

JEAN PROVOST & CO.

CIDER AND WINE MANUFACTURERS,
FRUIT PRESERVERS, BROKERS, MERCHANTS,
ARAMAHO, WANGANUI.

We are now ready to supply SPARKLING CHAMPAGNE CIDER similar to that which obtained us First Prize against All Australasia in May, 1896, at Wellington Exhibition. We have over 12,000 gallons Good Matured Cider, and it is all in Prime Condition. We sell this Wholesome, Invigorating and Refreshing Beverage at such Low Prices, which must bring it in every home.

Amongst the hundreds of Testimonials we take the following:—

"Your letter of the 25th ult., enclosing account for cider, is here this morning. I am sending you herewith cheque for full amount. I am 'Greatly Pleased' and 'so is my good Archbishop' with your Cider. It appears to us to be a 'Wholesome, Pleasant Drink.' I think if it were generally known here, it would be sure to command considerable sale."

(Signed) REV. D. FOUHY, Secretary to Archbishop of Brisbane.

"The sample of Wanganui Cider you kindly sent me was tried by 'Several Medical Gentlemen,' who all expressed themselves as 'Highly Satisfied' with it. I consider it to 'Be a Genuine Article,' and very suitable as a Summer Drink."

(Signed) T. C. MOORE, M.D., Napier.

"Herewith I beg to send you cheque, being amount of the Cider just to hand. If they are all like the one I tasted at Mr. Provost's I am sure 'Everyone will like it,' etc."

(Signed) J. J. GRIMES, Bishop of Christchurch.

"I enclose you Post Office Order in your favour for amount of enclosed account for Cider. It arrived at Nelson all safe and sound, and I have 'Duly Sampled' it and 'Find It Excellent,' etc."

(Signed) COL. PILL, Nelson.

"I have much pleasure in testifying 'To the Excellence' of the Cider forwarded to Auckland some time ago, and I have presented some to well-known members of the Clubs here, 'Who speak in High Terms of it' as a pleasing beverage. I think that if you established an Agency in Auckland there would be a great demand for your Cider during the warm weather." Wishing your Company every success, etc.

(Signed) GEO. M. LENIHAN, B. shop of Auckland.

culties. The people of Wexford are also beginning to have their doubts of the *bona fides* of the movement. At a meeting held in Enniscomorthy on Saturday, October 9, a Mr. Lett recalled a question asked at the Land Acts inquiry by Dr. Triall, who inquired if the co-operative system did not lower the cost of production. This, in the opinion of Mr. Lett, meant that the landlord advocate's suggestion was the ability of the tenant to pay an increased rent. He was very naturally indignant that the co-operative agricultural societies should be turned into rent-raising machines for Irish landlords, and said that if he was to be fleeced he would prefer to have that operation carried out by the trader rather than by the landlord.

The Fall in Irish Land Values.—The *Times* says:—"An instance which illustrates in some degree the nature of the present agricultural depression in Ireland and its effect upon land values has been afforded by the sale at £700 of a farm known as Outlands Moneycarrie, the property of Mr. Riddall. This farm, which is situated in the parish of Aghadowey, about two miles from Garvagh, County Derry, contains altogether 76 acres 1 rood 20 poles, of which 5 acres 3 roods 2 poles are overcut bog, all held by the Landed Estates Court conveyance for the unexpired residue of 1,000 years, renewable for ever, subject to the yearly rent of £48 16s 10d and annual tithe-rent charge of £2 4s., altogether £51 0s 10d. An additional lot of bog for turf-cutting adjoins, and is held free. The holding lies about midway between Garvagh and Aghadowey Railway stations, which are five miles apart, and quite close to Moneycarrie, an "occasional" passenger station on the Derry Central Line. The lands, which are all arable, except the portion of the overcut bog, have been thoroughly drained by the late owner and are in good condition. The dwelling-house is two storey, slated, and very commodious. The yard and offices are extensive, in good order, and in every way suitable to the farm, on which there are three cottier houses, all let. This holding was formerly occupied by Mr. J. B. Stirling, High Constable of the Barony, who, after he became secretary of the Derry Central Railway, sold it in 1880, to a Mr. Coleman for £3,150. In 1883 Mr. Riddall became the purchaser for £1,300, and now he has sold it for £700. The dwelling-house and offices are stated to have cost £3,000 originally. The present price of £700 represents a value of somewhat less than £10 per acre for the land, with nothing for the buildings, or the latter may be said to have sold at less than one-fourth their cost, with the land thrown in.

Commercial.

REPORTS FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 14.

THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY COMPANY LIMITED, report as follows:—

Wheat—The slight demand existing is confined to extra prime for milling, with some inquiry for fowl's wheat, medium quality being unsaleable except for the latter purpose. Quotations for prime northern Tuscan, and velvet, 4s 5d to 4s 8d; best red wheat, 4s 2d to 4s 4d; medium nominally, 3s 9d to 4s 1d; inferior, 3s to 3s 6d (ex-store, sacks weighed in terms).

Oats—The market continues very firm, not so much owing to the demand which is fairly brisk, but rather to the unsatisfactory reports of the condition of the growing crops both North and South. Sales are daily effected, but sellers are holding for higher prices. Meantime we quote: Prime milling, 1s 11d to 2s; prime stout feed, 1s 10d to 1s 11½d; medium to good, 1s 8½d to 1s 9½d; inferior, 1s 4d to 1s 6½d (ex-store, sacks extra, net).

Barley—There are no stocks now to operate on with the exception of odd lots a few. Quotations are therefore nearly nominal.

Grass Seeds—There is some inquiry for ryegrass seed, but prices offered do not tend to much business. Quotations for best dressed, 3s 3d to 3s 9d; extra do, 4s to 4s 6d; large coarse seed, 2s to 2s 6d (ex store, sacks extra, net); cocksfoot, 4d to 5½ per lb.

