

Commercial.

THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY Co., LIMITED, report for week ending June, 24 as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—Best bullocks brought £7 10s to £8 17s 6d; extra prime to £10; medium to good, £5 7s 6d to £7 5s; light-weights and inferior, £3 5s to £4 5s; best cows, £5 17s 6d to £7.

Fat Sheep.—We quote, —Best crossbred wethers, 16s 6d to 18s 9d; ordinary, 14s to 16s; medium, 13s 6d to 14s 6d; small, 12s to 12s 9d; merino wethers, 6s 3d to 10s 6d.

Pigs.—There were only 70 of the penned, very few of which were baconers. For other sorts there was no improvement. Suckers brought 15s to 16s; porkers, 20s to 22s; baconers, 36s 6d to 45s.

Store Cattle.—The business transacted in these in the meantime is only to a very moderate extent. Half and three parts fat well-bred bullocks suitable for finishing off without much delay are about the only lots in any demand.

Store Sheep.—The market for these is now much quieter, only a very few offering. There are buyers still in the market for good crossbreds at prices comparing favourably with those ruling earlier. Mixed and aged lots also find buyers at prices satisfactory to the vendors. During the week we placed 500 fat crossbred wethers and ewes at 17s.

Wool.—This week we are in receipt of our London circular, dated May 16th, which says that no feature of importance has occurred since close of the auctions. Firm rates were secured. In the local market a few small lots are still disposed of. On Monday we catalogued 105 bales and 20 bags, of which we placed 58 bales and all the bags. All the local buyers were in attendance and competed very spiritedly up to certain limits, which, however, were rather below the rates lately ruling.

Sheepskins.—These have a very shady demand; and that with good competition at the hands of the trade. Country dry crossbreds inferior to medium, brought 2s to 3s 10s; do do merino, 1s 10d to 3s 9d; full-woolled crossbreds, 4s 10d to 6s 9d; do do merino, 4s 6d to 6s 3d; dry pelts, 4d to 1s 8d. Butchers green crossbreds, best, 6s 6d, 5s 3d, 5s 1d, 5s, 4s 10s, 4s 8d, 4s 6d; good to medium, 4s 5d, 4s 4d, 4s 2d, 3s 11d, 3s 9d, 3s 7d, 3s 5d.

Rabbitskins.—An active demand is experienced for these, and although the supply is slightly increasing, it is still a long way short of requirements. On Monday we offered a moderate catalogue, when best greys made 1s 4d to 1s 4½d medium to good, 12½d to 1s 3½d; summer and autumn's 6d to 11½d; suckers and half-grown, 4d to 5d per lb.

Hides.—The market is steady, but no change to note in prices, which are as follows, for 60 lbs hides, 2½d to 3d; 65 lbs and upwards, ½d to 1d more; medium weights, 2d to 2½d; light do, 1½d to 1¾d; inferior, 1d to 1½d per lb.

Tallow.—During the past week the inquiry has been fairly good, and late rate rates fully maintained, viz., for medium to good 16s to 18 6d; inferior and mixed, 12s to 15s. Rough fat, best, 13s to 13s 6d; inferior to medium and good, 9s to 15s 9d per cwt.

Grain—Wheat.—The market continues firm, especially for really good milling sorts, at prices which exhibit no material alteration as compared with late quotations, while for the bulk of the southern wheat coming into the market there is no demand, except for feed purposes. Best milling velvet and Tuscan, 4s 7d to 4s 9d; medium to good, 4s 3d to 4s 6d; inferior to medium, 3s 3d to 4s (ex store, sacks in, terms).—**Oat:** Moderately fair demand, but buyers are not inclined to give prices previously ruling. Consignments continue to come forward pretty steady. Stout bright milling, 1s 6d to 1s 6½d; best bright feed, 1s 5d to 1s 5½d; medium to good, 1s 3½d to 1s 4½d; inferior and damp, 1s to 1s 2½d; black oats, 1s 4d to 1s 4½d; long Tartars, clean and well grown, 1s 6d to 1s 7d (ex store, sacks extra, net cash).—**Barley.**—The demand for this is exceedingly flat. The supply is apparently in excess of requirements. Prime bright malting, 2s 9d to 3s; medium, nominal, 2s 3d to 2s 6d; feed and milling 1s 8d to 2s 2d (ex store, sacks extra, terms).

