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Commercial

PRODUCE

WELLINGTON, July 11.

The Agricultural Department has received the following cablegram from the High Commissioner under date London, July 9:—

Mutton.—The market is very dull, with less demand and supplies increasing. Average prices to-day: Canterbury, 3½d; North Island, 3½d.

Lamb.—Market weak; stocks of lamb on hand heavy and widely distributed amongst agents, who are pushing sales. The weather lately has been unfavorable for the sale of lamb. Canterbury, 5d; other than Canterbury, 4½d.

Beef.—The market continues dull. Supplies of River Plate beef are heavy. Quotations: New Zealand hinds, 3½d; fores, 2½d.

Butter.—Market quiet and firm. Best quality New Zealand is in small supply. Prices: Choicest New Zealand butter, 109s; Danish, 115s; Australian, 102s; Siberian, 98s.

The cheese market is quiet, with moderate business doing. White, 56s 6d; colored, 54s 6d.

Hemp.—Market dull, with very little business doing. New Zealand, good fair, on spot, £24 5s; fair grade, £22 5s; fair current Manila, £21 10s; forward shipment New Zealand, good fair, £24; fair grade, £21 15s; fair current Manila, £21. The output of Manila for the week was 20,000 bales; stock New Zealand, 255 tons.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report:—

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday. Our catalogue comprised a good selection of grain and produce. Buyers competed keenly for most of the lots offered, and, with the exception of medium chaff, for which there is little demand, the catalogue was cleared at quotations. Values ruled as under:—

Oats.—Good to best feed oats have fair inquiry from shippers, but the prices offered are in most cases not acceptable to vendors. There is therefore little business to report. Stocks in local stores are light, and holders are content to await developments in the market rather than accept present rates. A moderate local business is being done at quotations. Quotations: Prime milling, 1s 11d to 1s 11½d; good to best feed, 1s 9½d to 1s 10½d; inferior to medium, 1s 8d to 1s 9d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—Prime velvet maintains its position as first favorite with millers, and choice lots are saleable at 3s 10d. The quantity offering, however, is very limited. Latest reports have to some extent revived buyers' interest in good, sound Tuscan and red wheat, and further sales have been made at 3s 5d to 3s 6d. Medium lines are saleable as fowl feed, for which there is fair inquiry, best whole fowl wheat selling at 3s 1d to 3s 3d; medium to good, 2s 9d to 3s; broken and damaged, 2s 3d to 2s 6d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—The market has been poorly supplied, and prices during the week have considerably improved. Prime quality are in most demand, and are selling readily at from £6 to £6 2s 6d per ton. Medium lots have not the same inquiry, and are worth from £5 to £5 10s; small and inferior, from £3 to £4 per ton (bags included).

Chaff.—Prime chaff, which is the only quality in demand locally, is not plentiful, and prices remain firm. Heavy consignments of medium quality have come to hand during the week, and in the absence of any demand have been unloaded into store. Straw chaff is moving off slowly at late quotations. Quotations: Good to prime, £3 15s to £3 17s 6d; choice, to £4; medium, £2 15s to £3 10s; inferior and straw, 35s to 47s 6d per ton (bags extra).

Straw.—Wheaten, 22s 6d; oaten, 32s 6d per ton. Turnips, 20s per ton (loose).

Messrs. Dalgety and Co. report:—

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday, when we offered a good catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. Competition was animated, and we cleared our catalogue at the following range of prices:—

Oats.—The market is still without any material change. Holders are very firm, and shippers only pay required prices for orders in hand. We quote: Prime milling, 1s 11d to 1s 11½d; good to best feed, 1s 9½d to 1s 10½d; inferior to medium, 1s 7½d to 1s 9d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—Rather more business is being done in wheat, holders in some cases being prepared to accept 3s 6d ex store for red wheat rather than hold longer. Velvet is in request, and prime samples bring up to 3s 10d ex store. Fowl wheat meets with more demand, and good whole is inquired for. Prime milling, 3s 5d to 3s 6d; choice velvet, to 3s 10d; best whole fowl wheat, 3s to 3s 3d; broken and damaged, 2s to 2s 6d; medium fowl wheat, 2s 7d to 2s 9d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Offerings have been light, and hardly sufficient to fill the demand, so prices show a decided advance on last week's quotations. We quote: Prime Up-to-Dates, £6 to £6 2s 6d; medium to good, £5 to £5 15s; inferior and blighted, £3 to £4 per ton (sacks in).

