

Commercial.

THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY CO., LIMITED, report for week ending July 13, as follows:—

Store Cattle—These change hands in moderate numbers, and a large business could be done only that really good sorts for topping off on turnips are not readily picked up at prices suitable to the graziers.

Store Sheep—The business done under the hammer did not amount to much, still we managed to place over 1500 head privately at satisfactory prices. Small crossbred lambs sold at up to 9s 2d; crossbred wethers from 10s 3d to 16s 3d; merino wethers at 7s.

Sheepskins—Our sale on Tuesday was well attended, mostly all the buyers being present. Country dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, brought 1s 10d to 3s 3d; do do merino, 1s 8d to 3s; full-wooled crossbreds, 4s 3d to 5s 11d; do do merino, 3s 3d to 5s 3d; dry pelts, 2d to 1s 6d; butchers' green crossbreds, best, 4s to 4s 4d; choice, 4s 9d; medium to good, 3s to 3s 10d; green merinos, light, 2s 3d to 2s 8d; best do, 2s 9d to 3s each.

Rabbitskins—A very satisfactory demands continues to be experienced for these. Best winter greys, 1s 3d to 1s 4d; medium to good, 1s 1d to 1s 3d; autumn, 9d to 11d; summer, 6d to 8d; sackers and half grown, 3s to 5d per lb.

Hides—We have no alteration to make in our last week's quotations, a moderate demand exists for all sorts. We quote—For good conditioned heavy weights, 2d to 3d; medium, 2d to 2d 1/2; light, 1d to 1d 1/2; inferior, 1d to 1d per lb.

Tallow—There is a very good demand for local consumption at prices in sympathy with ruling rates Home. We quote—For best rendered mutton, 19s to 20s; medium to good, 16s to 18s 6d; inferior to medium, 13s to 15s; best caul fat, 12s 6d to 13s; inferior to medium and good, 9s to 12s per cwt.

Grain—Wheat: The market for this, doubtless in sympathy with the Home market, continues weak. We give last week's quotations—For prime milling velvet red straw and Tuscan, 3s 6d to 3s 8d; good to best, 3s 2d to 3s 5d; medium to good, 2s 8d to 3s; whole fowls' wheat, 2s 3d to 2s 6d; broken, 1s 9d to 2s 2d (ex store, sacks weighed in, terms).—Oats: Business transactions during the week have only been to a moderate extent, sales both for shipment and local requirements have been at prices on a par with last week's. We quote—Prime milling, 1s 10d to 1s 11d; best short feed, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; medium to good, 1s 8d to 1s 9d; inferior to medium, 1s 4d to 1s 7d; prime long tartar, suitable for seed, 1s 9d to 2s 1d (ex store, sacks extra, nett).—Barley: The market is very quiet, no transactions of any consequence transpiring. Quotations—For best malting, 3s 6d to 3s 9d; medium to good, 3s to 3s 4d; feed and milling, 2s to 2s 9d (ex store, sacks extra, terms).

Grass Seeds—Rye-grass seed is beginning to move off slowly already for spring requirements. Quotations—for best-dressed perennial seed, 3s 9d to 4s 3d; medium, 3s 3d to 3s 6d—ex store. Cock-foot seed has some inquiry also at—for best-dressed, 3d to 4d; medium, 3d to 3d per lb.

Potatoes—Market for these unsatisfactory, except in retail lots. Chaff—The demand continues moderately active at late rates, say, for best, 47s 6d to 52s 6d—on rare occasions, 55s is secured; inferior to medium, 30s to 45s per ton.

Dairy Produce—Prime salt butter is readily placed at 1s per lb; medium, slow of sale. Factory cheese, medium size, held for 5d; loaf-shape, 5d; dairy-made, 3d to 4d per lb.

Flax—The local market shows no signs of any animation, and no business of any consequence being done. Latest news from Home state there is more inquiry for flax. Medium is worth L18 15s per ton.

MESSRS STRONACH BROS. AND MORRIS report as follows:—

Fat Cattle—There was a fair demand, but prices cannot be quoted any higher. Best, L7 3s to L8 2s 6d.

Fat Sheep—Good attendance; brisk competition. Sold a draft at 16s 6d.

Pigs—Only 82 penned. Good demand. Good stores sell well. Sheepskins—All lots were cleared at satisfactory prices. Good demand.

Rabbitskins—Moderate catalogue. Good attendance and good prices.

Hides—All coming to hand freely taken up.

Tallow—Fair demand. No improvement in value.

Grain—Wheat: No improvement in prices. Oats: Values continue firm.

Grass Seeds—Moderately large-sized parcels are moving off.

Potatoes—Market over supplied, and only saleable in retail lots for local consumption.

Chaff—Supplies sufficient, and fair demand.

MESSRS DONALD BEID AND CO. report as follows for week ending July 13:—

Sabbitkins—Supply increasing weekly, but several of the buyers have orders for an almost unlimited quantity, and a much larger quantity could be taken without affecting values. Larger attendance of buyers than usual. Splendid competition for all qualities, and prices were up fully 1d per lb compared with last week's. Prime winters (selected), 16d to 16d 1/2; medium, 11d to 13d; autumn, 8d 1/2 to 9d 1/2; summer, 7d 1/2 to 8d 1/2; suckers, 4d to 5d 1/2.