Grass Seed.—Ryegrass seed market quiet, best dressed perennial, 5s 6d to 5s 9d; medium, 5s to 5s 3d; farmers best dressed, 3s 9d to 4s 3d; medium, 2s 6d to 3s 6d ex store; cocksfoot best dressed, 5d to 5½d; medium, 3½d to 4½d per lb.

Potatoes.—Stocks heavy and no export demand, causing the market to continue flat quotations nominal.

Chaff.—Consignments continue on a limited scale, the market in consequence is steady quotations for best, 45s to 47s 6d; medium, 40s to 42s 6d; inferior, 30s to 37s 6d per ton.

Dairy Produce.—Only a small business being done and no change in values, good salt butter is worth, 6½d to 7½d; extra prime a shade more. Cheese factory made medium size, 4½d to 4¾d; loaf 5d to 5½d; dairy made, 3½d to 4½d per lb.

Flax.—A very fair demand exists for well dressed bright coloured flax, badly dressed and discoloured has less attention, quotations for good to prime, £17 to £18; extra fine a shade more, medium, £14 10s to £16 10s; inferior, £12 10s to £14 per ton.

MESSRS. DONALD STRONACH AND SONS report as follows for week ending June 17:—

Fat Cattle.—The supply this week consisted of 231 head, and it included some drafts of very prime heavy-weight bullocks. The demand for good quality cattle was fairly brisk and at prices quite on a level with those ruling a week ago. Medium and inferior quality were very dull of sale.

Fat Sheep.—The market was well supplied with 3416 sheep, including 400 merinos. Values all through were quite as high as last week, and in the case of prime freezing wethers a shade higher.

Pigs.—The market was glutted, no less than 400 being penned. Stores were almost unsaleable, whilst to effect sales of fat pigs a reduction in values had to be submitted.

Wool.—Compared with last week, values show a decline of from ¾d to ½d per lb for Leicesters, strong crossbreds, and merinos.

Sheepskins.—Large catalogues were offered on Tuesday, and disposed of under brisk competition. The demand was excellent for all descriptions of fine crossbreds, halfbreds, and good pelted crossbreds, though a little easier for strong woolled crossbreds, and Leicesters. Dry skins, crossbreds, low to medium, 1s 10d to 3s 9d; do do, full-woolled, 5s to 7s 1d; do do, pelts, 7d to 1s 8d; do do, lambs, 1s to 2s 10d.

Rabbitskins.—Though the attendance was satisfactory, prices, more especially for summers and autumns, which have of late been bringing over London values, were a shade easier than last week.

Hides.—A fair demand is experienced for all classes of hides, but the prices offered are far from satisfactory. Heavy, clean, and well-flayed hides are in short supply.

Tallow.—All country lots arriving meet with a ready sale at—mutton, 18s 6d to 20s; medium to good, 15s 6d to 17s 6d; inferior, to mixed, 12s to 15s; and for rough fat, best clean caul, 13s to 13s 6d; inferior to medium and good, 9s to 12s 6d per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: The only sales passing are to millers who wish to keep their stocks to the present level, and even then the prices offered are not quite so high as those ruling a week or two ago. Holders, however, in the view of a bare market and the very small quantity arriving, are not inclined to accept any reduction on current quotations. Oats: The demand has seldom been slacker than it is at present. Milling oats are scarce, and as there are one or two orders for shipment to be filled at present, any really prime samples could be placed at top rates. Ryegrass: At present there is little doing, but it is expected that there will be a good demand when the spring sowing demand sets in.

MESSRS. DONALD REID AND CO., report for the week ending June 26, as follows:

Wool.—Competition was keen, every lot being disposed of at satisfactory prices.

