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PEERLESS TWINE.

MASSEY-HARRIS CO., Ltd., Crawford Street, Dunedin.

Tyrone.—Encouraging reports of the harvest are being made in the district around Ballygawley. Places farther out have not been so fortunate, and much damage has been done by recent heavy and continuous rains. In Cookstown district harvesting operations are now in full swing, and on the whole the crops are very disappointing, for while some are well up to the average those of most importance are decidedly inferior. The staple crop is flax, and farmers in the past have depended largely on this for their rent and taxes disbursements, but this season the results are extremely poor, and the supply of fibre will scarcely reach one-half the average. Potatoes promise well, but there are numerous complaints of the appearance of the blight. The grain crops average well, corn being long and well eared. The recent stormy wet weather, however, has done a great deal of harm to corn, wheat, and rye on foot. Turnips will turn out fairly well, and grass was an average crop.

Waterford.—A cargo of wheat from New Zealand was recently delivered in Waterford to John Browne, at his stores on the Quay.

The Duke of Devonshire is making inquiries through his agent as to the position of the tenants on his estate. This action, it is confidently expected, will result in a substantial reduction of rent.

Lord Wolseley recently visited Waterford and promised David Condon, a pensioner, who lost an arm in the Crimean War, that he would make an effort to have his pension of a shilling a day increased; but he has not been able to do so. Condon received a note from the War Office informing him that his pension must remain at one shilling per day. Condon is a night watchman in the city.

Wicklow.—Rev Mr Hallows and his curate, with one or two preachers from the lay or unconsecrated element, availed of the presence of the large number of people in Arklow at the recent fair to indulge in what they are pleased to term the preaching of the word of God. The spectacle presented was anything but edifying and was a travesty on religion. A crowd collected as a matter of course. One can readily understand that preaching to a pump-handle or lamp-post is, to even the most enthusiastic of spouters, a very discouraging and depressing occupation. Hence it is that his reverence so gladly embraces every opportunity likely to afford him an audience. He had one on this occasion, and it must be admitted that amongst them were some who are not total abstainers, and the dialogues which took place between the Bacchanalians and the preaching gentlemen were not likely to advance the interests of religion. The business has long ago received the well-merited contempt of every right thinking person of all religious persuasions.

Commercial.

THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY CO., LIMITED report for week ending December 14, as follows:—

Store Cattle.—A very satisfactory demand continues to be experienced for these. All sorts are saleable, while grown steers and good heifers have the preference.

Store Sheep.—A moderate amount of business is passing weekly in these both privately and at auction. At the moment the supply on the market seems to be very much short of requirements.

Sheepskins.—There was a very full attendance at our weekly sale on Tuesday, when we submitted a lengthy catalogue which elicited keen competition. Dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, 1s 9d to 3s 2d;

inferior to medium merinos, 1s 8d to 3s 2d; full-woolled crossbreds, 4s 3d to 6s 10d; do do merino, 3s 4d to 5s 11d; dry pelts, 3d to 1s 7d; butchers' green crossbreds, best, 5s 7d to 6d; medium to good, 4s to 5s 6d; shorn crossbred pelts, 10d to 1s 4d; green merinos in the wool, best, 3s 11d to 5s; light, 3s 2d to 3s 10d; lambskins, 1s 4d to 1s 11d each.

Rabbitskins.—The demand for these continues good.—For late (medium to good), winter and spring greys, 1s 1d to 1s 2½d; inferior to medium, 9d to 1s; black, tan, and mixed, 6d to 8d; suckers and half-grown, 3d to 5d; black and fawn, 7d to 10d per lb.

Hides.—There is a good demand existing for all coming to market.

Tallow.—We have no alteration to note in the position of the market, which continues firm.

Grain.—Wheat: At present there is almost nothing doing in this market. Millers hold aloof from purchasing in view of the proximity of harvest. We quote, nominally, best milling, velvet, red straw and Tuscan, 3s to 3s 3d; good to best, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; inferior to medium, 2s to 2s 3d; broken, 1s 8d to 1s 10d; ex store, sacks weighed in, terms. Oats.—There is no new feature of any consequence to chronicle in regard to the position of the market since we last reported. Quotations for best, bright, stout feed and milling, 1s 9½d to 1s 10½d; medium to good, 1s 8d to 1s 9d; inferior to medium, 1s 6d to 1s 7d; ex store, sacks extra, net. Barley.—No business of any consequence passing in this. We quote, nominally, best malting, 3s 9d to 4s; medium, 3s to 3s 6d; feed and milling, 2s 3d to 2s 9d; ex store, sacks extra, terms.

Grass Seeds.—There is no improvement to note in the demand for either ryegrass seed or cocksfoot.

Chaff has only a very moderate demand, and with the supply more than sufficient for requirements, prices are still low, even for best, while inferior is almost unsaleable. Quotations.—For prime, 47s 6d to 50s—slightly more on rare occasions; inferior to medium, 30s to 42s 6d (ex truck).

Dairy Produce.—Market unchanged. Quotations.—For prime keg butter (dairy-made), 8d to 9d; factory, 10d to 11d. Factory cheese, medium size, 4½d to 5d; loaf, 5½d to 5¾d; dairy, 2½d to 4½d per lb.

Flax.—There is no further improvement to note in the tone of the market. Well-dressed bright and soft is saleable at L8 to L8 10s; good to best, L17 10s to L18; fair average quality, L16 10s to L17; off-colour and badly dressed difficult to place.

MESSERS STRONACH BROS. AND MORRIS report as follows:—

Sheepskins.—We submitted a small catalogue for Tuesday's sale, when the usual full attendance of buyers were present. The demand was brisk, both fellmongers and shippers competing keenly, resulting in a slight improvement on last week's prices. Green crossbreds sold at 3s 10d to 5s 11d; do merinos, 3s 1d to 4s 4d; do pelts, 10d to 1s 3d; do lambs, 1s to 1s 6d; dry crossbreds, 2s 1d to 6s; do merinos, 1s 5d to 4s 1d; do pelts and hoggets, 4d to 2s 5d.

Rabbitskins.—We submitted a moderate catalogue on Monday, comprising the usual assortment of skins of all qualities. All the buyers were present and competed keenly, last weeks prices being fully maintained. Good winters sold at 15s to 15½d; medium, 13s to 14½d; inferior, 10½d to 12½d; spring, 8½d to 10½d; autumn and summer, 5d to 7½d; suckers, 1½d to 2½d.

Hides.—Quotations remain unaltered.
Tallow.—The supply is small, being confined to the ordinary country consignments that arrive from day to day. There is a strong local demand, and sales of every description are readily made. We quote.—Prime rendered, 18s to 20s; medium, 15s to 17s; inferior, 12s to 14s; rough fat, 9s to 13s.

Wheat.—In this cereal there is nothing of consequence to report. The market is in the same lifeless state as when we last reported, and so far as we can see at the present moment, there is little prospect of prices improving in the near future. Millers are more or less heavily stocked, and are only making an occasional purchase. Fowl wheat is in fair demand. We quote (nominally)—Prime milling, 3s 1d to