



<p>FIRST. Boots with this Brand on the heel are Guaranteed to Fit and Wear Well.</p>	<p>SECOND. On this Brand only the Very Best of Workmen are employed.</p>	<p>THIRD. Only the Very Best of Materials are used in this Brand of Boots and Shoes.</p>	<p>FOURTH. Farmers, Miners, and all who want to keep their feet dry, try this Brand.</p>	<p>FIFTH. The "STANDARD" Brand Boots and Shoes are known from Auckland to the Bluff for sterling quality.</p>
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Commercial.

For week ending April 6.

STOCKS AND SHARES.

LONDON, April 1.

The issue department of the Bank of England reports that the stock of gold, coin, and bullion for the week is £29,827,000, and the reserve £31,662,000, the proportion of reserve to liabilities being 38.31. There was in circulation £27,602,000. The public deposits amounted to £19,616,000, other deposits to £36,813,000. Government securities to £14,209,000, and other securities to £39,038,000.

Three months' bills are discounted at 3 per cent. Consols, 111½.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

Wednesday, March 16.

BANKS.—National, Buyers, 2/6; Sellers, 2/7 1/2. New South Wales, B., 33/15; S., 34/5. Un. of Australia, Ltd. B., 27/-; S., 27/10.

INSURANCE.—National, B. 15/8; S., 16/0. New Zealand, B., 3/5/0; S., 3/8/-. South British, B., 2/7/0; S., 2/9/0. Standard, B. (cum div.) 11/3; S., 12/-.

SHIPPING.—New Zealand Shipping, B., 4/6/-; S., 4/8/-. Union Steam, B., 9/10/-; S., 9/15/-.

COAL.—Kaitangata (old), B., 24/-; S., 26/- . Do (new), B., 2/10/-; S., 2/15/-. Westport B., 2/15/3; S., 2/16/4.

LOAN AND AGENCY.—Commercial Property Company (10/-) B., 4/9; S., 5/6. National Mortgage (cum div.), B., 10/6; S., 11/3. Perpetual Trustees, B., 10/9; S., 11/3. Trustees and Executors, B., 1/10/-; S., 1/11/-.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Colonial Sugar Refining Co. (£20), B., 28/10/-; S., 29/- . Kaipoi Woollen Co., B., 6/-; S., 6/5/-. Milburn Lime and Cement, B., 17/6; S., 1/8/6; do, new issue, B., 2/9/-; S., 3/3/- premium. Mornington Tramway, B., 15/6; S., 16/-. Mosgiel Woollen, B., 4/6/-; S., 4/7/-. New Zealand Drug (2/- paid), B., 2/7/6; S., 2/8/3. New Zealand Drug (30/- paid), B., 1/14/-; S., 1/15/-. Otago Daily Times, (cum div.) B., 11/-; S., 11/10/-. Emu Bay Railway, B., 7/6; S., 8/6. New Zealand Asbestos Co., B., 2/-; S., 3/- premium.

GOLDFIELDS.—Reefton: Big River Extended, B., 7/-; S., 8/-. Cumberland Extended, B., 1/3; S., 1/9. Dillon Extended, B., 1/9; S., 2/3. Keep-it-Dark, B., 12/6; S., 13/6. Alpine Extended, B., 5/6; S., 6/-. Welcome Co. (Ltd.), B., 3/-; S., 3/3. Croesus (Paparua), B., 10/-; S., 11/-. Auckland.—Bunker's Hill, B., 1/-; S., 1/4. Crown, B., 19/-; S., 1/- . Talisman, B., 11/5; S., 12/-. Waitekauri, B., 1/19/-; S., 2/1/- . Waihi Silverton, B., 7/6; S., 10/-. Woodstock, B., 1/4/-; S., 1/5/-. Otago.—Alpha (vendors), B., 13/-; S., 15/-. Morning Star (A issue), B., 13/-; S., 15/-. Ophir Deep Lead, B., 15/-; S., 15/6.

DREDGING COMPANIES.—Buller, B., 7/-; S., 8/-. Clyde, B., 2/18/-; S., 3/11/-. Enterprise, B., 2/12/6; S., —. Golden Beach (par) B., —; S., —. Golden Gate, B., 1/-; S., 1/15/-. Golden Run, B., 1/-; S., 1/11/-. Golden Treasure, B., 2/19/-; S., 3/11/-. Golden Terrace, B., 1/6; S., 2/6 premium. Jutland Flat (paid), B., 6/9; S., 7/-. Lion Rock, B., 1/3/9; S., 1/4/3. Molyneux Hydraulic Co. Dredge issue, B., 1/5/-; S., 1/9/- (premium). Nevis, B., 18/-; S., 1/- . Otago B., 1/10/-; S., 1/15/-. Upper Waipori (contrib.), B., 1/9; S., 2/-.

