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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 March 8, as follows:—

**Store Cattle**—There is little or no change to note in the tone of the market for these. There are not very many offerings. Sufficient, however, in the meantime for requirement, but doubtless further on well bred, quiet, grown cattle will be wanted in larger numbers for winter feeding.

**Store Sheep**—An active demand is experienced for nearly all sorts, more particularly breeding ewes, both crossbred and merino. Young wethers of both classes are also in grand request and fetching very full prices. During the past week we placed privately 7500 merino ewes, aged, at 6s 6d; half-bred lambs at 7s 6d; crossbred do at 8s 3d.

**Stud and Flock Rams**—During the past week we placed 97 Leicester rams, also 76 merino rams, most of the latter bred by Mr John Johnstone, Kaihku, and the balance by Mr G. L. Sise from his selected American stud flock at Hampden.

**Wool**—It is satisfactory to notice from telegrams to hand this week that the market at Home continues firm. Sales effected since the close of the last series have been at higher prices. In the local market there is nothing doing of any consequence pending the next sales, which are to be held on Friday the 24th inst.

**Sheepskins**—A good demand continues to be experienced for these, all sorts being readily disposed of. On Tuesday we had a very full attendance of buyers, when we submitted a lengthy catalogue of both dry and green skins. Competition was very satisfactory, all the lots catalogued fetching prices quite up to those ruling recently, in some instances more, especially large green crossbred skins, which are gradually advancing in price, owing to the increased growth of wool. Country dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, fetching 1s 9d to 3s 4d; do do merino, 1s 8d to 2s 9d; full-woolled crossbreds, good, 3s 5d to 4s 6d; best, 4s 7d to 6s 8d; do do merino, good, 2s 10d to 3s 5d; best, 3s 6d to 5s 7d; dry pelts, 2s 1d to 1s 7d; green crossbred pelts, best, 1s 11d to 2s 4d; selected, 2s 8d to 2s 10d; medium to good, 1s 6d to 1s 10d; do do merino, 9d to 1s 4d; lambskins, best, 1s 10d to 2s 5d; medium, 1s 6d to 1s 9d each.

**Rabbitskins**—These have a very good demand, and the market firm, but the number coming forward is limited. All offerings, however, of whatever description, are keenly competed for by the trade, who attended the auction sales with singular regularity, notwithstanding the paucity of supplies, also the low quality of the skins offered. Good summer and early spring fetch 9d to 14½d; inferior to good summer, 6d to 8½d; suckers and half-grown, 3½d to 5½d per lb.

**Hides**—All consignments coming forward are readily disposed of at prices as follows:—For heavy, good conditioned, clean, and without scars, 2d to 2½d; extra heavy, 2½d to 3d; medium, 1½d to 1¾d; inferior to medium, 1d to 1¼d per lb.

**Tallow**—The market is very firm, and all available are readily disposed of. Parcels in shipping condition are inquired for, but very few offerings. Quotations for best rendered mutton, 23s to 24s 6d; medium to good, 19s to 22s; inferior to medium, 14s 6d to 18s 6d. Rough fat is in good request, best fresh mutton caul worth 14s to 14s 6d; medium to good, 12s 3d to 13s 9d; inferior to medium, 11s to 12s per cwt.

**Grain**—Wheat: There is no fresh feature to chronicle in regard to the position of this market since we last reported. The dullness prevailing so long still continues a week after week. Small lots of the new grown are now to hand and in excellent condition, the weather however has been rather changeable lately which is delaying harvesting operations somewhat. The sales being effected are only to the extent of supplying present wants and are not by any means extensive. Buyers are not disposed to increase stocks being satisfied that their requirements can readily be secured for the time being,

