

# ON THE LAND

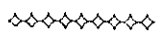
## MARKET REPORTS.

**Fat Cattle.**—A small yarding of beef came forward for last week's market at Burnside, 180 head being penned. Prices opened above previous week's rates to the extent of from 15s to 20s, but gradually declined as the sale progressed. At the end of the day values were on a par with those ruling at last sale. Prime bullocks sold from £10 2s 6d to £11 5s, medium from £7 2s 6d to £9, lighter kinds from £6 upwards, best cows and heifers to £7 2s 6d, medium from £4 17s 6d to £5 10s, others from £4 upwards.

**Fat Sheep.**—Another large yarding of fat sheep came forward for to-day's market, 3104 being penned. This large yarding coming forward after the previous week's big entry caused a drop of from 2s 6d to 3s on all heavy weights, and on medium sheep of from 1s 6d to 2s. Freezing buyers were not operating to any great extent, and the fact of butchers having large supplies held over from the previous week made the sale a very dragging one. Extra prime heavy-weight wethers sold from 22s to 24s 6d, prime wethers from 18s 6d to 20s 6d, medium from 16s to 18s, lighter kinds from 13s 6d upwards, prime ewes from 14s to 16s 6d, medium from 11s to 12s 6d, lighter kinds from 8s upwards. Lambs.—There were 1359 penned. A small yarding of fair quality. Freezing buyers were operating at reduced limits and were buying on a basis of about 6½d per lb. Extra prime lambs sold at 2s, prime lambs from 22s to 23s 6d, medium from 17s to 20s, others from 14s upwards.

The fat lamb section was the only one in which the pennings were less at Addington last week than they were the previous week. Store sheep were forward in heavy numbers, fat sheep and fat cattle also being in over supply. There was an all-round easing, particularly in fat sheep.

**Store Sheep.**—One of the biggest yardings for some years, approximating 30,000 to 40,000. The bulk were lambs, ewes coming next, a big proportion being inferior sorts. Although the tone was easier it was a wonderfully successful sale, prices generally being only a shade easier, and a good clearance was effected. Forward rape lambs 14s 9d to 16s 1d, good 13s to 14s 6d, medium 10s to 12s 9d, small and inferior 7s 6d to 9s 9d, culls 5s 1d to 7s, good four, six, and eight-tooth ewes 17s 1d to 19s 1d, fair 14s 9d to 16s 6d, inferior and low conditioned 10s 6d to 13s 6d, failing-mouthed 9s to 12s 9d, fair four-tooths 16s to 19s, two-tooths 14s to 18s 6d, good four and six-tooth wethers 15s 6d to 17s 1d, other wethers 13s to 14s 6d, inferior 11s to 12s 9d, two-tooths 11s 9d to 14s 3d, cull two-tooths 8s 6d to 9s 9d. Fat Lambs. 4650 penned, a big proportion being unfinished. The demand was scarcely so spirited as it was the previous week, freezing values being from 6½d to 7d. Extra prime lambs 23s 6d to 25s 5d, prime 19s 9d to 23s 3d, medium 17s to 19s 6d, light and unfinished 14s 6d to 16s 9d. Fat Sheep. A big yarding of about 13 races, the bulk being ewes. Values were down by 2s 6d for wethers and 3s to 3s 6d for all but the prime ewes. Exporters bought the bulk of the light-weight ewes. Extra prime wethers 24s to 30s, prime 19s 6d to 23s 6d, medium 17s 3d to 19s 3d, light and unfinished 15s to 17s, prime ewes, 16s to 22s 7d, medium 14s to 16s 6d, light 11s to 13s 9d. Fat Cattle.—There was an easing in values for all but a few pens of extra prime beef. Passings were fairly frequent. Extra prime bullocks £14 to £17, prime £10 12s 6d to £13 15s, medium £8 2s 6d to £10 10s, light and unfinished £6 2s 6d to £8, extra prime cows to £10 5s, prime £5 12s 6d to £9, ordinary £3 7s 6d to £5 5s, prime heifers £6 to £9 5s, ordinary £3 10s to £5 10s. Fat Pigs.—An overflow entry. Prices all round were easier. Choppers £2 10s to £4 10s, light baconers £3 10s to £4, heavy £4 10s to £5 (average price per lb 6½d to 6¾d), light porkers 50s to 55s, heavy 60s to 67s 6d (average price per lb 8d to 9d).



## VARIETIES OF WHEAT.

It is not an easy matter to determine which are the best varieties of wheat to grow on certain soils, especially those of a light character (says a writer in a British journal). Numerous variety trials have been carried out

at various agricultural colleges and elsewhere, to say nothing of the valuable work done in this way by many of our leading seedsmen, who devote much time and money to the improvement of existing varieties.

As may well be expected, some of the newer introductions are no improvement on many of the old-established varieties, but, at the same time, it is advisable that farmers should give some of these newer varieties a fair trial, as there is always a possibility that they will succeed much better in one part of the country than in another.

The effect of soil conditions on the growth of wheat is remarkable, and although the majority of wheats succeed on a fairly stiff and retentive soil, there are others which do remarkably well on some of the lighter soils, provided they are well consolidated.

The principal failures in wheat growing are due to a lack of soil consolidation, while if a stale furrow can be selected for sowing, the seedlings will have a much better chance of becoming established, and will tiller out to a greater extent than where the seed-bed is loose and hollow.

There is no particular need to sow wheat too early, as long as the seedlings can become reasonably well established before the ground becomes cold and frozen, although more destruction is often wrought by a wet and water-logged condition of the soil.

Among the more popular varieties of wheat are Square-head Masters and Red Standard. The former is supposed to have been the result of a cross of Scholey's Square-head and Golden Drop, naturally pollinated. Red Standard is very similar in appearance to Squarehead Masters, except that as a general rule the straw is stouter and not quite so liable to lodge. Both the above varieties are red wheats, and it would appear that these are considerably more popular than white wheats, owing to the belief that they not only yield better, but the grain is usually harder.

Benefactor has found much favor as a white wheat, and is claimed not to be so liable to sprout in wet weather as the average white wheats.

Of recent years Victor has come into prominence as a heavy yielding white wheat, but my own experience is that on heavy loamy soils it yields heavier than either Squarehead Masters or Red Standard. It has one disadvantage, inasmuch as it is liable to sprout during a wet harvest, especially should the grain be allowed to become over-ripe before cutting, and to avoid this it would be better to cut on the under-ripe side, particularly when a wet summer is experienced.

Little Joss is a wheat which apparently does well in some of the eastern counties, especially on the heavier clays, but it does not appear to become universally popular. We should certainly give preference to a variety like Yeoman, which is a heavy yielder, and suited to the majority of soils.

Tduna, Svalof Iron 2nd, Martin, Badger, and others are among the newer introductions of which one occasionally hears excellent reports, but the difficulty in accepting the yields of many of the trial plots is that they are necessarily grown on a comparatively small area, and it is not until they are grown in the ordinary way that one is in a position to realise whether they have any advantages as regards yield over those more generally grown.

As regards the tillering power of any particular variety I do not think that this so much matters, as invariably the heaviest yields are obtained where slightly heavier sowings are made. Some soils, namely, those typical wheat-growing soils wherein there is a fair sprinkling of flint or gravel, appear to favor tillering, and when this is the case the amount of seed sown may be as low as two bushels per acre, or even less, whereas on the lighter soils, which are not so conducive to tillering, it is advisable to sow three bushels of autumn wheat, and slightly more than this amount of a spring variety.

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