

Commercial.

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

Fat Cattle.—183 were yarded, quality ranging from medium to good, a few pens very prime and extra heavy. Best bullocks brought £8 5s to £10 7s 6d; light weights and medium, £4 15s to £7 12s 6d; cows in proportion.

Fat Sheep.—Best crossbred wethers brought 12s 9d to 15s 9d; ordinary, 9s 6d to 12s 3d; best crossbred ewes, maiden, 12s 6d to 14s; ordinary, 8s to 11s 6d; merino wethers, 6s to 9s 3d. We sold on account of Messrs. Ross Bros., Bushey Park, a nice lot of merino wethers at quotations.

Fat Lambs.—Competition was very brisk, prices for best showing an advance. Those brought 8s to 10s 3d; others, 5s 6d to 7s 9d.

Pigs.—Suckers brought 5s 6d to 10s 3d; stores, 14s to 23s; porkers, 28s 6d to 34s; baconers, 40s to 56s; extra heavy, 60s to 68s.

Store Cattle.—The only demand existing at present and which is not by any means active, is for three parts fat cattle for winter feeding. We do not anticipate any large transactions until towards the spring.

Store Sheep.—There is little or no alteration to note in the demand for this description of stock, with the exception of ewes for breeding purposes, which are not so much inquired for on account of the lateness of the season. Young crossbred wethers are still in good demand and saleable, but very few are offering except those in the hands of dealers, which are invariably disposed of at auction, when prices are realised relatively higher than those paid for fat. We have some inquiry for aged merino ewes, but have no transactions to report.

Wool.—We have received cable advices from our London office regarding the close of the sales, which will, no doubt, be considered very satisfactory to all concerned, more especially as the conditions appear favourably for the future of the market. The averaged advance is said to be about 7½ per cent on last closing rates, the principal advance being in superior greasy and fine crossbreds. Medium to good scoured merino, advance 1d to 1½d per lb. Coarse crossbred market unchanged. Medium crossbred advanced ¾d per lb. At our weekly sale on Monday we offered a quantity of small lots, consisting chiefly of stragglers wool which sold at satisfactory prices. We annex brands and prices. SP, 2 bags greasy locks, 1½d; do 1 do do black, part lambs, 6½d; CP over L in diamond 1 do do fleece, 7d; N, 1 do do locks, 3½d; do 3 do dead wool, part black, 4½d; do 1 bale do pieces and locks, 3½d; N under half circle, 1 fadge do fleece, 7½d; C, 1 bale do fleece, 8d; do 1 do fleece and pieces, 5½d; do 1 do do crossbreds, 8d; F, 1 do do merino, 8d; do 1 do do pieces and locks, 5d; SP, 3 do do crossbreds, 8d; do 1 do do pieces and bellies, 4½d; TAIBRI LAKE, 2 do do 1st pieces, 8d; N, 1 do do scoured locks, 7½d; do, 1 bag do do, 6½d; CN, 3 do do pieces, 8½d; N, 1 do greasy fleece, 6d; bar through circle, 1 bale do fleece, 7½d; do, 1 do do pieces, 4d; CM, 1 pockets lamb's wool, 7d; C over bar, 1 bale greasy crossbreds, 7½d; do, 2 bags do do, 7½d per lb.

Sheep Skins.—We submitted a large catalogue at our Monday's sale, when there was a very full attendance of the trade, and biddings right through the sale were of a lively character. Heavy crossbreds were in strong demand and for some special lines exceptional prices were realised, heavy butcher's crossbreds made, 4s 9d, 4s 7d, 4s 4d, 4s 2d, 4s; medium to good, 3s 10d, 3s 8d, 3s 6d, 3s 4d, 3s 2d, 3s, 2s 9d; inferior, 2s 6d, 2s 4d, 2s 3d, 2s 1d; merinos were also well supported and realised up to last week's rates. Lambskins made, 4s 7d, 3s 10d, 3s 9d, 3s 7d, 3s 5d, 3s 3d, 3s 1d, 3s. Country dry skins had good attention and for the quality offered very satisfactory prices were obtained.

