

Commercial.

THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY CO., LIMITED, report for week ending March 21, as follows:—

Store Cattle.—Market less active, a few still change hands. Any lots offering in forward condition and well-grown will meet with buyers.

Store Sheep.—Large numbers are still being offered, but buyers seem as yet unsatisfied.

Sheepskins.—All offered met with good competition and realised following prices:—Country dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, brought 1s 10d to 3s 9d; do do merino, 1s 7d to 2s 8d; full-woolled crossbreds, 4s to 5s 7d; do do merino, 3s to 5s 1d; dry pelts, 3s to 1s 5d; best green crossbred pelts, 2s to 2s 5d; picked, 2s 6d to 2s 10d; medium to good, 1s 9d to 2s; green merino pelts, 1s 3d to 1s 8d; green lambskins, best, 2s 4d to 2s 8d; medium to good, 1s 9d to 2s 2d each.

Rabbitskins.—All offered met with a good demand; summer skins fetch 5d to 7d; full-furred, 8d to 10d; suckers and half-grown, to 4d per lb.

Hides.—The local demand for these continues steady for lots in good condition. Heavy, 2½d to 2½d; extra heavy, 2½d to 3d; average country hides, 1½d to 2d; light, 1½d to 1½d; interior and slippery ½d to 1d per lb.

Tallow.—Demand very good, both for export and local purposes. Best rendered mutton, 19s to 20s; medium to good, 16s to 18s 6d; inferior to medium, 13s 6d to 15s; best caul fat, 12s 6d to 13s; inferior to medium and good, 9s to 12s per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: Deliveries of the new wheat as yet are only to a small extent, but still sufficient to meet present demand, which is not improving to any appreciable degree. Best Northern Tuscan and Velvet (the latter being in most demand), 4s to 4s 3d; medium to good, 3s 6d to 3s 10s; inferior, 2s 6d to 3s 3d; broken, 1s 6d to 2s 3d; ex store, sacks weighed in, terms. Oats: The demand is not particularly active, and sales difficult to effect except at a reduction on last week's quotations. Prime bright feed and milling, 1s 6d to 1s 6½d; medium to good, 1s 5d to 1s 6d; musty and inferior, 1s to 1s 4d; ex store, sacks extra, net, ¾d per bushel extra for b Dunedin. Barley: Best malting, 2s 10d to 3s; medium, 2s 7d to 2s 9d; feed and milling, 2s 3d to 2s 6d; ex store, sacks extra, terms.

Grass Seeds.—Demand for ryegrass seed is less active. Undressed 1s 6d to 2s 3d; extra clean, 2s 9d to 3s 3d; machine dressed, 3s 3d to 3s 9d, ex store.—Cocksfoot nominal, best, 4d to 4½d; medium, 2½d to 3½d per lb.

Potatoes.—Prime derwents are in better demand and prices firmer, say, 5s 6d to 60s; little or nothing now passing in kidneys.

Chaff.—Market bare. Consignments in consequence are easily placed, best fetches 60s to 62s 6d; new and inferior, 50s to 55s per ton.

Dairy Produce.—Factory made cheese, medium size, 4½d to 4½d; loaf shape, 4½d to 4½d; dairy made 3d to 4d per lb; prime salt butter firm at 7½d to 8d; factory, 10d to 11d per lb.

MESSES STRONACH BROS AND MORRIS report as follows for week ending March 16:—

Fat Cattle.—Bullocks to L9 10s; cows to L6 10s.

Fat Sheep.—Crossbred, 13s 6d to 15s; merino to 10s 9d.

Lambs.—Demand good, values from 7s to 12s.

Pigs.—Suckers, 7s to 9d; stores, 16s to 18s 6d; porkers, 22s to 24s; baconers, 29s to 35s.

Store Cattle.—Inquiries for well-grown bullocks fairly numerous.

Store Sheep.—All lines find buyers at full rates.

Sheepskins.—Values continue good for pelts and lambskins.

Rabbitskins.—All lots coming forward are competed for.

Hides.—No change to report.

Tallow.—All lots immediately cleared at late rates.

Grass Seed.—Ryegrass: Demand for undressed parcels is slack, buyers requiring only the cleanest of seed.

Potatoes.—45s to 50s; kidneys and inferior, 30s to 35s.

Chaff.—Best, 57s 6d to 60s; new and inferior, 40s to 55s.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

MESSES. WRIGHT, STEPHENSON AND Co. report as follows:—The class of horses that have been selling best of late, and for which we have still numerous inquiries, are young upstanding light harness horses, and strong, active spring van and springcart horses. Good young draughts are also readily saleable to the town carriers. Next Saturday we shall offer consignments of upstanding hacks and harness horses from Mr W. Sibbald (Mackerzie Country); and Mr Thos. Shaw (Fairlie creek). 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, L5 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 3d; fowls', 2s 6d to 3s 6d, sacks included. Chaff: Market, full supply—£2 10s 0d to £3 2s 6d; hay, oatens, £3 0s; ryegrass, £3. Bran, £3 0s. Pollard, £4 0s. Potatoes, kidneys, new, local, £2 (market bare); derwents, £2 15s 0d. Flour: roller, £12 to £12 15s; stone, £11 5s to £11 15s. Fresh butter, 8d to 10d; salt, nominal for prime, 7d. Eggs, 1s 2d. Oatmeal, £8 15s 0d in 25lbs; bulk, £8 0s.

