

Commercial

For week ending March 12.

PRODUCE.

Mr. F. Meenan, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices only—Oats: Feed, fair to good, 2s 3d to 2s 4d; milling, 2s 4d to 2s 5d. Wheat: scarce. Milling, 3s 3d to 3s 4d; fowls', 3s 1d. Potatoes: New Oamaru and Taiari, £2 15s to £3; Chaff: Inferior to medium, £2 10s to £3; good to best, £3 15s to £4 10s. Straw: Loose, 32s 6d; pressed, 30s. Flour: 200lb sacks, £8 15s; 50lb, £9 10s, 25lb, £9 15s; Oatmeal: 25lb, £12 10s. Butter: Dairy, 6d to 8d; factory, 10d to 11d. Cheese: Dairy, 4d; factory, 5d. Eggs, 1s 3d. Onions: Melbourne, new, £6.

SOUTHLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

Invercargill prices current—Wholesale—Butter (fresh), 8d; butter (factory), bulk, 10½d, pats, 10½d, eggs, 1s 3d per doz, cheese, 4d, bacon, farm, 7d, do, rolled, farm, 6d, hams, 9d, potatoes, £3 to £3 10s per ton; fowl wheat, 3s 3d; barley, 2s to 2s 6d; chaff, £4 10s, flour, £8 15s to £9 15s, oatmeal, £12 5s to £12 15s, bran, £4; pollard, £4 15s. Retail—Fresh butter, 10d; butter (factory), pats, 1s; bulk, 1s, eggs, 1s 6d per doz; cheese, 6d to 7d, bacon, rolled, 9d, hams, 10d; potatoes, 4s per cwt; flour: 200lb 19s 6d, 50lb, 5s 3d; oatmeal, 50lb, 7s 3d, 25lb, 3s 9d; pollard, 8s per bag; bran, 5s, chaff, 2s, fowls' feed, 3s 9d per bushel.

WOOL.

London, March 25—At the wool sales the Wathora clip realised 4½d, the Matapiro, 5d, and Mount Vernon, 8d.

London, March 27—The wool sales closed firm at top prices. The Tekampa clip sold at 6½d.

During the series 156,000 bales were catalogued, of which 73,000 were sold for home consumption, 75,000 for the Continent, 4000 for America, and 11,000 being held over.

Compared with the February sales, merinos advanced 7½ per cent, fine crossbreds, 10 per cent, and other qualities 5 to 7½ per cent. Merino lambs advanced 5 per cent, crossbreds 10 per cent.

The prospects for the May sales are good. The amount of wool available will probably not exceed 280,000 bales.

THE ADDINGTON MARKETS.

Fat Cattle—The total yarded was 200, chiefly light-weights, and only a score of steers. Prices fell 1s per 100lb, or 16s to 21s 6d. Steers brought £7 15s to £9 17s 6d, heifers, £5 10s to £8 10s, cows, £4 12s 6d to £8 10s.

Fat Sheep.—About 3000 yarded, mostly secondary ewes. Wethers were scarce, and freezing buyers were not operating strongly. Good wethers brought 15s to 17s; lighter, 13s to 14s. There were too many ewes in for the butchers, and the market dragged. A decided drop in values took place, the best only making 12s to 15s 6d, others, 7s 6d to 11s; a few merino wethers, 7s to 10s.

Fat Lambs—The total brought forward was 1460. Few were of good quality, and export buyers holding, caused prices to ease. Seven hundred and thirty were taken for freezing at 10s 6d to 13s 4d, averaging 11s 9d; 159 went to the butchers at 8s 7d to 13s 5d; 528 were passed at 10s to 11s 7d; and the rest went to the graziers.

Store Sheep.—The penning totalled 9800, mostly inferior wethers, with only a few good lines of ewes and

very few lambs. Considering the quality of the sheep, fair sales were made. Forward wethers made 11s to 12s 2d; others, 7s 7d to 10s; good, sound ewes, 10s to 13s; others, 5s to 8s 6d, lambs, 4s 10d to 7s 3d.

Western Influence and Japan.

In view of the treaty recently made between Great Britain and Japan the following observations about modern western influence on the people of Japan will be of special interest. They have been contributed by the Rev. Father Ligucl, a French missionary in the Island Empire to the 'Mission Catholiques'—

No foreign influence (he writes) predominates to the exclusion of all the rest. Each has in turn been ahead of the rest, but none has been definitely eliminated. The Japanese people in their movement towards civilisation starting from the standpoint of taking from other countries and assimilating as well as they could whatever they found good in it. Up to 1871 France was in the front rank. After that era of her disasters, her credit has diminished year by year in proportion as her defeat in every sense has become more accentuated. Nevertheless striking cases of French influence still remain in the Japanese army and legislature, and the French language and literature have regained ground slightly of late.

