

Commercial

Week ending April 20.

PRODUCE.

London, April 15.—Wheat: San Francisco, 135 cents. Australian cargoes are inactive; 30s 9d is asked on passage, and 30s 4½d for April-May shipment.

Butter is dull, with plentiful supplies and a slow trade. Colonial is unchanged; Danish, 98s.

Cheese is flat. New Zealand, 48s.

Rabbits are slow of sale, but prices are unchanged.

Wellington, April 18.—The Department of Industries and Commerce has received the following cablegram from the Agent-General, dated London, 16th inst.:—The stocks of New Zealand mutton on hand are light and firmly held in a few hands. The tone of the market is much better this week, due to the scarcity of prime quality mutton. Average price to-day: Canterbury mutton, 4½d; Dunedin, Southland, and W.M.E. Company's brands, 4½d; River Plate mutton, 3d. There is a better demand for lambs, and a great improvement in the market, which is firm at advanced prices. The established average price to-day for New Zealand lamb is: Canterbury brands, 5½d; other than Canterbury, 5d. The beef market is very dull, owing to the absence of demand and the large supplies of American chilled beef. There is no change in the prices. The butter market is very uncertain, overstocked, and depressed. Deliveries of New Zealand and Australian butter from January to March inclusive amount to 344,322cwt, as against 151,632cwt for the same period last year. The average price of choicest New Zealand butter to-day is 90s per cwt; Danish, 97s. The cheese market is dull. The average price of finest New Zealand cheese to-day is 48s per cwt.

Invercargill prices current.—Wholesale—Butter farm, 6d; separator, 8d; butter, factory, pats, 10½d. Eggs, 1s 3d per dozen. Cheese, (factory), 6½d. Hams, 9d. Potatoes, £2 per ton (bags weighed in). Barley, 2s to 2s 6d. Chaff, £2 per ton. Flour, £10 to £11. Oatmeal, £9 to £9 10s. Bran, £3. Pollard, £5. Retail.—Farm butter, 8d; separator, 10d, butter (factory), pats, 1s. Eggs, 1s 6d per dozen. Cheese, 8d. Bacon, 11d. Hams, 10d. Potatoes, 3s 6d per cwt. Flour, 200lb, 22s; 50lb, 6s 6d. Oatmeal, 50lb, 5s 6d, 25lb, 3s. Pollard, 8s 6d per bag. Bran, 4s. Chaff, 1s 6d.

Mr. F. Meenan, King street, Dunedin, reports:—Wholesale prices only—Oats: Milling, 1s 5d to 1s 6d; feed, 11d to 1s 5d. Wheat: Milling, 3s to 3s 3d; fowls', 2s 3d to 2s 5d. Potatoes: Kidneys, 35s; Derwents, £2 5s. Chaff, £2 5s to £3. Clover hay, £3. Straw. Pressed wheat, 32s 6d; oats, 35s; loose, 35s. Flour: Sacks, £9 13s; 100lb, £10; 50lb, £10 5s; 25lb, £10 10s. Oatmeal, £9 10s. Pollard, £4 10s. Bran, £2 10s. Butter: dairy, 8d to 10d; factory, 11d. Cheese: factory, 5½d; dairy, 5d. Eggs, 1s 7d. Onions. Melbourne, £4 10s.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. (Limited) report:—

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday. Our catalogue comprised good to prime feed oats, whole fowl wheat, potatoes, chaff, and hay. In all classes of produce prime quality met with good competition, but low-grade lines of all sorts were without demand. Values ruled as under:—

Oats—Prime milling lines have limited inquiry, but nothing like an extensive business is being done. The demand for export is on the lowest possible scale, and only odd lots find an outlet to supply shippers' actual orders. Consignments are coming forward freely, and in consequence stocks have accumulated considerably. We quote: Prime milling, 1s 5d to 1s 6d; good to best feed, 1s 3½d to 1s 4½d, inferior to medium, 10d to 1s 3d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat—In prime milling quality little business is passing. Stocks, however, are not heavy, and a slight improvement in demand would readily absorb these. Medium milling lines are out of favor, but fowl wheat, although coming forward freely, continues to meet a fair demand. We quote: Prime milling, 2s 10d to 3s 1d; medium to good, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; whole fowl wheat, 2s 4d to 2s 5d; medium, damaged, and broken, 2s to 2s 3d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes—Consignments have been somewhat heavier of late, and prime Derwents alone find favor with buyers. We quote these at £2 5s to £2 7s 6d; medium, £2 to £2 2s 6d; kidneys and other sorts, £1 10s to £2 per ton (bags in).

