

Commercial

(For week ending August 27.)

PRODUCE.

London, August 22.—The wheat markets are hardening in consequence of the weather in Europe. The American markets are firm. Cargoes are quiet. An Australian cargo sold at 29s 3d.

London, August 24.—Frozen Meat. New Zealand beef, 180lb to 220lb, fair average quality—ox fores, 4½d, ox hinds, 5d. Other meats unchanged.

Wellington, August 25.—Following is the Agent-General's report, dated London, 23rd.—Mutton market quiet, trade clashes, mutton been very slow and prices barely maintained. The average price to-day for Canterbury mutton is 3½d; Dunedin, Southland, and W.M.E. Co. mutton, 3½d; other North Island mutton, 3½d. The stocks of lamb on hand are light, and firmly held in a few hands. Average price New Zealand lamb: Canterbury brand, 5d; other than Canterbury, 4½d. The beef market is firm, but fores are scarce. New Zealand fores, 4½d; hinds, 5d. The hemp market is steady in price. The 'Good fair Wellington' grade on spot to-day is £33; September November shipments, £31. The cocksfoot seed market is firm. There is no pressure to sell cocksfoot seed. It is reported that the American supply will be short and inferior. New Zealand 17lb standard, 5 per cent.

Messrs Donald Reid and Co. (Limited) report as follows—

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday. There was a full attendance of buyers, and most of the lines on offer were cleared at prices fully equal to late quotations.

Oats.—There has been steady demand during the past week for all oats which would pass as B grade quality. For other sorts the demand has not been keen, but fair quantities have been placed at quotations. Prime milling and seed have fair inquiry, and command satisfactory sale. We quote: Seed lines, 2s 8d to 2s 11d; prime milling, 2s 7d to 2s 8d; best feed, 2s 5½d to 2s 6½d; medium to good, 2s 3d to 2s 5d. inferior, 2s to 2s 2d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—Local stocks of prime milling quality are by no means large, and any such lines offering are readily quitted at fair value. Millers' requirements are being filled chiefly from northern wheat. Medium quality does not receive much attention, but fowl wheat is strongly in favor at improved values. We quote: Prime milling, 3s 11d to 4s 3d; medium, 3s 3d to 3s 9d; whole fowl wheat 3s to 3s 2d, broken and damaged, 2s 6d to 2s 10d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Local stocks are now much reduced, and the quantity of prime Derwents on offer is exceedingly small. Fair sales have been made of white potatoes and medium Derwents, and any lines of prime, sound Derwents offering meet with ready sale. We quote: Prime Derwents, £3 15s to £4; medium, £3 to £3 10s; kidneys and white potatoes, £2 10s to £3 per ton (bags in).

Chaff.—Prime oaten sheaf is offering sparingly, and is strongly inquired for. Medium quality is fairly plentiful, but has had some attention from shippers during the past few days. Inferior is in over supply, and meets with slow sale. We quote: Best oaten sheaf, £4 5s to £4 10s. choice, to £4 15s. medium, £3 5s to £4; inferior and straw chaff, £2 to £2 15s per ton (bags extra).

Turnips.—Most of the lines offering lately have been quitted for shipment, and the local market is barely supplied, good swedes being readily placed at a decided advance in value. We quote: Best swedes, 17s to 20s per ton (loose, ex truck).

SOUTHLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

Invercargill prices current—Wholesale—Butter (farm), 9d; butter (factory), bulk, 1s 3d; pats 1s 3d cash, 1s 3½d booked; eggs, 10d per dozen; cheese (factory), 5½d; bacon farm, 6d; do, rolled, farm, 7d; hams, 9d; potatoes, £3 10s per ton, bags weighed in; barley, 2s to 2s 6d chaff, £4; flour, £11 10s to £12 10s; oatmeal, £13 10s to £14. Bran, £5 15s; pollard, £6. Retail.—Fresh butter, 11d, 1s; butter (factory), pats, 1s 5d; bulk, 1s 5d. Eggs, 1s per doz. Cheese, 7d. Bacon (rolled), 9d. Hams, 10d. Potatoes, £4 10s per ton; 5s cwt. Flour, 200lb, 25s; 50lb, 7s 3d. Oatmeal, 50lb, 8s; 25lb, 4s. Pollard, 10s per bag. Bran, 6s 9d. Chaff, 2s 3d.

Mr. F. Meenan, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices only—Oats: Milling, 2s 7d to 2s 9d; feeding, 2s 2d to 2s 6d. Wheat (good demand): Milling, 4s to 4s 8d; fowls, 3s 3d. Potatoes, £3 10s to £4. Chaff inferior to medium, £3 to £3 10s; prime, £4 10s. Straw: Pressed, £2; loose, £2. Flour: 200lb sacks, £11 10s; 50lb, £12 5s; 25lb, £12 10s. Oatmeal: 25lb, £14 5s. Butter: Dairy, 9d to 1s; factory, 1s 3d. Cheese: Dairy, 4½d; factory, 5½d. Eggs, 8d. Onions: Christchurch, £5 6s.

WOOL.

London, August 20.—At the tallow sales 1850 casks were offered and 375 sold. Mutton Fine, 35s 6d, medium, 31s 6d. Beef: Fine, 35s, medium, 31s.

