

Commercial.

THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY CO., LIMITED, report for the week ending April 8, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—116 yarded. Best bullocks brought £6 to £7 17s 6d; medium to good, £4 12s 5d to £5 17s 6d; light weights, £3 to £4 7s 6d. Cows—best, £5 to £5 17s 6d; medium, £2 to £4 5s.

Fat Sheep.—Best crossbred wethers, 13s 9d to 15s 9d; best do ewes, 13s to 14s 6d; medium, 10s to 12s 9d; merino wethers 5s to 6s 3d. **Fat Lambs.**—Only 135 penned. Best brought 9s to 11s 3d; others, 7s 3d to 8s 9d.

Pigs.—47 penned. Light stores brought 16s to 19s; porkers, 21s to 26s; baconers, 29s to 33s.

Store Cattle.—There are several lots of these offering, and a few sales being effected, but at the moment the demand is not very active, and to make sales prices commensurate with those obtaining now for fat cattle would have to be accepted.

Store Sheep.—A very large business still continues to be transacted in this line. So far the demand appears to be quite equal to the supply, and in many instances buyers are unable to secure sufficient for their requirements.

Wool.—We are in receipt by the San Francisco mail of priced catalogues from the commencement of the first series of sales in London on the 27th January, down to the 19th February, also our London circular dated February 21st, explaining the course of the market by stating that when buyers met sellers on the opening day there was a general scarcity of supplies in second hands, and it was therefore a matter of necessity for stocks to be replenished in order to meet current requirements. This however having been accomplished, in view of a somewhat difficult trade, and an outlook by no means clear, a policy of caution has since generally been adopted, and for the reason that medium and inferior merinos have formed the bulk of the offerings these sorts have been the first to exhibit weakness. Crossbreds having been in comparatively small supply have been well competed for throughout, and after an advance of a ½d had been established prices remained fairly steady.

Sheepskins.—At our regular weekly sale on Monday there was a large attendance of buyers, who competed with spirit. Country dry skins, both crossbred and merino, sold well; dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, brought 2s to 3s 10d; do do merino, 1s 10d to 3s 9d; full-woolled crossbred, 4s 10d to 6s 9d; do do merino, 4s 1d to 5s 11d; dry pelts, 4d to 1s 8d; butchers' green crossbreds, best, brought 3s 4d to 3s 9d; good to medium, 2s 2d to 2s 8d; inferior, 1s 7d to 2s; green lambskins, best, 2s 7d to 3s 3d; medium to inferior, 1s 8d to 2s 6d.

Rabbitskins.—A good demand exists. On Monday we submitted a small catalogue to a full attendance of buyers, when competition was brisk and very full prices were secured for each lot. Half-grown brought 4½d; others from 6d to 11½d per lb.

Hides.—A steady demand continues to be experienced, but heavy sorts are in most request, all forward, however, are readily placed at about equal to late quotations, which we give as follows—viz., for inferior and shippy, 1d to 1½d; light, 1½d to 1¾d; medium, 2d to 2½d; up to best, 2½d to 3d; 65 to 80 lbs, free from offal and scars, ½d to 1d per lb more.

Tallow.—The market continues firm. We quote—Prime rendered mutton 18s 6d to 20s; medium to good, 15s 6d to 17s 6d; inferior and mixed, 12s to 15s. Rough fat—best fresh caul, 13s to 13s 6d; inferior to medium and good, 9s to 12s 6d per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: The latest advices from Home report the market firm and rising, the English market showing a general advance of 1s. We quote—Prime milling, velvet and Tuscan, 4s to 4s 2d; medium to good, 3s 10d to 4s; inferior, 3s 6d to 3s 9d (ex store) terms.—Oats: A moderate demand for coastwise and to Australia has been experienced during the week, and several lines have been taken up on the basis of last week's quotations. Consignments are now coming to hand pretty freely, but shippers are not disposed to operate to any extent at present rates, only purchasing sufficient for present requirements. The same remarks apply to local millers' operations. We quote, prime malting, bright and stout, thinskinned, 1s 5d to 1s 5½d; best short bright feed, 1s 1½d to 1s 5d; medium to good, 1s 3d to 1s 4d, ex store, sacks extra.—Barley: There are buyers for really good, bright and plump malting, and some sales of this description are being effected, but most of the samples offering are only very medium, and command but little attention. We quote, prime malting, 3s to 3s 3d; medium, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; feed and millhog 1s 10d to 2s 4d, ex store, sacks extra.

