

avoid the contingent danger of having to preach to empty benches. If people could only see it, Clamptett, all scoundrel as he was—and with his scoundrelism no one can have any sympathy—has laid bare the pregnable nature of modern Christianity, and if the followers of Luther, and Calvin, and Wesley, and Knox do not profit by it they are incapable of taking a lesson.—I am, etc.,

BATHKEALENSIS.

Christchurch, October 12, 1889.

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ending October 16, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—The entry this week was again a meagre one, only 120 head being yarded. Competition was active, and very satisfactory prices realised. Best bullocks brought £9 to £12 15s; medium, £7 10s to £8 17s 6d; light, £6 to £7; cows in proportion.

Fat Sheep.—Crossbreds, 10s to 17s 6d; ordinary to good, 12s 6d to 14s 9d; best crossbred ewes, 12s to 13s 9d; ordinary, 8s 6d to 11s 6d; best merinos, 13s to 14s; others, 6s 3d to 8s 6d.

Lambs.—270 were penned, which had a fair demand, prices ranging from 6s 6d to 15s.

Pigs.—250 were penned, representing all sorts. Suckers brought 8s 6d to 14s 6d; porkers, 26s to 38s; baconers, 41s to 53s, extra heavy weights to 62s.

Store Cattle.—The inquiry being made during the past two or three weeks has not as yet resulted in much business. There are not very many lots offering, but when the spring grass is a little further forward, and sellers and buyers become more reconciled in respect to prices, we anticipate considerable business. Meantime, we have no sales to report but have some pending.

Store Sheep.—There are no transactions of any consequence to report. Indeed, at this season of the year the market is always quiet. Only on very rare occasions lines of any importance change hands, and from now until the wool is off sales will be comparatively to a very limited extent.

Wool.—It is very gratifying to find that the series of wool sales just closed in London has progressed from start to finish with a steadiness almost unprecedented. The rise in values pronounced at the commencement was in many instances improved upon and firmly maintained down to the close. Very satisfactory accounts are also to hand from both Adelaide and Melbourne. Our Adelaide circular reports that English, foreign, and American buyers were present in larger numbers than at any previous sale held in that colony. At our first sale in Melbourne 4470 bales were catalogued, of which 4387 were sold—a good indication of the keen competition which must have existed. Top prices were, for greasy merino, 12½d; greasy merino pieces, 10½d; greasy crossbred, 11d; greasy lambs, 11½d; scoured super merino, 1s 9d; merino pieces, 1s 6½d per lb. In the meantime there is nothing doing locally, with the exception of fell-mongers' parcels, and only on occasions their limits are reached.

Sheepskins.—The demand for these continues exceedingly satisfactory, and though the catalogues presented every week represent a large number of skins, they all find buyers, and to all appearance a very much greater number could just be as easily disposed of. On Tuesday the regular weekly sale at the Central Auction Rooms the attendance, as usual, was large. Keen competition existed. All descriptions were in good request and the catalogue speedily cleared, at prices, though not quite up to last week's top, quality considered, there was no difference in those ruling this week. Butcher's green crossbreds, best brought, 7s 3d, 7s, 6s 10d, 6s 9d, 6s 8d, 6s 7d, 6s 6d, 6s 5d, 6s 4d, 6s 3d; good to medium and inferior, 6s, 5s 10d, 5s 8d, 5s 6d, 5s 4d, 5s 2d, 5s 1d; green medium, 6s 1d, 6s, 5s 11d, 5s 9d, 5s 6d, 5s 3d; green lambskins, 9d, 1s, 1s 3d. Country dry crossbreds, low to medium brought, 1s 4d to 4s; do do merino, 1s 3d to 4s 1d; medium to full-wool-d crossbred, 4s 2d to 8s 3d; do do merino, 4d 3d to 6s 2d; dry pelts, 3d to 1s 2d.

