

London, December 17.—Frozen mutton: Crossbred wethers and maiden ewes—Canterbury, unchanged; Dunedin and Southland, unchanged; North Island, 2½d. Lamb: Prime Canterbury, 4½d; fair average (including Dunedin, Southland, Wellington, and secondary Canterbury), 4d; River Plate, unchanged.

Rabbits—Colonial (firm), 9s.

Hares (very scarce), 2s 9d. Continental supplies having failed,

At the kauri gum sales 4053 cases were offered, and 1400 were sold. Three-quarter scraped advanced 2s 6d, other descriptions remaining unchanged. The stock is 1632 cases.

AUSTRALIAN COMMERCIAL.

Sydney, December 13.—Wheat (nominal): New, 2s 6d to 2s 7d; old, 2s 7d to 2s 8d. Flour, L6 10s to L7. Oats—Feeding: New Zealand, 2s to 2s 3d; Tasmanian, 1s 10d to 2s; seedling—Tartarian, 1s 10d to 1s 11d. Barley: Cape, 2s 3d to 2s 6d. Maize: Local and New Zealand prime, 3s; American, 2s 10d to 2s 11d. Peas: Prussian Blue, 3s 3d to 3s 6d. Bran, 8d to 8½d. Pollard, 9d to 9½d. Potatoes: New Circulars, L2 to L2 10s; others L1 10s to L2. Onions: L1 10s to L2 15s. Butter: Dairy, 7½d to 8d; factory, 9d. Cheese: Large, 4½d to 4¾d; loaf, 5d to 5½d. Bacon, 5½d to 7d.

The above quotations are those ruling between merchant and retailer, and do not represent the slightly lower values obtained by recognised brokers.

Melbourne, December 13.—Wheat (quiet): New, 2s 6½d to 2s 7d; old, 2s 7½d. Oats: Algerian, 1s 8d; stout, 1s 10d. Maize, 2s 10½. Bran, 8½d. Pollard, 10½d to 11d. Potatoes: New, L1 15s to L2. Onions, L2 10s to L3.

Adelaide, December 13.—Wheat, very quiet. Old is quoted at 2s 8d; new, 2s 7½d to 2s 8d. Flour, L7. Oats unchanged. Bran and pollard, 9d.

LIVE STOCK.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

Messrs. Wright, Stephenson, and Co. report as follows:—

There was a fair number of horses forward for Saturday's sale, most of them from North Otago, and, with the exception of three or four medium draughts, they were nearly all hacks and harness-horses of very ordinary class. Considering the indifferent quality or the horses offered, the sale was a good one, and nearly every lot changed hands. The near approach of the holiday season created a demand for the cheaper class of hack and harness horse that was gratifying to vendors. A very nice five-year-old dog-cart mare realised L19; a good buggy horse (unbroken), L16 10s; and other horses of less merit were sold as follows:—One at L14, two at L13, three at L12, one at L11, four at L10, and seven at from L6 to L9. There is a strong demand for first-class heavy young draught geldings, but there are none offering. We recommend consignments of this class, and also of really first-class spring van and spring cart horses. We quote: First-class young draught mares and geldings at from L45 to L50; good do, L38 to L45; medium, L30 to L35; aged, L18 to L23; upstanding young spring-carters, at from L25 to L30; good do, L18 to L23; light harness horses and hacks, first class, at from L18 to L25; good do, L11 to L17; medium, L8 to L12; aged and weedy sorts, L2 to L5.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

The entries at Addington comprised 4343 fat sheep, 1000 fat lambs, 487 store sheep, 532 head of cattle, and 480 pigs.

FAT CATTLE.—The 267 fat cattle were mostly good handy weight stuff. Bidding was slack, and prices were slightly easier. Prime beef sold at from 17s 6d to 20s per 100lb; good, 15s to 17s; cow and inferior, down to 12s 6d. Eleven North Island steers brought L7 7s 6d to L7 15s; good to prime local steers, L7 to L8 10s; others, L5 10s to L6 10s. Heifers sold at from L4 2s 6d to L7 2s 6d; and cows from L3 5s to L6.

