

Grain.—Wheat is in steady demand, and continues firm. The quality of really prime offering is limited, and in consequence slightly higher prices are being asked and obtained. Medium is more difficult to place, except at prices which holders hardly feel justified in accepting. Fowls' wheat is scarce, and, with a good demand existing, prices show an upward tendency. Quotations are—For prime Tuscan, 3s 2d to 3s 3½d; prime hard velvet, 3s to 3s 2d; best red wheat, 2s 10d to 3s; medium to good, 2s 8½ to 2s 10d; broken and inferior to medium, 2s to 2s 7d (ex store, sacks weighed in, terms).—**Oats:** The arrivals during the week have been large, and mostly going into store. A slightly better demand has been experienced during the past week, but the quantity disposed of was insignificant considering the heavy consignments coming forward. There is nothing like the demand for export experienced this season that existed at the same time the past few seasons, and with so many growers anxious to quit, the market quickly gave way, sellers finding it impossible to effect sales except at reduced prices; but we think the bottom has been reached, and scarcely think that any further reductions need be submitted to. We quote—Prime milling, at 1s 4d to 1s 5d; best short bright feed, 1s 3½d to 1s 4d; medium, 1s 2d to 1s 3d (ex store, sacks extra).—**Barley:** The market for this cereal continues very quiet. A few sales are still being effected, but only of the very best offering, at from 3s to 3s 3½, any other having little or no attention.

Grass Seed.—The demand for ryegrass seed has fallen off considerably, and sales difficult to effect at current rates. Stocks, are however, light, and it is considered that no more than sufficient for the spring requirements remain on hand. In that case, provided importations are not heavy, full prices should be obtained. Meantime we quote best dressed 4s 3d to 4s 9d; undressed, 2s 6d to 3s 6d (ex store). Cocksfoot, moderate demand, at 3d to 4½d per lb.

Potatoes.—A moderately fair demand continues to be experienced, but prices do not seem to alter very materially. Really prime Northern Derwents are easily placed at from 70s to 72s 6d; Southern, from 50s to 62s 6d per ton.

Chaff.—The market this week has not been so fully supplied, and any lots offering were easily placed, but, owing to oats being so low, buyers of chaff are not disposed to give over late rates, which may be quoted as follows:—For best heavy screened chaff, 47s 6d to 52s 6d; medium to good, 30s to 42s per ton.

Dairy Produce.—The demand for prime salt butter continues moderately fair at from 7d to 8d per lb, but there are no buyers for medium or inferior; while for cheese there is very little passing locally, and holders are seeking an outlet by shipment to Australia and Home.

Messrs. DONALD BEID AND Co. report for the week ending May 7 as follows:—

Wool.—Cablegrams to hand during the past few days have been very unsatisfactory, and as a natural consequence prices here have suffered a decline. At auction to-day we offered a small catalogue of oddments; bidding was exceedingly slack, and only a few lots were sold.

Rabbitskins.—For our sale on Tuesday we submitted a catalogue of 4 bales and 14 bags, made up of summer and autumn full-grown skins and suckers. The local buyers were in attendance and bid briskly for every lot offered.

Sheepskins.—We offered a full catalogue at our usual weekly sale on Tuesday. These consisted of country dry skins and green skins from local butchers, but principally the former. Bidding was again slack, and prices, if anything lower than last week. Green crossbreds sold at 2s 6d to 3s 1½d; do merinos, 1s 8d to 2s 5d; do lambs, 2s 1d to 3s 3d; dry crossbreds, 2s 1d to 5s 7d; do merinos, 1s 1½d to 4s 7d.

Hides.—There is a ready sale for all coming forward, local manufacturers being the purchasers. During the week we cleared all forward at for:—Prime heavies, 2½d to 3d; medium to good, 2½d to 2¾d; light and inferior, 1½d to 2d; bulls and slipper, 1½d to 1¾d per lb.

Tallow.—Market unchanged.

Grain.—Wheat: Only a moderate supply forward. Prime milling is scarce and meets with ready sale at quotations. Medium sorts are in abundant supply, and as millers are at present confining their purchases to only the choicest samples, this class realises only a little above fowls' wheat prices. We quote:—Prime milling (Tuscan and Velvet) 3s to 3s 3½d; other descriptions, 2s 10d to 3s 1d; fowls' wheat, 2s to 2s 6d.

Oats.—A large and steady supply continues to arrive, and there being little outside demand, stocks in stores are assuming large proportions. Millers, as a rule, are well supplied with previous purchases, and the outlet in that quarter is almost nil. Shippers clear off occasional lines, and some small sales are effected for local consumption. As soon as cheap sailing freights are available, we expect to have a large demand for export. Our quotations are:—Milling, 1s 3½d to 1s 4½d; Feed, 1s 2d to 1s 3d (sacks extra).

Barley.—A few lines of milling and feed have been disposed of during the week, but there has been no demand for malting sorts, and at present this class is almost unsaleable. We quote—Malting (nominal), 2s 10d to 3s; milling, 2s 3d to 2s 9d, sacks extra.

Potatoes.—The market is completely glutted with supplies from all quarters, and the local consumption being very limited, and no outlet for export, prices have fallen very much. We quote—Prime, £2 12s 6d to £2 17s 6d; medium, £2 to £2 10s.

Chaff.—Only a moderate supply to hand, and prices continue firm. Prime heavy oat-sheaf (well cut), £2 5s to £2 10s; light or badly cut, £1 15s to £2.

