

INVERCARGILL RAM AND EWE FAIR.

INVERCARGILL, April 1.

At the ram and ewe fair to-day there was a large entry of well-bred rams, but the sales were most disheartening to breeders, few buyers being present. It may be because farmers are in the thick of harvest work and the weather is fine. Of 20 stud Border Leicester rams only three or four, realising 5gs to 9½gs, were sold. Flock rams brought 21s to 27s, Border Leicesters and Lincolns 2gs. Romney 1g, Shropshire 2gs to 2½gs, and cross Border and English Leicesters 21s and 22s.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

Messrs. Wright, Stephenson, and Co. report as follows:—

The entries for Saturday's sale comprised chiefly light harness horses of not very good quality. The attendance of buyers was small, and owing to the unsuitability of the majority of the horses offered only a few sales were effected. Draughts were poorly represented, and had there been any animals of the right stamp offered no doubt they would have satisfactory prices. We can recommend consignments of young, sound sorts to this market, and shall be pleased to receive particulars of any such for sale. Spring-carters and light harness horses, when having youth and strength on their side, are always well competed for and sell readily at quotations. On account of the Easter holidays next week there will be no horse sale. We quote: First-class young draught mares and geldings, L35 to L40; good do, L28 to L33; medium draught mares and geldings, L20 to L25; aged do, L12 to L18; first-class hack harness horses, L18 to L25; good do, L12 to L17; medium do, L7 to L10; aged and inferior, L2 to L5.

PRODUCE.

LONDON, April 1.

The English wheat market is quiet, but steady. The Continental and American markets are firm. Californian No. 1 milling, 5s 9d. Russian cargoes, 37s. London quotations for hard Duluth, 42s.

Sugar is firm. Java, 11s 3d; German, 9s.  
Iron, 46s 3d.  
Rabbits, 10d.  
Butter is unchanged.

SYDNEY, March 30.

Wheat—Chick (prime), 2s 9d to 2s 10d; milling, 4s to 4s 1d. Flour—L10 to L10 10s. Oats—Feeding, 2s 4d to 2s 5d; seedling (Tartarian), 2s 5d to 2s 7d. Maize, 2s 3d. Barley—Cape, 2s 8d to 2s 10d. Peas—Prussian blue, 4s 9d. Bran, 7½d. Pollard, 7½d. Potatoes—Circular Heads, L7; local grown, L5 10s to L6; Onions—New Zealand, £6 10s; Victorian, L6. Butter—Dairy, 8d to 8½d; factory, 9d to 9½d. Cheese—Large, 4d; loaf, 5d. Bacon, 6½d to 8d.

MELBOURNE, March 30.

Wheat, 4s to 4s 1d. Oats—Algerian (feeding), 1s 3d to 1s 6d; milling, 1s 8d; stout white, 1s 9d to 2s 1d. Barley—Malting, 4s 10d to 5s. Maize, 2s 1½d. Bran, 9½d. Pollard, 9½d. Potatoes, L6 to L6 5s. Onions, £5 to L5 10s.

ADELAIDE, March 30.

Wheat, 4s 4d to 4s 4½d. Flour, L10 15s to L11. Oats—Dun, 2s 4d to 2s 6d; Algerian, 2s 5d to 2s 7d; New Zealand, 3s 5d to 3s 9d. Bran, 1s. Pollard, 1s 2d.

INVERCARGILL, April 1.

OATS—Very few samples of the new crop are offering yet. Quotations: 2s 1d (f.o.b., sacks in) for best feed.

WHEAT—The market is firm at from 4s 3d to 4s 6d (in trucks at Invercargill).

BARLEY—There is a good demand. Prime malting samples have brought up to 5s 3d here.

RYEGRASS—Very little is offering, and there is no change in the quotations.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

WELLINGTON, March 31.

Statistics prepared by the Agricultural Department show the following areas sown or intended to be sown this season, compared with last year. —

	1897.	1898.
	Acres.	Acres.
Wheat ... ..	258,608	345,801
Oats ... ..	372,607	384,819
Barley ... ..	29,813	31,920
Maize ... ..	12,594	14,857
Oats (for chaffing) ... ..	186,468	179,716
CANTERBURY.		
Wheat ... ..	174,579	222,461
Oats ... ..	730,113	128,992
Barley ... ..	10,929	11,015
Oats (for chaffing) ... ..	57,585	48,239
OTAGO.		
Wheat ... ..	58,307	86,039
Oats ... ..	194,273	209,226
Barley ... ..	7,552	8,464
Oats (for chaffing) ... ..	70,547	66,437

Auckland has a maize acreage this year of 13,079, against 11,112.

The quantities of grain on hand are:—

	1898.	1897.
	Bushels.	Bushels.
Wheat ... ..	1,149,661	1,134,072
Oats ... ..	1,406,596	1,115,047
Barley ... ..	91,772	172,056
Maize ... ..	128,940	39,805

CANTERBURY.

Wheat ... ..	816,692	926,932
Oats ... ..	245,991	391,343
Barley ... ..	27,803	74,189

OTAGO.

Wheat ... ..	316,882	220,924
Oats ... ..	1,055,281	649,820
Barley ... ..	52,069	74,189

Auckland has 168,703 bushels of maize on hand, against 39,105 bushels last year.

