

## ON THE LAND

## MARKET REPORTS.

At Burnside last week only 97 head of fat cattle were offered. The number of prime bullocks was greater than has been the case for a considerable time, and the quality, taken as a whole, better than has been seen at Burnside yards for some weeks. The yarding was insufficient for requirements, and the previous week's exceptionally high prices were maintained. The demand from start to finish was exceptionally keen. Extra prime bullocks £40 to £52, prime bullocks £30 to £36, medium £24 to £28 10s, light and unfinished £17 to £21, prime cows and heifers £19 2s 6d to £24 10s, medium £16 to £19, old and inferior £10 to £15. Fat sheep: 1065 came forward. This was a small yarding, consequently buyers were keen to fulfil their requirements, and prices opened at rates fully equalling the high prices ruling the previous week. Towards the end of the sale, however, the market was, if anything, inclined to weaken to the extent of about 1s per head. The quality was only medium. The proportion of extra prime sheep was small, the biggest part of the yarding being composed of medium to light-weight ewes and wethers. Prime wethers 60s to 73s 3d, medium 51s 6d to 58s, light 40s to 50s, a few extra prime ewes to 84s 3d, prime 50s to 56s, medium 42s to 47s 6d, light and aged 30s to 39s 9d. Spring lambs: Only five spring lambs were offered, and under excellent competition they were sold at the following prices: 3 at 34s, 2 at 36s. Pigs: There was a small entry of both fat and store pigs, consequently competition was specially keen, prices for fats showing an advance on previous week's values of 7s 6d to 10s per head.

At Addington last week there were larger entries in most sections. The main feature was a decided drop in fat sheep, but fat cattle were still firm. Fat lambs: 80 were penned. Prices fell 5s, and ranged from 15s to 20s. Fat sheep: The yarding was quite double that of the previous week. The sale opened fairly well, but a sharp decline in prices then occurred, the decrease being estimated at 10s to 15s per head. Extra prime wethers to 69s, prime 47s to 59s 6d, medium 40s to 45s, lighter 36s to 39s 3d, extra prime ewes 57s, prime 42s to 48s 6d, medium 37s to 40s, lighter 27s 6d to 35s 6d, hoggets 30s to 47s 6d. Fat cattle: 320 head were yarded. The sale was very uneven, opening easier, but firming to late rates. Extra prime steers £35 to £50, prime £22 to £26, ordinary £10 to £18, extra prime heifers to £39 10s, prime £16 to £21, ordinary £10 7s 6d to £15, extra prime cows to £24 10s, prime £13 10s to £19, ordinary £7 9s 6d to £13. Vealers: The inquiry was keen, and values firm. Runners £5 5s to £8 12s 6d, good vealers £3 to £4 10s, fair vealers 40s to 55s, small and inferior 5s to 37s. Pigs: There was a small entry of fat pigs and a good demand. Extra heavy baconers £9 4s to £9 19s 6d, heavy £7 10s to £8 10s, others £6 to £7 (equal to 11½d per lb), heavy porkers £4 10s to £5 4s, others £3 12s to £4 5s (equal to 1s to 1s 0½d per lb), choppers £7 13s.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co., Ltd., report:—The fortnightly sales of rabbitskins were held on Monday, October 6, with the following quotations:—Runners and suckers from 14d to 23d, light racks from 32d to 42d, summers from 20d to 26d, autumns from 72d to 95d, early winters from 110d to 130d, winter broken from 60d to 63d, autumn blacks from 54d to 66½d, prime blacks from 146d to 180d, first fawn from 93d to 104d, super does from 200d to 211d, second does from 180d to 200d, super bucks 124d to 138d, spotty bucks from 96d to 107d, milky does from 24d to 56d, spotty does from 53d to 106d, springs from 48d to 60d, hareskins from 33d to 40d, horsehair from 17d to 19½d. A small parcel of extra choice super does brought up to 224d. Bidding was erratic. Good winters sold a shade better than at the last sale.

