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

Commercial.

THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY CO., LIMITED report for week ending February 15, as follows:—

Store Cattle—Owing to the abundance of feed everywhere a very satisfactory demand continues to exist for almost all sorts, and prices paid leaving but little margin for fattening. This week we sold 45 head heifers and grown steers at from L2 7s 6d to L5 17s 6d, and have other sales pending.

Store Sheep—The offerings seem to be still insufficient for requirements, and the demand, in consequence, continues very satisfactory. All offered are readily placed when sellers are disposed to quit at market values. Apparently the number required is large, as the clearances at the various sales in the country are invariably complete, and lots of buyers unable to secure their requirements. At auction and privately during the past week we placed 7,570 sheep of various classes, and at very full rates.

Wool—The sales at Home seem to be progressing steadily, no fluctuations of any consequence apparent, but there is no further advance in prices. Our fourth sale for the season will be held on Thursday of this week.

Sheepskins—At our weekly auction on Tuesday we submitted a miscellaneous catalogue, which attracted a full attendance of buyers, who competed well, all the lots being disposed of under the hammer at prices about equal to those obtaining last week. Well-saved fresh crossbred felts had particular attention. Country dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, brought 1s 8d to 3s 2d; do do merino, 1s 6d to 2s 8d; full-woolled crossbreds, good, 3s 3d to 4s 2d; best, 4s 4d to 6s 3d; do do merino, good, 2s 10d to 3s 6d; best, 3s 7d to 5s 3d; dry pelts, 2d to 1s 4d; green crossbred pelts, best, 1s 9d to 2s 1d; medium to good, 1s 3d to 1s 8d; do do merino, 6d to 1s; lambskins, best, 1s 9d to 2s; medium, 1s 3d to 1s 7d each.

Rabbitskins—At this season of the year the offerings are generally of small bulk, comprising only late spring and summer takings, but were taken up by shippers at full rates. Spring skins fetch from 9d to 1s; summer, 7d to 8d; mixed and inferior, 6d to 7d; suckers and half-grown, 3d to 5d per lb.

Hides—The market is unchanged. Late rates continue to be secured, which are for heavy weight 2d to 3d; medium to best, 1d to 2d; inferior to medium, 1d to 1d per lb.

Wool—The rise in price at Home has not had very much effect in hardening prices in the local market, nevertheless a very good demand exists, and all offering is readily taken up at prices showing a slight advance on those ruling for such a long while. Best rendered mutton, 20s to 22s 6d; medium to good, 17s 6d to 19s 6d; inferior, 13s 6d to 15s 6d. Rough fat is in good request and selling freely. Best fresh caul, 13s to 15s; inferior to medium and good, 9s 6d to 12s 9d per cwt.

Grain—Wheat: The supply on hands is still far in excess of requirements, and with the new grain so near at hand buyers are unwilling to operate to any extent except at prices in their favour. Prime milling is not too plentiful, but sufficient to meet the demand. Best milling, 2s 7d to 2s 9d; prime, free from sprout, 3s; medium to good, 2s 3d to 2s 6d; inferior and good whole fowl's wheat, 2s to

2s 3d; broken, 1s 6d to 1s 10d, ex store, sacks weighed in, terms.—Oats: The market is displaying a slightly firmer tone, all coming forward are easily placed, and for prime feed, bright and stout a very good demand exists, and for which prices showing a slight advance can be secured. We quote, prime milling, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; best short feed, 1s 9d to 1s 9½; medium to good, 1s 7d to 1s 8d; inferior to medium; 1s 5d to 1s 7d, ex store, sacks extra, net.—Barley: There is none of the new season's as yet on the market, and all the old stocks having been cleared out there is nothing doing just now in this cereal. Prime malting, 3s 9d to 4s; medium to good, 3s to 3s 6d; feed and milling, 2s 3d to 3s, ex store, sacks extra, terms.

Grass Seed—Ryegrass seed has a moderate demand, but we have no further improvement to note in price, the tendency being the other way. Quotations for machine dressed, best perennial, 3s to 3s 3d; medium, 2s 9d to 3s; farmers' dressed, best, 2s 4d to 2s 8d; extra clean, 2s 9d to 3s; inferior to medium and good, 1s 9d to 2s 3d; ex store, sacks extra, net. Cocksfoot is still without any inquiry. Best dressed, nominal, 3d to 3d; medium, 2d to 3d per lb.

Potatoes—The demand is entirely confined to local requirements, which this week are not nearly sufficient to absorb the supply. The latest dug have the preference, even when only three to four days' old they are neglected and have almost to be given away. Quotations for best Derwents, L2 10s to L2 15s; extra prime a shade more; others, 30s to 45s per ton; ex store, sacks weighed in.

Chaff—Consignments this week again have been fully up to requirements and but little change in prices. Quotations—for best, 50s to 55s; extra prime a shade more; medium to good, 42 6d to 47s 6d; inferior, 30s to 40s per ton; ex truck, net.

Dairy Produce—Demand sluggish. Prime salt butter, dairy made, 6½d to 7d; factory held for 10d to 11d per lb; factory cheese, medium size, 4½d to 4¾d; loaf, 5½d to 5d; dairy, 2½d to 4d per lb.

Flax—There is no change of any consequence in the market. Best is fetching L18 to L19; medium to good, L16 to L17 10s; inferior, L13 to L15 10s per ton.

MESSES DONALD REID AND CO. report as follows:—

Wool—We hold our fourth sale of this season's clip on Thursday, the 16th inst. We held our bag and fadge sale on Monday, 13th inst.

Rabbitskins—We disposed of a small catalogue at auction on Monday. There was the usual gathering of buyers present, who competed keenly for every lot submitted, prices obtained being very satisfactory.

Sheepskins—At auction on Tuesday there was again a large attendance of buyers. Our catalogue was a large one, and comprised the usual assortment of skins, both green and dry, but principally the latter. All classes were in strong demand, and bidding was brisk throughout the sale, prices being, if anything, a shade higher than last week's. Green pelts, 10d to 1s 9d; do lambs, 1s to 2s 1d; dry crossbred, 2s 1d to 6s 2d; do merinos, 1s 3d to 3s 11d; do pelts and hogges, 4d to 2s 10d.

Hides—There is a steady demand and quotations remain unaltered.

Tallow—This market is rather under-supplied, and all consignments arriving are readily taken up by the local manufacturers. There is a demand for export but very few lines are offering. We quote—Prime rendered, 18s to 21s; medium, 15s to 17s; inferior, 13s to 14s; rough fat, 9s to 13s 6d, per cwt.

Wheat—The market continues very dull, and only a small amount of business is being done. Occasional lines of prime milling keep moving off at quotations, but inferior and second-rate samples are difficult to quit even at low prices. We quote—Prime milling, 2s 8d to 2s 10d; medium, 2s 5d to 2s 7d; inferior, 2s 2d to 2s 4d; Fowl wheat, 1s 6d to 2s 1d.

Oats—On a small supply forward since last reporting, and prices are firmer. There is an excellent demand for all qualities and descriptions at quotations—Milling 1s 9½d to 1s 10½d; bright feed, 1s 8d to 1s 9d; discoloured, 1s 6d to 1s 7d (sacks extra).

Barley—There is good inquiry, but the market is quite bare,