

# Commercial.

**THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY CO., LIMITED,** report for week ending February 10, as follows:—

**Store Cattle**—A steady demand continues to be experienced for all sorts, and while prices have not advanced to any material extent, all offering meet with buyers and are readily disposed of.

**Store Sheep**—The market continues very firm for these, owing, doubtless, to the abundance of food everywhere and prices in favour of sellers. The supply is apparently much short of requirements.

**Wool**—Latest advices report the market weak, and is irregular, except for extra good greasy crossbred. Our fourth sale for this season will be held on Thursday of this week.

**Sheepskins**—On Tuesday we submitted a miscellaneous catalogue, which attracted a full attendance of buyers, who competed spiritedly, all the lots being disposed of at about previous sales' rates. Country dry crossbreds, low to medium, brought 1s 6d to 3s 6d; do do merino, 1s 4d to 2s 6d; full-woolled crossbreds, 3s 9d to 5s 10d; do do merino, 3s to 5s 2d; dry pelts, 2d to 1s 3d; green crossbred pelts, best, 1s 11d to 1s 9d; medium to good, 1s 3d to 1s 8d; green lambskins, best, 1s 8d to 1s 11d; medium, 1s 4d to 1s 6d.

**Rabbitskins**—For the few offering there is a very good demand. Small consignments coming forward comprise only summer and inferior sorts, but all are taken up by shippers at full rates, prices ranging from 2½d to 10½d per lb for inferior and summer skins.

**Hides**—Market unchanged; late rates continue to be secured, which are for heavy in good condition, 2½d to 2¾d; 65lbs and upwards, 2¾d to 3d. Country average, 1½d to 2d; light, 1¼d to 1½d; inferior and slippy, ¾d to 1d per lb.

**Tallow**—No change of any consequence since our last report. Prime rendered mutton, 18s 6d to 19s 6d; medium to good, 16s to 18s; inferior to medium, 13s to 15s. Bought fat—Best caul, 12s 6d to 13s; inferior to medium and good, 9s to 12s per cwt.

**Grain**—Wheat: The market is quite bare of prime milling wheat, but even if supplies were an hand there are no buyers. Millers are still unable to make sales of flour in sufficient quantities to make room for wheat. Quotations again nominal for northern best milling, 4s 3d to 4s 6d; medium to good, 3s 9d to 4s 3d; inferior to medium, 2s to 3s 6d ex store, sacks weighed in, terms.—Oats: There is a moderate demand for best bright and full lines, but to induce buyers to purchase medium quality lower prices have to be accepted. Best milling, 1s 7d to 1s 7½d; best bright feed, 1s 6½d to 1s 7d; medium, 1s 5½d to 1s 6d; inferior, 1s 2d to 1s 4½d, ex store, sacks extra; ¾d per bushel more f.o.b. Dunedin.—Barley: There are no sales of any consequence being effected meantime, hardly any coming forward, sufficient however for requirements, which are not by any means extensive. Quotations meantime nominal, for best malting, 2s 9d to 3s; medium to good, 2s 6d to 2s 8d; feed and milling, 2s to 2s 5½, ex store, sacks extra, terms.

**Grass Seed**—The market for Ryegrass seed continues without animation, and a very considerable quantity is offering. There are buyers in the market for good clean seed. Some buyers idea of the value of the average run of undressed seed is from 1s 9d to 2s 6d; while extra clean old pasture commands 3s to 3s 6d per bushel. There is nothing passing in cocksfoot seed.

**Potatoes**—The market fully supplied; prices range from 25s to 37s 6d per ton.

**Chaff**—Large supplies to hand this week; the market in consequence is weaker, and prices lower by 7s 6d to 10s per ton. Best worth 57s 6d to 62s 6d; inferior to medium, 35s to 55s per ton.

**Dairy Produce**—No improvement to note, but it is expected that prices will harden further on. Dairy-made butter, in Pond's boxes, 6d to 7d; factory made, 10d to 11d per lb. Factory-made cheese, medium size, 4d to 4½d; loaf shape, 4½d to 5d per lb.

**MESSES. STRONACH BROS. AND MORRIS** report for week ending February 3 as follows:—

**Fat Cattle**—Best bullocks brought, L8 2s 6d to L9 3s; medium to good, L6 10s to L8; light and inferior, L5 to L6 5s; and cows in proportion.

**Fat Sheep**—Best crossbred wethers, 12s 6d to 14s; ordinary, 11s to 12s 3d; best crossbred ewes, 11s 9d to 12s 6d; ordinary, 9s 3d to 11s 6d; and merinos up to 12s 9d.

**Fat Lambs**—Best brought 10s to 11s 6d; others, 8s to 9s 6d.

**Pigs**—Suckers, 7s to 12s; slips, 13s to 15s 6d; porkers, 19s 6d to 25s; baconers, 33s to 40s.

**Store Sheep**—A strong demand exists for half and crossbred ewes, and good business in all lines has taken place during the past week.