Chaff—The supply being sufficient for requirement prices are unchanged, best fetching L3 5s to L3 10s; extra prime, L3 12s 6d; medium to good, L2 10s to L2 17s 6d per ton (ex truck, sacks extra, net).

Potatoes—Old Derwents are now almost unsaleable, only fetching 7s 6d to 15s per ton.

Sheepskins—Prices remain fairly steady, notwithstanding recent reports. Best dry crossbreds fetch 4d to 5½d; medium, 2½d to 3½d; dry merinos, 2d to 4½d per lb; best green crossbreds, 4s 3d to 5s 3d; extra heavy, 5s 6d to 5s 9d; medium, 3s 6d to 4s each.

Rabbitskins continue in good demand, prime winter grey mixed still fetching 1s 1½d to 1s 2½d; selected does, 1s 2½d to 1s 3½d; medium, 10d to 1½d; summer and off-season, 3d to 8½d; suckers and inferior, 1d to 2½d per lb.

Hides meet a ready sale. Extra heavy, 80lbs to 100lbs, 3½d to 4d; 60lbs to 70lbs, 3d to 3½d; 56lbs to 60lbs, 2½d; 45lbs to 65lbs, 2½d; 38lbs to 45lbs, 2½d; 37lbs to 38lbs, 2d; inferior, 1d to 1½d per lb.

Tallow and Fat—Best country rendered fetches 13s 6d to 15s; medium, 10s 6d to 13s; rough fat, best mutton caul, 9s 6d to 10s; medium, 8s 9d to 9s 3d; inferior, 8s to 8s 6d per cwt (ex store, net).

MESSRS STRONACH BROS. AND MORRIS report as follows:

Fat cattle—197 forward. There was a fair demand, but prices were about 10s a head easier. Best bullocks sold at L8 to L9 15s; extra prime, L10 to L10 17s 6d; medium to good, L6 to L7 15s; best cows, L6 to L7 2s 6d; medium, L1 10s to L5 15s.

Fat sheep—2003 penned. Bidding was dull and prices fully 1s lower than last week. Best crossbred wethers sold at 13s to 14s 6d; medium to good, 10s to 12s 6d; shorn do., 9s to 11s; best crossbred ewes, 11s 6d to 13s; medium, 9s to 11s; shorn do., 6s to 9s.

Fat lambs—690 penned; prices showing a decline of 1s to 1s 6d a head compared with last week. Best lambs sold at 9s to 10s 9d; good, 7s 6d to 8s 9d; others, 4s 6d to 7s.

Pigs—185 forward; there being a splendid demand for all sorts. Suckers sold at 9s to 16s; slips, 19s to 21s 6d; stor.s. 24s to 29s; porkers, 31s to 37s; baconers, 40s to 52s.

Rabbitskins—There are very few coming forward now, but all offering are keenly competed for, and late prices are well maintained.

Sheepskins—There was a fair attendance of buyers at Tuesday's sale, and prices showed no alteration. Best green crossbreds sold at 4s 9d to 5s 11d; medium, 4s to 4s 6d; do merino, 2s 6d to 3s; best dry crossbreds, 4s to 5s 6d; medium, 3s to 3s 10d; dry merinos, 3s to 4s 2d; medium, 2s to 2s 9d; inferior, 1s to 1s 9d; lambskins, 6d to 1s 6d each.

Hides—Market firm. Prime heavy ox, 3½d to 3¾d; medium, 2½d to 3d; light and inferior, 1½d to 2½d per lb.

Tallow—Market steady. Best rendered mutton, 13s to 14s 6d; medium, 11s 6d to 12s 6d; inferior, 9s to 11s; rough fat, 8s to 10s 6d per cwt.

Wheat—There is a fair demand for all sorts and quotations remain unaltered. Quotations—Prime milling velvet, 4s 6d to 4s 8d; medium, 4s 3d to 4s 5d; prime Tuscan, 4s 4d to 4s 6d; medium, 1s 2d to 4s 3½d; fowl wheat, 3s to 3s 8d per bushel (sacks in).

Oats—The good demand still keeps up, but prices show no improvement. Quotations: prime milling, 1s 10d to 2s; good to best feed, 1s 8½d to 1s 9½d; medium, 1s 7d to 1s 8d per bush. (sacks extra).

Barley—No change to report. Quotations unaltered.

Chaff—There is a fair demand at prices fully equal to last week's. Prime oaten sheaf, L3 5s to L3 10s; extra, L3 12s 6d; medium to good, L2 15s to L3 2s 6d per ton (bags extra).

Potatoes—Market lifeless. Derwents, 10s to 20s per ton (bags in).

MESSRS DONALD REID AND Co. report that prices ruled as under at their auction sale on Monday:—

Oats—A small catalogue of good feed was quitted under fair competition, at prices well up to those ruling during the past week. We quote: Prime milling, 1s 11d to 2s 1d; good to best feed, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; medium, 1s 7d to 1s 8½d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat—We offered a few lines of medium to good fowl wheat, which sold at 3s to 3s 6d; medium milling to 3s 9d per bushel (sacks in).

Chaff—Prime heavy oaten sheaf is in request at prices fully equal to those current last week. Our catalogue to-day consisted chiefly of light chaff, for which the demand is not keen. We quote: Best oaten sheaf, L3 5s to L3 10s; medium to good, L2 15s to L3 2s 6d per ton (bags extra).

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

MESSRS WRIGHT, STEPHENSON, AND Co. report as follows for Saturday, December 11:—

For this week's sale so far as draught horses were concerned the entry was a "record" one, just one solitary animal of this class being