

On the Land

MARKET REPORTS.

At Burnside last week there was a yarding of 340 head of fat cattle. There were several pens of prime heavy cattle forward, but the bulk of the entry was made up of medium steers and cows. Prices opened about 20s below the previous week's rates, and as the sale progressed there was a further easing tendency, but towards the end of the sale prices again firmed and closed at equal to opening rates. Heavy-weight bullocks made £15 to £17 2s 6d, medium weights £13 17s 6d to £15, light bullocks £10 15s to £13, prime heifers £8 7s 6d to £10 10s, cows £7 7s 6d to £11 15s. Fat Sheep.—A large yarding was forward, 2978 being penned. The bulk of the entry comprised ewes and medium-weight wethers, very few pens of heavy sheep being forward. Prices for wethers opened about 2s below the preceding week's rates, but heavy ewes suffered a further decline, and may be quoted about 3s below late rates. All exporters were operating for light-weight ewes, and this class did not suffer to the same extent as the heavier ewes, and the depreciation in this class was probably about 1s 6d per head below the previous week's prices. Extra heavy prime wethers made 52s 6d to 55s 6d, prime heavy wethers 43s to 44s 9d, lighter wethers 35s 6d to 38s, extra prime heavy ewes made up to 40s, prime heavy ewes 28s 6d to 34s, lighter ewes 27s to 29s 6d, inferior 17s 6d to 20s. Fat Lambs.—A medium entry: 1041 were penned. The quality was medium to very fair, some nice penningings being included, though there was also a number of unfinished sorts. The demand for the best qualities was much on a par with that of the preceding week. Prime lambs made 31s 3d to 38s 6d, lighter lambs 29s to 30s 6d, unfinished lambs 23s to 24s 6d. Pigs.—There were 218 fats. The previous week's rise of some shillings was countered by a drop of 5s to 6s.

At Addington last week there were smaller yardings of fat lambs, sheep, and cattle than on the preceding week, but all other classes were well represented. Fat Lambs.—There was a small entry of 1630 compared with 2000 on the previous week. The quality was fair, and prices were well up to schedule rates; in some cases over. The price per pound was up to 12d extra. Prime lambs made 43s to 46s, extra special heavy lambs 50s, prime lambs 37s to 41s, medium 33s 6d to 36s 6d, light 30s to 33s, store 26s to 29s. Fat Sheep.—Ten races were penned, a good proportion of which was poor stuff. Too many ewes were present, and not enough wethers. There was also too great a proportion of rough sheep. Extra prime wethers made 52s 7d, prime 42s 6d to 46s 6d, medium 38s 6d to 41s 9d, light 33s to 37s 3d, extra prime ewes 44s, prime 35s 6d to 38s, medium 32s to 34s 9d, light 27s to 31s 6d, aged 21s 9d to 25s 8d. Fat Cattle.—There were 502 head forward compared with 650 on the preceding week. The proportion of good cattle was not heavy. Bidding at the commencement of the sale was moderately brisk, and throughout was decidedly brighter, with an advance of practically 2s a 100lb for good

class animals. Extra prime beef made to 39s, prime from 35s to 37s, medium 32s to 34s, light 27s 6d to 31s, rough 20s upwards. Prime steers made £14 to £15 12s 6d, medium £11 10s to £13 15s, light £8 10s to £11 5s, rough £6 15s to £8, medium £5 to £8, extra prime cows £12 7s 6d, prime £7 15s to £11, medium £5 10s to £7 7s 6d, light £4 to £5 5s, aged inferior £3 to £3 17s 6d. Vealers.—A large entry was forward, runners making £6 10s, good vealers £5, medium £3 to £3 10s, good calves £2 to £2 15s, small 10s to 25s. Fat Pigs.—A large entry forward met prices all round easier than late rates. Choppers made £2 15s to £5 17s, light baconers £3 10s to £4, heavy £4 5s to £4 15s, extra heavy £5 5s. The average price per lb was 6½d to 7½d. Light porkers made 44s to 50s, heavy 55s to 63s, extra heavy 67s 6d. Average price per lb was 6d to 8d.

