

Commercial

Week ending May 11.

PRODUCE.

London, May 6.—Wheat: There is little inquiry for Australian cargoes, and the market is weak.

Butter: Prices are unchanged. Some consignees are storing till November.

Cheese is very flat. New Zealand, 40s to 42s.

Rabbits are weaker. Large Sydney are quoted at 5½d.

Wellington, May 9.—The Department of Industries and Commerce has received the following cablegram from the Agent-general, dated London, 7th:—The mutton market is quiet, with indications of a decline in prices, but it is just possible that the firmness of holders may prevent the anticipated decline. The average price to-day for Canterbury mutton is 4½d per lb; the average price for Dunedin, Southland, and W.M.E. Company brands being 4½d to 4¾d per lb; and the other North Island brands, 4½d per lb. The lamb market is steady, but the high prices ruling are restricting business. The average price to-day for New Zealand lamb (Canterbury brands) is 5½d, and for brands other than Canterbury 5½d per lb. The beef market is dull. Supplies of American chilled beef are large. The average price to-day for hindquarters of New Zealand beef is 3d per lb; forequarters being 2½d. The butter market remains very depressed. The consumption is large, but there are heavy supplies on hand. The average price for choicest New Zealand butter to-day is 85s per cwt; Danish, 92s. The cheese market is weak, as the supply exceeds the demand. The average price for finest New Zealand cheese to-day is 42s per cwt. The hemp market is quiet, and with a tendency in favor of buyers.

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. Hams, 10d. Bacon, 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 to 2s 4d. Potatoes: Kidneys, 30s; Derwents, £2. 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, 4½d. Eggs, 1s 8d. 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, which was a fully representative one, met with poor competition, and only a small proportion was quit under the hammer. Prices ruled as under:—

Oats.—Best lines of milling are in fair demand with local manufacturers, who, in most cases, prefer prime Sutherlands. Prime Gartons also have some attention, but unless they are above the average in point of color they do not fulfil buyers' requirements. Good to best feed are offering plentifully, but as shippers have considerable difficulty in securing orders, only a very limited business is passing. For lower grades there is practically no inquiry. We quote: Prime milling, 1s 4½d to 1s 5d; good to best feed, 1s 3d to 1s 4d; medium, 1s 2d to 1s 3d; inferior, 10d to 1s 1d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—The past week has been a quiet one, and only a few sales of choice lines have been made. Medium quality is at present unsaleable. Fowl wheat continues to come forward freely, but finds steady sale for shipment, although late values are difficult to maintain. We quote: Prime milling, 2s 10d to 3s; medium, 2s 5d to 2s 9d; whole fowl wheat, 2s 3d to 2s 4d; broken and damaged, 1s 10d to 2s 2d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Prices ruling of late have been so unsatisfactory that growers do not care to consign freely, and in consequence supplies are not so heavy, and val-

ues have recovered to some extent. We quote: Good to prime Derwents, £2 to £2 5s; other sorts, 32s 6d to 37s 6d per ton (sacks in).

Chaff.—The supply of ordinary chaff is still heavy, and finds little favor with buyers. Prime bright oat sheaf is the only kind meeting with ready sale, and even for this quality prices are a shade easier. Inferior sorts are unsaleable. We quote: Prime oat sheaf, £2 10s to £2 15s; medium to good, £2 to £2 7s 6d; inferior, light, and discolored, £1 10s to £1 17s 6d per ton (bags extra).

Straw.—The market is glutted, and in order to clear out consignments a considerable reduction in prices has to be made. To-day best oat straw sold at 25s to 27s; wheaten, 24s to 25s per ton, pressed.

Purnips.—The market has become over-supplied within the past few days, and best swedes are selling at 14s to 15s per ton, loose, ex truck.

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

Wheat.—The market continues weak and there is little business doing. Quotations: Prime milling, 2s 10s to 3s; medium do, 2s 5d to 2s 9d; whole fowl wheat 2s 3d to 2s 4½d; broken and inferior, 1s 10d to 2s 2d.

Oats.—The only demand is for best samples, medium quality being without enquiry. Prime milling, 1s 4½d to 1s 5d; good to best feed, 1s 3d to 1s 4d; medium do, 1s 1d to 1s 2½d; damaged and inferior, 10d to 1s.

Chaff.—Prime oat sheaf is easier than last week, but is saleable at £2 10s to £2 15s. Medium and inferior is a drug in the market.

Potatoes.—Best Derwents, £2 to £2 5s; other sorts, £1 10s to £1 17s 6d.

WOOL.

London, May 4.—At the opening of the wool sales the catalogue comprised 9506 bales, four-fifths of which was from New Zealand. There was a very full general attendance and strong competition, Americans buying low crossbreds freely. Compared with the March closing rates, merinos and fine crossbreds showed an upward tendency, and coarse was 5 to 7½ per cent. higher.

London, May 5.—The wool market is animated, and very firm, with an upward tendency.

The Levels clip sold at 10½d per lb, and the Totara clip at 9½d.

London, May 6.—Bidding at to-day's wool sales was spirited, and previous prices were fully maintained.

London, May 7.—The wool sales included the following clips:—Waitanga, 8½d; Gear, 8½d; Homewood, 8½d; Hall, 11d; Ellerslie, 1s 1½d. Prices are firm at the late advance. Continental buyers are paying top prices for merinos. To date 53,044 bales have been catalogued, and 5800 sold.

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

Rabbitskins.—We held our weekly sale on Monday, and sold all offered at prices on a par with late values.

Sheepskins.—On Tuesday we submitted a large catalogue, competition for which was very keen. Well-saved lines brought prices rather better than last week's.

Tallow and Fat.—There is no change to report in this commodity.

Hides.—We offered 474 at our fortnightly sale last week and had on the whole a successful clearance. Light hides were in great demand and brought prices almost on a par with previous sales. Medium hides were, however, rather easier and heavy hides lower by ½d to ¾d per lb. We topped the market in ox hides with 6½d and sold cows at 5d per lb.

LIVE STOCK

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS

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

There was a very small entry of horses for our sale on Saturday last, only about a dozen aged and weedy animals being offered. There was only a medium attendance of buyers, and business was consequently very dull. About half the entry was disposed of at quotations. 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 £13; extra good hacks, £18 to £30; weedy and aged hacks and harness horses, £3 to £7.