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Commercial

PRODUCE

Wellington, February 20.—The High Commissioner cabled from London on the 18th inst:—

Mutton.—Trade in all classes of mutton has been very slow, and prices barely maintained. Stocks are moderate, a large proportion being heavy-weights, which are difficult to sell. Quotations: North Island, 3½d.

Lamb.—Market dull; very little business doing, the supply exceeding the demand. No change in prices. Quotations show a weaker tendency.

Beef.—Market quiet. The stock of frozen meat is small. Supplies of American chilled beef are small. Quotations (nominally): New Zealand hinds, 3½d; fores, 3½d; chilled, about the same.

Butter.—Market steady, with a moderate inquiry; a large supply on hand. Superior grades are in demand. A few complaints are made of fishiness in New Zealand butter. Choicest New Zealand butter, 105s; Australian, 101s; Danish, 123s.

Cheese.—Market quiet. Firm white, 56s 6d; colored, 59s 6d.

Hemp.—Market quiet. The output from Manila for the week was 26,000 bales.

Wool.—Market firm, with a hardening tendency. Bradford quotations: 36's, low crossbred, 1s 1d; 40's, low crossbred, 1s 1½d; 44's, medium crossbred, 1s 2½d; 50's, halfbred, 1s 6½d; 56's, quarterbreeds, 1s 9d; 60's, merino, 2s 1½d.

The kauri gum market is firm, with a large demand for better grades. Ordinary to fair three-quarter scraped, £8 5s; fair half-scraped, £5; brown, fair to half to three-quarter scraped, £4 5s; brown pickings, common to good, £2 2s 6d; bush, fair to good pale and amber, scraped, £8 2s 6d.

Cocksfoot.—Market quiet. Firm, bright, and clean New Zealand seed, weighing 17lb per bushel, 73s per cwt.

Messrs. Dalgety and Co. report as follows:—

We held our usual weekly auction sale of grain and produce on Monday, when we offered a small catalogue to a good attendance of buyers. Bidding was fair, and we sold the bulk of our catalogue as under:—

Oats.—There is very little business passing. Old stocks of oats are now practically sold, and one or two consignments of new oats are to hand. There is a fair demand for shipping, but at the prices vendors are not prepared to sell, preferring to quit any lines in small lots for local consumption. We quote: Prime milling, 2s 2½d to 2s 3d; good to best feed, 2s 1d to 2s 2d; inferior to medium, 2s to 2s 1d per bushel (bags extra).

Wheat.—Owing to the depressed state of the market in London, prices have gradually receded, and at the present time millers are only buying from hand to month. Fowl feed is fairly scarce, and milling is being used in its place. We quote: Prime velvet, 3s 2½d to 3s 3d; whole fowl feed, 3s 1d to 3s 3d; broken feed, 2s 9d to 3s per bushel (bags extra).

Potatoes.—Consignments have been very heavy this week, and the market has suffered in consequence. Best table sorts, £3 15s to £4; medium, 3s 5d to 3s 10s.

Chaff.—There is very little prime old chaff coming forward, but any to hand is readily sold. Medium chaff is still in over-supply, and is very hard to quit. Prime old oaten sheaf, £4 7s 6d to £4 10s; good, £3 15s to £4 5s; inferior and medium, £3 to £3 10s per ton (bags extra).

New chaff is coming forward more freely, and the very best is bringing £3 15s to £3 17s 6d per ton.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report as follows:—

Oats.—So far only a few consignments of new oats have come forward. Stocks of old oats are almost exhausted, and the new arrivals are readily taken for local use at prices that must be considered satisfactory, and are somewhat above shippers' limits. We quote: Prime milling, 2s 2d to 2s 3d; good to best feed, 2s 1d to 2s 2d; inferior to medium, 1s 10d to 2s per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—Threshing is now in full swing in the Taieri district, and in most cases the wheat coming forward is in excellent condition. In some parts of the districts the crops have suffered from unseasonable frost while in bloom,

and as the result the grain is pinched and immature, many lots being unfit for milling. Millers are operating freely for prime quality, and sales have been so actively pushed during the past week that the bulk of the prime wheat on offer has now been placed. In most cases sales have been made at 3s 2d on trucks at country stations for Tuscan, velvet ear, and red wheat. Velvet has been sold at 3s 4d, but in view of lower quotations from Canterbury the price is now considered above the mark. There is fair local demand for good whole fowl wheat at 3s to 3s 3d, but broken and damaged lines are not greatly in favor at 2s 3d to 2s 10d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—During the latter part of the week heavy consignments have come to hand, and prices have in consequence eased. As yet there is little inquiry from shippers, and the local demand is scarcely sufficient to absorb supplies. Medium and unripe sample are still difficult to quit at quotations. We quote: Prime up-to-dates, £3 17s 6d to £4 2s 6d; medium to good, £3 10s to £3 15s; inferior and unripe, £2 15s to £3 7s 6d per ton (sacks included).

