

1866, Professor Galbraith was amongst the first to take his place beneath the banner of nationality raised by Isaac Butt. Among those who stood beside him on the memorable day when in the old Bilton Hotel the Home Rule idea took definite shape were many who afterwards fell away from the principles then and there advocated. Some are to-day to be reckoned amongst the bitterest opponents of the Home Rule cause. The explanation is not far to seek. Many acted on the impulse of the moment, whilst smarting under a sense of the defeat and anger caused by the passage of the Church Disestablishment Bill. Others were temporarily inspired by the fascination which Irish nationality, with its memories of the past and its hopes for the future, has ever exercised upon all genuine Irishmen at some period of their lives. A few there were who simply surrendered themselves to the strong feeling to which the movement owed its origin. Professor Galbraith was one of another class—one of the men who believed that their duty required them, at the risk of incurring odium and of being misunderstood, to come forward and declare their principles when, as they rightly thought, a crisis had arisen in the affairs of Ireland. So, when others fell away, he remained true and steadfast to the last. His nationality was as broad, generous, and kindly as the genius of the Irish race. He loved his country, and was incapable of entertaining unkindly feelings for any section of his countrymen, however wrong-headed at the time he might deem them."

In character he was brave, generous, kind and loyal.

A firm Protestant, he fully and freely recognised the justice of the disestablishment of the English Church in Ireland. He was on intimate terms with Archbishop Walsh, and counted hosts of Catholic priests among his friends. There was not a more popular man in Dublin.

Commercial.

THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED, report for the week ended December 22nd, as follows:—

The stock sales at Burnside this week were held on Tuesday, owing to the regular weekly sale day (Wednesday), coming too close to the Christmas holidays. The sale next week will be held on Monday, the 29th.

Fat Cattle.—An exceedingly light entry was brought under the hammer at Burnside for the week's requirements, only about 67 head yarded, quality ranging from medium to prime, principally bullocks average weight, with a few pens cows. The shortness of the supply, doubtless owing to the very heavy entry to hand last week, did not produce very keen competition, prices obtaining not being by any means satisfactory. Best bullocks brought £8 to £9 7s 6d; medium, £5 7s 6d to £7 7s 6d; light, £3 15s to £5; cows best, £5 15s to £7; light weights and medium quality, £2 10s to £4 10s.

Fat Sheep.—There were only about 800 penned to-day, all cross-breds, and with the exception of one or two pens were all shorn, comprising both wethers and ewes, the latter predominating medium to good useful mutton; the wethers forward were fair average quality with a few pens very prime. At the commencement of the sales competition was fairly active, prices ruling being about equal to those of last week, but down towards the close a considerable falling off in the demand was apparent, and to effect sales a drop of 1s to 1s 6d per head had to be submitted to. Best crossbred wethers brought 12s 9d to 17s 6d; one or two pens extra prime and heavy weights, 14s to 16s; medium, 10s to 12s 3d; best do ewes, 11s to 12s 3d; picked to 13s 3d; medium, 8s to 10s 9d. We sold on account of Messrs Ross Bros., (Bushy Park), and others mixed crossbreds to 11s.

Fat Lambs.—920 were penned, average quality. This number immediately following the heavy entry to hand last week was considerably in excess of requirements, and the result a drop of 1s to 1s 6d per head; best brought 8s to 11s; a few picked lots to 12s 6d; inferior to medium, 5s to 7s 9d. We sold on account of Messrs Ross Bros., (Bushy Park), and others, three pens at 9s to 9s 6d.

Pigs.—The entry to-day was rather a small one, only 68 being penned, principally suckers and porkers, all of which had a very good demand, especially the former, which brought 5s 6d to 13s; slips, 14s 6d to 18s; porkers, 2s to 3s.

Store Cattle.—There is no show of any very great activity in the market, at the same time quiet, large framed bullocks, in forward condition command some attention and can be placed whenever any such are offering at satisfactory prices, while cows for heifers of mixed breeds in low condition are difficult to place at prices suitable to sellers.

