

On the Land

MARKET REPORTS.

At Burnside last week the yarding of fat cattle consisted of 320 head, a fair proportion being prime heavy bullocks, with a few pens of good quality cows and heifers. The sale opened on a par with the previous market, prices being maintained throughout. Prime heavy bullocks made £17 12s 6d to £19 15s, prime £12 15s to £16, medium from £9, prime heavy cows and heifers £9 15s to £12, prime £6 12s 6d to £8 17s 6d, others from £4 10s. Fat Sheep.—2215 sheep came forward for the market, a large proportion being ewes of fair to medium quality. Prime wethers sold keenly at the preceding week's rates, but other classes were easier by 1s 6d to 2s per head. Prime heavy wethers made 50s to 54s 9d, prime 42s 6d to 48s, others from 35s 6d. Prime heavy ewes made 34s 9d to 37s 6d, prime 29s to 33s 3d, others from 24s. Fat Lambs.—About 900 lambs were yarded, a fair number being only stores. For prime lambs prices were well up to the previous week's rates, but unfinished sorts showed a decline of 1s 6d to 2s per head.

At Addington last week the entries were much larger in all the main classes of stock. Both store and fat sheep sold at practically the previous week's rates, but fat cattle were lower in price. Fat Lambs.—There were 2000 yarded. Prime sorts were fully up to schedule rates, but lighter sorts were easier. Extra prime made 43s to 46s, prime 37s to 41s, medium 33s 6d to 36s 6d, light 30s to 33s, store 26s to 29s 1d. Fat Sheep.—An exceptionally heavy yarding, mostly of good quality, met with a sale which, though irregular, was up to the preceding week's good rates. Butchers were buying more freely than usual. Extra prime wethers made 49s 10d, prime 43s to 46s, medium 38s 6d to 42s 6d, light 33s 6d to 38s, extra prime ewes 42s 10d, prime 37s to 40s, medium 34s to 36s 6d, light 28s 6d to 33s, aged 22s 6d to 28s. Fat Cattle.—There was a heavy entry of 660 head, including good lines of back-station steers. The previous week's advance of 25s per head for steers was lost, but considering the size of the yarding, the sale was a good one. Prime beef made from 33s to 37s, medium 29s to 32s 6d, and light brought from 17s 6d to 27s 6d. Extra prime steers made £17 12s 6d, prime £13 5s to £15 10s, medium £10 15s to £13, light £8 10s to £10 10s, rough £6 10s to £8 5s, extra prime heifers £13 12s 6d, prime £8 to £10, medium £4 10s to £7 15s, extra prime cows £12 17s 6d, prime £7 to £9 10s, medium £5, light £3 10s to £4 15s. Vealers.—There was a dragging sale. Runners made to £7 5s, good vealers to £5, medium £3 to £3 10s, calves 10s to 55s. Fat Pigs.—A large entry met with a fair demand. Choppers made £3 to £7 15s, baconers £3 15s to £5 15s, the average price per lb being 6½d to 7½d. Porkers made £2 4s to £3 10s, the average price per lb being 7d to 8½d.

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BLACKBERRY PEST: EXPERIMENTS AT WAIROA.

Prior to his return to Wellington, Dr. C. J. Reakes (Director-General of Agriculture) made some interesting statements regarding the blackberry eradication work which is being carried out in the district, more especially around Wairoa (states a special message to the *Christchurch Press*).

Dr. Reakes said that in addition to the extensive laboratory tests which were being undertaken by the Department, they had now secured a forty-acre experimental plot in the Wairoa district. The position with regard to blackberry in the Wairoa district had been gone into during his present visit. A great deal of control work had been done by settlers and by Natives, and it was gratifying to note that so good a response had been made to the efforts of the local officers of the Department in their endeavors to get control work, in the shape of cutting, burning, etc., carried out.

Conditions were much better than was the case two or three years ago, though of course the pest was still there, and the improvement was largely in the matter of control rather than complete eradication. One hopeful factor, however, lay in the fact that complete eradication had been effected in some cases where the plough had been used. The hilly, unploughable areas presented the main problem. On some of these parts goats had been tried, and were doing good work, especially when following on a recent cutting of the blackberry. By their continual nibbling of the young shoots the goats weakened the plants, and a gradual regeneration of the pasture in the opened-up spaces between the blackberry occurred. This space would in the ordinary course have been covered by growing blackberry.

Some useful experimental work has already been done in the Wairoa district in the form of testing out special spraying mixtures, and in addition to these elaborate experiments had been in progress for some time past. These largely aimed at determining what preparations would be the most effective while yet involving only a reasonable cost in purchase and application. An area of 40 acres, much of it hilly and unploughable, had been secured for special field experiments based upon the results of the laboratory work. Operations there would be commenced as soon as possible after some necessary fencing had been completed.

In addition to this more or less local aspect of the matter, the Department through its scientific officers, was probing all possible avenues of knowledge in other countries with the object of gaining information which would be of assistance in elaborating better and more effective methods of eradication, whether by chemical methods or by the use of safe pests or blights. While the difficulties involved in clearing unploughable land by these methods were fully appreciated, the existence of these difficulties was in no way acting as a deterrent to continual efforts on the part of the Department.

The Commissioner of Taxes draws attention of taxpayers to the notification appearing in to-day's issue that Returns of Income must be furnished not later than the 1st June. Forms of return may be obtained at any postal money-order office; they will not be sent to taxpayers from the office of the Commissioner of Taxes unless written application is made for them. Inquiries on any matter connected with the furnishing of returns may be made locally at the office of the Assistant Commissioner of Stamp Duties.

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ENTRIES CLOSE SATURDAY, MAY 16th.
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