The total acreage in potatoes this year is 36,402, against 29,990; and in cocksfoot 58,640, against 49,622. The land in grass is: Ploughed, 3,992,779, against 4,130,082; clover, 158,683 and 32,226; not ploughed (in grass), 5,553,230 and 5,661,203; hay, 49,565 and 81,414.

The New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company report as follows:—

WHEAT—Millers are importing rather than give prices now demanded by growers for local grown. The market, in consequence, is less animated. Best milling velvet is fetching 4s 7d to 4s 8d; best Tuscan and red wheat, 4s 3d to 4s 6d; medium, 4s 3d to 4s 4d; inferior, 3s 3d to 4s; broken, 2s 9d to 3s 6d (ex store, sacks weighed in, net). All lots for seed fetch 4s 9d to 5s.

OATS—There is a very fair demand for both milling and feed, the former fetching 2s 2d to 2s 3d; best short feed, 2s 1d to 2s 2d; medium to good, 2s to 1s 1d (ex store, sacks extra, net).

BARLEY—A steady demand exists for all sorts, prime malting fetching 4s 9d to 5s; medium to good, 4s to 4s 6d; feed and milling, 3s to 3s 9d (ex store, sacks extra, net).

GRASS SEEDS—Ryegrass seed, if heavy and small, maintains its price, while big seed and dirty is now difficult to place. Quotations for farmers' best dressed and shotty, 3s 3d to 3s 5d; medium, 2s 9d to 3s 2d; inferior, 2s 3d to 2s 8d (ex store, sacks extra, net). Cocksfoot in moderate demand. Best dressed in retail lots fetch 4½d to 5½d; medium, 4d to 4½d per lb (ex store, sacks extra, net).

CHAFF—Consignments being heavier, prices are easier. Prime old brought on Monday L3 15s to L4; best new, L3 2s 6d to L3 10s (ex truck, sacks extra, net).

POTATOES—Market over supplied. Prices in buyers favour. Say for best Derwents, L3 10s to L3 17s 6d; extra prime, L4 per ton (ex store, sacks weighed in, net).

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report that prices ruled as under at their auction sale on Monday:—

OATS—We offered several lines of good sparrow-bills, and cleared all on hand at late quotations. Good feed, 2 0½d to 2s 1d; medium, 1s 11½d to 2s per bushel (sacks extra).

WHEAT—Only a small line of whole fowls' wheat was offered, and sold at 4s 0½d per bushel (sacks in).

POTATOES—The market was well supplied, and competition was not so keen. Best Derwents sold at L4 to L4 2s 6d; medium to good, L3 10s to L3 17s 6d per ton (sacks in).

CHAFF—The market was over-supplied, and prices were slightly easier. Good oaten chaff sold at L3 10s to L3 15s; medium, L3 to L3 5s per ton (bags extra).

Messrs Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—

WHEAT—There is a fair quantity coming forward now, which is readily disposed of at the following quotations: Prime milling velvet, 4s 8d to 4s 10d; medium, 4s 6d to 4s 7d; prime Tuscan, etc., 4s 6d to 4s 8d; medium, 4s 4d to 4s 5d; fowl wheat, 3s to 4s per bushel (ex store, sacks in).

OATS—There is a good demand for all offering, and prices are on a par with those ruling last week. Quotations: Prime milling, 2s 2d to 2s 3d; good to best feed, 2s; medium, 1s 11d to 1s 11½d per bushel (sacks extra).

BARLEY—Very little coming; market firm. Quotations: Prime malting, 4s 9d to 5s 3d; medium, 4s 4d to 4s 8d; feed and milling, 2s 6d to 3s 6d per bushel (sacks extra).

CHAFF—Owing to the large quantities coming forward prices have receded 2s 6d to 5s per ton during the week. Best oaten sheaf, L3 10s to L3 15s; medium, L3 to L3 7s 6d per ton (bags extra).

POTATOES—Market easier. Best Derwents, L4 to L4 2s 6d; medium to good, L3 10s to L3 17s 6d per ton (bags in).

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale price only—Oats: Fair demand; feed, medium to good, 1s 10d to 2s; milling, 2s to 2s 2d; fowls' wheat, 3s to 4s; milling, 4s 6d to 4s 9d; chaff, L3 5s to L3 15s, fair supply. Ryegrass hay, L3 10s to L3 15s. Straw, 28s per ton; loose, 28s. Potatoes: New, local, L4. Flour: Roller, L11 to L11 10s; Oatmeal: L11 10s in 2½lbs. Butter: Dairy, 6d to 9d; factory, 9d. Eggs, 1s 2d. Bran, L3. Pollard, L4. Onions: Christchurch, L6 10s per ton.

WOOL, SKINS, TALLOW, ETC.]

LONDON, April 1.

At the wool sales there was keen competition, with a slight advance in price, for medium and inferior merinos and low cross-breeds.

The second series of the colonial wool sales closed to-day. Prices at the close were a shade easier.

April 2.

At the wool sales best greasy combings and lower grade cross-breeds were a shade weaker, fine cross-breeds and all lambs' wool at par, while medium and inferior greasy and all scoured merinos were about 7½ per cent. higher.

The wool catalogued to date totals 215,000 bales, of which Home buyers purchased 34,000 bales, Continental 113,000, and American none. A total of 15,000 bales is held over for the next series.

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