

Commercial

For week ending Wednesday, October 19.

PRODUCE.

Wellington, October 17.—The Department of Industries and Commerce has received the following cablegram from the Agent General, dated London, October 15:—Mutton: The market is quiet, but there is a general confidence in the maintenance of present prices. To some extent the market is affected by the expectation of light arrivals. The average price to-day for Canterbury mutton is 4½d; for lightweights, 4½d; for heavyweights, Dunedin, Southland, and W.M.E. Company's mutton, 4½d (nominal); and other brands North Island mutton, 4½d; River Plate mutton, 3½d. The lamb market is dull, and deliveries are now diminishing very rapidly. It is reported that some large sales have been effected for shipments of next season's lamb. Average price to-day for New Zealand lamb, Canterbury brand, 5½d; brands other than Canterbury, 5½d. Beef: The market is overstocked and depressed. Average price to-day for hindquarters New Zealand beef is 3½d; forequarters, 2½d. The butter market is dull. Average price for choicest New Zealand butter (stored) to-day is 96/-; Danish, 115/-; Australian (new), 108/-. The cheese market is steady. Average price for finest New Zealand cheese is 43/-. The hemp market is quiet, and prices are slightly weaker. The cocksfoot seed market is dull, buyers not being keen to do business at present. The average price to-day for bright, clean New Zealand cocksfoot seed weighing 17lb is 51/- per cwt.

Invercargill prices current.—Wholesale—Butter farm, 7d; separator, 9d; butter, factory, pats, 11½d. Eggs, 8d per dozen. Cheese (factory), 6½d. Hams, 9d. Potatoes, £1/15/- per ton (bags weighed in). Barley, 2/- to 2/6. Chaff, £2/5/- per ton. Flour, £10/10 to £11/10. Oatmeal, £8/10/- to £9. Bran, £3/15/-. Pollard, £5. Retail—Farm butter, 9d; separator, 11d; butter (factory), pats, 1/1. Eggs, 10d per dozen. Cheese, 8d. Bacon, 10d. Hams, 10d. Potatoes, 3/6 per cwt. Flour: 200lb, 23/-; 50lb, 6/6. Oatmeal: 50lb, 5/3; 25lb, 2/9. Pollard, 8/6 per bag. Bran, 4/6. Chaff, 1/6.

Mr. F. Meenan, King street, Dunedin, reports:—Wholesale prices only.—Oats: Milling, 1/6½ to 1/8½; feed, 1/2 to 1/6. Wheat: Milling, 3/2 to 3/7; fowls, 2/8 to 3/1. Potatoes, £1/10/-; seed, £2/10/- to £3/10/-; chaff, £2/15/- to £3/15/-; clover hay, £2/10/- to £3. Straw: Pressed wheat, 35/-; oatens, £2; loose, £2. Flour: Sacks, £10; 100lb, £10/10/-; 50lb, £10/15; 25lb, £11. Oatmeal, £9/10/-. Pollard, £4. Bran, £3/5. Butter: Dairy, 8d to 10d; factory, 11d. Cheese: Factory, 4½d; dairy, 4½d. Eggs, 9½d. Onions: Melbourne £10.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co report as follows:—

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday. With the exception of a few lots of oats, bidding for which did not reach our valuation, our catalogue was cleared at full market rates. Values ruled as under:—

Oats.—Only a small export trade has been done during the past week, and values are nominally unchanged. Local stocks are by no means large, and would be readily absorbed with any improvement from outside markets. We quote: Prime milling, 1/7 to 1/8; good to best feed, 1/5 to 1/6; inferior and medium, 1/2 to 1/4 per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—Reports from all the principal wheat centres continue to have a firming tendency on the local market. Prime milling, however, is not largely held here, and as millers' requirements are almost entirely confined to this class sales in this market have not been large. Medium quality is not greatly in favor, and fowl wheat (which is offering more plentifully) moves off gradually at late values. We quote: Prime milling, 3/6 to 3/10; medium to good, 3/3 to 3/6; whole fowl wheat, 3/- to 3/2; broken and damaged, 2/6 to 2/11 per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Fair supplies continue to arrive, and are difficult to quit at late values. We quote: Best Derwents, 27/6 to 30/-; other sorts, 20/- to 25/- per ton (bags w).