FAT SHEEP.—There was a heavy yarding of fat sheep, the bulk being ewes, and a lot of mixed quality wethers. There was a fair demand for all lots. Wethers realised 12s 6d to 13s 9d; extra good to 14s; best ewes, 11s 6d to 13s; medium do, 9s 6d to 11s; others, 9s 6d to 9s.

FAT LAMBS.—With a few exceptions the lambs were of medium quality. A few extra good sold at from 13s to 14s; freezing quality, 11s to 12s 6d; inferior down to 9s 7d.

STORE SHEEP.—In store sheep ewes and wethers fetched 11s 7d to 12s 8d; small wethers, 11s 3d; hoggets, 11s 1d to 12s.

PIGS.—Pigs sold as follows:—Bacon 3d and porkers 3½d per lb; best baconers, 27s 6d to 35s; porkers, 21s to 30s; stores, 17s to 22s 6d; weaners, 12s to 15s.

WOOL, SKINS, TALLOW, ETC.

CHRISTCHURCH WOOL SALES.

The second wool sale of the season commenced on Thursday morning, 12,000 to 13,000 bales being offered. There was a large attendance of buyers. The wool was mostly in splendid condition, and a number of station clips were offered, including several that have never before been sold locally. Competition was exceedingly keen throughout, the sale proceeding much more briskly than the last. Continental buyers present snapped up the bulk of the merino and a considerable proportion of the best half-bred; while Home buyers and representatives of New Zealand mills were also keen competitors for the fine wools. During the forenoon 'Kaiwara' greasy merino sold up to 14½d, and T. Armstrong's half-bred to 13½d; fine crossbred reaching 10½d. All fine wools showed an advance on rates realised at the previous sale. Fine bright crossbreds also showed an improvement, but coarser grades were without change.

Messrs. Dalgety and Co. have received the following telegram, dated 11th inst., from their London office:—'Wool sales have closed firm, and lately-reported rates are fully maintained. Out of the

net quantity available for sale some 50,000 bales have been sold for home consumption, 49,000 bales for the Continent, 4000 bales for America, leaving 1000 bales to be carried forward to the next series. As compared with the closing rates of last series, merinos and fine crossbreds are 15 to 20 per cent. higher; greasy medium crossbreds, greasy coarse crossbreds, and scoured medium crossbreds are 20 per cent. higher; coarse crossbreds and coarse slippe wools are 10 per cent. higher.'

Messrs. Dalgety and Co. have received the following cable, dated 14th inst., from their London office:—'Merino sheepskins are higher by 10 per cent.; crossbred skins by 15 to 20 per cent. The tallow market is firm, and there is a brisk demand at last quotations.'

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—

RABBITSKINS.—There were no sales this week, as they are only held once a fortnight at present.

SHEEPSKINS.—The demand still keeps up, the weekly sales being well attended. Best dry merinos, 6s 6d to 8s 6d; do half-breds, 6s to 8s; do half-breds 5s to 6s 6d.

HIDES.—In good demand. Prime heavy ox, 3½d to 4½d; medium, 3d to 3½d; light and inferior, 1½d to 2½d per lb.

TALLOW.—Market steady. Best rendered mutton, 15s 6d to 17s; medium, 13s 6d to 15s; rough fat 10s 6d to 12s 6d per cwt.

WOOL.—The first sale of the season takes place on Thursday next, 21st inst., but there will not be much offering. The next sale takes place on January 12.

London, December 12.—The wool sales just closed showed an advance of 20 per cent. in merinos and fine crossbreds, 20 to 30 per cent. in medium and lower crossbreds, 15 to 20 per cent. in slipes, 15 to 20 per cent. in merino lambs, and 25 per cent. in crossbred lambs, as compared with the October sales. During the sales 45,000 bales were purchased by Home buyers, 49,000 by Continental, 4000 by American, 5000 were held over.

