

On the Land

MARKET REPORTS.

At Burnside last week 230 head of fat cattle were yarded, the quality, with the exception of a few pens, being very indifferent. Owing to a number of country butchers operating, prices firmed on the previous week's rates by 2s to 30s per head. Prime heavy bullocks made £27 15s to £30 10s, prime £23 10s to £26 5s, light from £17, prime heavy cows and heifers made £15 to £18 5s, extra to £20 2s 6d, prime £12 10s to £14 5s, light from £8 15s. Fat Sheep.—1535 were penned, a fair proportion being of good quality. The market opened firm at the preceding week's rates, but sagged towards the middle of the sale, but there was a sharp rise of 2s 6d to 3s at the end. Prime heavy wethers made 55s to 58s 9d, prime 48s 9d to 54s, light from 40s 3d, prime heavy ewes made 46s 9d to 50s 6d, prime 40s 3d to 45s 6d, light from 33s. Lambs.—Six spring lambs of good quality were forward, and sold at from 41s to 46s 6d. Pigs.—Very high prices were realised for the 97 fats and 67 stores that were forward. The price of baconers went up to more than £7, and porkers brought up to £4 15s. Stores made up to 46s, suckers from 28s to 30s, and slips up to 36s.

At Addington last week there was an easier beef market, but a slight improvement in store and fat sheep values. Spring Lambs.—37 were penned and sold at 30s 3d to 41s 9d. Fat Sheep.—The entry was a shade below the week's necessities. It was a very free sale, with an improvement of 1s 6d per head. An Invercargill draft of 41 made from 53s 7d to 60s 1d. The top price of the day was 65s 6d. Extra prime wethers 57s to 65s 6d, prime 48s 6d to 54s, medium 43s 6d to 48s, light 37s to 42s 6d, extra prime ewes to 50s 1d, prime 40s 6d to 44s, medium 37s to 40s, light 35s to 36s 6d, prime hoggets to 39s 10d, ordinary 34s 10d to 38s 6d. Fat Cattle.—145 were penned—a normal entry. The market all round was easier than that of the previous week by 30s per head, on which occasion peak prices were realised on account of the short entry. Extra prime medium-weight beef made to 61s per 100lb, prime medium-weight beef 55s to 59s, prime heavy-weight 52s 6d to 56s, medium 49s to 52s, light 44s to 47s, and rough down to 30s. A North Island line of 48 averaged £25 7s, and another of 34, £23. The top price of the day was £33 2s 6d. Extra prime heavy-weight steers £26 to £29, special to £33 2s 6d, prime heavy £22 to £25, medium £18 to £21 10s, light £15 to £17 15s, rough £11 to £14, extra prime heifers to £18 2s 6d, prime £13 10s to £16 10s, ordinary £8 5s to £13, extra prime cows to £21 12s 6d, prime £13 5s to £16 10s, ordinary £10 to £13, light £6 10s to £9 15s. Vealers.—There was a small entry and a good sale. Runners went to £9 17s 6d. Fat Pigs.—There was a weaker bacon demand, but porkers were firmer. Choppers £4 to £9, baconers £4 10s to £7 2s; average price per lb 8½d to 9½d; porkers 53s to 70s, extra heavy to 80s; average price per lb 9½d to 10½d.

WHEN THE OTHER FELLOW IS DRIVING.

When another fellow's driving,
Though I constantly am striving
To behave the way a passenger should do;
Still in spite of my endeavor
I discover I am ever
Sitting tensely there beside him driving too.

At the highway I keep peering
And my mind is busy steering,
And I figure every chance the driver takes;
In a manner highly graphic,
When he's threading through the traffic,
I keep putting on imaginary brakes.

In his skill and in his science
I may fondly place reliance,
I may bow to his experience and years,
Yet I sit there all a-quiver
In a six or in a flivver,
While my mind is feeding gas or shifting gears.

So wherever I am riding
I am driving, I am guiding—
An imaginary wheel is in my hand!
With the closest application
I conduct each operation—
If you ever drove a car you'll understand.

—G. D. McCARTHY, in *Farm, Field, and Fireside*.

MILKING POINTS.

The quantity and yield of milk may be increased by milking at a medium pace. It is far pleasanter to the cow, and thereby increases the yield, whereas very rapid milking will frequently cause a cow to hold up her milk.

Be sure that the cow is stripped clean, for nothing is worse than careless milking, as it tends to dry off the cow prematurely, and also proves detrimental to the udder.

The periods between the milkings should be arranged as equal as possible.

By far the most important point of all is to see that everything is clean. The udders of all the cows should be carefully wiped with a damp, warm flannel and thoroughly dried, and the milker's hands should be scrupulously clean, as also should all utensils.

In some districts (says a writer in a Home paper) wet milking is still practised, but one cannot speak too harshly of this method. It has a disgusting appearance, and invariably results in contamination of the milk, while it also leads to sore and cracked teats.

The Human Touch in Milking.

There may or may not be some unseen spirit of sympathy between a cow and the person whose task it is to extract the milk from her udder, but in a report before me I notice that a change in milkers reduced the yield of two cows to the tune of 1½ gallons per day, and the yields again increased to normal when a third and better milker took on the job.

Now I think of the local societies which encourage good milking by organising instruction in the work and arranging competitions for milkers. With the dairy cow

still one of the most reliable sources of profit in farming, one has to realise the fact that milking is amongst the most important of operations.

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