

Commercial.

THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY CO., LIMITED, report for the week ended January 19th as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—We quote—best bullocks, £7 5s to £9 15s; medium to good, £5 12s 6d to £6 12s 6d; light, £3 15s to £5 5s; cows in proportion.

Fat Sheep.—2534 were penned. We quote—best crossbred wethers, 12s 6d to 14s 6d; medium, 10s 3d to 12s 3d; best do ewes, 11s 6d to 13s; medium, 7s 3d to 11s; merino wethers, 10s to 10s 9d.

Fat Lambs.—Best, 7s to 8s; a few extra prime, 9s 6d to 11s 9d. **Pigs.**—Suckers, 7s 6d to 10s; slips, 13s to 16s 6d; porkers, 20s to 23s; baconers, 24s to 30s; extra heavy, 34s.

Store Cattle.—The business done in these during the past week has only been to a very limited extent, doubtless due to the scarcity of feed. There are a good many offering of one sort and another, but there is no demand of any consequence, graziers being pretty well supplied in the meantime.

Store Sheep.—The market has been without much change since our last. There is a good deal of inquiry for nearly all sorts, but more especially young sheep, both crossbred and merino, which should lead to more business, and no doubt will, when sellers and buyers ideas of value are more in accord, a considerable number of aged merino wethers and ewes are now offering, the greater proportion only fit for boiling down, but are saleable although the stronger and sound mouthed portion have the preference, several sales of these being effected at from 2s 6d to 4s 6d. We sold during the week £4,000 at quotations.

Wool.—We have nothing now to report regarding this shape in the home market at the moment, nor is it likely that very much of any consequence will be known here until the opening of the first colonial wool sales in London about the end of the month. At the local market there is little or nothing doing pending the opening of the third series on the 21st inst., when good catalogues will again be submitted, notwithstanding the unsettled weather prevailing lately, and with quite as full an attendance of buyers as we had at our last sale, it is only reasonable to expect that prices current then will still be maintained.

Sheepskins.—We had the usual attendance of buyers at our weekly sale on Tuesday when a lengthy catalogue of various sorts was submitted, every lot of which was disposed of under good competition, and although prices for dry skins have lately been considerably easier last weeks rates were fully maintained. Green crossbred pelts carefully preserved and free from cuts are in increased demand with values tending upwards green lambskins are also in good request and thereby competed for. Country dry crossbreds inferior to medium brought 1s 8d to 3s 6d, do do merino, 1s 6d to 3s 3d, full woolled crossbreds 4s to 6s 8d, do do merino 3s 9d to 5s 11d, dry pelts 4d to 1s 5d, green crossbred pelts 1s 8d to 1s 7d 1s 6d 1s 5d 1s 4d do, lamb-kins 1s 8d 1s 7d 1s 6d 1s 5d 1s 4d 1s 3d.

Rabbitkins.—This being the off season the business passing is necessarily of little importance. The odd lots coming to hand being principally Farmers collections and comprise all sorts from suckers to fairly good summer skins all of which, however, are readily placed at prices according to quality, and in sympathy with those current lately in the London market. Quotations in the meantime would only be misleading.

Hides.—A steady demand continues to exist for these, but the market is unchanged as far as prices are concerned, although 65lb. hides and upwards in prime condition would command 4d to 1d more than rates now current if procurable; but while there is an over-supply of light and inferior sorts in the market, prime heavy weights are exceedingly scarce. There are hardly any being shipped, prices paid by local manufacturers leaving no margin for shipment. We quote for the general run of hides in the market, which as a rule are under 60lb.—good to best, 2½d to 3d; medium, 2d to 2½d; light, 1½d to 2d; inferior and slippy, 1d to 1½d per lb.

