

ON THE LAND

MARKET REPORTS.

There was a large yarding of fat cattle at Burnside last week, 278 head being brought forward. Included in this entry were some pens of very prime bullocks, but as usual they were of mixed variety, a fair proportion of the yarding consisting of unfinished steers. There were very few prime cows and heifers forward, the number of these being much less than usual. Owing to the large supply prices eased to the extent of from 15s per head all over. Extra prime bullocks £21 10s, prime £15 to £18, medium £12 10s to £14 15s, light and unfinished £9 10s to £11 5s, prime cows and heifers £9 10s to £10, medium £7 to £8 5s, old and inferior £5 to £6 15s. Fat Sheep.—A small yarding resulted, only 1633 being offered. There were very few fat ewes on hand, practically all the yarding being composed of medium to good wethers, and owing to the short supply prices showed a general rise of about 1s to 1s 6d per head. Extra prime wethers brought up to 60s 6d, prime wethers from 54s to 58s, medium 46s to 51s, light and unfinished 36s upwards, prime ewes 38s to 41s, medium 34s to 37s, light from 30s to 33s. Fat Lambs.—There was a small yarding, only nine coming forward for last week's sale. These were good quality, and after keen competition they realised from 35s to 45s. Pigs.—A medium yarding, all classes being represented. Competition was brisk and prices advanced considerably, both baconers and porkers being fully 5s per head dearer. Prime baconers realised about 7½d and prime porkers about 9d per lb.

At the Addington yards last week there were good entries in all classes. Beef showed an improvement on the previous week, but fat sheep were easier by about 2s per head, and the store sheep market was weaker. Fat Lambs.—There were 114 penned. A good sale eventuated, prices being from 27s to 42s 6d. Fat Sheep.—There was a heavy yarding of 10 full races, and lower values. Graziers bought a proportion of lighter sheep. Best wether mutton 7¾d to 8d, best ewe 7¼d to 7¾d, secondary wether 7¼d, secondary ewe 7d to 7¼d. Extra prime wethers 49s to 54s, a few special 58s 6d, prime wethers 43s 6d to 47s, medium wethers 40s to 43s, light wethers 35s 6d to 39s, extra prime ewes 37s to 40s, medium ewes 32s to 36s, light ewes 27s 6d to 31s 6d, prime shorn wethers 35s to 40s 6d, prime shorn ewes 33s 3d. Fat Cattle.—There were 370 penned. A keen sale resulted, and prices improved by up to 15s per head; prime ox made 48s per 100lb, prime 43s to 46s, medium 39s 6d to 42s 6d, light 37s to 39s, rough down to 25s, extra prime steers £22 to £24 10s, prime £17 10s to £21, medium £14 to £17 5s, light £9 to £13 10s, extra prime heifers £15 to £19 2s 6d, prime £11 10s to £14, ordinary £9 to £11, light £6 to £8 10s, extra prime cows £14 to £15 10s, prime £10 15s to £13 10s, ordinary £7 10s to £10 10s. Vealers.—A small entry. Anything good sold at an advance on late rates. Runners realised £6, good vealers £4 10s to £5 10s, medium calves £2 10s to £4, small 10s to £1 10s. Fat Pigs.—There was a larger entry, porkers being easier and baconers firm. Choppers brought from £4 to £10, light baconers £4 to £4 10s, heavy £4 5s to £4 15s, extra heavy £5 15s—average price per lb 7d to 8d, light porkers £2 10s to £2 15s, heavy £2 17s 6d to £3 2s—average price per lb 8½d to 9½d.

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

Sheep Farming on Native-Grass Pasturage

(Contributed.)
CRUTCHING.

Crutching, as the name implies, consists in the shearing of the wool around the teats, the inside of the hind legs, and then a semicircle round the buttocks of the sheep. The object of it is to keep the sheep in a greater state of cleanliness. It is also an economical operation. The wool thus shorn is picked up, packed, and sold at the crutching sales, where it realises, as a rule, considerably more than the cost of the operation. Where sheep are left uncrutched usually a great deal of daggs accumulate round the hind-quarters, particularly in wet seasons, and on the low-lying land where there is a plenitude of feed. If allowed

to get into a dirty state and dagged from time to time, the daggs removed are almost valueless, and a greater amount of labor will be entailed in the end, to say nothing of the risk of strike from blow-fly during warm weather. The average cost of the operation is from four to five shillings per hundred sheep. Such sheep as are intended for sale before the latter part of the spring undoubtedly present a better appearance to the public eye if left uncrutched. A good covering of wool about the hind-quarters gives them a more full, well-turned appearance, and for this reason, if such sheep are not breeding ewes, it is preferable to leave them uncrutched. The daggs, however, must be removed.

Wethers should be shorn round the "button"; too much wool about that organ frequently causes scald and subsequent inflammation, particularly in warm weather.

As a rule sheep are crutched when the rams are taken out from the ewes at the end of the mating season. Some defer it as late as they can safely do so, without injury to the in-lamb ewes, in order to have them as clean as possible at the lambing time. If left too late the rough handling involved in the operation may injure both the ewe and her offspring. The wool immediately in front of the teats should be removed in order to facilitate the access of the lamb to the udder.

FOOT-ROT.

On hill country comparatively few sheep will be affected with this evil if cross-breeds compose the flocks. For a few isolated cases hand dressing with a foot-rot remedy will be as convenient and economical as any other method. However, as the trouble may be, unwittingly, introduced among the flock by outside purchases, it is well to have a small pen laid down in concrete in front of the alley in the sheep yard. Round the outer margin of this pen a rim of concrete should be raised—1½d to 2in will suffice—so that the pen may be made to contain the liquid used as the remedy for foot-rot. First pare the feet of all affected sheep; detached horn will never again unite to the sole of the dressed foot but will only induce the growth of the foot-rot fungus. Then put about 1in deep of liquid dressing in the pen; drive in the sheep and let them stand till the feet are well saturated with the remedy. Then let them out and bring in another lot and treat them in the same way, and so on till all have passed through.

Bluestone dissolved in water makes a good dressing. Several kinds of sheep dip and other antiseptics are also used for this purpose. Arsenic and Stockholm tar are also good. Many kinds of foot-rot cure are on sale ready made up. Butyr of antimony diluted with water is good for very bad cases, but it is rather severe on sheep. It should only be used as a hand-dressing. I am aware that most farmers use a foot-rot trough instead of a pen for putting the sheep through in large numbers. The reason for which I prefer the pen is that the sheep's feet are more likely to become thoroughly saturated with the preparation if allowed to stand in it for a few moments than when they are permitted to run through.

As a permanent cure can hardly be expected from one dressing, infected sheep should be put through the liquid at least two or three times at intervals of a few days. On wet, low-lying lands many farmers find it necessary to put their flocks through at regular intervals, both as a cure for the infected and as a preventative for the remainder, for this evil is undoubtedly contagious. Foot-rot is more prevalent in very wet or very dry seasons. Sandy river beds or newly-ploughed ground have a good effect on bad feet.

"Steel Queen" Disc Harrows are undoubtedly doing most of the Dominion's discing! There are over 12,000 sets at work: Allowing 50 acres—once over—per year, per set, means that 600,000 acres is "Steel Queen" disc'd per year, probably more than all other makes combined! Why? Well, ask a "Steel Queen" owner. Your set is ready. When and where shall we send it? Mention *N.Z. Tablet* when ordering.

BOOTH, MACDONALD & CO., LTD., CHRISTCHURCH.
Branches—Auckland, Hamilton, Gisborne, Hastings, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Masterton, Ashburton, Timaru, Dunedin, and Invercargill.