SLUICING COMPANIES.—Moonlight Sluicing (contrib.) B., 1/16/-; S., 1/19/-. Roxburgh Amalgamated (contrib.), B., 5/9; S., 6/3. Deep tream, B., 19/3; S., 1/0/3. Bakery Flat, B., 13/-; S., 16/-.

LIVE STOCK.

STOCK RETURNS.

Wellington, March 31.

The total number of horses in the colony is 253,227 against 250,247 last year. Auckland has the most, 64,140; then Otago,

53,056; Canterbury, 46,622; Wellington, 39,552. Cattle number 1,209,165, against 1,138,067; Auckland has 308,047; Wellington, 244,731; Taranaki, 211,158; Otago, 194,480; Canterbury, 97,386. Pigs number 186,027 this year, against 209,834 last year. The sheep returns up to April 30, 1897, give a total of 19,687,954. Canterbury has 4,379,249; Otago, 4,021,065; Wellington, 3,952,984; Hawke's Bay, 3,250,577; Auckland, 1,880,692.

IMPORTANT SALE OF HIGH-CLASS DAIRY CATTLE.

Messrs. Wright, Stephenson, and Co. report having held the second annual sale of well-bred dairy cattle on account of Mr. Thomas Lee, at his farm near Highcliffe, on Thursday March 31st. Notwithstanding that Mr. Lee's farm is somewhat out of the way, the sale was well attended, and this in a great measure was due to the fact that his cattle are held in great repute. Most of the buyers at last year's sale were present again to-day, which is the best evidence that their former purchases had turned out profitable and up to the vendor's representations at the sale. The competition at this year's sale was particularly brisk for young cows and heifers close to calving, especially where these showed breeding and were well-grown, but where the cows offered were aged and far from profit it was almost impossible to elicit bids. The highest priced animals were sired by Young Glenham and Prince Carlo. The following are some of the principal sales:—Heifer by young Glenham, L8 5s; 2 cows by same sire, L8 each; 2 heifers by do, L7 5s; 1 do by do, L6 15s; 3 cows by Young Glenham at L9; 5 heifers by Young Glenham at L5 15s; and about 20 head heifers and cows at from L3 to L5 10s. The principal lots were bought by Peninsula and Waikouaiti settlers.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKETS.

Christchurch, March 23.

The entries for nearly all classes were smaller than at the previous sale at Addington, and business throughout, except in fat sheep, was of an unsatisfactory nature to vendors. The entries comprised 16,184 sheep and lambs, 388 head of cattle, and 793 pigs.

Out of 190 head of fat cattle—50 in dealers' hands—the bulk were good useful sorts, with a pen or two of prime steers. There was little or no competition, and a considerable fall on late rates was experienced, cow beef suffering most. Prime steers brought L6 to L8 2s; inferior and secondary, L3 12s 6d to L5; good heifers, L4 10s to 6l; smaller, L2 17s 6d to L4; good cows, L4 to L5 12s 6d; and others, L2 7s 6d. At per 100lb beef ruled from 15s to 16s 6d for prime, 12s to 14s for good, and from 7s 6d to 11s for inferior and cow sorts.

The yarding of fat sheep included some very good lines of wethers and ewes. The sale for anything approaching freezing quality was very good. Exporters and butchers were in competition for all the better lots. Freezing wethers quite held their own, and the better classes of trade ewes showed an advance of 1s to 2s per head, and even secondary quality ewes met with a better demand. Prices realised were: Best crossbred wethers, 12s 6d to 14s 1d; secondary do, 10s to 12s; best maiden ewes, 11s to 13s 4d; secondary do, 7s 9d to 10s 6d; best mixed sexes, 11s to 13s 6d; secondary do, 8s 6d to 18s 6d; best ewes, 9s to 11s 5d; good do, 7s to 8s 6d; inferior and secondary sorts, 3s 7d to 6s 6d; merino wethers, 2s 3d to 3s.

Fat lambs again came forward in large numbers, but there was little life in the sale, the buyers for export not appearing very anxious to secure supplies. A nice line of nearly 55 from Sir John Hall's estate was taken at 10s 4d, and this was about the top price (with the exception of 10s 9d obtained for a little lot), freezing sorts selling down to 9s, good butchers' lambs at 6s to 8s 6d, and backward lots, of which there was a large number, down to 3s 6d.

The pig yards were again taxed to their utmost capacity. Baconers were slightly easier, prices ranging from 4d to 4½d per lb, and for porkers from 4d to 4½d. Good stores quite held their own, but the supply of smaller sorts was in excess of the demand, and several lots were passed. Per head, baconers ran from 32s 6d to 56s, porkers 20s to 22s, stores 16s to 25s, and small pigs, 4s to 12s.