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COMMERCIAL.

MR. HENRY DRIVER, on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, reports as follows for the week ending November 2, 1876:—

Fat Cattle.—A moderate supply of about 100 head only were yarded, consequently late prices were fully maintained; best bullocks bringing up to £16 each; do. cows, £13, or equal to 37s 6d to 40 per 100lbs. We sold 25 at yards, and 45 privately, at above rates.

Fat Sheep.—The short supply during the last two market days caused an over supply to come forward to-day. Fully 2,600 were yarded, and, being somewhat in excess of requirements, could only be sold at considerable reduction on last weeks quotations. Best cross-breeds, in the wool, brought 15s to 15s 6d, or equal to be about 3d to 3½d per lb. A prime lot of shorn cross-breeds, heavy weights, brought 12s each. At the yards, we sold 1100 on account of Messrs. Grey, Dunn, Orbell, and others, and have also placed 400 privately at current rates.

Fat Lambs.—A large supply, consisting of 300 ordinary to fair quality lambs, were penned, most of which were sold at prices ranging from 8s to 13s 6d, according to weight and quality. We sold 85 at above rates.

Store Sheep.—We have no transactions to note.

Store Cattle.—Well-bred bullocks and cows continue in good demand, and during the week we have sold 400 head on account of Hugh McIntyre, Esq. We quote best cows at from £5 5s to £6 6s each; ditto bullocks, at from £7 7s to £8 8s. We shall sell 500 head of very superior cattle at Palmerston on 14th inst.

Wool.—The Press telegrams to-day report:—"London, October 20.—Demand increased, at slight advance on closing prices August sales, which is difficult to understand, in connection with the warlike news in the same message." It is probable, owing to our shearing commencing early, our first wool sales will be held early in December this year. An accession to our number of usual buyers is expected, by purchasers from the United States, France and Belgium. It is to the interest of wool-growers that they should get up their clips, whether small or large, in the best possible manner, and bring them forward to the local sales and attract foreign buyers to trade on the spot.

Sheepskins.—We held our usual weekly auction this afternoon. Competition was active—prices being in advance of last week. Best butchers' cross-breeds 5s 5d; dry cross-breeds, 4s 9d; merinos, from 1s 3d to 4s 1d.

Hides.—The supply this week was small, and indifferent in quality. Good conditioned hides are worth quite as much money. We sold medium weights, 14s 9d to 15s 9d; light, inferior, 8s to 13s 6d each.

Tallow.—Brisk demand. Mixed parcels selling 28s 6d to 29s 6d; mutton, 32s.

Grain.—Wheat is unaltered in demand or scarcity of supply. Prime wheat must still advance, as the higher rates quoted in European markets, and Australia will cut off imports which might otherwise have come to us. Oats are in fair supply, and meet good demand at 2s 1d to 2s 2d for fair feed, 2s 3d to 2s 4d for very choice milling. Barley is quiet, no business doing.

MR. SKENE reports for the week ending November 2, 1876, as follows:—The month of October has closed with a good brisk demand for laborers of most kinds. The chief want is for ploughmen, shepherds, musters, &c. Shearers are making ready for their busy time; there is no exact figure fixed; the men want 20s. per 100. Skilled trades are rather quiet in town yet; shopmen and clerks are very difficult to place. Female servants of any training are very scarce; couples still move slowly. Wages—Musters, 40s per week and upwards, according to time; shepherds, for long terms, £60 to £70 per year; day labor, 8s and 9s; dairy and odd hands, 15s to 25s; ploughmen, £52 to £60; boys and girls, 6s to 10s; storemen and shopmen, £1 10s to £3 per week; house girls, 10s to 15s; hotel girls, 12s, 15s, 20s, and up to 30s.

MR. A. MERCER reports as follows for the week ending November 2, 1876, retail prices only:—Fresh butter, in ½ and 1lb prints, 1s to 10½d; fresh butter, in lumps, 1s; powdered and salt butter 1s 2d. The supply of fresh butter is now very plentiful, and the fall in price will make some of the dairy farmers go to cheese making. Salt butter (new season), 1s per lb. Cheese, of the best quality, 1s 2d; side and rolled bacon, 10d to 11d; Colonial hams, 1s 2d to 1s 3d; English hams, 1s 6d to 1s 7d. Eggs, in good demand, at 1s 3d per doz.

MESSRS. M. AND J. MEENAN, George Street, report the following as the latest quotations:—Flour—Large bags, £14; small do, £14 10s per ton. Oatmeal—£11 10s per ton. Pearl barley—£22 per ton. Bran—£5 15s per ton, including bags. Pollard—£6 10s per ton. Chaff—£4 per ton. Hay—£4 per ton. Potatoes—£3 10s to £4 per ton. Carrots—£2 10s per ton. Wheat—4s 6d to 4s 9d per bushel. Barley—2s to 2s 6d per bushel. Oats—2s to 2s 3d per bushel. Cheese—8d to 9½d per lb.

MR. J. VEZEY reports for the week ending November 2, 1876:—Retail: Roast beef, 6d to 8d per lb.; boiling do., 4d to 5d per lb.; stewing do., 4d to 6d per lb.; steak, 6d to 9d per lb.; mutton, 3d to 6d per lb.; veal, 4d to 8d per lb.; pork, 9d to 10d per lb.; lamb, 4s 6d and 5s per quarter.

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