

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

At the Addington market the entries were moderate and the attendance fair.

Fat Cattle.—121 head were yarded of unusually good quality. Prices firm for better sorts. Steers (prime), £10/5/- to £12/17/6; others, £7/15/- to £9/15/-; heifers, £7/2/6 to £10/2/6, and two £11/10 and £11/17/6 cows, £6/10/- to £8/5/-. Per 100lb, extra choice brought 30/-, prime 24/- to 26/-, and inferior 21/- to 23/-.

Fat Sheep—The yarding was slightly larger than last week, merinos predominating. Prices were: Extra prime wethers, 28/- to 30/-; prime, 24/- to 27/6; others, 20/8 to 23/6; extra prime ewes, to 28/1, prime, 22/0 to 25/-; medium, 20/9 to 22/-; others, 10/6 to 18/-; prime merino wethers, 22/- to 27/5; medium, 17/6 to 20/-; crossbred hoggets, 20/- to 23/3.

Lambs.—The 60 penned were mostly rather light but elicited brisk bidding. Best brought 17/6 to 22/-; smaller, 14/- to 17/-.

Pigs.—The entry was good. Porkers were in demand. Baconers, 45/- to 64/-, equal to 4½d to 5d per lb; porkers, 30/- to 37/-, equal to 4½d to 5d per lb, large stores, 23/- to 28/-; medium, 18/- to 22/6; suckers and weaners, 9/- to 15/-.

European War Chests

It is an interesting and little-known fact that of all the great nations of Europe England is almost the only one that has no treasure-house of gold to go to when she wishes to start her great fighting machinery. On the Continent, stored in cellars and vaults, it is said, there are no less than £300,000,000 in gold and silver coins, always ready to be drawn on the moment the fiat of war has gone forth; and it is a very prudent precaution for some nations thus to lay by for a warlike day, since otherwise they might be caught napping and be placed under a heavy handicap at the beginning.

About fifteen miles from Berlin stands the grim fortress of Spandau, and it is in impregnable vaults in the Julius tower of this fortress that Germany keeps her war gold and silver. How many millions precisely it amounts to is known to few; but we know that out of the indemnity paid by France, Germany appropriated £18,000,000 to her war-chest.

Germany has had her hoard of war-money ever since the days of Frederick the Great, who filled the first 'chest' by imposing a high protective tariff on foreign manufactures; and no doubt many a time his successors on the throne of Prussia have had cause to bless his thrift and foresight.

France is probably even better prepared for war financially than Germany, for she is credited with having a fund of no less than £120,000,000 to fly to when-even she has to set her vast legions in motion. Of this gigantic sum £70,000,000 is in gold and £50,000,000 in silver. In the custody of the Austro-Hungarian Bank there is a very serviceable fund of £30,000,000 for purposes of war; Italy has a well-filled war-chest; and even penurious Russia has, hidden away somewhere, the equivalent of £100,000,000, a sum which will keep the war machinery going for a good many months, at any rate.

If these figures are correct—and they appear to be generally accepted—it is evident that something like £300,000,000 must be hoarded up by Continental nations alone, solely as a preparation for war—a yearly sum of £9,000,000 approximately thus being lost to their exchequers.

Time was when for many a century England, too, had her war-chest—literally a chest, iron-bound and massive—and no expedition ever moved against an enemy without it. When it was no longer necessary to adopt such a primitive method of financing an army there was a fund—and a very large fund, too—exclusively devoted to war expenses. A little more than 70 years ago this fund disappeared in Pitt's scheme for the Consolidation Fund; and if we may be said to have a war-chest at all, it may be considered to take the form of this Consolidated Fund, which is always available for the purpose of starting a war financially.

But if John Bull has no war-chest, and needs none, in the strict meaning of the word, he has many a little pile of gold scattered about in different parts of his skin a primitive method of financing an army usually contains about £50,000; in the Straits Settlements there is £36,000; at Gibraltar there is always from £30,000 to £40,000 to draw on; at Bermuda, £25,000; at the Cape, £20,000; in the West Indies, £17,000; in Egypt, £50,000; in Hong Kong, £25,000;

and so on, an aggregate sum of nearly £1,000,000 being distributed among these scattered hoards. The Treasury chest fund is probably the legitimate survivor of the old chest which the English armies used to take with them in their excursions against the 'rebellious Scots' or against the armies of France and Spain.

The Canadian maritime province of New Brunswick, swept from the east by the fresh salt breezes of the sea, from the west by the pines and balsam-laden winds from the forests, has given birth and home to more than its share of centenarians. But even New Brunswick has had but one active centenarian legislator. He is Senator Wark, of Fredericton, who in February last was one hundred years old, and who attended the sittings of Parliament at Ottawa as regularly during the session just past as when the number of his years was smaller by a score. He was born near London, derry, in Donegal County, Ireland, in 1804. Shortly after that event, his parents went to Canada. Among the telegrams of congratulation which the venerable legislator received on his one hundredth anniversary was one from King Edward VII., wishing him prosperity and extolling his as an ideal of Canadian vigor and sound intellect. On the same occasion the Canadian Government presented to him an oil painting of himself. At the reception at which the painting was presented, Senator Wark acknowledged the courtesy in a speech which would have done credit to a much younger man. Before he went to Ottawa to attend the last Parliamentary session, the government offered him the use of a special car to convey him from his home at Fredericton. The offer he declined, declaring that he did not need the car, and he journeyed the 700 miles as an ordinary passenger.

Some doctors spend a life-time
In hunting after germs,
And by the time they've killed them,
They've grown as big as worms,
Microbes would bid adieu to earth,
Chest troubles would be fewer,
Life would be gay if every one
Took WOODS' GREAT PEPPERMINT CURE.

The Gladstone Coffee Palace, Quay street, Auckland, is close to tram and wharf, and commands a splendid view of the harbor. An excellent table is kept, whilst the tariff is extremely moderate.

The paid up capital, reserves, and undivided profits of the South British Fire and Marine Insurance Company now exceed £120,000, whilst the net annual revenue is over £285,000. These figures speak for themselves, and bear testimony to the stability and volume of business of the company.

In every grain and grass growing country, Chicago is known as the home of the 'McCormick Reaper and Binder.' Some idea of the magnitude of this immense plant can be gathered from the fact that upwards of 130,000 tons of pig iron and steel are consumed yearly in the construction of 'McCormick' Machines. The buildings are large and numerous, varying in length up to 1100 feet and in height up to six storeys, embracing an area of 170 acres of great industrial activity.

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