

Commercial

(For week ending January 7.)

PRODUCE.

London, January 2.—Butter is quiet. Colonial (dull), 108s to 110s; Danish, 110s to 112s.

Wheat: The markets are quiet but firm. Cargoes are hardening. Californian October shipment, 31s 6d. January shipments, 31s 3d. The American visible wheat supply is 82,209,000 bushels.

Wellington, January 5.—The following cable has been received from the Agent-General, dated London, 3rd inst. — Trade in all classes of mutton has been very slow, prices being barely maintained. The tendency of the mutton market seems to be to decline. Average price to-day: Canterbury mutton, 5½d; North Island mutton, 4½d; States mutton (plentiful), 4d. There is scarcely any demand for lamb. The stocks of lamb on hand are light. The average price to-day for New Zealand lamb, Canterbury brand, is 5½d. The beef market is very dull. Supplies of American chilled beef are large. Quotations: New Zealand beef (nominal)—Hinds, 5d, fores, 4d. The butter market is dull, buyers holding back and expecting prices to go lower. The price for butter to-day is 108s to 111s per cwt. The cheese market is very firm. The price for cheese to-day is 60s per cwt; small supplies of cheese on hand. The hemp market is steady; price of "good fair Wellington" grade on the spot to-day is £32 10s. January-March shipments, £28 10s. The cocksfoot seed market is quiet; no pressure to sell. Cocksfoot seed from New Zealand, 17lb standard, 65s per cwt.

SOUTHLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

Invercargill prices current.—Wholesale: Butter, farm 5d to 6d. Butter (factory, bulk, 11d; pats, 1s cash. 1s 0½d booked. Eggs, 10d per dozen. Cheese (factory), 6½d. Hams, 9d. Barley, 2s to 2s 6d. Chaff, £5. Flour, £13 to £14. Oatmeal, £13 10s to £14. Bran, £7. Pollard, £7. Retail: Fresh butter, 7d to 8d. Butter (factory), pats, 1s 2d; bulk, 1s 1d. Eggs, 1s per dozen. Cheese, 8d. Bacon, 11d. Hams, 10d. Flour: 200lb, 28s; 50lb, 8s. Oatmeal: 25lb, 8s; 25lb, 4s. Pollard, 11s 6d per bag. Bran, 8s. Chaff, 3s

Mr. F. Meenan, King street, reports — Wholesale prices only—Oats: Milling, 2s 8d to 2s 10d; feeding, 2s to 2s 8d. Wheat (good demand): Milling, 4s 6d to 5s 6d; fowls', 3s 6d to 4s 6d. Potatoes: Prime Derwents, £3; new kidneys, £12. Chaff: Inferior to medium, £3 to £4 15s, prime, £5 12s 6d. Straw: Pressed wheat, £2; oatens, £2; loose, £2. Flour: 200lb sacks, £12; 50lb, £12 15s; 25lb, £13. Oatmeal: 25lb, £13 15s. Bran, £6. Pollard, £6 10s. Butter: Dairy, 8d to 10d; factory, 11d. Cheese: Old, 6½d; new, 6½d. Eggs, 10d. Onions: Melbourne, £8 per ton.

CANTERBURY EXPORTS

The Hon. W. Hall-Jones gave the Timaru 'Post' some information as to the position occupied by Canterbury in the matter of exports as compared with the rest of the Colony. The hon gentleman said that for the year ending March 31, 1902, the export of wheat from Canterbury alone amounted to 1,812,697 bushels, and from the rest of the Colony only 152,226 bushels. Southland and Otago were looked upon as the chief oat-producing provinces, but Canterbury had held her own, and out of 8,587,487 bushels of oats exported from the Colony, no less than 4,202,996 bushels came from Canterbury. Of barley, 75,931 bushels had been exported from Canterbury, and 124,372 from the rest of the Colony. Canterbury had exported 52,593 bushels of malt, and the rest of the Colony 100,483. Other figures were: Grass seed, Canterbury 36,902cwt, rest of the Colony 52,394cwt; flour, Canterbury 332 tons, rest of the Colony 804 tons; potatoes, Canterbury 22,068 tons, rest of the Colony 22,923 tons; onions, Canterbury 24,977cwt, rest of the Colony 30,798cwt. In dairy produce exports, Canterbury occupied the fifth place. In frozen mutton and lamb 3,349,713 carcasses altogether had been exported from the Colony, and of this number 1,788,541 came from Canterbury. So it went on until they came down to one of the latest industries, that of the poultry export. That was going to be a big thing, and it would be well for many of them if they devoted more attention to that industry. Of the total of 38,785 head of poultry exported for the year, no less than 21,275 were exported from Canterbury. Of wool 142,246.848lb were sent from the Colony, of which Canterbury sent 32,899,036lb.