Rabbitskins.—A brisk demand exists and the market firm. Consignments are still few, but all offered, of whatever description, are eagerly competed for, and realise full market values. On Monday, we offered a few lots inferior summers, which sold at satisfactory prices.

Hides.—The market continues steady with a good demand existing for all coming forward. Stocks are light, being very little more than sufficient for local requirement, in consequence very few are being shipped. We quote inferior and bulls, 1½d to 2d; light, 2½d to 2¾d; medium, 2¾d to 3¼d; in good condition, free from offal and over 60lbs, 3¼d per lb.

Tallow.—The tone of the market is less firm, and although consignments are readily placed both by private sale and at auction, buyers are not inclined to give prices obtaining. We quote prime rendered mutton, 19s 6d to 20s 6d; medium to good 17s to 19s; inferior and mixed, 14s to 16s; rough fat, best mutton caul, 13s to 14s; medium to good, 10s to 12s 6d per cwt.

Grain.—Transactions in wheat have been very small during the past week; the market continues very dull. Millers are only operating to a very limited extent, and chiefly in prime northern growth in small parcels. There are buyers for shipment in the market, but at present quotations they are not disposed to operate. Ordinary qualities are almost unsaleable except for feeding, for which there is a fair demand but at prices which holders in the meantime are unwilling to do business. We quote prime milling, red straw and white velvet, 4s; Tuscan, a shade more, medium to good, 3s 6d to 3s 9d; inferior to medium, 2s 9d to 3s 3d, ex store. Oats.—A very good demand has prevailed since date of our last report, extra tonnage having been secured, shippers are enabled to operate more freely, and at the moment, the market for medium to good short feed is decidedly firmer, while for inferior quality and prime milling though both qualities are easily disposed, values are not materially altered. Deliveries have been pretty considerable during the week, but a number of growers seem disposed to store for a time and this of itself will no doubt in the meantime have tried to harden the market. We quote prime milling, 2s 7½d to 2s 8d; best short feed, 2s 7d to 2s 7½d; medium to good, 2s 5½d to 2s 6½d; inferior and damp, 2s 3d to 2s 5d;

ex store.—Barley: Malsters are still buying sparingly, but only extra prime samples. A considerable quantity of inferior and medium is coming into the market for which there is little or no demand. We quote prime malting, 3s 7d to 3s 9d, medium, 2s 9d to 3s 6d ex store.

Ryegrass Seed.—There is a slight demand for shipment, but only prime samples, free from spurious seeds, are saleable at present. Medium has less attention, but stocks being low the prospects for future disposal are considered good. We quote undressed, 2s 6d to 3s; dressed, 3s 6d to 4s.—The demand for cocksfoot shows no improvement; quotations are 2½d to 3¼d per lb.

Potatoes.—The supply is rather in excess of present requirements. There is no outlet for shipment, and the demand for local consumption not being sufficiently active to absorb stocks on hand, the market is somewhat languid. Quotations are for northern, 80s; southern, 72s 6d to 75s per ton.

Dairy Produce.—The market is quiet for both butter and cheese at late quotations, but we anticipate a better demand, as stocks are light in the North Island and Canterbury.

MESSRS. DONALD REID AND CO. report for week ending May 8 as follows:—

Grain.—The continued fine weather has favoured threshing operations, and a very large supply of grain has reached the market during the week, taxing the railway department to its fullest capacity. Of the wheat arriving a very large proportion is being taken into store. Vendors are not disposed to accept of the prices now ruling. Southern grown samples, unless where they have been exceptionally well harvested, are difficult to place at anything like satisfactory prices.—Really good samples of Tuscan and velvet find ready sale at quotations; but medium and inferior sorts are not enquired for. Fowls' wheat is in good demand, but without any notable change in values. We quote—prime Tuscan, 4s 1d to 4s 2d; prime velvet and red straw, 4s to 4s 1d; good milling, 3s 9d to 3s 11d; inferior and fowls' wheat, 2s 8d to 3s 8d.

