

contractors, and others, and we can recommend owners of such to try our market. There is also a strong demand for useful farm horses, and first-class mares and fillies will always command very full prices. Upstanding young light harness horses are also inquired for and can be placed to advantage, but there is no demand for weedy and aged hacks and harness horses. We quote as follows: First-class draught mares and geldings, L35 to L40; extra good mares, L45 to L50; good useful draught mares and geldings, L25 to L33; aged do, L12 to L20; strong upstanding harness horses, L20 to L25; cavalry horses, L18 to L25; medium hacks and harness horses, L8 to L15; aged do, L2 to L5.

PRODUCE.

Messrs. DONALD REID AND CO. report as follows:—

OATS.—We offered a mixed catalogue, comprising fair to good feed sparrowbills and short Tartars, duns, and black oats. Competition was not keen, but most of the lots on offer were cleared at: For sparrowbills, 2s 1d to 2s 2½d; duns, 2s 6d to 2s 7d; and black oats, 2s 4½d per bushel (sacks extra).

WHEAT.—Our catalogue consisted entirely of fowl wheat. The demand was not brisk, and only a few lots changed hands at 3s 5d to 3s 8d per bushel for whole wheat (sacks in).

POTATOES.—The market continues poorly supplied, and all good Denwents are keenly competed for. Best Derwents sold at L7 5s to L7 10s; medium, L6 10s to L7; best kidneys, L7 10s to L8; others L5 to L7 per ton (sacks in).

CHAFF.—The market is still overstocked with chaff of medium quality, which is difficult to place. Prime oaten sheaf is not so plentiful, and this class received more attention to-day. We sold best oaten sheaf at L3 10s to L3 12s 6d; extra heavy to L3 15s; medium to good, L3 to L3 5s; straw chaff, 27s 6d per ton (bags extra).

TURNIPS.—Swedes (loose in truck), 16s to 17s 6d per ton.

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—

OATS.—The demand is very poor at present, as buyers will not do business unless at lower prices. There is very little changing hands. Quotations: Good to best feed, 2s 2d to 2s 3d; medium, 2s 1d to 2s 1½d; milling, 2s 5d to 2s 7d per bushel (sacks extra).

BARLEY.—Very little offering. No change to report.

CHAFF.—There is still a large quantity in stock and it is very difficult to place any except prime oaten sheaf which is scarce and in good demand. Prime oaten sheaf, L3 10s to L3 15s; medium, L3 to L3 5; straw chaff, 25s to 27s 6d per ton (bags extra).

POTATOES.—There are still very few offerings and values have again advanced about 15s per ton. Best Derwents, L7 5s to L7 10s; medium, L6 10s to L7; kidneys, L7 10s to L8 per ton (bags extra).

WHEAT.—The market remains very dull. There is very little business doing and quotations may be taken (nominally) the same as last week.

Mr. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale price only—Oats: Good demand; feed, 1s 11d to 2s 2d; milling, 2s 4d to 2s 6d. Fowls' wheat, 3s to 3s 9d; milling, 4s 6d to 9s. Chaff, L3 to L3 15s, fair supply. Ryegrass and clover hay, L3 15s to L4 5s. Straw, pressed 28s per ton; loose, 28s. Potatoes: Market bare, L7 10. Flour: Roller, L13 to L13 10s. Oatmeal: L13 in 25lbs. Butter: Dairy, 10d to 1s; factory, 1s 2d. Eggs, 1s 4d. Bran, L4. Pollard, L5. Onions, L9 to L10 per ton.

WOOL, SKINS, TALLOW, ETC.

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—

RABBITSKINS.—Owing to the rise in values at the London sales, bidding was very keen for all classes of skins at Monday's sale, and prices showed an advance of 1½d to 2d per lb. Prime winter greys fetched 16½d to 18d; medium, 15d to 16d; blacks up to 19d per lb; others in proportion.

SHEEPSKINS.—There was a brisk demand at Tuesday's sale, and prices remained firm. Best dry crossbreds, 4s to 5s 6d; medium, 3s to 3s 9d; inferior, 2s to 2s 9d; pelts, 4d to 1s 6d; best dry merinos, 3s 3d to 4s 6d; medium, 2s 3d to 3s; inferior, 1s 6d to 2s; pelts, 3d to 1s 3d; best green crossbreds, 3s to 3s 3d; extra, 4s 3d; do lambskins, 2s 9d to 3s 2d.

HIDES.—In good demand. Market firm. Prime heavy ox, 3½d to 4d; medium, 2½d to 3d; light and inferior, 1½d to 2½d per lb.

TALLOW.—All offering is readily disposed of at the following quotations: Best rendered mutton, 13s 6d to 15s; medium, 11s 6d to 13s; inferior, 9s 6d to 11s; rough fat, 8s 6d to 11s per cwt.