Rabbitskins.—The supply is now falling off very considerably. Very few really good winter skins come to market, nearly all being spring takings; however, a good demand continues to exist. At the regular auction sales all the shippers are always present, and compete with spirit up to limits, which, at the moment are in full sympathy with those ranging in the London market. We quote, prime winter greys, 1s 9d to 1s 5½d; ordinary to good, 1s 1½d to 1s 3½d; medium, 9d to 1s; inferior, 5d to 8d; black and fawn, 7d to 10d; suckers and halfgrown, 2d to 4d per lb.

Hides.—There is no quotable alteration to note in values, the position of the market being about the same as when we last reported. The demand continues fairly active, but very little prospect for any immediate improvement. We quote extra heavy, properly eaved, 2½d to 3d; heavy, 2½d to 2½d; medium, 2½d to 1½d; light, 2d to 2½d; inferior, 1½d to 1½d per lb.

Tallow.—There is no apparent change in either demand or value. A fair demand exists, and all available supplies readily placed. We quote, prime rendered mutton, 19s to 20s; medium to good, 16s to 18s; inferior and mixed, 12s 6d to 15s; rough fat, best mutton caul, 13s to 13s 6d; inferior to medium and good, 9s to 12s 6d per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: This market is slowly but certainly weakening. Shippers have no inducement to purchase at late current prices, and millers operating with extreme caution, only purchasing just sufficient for present requirements which are only to a very limited extent. The position of the market, in consequence, is far from satisfactory, and the prospect of the disposal of most of the wheat now in store is not by any means favourable at the present moment. Quotations are, for best Tuscan, 3s 6d to 3s 7d; best milling, red straw and velvet, 3s 3d to 3s 5d; medium to good, nominal, 3s to 3s 2d; inferior to best fowls' wheat, 2s 3d to 2s 10d, ex store. Oats: These have a moderately fair demand, and a good many are being disposed of, but at slightly lower prices than those obtaining last week, especially for prime milling, medium to good feed showing

but little difference. Considering the heavy shipments lately gone forward to Australia, the probability is that prices will not improve very much for some little time at any rate. Quotations are for stout bright milling, 1s 10d to 1s 11d; short bright feed, 3s 8½d to 3s 9½d; medium, 1s 7d to 1s 8d (ex store, sacks extra).

Barley.—The quantity remaining in agents hands is rather small, but there is no demand of any consequence for any description, though extra prime for milling in limited quantities would still be placed, but in the absence of such samples, there is little or nothing doing. We quote prime malting nominal, 3s 5d to 3s 7d; medium, 2s 9d to 3s; feed and milling, 2s 3d to 2s 8d (ex store, sacks extra.)

Grass Seed.—Ryegrass seed stocks on hands would appear to be more than sufficient for requirements, and unless a considerable improvement is experienced in the demand it is probable a quantity will have to be carried over to next year. Quotations for local grown machine dressed, 3s 6d to 4s; undressed, 2s 6s to 3s; Poverty Bay, 5s to 6s (sacks extra). Cocksfoot continues in small request, the sales effected being confined to very small parcels, at prices ranging from 2½d to 4½d per lb.

Potatoes.—Quotations are: For best Northern, 97s 6d to 100s; medium, 90s to 95s; Southern, 60s to 95s; kidneys, 35s to 50s per ton.

Chaff.—Quotations are: For prime, £3 5s to £3 7s 6d; ordinary, £2 to £2 15s; straw, £1 10s per ton.

Dairy Produce.—The market continues inanimate; quotations nominal.

MESSES. DONALD REID and Co., Dunedin, report for week ending October 16, as follows:—

Store Cattle.—For this class of stock during the past week there has been an active inquiry. Quiet, well grown, four to five year old bullocks are most inquired for, and such could be placed at satisfactory prices. We have an enquiry for about 200 head fall-grown bullocks.

Store Sheep.—Only odd lots changing hands, principally hoggets. We have for sale a splendid line of crossbred hoggets; they have been well wintered, and would do for finishing off for freezing immediately after shearing.

