

ON THE LAND

MARKET REPORTS.

At Burnside last week 214 head of fat cattle were penned—a small yarding—which included several pens of well-finished cattle, prices for these being firm at the previous week's rates, but lighter cattle showed a rise in values to the extent of 10s to 15s per head. This was most noticeable at the end of the sale. Extra prime heavyweight bullocks realised from £16 15s to £17 10s, prime heavyweight bullocks £14 12s 6d to £15 5s, medium from £11 17s 6d to £12 10s, lighter kinds from £9 2s 6d to £10 15s. Best cows and heifers to £8, medium from £6 10s to £7 5s, others from £6 upwards. Fat Sheep: A small yarding was brought forward for last week's sale, only 1774 being penned, consequently a fairly spirited sale resulted. Prices for prime heavy-weight sheep opened equal to those ruling on the preceding week, and remained firm throughout, medium sheep were easier to the extent of 1s to 1s 6d. Extra prime heavy-weight wethers brought 55s 9d to 62s 6d, prime heavy-weight wethers 48s 6d to 50s, medium 38s 9d to 44s, light kinds from 30s upwards, extra prime heavy-weight ewes 35s to 39s 3d, prime 30s to 32s 3d, medium 26s to 28s, others from 22s 6d upwards. Fat Pigs: Pigs were forward in fairly large numbers, all classes being represented. Competition was brisk, and prices were about equal to those realised at the previous sale. Best baconers realised up to 7d, and best porkers from 8d to 8½d per lb.

At last week's Addington market the yardings were smaller in all classes, except in fat sheep, and there was an improvement in both beef and mutton values. Fat Sheep.—A slightly larger entry and an improved market for wethers. Ewes were about the same, and there was a keen sale for extra prime wethers, which realised from 41s 6d to 43s. A few special 46 prime wethers brought from 38s to 41s, medium from 34s 6d to 37s 6d, light from 29s 6d to 34s, extra prime ewes from 35s 6d to 37s 6d, a few special 39s 9d, prime from 32s 6d to 35s 6d, medium from 28s 6d to 32s, light from 24s 6d to 28s 3d. Fat Cattle.—A small yarding of 305 head. The market was slightly better than it was on the previous week for good beef. Extra prime 32s per 100lb, good from 27s 6d to 29s 6d, medium from 24s 6d to 26s 6d, extra prime steers from £14 15s to £16 17s 6d, prime from £11 to £11, medium from £8 5s to £10 15s, inferior from £6 5s to £8, extra prime heifers £11 5s, prime from £7 5s to £9 5s, ordinary from £5 12s 6d to £7, extra prime cows £9 5s, prime from £6 to £8, ordinary from £3 15s to £5 15s. Vealers: A small entry and a rise in values. Runners £5 5s, good vealers from £3 5s to £5 7s 6d, fair from £2 to £3, small calves from £1 to £1 7s. Fat Pigs: A small entry and no alteration in values. Choppers from £3 10s to £7 10s, light baconers from £3 15s to £4 5s, heavy from £4 12s 6d to £5. Average price from 7d to 7½d. Light porkers from 40s to 50s, heavy from 55s to 65s. Average price from 8d to 9d.

At the fortnightly sale of rabbitskins held on July 17, another large offering was placed before the usual attendance of buyers. Bidding lacked spirit, and an irregular sale was the result, consequently lower values had to be accepted. Best winter sorts showed a decrease on an average of about 2d per lb, spotted winters 4d per lb, incoming winter 1½d, and autumn 2d per lb. Lower grades were firm at last sale's rates. Quotations: Prime winter does 91d to 97½d, first 70d to 83d, second 48d to 54d, spotted 39d to 44d, prime winter bucks 80d to 85d, first 66d to 78½d, second 48d to 53d, spotted 36d to 44d, spring bucks 28d to 33d, spring does 30d to 35d, early winter 60d to 65d, incoming winter 54d to 58d, late autumn 33d to 47d, early autumn 33d to 37d, prime rucks 30d to 31½d, light 26d to 28d, summer 25d to 27d, small 16d to 18½d, first broken 36d to 41½d, second 30d to 31½d, autumn broken 24d to 29d, summer 18d to 22d, first winter black 72d to 89d, second 45d to 55d, autumn 30d to 37d, first winter fawn 60d to 65d, hareskins 20d to 30d.

SOME NOTES ON FARM WORK.

In an interesting address on the work of the Otago Farm School, recently delivered by Mr. O. E. Neiderer (says the *Southland Weekly Times*), the following useful information was given:—

Liming and Manuring.

The soil might be regarded as the chief asset in the business of agriculture, and there are ten elements necessary for plant growth. Carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, sulphur, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and iron. Seven of these elements were plentiful in New Zealand soils. The three in which our soils were deficient were nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus, and consequently the manures required were divided into three groups accordingly and high grade manures contain these three elements. The practice of liming as a soil sweetener and for correcting acidity is very important. Lime was used not so much to supply plant food as to correct certain deficiencies or irregularities in the soil. The first essential was draining, which must go hand in hand with liming. Lime not only promoted plant growth, but made the fodder more palatable to stock and hindered the progress of plant diseases. The enormous amounts of phosphorus, lime, etc., that are taken off our land annually by cropping and what goes off the farm in beef and milk showed the great necessity of putting something back into the land in the way of fertilisers; especially top-dressing pasture land. Basic slag for this purpose can be most profitably used, from 1cwt to 10cwt per acre. A good paddock of grass is like a good cow, it pays to expend money on it.

New Zealand Grass Lands.

The farmer should aim at a mixed pasture, which is preferable to pure sowings, because the growth was more uniform throughout the year. Variation of feed was offered, which stock appreciated, and plant companionship was beneficial to the individuals. Particularly valuable were clovers in the pasture. They should be looked on as one of the vital elements in any pasture association. The nitrates clover gather become available to the other grasses. They also keep the surface of the ground cool and moist, which in the case of cocksfoot and crested dogtail, the new surface roots can grow. This is one of the reasons why permanent pastures should not be eaten too bare, as some of the best grasses get killed out. Cocksfoot makes new root growth each year, but cannot do so unless the new shoots of grass can get away. Also grasses and clovers obtain some of their food from the air; this is absorbed through the leaves. If kept eaten bare they cannot get the necessary food. This shows the necessity of having small paddocks, so as each portion can be spelled systematically. It is also a mistake to cut hay crops off permanent grass paddocks, as by letting the stronger grasses come away to cut for hay the finer grasses are smothered out. This leaves bare patches for weeds and poorer grasses to get a hold and so ruin the pasture. The chain harrows should be used frequently, for the rank growth round stock droppings tends to smother out the finer grasses. Scotch thistles are also bad for the same reason, as stock cannot graze close up to the thistle stalk, with the result that you have the rank growth of the stronger growing grasses. Crested dogtail is not appreciated as it should be. Three or four pounds should be included in all permanent grass mixtures, whether for cattle or sheep. It is such a good bottom grass.

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