

# Commercial.

MESSEES. DONALD STRONACH AND SON report for the week ending December 10, as follows:—

**Fat Cattle.**—250 head were yarded at Burnside for this day's sale, a considerable portion of which were good to prime, several pens being very heavy weights. The balance were only medium, comprising a number of aged cows. This number was somewhat in excess of requirements, and although there was a good attendance of the trade, competition lacked spirit, prices ruling being fully 20s per head lower than last week. Best bullocks brought £8 10s to £10 10s; medium, £5 10s to £7 2s 6d; light, £4 to £5 5s, cows in proportion.

**Fat Sheep.**—The entry to-day was considerably heavier, 3199 being penned, of which about 120 were merino wethers, all the rest crossbred, about equal proportions wethers and ewes, three-fourths of the whole being shorn, the balance in the wool. The trade being pretty bare of supplies the demand was fairly active; exporters were also in the market, which helped to sustain values to some extent, prices obtained being within 1s to 1s 6d per head of those ruling last week. Best crossbred wethers in the wool brought 18s 6d to 20s 6d; medium, 15s to 16s 6d; do do shorn, 13s 6d to 15s 9d; medium, 11s to 12s 9d; best crossbred ewes in the wool 16s 9d to 17s 9d; medium to 15s; do do shorn, 13s to 14s 3d; medium, 10s to 12s; merino wethers in the wool, 11s; shorn, 5s 9d.

**Lambs.**—617 were penned, representing all qualities. Considering the heavy supply forward, competition was fairly active. Best brought 9s to 11s 9d; others from 5s to 8s 6d.

**Pigs.**—285 were penned, comprising all sorts, but only half a dozen baconers—mostly stores and suckers. The latter brought 4s 6d to 18s; stores, 13s 6d to 17s 6d; porkers, 20s to 23s; baconers 27s to 30s.

**Store Cattle.**—These are not meeting with the active demand that might reasonably be expected, considering the favourable weather lately experienced. While a few lots are occasionally being placed, graziers are exercising a considerable amount of caution in purchasing. The supply being generally in excess of requirements, buyers but seldom find much difficulty in securing as many as they need to replace those they may have ready for disposal. Three to four and five-year-old steers in forward condition realise £3 10s to £5 10s. Low conditioned and indifferently bred sorts are difficult to place at prices satisfactory to sellers.

**Store Sheep.**—Business in this connection is again beginning to show signs of activity: Several sales of some importance are being effected, and a moderate amount of inquiry is almost daily being made, more particularly for crossbreds. Merinos of all sorts are also receiving some attention, and no doubt further on a very considerable amount of business will eventuate.

**Wool.**—We are pleased to notice the sales now in progress at Home are assuming a somewhat more satisfactory tone. Prices are firm and slightly hardening. Locally there is nothing of any importance doing in fleece wool. A few bags of pieces and locks are being weekly placed by auction, when most of the fellmongers are present and compete briskly for all offered, which realise very satisfactory prices, considering the tone of the market.

**Hides.**—We have no alteration to note in the position of the market. For inferior and shippy, 1d to 1½d; light, 1½d to 1¾d; medium, 2d to 2½d; good to best dry, salted, 2½d to 2¾d; extra choice lots, 3d per lb. making the usual allowance in weight for offal, cheeks, and shanks.

**Tallow and Fat.**—A good demand for local consumption continues to be experienced, but owing to the absence of suitable lots for export being in the market there is little or nothing doing in this direction. For inferior and mixed, 19s 6d to 15s 6d; medium to good, 16s to 18s; prime rendered mutton, 19s to 20s. Rough fat finds a ready sale, no matter how small or large the parcel, at—(for best caul, from 13s to 14s; inferior to medium and good, 10s to 12s 9d per cwt.