Ryegrass Seed.—The demand is not so active. We quote—Best machine-dressed, guaranteed off old pasture, 5s 6d to 5s 9d; medium, 5s to 5s 3d; farmers' best dressed, 4s to 4s 6d; medium, 3s to 3s 9d (ex store). Cocksfoot Seed: We quote—For best dressed, 5½d to 5½d; medium, 4½d to 5d per lb.

Potatoes.—Deliveries have not been so extensive during the past week. Sales are, in consequence, more easily effected, but without any improvement in price. Quotations—For best derwents, 50s to 55s; medium, 40s to 47s 6d; kidneys, 35s to 42s 6d per ton (sacks weighed in).

Chaff.—The market has been bare during the past few days and up to 47s 6d has been paid for a truck or so, but now there is a fuller supply to hand, which will prevent any further advance being obtained. We quote—Best, 42s 6d to 45s; inferior, 30s to 40s per ton.

Dairy Produce.—The supply of butter has fallen off considerably, but is more than sufficient for requirements, the demand being for local consumption only, at from 6d to 7d per lb for best salted. Cheese has only a very feeble demand at 4½d to 4¾d for factory-made medium size, and 4½d to 5d for loaf.

Flax.—Reports from Home are less satisfactory lately, the market showing a downward tendency, buyers in the local market in consequence are not so keen to operate at late rates, which we still quote,

viz.—For common, coarse, and strawy, £13 to £15; medium, £15 10s to £17; good, £17 10s to £19; extra fine, £20 per ton.

Messrs. DONALD STRONACH AND SONS report as follows for the week ending April 1:

Fat Cattle.—244 head were yarded at Burnside for this day's sales, about half of which were good to prime, the balance three parts fat steers, with a considerable portion aged cows and light weights. This number was considerably in excess of requirements. Best bullocks brought £6 10s to £8, extra heavy a shade more; medium to good, £4 15s to £6 5s; light weights, £3 to £4 10s; best cows, £5 5s to £6; medium, £3 to £4 7s 6d; light and aged, £2 to £2 17s 6d. We sold light bullocks on account of Mr. J. J. McAuley (Portobello) at £4 to £4 17s 6d. On account of Mr. William Hunter, (Sandymount) bullocks at £5 2s 6d and small drafts on account of Mr. Wm. Edwards (Port Road), Mr. Thomas Godfrey (Pine Hill), and Mr. A. Stoddart (Burnside) at quotations.

Fat Sheep.—The entry to-day consisted of 923 crossbreds. Of these only a small proportion were wethers, the greater number being aged ewes. The quality ranged from prime to middling. Although there was only a small supply forward, competition was by no means brisk, and prices, except for best wethers and maiden ewes, were 1s easier than last week. Best crossbred wethers sold at 13s to 14s 9d; medium, 10s 6d to 12s 3d; best crossbred ewes, 12s 3d to 13s 6d; medium, 8s 6d to 11s 9d.

Fat Lambs.—350 were penned, medium to good. Best brought 9s to 10s 6d; one pen to 11s 6d; others, 6s 6d to 8s 9d.

Pigs.—150 were penned, nearly all suckers and stores, with two or three heavy-weight pigs. No porkers or baconers forward. Suckers brought 3s to 8s; slips, 3s to 8s; stores, 26s to 18s; heavy pigs, to 35s. We sold a mixed draft of 15 pigs for Mr. W. C. Dale (Clinton) at quotations.

Store Sheep.—All classes are inquired for, but those in most demand are good breeding ewes, both crossbred and merino, which are freely taken up whenever in the market, indifferent to age, if healthy and sound mouthed.

