

Commercial.

MESSRS. DONALD STRONACH AND SON report for the week ending May 7, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—140 head were yarded, all good quality. There was a much keener demand than of late, butchers competing briskly for all offered, and prices showing an improvement of 20s to 30s per head over last week's rates. Bullocks sold at £5 17s 6d to £8 13s 6d; cows, £3 10s to £7 5s. We sold 25 head fat cattle on account of Mr D. Mitchell (Portobello) and other vendors at up to £8 12s 6d for bullocks.

Fat Sheep.—There was a moderate supply in to-day, consisting of 200 merino wethers (inferior quality) and 1623 crossbreds—the greater part wethers, medium to heavy weights. These were in better demand, and went to freezers; other descriptions were taken by local butchers at prices showing an improvement of 1s on ordinary mutton, 1s 3d to 2s on best lines of wethers. Sales closing firm. Crossbred wethers sold at 10s 6d to 16s for extra; crossbred ewes, 8s 6d to 14s 6d for extra; merino wethers, 3s 9d to 7s 6d.

Fat Lambs.—234 penned. The quality was exceptionally prime, and some good prices were paid. Best sold at 10s 6d to 12s 6d, others 8s to 10s 3d.

Pigs.—272 yarded, nearly all prime and heavy baconers. There was a slight improvement in values, curers taking all offered at, for baconers, 40s to 50s; porkers, 22s to 37s 6d; stores, 14s to 21s; suckers, 6s 6d to 11s 6d.

Wool.—Cablegrams received during the week from our London office respecting the progress of the London sales advise of an irregular market. Sound, well-grown, fine greasy wools of all descriptions appear to be selling fairly well, opening rates being maintained; but scoured, washed, and faulty wools display a decline since receipt of our last cablegram of 1/1 per lb. The total quantity catalogued up to the 2nd May is 208,000 bales, and the total quantity withdrawn to the same date is 28,000 bales. From our London circular dated March 22 to hand via San Francisco we gather that since the close of the previous sales the market has been very quiet, the transactions being confined to a few sales of odd lots at current prices. Reports from the Home manufacturing centres are certainly not so satisfactory as they were a month ago, and the situation is somewhat aggravated by the important disputes between labour and capital at present impending. The advices from the Continent appear to be rather more hopeful, a fair trade being reported, while the stocks of dearly purchased direct supplies (which tell so heavily in the Home markets) are apparently more strongly held. In the meantime the general position of the article, if viewed from a standpoint of supply and demand, continues to appear quite sound.

Sheepskins.—Under the influence of continued fine weather there was a full attendance of buyers at our auction sale on Tuesday, and competition throughout was active. There was a large catalogue, including some good lots of station skins, for which bidding was lively, also town and country butchers' green skins, which were in very strong request, realising prices about on a par with last week's rates. For butchers' green crossbreds, prime, we quote 4s 3d, 4s, 3s 11d, 3s 10d, 3s 9d, 3s 8d, 3s 7d, 3s 6d; good to medium and inferior, 3s 5d, 3s 4d, 3s 3d, 3s 2d, 3s 1d, 3s, 2s 10d, 2s 8d; green merinos, 3s 6d, 3s 3d, 3s 1d, 3s, 2s 9d, 2s 6d, 2s 3d, 2s; lambskins, 4s, 3s 11d, 3s 10d, 3s 9d, 3s 7d, 3s 5d, 3s 3d, 3s 1d, 2s 10d, 2s 8d, 2s 7d; country dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, 1s 3d to 4s 3d; do do merino, 1s 4d to 3s 6d; full-wooled crossbreds, 4s 6d to 6s 6d; do do merino, 3s 9d to 6s 3d; dry pelts, 3d to 1s 3d.

Rabbitskins.—These have a good demand, but owing to the absence of supplies, the business transacted is necessarily small.—Small consignments come to hand weekly, but the quantity is very limited, nearly all as yet low season skins, and with the weather continuing so fine really well-furred skins will not be forthcoming for some time. The few coming to hand, however, are eagerly competed for at auction, and realising full price. Quotations range from 2d to 8d, and for autumn 9d to 1s per lb.

Hides.—A steady demand continues to be experienced, but no improvement can be reported in values. Shippers seem unwilling to operate at present quotations. Our local manufacturers, however, purchase freely, taking up nearly all consignments coming forward at the following quotations—viz, for best heavy weights in prime condition, 2½d to 3d; medium, 2½d to 2½d; light, 2d to 2½d; inferior, 1½d to 1½d per lb.

Tallow.—A very fair demand continues to be experienced principally for local consumption. The fluctuations at the Home market give but little inducement for shippers to operate; and, although supplies here are no more than sufficient for present requirements, we were unable to report any improvement in values. We quote medium to good, 15s to 17s; inferior and mixed, 12s to 11s 6d; rough fat, best, 11s 6d to 12s 6d; inferior to medium, 8s 6d to 10s 6d per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: Doubtless owing to the favourable turn in the value of this cereal at Home, the local market continues firm, more particularly in regard to prime samples, which are readily placed at slightly increased rates. Stocks in agents hands or coming forward, of really good quality, are limited and in demand, while a much larger proportion of the consignments to hand can only be described as very medium, and these are accumulating. Millers being careless in the meantime about touching this class of wheat, it is only saleable for feeding purposes. Fowls' wheat continues scarce, and in consequence enhanced values are obtained. Quotations are: For prime Tuscan, 3s 2d to 3s 4d; best white velvet, 3s to 3s 2d; best red wheat, 2s 11d to 3s 1d; medium to good, 2s 8d to 2s 10d; inferior to medium, 2s 3d to 2s 7d (sacks weighed in, terms).—Oats: A considerable quantity of these found purchasers during the week in consequence of an extra amount of tonnage being available both for

intercolonial ports and coastwise, but there has been no change in values, which remain now about the same as last week. There is no improvement in the demand for export of any consequence, and with such a small quantity being shipped up to the present, stocks are now assuming large dimensions. At auction on Monday top price for bright milling was 1s 4½d; good feed ranging from 1s 2½d to 1s 3½d; for a prime lot of black oats, 1s 2½d (all sacks extra).—Barley: Only the choicest samples have any attention from malsters. Medium is exceedingly difficult to place. Occasionally small parcels are taken up for milling, but the quantity used for this purpose is insignificant. We quote—Prime milling, ex store, 2s 9d to 3s; medium nominal.

