

## ON THE LAND

## MARKET REPORTS.

At Burnside last week 224 head of fat cattle were penned. The quality on the whole was only fair. Competition throughout the sale was indifferent. Freezing buyers had the space booked to them filled up previously to the sale, therefore they were not in a position to compete for present offerings. Prime bullocks sold at fair rates; medium bullocks, cows, and heifers showed a decline. Fat sheep: 2215 yarded, the majority of which consisted of medium and poor quality. Very few wethers of prime quality were forward, with the result that these sold well. On the other hand, ewes of all classes showed a decline, this being most noticeable in medium quality. Freezing buyers bought very little of the yarding. Fat lambs: 1424 yarded. The quality on the whole was only fair, several pens being mixed. Competition for freezing lambs was very limited, while graziers were competing for medium and inferior quality at prices fully 3s below previous week's rates. Pigs: There was a full yarding of fats and a medium yarding of store pigs. Prices for fat pigs were practically on a par with previous week's rates; store pigs were a shade firmer.

At Addington market the yarding of fat sheep and lambs was slightly larger than usual, while store sheep were again in over-supply. Fat cattle were also forward in more than usual numbers, and there was a glut of store cattle. The tone of the market throughout was good. Fat cattle: 445 yarded. The market was firm throughout, exporters operating freely. Quotations: Extra prime steers £25 10s to £27 10s, prime £20 to £24, medium £16 to £19, lighter £8 15s to £15, prime heifers £14 to £17 12s 6d, ordinary £7 2s 6d to £13, prime cows £13 to £17 2s 6d, ordinary £10 15s to £12 17s 6d. Fat sheep: A good yarding, which included some prime pens. The market was firm at preceding week's rates. Freezing buyers secured a good proportion of the entry. Quotations: Extra prime wethers 44s to 49s 9d, prime 38s to 43s 6d, medium 33s 3d to 37s, lighter 25s 6d to 32s 6d, extra prime ewes 48s 6d to 55s 6d, prime 36s 6d to 41s, medium 31s 3d to 35s 3d, lighter 25s 11d to 30s 6d. Vealers: A good entry of veal calves, for which the prices were firm, the market being an improved one. Quotations: Runners to £8 2s 6d, ordinary vealers £3 12s 6d to £4, medium 30s to 45s, small calves 7s 6d to 22s 6d. Pigs: A fair entry and an improved demand. Extra heavy baconers to £10, heavy £7 10s to £8 10s, ordinary £6 to £7—average price 11d per lb; heavy porkers £5 5s to £5 15s, ordinary £4 10s to £5—average price 1s 1d per lb; choppers £6 to £9.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report as follows on last week's sale of rabbitskins, etc.:—Only moderate catalogues were submitted. As compared with previous sale, prices were much the same. Quotations: Runners and suckers 50d to 57d, light racks 90d to 93d, prime racks 105d to 107½d, summers 80d to 90d, early autumns 120d to 125½d, winter bucks 130d to 150d, winter does to 150d, springs 100d to 116d, milky 40d to 48d, broken 40d to 60d, fawns 70d to 80d, summer blacks 70d to 76d, winter blacks 100d to 110d, hareskins 40d to 46d, catskins 6d to 1s, horsehair 20d to 25d.

## FRUIT PLANTATIONS.

Profitable fruit growing cannot be carried on in a haphazard fashion. It calls for assiduous attention and unremitting activity, and before embarking on it, more than an ordinary amount of forethought is required (says a writer in *Farm, Field, and Fireside*). The improvement of existing orchards and the renovation of old, worn-out trees—or, better still, their replacement by new ones—are perhaps the easiest methods of commencing this new departure; and there need not be the slightest hesitancy in recommending it. Of course, the establishment of a new orchard or plantation is better.

It is always best to select a few good varieties, with an eye to the future disposal of the produce, rather than make the foolish mistake of attempting the cultivation of two many varieties of fruits, or perhaps growing ones unsuited to the requirements of the local market. Nothing is more indicative of bad management, or less likely to find a ready sale, than an ill-assorted sample of fruit. But the well-graded, uniform sample, composed entirely of a few good standard varieties, will invariably find a quick buyer. I must also mention one very common mistake: I mean that of planting varieties of fruit trees wholly unsuited to either soil or district. For this reason, I will here give a few reliable hints which may enable prospective growers to start their plantations judiciously.