Melbourne, August 21.—The wool sales have resumed. There is a brisk market. Prices are firm. Excepting low crossbreds, all classes show an upward tendency.

London, August 22.—The Bradford wool market is quiet. Forties, 7½d; 46's, 10½d, common 60's, 22½d; supen, 23½d.

HIDE SALES.

Messrs Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows—

We submitted a catalogue of 222 hides and 12 calfskins. We regret to report that the demand was not so keen as has been the case of late, and a drop of ½d to ¾d per lb was experienced in most descriptions. Our top prices yesterday were 5½d for ox hides and 4½d for cows. The Australian market has been very much lower during the last few weeks, and this accounts to a large extent for the caution shown by shippers yesterday. We quote actual prices ruling at our sale as follows: Prime ox hides, 4½d to 5½d per lb; good do, 4d to 4½d; light and inferior do, 2½d to 3½d; prime cow, 4½d to 4¾d; good do, 3½d to 4d; light and inferior do, 2½d to 3½d. calfskins and yearlings, 2s to 4s 9d.

LIVE STOCK.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

Fat Cattle.—191 yarded, mostly prime sorts. There was a strong demand, and the bulk of those offered were sold at from 26s to 30s per 100lb; other sorts, 21s to 25s per 100lb. Best steers brought £11 to £14 10s; others, £5 17s 6d to £10; prime heifers, £9 to £10 10s; others, £5 2s 6d to £8; extra prime cows, £10 to £11 2s 6d; good, £7 15s to £9 17s 6d, others, £5 to £7 10s.

Store Cattle.—There was a good yarding. Excellent sale for yearlings at £1 6s; 15 to 18 months, £2 3s 6d to £3 10s; two-year-old steers,

£4 to £4 9s 6d; two-year-old heifers, £4 to £4 5s; three years and older, up to £7; dairy cows, £3 5s to £8 15s.

Fat Sheep.—6000 yarded, mostly wethers. Buyers for Sydney lowered their values, but took a few at 19s to 23s 6d. Prime heavy-weights fell local butchers buying at 22s 6d to 26s. Freezing buyers reduced the limit, but took a fair number at from 15s 6d to 20s. Many unfinished lines were withdrawn to go to the factory on the owners' account, while others sold at 12s 3d to 15s. Prime merino wethers 15s to 19s 11d; others, 8s 6d to 14s. The few ewes in made from 15s to 16s 10d for good, and 13s 6d to 14s 6d for others.

Lambs.—520 were brought forward, and half a dozen of this season's, which sold at from 8s 6d to 16s; freezers, 12s 3d to 13s 6d; inferior, 11s to 12s.

Store Sheep.—3053 yarded, of mixed sorts. There was a good sale. Forward wethers, 14s to 15s; backward, 11s 7d to 12s 5d; good sound ewes, 12s 6d, 14s 6d to 15s 3d; aged, 5s 3d to 8s 9d; forward hoggets, 9s 9d to 10s 10d; others, 7s to 8s 9d.

Pigs.—443 were penned. The presence of a buyer from Sydney caused excitement in the market. Fat baconers, 36s to 60s, and up to 70s for extra good, or about 5d to 5½d per lb; porkers, 20s to 35s, or 5½d to 6d per lb; large stores, 20s to 28s; smaller 12s to 18s; suckers and weaners, 8s to 11s.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

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

As usual, after such a sale as was held last week, there was only a moderate entry of horses, about 30 all counted, for Saturday's auction. Of draughts there were very few, the only animal worthy of special mention being a bay mare, 5yrs, of nice quality, but very small, which was sold at £36. Other sales were made of aged horses at from £20 to £24. A spring-van horse, 4yrs old, changed hands at £33, and a black gelding, 8yrs, of good quality and action, but small, was disposed of at £29 10s. Sound, young horses of all classes are realising excellent prices in this market, spring dray, and spring-cart horses, of good action and staunch, especially eliciting the keenest competition, and we can strongly recommend consignments of these. We quote: Superior, young draught geldings, £40 to £50; extra good, prize horses, £52 to £55; medium draught mares and geldings, £32 to £38; aged do., £22 to £32; upstanding carriage horses, £30 to £35; well-matched carriage pairs, £70 to £90; strong spring-van horses, £28 to £36; milk-cart and butchers' order-cart horses, £18 to £29; tram horses, £14 to £17; light hacks, £8 to £15; extra good hacks, £18 to £25; weedy and aged hacks and harness horses, £3 to £7.

STOCK SALES.

Sydney, August 21.—At the fat sheep sales 22,000 were offered. Prices generally showed an improvement on last sale. The majority of New Zealand consignments had not arrived. About 400 previously unsold were offered. There was a strong demand, and prices ranged from 28s to 37s.

Sydney, August 25.—New Zealand crossbred wethers at Homebush made from 26s to 40s. Bullocks made up to £23 15s, averaging from £21 19s 4d to £22 4s 8d.

Wellington, August 25.—The steamer Hawea leaves about midnight for Sydney with 2250 sheep and 169 cattle.

Auckland, August 25.—The Wai-kare, leaving to-night, takes 500 sheep and 30 head of cattle from this port for Sydney, besides 200 sheep from Napier and 300 frozen carcasses of mutton from Lyttelton.