**Sheepskins.**—Doubtless owing to the uncertainty prevailing with respect to the future of the wool market, buyers on Tuesday (the regular weekly sale day, at the Chamber of Commerce Hall, Crawford street) again operated with more caution. The attendance, however, was very good, and competition fairly satisfactory. Butchers' green crossbreds and halfbreds, best in the wool, fetched 6s, 5s 11d, 5s 10d, 5s 9d, 5s 7d, 5s 5d, 5s 3d, 5s 1d; selected, 6s 6d, 6s 4d, 6s 3d; good to medium and inferior, 5s, 4s 11d, 4s 9d, 4s 7d, 4s 5d, 4s 3d; green merinos, 5s, 4s 10d, 4s 6d, 4s 3d, 4s; green pelts, 9d, 10d, 11d, 1s; extra prime to 1s 4d; lambskins, 1s 1d, 1s 2d, 1s 3d; full-wooled crossbreds, 4s 3d to 6s; do do merino, 3s 9d to 5s 9d; dry pelts, 3d to 7s 3d.

**Rabbitskins.**—Cablegrams to hand reporting the position of the London market at the public sales which were held on Friday last, the 5th inst., are rather disappointing. On Monday small catalogues were offered to the usual attendance of buyers, when prices realised showed but little difference, 1s to 1s 3d being obtained for spring skins, others in proportion.

**Grain.**—Wheat: For best Tuscan, 3s 9d to 3s 10d; best white velvet, 3s 8d to 3s 10d; medium to good, 3s 5d to 3s 7d; best red straw, 3s 3d to 3s 4d; medium, 3s 1d to 3s 2d; inferior, 2s 9d to 3s (ex store). Oats:—These have continued in very fair demand during the past week. Stocks are rapidly decreasing. Quotations for stout, burnt milling, 1s 3½d to 1s 4d; best short feed, 1s 3½d to 1s 4d; medium, 1s 2½d to 1s 3d; black, 1s 1d to 1s 3d; Danish, 1s 2d to 1s 2½d; inferior and musty, 1s to 1s 1d (ex store, sacks extra). Barley: Holders of this cereal are now more disposed to accept current rates; in consequence considerable clearances have been made during the past week or two, but owing to the most of the stock held up to the present being only second rate, prices realised are correspondingly low, medium malting being disposed of at 2s 3d to 2s 4d; feed and milling, 1s 6d to 1s 9d (ex store).

**Grass Seeds.**—The market is almost bare of both ryegrass and seed and cocksfoot, but at the moment the demand is not by any means extensive. The small lots disposed of, however, realise about equal to late rates, while moderate-sized parcels would be difficult to place at late quotations, which may be given as follows:—For best machine-dressed ryegrass, 4s 9d to 5s; farmers' best-dressed, 3s 6d to 4s; medium, 2s 9d to 3s 3d (ex store); cocksfoot, 4d to 4½d per lb. Potatoes.—Old derwents, if good, are saleable in small quantities at from 30s to 40s per ton. New kidney also have a moderate demand, but the consumption is limited. Quotations for both local grown and imported, £9 to £10 per ton.

Chaff has only a moderate demand, and no improvement in price. Best is worth 37s 6d to 42s 6d; medium, 30s to 35s per ton.

**Dairy Produce.**—The market is pretty well cleared out of factory made old cheese, but the new is now coming forward, and selling in small parcels at 4½d to 4¾d for medium size. Butter shows no improvement in demand, which is only for local requirements at for prime salted, in Fond's boxes, 7d to 8d; in other packages, 6d to 7d per lb.

**Flax.**—There is a fair demand for thoroughly scouted bright fibre. Inferior and medium is also saleable, but at prices less favourable when compared with those obtaining for superior quality. We quote superior soft bright, £19 10s to £20 5s; medium to good, well-dressed, £16 10s to £18 5s; common, coarse, and strawy, £10 to £15 per ton.

MESSEES. DONALD REID AND CO., DUNEDIN, report for the week ending December 17, as follows:—

Only a small supply was catalogued for our usual weekly auction sale of grain and produce held at our stores on Monday last. There was a large attendance of buyers and others interested, and bidding was moderately brisk.