Chaff.—Prime bright oatens sheaf has good inquiry, and as the quantity coming forward is barely sufficient to supply the local demand all consignments of this class are readily quitted on arrival. Medium and inferior quality has not the same attention. We quote: Prime oatens sheaf, £3/7/6 to £3/12/6; medium to

good, £2/15/- to £3/5/-; inferior and light, £2 to £2 10/- per ton (bags extra).

Straw.—We quote: Best wheat and oatens, 30/- to 35/- per ton (pressed).

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

AUCTIONEER.—We have to advise having appointed Mr. T. E. Jelcoate Auctioneer for the firm, and are sure that our clients will be well pleased with the selection. Mr. Jelcoate has had a very large experience, and is sure to prove very suitable.

Wheat.—The market continues about the same, and quotations for last week may be repeated, namely Prime milling, 3/6 to 3/10; medium, to good, 3/2 to 3/6; best whole fowl wheat, 3/- to 3/2; inferior and damaged, 2/6 to 2/11.

Oats.—Local stocks are small, and prices, especially for inferior grades, are a shade better. Prime milling, is worth 1/7 to 1/8; good to best feed, 1/5 to 1/6; inferior and medium, 1/2 to 1/4.

Potatoes.—Best Derwents, 27/6 to 32/6; others, 20/- to 27/6.

Chaff.—The market is bare of supplies, and prices in consequence have risen. Prime oatens sheaf, £3/7/6 to £3/12/6 (extra choice to £3/15/-); medium to good, £2/15/- to £3/5/-; light and inferior, £2 to £2/10/-.

Straw.—30/- to 35/- per ton, with good inquiry.

WOOL.

Sydney, October 17.—At the wool sales last week greasy sold at 12½d, and scoured at 21½d.

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

Rabbitskins.—We offered a small catalogue on Monday, when prices on the whole were higher than those lately ruling. This was on account of a fresh buyer being in the market, who kept prices fully up to late quotations. We sold winters, mixed bucks and does, to 16½d, second winters to 13d, summers to 16½d, blacks to 21d, and fawns to 15d.

Sheepskins.—We offered a large catalogue on Tuesday, when there was the usual attendance of buyers present, and competition was extremely good and prices fully up to those lately ruling. All well-saved skins suitable for shipment command extreme rates, some of them making up to 7½d per lb. We can confidently recommend consignments being sent in at present.

Hides.—No sale since last report.

Tallow and Fat.—Although prices are rather better in London, there is no change to report in the local market.

LIVE STOCK

OTAGO FARMERS' HORSE BAZAAR.

The Otago Farmers' Co-operative Association of New Zealand (Limited) report:—

We held our usual weekly sale on Saturday last, when there was a fair gathering of buyers in search of good cart geldings and van horses. Of these classes the number forward was limited, and a good many requirements were unsupplied. The master of all classes was small, only 15 horses being offered. There was also a good demand for spring carters and light harness horses, and a few changed hands at satisfactory prices. The demand for good heavy draught geldings and young sound-action van horses is still good, and we have no hesitation in saying that consignments from the country will meet a good market. The same remarks apply to spring and order cart (good active sorts), and now that spring weather is setting in inquiries are being made for quiet sound buggy horses, and a good few buyers are about for this class. We quote: Heavy draught geldings, £16 to £56; good useful plough geldings, £38 to £15; van horses, £35 to £43; good buggy and gig geldings, from £20 to £30; good young and sound hacks, up to £25.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

The entries were small and the attendance poor, owing to the holiday and bad weather, but business was good.

Fat Cattle.—164 were yarded, generally of good quality. The sale opened quietly, but closing rates equalled last week's. Prime steer and heifer beef realised 25/- to 28/-; extra to 30/-; others, 21/- to 24/- per 100lb. Extra prime steers brought up to £13; prime, £10/5/- to £12/15/-; others, £7/12/6 to £10; extra prime heifers up to £10; others, £6/2/6 to £8 10/-; cows, £5/17/6 to £8/17/6.

Fat Sheep.—The entry was small, but the quality good. Average values, equalling last week's, were maintained. A few good shorn sheep made 21/- for wethers, and 18/8 for ewes. In the wool the rates