The Perth to Melbourne track is not a distance that can be settled in an offhand manner with any description of wheel, for the exact distance between the W.A. and Melbourne G.P.O. is a modest 2,150 miles. These 2,150 spaces are varied in an interesting fashion by Mulga scrub, wild aboriginals, shifting sand hill deserts, and uncertain, uncanny route. Snell, who did this distance in 27 days did it fast, faster, in fact, than any succeeding sprinter. Virgin, who followed, didn't even touch the hem of Snell's cycle raiment in this respect. Denning, who is coming across the same space shortly with a Dunlop tyred Swift, means to get Snell's laurels in record time. If this wheel is as good upon the road as it is upon the cycle track behind Ariel pace the job should be a particularly easy one to accomplish. *

PRESENTATIONS.

FATHER CHERVIER.

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

ON Tuesday last a very pleasant afternoon was spent by a number of people in the old Catholic schoolroom at Leeston, advantage being taken of the day being the forty-first anniversary of the Rev. Father Chervier's entrance into the ministry. The Sisters, with the children, assembled, a number of visitors being also present, and presented the Rev. Father Chervier with tributes of flowers and a most beautifully-worked rochet. Besides this, the children went through a fine programme of songs and recitations. The children opened with a festive song in honour of the occasion. The little ones also sang very sweetly 'The thistle, rose, and shamrock,' 'If the waters could speak,' 'The flower gatherers,' 'Come to the sunset tree' (chorus), 'Prayer in the storm' (Miss Lena Baker), and an action song, 'Meddlesome Mattie.' The following recitations were given with fine dash and 'go': 'Festal flowers' (Misses M. Smyth, J. Bohan, W. Baker), 'Little treasures' (Hubert Dierch), 'Where shall we find our home' (senior pupils), a comic piece, 'Grand-papa's spectacles' (Annie Aitken), 'The priest's leap' (Walter Baker), 'The son of a king for me' (Mary Bohan). The accompaniments to the songs were nicely played by Miss Holley. Two little dots, Lizzie Aitken and Gerald Gregory, presented handsome bouquets to their venerated pastor. Father Chervier, in a few words, thanked the children and the good Sisters for their kindness. He detailed the tremendous responsibility imposed upon a priest, and stated that he had heard over 19,000 confessions, had administered the first communion to over 16,700, and some years ago he had computed that he had baptised over 12,300 children. He then asked the children that, as the twenty-first of June was the shortest day and the days henceforward grew longer, so they would pray that he might increase in goodness with each succeeding year of his life and ministry.

MR. O'REGAN.

AN interesting and pleasing ceremony was enacted in Westport on the 20th inst., when a large assemblage had gathered in the Princess Theatre on the occasion of a presentation to Mr. R. J. O'Regan, M.H.R., of a handsome silver tray and coffee service on behalf of the people of the town and surrounding districts, and in honour of his recent marriage. In the unavoidable absence of the Mayor, Mr. Bayfield took the chair, and in the course of a few remarks stated that the people of Denniston and Granity Creek purposed to make presentations to Mr. O'Regan on their own account. The task of making the presentation of the evening devolved upon Mr. J. S. Suisted, who fulfilled his duties in a capable manner. He stated that the gathering had no political significance, but that the motive which prompted the presentation was a desire on the part of his friends to give some tangible expression to their appreciation of the services and work of Mr. O'Regan on behalf of the district. Expressing a hope that Mr. O'Regan would have a bright and prosperous career, and that he would continue to use his abilities as a journalist and politician to advance this great country, Mr. Suisted formally made the presentation. Mr. Cook, on behalf of the people of Millerton and Granity Creek presented Mr. O'Regan with a purse of sovereigns. The recipient of the handsome presents then acknowledged the honour that had been conferred upon him with a few well-chosen remarks. The proceedings closed with a dance.

LATE COMMERCIAL.

BURNSIDE STOCK REPORT.

(SPECIAL TO N.Z. TABLET.)

(Per favour Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris.)

Wednesday, June 29, 5 p.m.

CATTLE.—150 penned. There was a good demand for prime cattle, prices for these being slightly higher than last week. Prices of other sorts unchanged. Fat bullocks sold at L8 to L9 2-6d; medium, L7 to L7 13s; light, L4 15s to L6 10s; best cows, L6 10s to L8; medium, L4 15s to L6; others, L2 10s to L4 5s.

FAT SHEEP.—3,098 penned, prices ruling same as last week. Best crossbred wethers sold at 11s to 15s; medium to good, 11s 6d to 13s 9d; light, 9s 6d to 11s; best ewes, 12s to 13s 6d; medium, 10s to 11s 9d; others, 8s to 9s 9d.

LAMBS.—234 penned, all selling up to 9s 6d.

PIGS.—134 forward, all selling at prices in favour of vendors. A good demand for porkers and baconers.

Sir Reginald Palgrave, the Chief Clerk of the House of Commons, is a gentleman of charming manners but of a very retiring disposition. He has some warm friends among the members of all political parties, and is devoted to the interests of the 'Commons,' having studied all the annuals of the House. His first book was on the subject of Cromwell, and his other publications include 'The House of Commons: Illustrations of its History and practice,' and 'The Chairman's Handbook.' Sir Reginald is an accomplished artist, and models in clay and wax. It is said that he possesses a most interesting collection of busts of Members of Parliament made by his own hands, and rumour also credits him with a knack of hitting off capital pen and pencil caricatures at moments when to all appearance he is engrossed in his duties.

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