

Commercial.

THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY CO., LIMITED, report for week ending February 24, as follows:—
Store Cattle—The demand is less active. Very little business is likely to be transacted till after harvest.

Store Sheep—The market is assuming a more active tone as a considerable amount of business is being put through. A good demand exists for all sorts.

Wool—Since last writing nothing special has occurred either in London or in this market.

Sheepskins—With a good attendance biddings were fairly active and fully maintaining those ruling last week. Dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, brought 1s 6d to 3s 4d; do do merino, 1s 5d to 3s 6d; full-woolled crossbreds, 3s 11d to 5s 6d; do do merino, 3s to 5s 2d; dry pelts, 2d to 1s 3d; green crossbred pelts, best 1s 9d to 2s 3d; medium to good, 1s 4d to 1s 8d; green lambskins, best 1s 10d to 2s 4d; medium to good, 1s 4d to 1s 9d.

Rabbitskins—Supply short and business done is of little importance.

Hides—No change to report; market continues steady with a fair demand for all descriptions. Heavy in good condition, 2½d to 2½d; 65 lbs and upwards, 2½d to 3d; country average, 1½d to 2d; light 1½d to 1½d; inferior and slippy, ½d to 1d per lb.

Tallow—Fair demand exists, indeed a very much larger quantity could be placed. Rough fat is also in good request. Best rendered mutton, 18s 6d to 19s 6d; medium to good, 16s to 18s; inferior to medium, 15s to 16s; best caul fat, 12s 6d to 13s; inferior to medium and good, 9s to 12s per cwt.

Grain—Wheat: Market dull. Quotations, nominal—say for best milling, Northern, 4s 3d to 4s 6d; medium to good, 3s 9d to 4s 3d; inferior to medium, 2s to 3s 8d, ex store, sacks weighed in, terms.—

Oats: No change to note. Prime feed and milling, 1s 6½d to 1s 7½d; medium, 1s 5d to 1s 6d; inferior, 1s to 1s 4½d—ex store, sacks extra, net; ¼d more per bushel f.o.b. Dunedin.—Barley: Business is almost at a standstill. Quotations nominal, say for best malting, 2s 9d to 3s; medium, 2s 6d to 2s 8d; feed and milling, 2s 3d to 2s 6d, ex store, sacks extra, terms.

Grass Seeds—No improvement to note for ryegrass seed. There are buyers on the spot, but growers find it difficult to submit to prices offering when compared with those obtaining at the same time last season. Buyers offer for farmers' undressed, 1s 9d to 2s 6d; machine-dressed, 3s to 3s 6d (ex store, sacks extra).—The demand for Cocksfoot has hardly set in yet. Quotations nominal.

Potatoes—The market fluctuates somewhat and often varies from one end of the week to another. Best newly dug, 4s to 50s; others, 25s to 40s per ton (sacks weighed in).

Chaff—Market steady at last week's quotations, which were for best 57s 6d to 60s; inferior to medium, 30s to 45s per ton.

Dairy Produce—Butter, dairy-made, in Pond's boxes, 6d to 7d; factory-made, 10d to 11d. Factory-made cheese, medium size, 4d to 4½d; loaf shape, 4½d to 4½d per lb, demand weak.

MESSEURS. STRONACH BROS. AND MORRIS report as follows for week ending February 17:—

Fat Cattle—The entry was rather a small one. Competition was fairly active for good quality. Best bullocks brought L6 15s to L7 15s; medium to good, L5 5s to L6 10s; light weights, L3 10s to L5; best cows, L5 5s to L5 17s 6d; medium, L4 to L5; light, L2 5s to L3 7s 6d.

Fat Sheep—1,562 were penned for which there was a very good demand. Best crossbred wethers brought 14s 6d to 16s 6d—one small pen extra prime, 17s; ordinary, 12s to 13s 6d; best do ewes 13s to 14s 6d; extra heavy, 15s 6d; ordinary, 10s to 12s 9d; merino wethers, 9s 6d to 10s 6d.

Lambs—777 penned and met with a fairly brisk market. Best brought 10s to 12s 6d—one or two extra heavy, 13s; medium to good, 8s to 9s 9d; inferior, 5s 6d to 7s 6d.

Pigs—180 penned and with a good demand. Suckers brought 7s to 12s 6d; slips, 13s to 15s; stores, 18s 6d to 20s 6d; porkers, 23s to 27s 6d; baconers, 28s to 37s 6d; heavy weights, 42s to 45s.

Store Cattle—Occasional transaction passing.

Store Sheep—A good demand exists. Nearly all sorts meet with buyers at very full prices.

Wool—The prospect of disposing of balance on hand to better advantage in the near future is not very encouraging.

Sheepskins—A good demand continues to be experienced for both dry and green skins. Country dry crossbreds, low to medium, brought 1s 6d to 3s 3d; do do merino, 1s 4d to 2s 7d; full-woolled crossbreds, 3s 10s to 5s 9d; do do merino, 3s to 5s 3d; dry pelts, 2d to 1s 2d; green crossbred pelts—best, 1s 9d to 2s; medium to good, 1s 5d to 1s 8d; green lambskins—best, 1s 9d to 2s; medium, 1s 5d to 1s 8d.

