

Commercial

PRODUCE

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co., Ltd., report:—

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday. Our catalogue was a lengthy one, and met with strong competition from a large gathering of the local trade. A brisk sale was the result. Values ruled as under:—

Oats.—There is fair inquiry from shippers for good lines of Gartons, A and B grades. Sparrowbills of A grade are also in fair demand, but for other sorts the demand is not keen. Growers are not readily disposed to accept current values, believing that better prices will be obtainable later on in the season. For discolored or light and shelly oats there is little demand. Choice seed lots are wanted, primo long Tartarian particularly being in request. We quote: Prime milling, 1s 10d to 1s 10½d; good to best feed, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; inferior to medium, 1s 6d to 1s 8d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—The quantity on offer during the past week has not been excessive, and all lines of prime milling quality have been readily taken at late values. Prime velvet is in most favor, and we have also good demand for purple Tuscan, suitable for seed. Medium quality and fowl wheat is, if anything, somewhat quieter. We quote: Prime milling, 3s 10d to 3s 11d; choice velvet and seed lots, to 4s; medium to good, 3s 7d to 3s 9d; best whole fowl wheat, 3s 4d to 3s 6d; medium, 3s to 3s 3d; broken and damaged, 2s 3d to 2s 9d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—The market is poorly supplied, and prices, particularly for prime lots, have firmed considerably. At our sale to-day we sold a few choice lots at prices somewhat beyond quotations. Medium and unripe lines have not participated in the rise in price, and are still difficult to quit. We quote: Prime up-to-dates, £4 to £4 7s 6d; medium to good, £3 5s to £3 15s; inferior, £2 to £3 per ton (bags included).

Chaff.—During the week consignments have come to hand slowly. At our sale we submitted several samples of prime quality, all of which were taken by merchants at prices considerably in advance of last week's quotations. Medium quality is also scarce, but the demand for this class is not keen and prices remain firm. We quote: Prime oaten sheaf, £3 15s to £3 17s 6d; choice, to £4; good, £3 5s to £3 10s; inferior to medium, £2 15s to £3 2s 6d per ton (bags extra).

Straw.—We quote: Wheat, 27s 6d; oats, 30s to 32s 6d per ton (pressed).

Messrs. Dalgety and Co., Ltd., report as follows:—

We held our usual weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday, when we submitted a medium-sized catalogue to a full attendance of buyers. Competition was keen, and we cleared every lot at the following range of prices:—

Oats.—Lots offering at market rates are being taken for North Island shipment and local demand, but though they are offering more freely, farmers are not inclined to accept ruling prices, and considerable quantities are going into store. Prime milling, 1s 10d to 1s 10½d; good to best feed, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; inferior to medium, 1s 6½d to 1s 7½d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—The market shows a slightly firmer tendency, choice samples bringing a shade more than last week's quotations. Fowl wheat is plentiful, and prices show a decline. Prime milling, 3s 9½d to 3s 10½d; extra choice velvet, to 4s; best whole fowl wheat, 3s to 3s 6d; broken and damaged, 2s to 2s 9d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Prime up-to-dates, well picked and sound, are in request, and meet with ready sale. Medium quality are rather more plentiful, and bring considerably less money than the best. Many otherwise good lines are spoilt through too many small potatoes being left in, and for these shippers and many other buyers will not compete. Prime up-to-dates, £4 to £4 7s 6d; medium to good, £3 to £3 5s; inferior, £2 to £2 5s per ton (sacks included).

Chaff.—The market is bare of prime chaff, and all consignments arriving at present meet with ready sale. Medium chaff is now more inquired for, and is readily placed. Prime oaten sheaf, £3 15s to £3 17s 6d; choice old, to £4; medium to good, £3 7s 6d to £3 12s 6d; inferior, £2 to £3 per ton (bags extra).

Straw.—Oats, 25s to 27s 6d; wheat, 25s, pressed (ex truck).

