

ON THE LAND

MARKET REPORTS.

At Burnside last week 287 head of fat cattle were yarded. The entry included a proportion of well-finished trucked cattle, but as the number was in excess of requirements, the market opened at 20s per head under the previous week's prices, and there was little variation throughout the sale. Quotations:—Extra prime bullocks to £17, prime £13 to £15, medium £10 10s to £12 10s, light and unfinished from £6 10s, extra prime cows and heifers to £10, prime to £8 10s, medium £6 to £8, light and aged from £5. Fat Sheep.—2677 were penned. A fair yarding of good quality sheep, with a fair proportion of light and unfinished ewes and wethers. The number would have been easily absorbed, but butchers held supplies from the week before, and consequently the sale was dragging. Prices were no better than the preceding week's; in fact, there was a decided drop in parts of the sale. Quotations:—Woolly sheep, prime 22s to 24s 9d, medium 18s to 21s 6d, light and unfinished from 16s, extra prime ewes to 22s 9d, prime 16s to 18s 6d, medium 14s to 15s 6d, light and aged from 10s. Shorn sheep, prime 20s to 21s 3d (wethers); medium 17s 6d to 19s, light from 15s, prime ewes 15s to 16s 6d, medium 14s 6d to 15s 6d, light from 12s 6d. Fat Lambs.—210 were penned. The quality in most cases was good and the sale from start to finish was much brisker than the previous week's. All over prices were from 1s 6d to 2s better than the previous sale. Prices ranged from 16s to 29s 3d. Pigs.—A large yarding, all classes being well represented. The increase in values obtained on the preceding week was not maintained, prices receding to the level of those which ruled two weeks ago. Best baconers realised from 7½d to 8d per lb, and best porkers from 8d to 8½d per lb.

At Addington market last week there was a particularly big yarding of all classes of stock, and in consequence there was a general easing in values, beef, mutton, lamb, and dairy cattle being affected. Fat Lambs.—The market was easier and values were down about 3s or 4s per head. Extra prime lambs 23s to 28s, prime 19s 9d to 22s 9d, medium 17s 3d to 19s 6d, small 13s 6d to 17s. Fat Sheep.—A big yarding, much in excess of butchers' requirements. Values were down about 3s to 3s 6d per head. Extra prime woolly wethers 25s to 29s 7d, extra prime shorn wethers 21s 6d to 24s 9d, prime woolly wethers 21s to 24s 6d, prime shorn wethers 18s to 21s, medium woolly wethers 18s to 21s, medium shorn wethers 15s to 17s 9d, inferior wethers 11s to 14s 9d, prime woolly ewes 19s to 22s 7d, prime shorn ewes 17s to 20s, medium woolly ewes 16s to 18s 9d, medium shorn ewes 13s 9d to 15s 9d, inferior woolly ewes 12s to 13s 9d, inferior shorn ewes 10s 6d to 13s 3d. Fat Cattle.—A further drop of 25s to 30s per head. Prime beef sold at up to 35s per 100lb, but the bulk sold about 30s to 32s 6d, secondary to 25s. A fair proportion of the yarding was passed. Extra prime bullocks to £17 7s 6d, prime £13 2s 6d to £16 10s, medium £10 to £12 15s, light and unfinished £6 10s to £9 10s, prime heifers £8 15s to £11 12s 6d, ordinary £6 10s to £8 10s, extra prime cows to £12 5s, prime £6 10s to £10 10s, ordinary £3 10s to £6 7s 6d. Vealers.—Values were easier. Prime, up to £5, good vealers £3 to £3 10s, medium £2 to £2 17s 6d, good calves up to 27s 6d, small 6s to 20s. Fat Pigs.—A good entry and a fair demand. Choppers £2 10s to £5, light baconers £3 15s to £4 5s, heavy £4 10s to £4 15s, extra heavy £5 to £5 8s (average price per lb, 7d), light porkers £2 10s to £2 17s 6d, heavy £3 to £3 10s (average price per lb, 9d).