## LINSEED IN CALF-FEEDING.

In the feeding of calves it is found that linseed (the seed of flax) meal or crushed linseed added to skim or separated milk is one of the safest and most economical substitutes for the abstracted milk fat. Linseed approaches more nearly in composition to the solids of milk than any other food, and the oil which it contains, to the extent of 34 to 38 per cent., is easily digestible. There is, however, a risk in buying any grain or seed in the form of a meal, as it is difficult to detect impurities when the material is sold in this condition, consequently those who grow their own linseed are best off. Whole milk should be fed for at least one week. During the next week the change from whole milk to skim-milk should be gradual. Substitute each day a regular proportion of skim-milk for the same amount of whole milk withdrawn. The skim-milk should be fed warm, from 90deg to 100deg Fahr. To replace the fat removed from the skim-milk, as well as to furnish

additional protein, is now the duty of the linseed, mixed with the milk in the form of a jelly. This jelly should be added in small quantities at first, and slowly increased. Begin with a dessertspoonful in each portion, and gradually increase until about a cupful is being fed night and morning to the three-month-old calf. To prepare the jelly, boil or steep 1lb of linseed in water almost boiling until a thick paste results. Another method of preparation is to take a half-cupful of crushed linseed in a quart of water, and allow it to simmer just below the boiling point until a thick jelly is formed. It should be kept cool and sweet until fed.

## MAKING CONCRETE POSTS ON THE FARM.

Concrete posts are one of the concrete products that can be successfully made on the farm. Some of the farmer's spare time during the winter months can be put to good advantage in this work. There is nothing which detracts more from the appearance of a farm than a poor fence, and there is nothing which adds more to the appearance, efficiency, and life of a fence than good, durable posts. To make concrete posts during the winter months precaution must be taken to see that the materials do not freeze before setting. A place for this work where there is no danger of freezing can be found on every farm. There are certain requirements to obtain good results in making concrete posts that every user of concrete should have well in mind:—Use new cement that is free from lumps. Use clean, coarse sand. Use gravel or broken stone that is well graded, free from soft material such as clay, organic matter, etc. Use enough cement. A rich mixture of 1 part cement, 1½ of sand, and 3 of broken stone not larger than ¾-inch, is best for posts. Mix cement and sand thoroughly while dry. Add broken stone and water and continue mixing. Concrete mixed for a period of five minutes is much better than when mixed for one minute only. Proper amount and proper placing of reinforcing is essential. Four ¾-inch iron rods are necessary. Place these near each corner of the posts.

## A VALUABLE SUBSTITUTE FOR NITROGEN.

Soot is a very valuable nitrogenous fertiliser and insecticide. It is a useful substitute for nitrogenous manure, and helps to disorganise and render soluble such vegetable matter as it may come in contact with either in the soil or the compost heap. As a plant stimulant, it is best strewn between the lines of growing crops from October onwards, preferably in showery weather, and hoed in. Should the leafage of the vegetable be young or tender, it may be wise to keep the soot exposed to air, but under shelter, for two or three weeks before use. Onions and leeks, all the cabbage tribe (including turnips), beet, and carrots respond very readily to soot dressings, and it is highly efficacious as a prevention or remedy for the many pests which attack these crops. It is equally good for cereals and grass applied in spring, and few things are better for checking the ravages of the turnip flea. Dug into the soil, or strewn along the drills when planting potatoes, beans, or peas, it is helpful as a plant food, and is disliked by wire-worm. It destroys much insect vermin when mixed into accumulations of vegetable matter, and enriches this so that it makes a valuable supplementary fertiliser. Lime, or artificials containing lime, should not be used with soot, for the former liberates its most precious ingredient—the ammonia—which then escapes in the form of gas. But I have noted some remarkable effects upon plant growth from using a mixture of one part air-slaked lime to three parts of fresh soot, this being hoed in between the rows or sown broadcast immediately before or during rain. This mixture is also dreaded by caterpillars of most kinds, and will not, as a rule, injure matured foliage.

A good liquid manure may be made by immersing a peck of soot in a weighted bag in 50 gallons of water. After soaking for a week, an occasional stirring being advantageous, it will be ready for use, and can be given to all vegetables which need stimulating. But in using this liquid fertiliser, or any other for that matter, one must not apply it while the roots are dry. After watering or heavy rain is the best time.

Soot should always be bought by measure, and not by weight, for the heaviest samples are the poorest, since they contain much brick and mortar. Really good soot should be very light and "fluffy," and the blacker it is the better the quality. Soot from factory chimneys is seldom as good as that from dwelling-houses.

—A.T.J., in the N.Z. Dairyman.

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