

drawing in turns, and the winning numbers were posted up in the hall in the evening, and it was worth something to see the antics and the countenances of some of the holders of the lucky numbers.

From beginning to end the whole affair passed off without a hitch. As the joint takings of bazaar and art-union amounted to a sum very close on £900, it will be seen that, financially speaking, they proved a huge success. It must be encouraging to the assiduous and energetic nuns to score so well, and it must be pleasing and satisfactory to all who assisted in any way to make the undertaking a success to know that their efforts have been so fruitful, and let us hope all will be in a happier and better mood to enjoy a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Commercial.

The NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY CO., LIMITED, report for the week ended December 29th as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—189 head were yarded at the Burnside Saleyards for this week's requirements, the greater portion of which were good to prime quality, the balance comprising a number of aged cows, three parts fat steers and heifers. This entry, although not excessively heavy, was apparently in excess of requirements. Competition all through the sales was exceedingly languid, resulting in very unsatisfactory prices to vendors; besides a good many had to be passed in owing to the low prices ruling. Best bullocks brought £7 12s 6d to £9, one or two pens extra heavy weights slightly over; medium, £5 2s 6d to £6 12s 6d; light, £3 10s to £4 15s; best cows, £5 5s to £6 5s; light weights and medium quality, £2 7s 6d to £4 5s. We sold on account of Mr. William Kirkland (Elm Grove) cows to £4; Mr. William Lindsay (Birch Grove), bullocks to £6 10s and cows to £4; Mr. David Sutherland (Lochend), cows to £4 17s 6d; Mr. Robt. Charters (Ury Park), bullocks from £6 to £6 12s 6d; Mr. Thos. Kirk (East Taieri), bullocks from £5 15s to £6 2s 6d, and cows to £4 11s.

Fat Sheep.—The entry to-day again was considerably under the average, only 1283 being penned, all crossbred wethers and ewes, quality ranging from medium to good, with a few pens prime. Although there was a fair attendance of buyers, competition lacked much of the spirit (which was not by any means keen) displayed at last week's auction, and prices in consequence must be quoted as easier. Best crossbred wethers brought 12s 6d to 13s, one pen to 13s 6d; medium, 9s 6d to 12s; best do ewes, 10s 6d to 13s, medium, 8s to 10s. We sold on account of Messrs. Ross Bros. (Bushy Park), and other vendors, mixed crossbred wethers and ewes to 10s 9d.

Fat Lambs.—916 were penned, most of which were good to prime quality. This number was considerably in excess of actual requirements, and although the whole were disposed of, prices were lower than those ruling last week by 1s to 1s 6d per head. Best brought 7s 6d to 9s 6d, a few picked, 10s 6d; medium to good, 5s to 7s 3d. We sold on account of Messrs. Ross Bros. (Bushy Park), 66 at 9s 3d to 9s 9d; Mr. T. H. Russell (Milburn), 54 at 8s; Mr. Geoffrey Foster (Park Farm), 46 at 8s.

Pigs.—87 were penned a considerable number of which were suckers with a few porkers and baconers. The entry being small, a very satisfactory demand was experienced for all offered. Suckers brought 9s to 15s; porkers 22s to 29s; baconers 33s to 39s; a few extra heavy to 46s each.

Store Cattle.—There is very little animation in the market, only an odd lot occasionally changing hands. Graziers are seemingly indifferent about purchasing except when suitable lots are offering and then only to satisfy present requirements. Any little inquiry made is for three to four year old bullocks in forward condition, for which £3 15s to £5 5s might be obtained, perhaps a little more if well bred and quiet.

Store Sheep.—A few lots of aged sheep, principally merino with a few crossbred wethers and ewes, are being placed, but this demand is mostly for younger sheep, two, four to six tooth in both classes crossbreds as well as merinos. In the meantime, however, there are not very many offerings of these ages, doubtless the late rains experienced will have a beneficial effect on pastures and tend to a farther increase of business.

Wool.—Since last writing nothing new has transpired effecting the market for this staple, nor do we expect to hear anything definite with regard to the position at Home till after the opening of the first series sales in London, which takes place about the end of January. Pending the second series of local sales to be held on Thursday and Friday of next week, there will be nothing doing in this line of any consequence. The weather has been somewhat fitful lately, consequently wool has not been coming forward very freely; nevertheless fair representative catalogues will be submitted, and with a considerable increase in the number of buyers it is devoutly to be hoped a rally in prices will be displayed and a more confident tone prevail.

Sheepskins.—A very fair attendance of buyers was present at our weekly auction on Tuesday when there was very good competition for all to be brought forward, especially for lambskins and green crossbred pelts, in which a slight advance was established, while medium and full wooled skins were slightly easier. This was due mostly to the uncertainty of the market at Home for washed and scoured wools. Country dry crossbreds inferior to medium brought, 1s 4d to 3s; do do merino, 1s 5d to 3s 1d; fullwooled crossbreds, 3s 9d to 5s 9d do do merino, 3s 6d to 5s 3d; dry pelts 4s to 1s 1d; green do, 1s 4d, 1s 3d, 1s 2d, 1s 1d, 1s; green lamb-skins, 1s 6d, 1s 5d, 1s 4d, 1s 3d, 1s 2d.

Rabbitskins.—The supply being now limited, there is but little business passing in those; at the same time all offered don't fail to meet buyers, who compete spiritedly up to prices equal to late quotations.

Hides.—A steady demand continues to exist, but the market is unchanged so far as prices are concerned which are rather high for shippers to operate. We quote for good to best salted, 2½d to 2¾d;

extra heavy, 3d; medium, 2d to 2½d; light, 1½d to 1¾d; inferior and slippy 1d to 1¼d per lb.

