

On the Land

MARKET REPORTS.

At Burnside last week the yarding of fat cattle consisted of 234 head, a fair proportion being good quality bullocks and heifers. The market opened at slightly below the closing rates of the previous week, but quickly firmed to prices equal to the preceding market, these being maintained until the finish. Prime heavy bullocks made £24 17s 6d to £28 5s, prime £19 10s to £23 15s, light and unfinished from £14, prime heavy cows and heifers made £13 12s 6d to £16 12s 6d, others from £8 10s. Fat Sheep.—There were 2669 penned for last week's market, a large proportion of the yarding being of beautiful quality. Owing to a number of country speculators operating freely kept the market well up to the previous week's prices, there being an easing of about 1s to 1s 6d per head. Prime heavy wethers made 53s 6d to 58s 6d, extra to 61s, prime 47s to 51s 9d, medium 40s to 44s 6d, light from 35s, heavy ewes 44s to 49s, prime 36s to 42s 6d, others from 30s. Pigs.—An entry of 48 fats and 27 stores. There were no heavy baconers forward. Light baconers sold up to £4 15s, and porkers from £3 to £3 17s 6d. Store pigs sold well.

Entries were large at Addington last week, there being no sale on the previous week on account of the Grand National holidays. Though very high prices prevailed at the double market they were not maintained. The sale of both beef and mutton was good. Fat Cattle.—There was a very heavy yarding of 635 head, which is nearly 200 more than at the double market. Opening prices were £3 a head easier but there was a hardening in the final stages. Extra prime beef made to 55s per 100lb, prime 48s 6d to 52s, medium 42s 6d to 47s 6d, light 35s to 48s 6d, and rough 30s to 34s. A North Island line of 42 averaged £22 15s a head, and one of 14 from South Canterbury £24 15s 9d. Extra prime steers made £24 to £28 7s 6d; prime steers £19 10s to £22 10s, medium steers £16 5s to £19, light steers £14 to £16, rough steers £11 to £13, extra prime heifers to £16 17s 6d, prime heifers £12 to £14 10s, ordinary heifers £9 10s to £11 15s, extra prime cows £16 to £21 2s 6d, prime cows £11 15s to £14 10s, medium cows £9 10s to £11 10s, light cows £7 to £9 5s. Vealers.—There was a very small entry. Anything fit for killing sold very well. Runners made to £7 10s, good vealers £5 15s to £6 15s, medium £4 5s to £5 5s, good calves £2 15s to £4, small £1 5s to £2. Fat Pigs.—Baconers met with a very keen demand, and showed a considerable advance in prices. Porkers sold well. Choppers made £4 10s to £8, light baconers £4 12s to £5 10s, heavy £6 to £6 15s, extra heavy to £7 10s. The average price per lb was 9d to 10d. Light porkers realised £2 10s to £3, heavy £3 8s to £3 18s. The average price per lb was 9d to 10d.

THEORY OF ROTATIONS AND FERTILISERS.

The difference of various crop requirements for plant foods is the basis of a proper system of crop rotations, and methods of crop cultivation which are not based on the system are prima facie not economical.

For instance, first comes a cereal crop, for which nitrogen is the dominant necessity, while phosphate of lime and potash play a secondary role. Next follow the important root crops, turnips, and swedes; for them nitrogen is not so important, while they make a big demand on the phosphates and potash in the soil. Then comes the legumionosae; for them an application of nitrogen, except in quite small proportions to give the plant a start, would be wasteful.

The crops in the rotation have each their special functions in the rotation, and although with the variety of fertilisers at the farmer's disposal a rotation may not be a necessity, it forms, nevertheless, the basis of the most economical and scientific system, as by it one crop can thrive in what another crop leaves.

DISSOLVED BONES AND BONE COMPOUNDS.