Chaff.—Prime quality is readily taken, but medium is not so much in request. The broken weather has no doubt increased the demand, but the market has been well supplied during the last week. Prime oaten sheaf, £3 5s to £3 17s 6d; choice, to £4; medium to good, £3 5s to £3 10s; inferior, £2 5s to £2 15s; straw chaff, £2 to £2 5s per ton (sacks extra).

Straw.—Oaten, 32s 6d to 35s; wheaten, 22s 6d pressed (ex truck).

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

Oats.—There has been fair inquiry for A grade Gartons and Sparrowbills for shipment, but as there is a fair margin between sellers' and buyers' ideas of value very little business is passing. A fair amount has been sold for local consumption. Quotations: Prime milling, 1s 11d to 1s 11½d; good to best feed, 1s 9½d to 1s 10½d; inferior to medium, 1s 8d to 1s 9d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—There is a demand for prime velvet, and this is saleable at up to 3s 10d. There is very little offering. There is a fair amount of fowl wheat about and this is readily placed at quotations. Prime milling velvet, 3s 8d to 3s 10d; Tuscan, 3s 5d to 3s 6d; best whole fowl wheat, 3s 1d to 3s 3d; medium to good, 2s 9d to 3s; broken and damaged, 2s 3d to 2s 6d per bushel (sacks extra).

Chaff.—There is not much prime oaten sheaf about and the demand is good. Prices are very firm. Medium quality and straw chaff are both hard of sale. Quotations: Good to prime oaten sheaf, £3 15s to £3 17s 6d; choice, to £4; medium, £2 15s to £3 10s; inferior straw chaff, 35s to 47s 6d per ton.

Potatoes.—Very small consignments have been coming forward and prices have improved considerably. Medium and inferior lots have not the same inquiry. Prime table potatoes are worth £6 to £6 2s 6d; medium to good, £5 to £5 10s; small and inferior, £3 to £4 per ton (bags in).

Straw.—Quotations: Wheaten, 22s 6d; oaten, 32s 6d per ton.

OAMARU MARKETS.

There was some inquiry for wheat during the week (writes the Oamaru correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times*), but it was at a price below holders' ideas, and consequently little business resulted. Millers will not accept holders' ideas of values, so that the position has resolved itself into a question as to which of the parties can hold out the longer. Sales were made of velvet at 3s 8½d ex store, less commission, while an offer of 3s 8d net at a country station did not lead to business. Odd lines of red chaff and Tuscan changed hands at 3s 2d to 3s 3d net cash.

WOOL

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

Rabbitskins.—There was a large attendance of buyers at Monday's sale, when we offered a very large catalogue. There was good competition for prime bucks and does, and indeed all sorts showed a slight improvement on the preceding week's sale. Best winter does brought from 32d to 36d; selected, to 38d; second winter does, 28d to 31½d; prime winter bucks, 20d to 22d; second winters, 18d to 19d; incoming and early winters, 17½d to 19½d; autumns, 16½d to 17½d; racks, 10½d to 12d; inferior and hawk torn, 7½d to 14d; horse hair, 18d to 19d.

Sheepskins.—We held our weekly sale to-day, when we offered a very large catalogue. Bidding was not very brisk, but prices showed little change. Best halfbred, 8½d to 9½d; medium, 7½d to 8d; best fine crossbred, 7½d to 7¾d; coarse crossbred, 6½d to 7½d; best pelts, 5d to 5½d; medium to good, 3d to 4½d; inferior, 1d to 2d; best merino, 7d to 8½d; medium to good, 5½d to 6½d; dead merino, 6½d to 7½d; best lambskins, 5½d to 7½d.

Hides.—We held our fortnightly sale of hides on Thursday, 7th inst., when we submitted a catalogue of 223. There was a small attendance of buyers, and competition was not keen, prices all round showing a slight decline. Light weight ox and cow hides were eagerly competed for, and these brought up to 6½d. Calfskins again sold well, although at a slight reduction on the preceding sale's rates. Quotations: Prime stout heavy ox hides, 7½d to 7¾d; good heavy ditto, 6½d to 6¾d; medium weight, 6d to 6½d; light weight, 6½d to 6¾d; inferior, 3d to 4½d; best heavy cow hides, 6d to 6½d; medium weight ditto, 6d to 6½d; light weight ditto, 6d to 6½d; inferior ditto, 3d to 4½d; yearlings, 2½d to 6½d; calfskins, 5d to 9d.

Tallow and Fat.—There is still very good competition, and prices rule as follow:—Best rendered tallow in casks,