

Commercial

Week ending May 25.

PRODUCE.

London, May 20.—An experimental shipment of Queensland barley averaged 30s a quarter.

Butter, unchanged. The demand is entirely confined to choicest brands. Consignors are storing largely all other sorts. The 'Ionic's' shipment was in good condition.

There is a slight improvement in cheese. New Zealand, 38s to 40s.

Rabbits, flat. Large, 6½d to 7d; young, 5½d to 6d.

Wellington, May 23.—The Department of Industries and Commerce has received the following cablegram from the Agent-General, dated London, May 21:—'The mutton market is weak and the output unsatisfactory, owing to the demand being chiefly for prime light carcasses, which are scarce. The average price to-day for Canterbury mutton, light-weights, is 4½d per lb, and 4½d per lb for heavy-weights. The average price to-day for other brands of North Island mutton is 4d per lb. The lamb market is steady, owing to the demand having been stimulated by the fine weather that has set in. The average price for Canterbury brands is 5½d per lb, and for brands other than Canterbury 5½d per lb. The beef market is quiet. The average price for hind-quarters of New Zealand beef is 3½d per lb; fores, 2½d per lb. There is a better demand for butter. Buyers are chiefly speculators, but the supplies on hand are very heavy. The average price of choicest New Zealand butter to-day is 88s per cwt; Danish, 96s. The cheese market is steady. The reduction in price has caused more business to be done. The average price of finest New Zealand cheese to-day is 40s per cwt. The wool sale has concluded. The market is firm, with a hardening tendency. Many buyers are operating heavily. There is general confidence in the maintenance of present prices. The estimated values are: Fine crossbred, 11d to 1s; medium, 9d to 10½d; coarse, 8d to 10d; superior merinos, 11½d to 1s 1½d; medium, 9d to 11d, inferior, 7d to 8½d.'

Invercargill prices current.—Wholesale—Butter farm, 6d; separator, 8d; butter, factory, pats, 10½d. Eggs, 1s 3d per dozen. Cheese, (factory), 6½d. Hams, 9d. Potatoes, £2 per ton (bags weighed in). Barley, 2s to 2s 6d. Chaff, £2 per ton. Flour, £10 to £11. Oatmeal, £9 to £9 10s. Bran, £3. Pollard, £5. Retail.—Farm butter, 8d; separator, 10d, butter (factory), pats, 1s. Eggs, 1s 6d per dozen. Cheese, 8d. Hams, 10d. Bacon, 10d. Potatoes, 3s 6d per cwt. Flour, 200lb, 22s; 50lb, 6s 6d. Oatmeal, 50lb, 5s 6d; 25lb, 3s. Pollard, 8s 6d per bag. Bran, 4s. Chaff, 1s 6d.

Mr. F. Meenan, King street, Dunedin, reports:—Wholesale prices only—Oats: Milling, 1s 5d to 1s 6d; feed, 11d to 1s 5d. Wheat: Milling, 2s 6d to 3s, fowls, 2s to 2s 4d. Potatoes: Kidneys, 30s; Derwents, £2. Chaff, 35s to 50s. Clover hay, £2 10s to £3. Straw: Pressed wheat, 25s; oats, 27s 6d; loose, 35s. Flour: Sacks, £9; 100lb, £9 10s; 50lb, £9 15s; 25lb, £10. Oatmeal, £9 10s. Pollard, £4 10s. Bran, £2 10s. Butter: dairy, 8d to 10d; factory, 11d. Cheese: factory, 5d; dairy, 4½d. Eggs, 1s 8d. Onions: Melbourne, £5.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. (Limited) report:—

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores to-day. There was only a small attendance of buyers, and as competition was slack, a large proportion of the offering had to be placed in. Present values are as under:—

Oats—A limited export business has been done during the past week in 'B' grade quality. 'A' grade has fair inquiry, but few of the lines coming forward are sufficiently bright to be included in this class. Prime bright Gartons are also wanted for shipment, but holders of this class of oats evince little disposition to accept current values. Medium and inferior qualities are without much attention. We quote: Prime milling, 1s 4½d to 1s 5d; good to best feed, 1s 3d to 1s 4d; inferior to medium, 1s to 1s 2d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—In milling quality only the best samples find favor with millers. Medium lines are almost neglected. Fowl wheat, which is not offering quite so freely, still has good demand for export at late values. We quote: Prime milling, 2s 10d to 3s; medium to good, 2s 5d to 2s 9d; best whole fowl wheat, 2s 3d to 2s 3½d; bro-

ken and damaged, 2s to 2s 2d per bushel (sacks extra). Potatoes.—The market is more heavily supplied, and values have again suffered a slight decline. We quote: Best Derwents, £2 to £2 2s 6d; medium, £1 15s to £1 17s 6d; kidneys, up-to-dates, etc., £1 10s to £2 per ton (sacks in).