without much risk of having to pay more for some time to come. In medium sorts sales are very difficult to effect while fowls' wheat is readily saleable at full rates—quotations for best milling velvet and Tuscan 2s 7d to 2s 9d; extra prime 1d more, medium to good 2s 3d to 2s 6d; inferior and whole fowls' wheat, 2s to 2s 3d; broken, 1s 6d to 1s 10d; (ex store, sacks weighed in, terms). Oats: The market so far is firm owing doubtless to the fact that old stocks are now cleared out by agents and hardly any of the new yet to hand, a moderate business is passing at prices about equal to those quoted last week. Buyers for export however are not in a position to advance. A very good demand is experienced for milling sorts, but the supply on hands supplemented by the old lots coming forward enables millers to continue operations without having to compete openly, which militates against the chance in the meantime of securing any further advance. Prices ruling this week show no improvement, but which we may repeat, say for best milling, 1s 11d to 1s 11½d; best sort feed bright and stout 1s 10d to 1s 11d; medium to good, 1s 8d to 1s 9d; inferior, 1s 7d to 1s 8d, ex store, sacks extra, net.—Barley: Market quiet, hardly any of the new crop yet to hand. Buyers are not prepared yet to give prices asked by sellers, which are, for prime malting, 3s 9d to 4s; medium to good, 3s 3d to 3s 6d; inferior to medium, 2s to 3s, ex store, sacks extra, terms.

**Grass Seed**—The demand for ryegrass seed continues moderately active, but the volume of business passing is less bulky owing to supplies being almost exhausted. Quotations—for best dressed perennial, 3s to 3s 1½d; extra prime, 3s 3d; farmers' lots, best, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; inferior to medium, 1s 9d to 2s 5d, ex store, sacks extra.—Cocksfoot has no inquiry, quotations for best, nominally, 3½d to 3¾d; medium 2d to 3d per lb.

**Potatoes**—Market glutted. Highest offer at auction on Monday for prime derwents L2 17s 6d, and the lowest L2 5s per ton, ex store, sacks weighed in.

**Chaff**—The market rather heavily supplied, more especially with new, which is difficult to place except at low prices. Quotations for well cut, good coloured old chaff 50s to 55s; medium, 45s to 50s; new, 35s to 42s 6d per ton, ex truck.

**Dairy Produce**—Market quiet. Prime salt butter, dairy made, 7d to 8d; factory held for 10d to 11d per lb. Factory cheese slow sale; medium size, 4½d to 4¾d; loaf, 5½d to 5¾d; dairy made, 2½d to 4d per lb.

**Flax**—The market is slightly better but no quotable change in prices. Best fetters L18 to L19; medium to good, L16 to L17 10s; inferior, L13 to L15 10s per ton.

MESSRS TRONACH BROS. AND MORRIS report as follows:—

**Sheepskins**—At the usual weekly sales on Tuesday there was a full attendance of buyers when we presented a moderate catalogue. Bidding was fairly brisk, last week's prices not being maintained. We quote—Country dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, 1s 10d to 3s; do do merino, 1s 6d to 2s 5d; full-wool crossbreds, good, 3s 3d to 4s 1d; best 4s 3d to 6s 6d; do do merino, good, 2s 6d to 3s 4d; best, 3s 3d to 5s 5d; dry pelts, 2s to 1s 3d; green crossbred pelts, best, 1s 7d to 2s; medium to good, 1s 3d to 1s 6d; do do merino, 6d to 1s 1d; lambskins, best 1s 7d to 2s; medium, 1s 2d to 1s 6d.

**Rabbitskins**—A satisfactory demand continues for these considering the quality of those now coming to hand. On Monday we presented a moderate catalogue, and prices were about equal to those ruling last week.

**Hides**—The market is steady, but no change to note in prices, which are as follows:—Heavy good-conditioned well-fayed hides, 2d to 2½d; extra prime, 2½d to 3d; medium, 1½d to 1¾d; inferior to medium, 1d to 1¼d per lb.

**Tallow**—In this market also there is no change to report, but all lots coming in are readily disposed of to the local trade, at prices equal to previous quotations, viz.—Best rendered mutton, 18s to 21s; medium, 15s to 17s; inferior, 13s to 14s; rough fat, best mutton caul, 12s 6d to 13s 6d; ordinary, 9s to 11s 6d.