Store Sheep.—At the moment the number of these changing hands is limited, but there is a good deal of inquiry being made by buyers for almost all sorts, and when the shearing is pretty well over sellers and buyers will be in a better position to approach each other more closely as regards prices, which will, doubtless, result in a considerable amount of business being put through.

Sheep Skins.—The demand experienced for all classes of skins at our weekly auction sale at the Chamber of Commerce Hall, Crawford street, on Tuesday, when we submitted a full catalogue to the large attendance of buyers present, was very satisfactory. Competition was spirited, all sorts realising up to last week's rates. There are very few butcher's full-woolled green skins now presented, nearly all being shorn pelts, for which, if well saved, there is an increased demand, more especially the earlier shorn lots. Country dry cross-breds inferior to medium, brought 1s 6d to 3s 3d; do do merino, 1s 4d to 3s 2d; full-woolled crossbred, 4s 3d to 6d 3d; do do merino, 3s 9d to 6s 1d; dry pelts, 3d to 1s 3d; green do, 1s 4d, 1s 3d, 1s 2d, 1s 1d, 1s, 11d, 10d, 9d, 8d; green lambskins, 1s 5d, 1s 4d, 1s 3d, 1s 2d, 1s 1d, 1s.

Rabbit Skins.—Odd consignments of suckers, summer skins, and mixed inferior lots continue to arrive, which are sold at the regular weekly sales, but for this description, of course, low prices have to be accepted, though at the same time relatively higher than those paid

for best skins. The few lots of prime quality still offering find a good market, and for which prices are obtained in sympathy with those current for best in the London market.

Hides.—The market continues without any material alteration. A moderately fair demand exists, more particularly for well saved and properly flayed heavy sorts. Medium and light weights although saleable, commanded less attention. We quote—For good to best salted, 2½d to 2¾d; extra heavy, 3d; medium, 2d to 2½d; light, 1½d to 1¾d; inferior and slipper, 1d to 1½d per lb.

Tallow and Fat.—The market is quite bare of prime rendered mutton, renderers preferring to ship Home direct. We quote—Prime rendered mutton, 19s to 20s; medium to good, 16s to 18s; inferior and mixed, 12s 6d to 15s 6d; Bough fat continues in good demand and always placed without much difficulty at equal to late rates, which are for best, 13s to 14s; inferior to medium and good, 10s to 12s 9d per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: Advice from Home appear to be more satisfactory. Press and private telegrams report the English market firm, while the American and Continental markets are advancing. Forward business in Australian cargoes is firm at an advance, and for New Zealand wheat, on the passage, sellers are asking 37s. Under these circumstances, we may reasonably expect to meet with a little more activity in the demand locally than has been met with lately. This market for several weeks back has been very sluggish, and only that the supply in agents' hands has been limited and sellers not over anxious to force sales, late rates could hardly have been maintained, but considering that stocks are small, it is fully expected that current rates will continue to be fully maintained. We quote—best Tuccan, 3s 9d to 3s 10d; best white velvet, 3s 8d to 3s 10d; medium to good, 3s 5d to 3s 7d; best red wheat, 3s 4d to 3s 6d; medium, 3s 3d to 3s 4d; broken and inferior, 2s 3d to 3s 2d, ex store.—Oats: The improvement reported in the demand lately still continues, and although buyers aver that prices are in advance of outside markets, having regard to the attendant transit, expenses, etc., it is undeniable that they exhibit no inclination to buy at current rates. Milling sorts have a slightly better demand than previously, though enquiries are somewhat fitful. All bad sorts have a very satisfactory demand, medium and inferior being quite as readily saleable. We quote—prime milling, 1s 5d to 1s 5½d; best bright short feed, 1s 4½d to 1s 5d; medium, 1s 3½d to 1s 4d; inferior and musty, 1s to 1s 2½d; good Danish, 1s 3d to 1s 4d, ex store, sacks extra.—Barley: The market now is pretty low of any description, and any medium to good malting offering could readily be placed at late current rates. There is an idea prevailing that this cereal will be good stock, and has caused a slight improvement in the demand. Feed and milling has also been having a little more attention. We quote—prime malting, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; medium, 2s 3d to 3s 4d; feed and milling, 1s 6d to 2s, ex store.