For many years there has been throughout the Old Country an extensive demand for this class of manure, which is used principally for turnip and swede crops and for grass lands. Their organic origin is a point in their favor. Farmers know from experience that excellent results are obtained from their application, and continue to use them, in spite of the suggestion of some chemists that equal results can be obtained more cheaply by mixtures of superphosphate and sulphate of ammonia.

The crops are the best judges, and their growth will generally confirm the opinion that there is something in the organic nature of dissolved bones which is absent from the mineral mixtures. The use of bone fertilisers of reliable character and obtainable at a moderate price can be recommended.

SPRAYING OF FRUIT TREES: DANGER TO BEES.

The British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries bring to the notice of fruit growers throughout the country the danger to bees which may be caused by the spraying of fruit trees when in open blossom with washes containing arsenate of lead. It is not desired to discourage the use of arsenate of lead sprays, as these are of the greatest value in controlling the Winter and "Tortrix" moths, the larvae of which are responsible for an enormous amount of damage to fruit trees. Spraying with this substance, however, should be restricted, as far as possible, to two definite periods, viz., before the blossom buds open and immediately the petals have fallen.

In the case of apples, an application during the earlier period will give better results than at any subsequent time—especially against "Tortrix" moths. Spraying during the actual blossoming period is particularly to be deprecated on account of the fact that heavy mortality may be caused to bees visiting blossoms on which the spray has fallen.

It is realised that, as the different varieties of fruit trees do not come into blossom at the same time, it may be a matter of some difficulty to arrange that no open blossoms whatever are sprayed, but instances have been brought to the notice of the Min-

istry of the indiscriminate spraying of open blossom with lead arsenate, for which no reasonable excuse can be put forward.

Bees are of great value to the fruit grower by the assistance they render in the fertilisation of fruit blossom, and in his own interests, therefore, as well as for the sake of the bee-keeper, the fruit grower should spare no effort to avoid any unnecessary mortality among these beneficial creatures.

THE BLACKBERRY PEST: ERADICATION METHODS.

At a recent meeting of the Ohinemuri County Council the following interesting information was contained in a letter from Mr. R. L. Harris, of Avondale:—

Personally, I am of the opinion that up to the present there is but one way to exterminate this obnoxious growth, and that is by cutting the blackberry down during the early part of February, and, if possible, get a good burn-off and plough during the last two weeks of the same month, the furrow to be no more than 2in to 2½in deep. About the end of March put the harrows over, and again, on collecting, burn the roots. Again plough and crop with grass, when you will discover that few blackberry shoots will appear. When the berry is turning black, that is the indicator of the bulb—which of course you well know is just immediately under the soil—being at its weakest, because the greater part of sap has gone to feed the berry and new foliage. Consequently, by treating the blackberry as I have already outlined, the bulb, which in turn also feeds the roots and has already exhausted the sap, generally dies. The removal of the bulb is the main aim, and it must be done when the plant is at its weakest. By ploughing shallow the sun will have an opportunity of thoroughly drying that turned over. Deep ploughing in this case is of no advantage; in fact, it is a failure, because the blackberry bulb containing sap sends down new shoots. Where the land cannot be ploughed a light mattock or adze can be used. Once the sap commences to return to the root or bulb there is little use in then ploughing or grubbing. In my opinion they can, if properly treated at the right time, be killed.

MUSIC LOVERS! You'll Want These.
Two Double-sided Records by the
Celebrated

SISTINE-VATICAN CHOIR

Consisting of 62 famous vocalists:
Conducted by MONSIGNOR CASIMIR.
R.20000—Innocentes (Luca Marenzio,
1550-1599), Ave Maria (Vittoria, 1545-
1611). R.20001—Laudate Dominum
(Palestrina, 1525-1594), Exsultate Deo
(Palestrina, 1525-1594).

12-in. double-sided Parlophone records.

"These are the finest choral recordings so far produced."—Compton Mackenzie, in *The Gramophone*.

PRICE per Record, 11/6
(plus postage, 1/-).

Send your Order to-day.

LA GLORIA COMPANY

120 ARMAGH ST., CHRISTCHURCH