounces in favour of bringing Tuataturi river round southern boundary of town.

TUESDAY, 26th.

The Pope reported to suffer from fainting fits.—Severe legislation against Socialism proposed to German Parliament.

Commercial.

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

Fat Cattle.—197 head were yarded at Burnside for the week's requirements. Best bullocks brought £7 to £8 12s 6d, one pen extra prime, £9; light weight and ordinary to medium quality, £3 17s 6d to £6 15s; cows from £3 2s 6d to £6 5s. We sold on account of Mr. John Hedley, See town, bullocks from £5 17s 6d to £6 10s.

Fat Sheep.—1983 were penned, about 100 of which were merino wethers, the rest crossbreds, the bulk of which were only ordinary quality, and chiefly ewes. The few pens of wethers realised nearly up to last week's prices, while there was less demand for ewes, and prices for these suffered decline. Best crossbred wethers brought 9s to 11s 3d; ordinary 7s 6d to 8s 9d; best crossbred ewes, 8s 3d to 9s 6d, one to 10 3d; inferior to medium, 6s 6d to 8s. The merinos were withdrawn.

Fat Lambs.—735 were penned, comprising inferior to medium, and a few prime, for the latter there was fair competition, but there was less demand for others. Best brought 7s 6d to 8s 9d, others from 4s 6d to 7s.

Pigs.—167 were penned, including all sorts. Suckers brought 4s 6d to 8s; light sows 13s to 16d, others 18s to 24s; porkers, 31s to 39s; baconers, 43s to 18s; heavy weight to 52s.

Store Cattle.—The position of the market is somewhat in the same state as when we last reported, the demand not by any means active and for the few which do change hands prices obtained are not calculated to encourage breeders in their efforts to produce first-class stock.

Store Sheep.—Young merinos or crossbreds are now difficult to obtain in desirable lots and within reasonable distances, while aged sheep, chiefly merinos are offering more freely, but buyers in the meantime appear to be less eager to operate, being under the impression that their requirements can be secured later on and at lower prices.

Wool.—It is satisfactory to notice that the Antwerp wool sales have closed firm. The trade and buyers are anxiously looking forward to the opening of the second series of Colonial wool sales in London, which are to commence on Tuesday, 2nd April. Latest advices from Home continue to report satisfactorily on the prospects of the trade to the manufacturing districts, and from the tone of the Antwerp market it may be inferred that trade on the continent holds good. The total quantity of wool arrived in London up to the 21st inst. was 263,600 sacs, and sent forward direct 53,000 bales. The total available for the series is 135,000 bales, as against 338,000 at the corresponding sale of 1888. At this marked now the business done is comparatively small, being confined to small lots of fullmongers' with the usual back country oddments arriving late in the season.

Sheepskins.—Monday being a holiday, our sale this week was held on Tuesday, when we offered a full catalogue, comprising an assortment of woolly skins, supplemented by the usual large number of town and country butcher's off-rings. There was a full attendance of the trade, and an exceedingly good demand experienced. Competition was spirited; all classes had good attention, every lot in the catalogue being disposed of at advanced values. Country dry crossbreds, 10s to 12s; brown 11s 3d to 14 1d; dry down-runs, 1s 3d to 3s 2d; half-woolled crossbreds, 3s 6d to 6s; dry down-runs, 3s 1d to 4s 10d; dry pelts, 2s to 1s 10d; green crossbred pelts, 2s 9d, 2s 5d, 2s 3d, 2s 1d, 1 10d 1s 8d; dry mutton do, 1s 5d to 1s 6d; green lambskins, 1s 10d, 2s 8d, 2s 5d, 2s 3d, 2s 3d, 2s 1d.

Rabbitskins.—There is no new feature of any importance to chronicle in regard to the position of this market. Business continues almost at a standstill for the want of supplies. Small lots

come to hand weekly, but the number being so insignificant, and although saleable, have not the same attention as when full catalogues are presented, which will not be the case for several weeks to come. During the week we placed several lots at auction, which realised, under good competition, satisfactory prices.

Hides.—The demand continues steady, but although the supply is considered somewhat bare, and rather below than above actual requirements, values—except for extra prime, heavy, picked hides—seem to be receding; no doubt owing to the universal depressed state of the leather market, the enhanced value of bark being another factor the tanner has to take into consideration, and which must tend to weaken the price of hides. Meantime we quote as last for picked 60 lbs and over, 3 1/2 to 3 1/4; medium weights, 2 1/2 to 3 1; light, 2 1/4 to 2 3/4; inferior and slippy, 1d to 1 1/2 per lb.