**Grain:** Wheat.—There has been unusually little inquiry during the week. We quote—Milling, 3s 2d to 3s 7d; fowl wheat, 2s to 3s 1d.

**Oats.**—Deliveries are now exceedingly limited, and the quantity arriving is not sufficient to supply the present demand, there being a want of good heavy bright oats suitable for shipment Home. There is brisk demand for all qualities, and in face of the very limited deliveries prices are rather firmer. We quote—milling, 1s 3½d to 1s 4½d; feed, 1s 1d to 1s 3d, sacks extra.

**Barley.**—A few lines have been cleared at for—malting, 2s 1d to 2s 4d; milling, 1s 10d to 2s; feed, 1s 6d to 1s 9d, sacks extra.

**Chaff.**—We quote—Prime, £2 to £2 5s; medium, £1 10s to £1 15s.

Mr. F. Meenan, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices:—Oats 1s 2d to 1s 5d (bags extra), good demand. Wheat: milling, 3s 3d to 3s 9d; fowl, 3s 3d—latter firm, sacks included. Chaff: Very dull—£1 10s to £2; hay, oats, £3; best ryegrass, £3. Bran, 10s. Pollard, £3 10s. Potatoes, old, £2 per ton; new, 13s per cwt. 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, 6d. Eggs, 8d. Oatmeal, in 25lb. bags, 28 10s.

Mr. James Muir, Princes st., Dunedin, has received a shipment of hats particularly adapted to the season and suited to a few excursions and outings. His general stock of hats and hosiery is also most deserving of patronage.

Mr. S. S. Bannister calls attention to the superior stock of goods always to be found at the "Grand" Pharmacy, High st., Dunedin. Whether in the promptness and accuracy shown in making up prescriptions or in the excellent quality of the articles supplied, the establishment takes a first-class place.

The Catholics of the Colony should see Mr. E. O'Connor's catalogue for 1891, in which they will find a well-selected list of books suitable to them in all respects. No Catholic household should be without an abundant supply of wholesome and instructive reading, and Mr. O'Connor's efforts have brought such within easy reach of all. No money spent during the holiday season will be better laid out than that expended in such an establishment as that referred to.

The late Professor Galbraith, a few days before he died, expressed to an old friend a wish that his funeral should be a private one, and unaccompanied by any political demonstration. "But," he added, "don't imagine that I say this because I have changed my views on my death-bed. On the contrary, I should be glad to die with 'God Save Ireland' for my last word." He was a good, true, patriotic Irishman.

Another instance of the injurious effects on the brain of cigarette smoking, says the *Memphis Catholic Journal*, was given by the testimony of Dr. Williford in the Criminal Court. The physician was giving evidence relative to the sanity of Reeves, who murdered Rev. Father Ashfield, and stated that there was no question of doubt but that excessive cigarette smoking would lead to insanity. Parents should bear this well in mind, and see that their young sons are not addicted to this dangerous habit.

The Irish aristocrat is the poorest type of the class to be found anywhere. He is very rarely educated; he is never patriotic, never public-spirited; his hand is never in his own pocket, and never out of the taxpayer's; he has never given a penny to schools or charities (unless proselytising charities) or public undertakings of any kind. He has been a cruel and mean landlord, a rascally and jobbing grand jurymen, and a partisan magistrate. Morals have never been his strong point, and even his manners are such as to have called forth the remark—exaggerated, no doubt, but still with a big grain of truth in it—that "the only people in Ireland who have not the manners of gentlemen are the gentry." For these reasons, I (*Truth*) would like to starve him out before Home Rule comes. Unless he is on his knees, fettered and bound, when Home Rule comes, I am afraid he will make a very good thing out of it. He will turn patriot, and pick up all the best plums from the tree which the Nationalists have shaken.