

stated on authority that all the speeches to be delivered have been committed to writing by order, and referred to the well-known Mr Fionegan, the Unionist election agent, for his approval, and that he has carefully sub-edited them.

The proceedings at the Belfast Convention practically commenced by Sir William Ewart, Bart, moving the first resolution, which expressed loyalty to Crown and Constitution, and resolving to have nothing to do with "a Parliament controlled by men responsible for the crime and outrage of the Land League, the dishonesty of the Plan of Campaign, and the cruelty of boycotting." The speaker presented a most funereal aspect. He delivered his speech with a most melancholy and long drawn out method. Then Mr Sinclair spoke, and his speech excited more attention and drew forth greater cheers than anybody else's, especially when he observed that, cost what it might, they would have nothing to do with a Dublin Parliament. If such a Parliament were ever set up, they would simply ignore its existence. His acts would be as waste paper. There were renewed cheers at this, and the speaker added: The police, if such a Parliament were set up, "would find our police barracks preoccupied with our own constabulary, its judges would sit in empty courthouses—that they made no threat of blood or arms, but merely allowed those who desired the luxury of Home Rule to pay for it themselves." There were then speeches by the Rev Oliver McCutcheon, D.D., who made a very dreary address; Mr Thomas Andrews, Mr Frank Johnston, a "labouring man," and the Rev James Creegan. It was funny when the chairman put the resolution to the meeting, the usual appeal—"As many, etc, as are for the resolution will kindly say, aye"—was greeted with loud cries of "Aye," and when he said, "As many as are against kindly say no," almost an equally large number said in the most lamb-like fashion, "No," an incident which naturally provoked some laughter. No better indication can be given of the weariness of the meeting than the fact that after the first resolution the audience rose believing and hoping, one would think, that the whole thing was over, and proceeded to sing "God save the Queen." In this well-intentioned effort they had to be called to order and informed that there was more to follow. Then the Rev Dr Lyred proposed the second resolution, and he was followed by the Rev R. R. Kane. It was somewhat amusing in his, as in some other cases, that the ringing of a bell had the effect of bringing to an abrupt conclusion a speech which would otherwise have doubtless extended to an almost unlimited extent. A good deal of amazement, not to say amusement, was created by the bewildering fact that during the proceedings copies of the *Belfast Evening Telegraph* were circulated through the pavilion containing a report of over six columns of an open air meeting which was to take place some hours subsequently in the Botanic gardens. The report was headed—"Enormous gathering," "Important speeches," "Stirring scenes." These formidable captions possibly were quite accurate, but their effect was, to say the least, somewhat minimised by the fact that the proceedings to which they referred, including of course the speeches, did not come off for hours after the paper which published them was in circulation. It simply showed the activity and anxiety of the orators to get publicity.

Commercial.

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

Store Cattle—A considerable number of these could now be placed, there being a very good demand experienced, but there are very few offerings of any sort.

Store Sheep—The want of supplies is curtailing the business being done in these now. Privately and at auction this week we sold 300 various descriptions at market rates.

Sheepskins—A very good demand is always experienced for these, and buyers ready to operate to any extent. Dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, brought 2s 1d to 3s 10d; do do merino, 1s 11d to 3s 1d; full-wooled crossbreds, 4s 1d to 6s 2d; do do merino, 3s 3d to 5s 4d; dry pelts, 3d to 1s 8d; butchers' green crossbreds, best, 4s 5d to 4s 10d; selected, 5s; medium to good, 3s 4d to 4s 4d; green merinos, best, 3s 3d to 3s 7d; light, 2s 9d to 3s 1d each.

Rabbitskins—Demand continues satisfactory. Quotations—best winter greys, 1s 3½d to 1s 4½d—picked does a shade more; medium to good, 1s 1d to 1s 3d; autumn, 9d to 11d; summer, 6d to 8d; suckers and half-grown, 3d to 5d per lb.

Hides—Market steady at late quotations, which are, for dry, salted, heavy weights, 2½d to 3d; medium weights, 2d to 2½d; light, 1½d to 1¾d; inferior, 1d to 1½d per lb.

Tallow—A good demand exists at late rates. Rough fat is also in good request and realises—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: Slight improvement in demand, and prices show a hardening tendency. Prime milling, velvet, red straw, and Tuscan, 3s 6d to 3s 8d—extra prime would command a little more; good to best, 3s 2d to 3s 5d; medium, nominal, 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: Steady demand experienced, both for local and export requirements. Bright milling, 1s 11d to 2s; best bright short

stout feed, 1s 10d to 1s 11d; medium to good, 1s 8d to 1s 9d; inferior to medium, 1s 5d to 1s 7d; Danish and long Tartars, bright and full, fit for seed, 1s 9d to 2s (ex store, sacks extra, net).—Barley: Market comparatively quiet. Best malting, 3s 6d to 3s 9d; medium to good, 3s to 3s 3d; feed and milling, 1s 2d to 2s 9d (ex store, sacks extra, terms).

Grass Seeds—Some business is passing in these, but the demand is still weak. Best dressed perennial, 3s 9d to 4s; medium, 3s 3d to 3s 6d per bushel. Best cocksfoot seed, 3½d to 4¼d; medium, 3d to 3½d per lb.

Potatoes—This market shows no change for the better. Best derwents are difficult to quit even in small lots at 30s; inferior to medium, 17s 6d to 20s per ton, sacks weighed in, ex store.

