

Commercial

(For week ending May 20.)

PRODUCE.

Napier, May 14.—The C.C. and D. Company cabled to Messrs. Nelson Bros. as follows: 'There is a decline in values of an eighth of a penny in mutton and second quality of lamb. Quotations: Canterbury mutton, 4½d. Napier, Wellington, and North Island, 3½d. Lamb: First quality, 4½d; second quality, 4½d.'

Wellington, May 18.—The Department of Industries and Commerce has received the following cablegram from the Agent-General, dated London, May 16:—'The mutton market is depressed. The stocks of mutton on hand are heavy and widely distributed amongst agents, who are pushing sales. Average price to-day: Canterbury mutton, 3½d; Dunedin, Southland, and Wellington Meat Export Company, 3½d; other North Island mutton, 3½d. Average price to day for River Plate mutton is 3½d per lb, at which rates the demand is steady. The lamb market is weak, though a good demand continues. Competition amongst holders of lamb to clear their stocks lowered values. Average price to-day for New Zealand lamb: Canterbury brand, 4½d per lb; brands other than Canterbury, 4½d per lb. The beef market is quiet and steady. Average price to-day for hindquarters of New Zealand beef, 4½d per lb; forequarters, 3½d. Transactions in butter are very limited, at 97s per cwt; Danish, 99s. The cheese market is steady at 66s per cwt.'

SOUTHLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

Invercargill prices current:—Wholesale—Butter (farm), 8d; butter (factory, bulk, 11d; pats, 11½d cash, 11½d booked. Eggs, 1s 9d per dozen. Cheese, factory, 6½d. Hams, 9d. Potatoes, £3 10s per ton (bags weighed in). Barley, 2s to 2s 6d. Chaff, £3 per ton. Flour, £10 to £11. Oatmeal, £10 10s to £11. Bran, £4 10s. Pollard, £6 10s. Retail—Fresh Butter, 10d. Butter (factory), pats, 1s 1½d; bulk, 1s. Eggs, 2s per dozen. Cheese, 8d. Bacon, 11d. Hams, 10d. Potatoes, 5s per cwt. Flour, 200lb, 22s; 50lb, 6s 3d. Oatmeal: 50lb, 6s 6d; 25lb, 3s 6d. Pollard, 10s per bag. Bran, 5s 6d. Chaff, 2s.

Mr. F. Meenan, King street, Dunedin reports:—Wholesale prices only—Oats: Milling, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; feed, 1s 6d to 1s 9d. Wheat: Milling, 3s 9d to 4s 1d; fowls' wheat, 3s 5d to 3s 8d. Potatoes: Derwents, £3 15s, kidneys, £2 10s to £3 10s. Chaff: Old, £2 10s to £3 5s; new, £3 5s to £3 15s. Straw: Pressed wheat, 30s; oaten, 35s; loose, £2. Flour: Sacks, £10; 50lb, £10 15s; 25lb, £11. Oatmeal: 25lb, £10. Pollard, £6. Butter: Dairy, 8d to 10d; factory, 11d. Cheese: Old, 6½d; new, 5½d. Eggs, 1s 10d. Onions: Melbourne, £5 10s; Christchurch, £4.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co (Limited) report as follows:—We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday, when we submitted a moderate catalogue to a good attendance of buyers. The bulk of the catalogue was cleared at prices about on a level with last week's quotations. Values ruled as under:—

Oats.—The proportion of milling oats coming forward has been exceptionally small, and for these there is steady demand at late values. Good to best feed are also readily taken on arrival, but in many cases the color and condition of consignments are not up to buyers' requirements, and for low grades there is not the same inquiry. We quote: Prime milling, 1s 9½d to 1s 10d; good to best feed, 1s 8d to 1s 9d; inferior to medium, 1s 5d to 1s 7½d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—Local millers' requirements are for the most part confined to prime milling quality, and are being filled with northern consignments. The bulk of the southern wheat on offer is of only medium quality, for which there is little inquiry, and is in most cases being quitted as fowl wheat. This is offering more plentifully, but with fair export demand finds buyers at quotations. We quote: Prime milling, 4s to 4s 1d; medium, 3s 9d to 3s 11d; whole fowl wheat, 3s 7d to 3s 8d; damaged and broken, 3s to 3s 6d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—During the past few days prime Derwents have been in short supply, and best quality could be placed to-day at an advance of 5s to 7s 6d per ton on late quotations. We quote: Prime Derwents, £3 15s to £3 17s 6d; medium and other sorts, £3 to £3 10s per ton (bags in).

Chaff.—The market continues to be fairly well supplied with medium quality, for which there is only moderate inquiry. Prime oaten sheaf, of which supplies have slackened, is still in most favor, and readily saleable at late values. We quote: Prime oaten sheaf, £3 5s to £3 10s (a few lots of choice quality cut on the green side, realised up to £3 15s); medium to good, £2 15s to £3; light and inferior, £2 to £2 10s per ton (bags extra).