Messrs. Lane and Co, notify that their address is Lane and Co., Clarke street, Dunedin, and Severn street, Oamaru.

Mr. Marion Crawford, the eminent Catholic novelist, is enjoying the unusual compliment of having two of his stories running in the principal Paris dailies—"Greifenstein" in the *Debats*, and in the *Temps* "Saracinesca."

THE GERMAN LABOUR MOVEMENT.

(From the *American Manufacturer*.)

AMONG the most remarkable and significant signs of the times are the recent utterances of the German Emperor on the labour question. In his rescripts to two of his Ministers, the Emperor declares that "it is the duty of the State to so regulate the duration and nature of labour as to insure the health, the morality, and the supply of all the economic wants of the working man."

This utterance is the most stinging and staggering blow that *laissez faire* has ever received in Europe. It is in complete opposition to every precept of the Adam Smith and Manchester school of philosophy; it is the announcement of the adherence of the most absolute, with the exception of the Czar, of the civilised monarchs of Europe to the new gospel of labour and its relation to the State.

The theory of the English school of philosophers concerning the functions and actions of the State, not only in relation to labour, but to all other conditions, that it was assumed were purely personal, has been absolutely non-interference—*laissez faire*. They have condemned direct interference of the State with labour as an interference in the industrial freedom of its citizens. This for years was the spirit of the laws not only of the Continent of Europe but of England as well. But England has gradually, in the face of its theoretical adoption of the doctrine of *laissez faire*, been placing upon its statute books a body of legislation that is in direct opposition to this theoretical idea. How great has been this movement Stanley Jevons shows in his remarkable little book, "The State in Relation to Labour," and there lays down what it seems to us is the true limit of legislation in this matter, viz., that "no laws, no customs, no rights of property are so sacred that they may not be made away with if it can be clearly shown that they stand in the way of the greatest happiness." In the place of that metaphysical incubus, *laissez faire*, English legislation, and American legislation too, has been following the higher principle, *salus populi*, regarding this as the *lex suprema*—higher even than the so-called universal and unalterable rule of *laissez faire*.

In this country, so far as concerns the individual labourer, we have not yet placed upon our statute books as many nor so modern provisions for their health and morality as has been done in England or in some of the continental nations; but in a broader and better sense we have placed among our laws provisions that so concern the welfare of the labourer as to place him in a position of such independence as to demand and enforce methods that shall ensure his health and safety. This we have done in the system of protection that gives our working men such wages and such a degree of independence that they can insist upon those provisions in connection with their work that shall provide for their safety and their health.

"Your picture of Balfour is a caricature," writes an esteemed London correspondent; "give the devil his due." We should like to; but unfortunately, the disposal of Mr. Balfour is not in our hands.—*Pilot*.

The new rifle with which the German army is now being armed is the third which has been adopted by the eagles at Berlin since the summer of 1871, and each change has involved an expenditure of one hundred and ten million marks.

Monsignor Fallières, the new Bishop of Saint Brieux, who is preparing for his approaching consecration, has chosen for his arms a gold chalice upon azure, with the inscription, "*Tu es sacerdos in aeternum*." The following anecdote throws light upon the choice. When the present Bishop was a young man and undecided as to his vocation, he happened to listen to a sermon that strongly moved him. Opening a book directly afterwards, the first words that met his eye were—"Tu es sacerdos in aeternum."

A correspondent states that the Empress of Austria has caused her wedding dress to be cut up and made into a set of vestments for the clergy at the Church of St. Mathew, in Pesth. The dress was of white brocade with silver threads, embroidered all over with beautiful garlands of roses in silver.

Recently at Sainte-Clotilde, Paris, a sermon was preached by the well-known pulpit orator, Pere Ollivier, in behalf of the memorial church to be raised in Ireland on the site of O'Connell's birthplace. The eloquent Poincarde was not going over quite new ground. Others, including Lacordaire and Pere Vestura, had been before him in sounding from French pulpits the praises of the great Irish emancipator. Pere Ollivier drew in vigorous lines O'Connell's life and work, and the theme appealed to the sympathies of a large and fashionable congregation.

Mr. F. MRENNAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices:—Oats, 1s 2d to 1s 5d, bags extra. Wheat: Milling, 2s 6d to 3s 1d; fowls', 2s to 2s 6d, sacks included. Chaff: New, £2 10s for best; inferior, 30s to 40s, unsaleable. Hay: Oaten, £3; ryegrass, £3. Bran, £3 0s. Pollard, £4, scarce. Potatoes: Kidneys, £1 10s to £2; derwents, £3 to £3 10s—sample of Oamaru to hand, small. Flour: Stone, £7 15s; sacks, fifties, £8 5s; roller, £8 10s; fifties, £9 5s; Butter, tresh, 9d to 1s—rather easier; salt, 6d to 8d—demand moderate. Eggs, 1s 6d.

The Jews are just now taking a very remarkable step. A petition has been drawn up and submitted for signature to all the Rabbins of Europe and America, and its object is to beg the Pope to put an end, by means of a public document, to the charge often made against the Jews of offering up a sacrifice of Christian Blood in their religious observances. The petition appeals to the testimony of Popes and leading Catholic authorities who have from the earliest times denounced the charge as an atrocious calumny, and expressed the hope that Leo XIII. will accede to the demand addressed to him "in the name of truth, justice, and humanity." The Jews have not forgotten the prosecution which throughout the course of their sad history they have always found at the Papal court.—*Liverpool Catholic Times*.