

# Commercial

(For week ending December 21, 1904.)

## PRODUCE.

London, December 16.—Wheat.—The markets are dull, but prices are fairly maintained, owing to conflicting reports from the Argentina of lighter shipments, and an unfavorable report of the condition of the winter wheat in America. Cargoes are quiet. New Australians are rather low, 12,000 and 13,000 quarters January and February shipments, 33/1½. Australian spot is practically exhausted, but nominally is at 34/-. New Zealand has a small supply of short-berried at 33/6.

Butter is dull. Danish is unchanged. Choice New Zealand, 103/-; Victorian, 100/- to 102/-; New South Wales, 98/- to 102/- (both occasionally 104/-). Recent Australian arrivals are not completely satisfactory, they were apparently carried at too high a temperature.

Rabbits are slow of sale. Large 1/3. There is a better demand for hares at 1/10 to 2/-.

London, December 17.—Frozen Meat.—Sheep: North Island, best, 4½d, all other sorts unchanged. Lambs—Canterbury, light, 6½d, heavy, 6d; all others unchanged. Beef: Very firm. Owing to a strike, Argentine supplies are likely to be curtailed. Fores, 3½d; hinds, 3½d. Raker, Plate sheep unchanged. Beef—Fores, 3½d; hinds, 3½d.

Wheat.—Two Australian cargoes sold at 32/10½, and a third at 33/4½, 11,000 quarters at 33/1½, and 200 quarters at 33/4½, both December and January shipments.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report as follows:—

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday. There was good competition throughout, and every lot offered found buyers at quotations. Prices ruled as under:—

Oats.—There has been a steady demand for all good sound lines of Gartons coming forward 'A' and 'B' grade sparrowbills also have more attention, and although sales of these are not so readily effected as in the case of Gartons, there is little difficulty in dealing with any lots offering at quotations. Lower grades, which have been neglected of late, are also in better demand. Quotations: Prime milling, 1/7 to 1/8; good to best feed, 1/5½ to 1/6½; medium, 1/3 to 1/4½ per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—Only the best lines of milling quality find any favor with millers at present, medium grades having been severely left alone for some time. Fowl wheat has good demand, both locally and for export. Stocks of this are now in smaller compass, and any good lines are readily quitted on arrival. Quotations: Prime milling, 3/6 to 3/8; medium to good, 3/2 to 3/5, whole fowl wheat, 3/- to 3/1; broken and damaged, 2/7 to 2/11 per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—With short supplies, and a good demand, prices have again advanced, and to-day best Derwents sold at £1/10/- to £1/15/-; medium, £1 to £1/7/6; others, £3/10/- to £4 per ton (bags in).

Chaff.—Prime oaten sheaf continues to arrive sparingly, and for all bright heavy lines there is ready sale. Medium quality, although not so strongly in favor, is also quitted without difficulty. Quotations: Choice, bright oaten sheaf, £4 to £4/5/-; medium to good, £3/10/- to £4 per ton (bags extra).

Straw.—Quotations.—Wheaten and oaten, 30/- to 35/- per ton (presseu).

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

Wheat.—The market continues as last advised, Millers still being disinclined to buy. We quote: Prime milling, 3/6 to 3/8; medium to good, 3/2 to 3/5, best whole fowl wheat, 3/- to 3/1; inferior and damaged, 2/7 to 2/11.

Oats.—There has been some enquiry lately, but quotations remain the same, namely, prime milling, 1/7 to 1/8; good to best feed, 1/5½ to 1/6½; medium, 1/3 to 1/4½.

Potatoes.—Best Derwents, £4/10/- to £4/15/-; others, £3/10/- to £4.

Chaff.—There has been a further rise, best oaten sheaf being worth £3/17/6 to £4/5/-; medium to good, £3/10/- to £3/17/6.

## WOOL.

Wellington, December 15.—The Department of Industries and Commerce received the following cablegram from the Agent-General, dated London, 14th inst: 'The wool market continues firm at the advanced quotations recently cabled.'

