

Commercial.

THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY CO., LIMITED, report for week ending March 29, as follows:—

Store Cattle—A moderate demand being done, odd lots from time to time being placed, but the demand is not by any means strong.

Store Sheep—A good demand is still experienced for mostly all classes, but the number now offering is much less. Prices for all sorts are very firm, and in some instances extreme figures are being reached, more particularly for suitable breeding ewes.

Sheepskins—The demand for these continue very active, and prices compared with those of last week are fully higher. Country dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, brought 1s 11d to 3s 10d; do do merino, 1s 7d to 2s 9d; full-woolled crossbreds, 4s 6d to 5s 9d; do do merino, 3s to 5s 3d; dry pelts, 2d to 1s 6d; best green crossbred pelts, 2s 3d to 2s 6d; picked, 2s 8d to 2s 11d; medium to good, 1s 4d to 2s 2d; green merino pelts, 1s 3d to 1s 9d; green lambskins, best, 2s 5d to 2s 9d; medium to good, 1s 10d to 2s 3d each.

Rabbitkins—These are in good demand, but owing to the absence of supplies the business transacted is necessarily small. Summer skins fetch 5d to 7d; full furred, 8d to 10d; suckers and half-grown, 1½d to 4d per lb.

Hides—A moderately fair demand exists, all coming forward being easily placed. Heavy, 2½d to 2½d; extra do, 65lb and over, 2½d to 3d; average prices for country hides, 1½d to 2d; light, 1½d to 1½d; inferior and shippy, ¾d to 1d per lb.

Tallow—The demand continues fairly good for both local requirements and export. For best rendered mutton, 19s 6d 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: Very little of the new crop has come to hand. The market still continues void of animation, and transactions during the week have been unimportant. Northern best Tuscan and velvet, 4s to 4s 3d; medium to good, 3s 3d to 3s 9d; good whole fowl wheat, 2s 9d to 3s; broken, 1s 6d to 2s 6d (ex store, sacks weighed in, terms). Oats: With a moderately fair demand on the part of both millers and shippers, prices have remained firm.—Barley: Market still continues flat, and only occasional transactions passing. Quotations nominal, say for best malting, 2s 10d to 3s; extra prime, 3s 3d; medium, 2s 7d to 2s 9d; feed and milling, 2s 3d to 2s 6d (ex store, sacks extra, terms).

Grass Seeds—The demand for ryegrass seed is now less active and not likely to improve until Spring—quotations unaltered.

Potatoes—Supply slightly heavier, which has somewhat weakened prices, being now for best derwents, 50s to 52s 6d; inferior and kidneys, 35s to 45s per ton (sacks weighed in).

Chaff—Supply being no more than sufficient for requirements prices have remained firm, say best 60s to 62s; new and inferior, 50s to 55s per ton.

Dairy Produce—Factory-made cheese has a little more inquiry, but so far buyers are not inclined to purchase at anything over late quotations, viz., 4½d to 4½d for medium size; and 4½d to 4½d for loaf-shape; dairy-made is selling at 3d to 4d per lb.—Prime salt butter is in fair demand with prices firm and slightly advancing, dairy-made is worth 7½d to 8½d; factory, 10½d to 11d per lb.

Flax—Best, L18 to L19, extra well got up a shade more; medium to good, L15 10s to L17 10s; inferior, L13 to L14 per ton.

MESSESS STRONACH BROS AND MORRIS report as follows for week ending March 29:—

Fat Cattle—Bidding was very slack, and prices ruled rather easier, excepting in the case of very prime cattle.

Fat Sheep—Prices hardened to the extent of from 1s to 1s 6d per head.

Fat Lambs—Medium quality only; nevertheless they sold well, realising up to 10s 3d.

Pigs—Buyers for both fat and store pigs are numerous and their wants are pressing.

Store Cattle—The demand continues good and well bred cattle find ready sale.

Store Sheep—Values continue to rule very much in favour of the sellers.

Sheepskins—Bidding spirited, catalogue consisting of nearly every description of woolled and bare skins, which sold at a slight decline on last week's values.

Hides—Market unchanged.

Tallow—Fair demand for all qualities both of rough fat and tallow.

Grain—Wheat: Buyers are not inclined to stock themselves, a considerable portion of the new crop has failed to find purchasers.—

Oats: The deliveries of the new crop have as yet been on a very limited scale. Unless Australian markets are more active than they are at present a fall in values here must be the result.

Ryegrass—Unless the seed offered is of exceptional quality buyers are not inclined to buy for stock.

MESSESS DONALD REID AND Co. report having held their usual weekly sale on Wednesday, March 29:—

Wheat—Considerable increase in business done, but prices are unaltered. We quote—Prime milling, 4s 1d to 4s 4d; medium, 3s 11s to 4s; inferior, 3s 6d to 3s 10d; fowl's wheat, 2s 3d to 3s.