Tallow.—This market continues firm, and quite bare of stock—not sufficient coming forward to supply local requirements. All quantities of both tallow and fat have a very good demand, and realise prices quite in sympathy with those ruling at Home. We quote—prime rendered mutton, 19s to 20s; medium to good, 16s to 18s; inferior and mixed, 12s 6d to 15s 6d; rough fat—best mutton caul, 18s to 14s; inferior to medium and good, 10s to 12s 9d per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: There is no change to note in the position of the market this week which continues freely active, more especially for choice sorts, which are in most request, and are freely taken up at top quotations, while medium milling and fowl wheat is dealt in to a considerable extent at former prices. There is hardly any arriving, and as millers' stocks are being daily reduced it is quite evident that present values will be upheld till the new crop is on the market. We quote as last week, best Tuscan, 3s 9d to 3s 10d; best white velvet, 3s 8d to 3s 10d; extra prime, a shade more; medium to good, 3s 6d to 3s 8d; best red wheat, 3s 6d to 3s 7d; medium, 3s 5d to 3s 6d; inferior, which is very scarce, 3s to 3s 4d ex store.—Oats: A very good demand is experienced for these. Both shippers and speculators are operating. All in store and arriving, more especially bright, stout, short sorts, being taken up at prices slightly in advance of those quoted last week, other sorts are also firmer, although not so readily placed. There are very few being shipped in the meantime, and with a very considerable quantity still in store, also considering the near approach of harvest, and the absence of any encouraging reports from either the Home or the Australian markets, we think those holding would do well to quit while present prices, although a little low continue to be obtained. We quote, prime milling, bright, stout, and thin-skinned, 1s 6d to 1s 6½d; best short, stout feed, 1s 6d to 1s 6½d; medium, 1s 4½d to 1s 5½d; inferior, 1s 2d to 1s 3½d, ex store, sacks extra.—Barley:—There is nothing of any consequence doing in local growth, owing to the absence of supplies, nor is there any likelihood of any business being done before the new crop comes to hand. But it is evident already that parcels of prime

malting of the new crop will command a considerable advance on prices ruling during the past season. In the absence of sales quotations are nominal, for prime malting, 2s 9d to 3s 3d; medium to good, 1s 6d to 2s 9d; feed and milling, 1s 9d to 2s 3d ex store.

Grass Seed.—The market is almost bare of rye grass-seed, but beyond the supplying of small lots to farmers occasionally there is no demand. There is none of the new crop yet to hand, but doubtless in the course of the next fortnight consignments will be turning up, when most likely some inquiry will be made. Meantime, we quote—best machine-dressed, 4s 3d to 4s 9d; farmers' best dressed, 3s to 3s 6d; medium, 2s 6d to 2s 9d per bushel. Cocksfoot seed has no attention of any consequence, but for which we quote 4d to 4½d per lb.

Potatoes.—The market still continues over-supplied, and sales difficult to effect, unless they are really good and newly dug. Small and inferior sorts have no demand, and unsaleable, except at unsatisfactory prices. We quote—prime, £3 10s to £4 10s; Northern, £2 10s to £3 per ton.

Chaff.—Owing to a short supply, consignments having almost fallen off to nothing during the past week, any offering can be placed at an advance on late quotations, but during the last day or two consignments have come to hand more freely, and while £2 10s might be got on an emergency, buyers decline to give over 45s to 47s 6d for best per ton.

Dairy Produce.—There is a moderately fair demand for factory-made cheese, medium size, at from 3½d to 4d per lb., but rather than accept these prices sellers prefer to ship, considerable quantities now being sent forward to the London market. There is no improvement in the demand for butter; quotations unaltered.

Flax.—During the week we placed several parcels at late quotations, and find no difficulty in disposing of all consignments coming forward.

MESSRS. DONALD REID AND CO., Dunedin, report for the week ending January 21, as follows:—

Wool.—Our next sale will be held on Thursday, the 29th January at the Chamber of Commerce Hall, Dunedin. Clients wishing their wool catalogued for this sale will require to have it forward by Monday, the 26th, at the latest.