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

Rabbitskins.—Supplies have now fallen off very considerably, and sales for the next month or two will only be held fortnightly.

Sheepskins.—We offered a large catalogue on Tuesday, and sold crossbreds to 10/6, merinos to 10/-, half-breds to 9/3, butchers' pelts to 2/-, and lambs to 1/10.

Hides.—We had a very successful sale last week, our top price for ox being 6d, and for cows 5d. We recommend consignments being sent in at present.

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

## LIVE STOCK

### OTAGO FARMERS' HORSE BAZAAR.

The Otago Farmers' Co-operative Association of New Zealand (Limited) report:—

We held our usual weekly sale at our Horse Bazaar on Saturday, when we had a splendid attendance of farmers, waggoners, town carriers, and trailers. Our entry totalled 57 draught, van, and spring-dray horses, light harness and hackney geldings, and, with the exception of a very few, these horses were all fresh from the country. We may say that all the young sound horses from the country were appreciated both by town and country buyers, and met a sale satisfactory to sellers and buyers. Heavy draughts were a shade easier, but clean, sharp, active geldings, suitable for town work, were in good demand. Express horses were also well competed for. Spring-carters are still in good demand. Of this class we had again a short supply, and a good few could have been placed at fair values. Hackneys, although nothing of a very high grade was offered, met a good sale, and a good many changed hands at fair prices. Quotations: Heavy cart horses, £50 to £80; plough mares and geldings, £40 to £50; chaff van geldings, £38 to £44; spring-dray horses, about same price; spring-carters, real good sorts, active, young, and sound, £25 to £34; useful hackneys, £18 to £25, buggy geldings, with a good dash of action and quiet, £25 to £30, buggy pairs, £45 to £55; carriage pairs, £60 to £100, according to style and quality.

### THE ADDINGTON MARKET.

At Addington there were fair entries in all departments, comprising 6625 sheep, 572 cattle, and 611 pigs. The attendance was small.

Fat Cattle.—The yarding comprised 221 head, and the large supply caused a further drop of £1 a head in value; while a large proportion were withdrawn. Steers made from £7/7/6 to £10/10/-, one pen of bullocks being withdrawn at £12/10/-; heifers, £5/15/- to £8; and cows, £5/5/- to £7/18/-, being at the rate of 20/- to 21/- per 100lb for medium to prime beef.

Fat Sheep.—There was a fair entry, consisting chiefly of ewes. The sale opened with a quiet tone, and as it went on and butchers' needs became satisfied a very substantial reduction had to be made in the prices of ewes, wethers suffering to a smaller extent owing to the competition of export buyers. Wethers may be quoted at 1/- below the previous week's value, while ewes sold with great irregularity, the decline on some pens being no more than 1/- and on others as much as 3/- or 4/-, and the average fall being fully 2/-. A few consignments of ordinary merinos suffered a similar decline. The range of prices for shorn sheep was: Wethers, 19/7 to 23/5; prime heavy ewes, 20/- to 23/3; other ewes, 16/- to 19/6; merino wethers, 12/7 to 16/9; merino ewes, 10/-.

Fat Lambs.—A fair number were penned, but many were of indifferent quality. Prices were irregular, and on the average from 6d to 1/- lower than previous rates, only the best pens making last week's values. Good to prime lambs sold at from 17/6 to 20/-, a few extra quality at 21/-; secondary, from 13/- to 17/-.

Store Sheep.—There was a small entry, and buyers were few, but previous values were maintained. The principal sales included 250 wethers at 17/9, 89 two-tooth wethers at 17/10, 64 two and four-tooth wethers at 16/2, 8 sound mouth ewes at 17/8, and 208 small two-tooth ewes at 15/11.

Pigs.—Another large entry met with moderate competition, and prices all round were easier. Baconers sold at 38/- to 52/-, equal to 4d to 4½d per lb; porkers, 25/- to 31/-, or 4½d to 4¾d per lb; large stores, 22/- to 30/-; small, 12/6 to 18/-; and suckers, 8/- to 12/-.