Ryegrass Seed.—The market for this seed continues quiet, and we don't expect to see very much improvement in the demand before the autumn is well in, any little lots being in the meantime disposed of command late rates, but it is somewhat doubtful if the new seed can be disposed of at present quotations. We quote best machine dressed 4s 9d to 5s; farmers' best dressed, 3s 6d to 4s; medium, 2s 9d to 3s 3d (ex store). Cocksfoot has only a very limited demand at from 4d to 4½d per lb.

Potatoes.—There is no demand of any consequence for old. New kidney, both imported and locally grown, have nearly all the attention, and with additional supplies prices are easier. Imported sold at auction at from £5 to £7 10s. Local grown are worth £6 10s to £7 per ton.

Chaff.—The demand for screened well cut oatens still continues fairly active, all such coming to hand being readily placed at 42s 6d to 45s; medium, 37s 6d to 40s; inferior, 25s to 35s per ton.

Dairy Produce.—There is no change in the position of the market with regard to prices. A quantity of both cheese and butter is in preparation for the home market, when it is to be hoped this outlet will help to revive prices locally, which continue low.

Flax.—The supply coming forward is only to a limited extent, and with a moderately fair demand for export, and also for local requirements, consignments are placed almost immediately on arrival. We quote for extra bright, properly scutched, £19 5s to £20 5s; medium to good, well dressed, £16 10s to £18 10s; coarse and strawy, £10 to £15 per ton.

MESSRS. DONALD STRONACH AND SON report for the week ending December 17, as follows:—

Fat Sheep.—2700 to hand, some four or five pens being merinos and the major portion of the remainder ewes of different grades. The sale opened with a sluggish tone, and for a considerable time a drop of from 1s 6d to 2s per head was noticeable on the day's transactions compared with last week, some of the aged classes of ewes suffering even more than this. We quote.—Prime trade or freezing wethers 13s to 13s 9d, medium weights 12s to 12s 6d, mixed sexes 10s 6d to 11s 6d, best ewes 10s 9d, 11s to 12s, medium 10s to 10s 6d, light 9s to 9s 6d, merino wethers 5s 6d to 6s 9d, best crossbred ewes in the wool 15s to 16s 6d, inferior to medium 13s to 14s 6d. We sold on account of Mr. John Nyhon (Sandymount), crossbred ewes at quotations.

Fat Cattle.—262 head yarded, representing all classes of quality there being yarded some very light and inferior sorts, as also a number of as prime and well-grazed cattle as could be found in any market in New Zealand. Best bullocks brought £9, £9 10s to £10, and in one instance £10 2s 6d; medium weights, £7 10s, £8 to £8 10s; light, £5 5s to £6 10s; a few pens of exceptional heavy cows and heifers (previously referred to), sold at £7 10s to £8; good well-grazed lots, £5 10s to £6 10s; light, £4 10s to £5. We sold a draft of bullocks on account of J. Wilson at quotations.

Fat Lambs.—774 penned, about one-fourth of which might be considered prime, the balance varying from inferior to medium and good. Prime lambs brought 11s to 12s; a few exceptional lots 13s to 14s in one instance as high as 14s 9d; fairly good lines 9s 6d to 10s 6d; medium, 8s 6d to 9s; inferior, 7s 6d upwards, but there were very few sold under 5s 6d; the bulk at from 9s to 10s 6d. We sold a draft of 17 on account of Mr. John Nyhon (Sandymount) at 9s.