Tallow.—The downfall of the Home market is conspicuously reflected in this market, where there is a very fair demand, and all arriving ready placed. Prices obtained are almost as low as at any previous period of the market's existence, and at the moment show but feeble indications of recovery. We quote prime mutton, 19s to 21s; medium to good, 16s 6d to 18s 6d; inferior and mixed, 12s to 15s 6d; rough fat—best caul, 12s 6d to 13s; medium to good, 10s to 12s per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: The position of the market in respect to values differs but little from that of last week. At the same time there is an easier tone pervading, buyers are less inclined to operate so freely, merely purchasing to satisfy present requirements. The quantity coming to hand is still limited, and should the wet weather prevailing for the last few days continue, deliveries will be considerably hindered. The excitement existing in some of the Australian markets having somewhat toned down, our local buyers are holding off in the anticipation of lower prices ruling at no distant date. We quote—prime velvet and Tuscan, 4s 4d to 4s 6d; medium to good, 3s 9d to 4s 3d; inferior to medium, 3s to 3s 6d (ex store).—Oats: Owing to old stocks being all but cleared out, and the small supply of the new crop coming forward, bidders, especially in the early part of the week, have had to extend their limits in order to secure sufficient to keep their machinery going. Shippers have also had to give more so as to be able to fulfil their engagements, and even at the moment arrivals are readily placed, but buyers are not anxious to offer for future delivery. We quote—prime milling, 2s 6d to 2s 7 1/2; best short bright feed, 2s 5d to 2s 6d; medium, 2s 5d to 2s 5d; ex store; good long Tartarians fit for seed are inquired for by shippers.—Barley: There is no material alteration in the tone of the market. Maltsters don't seem to be very much inclined to do business yet, and so far only a very few transactions have taken place. We quote, nominally, 5s 9d to 1s for prime malting; 3s to 3s 6d for medium (ex store).

Ryegrass Seed.—The market continues quiet, and to effect sales, less than current quotations have to be accepted. We quote, undressed, 2s 3d to 2s 9d; machine dressed, 3s 3d to 3s 9d, ex store.—Cocksfoot: No demand of any consequence, nominal 2 1/2 to 3 1 per lb.

Potatoes.—The market is fully supplied, and selling at £4 5s to £4 10s per ton.

Dairy Produce.—Prime factory cheese, 6d to 6 1/2d; farmers, 5d to 5 1/2d.—Butter: In fair demand at 10d; for good dairy separator, 1s 2d to 1s 3d.

Property.—Privately we have sold on account of Mr. T. Cleat 600 acres, portion of his property at Pukekauri, to Mr. David Murray at a satisfactory price.

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports.—Wholesale prices, bags included: Oats 2s 5d to 2s 8d, good enquiry, few in market, new slow in coming forward. Wheat: milling—values, for good samples 4s 6d; fowls' 3s 3d. Chaff: Supply bare, £3 10s to £3 15s. Hay, oats, £3 10s; ryegrass hay, £3 5s to £3 10s. Bran, £5. Pollard, £5 10s. Potatoes, supply good; £4 10s, derwents; kidneys, no demand for local use. Flour, in sympathy with wheat, millers' price, £10. Oatmeal, £12 10s. Butter, fresh, good demand, 10d to 11d; salt, nominal, 8d. Eggs, scaise, 1s 4d.

DEAF.—A Person cured of Deafness and noises in the head of 23 years' standing by a Simple Remedy, will send a description of it FREE to any person who applies to NICHOLSON, 65 William street, Melbourne.

The Whitechapel fiend need not lack for subjects so long as the present conditions of life prevail in that and other districts of East London. Monsignor Gilbert, Vicar-General of the Archdiocese of Westminster, gave seven hundred destitute persons a dinner on Christmas Day, and took occasion to speak of the awful poverty to which a large portion of the people of the city are subject. He said there are now over 100,000 men out of employment who cannot find work even at starvation wages. Numbers of women toil from six in the morning until twelve at night, and some even until three the next morning and can earn under the "sweating" system only from four and three pence to five and six pence (1d, 6cents to 1d 3/4 cents) a week, making children's knickerbockers at three cents a pair and children's suits at nine cents. "With miserable wages like these," said Dr. Gilbert, "East End families were driven from their homes because they could not pay their rent, and women were turned out of their humble lodgings in Spitalfields and Whitechapel after midnight because they could not pay for a bed." During the year, according to the verities of the coroners' juries, thirty-two persons had died of want in the Metropolitan District. He was sorry to say that "women and girls who could bear their trials no longer had turned to what their souls abhorred, and some had been beaten and blackmailed and others murdered and mutilated so revoltingly that London was horror-stricken." He concluded with a plea for support for the Night Refuge and Habitation for Homeless Men, Women and Children, which has done its best to mitigate the misery of the destitute wretches of the modern Babylon.