Preparation of Ground.—It is very desirable to begin to think about planting well in advance, because the land must be well prepared and the trees selected. When cir-

cumstances permit, no better preparation can be made than by growing a potato crop; if a second early variety is planted the ground will be left comparatively clean and free from weeds. The soil will, moreover, be in good heart, friable in texture, and second to none for the cultivation of all fruits.

In the case of large plantations a subsoil plough should follow the ordinary plough down each furrow, so as to break up the subsoil. If standard trees are to be planted, stakes should be got ready, and should be driven into position before the trees arrive, as it is not a good plan to damage the roots by driving in the stakes after planting. Everything should be ready for a start as soon as the trees arrive, as the less delay between lifting and planting the trees the better.

For mixed plantations 30ft distance is usually allowed from tree to tree, as it then permits of intercropping. Thus, standard apples or pears may be planted 30ft apart, bush or pyramid apples or half-standard plums in rows between them, at 15ft apart, and bush fruits, such as currants or gooseberries, intercropped in turn at 5ft apart.

Apples.—For the growth of apples, medium loamy soils overlying a sandstone or limestone formation are to be preferred. Usually these soils are especially favorable for the growth of oak, elm, and hawthorn, and in many cases are rich and well drained. Dry, sandy soils, and those where early frosts are prevalent, must always be avoided. Situation and aspect are perhaps of more vital importance than the condition of the soil; thus the north-easterly winds are very injurious to fruit trees in spring, and a spot unsheltered from their course should therefore be avoided. Artificial protection may, of course, be afforded, but such is obviously inferior to a natural means of shelter.

These conditions of soil, aspect, and situation are applicable to almost all varieties of fruits generally.

Planting.—Of the details of planting, I can mention none of more importance than the necessity for keeping the roots as close to the surface of the ground as possible. The depth to which the trees are planted should be the same as that of their nursery days; this will be indicated by the soil mark on the stem. To keep the roots close to the surface, give an annual mulching of leaf mould or short, well-decayed farmyard manure; and as soon as the soil is dry enough, keep it well stirred on the surface with the hoe. Once a week is not too often for this, especially in dry, droughty districts. The hoeing prevents evaporation, aerates the surface soil, and so keeps the fibrous roots at the surface instead of their diving down into the subsoil below in search of air and moisture.

The soil above the roots must be trodden down firmly as soon as the roots are spread out in position and covered with soil. It will be advisable to raise the surface level slightly to allow of subsequent sinking.

## AN IRISH MAID.

(For the *N.Z. Tablet*.)

One time, in an old-world castle,  
With turrets and ivied-stone tow'r,  
Sat dreaming an Irish maiden,  
Alone in her virginal bow'r;  
Her hair, a rich, golden cascade,  
Was bound with a riband of white,  
Her eyes from her open casement  
Were stars of mysterious night.  
One day, to the close-kept drawbridge,  
A wonderful stranger there came,  
A knight of the great King Dermod,  
Beloved and great was his name;  
Love stirred in the heart of the maiden,  
Love surged in the heart of the man,  
Brought each all the wondrous rapture  
That only the greatest love can.  
He rode o'er the bridge one morning,  
When nigh all the castle folk slept,  
And waking, the lovely girl-flow'r  
Long years for her lost hero wept;  
She knew that he loved her truly,  
His eyes had his secret well told,  
More eloquently far than kisses  
Or arms that the lov'd one enfold.  
She pray'd to the Christian Ard-righ,  
To Mary, the Christian Girl Queen,  
To tell her why, why he came not—  
Say what could his strange silence mean;  
At last, came the White Dove of Wisdom,  
It whispered, instructing the maid,  
Who heard, understanding the reason  
Why long had her lover delayed.

—ANGELA HASTINGS.

# Farmers!

THE BEST PLACE  
DUNEDIN DAIRY CO.,  
ST., SOUTH DUNEDIN.

to SEND your HOME-SEPARATED CREAM is the  
LTD. (successors to G. Gourley & Co.), 200 KING EDWARD  
Our Motto: "CORRECT WEIGHTS AND TESTS."  
G. GOURLEY, Managing Director.