

ON THE LAND

GENERAL.

Burnside market reports last week:—Fat Cattle.—215 yarded. A full yarding, and, in consequence, prices were back from 20s to 30s per head, as compared with previous week's extreme prices. Quotations: Extra prime bullocks, to £25; prime bullocks, £19 to £20; medium, £15 to £17 10s; light, £12 to £14; extra prime cows and heifers, to £18; prime, £13 to £14 10s; others, £9 10s to £10 5s. Fat Sheep.—2503 penned. The yarding did not contain nearly the number of prime sheep as previous week, and prices for well-finished sheep ruled about the same. On account of graziers being in the market, there was a better demand for lighter sheep. Quotations: Extra prime wethers, to 54s 3d; prime wethers, 41s to 47s 6d; medium wethers, 36s to 38s 6d; light and unfinished, 29s to 34s 6d; extra heavy ewes, to 42s; prime ewes, 34s to 39s 6d; light and inferior, 25s to 29s; others, 21s 6d to 24s. Fat Lambs.—1118 penned, being a fair yarding. Fat lambs sold at previous week's rates, while forward lambs met with a good sale from graziers at increased prices. Quotations: Prime lambs, 28s to 31s 6d; extra to 39s; medium, 25s to 27s 6d; unfinished, 20s to 24s.

At the Addington market there were large yardings of fat cattle and fat sheep, and moderate entries in other departments. Fat lambs sold at late rates, and store wethers were in better demand than ewes and lambs. Fat sheep were very firm, exporters operating freely. Fat cattle were somewhat irregular, with two export buyers operating. Other classes of stock sold at late rates. Fat Lambs.—Extra prime, to 37s 3d; prime, 28s 6d to 33s 3d; medium, 26s 6d to 28s; lighter sorts, 22s to 25s. Fat Sheep.—Extra prime wethers to 50s 6d; prime wethers, 34s 6d to 45s; lighter wethers, 24s 6d to 34s; extra prime merino wethers, 36s 6d; merino wethers, 27s 9d to 29s 7d; prime ewes, 33s to 40s; medium ewes, 29s 6d to 32s 6d; lighter ewes, 22s 6d to 29s; merino ewes, 28s. Fat Cattle.—Extra prime steers, to £24 15s; prime steers, £14 to £20; ordinary steers, £10 to £13 10s; extra prime cows, £15 2s 6d; prime cows, £11 to £14; ordinary cows, £8 7s 6d to £10 10s; extra prime heifers, £17 17s 6d; prime heifers, £11 to £14 5s; ordinary heifers, £8 5s to £10 10s. Pigs.—Choppers, £3 10s to £6 12s; baconers, £3 12s to £5; equal to 7½d to 7¾d per lb; porkers, 44s to 60s; equal to 9½d and 9¾d per lb; small stores, 28s and 35s; weaners, 13s to 18s.

THE HONEY CROP.

The director of the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture has received from the apiary instructors the following report concerning the honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—Bulk honey still continues to arrive, and is eagerly taken up. Prices are steady. Bulk, 5d to 6d per lb; 2lb tins, 15s per dozen; sections, none offering. Beeswax is in demand at 1s 5d to 1s 6d per lb, according to quality.

Wellington.—The honey of the season has now been gathered, and for the most part has been disposed of. The general quality of the produce has been up to the usual high standard, and the prices realised have been satisfactory to the producer. Prices have also remained firm in relation to beeswax, ruling as follows: from 1s 4d to 1s 7d per lb.

Christchurch.—A fair quantity of honey is coming to hand for the export trade. For the local trade the best qualities are bringing 5d to 5½d for bulk lots. Sections are unobtainable. There is practically no change in the price of wax. Bright, clean, yellow wax is bringing 1s 4d.

Dunedin.—The market price of honey is firm. A strong inquiry exists for bulk lines for northern markets. Small consignments of pat honey still continue to arrive, and are eagerly taken up. Beeswax is scarce.

In pretty well all parts of the wheat-producing area of North Otago (says the *Oamaru Mail*) farmers were busy last week with field operations—ploughing, harrowing, and wheat-sowing. Merchants also report that an unusual amount of seed wheat has already gone out, and that orders are still being received or filled. As a general rule Velvet constitutes the main sowings in autumn and winter, red wheats being generally reserved for spring sowing. This year, however, all varieties are now being sown, farmers probably being guided by the experience of a series of dry years that autumn and winter sowing suffer least from a long dry spell. They are generally sowing more largely than usual, and the probability is that the acreage under wheat will show an increase of fully 20 per cent. as compared with last year's total area. Much of the earlier-sown wheat is already well above the ground and looking remarkably well.

Some farmers are said to view the movement to encourage the growing of potatoes on small plots of vacant ground—either in the householder's backyard or any other available ground—without much enthusiasm (says the *Otago Daily Times*). In fact, it is stated that the movement is likely to restrict the future efforts of farmers in this particular branch of agriculture. In reply to a question whether the plot-growing could have any material effect on the New Zealand potato market, the representative of a big Dunedin firm said a surprisingly large quantity of potatoes would be produced in a season from the plots, and that this production certainly would have an influence on prices. Another agent said he thought the plot-growing was a good idea—no one really knew how long the war would last. If some farmers considered that the growing of potatoes was to be unremunerative from their point of view, they could direct their energies into other branches of agriculture, and the produce would be exported Home, where it would find a ready market. The plot-growers would help to keep up the Dominion supply of potatoes, and the aggregate production would thus be materially increased.

THICK OR THIN SOWING OF SEED.

Thick or thin sowing of seeds can be determined only after careful consideration of many surrounding circumstances. The condition of the soil, is perhaps, the main factor—the better the condition, then the less seed is required, and if soil conditions are unfavorable the seed must be sown more thickly. Then we have the size, weight, and quality of the seed to consider. The better and fresher the seed, the less quantity is required. The time of sowing is of great importance. Less seed will be required if sown in good time, as there will then be better conditions and the plants have a longer time to root and develop. Late sowings should be thicker, as the conditions for germination are not so favorable. The question whether seeds are drilled or broadcasted is of import. The former is favored, because the seeds can be deposited more uniformly in regard to depth and quantity. To sow thickly in a fertile soil is not only a waste of seed, but bad for the crop, as plants for their best development need plenty of room to grow in, and to allow roots all the chances possible of spreading through the soil in search of moisture and food, and to allow their upper portion plenty of air and light. If the soil is poor, or too dry, or too wet, or subject to the attacks of insects, it may be advisable to sow thickly to allow for non-germination or the destruction of young plants. Finally, if the land is not in a fairly good condition or is lying sodden and unkind, it is better to wait until the furrow has weathered and sow the grain in the spring.

LADIES!

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