MANURING LIGHT SOILS.

The great need of light soils is for organic matter, and farmyard manure therefore stands easily first among the manurial requirement for this type of land. Of the artificial manures, potassic and nitrogenous fertilisers can be usually relied upon to give good results. Kainit and 20 per cent. potash salts are useful sources of potash for mangels, peas, and clovers, three crops that respond well to this type of fertiliser; while the muriate or sulphate is better suited to potatoes, the sulphate being preferable where high quality is desired.

Of the nitrogenous manures, nitrate of lime is very useful on gilht soils deficient in lime, as many of them are; nitrate of soda, as is well known, is equally rapid in action. Sulphate of ammonia is less useful on these soils in the absence of lime, as it may then injure some of the crops, especially clover sown in the barley. If, however, lime is added during the rotation, or if the land is well chalked, this difficulty disappears.

WET SEASON PRODUCES ACID SOILS.

One effect of continued wet weather will be to increase soil acidity on soils where there is a tendency to that drawback. This condition, unless steps are taken to counteract it, is very liable to produce poor crop results, although in other respects the farmer could expect good results.

With arable crops, soil acidity is the cause of feeble root development, yellowish leaves, and the plants never thrive; with turnips it gives rise to "finger and toe," and with pastures and meadows hinders the growth of sweet herbage. Some crops, lucerne for instance, absolutely refuse to grow in acid soils.

The well-known corrective is lime in one form or another. It neutralises sourness and prevents the formation of poisonous compounds in the soil. It checks the development of fungoid diseases, and promotes natural healthy growth. Basic slag contains some lime, but unless the quantity applied is much larger than usual, it will not supply sufficient to obviate the need of a dressing of lime.

NOURISHMENT OF CROPS.

The necessity of furnishing the soil in which a crop is grown with the essential ingredients of fertility in adequate quantity being admitted, the problem follows what quantities and what kinds should be applied. This depends in a measure on the character of the soil, kind of crop, previous crop, and the available supply of farmyard manure.

One point has been conclusively proved: once or twice in the course of a rotation, a dressing, if only a moderate dressing, of farmyard manure, should be applied and supplemented by applications of suitable fertilisers.

That is a system which has been demonstrated to produce the most profitable results, and as a general rule, except, of course, for top-dressing, it is wise to apply fertilisers containing the three chief constituents of fertility, nitrogen, phosphates, and potash.

CTAGO A. & P. SOCIETY

Annual Winter Show

AND Exhibition

of

Cheese, Butter, Hams, Bacon, Home Industries, Fruit, Grain, Seeds, Roots, Farm Exhibits, Fat Stock, Wool and New Zealand Manufactures; Woolclassing, School and Judging Competitions; Soldiers' classes, etc.
June 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1925

ENTRIES CLOSE SATURDAY, MAY 16th.

(unless otherwise specified).

E. F. DUTHIE, Secretary. P.O. Box 84.
83 CRAWFORD STREET, DUNEDIN

Rev. Fr. Westropp's Indian Mission

"OUR LADY OF VICTORY MISSION,"
REV. FR. WESTROPP, P.O., VICTORIA,
VIA SUGAULI.

DR: CHAMPARUN (INDIA).

A few Ponderous Points to Ponder on.
Owing to the fact that we have had to start a new Mission right from the ground up, Our Lady of Victory Mission has been thrown into the huge debt of over £1000.

Can YOU help us to remove this nightmare from our pillow? Donations, unused and used postage stamps, etc., are always acceptable.

Training means schools, chapels, catechists—it also means money. Will you help us? It is the second largest Mission in India and densely populated.

The population is over 25,000,000, of which 99.98 per cent. are pagan or at least non-Catholic, and only one priest and one Sister, with very scanty means.

Our Lady of Victory Mission embraces a territory of 126,000 square miles.

Please send to Bert Gallien, N.E. Valley, Dunedin, N.Z. Director.

Wallpapers

At Prices that make the Buying Easy, from Freight paid on all Goods. Write for Samples

Alexander Clarke Co. 8 FITZHERBERT ST., PALMERSTON NORTH.