Sheepskins—Large attendance. Bidding was somewhat slack. Green crossbreds, 2s 6d to 4s 5d; do merinos, 2s to 2s 9d; dry crossbreds, 2s 10d to 5s; do merinos, 1s 4d to 3s 9d; do pelts and lambs, 9d to 2s 6d.

Hides—Medium and light hides have a downward tendency, but well-flayed heavy hides are in strong demand, and a much larger number could be placed. Prime heavies, 2d to 3d; medium to good, 2d to 2d 1/2; light, 1d to 2d; inferior, slippery bulle, 1d to 1d per lb.

Oats—Moderate demand, but as arrivals continue of very small proportions, prices are well maintained. Milling, 1s 11d to 2s; bright feed, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; discoloured, 1s 6d to 1s 8d; sacks extra.

Potatoes—Really prime well-picked derwents meet with sale at up to 35s, while inferior and second rate are almost unsaleable.

Chaff—A small supply forward during the week. Prime bright oatstraw is in brisk demand at up to L2 15s; medium to L2 7s 6d; inferior from 30s to 40s per ton.

Turnips—The market is glutted and prices have weakened. Prime small, 14s; medium, 13s.

MR F. MENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale price—Oats 1s 7d to 2s 0d (bags extra), demand good. Wheat (easier), milling, 3s 6d to 4s 0d; fowls', 2s 0d to 2s 9d, sacks included. Chaff: Market, bare supply—£1 10s 0d to £2 12s 6d; hay, oatsen, £3 0s; ryegrass, £3. Bran, £3 10s. Pollard, £4 0s. Potatoes, kidneys, seed, £2; derwents, £1 10s to £2 0s 0d. Flour: roller, £10 10s to £11 5s; stone, value nominal, £9 0s to £9 15s. Fresh butter, 10d to 1s 3d; salt, prime, 10d. Eggs, 1s. Oatmeal, £9 10s in 25lbs; bulk, £9.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

MESSRS. WRIGHT, STEPHENSON AND Co. report as follows:—A fairly large entry of horses was offered to-day, but no doubt owing to there having been none advertised there was not a large attendance of buyers. The entries were chiefly of draughts, of which there were a number of very good sorts offered, and one of them, a very heavy draught gelding, fetched L24. Although there were buyers present for good farm horses very little business was done in them as buyers' and sellers' ideas of value were considerably at variance. 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 lacks and harness horses, L12 to L16; medium do, L7 to L9; light and inferior do, L2 10s to L5.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, WELLINGTON.

THE following is the speech made by the Hon Dr Grace at the meeting referred to in the letter of our Wellington correspondent:—

"It will be in the recollection of some of you that when the late lamented and ever-to-be-revered Dr Viard died there was a debt of £1000 left on the Cathedral. That debt, chiefly out of savings from the seat rents and savings from the Christmas and Easter dues, has been paid off. The Cathedral has been kept in repair and many and serious deficiencies in the roof finally supplied. In addition, £1200 has been expended on the finishing of the interior and the construction of the organ loft, £600 on the altar, and £600 for the purchase of an organ. The square tower which was imperilling the solidity of the whole structure was altered in design harmoniously with true architectural principles, at the cost of a single member of the congregation. I therefore leave that out of the calculation. Thus without any special call having been made on us, a sum of £3400 has been disbursed to the credit of this Cathedral fund, since we last took account. I proceed to analyse the sources from which these flowed. The £1000 of indebtedness was paid off by parochial savings, chiefly as I have explained. Four hundred pounds of the sum (£1200) expended in improving the interior came from the diocese. About one hundred pounds was collected from you towards the payment of the cost of the altar, about £100 was contributed to the cost of the organ, and the whole of the rest—i.e. £1800 was contributed by the Archbishop out of his private resources. Thus you will see that the Cathedral, as it stands now, is out of debt, and as a diocesan asset is £3400 more valuable than when the Archbishop was appointed to the diocese. With regard to these parochial savings I wish to draw your attention to the fact that they became possible only by the parish priest going without any salary, and I can testify that Father McNamara, like his predecessors, went away a poorer man than when he came to the parish—poorer in vital energy, health, and pocket. Soon after the Archbishop's arrival, it became clear to him that an extension of the Cathedral would be needed, he, therefore, bought the ground on which the presbytery is now built, and erected thereon the priest's house. The land and buildings cost £1600. The land was indispensable, the presbytery necessary. Of this money £300 was collected in the diocese generally, £300 was contributed as a free gift by the Archbishop, and there remains a debt of £1000 on mortgage—which has to be lifted before we can proceed with any extension. From this point I ask you to follow me to the Archbishop's house. It, with the necessary offices, laying out of gardens, fencing, etc., cost £2,400. Of this £800 was contributed by the diocese; the balance, £1,600, came out of the Most Rev Dr. Redwood's private purse, making £3,700 in all contributed by the Archbishop out of his private purse to these services. As the city began to grow it became manifest to the Archbishop that above all things space was necessary, he therefore bought for £4,200 the house and half-acre of land abutting on the Archdiocesan premises, seeing clearly that when the Cathedral was extended almost all the available ground would be covered, and there would be no room for a priest's house, and no probable future chance of procuring any space. The Archbishop proposes to convey that property