Turnips.—Heavier supplies, both bagged and loose, have come forward. We quote: Best swedes, bagged, 20s per ton (bags in); loose, 14s to 15s per ton.

WOOL.

London, May 13.—The wool sales are firm, and competition is well maintained. Prices are unchanged. The Acland clip brought 10½d.

London, May 14.—The Bradford wool market is quiet. The market is extremely firm. Business is done in crossbreds. Forty-sixes, 13½d; other sorts, unchanged.

At the London wool sales competition was strong, and prices fully maintained. The sales included the following clips: Te Anau, 8½d; Kaputone, 14d.

London, May 17.—The wool sales continue brisk. Low crossbreds are a farthing dearer than opening rates, and fine crossbreds and merino a halfpenny. Continental buyers are taking a fair share of both. The following clips were sold: Ohwao-ko, 10½d; Okirae, 7½d; Raglan, 7½d; Titi, 8½d; Kawaru, 10½d. The quantity catalogued to date is 130,459 bales, and sold 126,003 bales.

HIDE SALES.

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—We held our fortnightly sale of hides at our stores Crawford street, on Thursday 14th inst., when we submitted to the usual attendance of buyers a catalogue comprising 427 hides, yearlings, and calfskins. Late reports from Australia indicate a fall in values there, and in consequence some of the exporters were not so keen to do business as formerly, and the extreme prices paid at our last sale were not to be obtained. The fall was principally felt in prime, heavy ox hides, and these were decidedly easier. On the other hand medium and light-weight hides were in strong demand, and sold remarkably well. Our top price for ox hides was 7d, which we secured for two lines, and several others brought 5½d. In cow hides our top price was 5½d, which was paid for one weighing 64lb, and 5½d was obtained for several others. There was a very keen demand for yearlings and calfskins, and these sold well, the former making up to 6s 7d, and the latter to 2s 10d. The following are the actual prices ruling at our sales: Prime heavy ox hides, 5½d to 6d per lb; medium do, 4½d to 5½d; light and inferior do, 2½d to 4½d; prime heavy cow hides, 5d to 5½d; medium do, 4½d to 4¾d; light and inferior do, 2½d to 4½d; yearlings, 1s to 6s 7d each; calfskins, 6d to 2s 10d.

LIVE STOCK.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

There was a smaller entry than usual at Addington market to-day, and, owing to the bad weather, buyers were present in fewer numbers.

Fat Cattle.—226 head yarded, the bulk being cows and heifers of only moderate quality. For these there was a poor demand, but all prime quality maintained late rates. Steers realised £6 5s to £10 17s 6d; heifers, £5 15s to £9 12s 6d; cows, £4 17s 6d to £9 12s 6d. Beef, 24s to 29s per 100lb.

Fat Sheep.—There was a fair yarding, and the entry comprised a good proportion of prime wethers and ewes suitable for freezing. For these butchers and export buyers competed briskly, and, despite the small attendance, prices for best quality ewes were rather better than those ruling last week, and wethers sold at about recent rates. Freezing wethers realised 17s 6d to 19s 11d; extra heavy, 20s to 20s 5d; lighter, 15s 9d to 17s; merinos, 13s 9d to 15s 3d; freezing ewes, 13s to 16s 6d; butchers' ewes, 11s to 17s 3d.

Fat Lambs.—About 1500 were penned, the bulk being of prime quality. For these there was keen demand at prices a shade firmer than those ruling last week. Freezes brought 12s to 15s; tegs, 15s to 15s 8d; butchers, 10s 6d to 12s 6d (a few extra heavy 13s 3d).

Pigs.—There was a small entry and irregular sale. Baconers brought 41s 6d to 62s, equal to 4½d per lb; porkers, 27s to 38s 6d, equal to 5d per lb; suckers and weaners, 7s to 10s; slips, 10s to 15s.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

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

For this week's sale there was a fair entry of both draught and light harness horses, and, as there was a number of useful sorts among them, a good sale resulted. There was a very full attendance of the public, and keen competition for all animals that could be designated serviceable, whether for draught or light harness work. In draughts the chief sales were—A four-year-old 'nuggety' filly at £50; a seven-year-old gelding at £49; a four-year-old light draught mare at £47; a three-year-old filly at £44; and seven aged but fresh medium draught horses at from £29 to £36. In the lighter classes we sold a bay gelding, broken to saddle only, at £22; a small bay mare at £18; and 14 other horses, including nine from the tramways department, at up to £15 10s. We quote: Superior young draught geldings, £50 to £55; extra good, prize horses, £56 to £65; medium draught mares and geldings, £36 to £48; aged do, £25 to £35; upstanding carriage horses, £30 to £35; well-matched carriage pairs, £70 to £90; cart and butchers' order-cart horses, £18 to £25; tram horses, £16 to £27; light hacks, £10 to £15; extra good hacks, £18 to £25; weedy and aged hacks and harness horses, £4 to £8.

The 'Excelsior' plough is 'Champion of the World.' On hillside, lea, swamp, tussock, or stubble, it is equally at home.—Morrow, Bassett, and Co., sole agents in New Zealand.—***