Chaff.—In the face of supplies coming forward during the past week, it has been impossible to maintain late values, and in order to effect a clearance some reduction in price has to be made. We quote: Prime oaten sheaf, £2 7s 6d to £2 12s 8d, choice, to £2 15s; medium to good, £2 to £2 5s; inferior, light, and discolored, £1 10s to £1 17s 6d per ton (bags extra).

Hay.—The market is glutted, and consignments are extremely difficult to clear. We quote: Best clover and ryegrass hay, £2 10s to £2 15s; medium to good, £2 to £2 7s 6d per ton (pressed).

Turnips.—The low values reported last week have had the effect of retarding consignments, and slightly better values could now be obtained. We quote: Best Swedes, 14s per ton (loose, ex truck).

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co. report:—

Wheat and Oats.—There is no change to report in either cereal, and last week's quotations held good, although there is very little doing in either.

Chaff.—Prices are somewhat easier and only prime lines still are easily sold. Prime oaten sheaf brings £2 7s 6d to £2 15s; medium is nominally worth £1 17s 6d to £2 5s, and inferior £1 10s to £1 15s.

Potatoes.—Best Derwents, £2 to £2 2s 6d; others, £1 10s to £1 17s 6d.

WOOL.

London, May 19.—At the wool sales the Waihi clip realised 9½d. The sales closed firm at the highest prices of the series.

Compared with March, the closing prices for merinos averaged 5 per cent. higher, except for medium heavy greasies, which were unchanged. Fine crossbreds were firm in sellers' favor. Medium were 5 per cent. and coarse, 7½ per cent. higher. Merino lambs' wool was firm. Crossbreds were a halfpenny to a penny higher.

The Richmond and Omaraina clips realised 9½d.

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co. report:—

Rabbitskins.—We held our usual weekly sale on Monday, when there was an average attendance of buyers present. Competition was good and we sold as follows: Early winters, 13½d to 13½d; autumns, 10½d to 13½d; spring bucks, 11d; do does, 5d to 8d; summers, 6½d to 8d.

Sheepskins.—On Tuesday we offered a large catalogue and had a most satisfactory sale. The recent rise in the wool market in London was reflected on values ruling, and we can confidently recommend consignments being sent to us at present.

Tallow and Fat.—The market continues steady at late quotations.

Hides.—We sold last Thursday and had a fairly satisfactory sale, although not so good as that of the previous week. Ox hides made up to 6d and cows to 4½d.

LIVE STOCK

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS

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

For last Saturday's sale about a score of horses, mostly aged and weedy, were forward. About half the entry changed hands at quotations. We quote: Superior young draught geldings, £50 to £58; extra good, prize horses, £60 to £65; medium draught mares and geldings, £35 to £48; aged do, £22 to £33; upstanding carriage horses, £30 to £35; well-matched carriage pairs, £80 to £100; strong spring-van horses, £30 to £40; milk-cart and butchers' order-cart horses, £22 to £30; light hacks, £10 to £13; extra good hacks, £18 to £30; weedy and aged hacks and harness horses, £3 to £7.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET

There were fair entries of stock at Addington to-day, and the interest which is now being caused by the high prices for sheep assisted in making competition keen.

Fat Cattle.—The supply was in excess of the demand, and prices were consequently weaker. Steers brought from £6 10s to £11 7s 6d; heifers, £5 15s to £8 7s 6d; cows, £5 to £7 17s 6d. Per 100lb prime beef sold at 22s 6d, and cow and secondary at 18s to 21s. Veal calves sold at 10s to £2 6s.

Store Cattle.—The entry was mostly made up of well-grown young stock, which sold fairly well. Other