

were so united and so happy in our union, may even now be brought, by the power of the Divine will, into One Fold and under One Shepherd." Of the whole company, the writer was almost the farthest away since, but he has been drawn back and within it.

Commercial.

Messrs. DONALD STRONACH AND SON report for the week ending October 15, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—To-day, again, there was a small supply forward, only 176 head being penned. A large proportion of these ranged from medium to good useful beef, with a few pens prime, but hardly up to last week's weights. There was a good attendance of the trade, and, owing to the moderate number forward, very good competition was experienced, all being sold at satisfactory prices. Best bullocks brought £8 10s to £10; medium, £6 7s 6d to £7 17s 6d; light, £4 10s to £6 2s 6d; best cows, £7 2s 6d to £8 2s 6d; others, £3 to £6 5s.

Fat Sheep.—2,230 were penned, including about 250 merino wethers, the rest crossbreds; about equal proportions of wethers and ewes. This entry was rather lighter than those we have had lately, and about the average as regards quality, some of the pens being very good freezers; but there was only a moderate enquiry for these. Prices obtaining at the commencement showed a slight decline, although towards the finish they improved, and closed at about equal to those being realised last week. Best crossbred wethers brought 16s to 19s; one pen extra prime to 21s 3d; medium to good 13s 3d to 15s 9d; best do ewes, 14s 6d to 15 9d; medium to good, 12s 3d to 14s; merino wethers, 9s to 13s 6d.

Lambs.—135 were penned, nearly all nice, useful quality, and had a fair demand, but prices ruling were hardly up to last week's. Best brought 10s 6d to 12s 6d, others, 7s 6d to 9d 6d.

Pigs.—There was only a small entry to-day—viz., 107—chiefly porkers and baconers, with a few stores. A moderately fair demand was experienced, and very good prices obtained, considering weights, which were all on the light side. Stores brought 16s to 23s; porkers, 24s to 26s; baconers, 28s to 36s.

Store Cattle.—The market for these shows a slightly improved tone. Although there are not very many lots being disposed of at the moment, there is a good deal of inquiry being made with reference to the future of the market, and as feed is now springing up fast after the late refreshing rains, we have no doubt a considerable amount of business will be put through. We have no sales to report, but have some pending.

Store Sheep.—While a good demand still exists for suitable mobs of crossbreds, buyers lately have been less keen to purchase at the prices obtaining a short time since, and sellers, especially those who have sufficient feed, are not disposed to quit at less, preferring to hold in the meantime and take the wool off. In consequence the business transacted now shows a considerable falling off, but doubtless after shearing large numbers will change hands.

Wool.—The fourth series of colonial wool sales closed in London very firm at an advance of 3d to 1 1/2d per lb, as compared with closing rates of last series. Total quantity sold during the past sales is 230,000 bales, of which 126,000 have been taken for the Continent and 4,000 for America. It is estimated that 35,000 bales have been held over for future disposal. The rise of price pronounced at the commencement was improved upon and firmly maintained down to the close. The strongest demand appears to have been on the part of the Continental buyers, who took a much larger share of the quantity disposed.

Sheepskins.—These are in very good demand, and at our weekly sale on Tuesday at the Chamber of Commerce Hall, Crawford street, the attendance was very good, all the representatives of the trade being present. We had a full assortment of both dry and green skins, and under the influence of continued satisfactory advices as to the wool market at Home, and moderately favourable weather, competition was very active, more especially, as has been invariably the case for some time, for fine-woolled skins, and for which late rates were fully maintained. Other descriptions were also in good request. Bidding all through our sales was very lively, fully our late rates being realised, taking quality into consideration. Butchers' best crossbreds brought 6s 5d, 6s 4d, 6s 3d, 6s 1d, 6s, 5s 11d, 5s 10d, 3s 9d, 5s 8d, 5s 7d, 5s 6d; good to medium and inferior, 5s 4d, 5s 3d, 5s 2d, 5s 1d, 5s, 4s 10d, 4s 9d, 4s 8d, 4s 7d; green merinos, 5s 8d, 5s 6d, 5s 3d, 5s, 4s 9d, 4s 6d, 4s 3d, 3s 10d, 3s 3d; country dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, 1s 10d to 3s 11d; do do merino, 1s 9d to 3s 6d; full-woolled crossbreds, 4s 9d to 7s 3d; do do merino, 4s 8d to 5s 11d; dry pelts, 3d to 1s 8d each; lambskins, 1s 3d, 1s 2d, 1s 1d, 1s.

Rabbitskins.—The market continues steady, all descriptions having a very fair demand; but, whether distrustful of the future or from some further cause, there was somewhat less animation displayed at the auctions this week than has prevailed during the past few weeks. The catalogues presented now, however, are of less importance, being very much smaller, and only very few prime really winter skins coming forward; so that, while prices obtaining on Tuesday would appear to be lower, comparing quality with those being previously offered, the difference will be slight. We quote prime winters, 1s 4 1/2d to 1s 6d; spring skins, 1s to 1s 3d; inferior to medium, 5d to 10d; black and fawn, best, 9d to 11d; medium, 5d to 8d; suckers and half-grown, 2d to 3d per lb.

Hides.—There is no quotable alteration to note in values, the position of the market being much the same as it has been during the past few months. Clearances can only be effected at late ruling low rates. Buyers scarcely feel inclined to pay the same prices that they have done for light and medium class parcels, while heavy weights in good order, owing to their scarcity, are firm at late quotations—viz., best dry salted, 2 1/2d to 2 3/4d; extra heavy, 3d; medium, 2d to 2 1/2d; light, 1 1/2d to 1 3/4d; inferior and slippy, 1d to 1 1/2d per lb.