Sheepskins.—At our usual weekly sale at the Central Auction Rooms we submitted a moderate catalogue. Dry crossbreds, sold at 2s 8d to 6s 9d; do merinos, 2s 7d to 6s 3d; do pelts and lambs, 1s to 2s 3d; green crossbreds, 4s 7d to 7s 3d; do merinos, 4s 9d to 6s.

Rabbitskins.—There are odd lots coming to hand which may be classed as really prime wintors. These fetch from 15d to 17½d; medium, 12d to 14½d; inferior, 9d to 11d; summer and autumn, 6d to 8½d; suckers, 2d to 4d per lb.

Hides.—During the week we cleared all to hand at—for prime heavies, 2½d to 3d; medium, 2d to 2½d; inferior, 1½d to 1½d; balls, slippy, cut, 1½d to 1½d per lb.

Tallow.—At auction on Friday we offered several lots, and sold—medium rendered, 14s 6d to 17s; inferior, 11s to 13s; rough fat, 10s to 14s.

Grain.—Wheat: There has been very little enquiry, and the market does not show any signs of improvement, and is rather weaker than when we last reported. We quote:—Milling, 8s to 3s 6d; fowls' wheat, 2s 6d to 2s 11d.

Oats.—There is little change to note in the state of the oat market. Considerable sales are taking place at the reduced values, and if vessels were available to clear off those already sold, the market would get some relief and prices might possibly firm a little. We held an auction sale on Monday morning, when we submitted a large catalogue. There was fair competition, and about 3000 sacks found buyers at prices ranging from 1s 8d to 1s 11d, sacks extra.

Barley.—We regret we have no business to report.

Potatoes.—We disposed of a few trucks at auction on Monday last, and append brands and prices realised:—B, 1 truck Northern, £5; I, 1 do do, £4 10s; B, 7 bags do, £4 6s; G, 30 do Southern, £2 12s 6d.

Chaff.—We quote:—Prime heavy oatshaf, £3 2s 6d to £3 7s 6d; medium and mixed, £2 10s to £3.

Ryegrass Seed.—There is no alteration in last week's quotations, which we repeat. Very best machine-dressed, 4s to 4s 6d; farmers' dressed, 3s to 4s; inferior and badly dressed, 2s to 3s; cocksfoot, 3d to 4d per lb.

Clover Seeds move off steadily. The season is now nearly past, and stocks are pretty well exhausted.

Turnip Seeds.—we have a large supply, which we are selling to farmers at good value.

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices, bags included: Oats, 1s 8d to 2s, dull. Wheat: milling (dull), values for good samples, 3s 6d; medium, 3s 3d; fowls', 2s 9d to 3s. Chaff: Supply fair, £3 10s to £3 15s. Hay, oaten, £3 15s; ryegrass hay, £3 5s to £3 10s. Bran, £3. Pollard, £4 10s. Potatoes, supply moderate; Southern, £4 10s; Northern, £5 5s; kidneys (dull), £3, according to sample. Flour (dull): Stone, sacks, £8 10s; fifties, £9 6s; Roller, £9 15s; fifties, £10. Oatmeal, £12. Butter, fresh, 6d to 10d, fair demand; salt, nominal, 3d to 6d. Eggs, 9d.

Since we last went to press Cardinal Lavigerie has says the *Weekly Register*, had a sudden and rapid attack of illness, from which, however, we are glad to report he has already begun to recover. His Eminence, as we announced last week, arrived at Lucerne to make arrangements about the forthcoming Anti-Slavery Congress, and there he caught cold, which quickly developed into pleurisy, from which he suffered so much that the last Sacraments were administered, and the Holy Father had the grief of sending what seemed likely to be a last blessing to the devoted Apostle of the Slaves. The fine constitution of the Cardinal stood him in good stead, however; and the fair hopes of recovery now given will, we fervently trust, be fulfilled in time to preside at the conference—which, as it now turns out, was so fortunately postponed.