Oats—Arrivals still continue small, very little business. We quote—Milling, 1s 6d to 1s 7d; bright feed, 1s 5d to 1s 5½d; discoloured, 1s 3d to 1s 4½d (sacks extra).

Barley—There is a good inquiry for both malting and milling, but the market is bare.

Potatoes—Market glutted. Best, £2 10s so £2 12 6d; ordinary £2 5s to £2 7s 6d.

Chaff—Well supplied. Best, £3 to £3 2s 6d; ordinary, £2 15s to £2 17s 6d.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

MESSESS. WRIGHT, STEPHENSON AND Co. report as follows:—A very large number of horses came forward for to-day's sale, composed of useful hacks and harness horses, and a small number of light draughts and spring cart horses. The attendance was very poor. We note a demand for young useful draught horses. 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. MERRAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices—Oats: 1s 4d to 1s 6½d (bags extra), demand quiet. Wheat (easier): milling, 4s 0d to 4s 3d; fowl's, 2s 6d to 3s 6d, sacks included. Chaff: Market, bare supply—£2 15s 0d to £3 2s 6d; hay, oaten, £3 0s; ryegrass, £3. Bran, £3 0s. Pollard, £4 0s. Potatoes, kidneys, new, local, £2 (market bare); derwents, £2 15s 0d. Flour: roller, £11 to £11 15s; stone, £10 5s to £10 15s. Fresh butter, 8d to 11d; salt, nominal for prime, 8d. Eggs, 1s 4d. Oatmeal, £8 15s 0d in 25lbs; bulk, £8 0s.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT SHAND'S TRACK.

As your valuable paper finds its way into every Irish household and is read with delight by every Irish man and woman in this district, I send you a short account of how the Irish pioneers celebrated the feast of Ireland's glorious Apostle in this parish.

Following the advice of our esteemed and zealous pastor, the Rev. Father Halbwachs, who for weeks, nay months, previously, contemplated the celebration of St. Patrick's Day with due solemnity, both with the spirit of religion and patriotism, and to whose untiring zeal is due the success which attended our efforts, the whole congregation attended at eleven o'clock Mass, and listened with wrapt attention to a panegyric on the great Saint delivered by the Rev. Father, during the delivery of which they were moved to tears.

Owing to the inclemency of the weather the sports, which were to be held after Mass, had to be postponed. Meantime the people assembled in the schoolroom and partook of light refreshments provided by the ladies of the parish, and presided over by Mesdames Leatham and O'Neil, after which indoor innocent amusements were indulged in until Vespers in the evening, when it was fondly hoped the weather might clear up, and so give an opportunity to persons in the outlying districts to attend the banquet at night. But the wish was father to the thought, as the rain (which came down steadily all day) towards night fell in torrents; notwithstanding which about two hundred guests sat down to a most excellent repast, provided, as were the other refreshments, by our lady friends and presided over by our esteemed fellow parishioner, that genuine Irishman, Mr Thomas Leatham. The room was elaborately and beautifully decorated on the occasion by the Misses Henley, while bunches of real live shamrocks stuck out in bold relief in various parts of the room, the gift of Mr Michael O'Connor of Green Park.

Prominent amongst the guests were the Henleys, Byans, Leathams O'Connors, O'Neils, O'Grady's, Dohertys, Browns, Maguires, DoYLES McVeighs etc, etc, in short the real pioneers of Catholicity in this province. The toast list, amongst others, included "The Pope," "Our Native Land," "Our adopted country," "The day we celebrate," "The Hibernian Society," all of which were ably responded to; but the speeches of the evening were those of the Rev. Father Halbwachs in responding to "The day we celebrate" and "The Hibernian Society" During the evening some capital songs were sung and several exhibitions of Irish step dancing given. The singing "God save Ireland" and "Auld Lang Syne" brought to a close the pleasantest reunion of Catholics ever held in this parish.

PRESENTATION TO THE REV FATHER MACMANUS.

THE Catholics of Ross sincerely regret the removal of the Rev Father Macmanus from their midst. Most zealously and well has he discharged his sacred duties during his term here—about four years. His removal is a promotion, and we certainly say that Ross's loss is Abaura's gain. The districts in the parish, one and all combined to show some tangible proof of appreciation of his services in their midst, and so in a very short time made up a feeling address and handsome testimonial. The presentation was made by Mr Bellamy after evening devotions on Sunday, the 5th March, 1892. Following is the copy of testimonial.

"Rev and Dear Father Macmanus—The occasion which calls us together is a painful one. We have come to bid good-bye to a priest who has earned our esteem and veneration, and our gratitude. You have been most zealous and unremitting in the discharge of your sacred duties. The singleness of purpose manifest in all your ministrations, the edifying example of your everyday life, and the vigilant and earnest care you have ever manifested for the spiritual and temporal advancement of our children, command our veneration and heartfelt gratitude. We have often marvelled at your energy,