Tallow and Fat.—We have no improvement to note in values. The demand however continues active, chiefly for local consumption. We quote for prime rendered mutton, 19s to 20s; medium to good, 16s to 18s; inferior and mixed, 12s 6d to 15s 6d. Rough fat is readily saleable, and when free from rubbish realises prices relatively higher than those paid for rendered, viz., for best, 13s to 14s; inferior to medium and good, 10s to 12s 9d per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: The holidays are somewhat interfering with business this week. Millers being fairly well supplied with flour, are content to work off the balance of the wheat stock, merely purchasing occasionally when particular lines run out. There are no stocks of any consequence in agents' hands, holders have therefore some confidence in the future of the market. Fewer wheat is scarce and moves off readily whenever there is any to offer and at prices relatively higher than those paid for good milling, we quote best fusca, 3s 9d to 3s 10d; medium to good, 3s 5d to 3s 7d; best red wheat, 3s 5d to 3s 6d; medium, 3s 4d to 3s 5d; broken and inferior, 2s 6d to 3s 3d ex store. Oats: These continue to have a steady demand and all offering easily placed, but prices except on one or two occasions have not been improved upon since quoting last week, and quite possible they may not go higher for the present at any rate, the demand being fairly speculative; at the same, unless heavy consignments are rushed on the market from the country. Present rates are likely to remain firm which we quote as follows for prime milling, bright and stout, 1s 5½d to 1s 5¾d; best bright short feed, 1s 5d to 1s 5¼d; medium, 1s 4d to 1s 4½d; inferior and musty, 1s to 1s 3d; good Danish, 1s 4d to 1s 4½d ex store, sacks extra. Barley: There is very little of this cereal now in first hands, in consequence the business passing is of but little importance, any offering however is readily placed. There is no prime malting on hand, medium fetches 2s 3d to 2s 4d; feed and milling, 1s 9d to 2s 1d ex store.

Grass Seed.—Ryegrass seed is only dealt in to a very moderate extent, but the stock being low, late quotations are being upheld for the small lots disposed of. We quote best machine dressed, 4s 9d to 5d; farmers best dressed, 3s 6d to 4s; medium, 2s 9d to 3s 3d ex store. Cockfoot seed is only saleable in retail parcels at from 4d to 4½d per lb.

Potatoes.—Old Derwents are now out of the market, but the supply of new kidney is rather in excess of the demand, and the result a slow market. Newly dug fresh potatoes are worth £6 10s to £7; imported, £5 10s to £6 per ton.

Chaff.—The abundance of new grass, also the holidays tend to diminish the consumption, and although the supply has not been heavy lately, prices don't seem to advance, but continue stationary, viz., for screened and well-cut oaten sheaf, 42s 6d to 45s; medium, 37s 6d to 40s; inferior, 25s to 35s per ton.

Dairy Produce.—Prime salt butter in boxes has but a slow sale, at from 6d to 7d; extra prime, perhaps 8d per lb. Factory made cheese is saleable in small parcels at 4d to 4½d for medium, and 4½d per lb for loaf.

Flax.—Superior soft, bright parcels, also good to medium, if well dressed have a steady demand at our late quotations, say for the former £19 5s to £20 5s, and for the latter, £16 10s to £18 10s, while common and strong is difficult to place at satisfactory prices.

MESSRS. DONALD STONACH AND SON report for the week ending December 24, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—The sale this week was held on Monday, Wednesday being too close on Christmas day to enable the butchers to get their arrangements completed; and, as usually happens when the day of sale is altered, it was an unusually dull one throughout. The supply forward was a small one, only 67 head being yarded, of which about half were prime quality and heavy weights, the rest medium to inferior. Bidding was extremely slack, and prices ruled much easier than last week, several of the larger buyers having supplied themselves outside the yards, and a good many be'd supplies since last week—Best bullocks sold at £8 to £9 7s 6d, medium £6 5s to £7 10s, inferior £4 5s to £5 7s 6d, cows and heifers £3 5s to £7.

Fat Sheep.—The small supply of 800 came to the sale to-day, all of them being crossbreds, and two-thirds of the whole were ewes, the balance wethers; among the latter were a few pens of extra prime sheep, the balance good useful mutton and medium weights. The ewes ranged from extra heavy Leicesters to medium halfbreds. Notwithstanding the small supply the sale throughout was an exceedingly dull one, and prices were rather in favour of buyers. Best crossbred wethers sold at 13s 6d to 16s; medium, 11s to 12s 6d; best crossbred ewes, 11s 9d to 13s 3d; ordinary, 9s to 10s 9d. We sold ewes on account of Mr. H. T. Blair (Brighton), and crossbred ewes on account of Mr. D. Mitchell at quotations.

Fat Lambs.—920 were penned for to-day's sale. Several pens were prime, the rest ranging from medium to inferior. Competition was not so brisk as at last sale, although there were buyers in the market for the best freezing lines, and prices ruled fully 1s easier all round. Best pens sold at 11s to 12s 6d; medium 8s 6d to 10s 3d; inferior, 5s 9d to 6s 6d.

Pigs.—To-day's market was supplied with suckers, slips, and porkers, 68 in all, which sold under brisk competition. Prices for the former were about the same as last week, but porkers 1d much better. Suckers sold at 5s 6d to 13s; slips, 14s 6d to 19s; porkers, 22s to 31s.

Store Cattle.—There are very few inquiries, and no business passing.

Store Sheep.—There is a brisk demand and numerous inquiries for young crossbreds of both sexes, also for ewes and lambs, but in view of the scarcity of grass northward, buyers are holding off in the hope that should the dry weather continue for any length of time, owners may be forced to sell, and that prices may come lower. In the South grass is very plentiful, but the broken weather has hindered shearing, and, therefore, there are very few in the market from that quarter.