Chaff.—Prime oaten sheaf is the only kind wanted, and this is readily taken at quotations. Medium and inferior quality is in over supply and difficult to deal with at any price. We quote: Prime oaten sheaf, £2 15s to £3; medium to good, £2 to £2 10s; inferior and light, £1 10s to £1 17s 6d per ton (bags extra).

Hay.—We quote: Best clover and ryegrass, £2 15s to £3 per ton; medium to good, £2 to £2 10s per ton.

Straw.—We quote: Clean, bright, pressed straw, 32s 6d per ton.

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co. report:—

Wheat.—There is not much doing, millers declining to buy the medium quality lines that are offering. Fowl wheat, of which there is a large quantity offering, moves off slowly. Quotations: Prime milling, 2s 10d to 3s 1d; medium do, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; good whole fowl wheat, 2s 3d to 2s 5d; damaged and inferior, 1s 10d to 2s 2d.

Oats.—The demand is decidedly easier, and as prices have fallen, most of the lines arriving are being placed in store. Prime milling, 1s 5d to 1s 6d; good to best feed, 1s 3d to 1s 4½d; medium, 1s 1d to 1s 2½d; inferior, 10d to 1s.

Potatoes.—Best Derwents, £2 2s 6d to £2 7s 6d; other sorts, £1 10s to £2.

Chaff.—Prime oaten sheaf commands £2 15s to £3; medium and inferior are very hard to sell at £2 to £2 10s for the former and £1 10s to £1 17s 6d for the latter.

WOOL.

London, April 15.—In the Bradford wool market there is better inquiry. Common sixties are quoted at 22½d, supers, 23½d.

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co. report:—

Rabbitskins, Sheepskins, and Hides.—No sale since last report.

Tallow.—No change in the market.

LIVE STOCK

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

Messrs. Wright, Stephenson, and Co. report as follows:—

There was only a medium attendance of buyers, and very few animals changed hands. For a nine-year-old mare, and in foal to Wee Macgregor, we received an offer of £48 10s, but this price the owner would not accept. A few aged but useful plough horses were disposed of at from £28 10s to £30. We quote: Superior young draught geldings, £50 to £58; extra good, prize horses, £60 to £65 medium draught mares and geldings, £35 to £48; aged do, £22 to £33, upstanding carriage horses, £30 to £35; well-matched carriage pairs, £80 to £100, strong spring-van horses, £30 to £40, milk-cart and butchers' order-cart horses, £22 to £30, tram horses, £14 to £25, light hacks, £10 to £15; extra good hacks, £18 to £30, weedy and aged hacks and harness horses, £3 to £7.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

Fat Cattle.—The entry comprised 232 head, and the quality was better than for some weeks past. The sale opened badly, and, though there was some improvement as it went on, it was always irregular. The best prices were about equal to those of the previous week, ordinary to prime beef selling at the rate of 20s to 24s per 100lb.

Fat Sheep.—There was a fair entry, including some very prime lines both of wethers and ewes, and a few fair merino wethers. The sale opened well, but then slackened considerably for a while, afterwards recovering and closing firm. Old ewes, however, made no improvement upon recent rates. Both exporters and butchers competed well for all good lots. Prime crossbred and halibred wethers made 21s to 24s; lighter, from 18s 6d; prime heavy ewes, 18s 6d to 23s 4d; fair to good, 17s to 18s; aged, 14s 9d to 16s 6d, merino wethers, 13s 7d to 14s 7d.

Fat Lambs.—About 2000 were entered, including a large proportion of prime quality. These met with spirited competition from both butchers and exporters, with the result that prices advanced 6d to 1s, the rates current being—for legs, up to 17s; for a pen from R. Beattie (Rolleston), prime freezers, 15s to 16s 6d; others, 12s to 14s 6d.

Store Sheep and Lambs.—The entry was large, but the quality was not above the average. An improved tone was manifested, and the previous week's prices were fully maintained, ewes particularly being keenly competed for at an advance of 1s, while wethers and lambs brought fully previous values. Wethers realised from 17s to 14s 9d; ewes, 17s 6d to 18s 5d; old ewes and lambs, 12s 10d to 10s 2d.