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Commercial

PRODUCE

Wellington, December 4.—The High Commissioner cabled under date London, December 2 (quotations, unless otherwise specified, are average market prices on the spot) : -

Mutton.-Stocks of mutton on hand are light, and firmly held in a few hands, but are dull of sale in all qualities, the quantity going into consumption at present being Quotations: Canterbury, 43d per lb; North verv small. Island, 41d.

Lamb.—A better tone in the market this week. demand is limited, but stocks are small, and supplies of Canterbury are nearly exhausted. Canterbury, 51d; other than Canterbury, 44d.

Beef.-Market quiet and firm at an advance. Zealand hinds, 4%d; New Zealand fores, 2%d.

Pork.—Market weak and inactive; price, 41d.

Butter .- Market firm; buyers are more reserved, on account of high prices. The value to-day is, for all descriptions, at about quotations already given, namely-New Zealand, 132s per cwt; Australian, 129s; Danish, 137s; Siberian, 125s; Argentine, 130s. The shipment of butter ex Rotorua arrived in good condition.

Cheese.-Market quiet, but firm. The shipment of cheese ex Rotorua arrived in good condition. Average price for the week for finest New Zealand cheese per cwt, 68s to 69s; Canadian, 70s.

Messrs, Donald Reid and Co. report:

We held our auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday, when values ruled as under:

Oats.—There is steady demand for prime lines for shipment, and all coming forward are readily placed at late quotations. Medium qualities are also saleable in the local market, but are not so keenly competed for. Prime milling, 3s 1d to 3s 11d; good to best feed, 2s 114d to 3s 01d; inferior to medium, 2s 9d to 2s 11d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—The market for milling sorts is quieter, as millers are not anxious to increase stocks. wheat is in fair demand at late values. Prime milling velvet, 3s 101d to 3s 11d; Tuscan, etc., 3s 91d to 3s 10d; best whole fowl wheat, 3s 8d to 3s 9d; medium, 3s 4d to 3s 7d; broken and damaged, 3s 3d to 3s 10d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—The demand is at zero, and it is difficult to place best sorts at 20s per ton, sacks included. Inferior sorts are unsaleable.

Chaff.—Prime oaten sheaf is in fair demand, partly for export but chiefly for local use. Medium and inferior samples are not in favor. Best oaten sheaf, £4 5s to £4 7s 6d; medium to good, £3 15s to £4 2s 6d; light and discolored, £3 5s to £3 10s per ton (bags extra).

Messrs. Dalgety and Co. report as follows:-

We held our auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday, when we offered a large catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. The demand for chaff The following are quotaand potatoes was very quiet.

Oats.—There has been slightly more oats on offer lately, but they have all met a fair demand. Any small lines are readily placed to the local trade. Prime milling, 3s 1d to 3s 1d; good to best feed, 3s to 3s 1d, medium, 2s 10d to 2s 11d; inferior, 2s 8d to 2s9d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—The market remains in the same quiet state. There is practically nothing offering, and the millers are not operating. Quotations, therefore, are nominal. Best velvet, 3s 10d to 3s 11d; best Tuscan and velvet ear, 3s 9d to 3s 9½d; medium, 3s 8d to 3s 9d; best whole fowl feed, 3s 7d to 3s 8d; broken and damaged, 3s 3d to 3s 6d per bushel (bags extra).

Potatoes.—Supplies are much in excess of the demand, and at to-day's sales fairly large quantities were offered. There was practically no demand, and the bulk of the offerings were passed in owing to lack of competition. table sorts, 15s to £1; medium and inferior, 10s to 15s per ton (bags in).

Chaff.—The shipping demand has eased slightly. Prime quality only is inquired for, medium and inferior being without demand. Prime oaten sheaf, £4 5s to £4 7s 6d; good, £4 to £4 2s 6d; medium, £3 5s to £3 15s; inferior, £2 10s to £3 per ton (bags in).

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report for week ended December 5, as follows:

Oats.—A good many lines have been offering lately, and as shippers find sales very hard to effect, prices are inclined to come back. Quotations: Prime milling, 3s to 3s 1d; good to best feed, 2s 11d to 3s; inferior to medium, 2s 9d to 2s 11d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—The market is exceedingly quiet, millers not being buyers. There is a good demand for whole fowl wheat. Prime milling velvet, 3s 10½ d to 3s 11d; red wheats, 3s 91d to 3s 10d; best whole fowl wheat, 3s 8d to 3s 9d; medium, 3s 4d to 3s 7d; broken and damaged, 2s 10d to 3s 3d per bushel (sacks extra). Chaff.—There is a fair demand for prime oaten

sheaf, but shippers are not taking very much, the chief demand being for local use. Medium and inferior lots are very hard of sale. Quotations: Prime oaten sheaf, £4 5s to £4 7s 6d; medium to good, £3 15s to £4 2s 6d; light and inferior, £3 5s to £3 10s per ton (bags extra).

Potatoes .- There is no demand, and it is difficult to place even the very best sorts at £1 per ton (sacks in). Inferior sorts are quite unsaleable.

WOOL

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

Rabbitskins .- Prime winter does, 17d to 18d; second does, to 16½d; prime bucks, to 16d; incoming and early winter, 14d to 15d; autumn, 12d to 13d; racks, 7½d to 9d. Horsenair, 16d to 19d; catskins, 4d to 6d each.

Sheepskins.—Halfbred, 6d to 8d per lb; fine crossbred, $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 7d; coarse do., 5d to $6\frac{1}{2}$ d; pelts, 3d to 5d.

Hides.—Sound ox, 6d to 8d; do. cow, 5d to 6½d; damaged ox and cow, 3d to 4½d; calfskins and year-

lings (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.—Our next rabbitskin sale will be held on the 11th inst.

Sheepskins.-Our next sheepskin sale will be held on the 12th inst.

Hides.—The next hide sales will be held on the 7th and 8th inst.

Tallow and Fat.—Competition has been very keen for all lines coming forward, and prices rule as follows: Prime mutton tallow, 23s 6d to 25s per cwt; medium, 20s to 22s 6d; inferior, 17s 6d to 20s; best rough fat, 20s to 22s; medium, 17s 6d to 19s 6d; inferior, 10s to 16s.

A Palmerston resident has put up something of a record in the way of growing potatoes. During the past five years he has succeeded in growing two crops each year. This season he commenced todig his first crop on the first day of the show, and immediately planted the second crop in place of the tubers unearthed. Crop No. 2 is already showing above the ground, and he anticipates being able to dig it about Christmas time.