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Commercial

PRODUCE

The High Commissioner's cable, dated London, January 18, is as follows:—

Mutton: Market very dull; trade very disappointing, there being only a hand-to-mouth demand. Prime light-weight Canterbury mutton is getting very scarce, and is quoted nominally at 4½d. The following are current quotations: Canterbury (heavy weight), 3½d; North Island, 3½; Australian, 2½d; River Plate, 2½d.

Lamb: Market weak. The supply of Australian lamb which is of very mixed quality, exceeds the demand. It is quoted at from 5d to 3d. A small shipment of this season's New Zealand lamb has arrived, and is quoted at 6½d.

No alteration in the beef market since last week.

The butter market is a shade weaker for best quality, and some holders are forcing sales. There has been an exceptional demand for second-class quality butter at extravagant prices on account of the scarcity. Choicest New Zealand is quoted at 118s; Australian, 116; Danish, 125; Siberian, 112; and Argentine, 117s per cwt.

Cheese market quiet, but firm. White makes are quoted at 63s 6d per cwt.

Hemp: Market weak and slightly lower, and transactions light. Good fair grade, on the spot, is quoted at £28 10s; fair grade, in the same position, £27; fair current Manila, on the same spot, £29 10s; January-March shipments, good fair grade, £28; fair grade, £27; fair current Manila, £29 10s.

Cocksfoot seed: Market firm. Light stocks on hand, with no pressure to sell; 17lb clean dressed seed is quoted at 76s per cwt.

Invercargill Prices Current:—Wholesale—Butter (factory), 11b pats, 11½d. Cheese, 7d. Butter—Farm, 6d; separator 8d. Hams, 9d. Eggs, 10d. Barley 2s to 2s 6d. Chaff, 25. Flour, £11 10s to £12. Oatmeal, £14 10s to £15. Bran, £4 15s. Pollard, £5 10s. Retail.—Farm butter, 8d; separator, 10d. Butter (factory), pats 1s 2d. Cheese, 9d. Eggs, 1s. Bacon, 10d. Bran, 5s 9d. Pollard 9s 9d. Chaff 2s 9d. Oatmeal, 50s 8s 6d; 25s, 4s 6d. Flour, 200lb, 25s; 100lb, 13s.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. (Ltd.) report:—We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday. There was a small attendance of buyers, but with the exception of feed oats (for which there was no demand), nearly all lots on offer met with fair competition, and found buyers at quotations. Values ruled as under:—

Oats.—Only moderate demand has been experienced during the week. Milling lines have little or no attention, and are practically only saleable as feed. Best feed lines have been moving off slowly for shipment at prices a shade below late values. Medium and inferior quality has no inquiry. We quote: Prime milling, 2s 5d to 2s 6d; good to best feed, 2s 3d to 2s 4½d; inferior to medium, 2s to 2s 2d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—In milling quality there is little change, and no business to report. Fowl wheat has become very scarce, and to supply orders good milling quality is in many cases taking its place. We quote: Prime milling, 4s 11d to 5s; best whole fowl wheat, 4s 9d to 4s 10d; inferior to medium, 4s to 4s 6d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Old Derwents and Up-to-Dates are now practically out of the market, although a few small picked lots are offering at 20s to 40s. New kidneys, freshly picked and well grown, are worth £5 15s to £6 10s; medium to good, £5 to £5 10s per ton (sacks included).

Chaff.—The market has been more heavily supplied and in consequence values are slightly easier. During

the week we have sold a fair quantity of prime oaten sheaf at £4 10s, but to-day, in view of the quantity offering, this price is difficult to get, and really good oaten sheaf has been sold at £4 5s; medium to good, £3 10s to £4; light and inferior, £3 to £3 7s 6d per ton (bags extra).

Straw.—The market is fully supplied with wheaten straw, which sells at 40s to 42s 6d; oaten, although not so plentiful, has only moderate demand at 42s to 47s 6d per ton (pressed).

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

Oats.—There is very little demand for either shipment or local use. Medium and inferior oats have no inquiry, and even best quality is hard to quit at a decline on late values. Prime milling, 2s 4d to 2s 5d; good to best feed, 2s 2d to 2s 4d; inferior to medium, 2s to 2s 1d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—There is very little business passing, although fowl wheat has become very scarce, and milling quality is taking its place in supplying orders. Prime milling, 4s 11d to 5s; best whole fowl wheat, 4s 7d to 4s 9d; inferior to medium, 4s to 4s 6d; broken, 3s 6d to 4s (sacks extra).

Chaff.—The market is over supplied, and values are daily becoming easier. Prime quality is the only kind of chaff inquired for, and this brings from £4 to £4 5s; medium to good, £3 10s to £4; light and inferior, £3 to £3 7s 6d per ton (bags extra).

Potatoes.—All old potatoes are out of the market, and there are not many new potatoes coming forward. Best kidneys, freshly picked and well grown, are (in) worth £5 15s to £6 10s; medium to good, £5 to £5 10s per ton (sacks extra).

Pressed Straw.—The market is fully supplied and sells at from 40s to 42s 6d for wheaten, and 42s 6d to 47s 6d for oaten per ton.

WOOL

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

Rabbitskins.—There was a small sale yesterday, only two agents submitting catalogues. Bidding was not very brisk, and prices showed a decline. Quotations: Winters, 12d to 13½d; spring does, 7d to 9½d; mixed skins, 4½d to 6½d; springs and blacks, to 9½d, and small, 2½d to 4d.

Sheepskins.—Our next sale will be held on the 28th inst.

Hides.—Our next sale will be held on the 30th inst.

Tallow and Fat.—There is not much coming forward and all sorts meet with prompt sale on arrival at prices fully up to last quotations. Best rendered tallow brings from 22s to 24s; medium to good, 18s to 20s; inferior, 14s to 15s 6d; best rough fat, 15s 6d to 19s; medium to good, 12s to 16s 6d.

LIVE STOCK

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

Messrs. Wright, Stevenson, and Co. (Ltd.) report as follows:—The entry for Saturday's sale was only a moderate one, made up mainly of spring-carters and harness horses. In draughts the quality was not attractive, consequently in this section business was limited. Spring-carters were better represented, and for these competition was keen, and every one of the country consignments changed hands at satisfactory prices. Aged and stale hacks were hard to quit at any money.

There is a keen demand for good young draught mares and geldings, and owing to the continued scarcity, prices have a hardening tendency. We quote: Superior young draught geldings at from £45 to £50; extra good do (prize-winners), at from £50 to £55; superior young draught mares at from £50 to £60; medium draught mares and geldings, at from £30 to £40; aged do, at from £15 to £20; well-matched carriage pairs, at from £70 to £100; strong spring-van horses, at from £25 to £30; milk-cart and butchers' order-cart horses, at from £18 to £25; light hacks, at from £8 to £13; extra good hacks and harness horses, at from £13 to £25; weedy and aged do, at from £5 to £7.

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