Grass Seed.—The market for ryegrass seed is quiet. Odd lots are occasionally placed, but there is very little inquiry, and until the spring demand sets in the business done will be limited. We quote best dressed, 4s to 4s 6d; undressed, 2s 3d to 3s 6d (ex store). Cockfoot is moving off slowly at from 3½d to 4½d per lb.

Potatoes.—The market this week has been glutted. Heavy consignments from the South, in addition to a shipment from the North Island, caused prices to recede from 15s to 20s per ton, best offer at auction on Monday being £2 12s 6d per ton.

Chaff.—The supply is moderate and with a fair demand. Consignments are readily placed, especially if well cut and heavy, while good quality has less attention. We quote best scoured, 47s 6d; medium to good, 30s to 45s per ton.

MESSRS. DONALD REID AND CO. report for the week ending May 14 as follows:—

Wool.—Cablegrams to hand reporting the close of this series of London wool sales are not so satisfactory as could be desired. Under date of May 11 Messrs. Murray, Roberts and Co. report receipt of the following cablegram:—"The sales closed fairly animated, without any further change. As compared with closing rates of last series, prices for greasy are 1d, and for scoured 2d lower, and crossbred ¼d to 1d lower." At auction to-day we submitted a small catalogue of oddments. The local buyers were in attendance, and considering the unsatisfactory reports from London, bidding was fairly brisk.

Sheepskins.—At auction on Tuesday we submitted a moderate catalogue, comprising all descriptions of skins, but consisting principally of green skins from local and country butchers. Bidding was fairly brisk, prices being much the same as last week. Green crossbreds sold at 2s 9d to 3s 11d; merinos, 2s 3d to 3s; lambs, 2s 8d to 3s 10d; dry crossbreds, 2s to 4s 8d; merinos, 1s 10d to 4s 7d.

Hides.—The market is without alteration. The number of really prime heavy hides coming forward in very small, and to secure this sort buyers are prepared to give full rates. There are really more light hides coming to market than are required by manufacturers, and to effect sales low prices have to be accepted. We quote—Prime heavies, 2½d to 3d; medium to good, 2½d to 2½d; light and inferior, 1½d to 2d; bulls and shippy, 1½d to 1½d per lb.

Tallow.—During the past week the quantity which has come to hand has been very small. There is a good demand and ready sale for all descriptions, local manufacturers being the purchasers. We quote—Prime rendered, 18s to 19s; medium, 15s to 17s; inferior, 12s to 14s; rough fat, 9s to 12s.

Grain.—Wheat: Prime milling samples, both of Tuscan and velvet, are scarce and have firmed a little, but inferior and medium samples meet with but little inquiry, and prices for these sorts are unaltered. Fowls' wheat is in good demand, and as there is only a moderate supply coming forward it finds ready sale at quotations. We quote: Prime milling, Tuscan and velvet, 3s 1d to 3s 4d; extra prime up to 3s 5d; extra prime, other descriptions, 2s 10d to 3s 1d; medium, 2s 7d to 2s 10d; fowls' wheat, 2s to 2s 6d.

Oats.—A large supply continues to arrive, but as growers have more confidence in the future of the market the bulk is being stored for the present, and as a result prices continue firm at last quotations. A fair amount of export business is being done in medium and heavy feed at quotations, while milling samples are somewhat neglected. We quote: Milling, 1s 4½d to 1s 5½d (sacks extra); feed, 1s 3d to 1s 4d (sacks extra).

Barley.—A small business has been done during the week, both in writing and milling, at quotations, but feed and smutty samples are almost unsaleable. We quote:—Malt, 2s 8d to 2s 11d; sacks extra, milling, 2s to 2s 7d; sacks extra.

Potatoes.—As the quality forward during the week has been small, stocks which had accumulated in stores during the glut are being slowly reduced; prices are, however, without alternation. We quote:—Prime, £2 10s to £2 12s 6d; medium, £2s 5s to £2 7s 6d.

Chaff.—Only a moderate supply forward, and prices remain firm at for prime heavy oatsbeaf, £2 5s to £2 10s; inferior, £1 15s to £2.

Mr. F. MEEHAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices:—Oats, 1s 2d to 1s 5d, bags extra. Wheat: Milling, 2s 10d to 3s 5d; fowls' 2s to 2s 9d, 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, £2 10s to £3—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 10d.

The Colonial Drug and Manufacturing Company, Dunedin, are agents for Marshall's celebrated remedies, which have been found efficacious in so many disorders. La grippe is especially included in the illnesses cured by them.

Mr Andrew Lees, George street, Dunedin, has always in stock glass, paperhangings, paints, and every article in the trade, specially imported by him, consisting of all descriptions in demand and of the best qualities. Orders given for work will be carefully attended to and most satisfactorily executed. Mr Lees' prices also will be found extremely moderate.