Mgr. Falleze, Prefect Apostolic of Norway, has arrived in Rome on his visit *ad limina*. There are now ten Catholic churches in Norway and five oratories.

—For the first time since the end of the Sunderbund and the Revolution of 1848, a Catholic has been elected a member of the Swiss Federal Council.

NEW ZEALAND MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the above-named society, which took place last week at Wellington, the following address was delivered by the president, the Hon Dr Grace, Count of the Holy Roman Empire. The report is taken from one of the Wellington dailies:—Gentlemen—On an occasion of this kind, when we meet chiefly for the discussion of those practical objects which by improving our organisation tend to increase our general power of usefulness to society, you will not expect from me an elaborate disquisition on the drift of modern thought, on its tendency by the development of scientific knowledge to enlarge the field of our responsibilities at the cost of increased strain on our nervous systems—our real capital in life. You will, most of you, in person have experienced the truth of that axiom. "Without unbroken time there can be no consecutive thought." It is my misfortune that in the midst of reflection, or a sentence, I am liable to be called away by the call of public or private duty. This fact is sufficient to secure for me your tenderest consideration, for fellow-feeling makes men wondrous kind. Supposing, however, that I had no such excuse to tender to you, I should yet, with great hesitancy, arrogate to myself the privileges of a teacher when addressing a body of this kind. Nevertheless, as I have been a long time engaged in practice, and as I owe you the compliment of an address in recognition of your politeness in coming to hear me, and of the honour which the profession has done me, in electing me to preside on this occasion, I will venture to detain you for about 20 minutes. It is said a man never becomes old till he lives in the past. If so, medical men possess the secret of perpetual youth, for though they treasure up the learning of the past, their eyes are ever in the future, stimulated by the enthusiasm of human nature, their personal burthen of years is thrown into the shade whilst they gaze on the rising sun of those healthier, happier days to come. This is the reason why medical men are so charming in general society—their versatility is the reflex of their enthusiasm—their neglect of vulgar riches in the pursuit of active beneficence, the stamp of their moral greatness. Nevertheless there seems to me a danger in modern days of our ceasing to estimate broadness of view in medicine at its true worth—arising from the infinite subdivision of specialities. Investigation in most cases means progress by division and subdivision of the field. This is not necessarily true in medicine. It is true to say that healthy progress in medicine must be an evolution, co-ordinate with the development of science. To be able to observe with minute care all the subtle changes in the progress of disease is to hold forth promise of eminence in practice—to reason logically from these is to be a scientific practitioner. To collate from records the vast experience of the past, and reduce it in the laboratory of the mind to practical uses is to accumulate such weighty knowledge as develops the capacity for original research. The question is, how are the eminently high faculties necessary for these ends to be cultivated, not with a view to specialities but with an eye to the education of general practitioners? I venture to submit the proposition that no man who has not benefited by wide experience as a general practitioner is competent to make a first-rate specialist. What the specialist knows in addition to the knowledge of the well-taught general practitioner is very largely curious rather than important. Now, we are educating at the Dunedin School of Medicine wholly or in part a great number of general practitioners. It becomes important for us to consider what is the character of the education imparted, and to search out the most effective means by which we can strengthen the hands of the professors and clinical teachers. At the very commencement we are met by a serious difficulty in the law regulating the management of hospitals. Trustees are elected by the rate-payers and local bodies, whose duty it should be to look after the business management of the hospitals, but who exercise in addition the sole right of electing medical men to these hospitals. The consequence is there exists no guarantee to the public, whose highly-endowed State medical school is in Dunedin, that suitable clinical teachers are appointed to that hospital. How are those habits of observation to which I alluded to be fostered if competent clinical teachers chance not to be elected by a trustee, who, possibly, gives this important matter very little consideration. The New Zealand University grants a degree in medicine which by Imperial statute is recognised all over the Empire, and the Colony by its laws deprives the New Zealand University of even a voice in the selection of clinical teachers at the only authorised hospital. This absurdity requires only to be known to our practical people, whose very lives are at stake, to secure its removal. In deed no very serious alteration of the law is necessary. As the Otago people are justly jealous of interference in their local affairs, I would suggest that power under statute should be given to the Council of the Otago University to appoint suitable clinical teachers as physicians and surgeons to the Dunedin Hospital. As the Otago University is affiliated to the New Zealand University, which alone possesses the power of granting degrees, the community of interest and the watchfulness of the profession would afford guarantees to the general public for the efficiency of clinical