

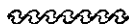
# On the Land

## MARKET REPORTS.

At Burnside last week 355 head of fat cattle were yarded. For the show market the quality was extremely disappointing, and only a small proportion of the entry was really prime cattle. The latter met with good competition from start to finish of the sale. Medium cattle met a market on a par with the previous week's sale, but unfinished and green cattle showed a decided easing in price. Extra prime heavy-weight bullocks made from £18 to £19 2s 6d, prime £15 10s to £17 10s, medium £13 10s to £15, light and unfinished £8 10s to £12 10s, prime heavy heifers £9 10s to £14, medium prime £7 10s to £9, cows (prime) to £11 10s, light and unfinished £4 to £7. Fat Sheep.—3686 were penned. The yarding consisted of some very fine show heavyweight wethers, which, however, sold reasonably enough. Medium sheep were well represented, and these met with an erratic market, which opened on a par with the preceding week's rates and eased to the extent of 2s before the finish. Light-weight sheep were eagerly sought by the exporters, and those that were well finished met with keen competition. The sale for ewes was very erratic, and while well-finished light-weights went to the freezing, heavy ewes see-sawed throughout at up to 3s below the previous week's rates. For the Winter Show double market the display in the pens was good, but, as has been the case in late markets, a preponderance of ewes was forward. Extra prime show heavy wethers made 75s to 83s, extra heavies 54s to 80s, prime 43s 6d to 45s 9d, lighter 35s to 35s 9d, maiden ewes to 49s, extra heavy 49s to 45s 6d, prime 31s 6d to 38s, lighter 23s to 28s 6d. Fat Lambs. 887 were penned, a fair entry of mixed quality, with a few pens of extra choice show lambs. Competition for prime lambs was well up to schedule rates for freezing, but unfinished and thin sorts were neglected. Extra choice show lambs brought from 60s to 74s 9d, prime from 36s 6d to 40s, unfinished 31s to 34s, stores 20s to 27s. Fat Pigs.—147 were penned, an average yarding. At the start of the auction prices were up from 5s to 7s 6d per head, but towards the end of the market eased to a par of the preceding week's rates.

At the Addington market the entries were smaller last week and a good sale eventuated for all classes of fat stock and store sheep. Fat Lambs.—A small yarding and a good sale at schedule rates, viz., up to 11½d for first quality 36s. Extra prime lambs made to 46s 1d, prime 36s 6d to 40s 1d, medium 33s to 36s, light 26s to 32s 6d. Fat Cattle.—An entry of 540 head, and an improvement on the previous week's values of from 20s to 25s per head. Best beef made from 36s to 40s per 100lb, prime steers £14 10s to £17 17s 6d, medium £12 5s to £14 5s, light £9 5s to £12 0s 6d, rough £7 to £9, prime heifers £9 to £12 2s 6d, ordinary £5 10s to £8 10s, extra prime cows £11, prime £8 5s to £9 17s 6d, medium £5 15s to £8, light £4 10s to £5 10s, aged £3 to £4 17s 6d. Fat Sheep.—Included in the fat sheep entry was an exceptionally good draft from Nelson, which topped the market, and lines from

South Canterbury. The market for wethers was firm at the preceding week's rates, but ewes were easier. Extra prime wethers 49s 6d to 52s 10d, prime 42s to 46s, medium 38s to 41s, light 32s 6d to 37s 6d, extra prime ewes 42s 9d, prime 34s 6d to 37s 6d, medium 31s to 34s, light 36s to 30s 6d, aged 21s 6d to 25s 6d. Vealers.—Vealers and runners to £6 10s, vealers £3 to £5 5s, calves 10s to 55s. Good vealers sold well. Fat Pigs.—Baconers sold well but porkers were easier. Choppers £3 to £7 3s 6d, light baconers £3 15s to £4 5s, heavy £4 10s to £5 16s 6d (average price per lb 6½d to 7½d); porkers 47s to 67s 6d (average price per lb 7d to 8d).



## ANALYSIS OF SOILS: SOME ADVANTAGES.

The greatest advantage of having an analysis of the soil made is in the saving of money and labor spent on buying and applying constituents which are unnecessary or are already present in sufficient quantity (says an exchange). An analysis will show whether the elements of fertility present in the soil are in an available state or whether it is necessary to give the plants extra help until they have become established. To be of real help an analysis should show the percentage which are probably available for plant food in the near future. A grower does not require to know how much unavailable wealth he has in his soil. For instance, it is well known that potash may be present in large quantities, and yet the plants may show signs of potash starvation; the same remark applies to phosphoric acid. It has been established that the roots of plants exude acid which, acting on the elements of fertility in the soil, renders them soluble and fit for plant food. In making an analysis the total potash or phosphoric acid is first ascertained then these results are acted upon by an acid, and so much as remains insoluble is considered to be combined or tied up and not immediately available to the plants. The percentages that are soluble in these tests are those that are probably available for plant food in the near future. Every chemist is not capable of making a soil analysis, and more especially a soil analysis for a market grower. Only those who are specialists at this kind of work are qualified, since soil analysis is becoming each year more and more recognised as a necessary part of the season's routine.



## GARDENING NOTES

### WORK FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE.

The Vegetable Garden.—All vacant ground in the garden should now be dug, leaving the surface loose and rough to give free access to the winter rains and frost. While doing this work use up all available stable manure and other fertilising agencies such as the accumulated cleanings of the garden, fallen leaves, etc. Failing a supply of manure give a good sprinkling of coarse bone meal. Close attention to the ground and keeping it free from weeds mean success

in vegetable cultivation. Early peas may be sown now in a sheltered and sunny spot; also broad beans. Plant out lettuce for early spring use. Cover up clumps of rhubarb with boxes or barrels and stable manure over all to exclude rain and air, and thus ensure a supply of tenderly blanched stalks; seakale requires to be treated similarly. Clear away dead growth from asparagus, and treat the beds as directed last month.

The Flower Garden.—June should be a busy month in the flower garden. Cut and clean away all old growth, or it may be dug in to enrich the soil. The pruning of roses and shrubs requires to be completed so as to allow of the digging and general tidying up of the garden to be done without further delay. As the digging proceeds lift, separate, and replant dahlias, as well as clumps of other herbaceous plants such as Michaelmas daisies, delphinium, and other border stuff. Cuttings of shrubs and roses may now be planted, and also shrubs and trees. Roll and top-dress lawns, and sow down bare patches. It is preferable to use weed-killer on paths and drives than hoeing during rainy or frosty weather.

The Fruit Garden.—After the picking and storing of late fruit proceed with the pruning and spraying. Early application to the nursery is desirable to secure the best stock for planting. Prepare for new trees by digging fairly deep holes and leaving them exposed for a time to the weather; the trees may be heeled in meanwhile. The proper spraying material may be obtained from any reputable seedsman or hardware house.

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