London, December 13.—At the tallow sales 1875 casks were offered, and 1475 sold. Mutton, fine, 23s 3d; medium, 27s. Beef, fine, 27s; medium, 26s.

London, December 15.—The Bradford wool market is quiet. Common sixties, 31d; super, 32½d.

The New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company (Limited) has received the following cable from its London office:—'Wool: The sales closed firmly this day. Since close of last sales greasy merino is 20 per cent dearer, and greasy crossbred 25 per cent. dearer. Nearly all descriptions have advanced 3d per lb; other descriptions unchanged.'

THE WEEK'S DREDGING RETURNS.

During the week ended Monday, 18th inst. (says the *Otago Daily Times*), returns were reported from the following 23 dredges, the total yield being 787oz 19dwt 10gr, or an average of over 34oz per dredge:—Hartley and Riley (Cromwell), 4 days, 100 z 16dwt; Golden Treasure (Miller's Flat), 73oz 14dwt; Electric (Cromwell), 63oz; Junction Electric (Cromwell), 61oz; Success (Waipori), 138½ hours, 57oz 4dwt; Golden Gate (Island Block), 6 days, 55oz 3dwt; Manorburn (Manuherikia), 50oz; Woolshed (Glenore), 45oz; Inch Valley (near Palmerston), 136 hours, 35oz 10dwt; Dunedin (Miller's Flat), 6 days, 35oz; Empire (Waipori), 30oz 15dwt 21gr; Enterprise (Alexandra), 24oz 8dwt; Waimumu (near Gore), 151 hours, 22oz; Evans Flat (Tuapeka), 20oz 11dwt; Golden Point (Alexandra), 20oz; Tuapeka (Tuapeka Flat), 120 hours, 20oz; Nevis (Nevis River), 103 hours, 17oz; Chatto Creek (Manuherikia), 15oz; Sunlight (Beaumont), 131 hours, 14oz 5dwt; Golden Terrace (Lower Shotover), 13oz 17dwt 13gr; Otago (Miller's Flat), 11oz 14dwt; Jutland Flat (Waipori), 113 hours, 10oz 5dwt; Ettrick (Moa Flat), 8oz 15dwt; Bengerburn, 5 days, 7oz, 9dwt. Total, 787oz 19dwt 10gr.

THE ENGLISH COAL SUPPLY.

SOME twenty-five years ago (says the *Daily Mail*) Britain supplied 50 per cent. of the world's coal consumption, and now we supply only 30 per cent. While twenty-five years ago the United States of America supplied only 15 per cent. of the world's coal consumption, now they supply 30 per cent. We shall probably export 40,000,000 tons of coal this year to other countries, who manufacture at less cost than we do with our cheap fuel, who send their goods over to us duty free, and then undersell us in our own market. A duty of 6d per ton on all coal exported would tend to keep valuable fuel at home, where we should undoubtedly want it before long, and it would bring in £1,000,000 per annum, which would give 10s a week to 40,000 old or disabled miners, and thus provide for colliers the old-age pensions. One thing is certain, that in fifty years we shall practically be dependent on the United States of America for cheap coal, iron and steel, and when this comes about we or our sons will find out that an alliance with the United States for coaling our navy was imperative.

The Sacred Heart College, Auckland, conducted by the Marist Brothers, and under the patronage of his Lordship Bishop Lenihan, prepares pupils for the Civil Service (junior and senior), Law, Matriculation, and other examinations. In the interest of those desirous of entering on a mercantile career special attention is devoted to shorthand and book-keeping. The system of teaching is that followed in the eminently successful Marist College of St. Joseph, Hunter's Hill, Sydney. Further particulars as to terms, etc., will be found elsewhere in this issue, or can be obtained on application to the Superior, Rev. Brother Basil.—*.*

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