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

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday. The attendance of buyers was small, but most of those present being disposed to operate, the catalogue was cleared at satisfactory prices. Values run as under:—

Oats—For good to best feed there is steady demand for export, while milling sorts also receive buyers' attention at prices fully equal to late quotations. Medium and inferior sorts are not so much sought after, and are somewhat difficult to place. Quotations: Prime milling,

2s 8d to 2s 9d; good to best feed, 2s 7d to 2s 8d; medium, 2s 4d to 2s 6d; inferior, 2s to 2s 8d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—There is nominally little change in the market. In prime milling quality there is practically nothing offering locally. Medium sorts are fairly plentiful, and meet with fair inquiry. Fowl wheat continues to be in rather short supply, and is readily quitted at quotations. Quotations:—Prime milling, 5s 3d to 5s 6d; good do, 4s 10d to 5s; medium, 4s 7d to 4s 9d; best whole fowl wheat, 4s 3d to 4s 6d; broken and damaged, 3s 6d to 4s per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Supplies of old Derwents and kidneys have slackened, but, in view of the arrival of new potatoes, these have little inquiry. Quotations: Best old potatoes (in short supply), £2 10s to £3 10s; others, £1 to £2 per ton (bags in).

Chaff.—Nearly all consignments coming forward are of medium to good quality. Prime oatens sheaf is scarce, and commands ready sale at satisfactory prices. Inferior sorts are difficult to quit. Quotations: Prime oatens sheaf, £5 to £5 10s; extra heavy, £5 12s 6d; medium to good, £4 to £4 15s; inferior and straw chaff, £2 10s to £3 15s per ton (bags extra).

WOOL.

London, January 2.—The Bradford wool market.—Top business is improving. Common sixties, 13½d; super, 24½d.

Sydney, January 6.—For the opening wool sale of the year the bidding was animated, and the market showed decided strength. Prices advanced from par to 5 per cent. for medium. Good descriptions of greasy sold to 11½d, and scoured 20½d.

LIVE STOCK.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

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

The recent holidays, as usual at this time of the year, have practically put a stop to business. The entries were exceedingly small in number, and owing to the fact that no horses were advertised, there were not many buyers present. There were no good draughts in the yard, but we could have sold some had they been entered. Our only sales consisted of a few harness horses suitable for work in rabbit carts. The demand for good, young draught mares and geldings and for strong spring-cart and spring-van horses is still very good, and we can recommend consignments to this market of animals of these classes. We quote: Superior young draught geldings, £50 to £55; extra good, prize horses, £56 to £60; medium draught mares and geldings, £37 to £48; aged do, £24 to 36; upstanding carriage horses, £30 to £35; well-matched carriage pairs, £70 to £90; strong spring-van horses, £30 to £35; milk-cart and butchers' order-cart horses, £22 to £28; tram horses, £14 to £21; light hacks, £10 to £16; extra good hacks, £18 to £25; weedy and aged hacks and harness horses, £5 to £10.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

At the Addington market there were moderate entries, and an especially good sale for stores, but cattle and sheep were, if anything, easier. Pigs were extremely firm.

Fat Cattle—110 yarded. Best steers, £10 to £11 17s 6d; others, £8 17s 6d to £9 10s; best heifers, £9 to £11 5s; others, £5 17s 6d to £8; best cows, £8 to £10 15s; others, £5 to £7 10s.

Store Cattle—Yearlings realised £1 10s to £2; 15 to 18-months' cattle, £2 12s 6d to £3 17s 6d; 18 months to two-year-old steers, £4 18s 6d; two-year-old heifers, £4 5s; three and four-year-old steers, £7; three-year-old heifers, £5 15s; dry cows, £1 17s 6d to £5 4s; dairy cows, £4 to £9 10s.

Fat Sheep—About 3000 penned, the majority of which were unfinished. Competition was mostly in the hands of the local trade, and prices all round were easier, several lines being withdrawn. A few extra prime wethers fell to butchers at 20s to 25s, and up to 31s 6d; freezers, 15s to 18s 10d; best ewes, 16s 6d to 18s 6d; others, 13s to 15s.

Fat Lambs—1092 penned, mostly unfinished, and prices were easier by about 6d per head; 342 were passed; 1472 were taken for freezing at 13s 7d to 15s 10d; 276 to butchers at 10s 6d to 13s for ordinary, and 13s 6d to 16s for extra good.

Store Sheep—2886 penned, mostly mixed two-tooths. Owing to the plentiful feed there was a keen demand for all on offer. Mixed two-tooths realised 13s to 15s 9d; two-tooth ewes, 14s to 14s 3d; ewes and lambs (all counted), 8s 5d to 11s 9d; lambs, 12s 1d to 12s 6d.

Pigs—300 yarded, a keen demand for all sorts. Baconers, 45s to 58s, to 68s for extra, equal to 5d to 5½d per lb; porkers, 30s to 40s, equal to 5½d to 6d per lb; large stores, 23s to 30s; smaller, 16s 6d to 20s; suckers and weaners, 12s to 16s.

SYDNEY STOCK SALES.

Sydney, January 5.—At the Homebush sales prime sheep were scarce. Stores and young ewes were in strong demand, and prices showed a decided advance. Crossbred wethers, best, realised 18s; good, 15s 6d to 16s; medium, 12s; ewes, best, 16s 6d; good, 14s 6d to 15s; mediums, 11s 6d. Cattle: Primes were in good demand. Best bullocks sold at £16 10s; good, £12 15s; medium, £8 5s; best cows, £11; good, £8 4s; medium, £7. Best beef averaged 40s per 100lb.