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co., report as follows on the fortnightly sale of rabbitskins, etc., held on last Monday, when medium-sized catalogues were submitted:—There was a full attendance of buyers, and except for super does and bucks, which advanced 1d to 2d per lb, prices ruling were on a par with those obtained at the previous sale. Quotations:—Runners and suckers 2d to 4½d, summers to 18d, light racks 10d to 12d, prime racks 14d to 19½d, early autumn 17d to 32½d, winter bucks—first 67d to 72½d, super 72½d to 79d, winter does—first 72d to 88d, super 88d to 96d, springs 20d to 25½d, milky 14½d, blacks—first

winter 70d to 88d, second winter 36½d to 48d, hareskins to 27½d, horsehair 17d to 18½d.

IRISH BLIGHT IN POTATOES.

Irish blight is a hardy perennial of the fungoid order, which appears to depend upon certain seasonal conditions for its spread, but one which yields to effective spraying. Its presence in Australia (says the writer of farming notes in the *Melbourne Advocate*) was traced to imported seed, and as one can never be positive of its absence on seed tubers, the simple precaution of dipping the uncut tubers for some hours in a formalin solution (1lb in 30 gallons of water) is so effective that I hope my readers will adopt this practice, notwithstanding complete immunity in the past from this or other diseases. Here arises the advisability of using seed grown outside your own district. Common sense must decide the issue. Provided the yields on your farm are satisfactory, no need arises for the purchase or exchange of seed from another district, unless, of course, it is free from blight or other diseases. I believe in sticking to a good thing when you get it. The potato you know is better than the potato you don't know. Again, I favor changing the seed at times, as potatoes do become soil sick. The only other alternative to this is rotation in cropping, and not returning seed sets to the same paddock from which they are dug annually. Whilst you may avoid sowing infected seed, you may not escape a visitation from the fungus when the foliage is above ground, so we will consider suitable sprays. When potato leaves show brown spots, surrounded by a delicate mould on the under surface, tending later to blacken and decay, blight may reasonably be suspected. In some localities the leaves simply discolor and shrivel, suggesting a black frost. Two things to remember are:—(1) The fungus responsible is produced from spores, and if these spores are killed before they have time to germinate, and spraying is repeated two weeks later, the disease will be nipped in the bud. (2) If the spores have germinated, and have reached the interior of the plant, or have fallen on the surrounding soil, it is too late to rectify. Sprays:—(1) 6lbs bluestone, 4lbs fresh quicklime, 50 gallons water. Dissolve crystals in a wooden tub in five gallons of warm water, and then add 20 gallons water. Slake the lime in another vessel by covering with a little hot water; when swollen, add 25 gallons water. Pour both solutions into the spraying machine, agitate, and apply with force with a fine spray, reaching the plant at all angles. (2) Bluestone crystals 3½lbs, limewater 43 gallons, water 7 gallons, making a total of 50 gallons of solution. Place 3lbs quicklime in a hessian bag and suspend in a vat containing 43 gallons of water for 12 hours. Dissolve the crystals in a small quantity of water, pour on the 43 gallons limewater, add 7 more gallons fresh water, agitate and use. (3) Bluestone 6lbs, washing soda 7lbs, water 50 gallons. Dissolve two lots of crystals in separate vessels, mix, and add water. If ½lb of Paris green is added to the liquid in the spray tank prior to use, many grubs will also be destroyed. The blight will be worst in moist seasons, when there is a degree of humidity, and the first spray should be applied when the stalks are from 4 to 6 inches high, again two or three weeks later, and finally when in bloom. If the first application is early enough, three sprayings should suffice. Spray only on dry days, and if rain falls within 48 hours, repeat. When plants are thick and vigorous, 100 gallons will be required per acre; if thin and open, 75 gallons. Cover the plant without drenching the soil. I mentioned steeping the uncut tubers, but would warn planters not to sow whole sets, unless they know their origin and history. When cut through the tubers should be bright, sound, and glistening. Examine carefully about the rind for depressions.

Turnips grown in ridges yield twice, thrice, or four times as much weight per acre as those grown "on the flat." Why not have a 50-ton crop instead of 10 tons? Costs no more to produce, either, but the right machine—the MACALISTER RIDGER—must be used. Price, £45, delivered Waiapu Bluff section, or £50 anywhere else (with a few exceptions) in the Dominion, will probably be more than recouped the first season. Pamphlet, *The Root Question* (post free) tells you all about it.

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