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report for week ending April 12 as follows:—

Oats.—There is a good inquiry for all sorts. A Gartons and Sparrowbills are in most demand. There is a fair margin between growers' ideas of value and buyers' limits, and there is very little business passing. Quotations: Prime milling, 1s 10d to 1s 10½d; good to best feed, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; inferior to medium, 1s 6d to 1s 8d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—There has not been much offering during the week, and prices are very firm at late rates. There is a good demand for best Velvet. Fowl wheat and medium quality milling wheat is quieter. Prime milling, 3s 10d to 3s 11d; choice Velvet and seed lots, to 4s; medium to good, 3s 7d to 3s 9d; best whole fowl wheat, 3s 3d to 3s 6d; medium, to 3s 3d; broken and damaged, 2s 3d to 2s 9d per bushel (sacks extra).

Chaff.—Consignments during the week have been small, and prices have hardened considerably. There is not much demand for medium quality. Quotations: Prime oaten sheaf, £3 15s to £3 17s 6d; medium to good, £3 5s to £3 10s; inferior, £2 15s to £3 per ton (bags extra).

Potatoes.—There are very few coming forward, and prices have firmed considerably. Medium and unripe lines are difficult to place. Up-to-dates, £4 to £4 7s 6d; medium to good, £3 5s to £3 15s; inferior, £2 to £3 per ton (bags in).

Straw.—Wheat, 27s 6d; oats, 30s to 32s 6d per ton (pressed).

WOOL

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co. report as follows:—

Rabbitskins.—Our next sale will be held on Monday, 18th inst., when we hope to obtain very satisfactory prices.

Sheepskins.—On Tuesday we offered a medium catalogue to an exceptionally small attendance of buyers. Bidding was very slack except for lambskins and best pelts. All dead skins and poor quality pelts were hard to quit. There were very few halfbred skins forward, but these we sold up to as high as 9½d per lb. Quotations: Best halfbred, 9d to 9½d; medium, 8d to 8½d; best fine crossbred, 8d to 9d; coarse crossbred, 7d to 7½d; best pelts, 5d to 6½d; medium, 4d to 5d; inferior, 1d to 2d; best Merinos, to 8d; medium to good, 5½d to 6½d; lambskins, 6½d to 7½d per lb.

Hides.—Our next fortnightly sale will be held on the 14th inst.

Tallow and Fat.—There is good competition for all coming forward. Best rendered tallow in casks, 20s to 23s; medium to good, 18s to 20s; best tallow in tins, 18s to 20s; medium to good, 14s to 16s 6d; best rough fat, 16s to 18s; good, 14s to 15s 6d; inferior, 12s 6d to 13s 6d.

LIVE STOCK

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

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

For last Saturday's sale we had again a very good entry, composed principally of heavy draught geldings, including several reliable first-class geldings. The attendance of the public was not so large as it was the previous week, but most of the town carters and contractors were present, as well as a number of farmers, both from the Taieri and from a distance, in quest of good, young, reliable mares and geldings, consequently we have to report a really good sale. A nice, well-turned five-year-old heavy gelding from the south was greatly admired, and after keen competition changed hands at £45, and quite a number found new owners at prices ranging up to £40 for geldings. There is a very keen demand for all classes of horses, but more especially for young, heavy reliable mares and geldings, from four to six years old. For a nice four-year-old filly we were offered £50, but as this figure was below the vendor's idea of her value we had to pass her in. Heavy spring-carters, if young and reliable, also command very full market rates. As is usual about this time of year, light harness sorts are not so keenly inquired after; nevertheless, whatever first-class trustworthy animals are put on the market they realise their full value. We quote:—

Superior young draught geldings, at from £40 to £45; extra good ditto (prize-winners), at from £45 to £50; superior young draught mares, at from £50 to £60; medium draught mares and geldings, at from £30 to £40; aged, at from £10 to £15; strong spring-van horses, at from £25 to £30; strong spring-carters, at from £18 to £25; milk-cart and butchers' order-cart horses, at from £15 to £25; light hacks, at from £8 to £13; extra good hacks and harness horses, at from £13 to £25; weedy and aged, at from £5 to £7.

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G. ILES, Proprietor.