**Sheepskins**—Country dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, 1s 6d to 3s 6d; do do merino, 1s 4d to 2s 6d; full-woolled crossbreds, 4s to 6s 2d; do do merino, 3s to 5s 6d; dry pelts, 3d to 1s 8d; green crossbred do, best, 2s 3d to 1s 8d; others, 1s 6d to 1s 3d; lambskins, 1s 9d to 2s; medium, 1s 5d to 1s 8d.

**Rabbitskins**—Bidding was quiet and sales difficult to make, owing to depressed state of Home market.

**Hides**—Quotations for best heavy ox, 2½d to 2¾d; medium weights, 2d to 2½d; light, 1½d to 1¾d; inferior and slippy, 1d to 1½d.

**Tallow**—All consignments are readily disposed of at good value. Best rendered mutton, 18s 6d to 20s; medium to good, 16s to 18s; inferior and mixed, 12s 6d to 15s 6d; and for rough fat—best mutton caul, 12s 6d to 14s; medium to good, 11s to 12s; inferior, 9s to 11s.

**Chaff**—Operations are less brisk, with values lower. At auction best sells at 62s to 67s per ton.

**Potatoes**—Market still glutted, and it is difficult to give away this stock. Best 22s 6d to 32s 6d, for kidneys.

**MESSES DONALD BEID & CO.** report having held their usual weekly sale on Wednesday, February 10:—

**Rabbitskins**—There was the usual attendance of buyers, and, quality considered, fair prices were obtained.

**Sheepskins**—Dry crossbreds sold at 2s to 5s 4d; dry merinos, 1s 5d to 4s 9d; green pelts, 1s 3d to 2s 1d; green lambs, 1s 4d to 2s 2d.

**Hides**—Quotations remain unaltered. During the week we cleared all forward.

**Tallow**—Medium rendered 14s to 16s; inferior, 12s to 13s; rough fat, 9s 6d to 13s per cwt.

## DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

**MESSES. WRIGHT, STEPHENSON AND Co.** report as follows:—The demand to-day was confined principally to draughts, of which there were a fairly large number offered, and anything with a fair reserve on it at all readily found a purchaser. Indeed, more than one buyer had to leave without suiting his requirements. Good, useful draught horses, heavy young draughts for town work, spring van horses, and sound upstanding hacks or harness horses are the descriptions in demand. We quote:—First-class draughts (extra heavy), L25 to L30; good ordinary draughts (young), L18 to L22; medium draughts, L12 to L16; aged draughts, L6 to L10; good hacks and harness horses, L12 to L16; medium do, L7 to L9; light and inferior do, L2 10s to L5.

**MR. F. MEENAN**, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices—Oats: 1s 5d to 1s 7d (bags extra), demand quiet. Wheat (easier): milling, 4s 0d to 4s 6d; fowls', 3s 6d to 3s 9d, sacks included. Chaff: Market, full supply—£2 0s 0d to £3 2s 6d; hay, oaten, £3 5s; ryegrass, £3. Bran, £3 0s. Pollard, £4 0s. Potatoes, kidneys, new, local, £2 (market bare). Flour: roller, £12 to £12 15s; stone, £11 5s to £11 15s. Fresh butter, 6d to 9d; salt, nominal for prime, 7d. Eggs, 1s 1d. Oatmeal, £9 10s.

## EVERY YEAR.

I FEEL 'tis growing colder  
Every year.  
And my heart, alas! gets older  
Every year.  
I can win no new affection;  
I have only recollection,  
Deeper sorrow and dejection  
Every year.  
Of the loves and sorrows blended  
Every year;  
Of the joys of friendship ended  
Every year;  
Of the ties that still might bind me  
Until Time to Death resigned me  
My infirmities remind me  
Every year.  
Ah! how sad to look before us  
Every year,  
When the cloud grows darker o'er us  
Every year.  
When we see the blossoms faded  
That to bloom we might have aided  
And immortal garlands braided  
Every year.  
To the past go more dead faces  
Every year.  
As the loved leave vacant places  
Every year.  
Everywhere the sad eyes meet us;  
In the evening's dusk they greet us,  
And to come to them entreat us,  
Every year.  
Yes, the shores of life are shifting  
Every year;  
And we are seaward drifting  
Every year.  
Old pleasures, changing, fret us  
The living more forget us,  
They are fewer to regret us,  
Every year.  
But the truer life draws nigher  
Every year;  
And its morning star climbs higher  
Every year.  
Earth's hold on us grows slighter,  
And the heavy burden lighter,  
And the dawn immortal brighter,  
Every year.

—Chambers' Journal.