

# ON THE LAND

## MARKET REPORTS.

At Burnside last week, a full yarding of 214 head of fat cattle was penned, a good proportion of which comprised prime heavy-weight steers and heifers. The sale opened 10s to 15s below the previous week's rates, with an easing tendency. Prices in some cases were 20s below the preceding sale. Extra prime heavy-weight bullocks sold to £15 12s 6d, prime heavy-weight bullocks from £12 17s 6d to £13 10s, medium from £9 17s 6d to £11 10s, others from £8 upwards, best cows and heifers to £12 10s, medium from £7 to £8 15s, others from £5 12s 6d upwards. Fat Sheep.—There was a fairly full yarding, 1929 head being penned. The demand was erratic, particularly at the beginning of the sale, when the previous week's prices were barely maintained. As the sale progressed, however, prices hardened, and prices then ruling showed an advance on the preceding week's rates. Extra prime heavy-weight wethers sold from 36s 6d to 40s, prime heavy-weight wethers from 29s 6d to 32s, medium wethers from 24s 9d to 27s 6d, lighter kinds from 20s upwards. A few pens of shorn wethers made from 20s to 21s 3d, extra prime heavy-weight ewes to 31s, prime heavy-weight ewes from 22s to 24s 9d, medium ewes from 18s to 20s, lighter kinds from 16s upwards. Spring Lambs.—32 head were penned. These did not meet with a good sale, and prices were easier than the previous week's sale to the extent of from 10s to 15s per head. Best lambs sold from 30s 6d to 34s 9d, medium from 26s to 29s, others from 22s upwards. Pigs.—A medium yarding, all classes being represented. Best baconers realised from 5d to 6d per lb, and best porkers from 7d to 8d per lb.

At Addington market last week there were average yardings in all classes of stock. Both beef and mutton sold at improved prices. Store sheep were firmer, and dairy cattle distinctly better. The better pasture prospects were reflected in the healthier all-round tone. Spring Lambs.—209 were yarded. The bulk were good sorts. A strong sale at up to 1s per lb. The top price was 34s, but the bulk made from 25s to 28s. Fat Sheep.—Another moderate yarding. An erratic sale, but prices were again up on an average of 2s per head, making 12s per head on big wethers over the past six weeks. Extra prime wethers 39s to 43s, a few special to 45s 3d; prime wethers 34s 6d to 38s 6d, medium 30s to 34s, light 25s to 29s 6d, extra prime ewes to 34s 6d, prime 29s to 32s, ordinary 25s to 28s 6d, light 20s 6d to 24s, prime shorn wethers 27s to 30s 4d, medium 24s to 26s 6d, prime hoggets 24s 6d to 27s 6d, ordinary, 21s to 24s. Fat Cattle.—A small yarding of 247 head. The quality was not so good as on the previous week. There was only one small draft of 28 from the North Island. Big beef was a shade easier, but medium weights were distinctly better than on the preceding week. The bulk of the good beef averaged from 32s 6d to 35s per hundred, and special to 37s, and a little sold at under 30s. Extra prime bullocks to £16 5s, prime £13 10s to £15, medium £11 10s to £13 5s, light £7 to £11 5s, prime heifers £9 10s to £11 15s, medium £7 15s to £9 7s 6d, light £6 17s 6d to £7 12s 6d, extra prime cows to £13, prime £8 10s to £11, medium £6 12s to £8 5s. Vealers.—A small entry. Prices showed an improvement of about 5s per head. Runners to £4 15s, vealers £3 5s to £4 5s, small calves from 8s upwards. Fat Pigs.—Rather a better demand for baconers. Porkers were again weak. Choppers £3 to £5 13s, light baconers £3 to £3 10s, heavy £3 12s 6d to £3 17s 6d, extra heavy £4 2s 6d (average price per lb 5½d to 6d); light porkers £1 18s to £2 5s, heavy £2 7s 6d to £2 17s 6d (average price per lb 7d to 8d).

## CONSERVATION OF MOISTURE.

The following is a brief summary of an article in the *Lyttelton Times* dealing with the conservation of moisture in the soil:—

We must now summarise our main points, and at the same time attempt to set forth, not exactly hard and fast rules, but rather the guiding principles of the conservation of moisture.

1. Ordinary soils have a great power of absorbing and retaining moisture. Ten inches of good loam may hold the equivalent of as much as four inches of rainfall.

2. To accumulate the maximum amount of moisture the soil should be got into a receptive condition. Thus land intended for late spring or summer sowing, e.g., for mangolds, rape, turnips, etc., should be ploughed very early in spring at latest.

3. The chief losses of water are due to evaporation from a firm surface, and to transpiration by weeds. To prevent such losses the surface should be frequently stirred both to loosen the soil on top and to destroy weeds.

4. Plants cannot benefit by water standing in the subsoil at a greater depth than, say, 30 inches, as such water is raised too slowly. Moisture stored in the subsoil within, say, 18 inches, can, however, be effectively used. To increase the soil's power to raise water for the use of the crop the land may be well rolled as late as possible in spring. This will not greatly increase the loss due to evaporation from the surface, as the surface will, by this time, be shaded by the crop.

5. Autumn sowing on freshly ploughed stubble must be delayed until heavy rains have renewed the supply of moisture.



## SOME FORAGE CROPS.

Peas and oats, sown at the rate of two bushels of field peas and 1½ bushels of oats an acre, and cut when the oats are in the milk stage, may supply good feed (says an exchange).

The rate of seeding will depend upon the nature and richness of the soil. Good results have been secured on fertile soil by sowing peas and oats at a lower rate of seeding than already suggested. One must be governed by the adaptability of the soil and other conditions that influence the growth of these crops. One successful dairyman reports seeding at the rate of approximately 1½ bushels of oats and 1 bushel of peas.

The feeding quality and palatability of oats and peas depreciate rapidly after the oats begin to ripen. One-sixth of an acre is ordinarily as much as ten cows, fed at the rate of 35 to 40 pounds a head daily, will consume to good advantage during a period of ten days.

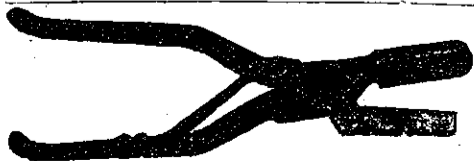
Maize planted in rows 3ft 8in apart and the plants 4in to 5in apart in the row, provide soiling crops that may be regarded superior to all others.

Where one has an abundance of good lucerne and an opportunity to cut feed this as a soiling feed, there would doubtless be no necessity for growing other crops than maize for feeding successfully throughout the year.

It is well to make any changes from one soiling crop to another gradually. Cows may be fed such quantities as they will clean up without waste after they have become accustomed to eating the respective feeds. If grass pasture is very limited and the milk production has a tendency to drop, it will be necessary to follow practically the same system of feeding hay and grain in addition to soiling feeds or silage.

Regarding other crops for soiling purposes, it may be stated that Sorghum of the Early Amber variety and cut just after the heads are out, provides an excellent feed for milk production. It thrives best under hot, dry summer conditions, which fact should be taken into consideration in attempting to grow it. Sorghum is much more palatable and better adapted for soiling than are grasses.

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