Chaff—The market this week has been more than fully supplied, the result—a drop in price of nearly 10s per ton on best quality. A large quantity has, meantime, been taken into store. Best price at auction for best quality, 45s per ton.

Dairy Produce—Market almost bare of prime keg butter; no demand, quotations, 9d to 10d per lb. Cheese is in good supply and no inquiry. Factory made medium size, 4½d to 5d; loaf shape, 5½d to 5¾d; dairy made, 3d to 4½d per lb.

Flax—Business just now at a stand still. Fair quality realises only 18s to 19s per ton.

MESSRS STRONACH BROS. AND MORRIS report as follows.

Fat Cattle—200 head were yarded. Best bullocks brought L8 5s to L9 15s—extra heavy, L19 15s; medium to good, L6 12s 6d to L8; light weights, L5 2s 6d to L6 7s 6d; best cows, L6 7s 6d to L7 15s; medium to good, L5 to L6 12s 6d; light and aged, L3 2s 6d to L4 17s 6d.

Fat Sheep—A very large number came forward to-day, 3,530 cross-bred wethers and ewes and 600 merino wethers being penned. Best crossbred wethers brought 17s to 19s 3d; ordinary, 13s to 15s 6d; best crossbred ewes, 14s 6d to 16s 6d; ordinary, 12s to 13s 9d; merino wethers, medium quality, 7s 3d to 10s.

Pigs—162 were penned, all of which met with a good demand. Suckers brought 6s 3d to 13s 6d; stores, 15s to 20s 6d; porkers, 22s 6d to 30s; baconers, 32s to 47s; extra, 52s.

Store Cattle—There is some inquiry for these but there are very few offerings.

Store Sheep—There is no change to report.

Rabbitskins—A good demand is experienced for these and all consignments coming to hand meet with good attention.

Hides—Quotations remain unchanged.

Tallow—A good demand continues to exist and the market firm at late quotations.

Grain—Wheat: Since our last report this market has not undergone any significant change. The demand is by no means brisk, and buyers are only disposed to operate at prices representing a further decline, and then only to a very limited extent.—Oats: The market continues firm, showing no difference in quotations as compared with those of last week.—Barley: Only occasional lines placed. The season for transactions of any consequence is now nearly closed; indeed, there are few, if any, prime malting samples offering.

Potatoes—This market is going from bad to worse.

Chaff—Fair demand for prime heavy bright and well cut, at from 47s 6d to 52s 6d; extra prime, 55s.

Dairy Produce—This market exceedingly quiet; no demand of any consequence.

MESSRS DONALD REID AND Co. report as follows for week ending August 10:—

Rabbitskins—There was a full attendance of buyers, and competition was quite as keen as last week. Prime winters (bucks and does), 16d to 16½d; good, 15d to 15½d; medium, 13½d to 14½d; coloured, 9d to 10½d; autumn, 8½d to 10½d; suckers, 7½d to 8½d; suckers, 4½d to 5½d.

Sheepskins—Green crossbreds, 3s 5d to 4s 7d; do merinos, 2s 10d to 3s 4d; dry crossbreds, 2s 1d to 5s 8d; do merinos, 1s 4d to 3s 10d; do pelts and lambs, 4d to 2s 3d.

Hides—Prime heavies, 2½d to 3d; medium, 2½d to 2¾d; light, 1¾d to 3d; inferior, 1¼d to 1½d per lb.

Tallow—Prime rendered, 18s to 20s; medium so good, 15s to 17s 6d; inferior, 12s 6d to 14s 6d; rough fat, 9s to 13s per cwt.

Wheat—Seed wheat, 4s to 4s 6d; milling (prime to extra prime) 3s 6d to 3s 10d; do medium, 3s 2d to 3s 5d; do inferior, 2s 11d to 3s 1d; fowl wheat, 2s to 2s 10d.

Oats—Seed (all descriptions), 2s to 2s 3d; milling, 1s 10d to 1s 11d; feed, bright, heavy, 1s 8d to 1s 9d; do discoloured, 1s 4d to 1s 7d; sacks extra.

Potatoes—The market is very dull. Best, 27s 6d to 32s 6d; inferior, 20s to 25s.

Chaff—Best heavy, 45s to 50s; medium, 37s 6d to 42s 6d; light and inferior, 30s to 35s.

Turnips—In bulk, 12s to 13s; bagged, 14s; sacks extra.

Ryegrass—Only a moderate demand. Best dressed, 3s 9d to 4s 3d; prime farmers', 3s 3d to 3s 6d; inferior, 2s 6d to 3s.

Timothy—The market very quiet. Best, 37s 6d to 42s 6d; medium and inferior, 30s to 35s.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

MESSRS. WRIGHT, STEPHENSON AND Co. report as follows:—The entry to-day consisted chiefly of town and dealers' lots, the only exceptions being small drafts of good, useful farm horses. For draughts there was again a good demand, and we are glad to say that nearly every horse of this class in the yard was sold at prices satisfactory to vendors. We can strongly recommend consignments of good, active young draughts. We have also inquiries for strong, active buggy horses, fairly well bred, with good bone. We quote—For first-class draughts (extra heavy), L25 to L30; good ordinary do (young), L18 to L22; medium do, L12 to L16; aged do, L6 to L10; good hacks and harness horses, L12 to L16; medium do, L7 to L9; light and inferior do, L2 10s to L5.