Sheepskins.—At our sale on Tuesday we offered a lengthy catalogue, part of which were dry lots from country clients the balance consisting of green skins from town butchers. There was a full gathering of buyers and brisk competition, prices being quite up to those ruling a fortnight ago. We quote—Dry crossbreds sold at, 2s 1d to 6s 1d; dry merinos, 1s 8d to 5s 4d; dry pelts and lambs, 6d to 2s 6d; green pelts, 1s 1d to 1s 8d; green lambs, 1s to 1s 6d.

Rabbitkins.—At auction on Monday we disposed of a moderate catalogue of late spring and summer take, which met with brisk competition.

Hides.—Since last reporting we have cleared out all on hand at lately ruling values. Arrivals during the past month have not been so heavy as usual, and a very large proportion have been light county parcels. We quote—Prime heavies, 2½d to 3d; medium, 2½d to 2½d; light, 1½d to 2d; inferior and slippy, 1½d to 1½d per lb.

Tallow.—A fair amount of business has been done during the week, but mostly in mixed parcels, which find a ready sale to local manufacturers. We quote—Medium rendered, 15s to 17s; inferior, 11s 6d to 13s 6d; rough fat, 9s to 13s.

Grain.—Wheat.—There is now a good demand for all qualities. Fowls feed is in much request, and commands almost equal to milling rates. Any parcels coming forward would meet with ready sale at quotations. We quote—Milling, prime, 3s 8d to 3s 11d; do, medium, 3s 6d to 3s 7d; fowl wheat, 3s to 3s 3d.

Oats.—We quote—Prime milling, 1s 5½d to 1s 6½d; bright, heavy feed, 1s 4½d to 1s 5½d (sacks extra).

Barley.—We quote—Malting, 2s 7d to 2s 10d; milling, 2s 2d to 2s 6d; feed, 1s 8d to 2s 1d.

Potatoes.—Supplies during the week have been somewhat above requirements. We quote—Prime, £3 10s to £3 17s 6d; inferior, £2 to £3 5s.

Chaff.—A moderate supply forward but still inadequate to meet requirements. We quote—Prime heavy £2 5s to £2 10s; light and mixed, £1 17s 6d to £2.

Flax.—Well dressed, soft, bright fibre-edged, and free from tips, is in good demand. We quote—Best soft straw coloured, £20 to £20 10s; medium quality, £19 to £20; inferior, £10 to £13.

Ryegrass seed.—The weather of the last fortnight has been favourable for securing this crop, and there is every prospect of satisfactory crops of good quality being secured.

MESSRS DONALD STRONACH AND CO., Dunedin, report for week ending Wednesday, January 14, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—269 head were yarded to-day at Burnside, medium weights predominating. Bidding was not so brisk as at last week's sale, there being a slight decline in prices for all qualities. Best bullocks sold at from £7 to £8 12s 6d; medium, £5 10s to £6 10s; light, £3 12s 6d to £5 2s 6d; cows in proportion. Several pens were passed.

Fat Sheep.—2472 were yarded. Notwithstanding the small supply, a slight decline in prices was apparent. The above number, with exception of one pen merinos, consisted of crossbreds. Best crossbred wethers brought from 12s 6d to 13s 9d, a few extra heavy up to 14s; medium to good, 10s 6d to 12s 6d; best do ewes, 11s 3d to 12s 3d; medium, 8s 6d to 11s.

Fat Lambs.—With a supply coinciding with last week's, namely, 791, prices were slightly easier. Best, 9s 6d to 10s 6d; medium, 5s 6d to 8s 6d.

Pigs.—167 of these were penned. Suckers sold at 6s 6d to 10s; slips, 12s to 15s 6d; stores, 20s to 21s 6d; porkers, 20s to 25s. Baconers were difficult to dispose of at 27s to 29s. We sold a draft of small pigs on account of Mr. Walter Blackie, Mosgiel, at 9s 6d to 13s 6d.

Store Sheep.—The demand for these is active.