Sheepskins.—We offered a large catalogue on Tuesday, the bulk of which consisted of heavy crossbreds and merinos in good shipping condition, and a few lots of butchers' green skins, with good competition all through the sale. The catalogue was speedily cleared, the prices realised being in nearly every case above our valuations. Green crossbreds sold at 3s 4d to 5s 3d; do merinos, 2s 3d to 3s 5d; dry crossbreds, 2s 5d to 6s 1d; do merinos, 1s 8d to 5s 4d; do pelts and lambs, 3d to 2s 10d; skins in bales, 5½d per lb.

Hides.—There is a steady demand for all sorts, but no alteration in values to report. Local manufacturers, who are the only buyers, would prefer to have heavy hides even at enhanced prices, as the light class are not required, and difficult to place after being manufactured.

Tallow.—Good demand and readily disposed of to local manufacturers, who are the principal purchasers. Prime, 18s to 19s; medium, 15s to 16s; rough fat, 10s to 13s per cwt.

Wheat.—The tone of the market continues firm, but without animation. Milling, prime, 4s 6d to 4s 9d; medium, 4s 3d to 4s 5d; inferior and broken, 3s 10d to 4s 2d. Fowls' wheat, 3s 5d to 3s 9d.

Oats.—The market is very dull. There is practically no inquiry and business in this cereal is almost at a standstill. Milling, 1s 5d to 1s 6d; feed, 1s 2d to 1s 4½d (sacks extra).

Barley.—A few lines have been cleared during the week at quotations. Malting, 2s 5d to 3s; milling, 2s 2d to 2s 4d (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Supplies have quite ceased to arrive, and stocks are being steadily reduced at late quotations—£1 17s 6d to £2 per ton.

Chaff.—Moderate supply forward; good demand; prices weaker. Prime heavy oatsheaf, £2 5s to £2 7s 6d; light and mixed, £1 15s to £2.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

MESSRS. WRIGHT, STEPHENSON AND Co. report as follows:—Only a very moderate entry of horses was offered at to-day's sale, and had there been a better selection to choose from a very large business might have been done in both draughts and light harness horses. An unusually large number of buyers (principally farmers) were present for draughts, and as purchasers of suitable saddle and harness horses, for shipment to India, were also in the market a very good demand for this class was experienced. We can recommend our country friends, who have horses of a good stamp and young to dispose of, to send them in now. Nearly every suitable draught was picked up to-day at prices showing an advance of from £2 to £4 per head, and, as an example, we would mention that a superior gelding that was sold a few weeks ago (and that at an exceptionally good sale) for £25, was to-day withdrawn at a bona fide bid of £30. We quote:—First-class draughts (extra heavy), £25 to £30; good ordinary draughts (young), £18 to £22; medium draughts, £12 to £16; aged draughts, £6 to £10; good hacks and harness horses, £12 to £16; medium hacks and harness horses, £7 to £9; light and inferior hacks and harness horses, £2 10s to £5.

RABBITSKIN MARKET.

MESSRS. ROBERT CLELAND AND CO., Crawford street, Dunedin (next Pier Hotel), report as follows:—The auction sales this week have been small. Many of the skins were damp, a fault which consignors should endeavour to prevent. Prices remain unaltered and the demand continues good. During the week we have received many good lines from the country, and are open for any quantity more, for which we will pay highest market prices without any deductions.

Mr. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices—Oats 1s 3d to 1s 5d (bags extra), quiet. Wheat: milling, 4s 6d to 4s 9d; fowls', 3s 6d, sacks included. Chaff: Market full—£2 to £2 7s 6d; hay, oaten, £3; best rye-grass, £3. Bran, £3 10s. Pollard, £4 10s. Potatoes, kidney, £2 0s to £2 5s; derwents, £1 15s to £2. Flour: roller, £12 to £12 15s; stone, £11 5s to £11 15s, firm. Fresh butter, 10d to 1s; salt, nominal, for prime, 7d. Eggs, 1s 6d. Oatmeal, £9 0s.