Rabbitskins—Market bare of supplies. A good demand exists. Good summer and spring skins fetch 7d to 10d; inferior to medium, 4d to 6d; suckers, 1½d to 3d per lb.

Tallow—Prime rendered mutton, 18s 6d to 19s 6d; medium to good, 16s to 18s; inferior to medium, 13s to 15s; best caul fat, 12s 6d to 13s; inferior to medium and good, 9s to 12s per cwt.

Grass Seeds—Very dull market. Buyers are offering for clean machine dressed seed 3s to 3s 6d; and for undressed, 1s 9d to 2s 3d (sacks extra). Cocksfoot seed at the moment has no inquiry.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

MESSEURS. WRIGHT, STEPHENSON AND Co. report as follows:—The entries consisted for the greater part of light harness horses and hacks, none of which were first-class. A few draughts also came forward, and for these there was a fair demand. Owing no doubt to harvest being now in full swing, the attendance of country buyers was small, which to a great extent accounted for the rather slow

sale which was experienced for the lighter class of horses. We quote:—For 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 hacks and harness horses, L7 to L9; light and inferior hacks and harness horses, 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', 2s 6d to 3s 6d, sacks included. Chaff: Market, full supply—£2 0s 0d to £3 2s 6d; hay, oaten, £3 0s; 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.

SIR CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY AND CARLYLE.

(From the *National Press*.)

THE most interesting feature to Irish readers of the number of the *Contemporary* for January, just issued, is the first article of a series by Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, headed "Conversations and Correspondence with Thomas Carlyle." The numerous letters and descriptions with which the article is filled do much to make clear the position of Carlyle in regard to Irish affairs, and are in many respects better indications of the real characteristics of the Sage of Chelsea than many of the letters given to the world with much greater pretensions. Duffy was introduced to Carlyle by Frederick Lucas, and went to his house in company with John O'Hagan and Pigot, the young Irishman. Speaking of the visit Mrs Carlyle said:—

"Mr Duffy quite took my husband's fancy, and mine also to a certain extent. He is a writer of national songs, and came here to 'eat his terms' With the coarsest of human faces, decidedly as like a horse's as a man's, he is one of the people that I should get to think beautiful, there is so much of the power both of intellect and passion in his physiognomy. As for young Mr Pigot, I will here, in the spirit of prophecy, inherited from my great ancestor, John Welsh, the Covenanter, make a small prediction. If there be in his time an insurrection in Ireland, as these gentlemen confidently anticipate, Mr Pigot will rise to be a Robespierre of some sort; will cause many heads to be removed from the shoulders they belong to; and will 'eventually' have his own head removed from his own shoulders. Nature has written on that handsome but fatal-looking countenance of his, quite legibly to my prophetic eye, 'Go and get thyself beheaded, but not before having lent a hand towards the great work of immortal smash.'"

The following eloquent passage is quoted from a letter which Sir Charles Duffy attaches importance to, as showing the keen interest which Carlyle took in every honest attempt to raise Ireland from her misery:—

"Justice to Ireland—justice to all lands, and to Ireland first as the land that needs it most—the whole English nation (except the quacks and knaves of it, who, in the end, are men of negative quantities and of no force in the English nation) do honestly wish you that. Do not believe the contrary, for it is not true; the believing of it to be true may give rise to miserable mistakes yet, at which one's imagination shudders. Well, when poor old Ireland has succeeded again in making a man of insight and generous valour, who might help her a little out of her deep confusions—ought I not to pray and hope that *he* may shine as a light instead of blazing as a firebrand to his own waste and his country's! Poor old Ireland, every man of that kind she produces, it is like another stake set upon the Bouge-et-Noir of the Destinies—'Shall I win with thee, or shall I lose thee too—blazing off upon me as the others have done?' She tries again, as with her last guinea. May the gods grant her a good issue!

"I bid you, with many kind wishes, good speed, and am, very truly yours,

T. CARLYLE."

Carlyle appeared to have read the *Nation* regularly, and to have delighted in its "manfulness, veracity, good sense, and dignity." Amongst the most interesting portions of correspondence are the letters which relate to the visit in 1846 of Mr W. E. Forster, about whom Carlyle wrote most cordially to Duffy. During Duffy's imprisonment Carlyle wrote him his most affectionate sympathy in a letter, from which we take the following passage:—

"If this bit of paper do reach you within your strait walls let it be an assurance that you are still dear to me; that in this sad crisis which has now arrived, we here at Chelsea do not find new cause for blame superadded to the old, but new cause for pity and respect, and loving candour, and for hope still, in spite of all! The one blame I ever had to lay upon you, as you well know, was that, like a young heroic all trusting Irish soul, you had believed in the prophesying of a plausible son of lies preaching deliverance to your poor country; and believing, had, as you were bound in that case, proceeded to put the same in practice, cost what it might cost to you. Even in this wild course, often enough denounced by me, I