Chaff.—Prime old chaff is now in short supply, and any offering is readily taken at up to £4 10s per ton. Medium and discolored lots have not the same attention, and are more difficult to quit at from £3 15s to £4 5s per ton. New chaff is offering freely, the bulk of which is in prime condition, and sells at from £3 15s to £4 per ton. Medium samples, £3 7s 6d to £3 12s 6d per ton (sacks extra).

Straw.—Wheat, 27s 6d to 30s; oaten, 35s to 40s per ton (pressed).

Messrs. Stronach, Morris and Co., Ltd., report for week ending February 21, as follows:—

Oats.—There are very few new oats coming to hand, and old lines are out of stock. Prices rule much about the same. Quotations: Prime milling, 2s 2d to 2s 3d; good to best feed, 2s 1d to 2s 2d; inferior, 1s 10d to 2s per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—There is very little business being done, as millers are not inclined to buy heavily owing to the unsettled state of the market. There is a good demand for fowl wheat. Quotations: Prime velvet, 3s 2d to 3s 3d; whole fowl wheat, 3s 1d to 3s 2d; broken and damaged, 2s 10d to 3s per bushel (sacks extra).

Chaff.—There is not much old chaff offering, and prices have risen again slightly. New chaff is offering freely. Medium and inferior is hard to place. Prime old chaff, £4 to £4 10s; new, £3 15s to £4; medium to good, £3 7s 6d to £3 10s; inferior, £2 10s to £3 10s.

Potatoes.—Heavy consignments have come to hand during the week, and prices have dropped. Medium and inferior lots are hard of sale. Prime Up-to-dates, £3 17s 6d to £4 2s 6d; medium to good, £3 10s to £3 15s; inferior, £2 15s to £3 7s 6d per ton (sacks in).

WOOL

Mr. M. T. Kennelly, 217 Crawford street, Dunedin, reports as follows:—

Rabbitskins.—Winter does, to 20d per lb; winter bucks, 16d to 18d; incoming autumns, 14d to 17d; racks, 8d to 10d. Horsehair, 16d to 19d; catskins, 4d to 6d each. Advices from London report a decline of 2d on all grades.

Sheepskins.—Halfbred, 6d to 8d per lb; fine crossbred, 5½d to 7d; coarse do., 5d to 6½d; pelts, 3d to 5s.

Hides.—Sound ox, 6d to 8d; do. cow, 5d to 6½d; damaged ox and cow, 3d to 4½d; calfskins and yearlings (sound), 6½d to 9d. Horsehides, 8s to 14s each.

Tallow.—Best in casks, to 26s per cwt; do., 24s; mixed, 18s to 20s; rough fat, 16s to 20s.

Prompt returns. No commission.

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

Rabbitskins.—We held our rabbitskin sale yesterday, when we offered an exceptionally large catalogue. There was a good attendance of buyers, but bidding was not so keen as at last sale, prices showing a slight decline. Quotations: Winter does, 16d to 18d; medium, 15d to 16d; inferior, 13d to 14½d; winter bucks, 14d to 15d; spring bucks, 11½d to 13d; does, 8½d to 10½d; summers, 7d to 8d; small, 3d to 4½d; horse hair, 17d to 19d.

Sheepskins.—We offered an exceptionally large catalogue at to-day's sale, the attendance of buyers being larger than has ruled since the beginning of November. Prices, however, were easier owing to the drop in the London market. Quotations: Best halfbred, 6½d to 7½d; medium to good, 5d to 6d; inferior, 4d to 5d; best fine crossbred, 6½d to 7d; coarse crossbred, 5½d to 6½d; medium to good, 5d to 5½d; inferior, 3d to 4d; best pelts, 3d to 5d; medium to good, 2d to 3d.

Hides.—We held our fortnightly sale on Thursday, 16th inst., when we offered a medium catalogue. Bidding was not so keen as at last sale, and prices showed an easier tendency all round. Calfskins were also slightly easier. Quotations: Prime stout heavy ox hides, 7d to 7½d; good heavy, 6½d to 7½d; medium weight, 6½d to 6½d; inferior, 4½d to 5½d; best heavy cow hides, 6d to 6½d; good heavy do., 5½d to 6½d; light, 6d to 6½d; inferior, 3½d to 5d; yearlings, 6d to 6½d; bull and stag hides, 4½d to 4½d; shopy, 2d to 3½d; calfskins, 6½d to 8½d per lb.

Tallow and Fat.—There is a good demand for any consignments coming forward, prices ruling much about the same.