Oats.—Very heavy supplies have arrived during the past week, and a large business has been done. Notwithstanding the large supply that has come forward, there is a brisk market, and prices are firmer than they were in the earlier part of the week. Holders show confidence in the future of the market, as many prefer to store for a time, believing that present prices will be improved. The demand for long oats for seed has ceased off, as any arriving now are too late for the Australian seed sowing season. Prime milling is in good request at 2s 6½d to 2s 7½d; bright heavy feed 2s 5d to 2s 6d; ordinary and inferior, 2s 3d to 2s 4½d (bags extra, or 1½d per bushel, extra bags weighed in).

Barley.—A large quantity has come forward, and a considerable business has been done at prices a shade below last week's quotations. We quote—Best malting, 3s 8d to 3s 11d; milling, 3s 3d to 3s 7d; feed, 2s 6d to 3s 2d (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Prime derwents, £3 15s to £4; medium quality, £3 5s to £3 10s.

Chaff.—Prime oaten, £3 10s to £4; medium, £3 to £3 5s; straw chaff, £1 10s to £2.

Ryegrass.—Occasional small lines are placed at for—machine dressed, 3s 9d to 4s 3d; farmers' dressed, 2s 10d to 3s 3d.

Cocksfoot is plentiful. Best samples at 4d; inferior and medium 3d to 3½d.

Butter.—Business is rather slow; shippers are not buying at present, and there is but little local sale passing. Quotations remain at about last week's prices, say, prime, 9d to 10d per lb.; ordinary 7d to 8d per lb., packages extra.

GRAIN AND SEED REPORT.

MESSRS SAMUEL ORR AND CO., Stafford street, report for the week ending May 8 as follows:—

Arrivals of all classes of grain have been unusually heavy. The Melbourne market for oats has dropped about 2d a bushel during the last ten days, on account of the heavy supplies.

Wheat.—Tuscan up to 4s 1d; velvet and redstraw, 3s 8d to 3s 11d; medium, 3s 5d to 3s 7d; fowls' feed, 2s 6d to 3s 3d.

Oats.—Milling, 2s 7½d to 2s 8d; feed, 2s 6d to 2s 7d; inferior, 2s 4d to 2s 5½d.

Barley.—Malting up to 3s 9d, sacks 6d; medium 3s 5d to 3s 7d; milling, 2s 9d to 3s; feed, 2s 6d.

Chaff.—We quote—prime oaten sheaf, well cut and screened, £3 10s; ordinary, £3 to £3 5s.

Potatoes.—The markets on the other side being lower, has caused a drop here, and £3 15s to £3 17s 6d in quantities is all that is obtainable now.

MESSRS. ARTHUR McDONALD AND CO. report as follows for the week ending Wednesday, May 8:—

Sheepskins.—We require well-dried and carefully flayed lots for export, and for such can give 5½d to 6d per lb.

Rabbitskins.—Prices are firm at prices lately quoted. Prime summers, 6d to 8d; suckers, 3d to 4d; autumn, 9d to 10d.

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices, bags, included: Oats: 2s 4d to 2s 7½d. Wheat: milling—values, for good samples 4s; fowls' 3s to 3s 6d. Chaff: Supply full, £3 10s to £3 15s. Hay, oaten, £3 10s; ryegrass hay, £3 5s to £3 10s. Bran, £4. Pollard, £5. Potatoes, supply moderate; £4, derwents; kidneys, no demand for local use. Flour: Stone, sacks, £10; fifties, £10 15s; Roller, £11 10s; fifties, £12 5s. Oatmeal, £13 10s. Butter, fresh, dull, 11d to 1s; salt, nominal, 8d to 9d. Eggs, scarce, 1s 6d.

A recent invention successfully applies a revolving bar to the barrels of rifles. By this arrangement a machine gun is arranged which will fire 480 shots per minute.

Emigration statistics published at Berlin show that 2,500,000 emigrants have left Germany since 1871, of which 2,000,000 have gone to America.