England is mistress of the country by means of her gold and her commerce. The English language, whose use is universal outside Europe, is necessary to the Japanese for all their foreign relations, hence it is obligatory in all secondary schools. Together with the language English literature is naturally popularised, and, without any other kind of propaganda, the idea contained in that literature make their way insensibly into the public mind by means of education and the press.

By means of education and religion the American influence on the Japanese people has been the most profound and the most sensible. Hence when we say that Japan has been 'Europeanised,' though the statement is correct, it would be more accurate to say she has been 'Americanised.'

For the past ten years Germany has predominated in legislation. The political system, the formation and organisation of army and navy, are modelled on Germany. The German language is much studied, science in general, and especially medicine, is German. Germany by her philosophy dominates over the intellectual leaders of the country, the teachers in the University, and consequently the whole educational staff. Japanese teaching, half American as regards education, is on the way to become German as regards instruction.

Of the arts, the music is German, but the other arts have come from Italy.

To these most interesting and novel observations Father Ligucl adds a profoundly true and striking remark:

The Japanese is an artist by nature, a born imitator he handles the pencil with skill. Poetry, drawing, music, excite in him the deepest sensations, even where a European would feel nothing. If realism taught by system invades Japanese art, it will kill what was best and most attractive in this people—its cult of ideal beauty.

How Potatoes Became Popular.

There is a strange impulse in human nature which makes people desire that which is forbidden. It exists sometimes in dumb animals

also, if the Irishman told the truth when he said that his pig never would go to Cork unless it thought its master wished to drive it toward Dublin. This perversity (says the 'Ave Maria') was once taken advantage of for a very worthy purpose. A strange prejudice against the use of potatoes as a food used to exist in France. The wise ones declared that they produced leprosy, and the people would neither eat them nor feed them to their cattle. At last those high in authority thought of a plan. 'If we tell people not to eat them they will want them at once,' they said; 'and if it is made an offence to steal potatoes, there will be many to seek them.' So gardens all over France were set with the unpopular tubers, and word given out that some rare vegetables were growing for the king's express use; furthermore, that anyone who molested them would be prosecuted. This was a serious threat—to trespass against the king. But just as soon as the people were warned not to touch those potatoes they began to have a fierce appetite for them, and the fields, left unguarded purposely, were pillaged from one end to the other. Some began to eat the despised vegetables and found them palatable; others saved them for seed, and the result was that the potato was permanently introduced into France.

Messrs. Dwan Bros., the well-known hotel brokers, of Willis street, Wellington, report the sale of the lease and furniture of the Nag's Head Hotel, Wellington, to Mr. Jerome Bacovich, late of the Central Hotel, Masterton; the lease and furniture of the Terminus Hotel, Picton, to Mr. Samuel Perry, late of Hokitika; the lease and furniture of the Levin Hotel to Mr. Charles Harrison, late of the Imperial Hotel, New Plymouth; the lease and furniture of the Mahikapawa Hotel, Marlborough, to Mr. Joseph Cody, late of the Criterion Hotel, Wanganui; the lease and furniture of the Whakataki Hotel to Mr. Malcolm Walker, late of Wellington; the freehold of the Club Hotel, Woodville, to Mr. Philip M. Poole; the lease and furniture of the Post Office Hotel, Picton, to Mrs. Darville, late of the Post Office Hotel, Foxton; the lease and furniture of the Masonic Hotel, Havelock, to Mr. Charles E. Duckitt, late of Hamua; the lease and furniture of the Clarendon Hotel, Palmerston North, to Mrs. J. Tait, late of Manaia; the lease and furniture of the Occidental Hotel, Palmerston North, to Mr. G. B. Howard, late of the Thames; the Avatere Hotel, Blenheim, to Mr. Alfred Bishop, of Christchurch; the lease and furniture of the Club Hotel, Martinborough, to Mr. J. Kavanagh, late of Ashhurst; the Albert Hotel, Wellington, to Mr. Thomson, of New Plymouth; the Taueru Hotel, Masterton, to Mr. Eagar, late of Carterton; the freehold of the Empire Hotel, Timaru, to Mr. Burns, of Timaru; the lease and furniture of the Empire Hotel, Masterton, to Mr. James Cress, late of Tauheronikau.—***

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