

# ON THE LAND

## MARKET REPORTS.

There was another very large yarding of fat cattle at Burnside last week; 309 head was offered, the quality of which was good. There were one or two pens of very fine cattle forwarded, while the balance of the yarding was made up of medium to good steers, heifers, and cows. Competition was not animated, and prices showed a drop of 10s to 15s per head, as compared with the previous week. Quotations: Extra prime bullocks, £16 10s, prime £10 to £12, medium £8 10s to £9 10s, light steers £6 10s to £7 15s, prime heifers and cows to £11, light and aged £5 to £6, good cows and heifers £7 to £8 10s. Fat Sheep.—A good yarding, 2389 head being offered. There was a much greater proportion of ewes offered than has been the case for some time, while the bulk of the yarding consisted of shorn sheep, the number of sheep in the wool being smaller than of late. The proportion consisting of prime wethers was not great, and the bulk of the yarding was composed of medium to good ewes and wethers. At the commencement of the sale prices were about 1s in advance of the preceding week's rates, and as the sale progressed prices advanced to even a greater extent, especially for prime wethers. Altogether an average advance of about 2s per head would be recorded. Quotations:—Extra prime heavy woolly wethers 26s to 29s, prime 22s to 25s, medium 18s 6d to 22s 6d, light sorts 12s to 17s, woolly ewes, good 15s to 19s 3d, light 10s to 14s, extra prime heavy-weight shorn wethers 24s, prime 19s to 23s, medium 16s to 18s, light from 12s upwards, extra prime shorn ewes 22s, prime 17s to 19s, medium 14s to 16s, light and inferior 10s to 13s. Fat Lambs.—A very large yarding, 753 head coming under the hammer. The supply was much in excess of requirements, and competition was brisk at a reduction, prices being lower from 3s to 4s per head as compared with the previous week. Quotations:—Extra prime lambs 23s 9d, good 16s to 18s, medium 12s 6d to 14s 6d, light 9s to 11s 6d. Pigs.—A large yarding, all classes being well represented. Bidding was somewhat slack and prices for large pigs were again easier. Best baconers made from 7d to 7½d per lb, and best porkers from 7¼d to 8¼d per lb.

At Addington market last week there was an average yarding in all sections of stock, excepting fat lambs, which were in over-supply, and fat sheep, of which there was a smaller entry. There was a decided drop in lamb values, and slight steady-up in prime mutton. Beef showed a further drop. Fat Lambs.—2230 penned, which was much in excess of butchers' requirements. There was another drop in prices, which were the poorest for a number of years. At the opening values averaged 4d to 4½d per lb (a few exceptional pens a shade over). Extra prime lambs 17s 6d to 20s, prime 13s 9d to 16s 9d, medium 11s 6d to 13s 6d, light and inferior 8s 9d to 11s 3d. Fat Sheep.—A slightly improved market for good wethers. Secondary ewes were in little demand. Extra prime wethers up to 22s 7d, prime 17s 6d to 20s, medium 15s to 17s 3d, light and inferior 10s 10d to 14s 6d, prime ewes 15s to 17s, medium 11s to 14s 9d, light and inferior 7s 4d to 10s 9d. Fat Cattle.—Big beef was down about 20s to 25s a head, light prime beef maintaining recent values. Old cow beef was almost unsaleable. Extra prime steers up to £15, prime £10 17s 6d to £13 12s 6d, medium £8 to £10 12s 6d, light £5 10s to £17 17s 6d, prime heifers £7 15s to £9 15s, ordinary £6 5s to £7 12s, prime cows £5 10s to £8 15s, ordinary £3 10s to £5 7s 6d. Vealers.—Prices were on a par with late rates. Runners up to £4 17s 6d, good vealers £3 2s 6d, medium £2 10s, good calves 15s to £1 2s 6d, small 5s to 12s 6d. Fat Pigs.—The demand was a shade better, except for heavy baconers. Choppers £2 to £4 10s, light baconers £3 5s to £3 15s, heavy £4 to £4 5s (average price per lb 6d to 6¾d), light porkers £2 7s to £2 12s 6d, heavy £2 15s to £3 3s (average price per lb 8d to 9d).

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## GARDENING NOTES

(By MR. J. JOYCE, Landscape Gardener, Christchurch.)  
WORK FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

The Vegetable Garden.—December is a rather trying month for vegetable culture owing to the hot winds which frequently prevail. It is necessary, therefore, to have a ready supply of water to counteract the unusual dryness of the soil thus occasioned. Liquid manure will be found very beneficial to the growing crops of cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and all such green vegetables. If available, a mulch of fine rotted manure will prove efficacious, and prevent evaporation of moisture from the soil, while an occasional hoeing will also have a good effect. Keep up a supply of plants by seed-sowing in small quantities. Vegetable marrow, pumpkin, and hardy cucumber seed should be sown without delay in suitable well-manured situations and watered occasionally. Tomatoes may be planted out now without risk. Sow peas and French beans to keep up a succession of crops; with regard to peas it is time to repeat the sowing when the previous one is appearing above the surface of the ground. There should be a continued sowing of radish, lettuce, and mustard and cress for salads, also onion seed for pulling when young.

The Flower Garden.—All bedding-out should be completed by now, and the chief work in the flower garden will be the mowing of lawns and keeping weeds in check by a constant use of the hoe during fine weather. Use weed-killer on the walks: it saves labor and prevents the paths from being broken up. Keep all spent flowers cut away to allow the shoots to make fresh growth and prolong the flowering. Prune back flowering shrubs in like manner, and thus provide for fresh growth for successive blossoming. All shoots springing from the base of roses require to be cut away. All grafted trees should be similarly treated, and these, as well as budded need careful attention to obtain the best results. Water the roses with plenty of liquid manure to secure a good display of hearty blooms. Care should be taken when cutting the blooms. One is often tempted to cut a finely developed bloom growing in the heart of a collection of buds, with the result that the buds have to go along with it, thus losing a number for the sake of one. It is far better to cut an isolated bloom and allow the buds to fully develop and beautify the garden. Do not cut away any of the leaves of bulbs until they turn yellow, allowing them to remain on strengthens the bulb for the following season's flowering. Although chrysanthemums will grow in any good soil they require attention. They should be trained to a trellis or stakes and supplied with liquid manure occasionally, and have the young shoots cut off from the bottom of the plant. Dahlias require to be tied to stakes and also treated with liquid manure at frequent intervals.

A Palmerston North *Standard* representative has been shown a lock of wool measuring 46in in length, taken from a hermit crossbred sheep on a station at Wanstead, Hawke's Bay. The wool represents a growth of seven years. The animal lived in a gully, and each year was shorn by a shepherd, who left a patch of wool seven years ago which he did not touch in the successive seasons until recently, when the lock, on being measured, was found to be the length stated.

## St. Patrick's Church, Raetihi Ireland's Crisis

Ireland's delegates in London to decide Ireland's future. Who with Irish blood and faith is not in breathless anxiety? Who does not hope that Ireland's rights will be fully recognised, and who does not fondly hope and pray that Ireland's women (the bravest of the brave) who stood on Ireland's Calvary, will witness the glory of Ireland's resurrection?

Send an offering to-day to Ireland's Patron, St. Patrick. Ask him to intercede in this crisis and secure freedom for Ireland. Send an offering for St. Patrick's Church, Raetihi.

Donations acknowledged in the *Tablet*.

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