Sheepskins.—On Tuesday, as usual, we offered a moderate catalogue, comprising all sorts. Country dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, brought 2s to 3s 9d; do do merino, 1s 9d to 3s 10d; full-woolled crossbreds, 4s 9d to 6s 12d; do do merino, 4s to 5s 10d; dry pelts, 3d to 1s 9d; butchers' green crossbreds, best, brought 3s 2d, 3s 1d, 2s 11d, 2s 10d, 2s 9d, 2s 8d; good to medium, 2s 7d, 2s 6d, 2s 5d, 2s 4d, 2s 2d; inferior, 2s, 1s 10d, 1s 8d; green lambskins, best, 3s 2d, 3s 1d, 3s, 2s 10d, 2s 8d; medium to inferior, 2s 5d, 2s 2d, 2s, 1s 9d.

Rabbitskins.—The few that now come forward are readily disposed of, and, considering the quality, realise prices comparing favourably with those secured for better skins earlier in the season.

Hides.—We have no change to report. Quotations for inferior and shippy, 1d to 1½d; light, 1½d to 1¾d; medium, 2d to 2½d up to 60lb, 2½d to 3d 65lb to 80lb; in prime condition, ½d to 1d more per lb.

Tallow.—We quote prime rendered mutton, 18s 6d to 20s; medium to good, 15s 6d to 17s 6d; inferior and mixed, 12s to 15s. Best fresh caul fetches 13s to 13s 6d; inferior to medium and good, 9s to 12s 6d per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: For best samples there are indications of an improvement in the demand. A decidedly more active tone pervades the market, prices all round being in favour of sellers. We quote prime milling velvet and Tuscan, 4s to 4s 2d; medium to good, 3s 10d to 4s; inferior, 3s 6d to 3s 9d (ex store).—Oats: We quote best short millhog, 1s 5d to 1s 5½d; best short bright feed, 1s 4½d to 1s 5d; medium to good, 1s 3d to 1s 4d; inferior, 1s to 1s 2d (ex store, sacks extra).—Barley: There are but few transactions taking place in this cereal. The supply to hand of really good malting is limited, but any offering could be readily placed. We quote best malting, 3s to 3s 3d; medium to good, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; feed and millhog, 1s 10d to 2s 4d (ex store, sacks extra).

Ryegrass Seed.—We quote best machine-dressed, off old pasture, at 5s 6d to 5s 9d; medium, 5s to 5s 3d; farmer's best dressed, 4s to 4s 6d; medium, 3s to 3s 9d (ex store).—Cocksfoot seed is moving off quietly, but in slightly larger parcels; stocks on hands are not excessive, and prices likely to be maintained. Quotations for best dressed, 5½d to 5½d; medium, 4½d to 5d per lb.

Potatoes.—Quotations this week for best Derwents, 50s to 55s; medium, 40s to 47s 6d; kidneys, 30s to 40s per ton (sacks weighed in, ex store).

Chaff.—There is no change in price, which we give as last week—for best, 40s to 42s 6d; extra prime, 45s; medium to good, 30s to 37s 6d per ton.

Dairy Produce.—Nearly all the factory made cheese is being shipped Home, very little being consumed locally, dairy-made being obtained at lower prices, (3s to 3½ per lb while 4½ to 4¾ is asked for factory-made. Good salt butter is selling pretty freely, only for local consumption, but without any advance in price, which remains at 6½ to 7d per lb.

Flax.—A good deal of inquiry continues to be experienced for this. A considerable quantity is also coming forward, which we have been successful in placing at our late quotations—viz., for common, coarse, and strawy, £13 to £15; medium, £15 10s to £17; good, £17 10s to £19; thoroughly scrubbed clean, and good colour, £20 per ton.

Messrs. DONALD REID AND CO, Dunedin, report for the week ending April 8, as follows:—

Wool.—At our wool sales on Monday we submitted a small catalogue to a full attendance of buyers.

Sheepskins.—We quote—Green pelts, 1s 10d to 3s 1d; do lambs, 2s 4d to 2s 10d; dry crossbreds, 2s 3d to 7s 2d; do merinos, 1s 9d to 5s 6d; do pelts and lambs, 10d to 2s 2d.

Tallow.—We quote—Prime rendered, 18s to 20s; medium, 15s to 17s; inferior, 11s 6d to 14s; rough fat, 9s 6d to 13s.