Tallow.—The market is quite bare of parcels in shipping condition; in consequence the business being done in the meantime is confined to the placing for local manufacture the odd lots that come to hand from time to time, and which do not fail to realise prices quite in sympathy with those obtaining at Home. We quote prime rendered mutton, 20s to 21s; medium to good, 17s to 19s; inferior and mixed, 13s to 15s 6d. Rough fat is readily disposed of at—for best clean caul, 13s to 14s; inferior to medium and good, 9s 6d to 12s 9d per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: There is no perceptible change in the market since date of our last report. While all sorts are saleable—more especially prime velvet and Tuscan—buyers do not evince any very keen desire to operate or give higher prices for their moderate requirements. The market, however, is bare of good milling, and in the event of an improvement in the demand for flour business in wheat would certainly assume a much stronger tone. A considerable quantity of fowl's wheat could be disposed of if prices were suitable; but, rather than pay the prices demanded consumers prefer to use cheaper feed, such as barley, which is almost unsaleable for anything else, and, although not so desirable, does very well as a substitute for wheat. We quote:—prime milling velvet and tuscan, 3s 9d to 3s 10d; medium to good, 3s 5d to 3s 8d; best red wheat (nominal), 3s 6d to 3s 8d; medium, 3s 4d to 3s 6d; inferior, 3s 3d to 3s 4d (ex store, sacks weighed in, terms). Oats:—There are buyers for stout bright feed and milling, and any such offering can be readily placed at prices about equal to those quoted last week. Small lots of inferior and discoloured are also saleable, although large parcels of the latter would be difficult to place. The demand at present however, is supposed to be purely speculative, as outside markets do not at the moment offer any inducement to operate, even at the present low level of prices. At the same time, a very slight outside demand would burden prices considerably; in any case they cannot well go very much lower. We quote:—stout bright milling, 1s 4d; best short bright feed, 1s 3d to 1s 3 1/2d; medium, 1s 2d to 1s 2 1/2d; black 1s 2d to 1s 2 1/2d; musty and inferior, 1s to 1s 2d (ex store, sacks extra, net cash). Barley.—The bulk of the stock on hands is hardly suitable for maling, and therefore difficult to place, except in small parcels for feeding purposes. There is very little being disposed of for maling owing to the absence of good samples. We quote:—Nominally best malting, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; medium, 2s 3d to 2s 6d; feed and milling, 1s 6d to 2s (ex store).

Grass seed.—The quantity of ryegrass seed being now disposed of, is considerably less and the market is much quieter. It would be difficult to place large parcels at late quotations, although for small lines late prices are still demanded, and we again quote for imported, 4s 9d to 5s 3d; local grown timbers dressed, 4s 3d to 4s 6d; best machine dressed, 5s 3d to 5s 9d (ex store).—Cockfoot seed: Only a moderate business done in this at from 3 1/2d to 4 1/2d per lb.

Potatoes.—There is no improvement in the demand, and are difficult to place at a reduction on last week's quotations, which were 15s to 35s per ton (sacks weighed in).

Chaff.—The new grass now springing up fast, there is less demand for chaff, and the supply being more than sufficient for requirements last week's quotations are only maintained with some difficulty, which we again give: For properly cut heavy oaten sheaf, 35s to 40s; indifferently cut and light, 25s to 30s per ton.

Dairy Produce.—Cheese has had some slight inquiry during the week for local consumption, but a very limited quantity suffices for this purpose, and will have no effect on late quotations, say: 4d to 4 1/2d for medium size factory made; 4 1/2d to 4 3/4d for loaf.—Butter is coming to market in larger quantities than can very well be disposed of. Quotations nominal.

Mr. F. MÆNAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices:—Oats, 1s 1d to 1s 1d (bags extra), dull. Wheat: milling, 3s 6d to 4s; fowls', 3s 3d—both firm, sacks included. Chaff: Very dull—£1 10s to £2; hay, oat n., £2 10s; best ryegrass, £3. Bran, £2 10s, Pollard, £3 10s. Potatoes—a total collapse owing to export entirely ceased and large supplies on hand—best, 20s to 30s per ton; seed, nominal. Flour: roller, £10 to £10 15s; stone, £9 5s to £9 15s. Fresh butter, very plentiful, value from 4d to 8d; salt, nominal, for prime, 7d. Eggs, good demand, 6d.

Messrs. Herbert Haynes and Co, Princes street, Dunedin, invite an inspection of the goods purchased in the home markets by their new buyer, and now completed for the season. The firm are confident that ladies will recognise the admirable manner in which their requirements have been provided for. Several new materials of a very choice kind are among the stock to be selected from. Particular attention has also been paid to style.

Father Francesco Tongiorgi, of the Society of Jesus, the well-known writer on philosophical subjects, died in Rome on Saturday, after having received the last Sacraments and special blessing of the Holy Father. He was born in Rome on February 16th, 1823. At the time of his death he held several important posts in connection with the Roman Congregations.

Despite all the labours of total abstinence advocates, the consumption of strong drink goes on increasing. In 1889 the total quantity of spirits retained for home consumption as a beverage in the three months ending June 30th was 5,980,000 gallons. The total for the same period of the current year is over 6,488,000 gallons, which is an increase of over 500,000 gallons for the single quarter. Of this extra 500,000 gallons of spirits, England has taken the lion's share, about 348,000 gallons, and Scotland 136,000, while Ireland is only responsible for an additional 24,000. The production of beer is also increasing on a par with the extra demand for spirits. The quantity brewed in the quarter ending June 30th this year was 7,514,000 barrels, as against 7,116,654 in the same three months of 1889. If the consumption of spirits proceeds at the same rate throughout the rest of the year as it has proceeded lately, we may look for an increase of over 2,000,000 gallons in the twelve months.