

Commercial

For week ending Wednesday, November 2, 1904.

PRODUCE.

London, October 28.—Wheat: The European markets are steady, but inactive. Caigoes are neglected. Australian September-October shipment, 34/-, October-November, 31/3, new crop, December-January shipment, 31/6.

The butter markets are dull. Danish is unchanged. Choice Victorian, 102/- to 104/-, New South Wales, 102/-, Queensland, 90/- to 91/-; stored New Zealand, 92/- to 94/-, Australian, 80/- to 81/-.

Wellington, October 31.—The Department of Industries and Commerce has received the following cablegram from the Agent-General, dated London, October 29.—'The mutton market is depressed. Average price to day: Canterbury mutton, 4½d; Dunedin, Southland, and W.M.E. Company mutton, 4½d; for brands other than North Island mutton, 4d (weak). The average price to-day for River Plate mutton is 3½d. Australian mutton is small of supply, and realising 7½d. There is a dull sale for all descriptions of lamb. Average price New Zealand lamb—Canterbury brands, from 5½d to 5½d; brands other than Canterbury, 5½d. The beef market has suffered a further decline. Average price to-day: Hindquarters New Zealand beef, 2½d; fores, 2½d. The butter market is quiet, and prices are rather unsettled. Stored New Zealand is selling at from 90/- to 94/- (irregular); Australian, 103/-; Danish, 115/-. The cheese market is steady at the quotation cabled last week. Good business has been done in hemp, but the market closed dull. The average price of New Zealand hemp, good fair Wellington grade, on spot to-day, is £30/10/-, January to March shipments, £30. The price of Manila hemp, fair current grade, on spot to-day, is £38/10/-. There is scarcely any demand for cocksfoot seed. Average price to-day for bright, clean New Zealand, weighing 17lb per bushel on spot, is 51/- per cwt. New Zealand long-berried wheat, on spot, ex granary, per quarter of 496lb, 33/6; short-berried wheat, 32/6. The wheat market is quiet, but firm. New Zealand oats: Short (sparrowbills), ex granary, on spot, per quarter of 384lb, 11/-, Danish, ex granary, on spot, per quarter of 320lb, 16/9. The oat market is steadier.

Invercargill prices current—Wholesale—Butter farm, 6d; separator, 8d; butter, factory, pats, 10½d. Eggs, 8d per dozen. Cheese (factory), 6½d. Hams, 9d. Potatoes, £1/15/- per ton (bags weighed in). Barley, 2/- to 2/6. Chaff, £2/6/- per ton. Flour, £10/10 to £11/10. Oatmeal, £8/10/- to £9. Bran, £3/15/-. Pollard, £5. Retail—Farm butter, 8d; separator, 10d; butter, factory, pats, 1/-, Cheese, 6d to 8d. Eggs, 10d per doz. Bacon, 9d. Hams, 10d. Potatoes, 3/- per cwt. Flour: 200lb, 23/-; 50lb, 6/6. Oatmeal: 50lb, 5/3, 25lb, 3/9. 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, £2; seed, £2/10/- to £3/10/-; chaff, £2/10/- to £3/5/-; clover hay, £2/10/- to £3. Straw: Pressed wheat, 40/-; oats, £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, £9.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report as follows:—We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday, when we submitted a moderate catalogue to a small attendance of buyers. Nearly all the lots on offer were quitted at prices on a par with late quotations. Values ruled as under:—Oats.—No export trade of any importance has been done during the past week, and almost the only sales effected have been moderate lines for local consumption. There is some little inquiry for B grade from shippers, but only at a reduction in prices which holders here are not disposed to accept. We quote: Prime milling, 1/6½ to 1/7½; good to best feed, 1/5 to 1/6; inferior and medium, 1/3 to 1/4 per bushel (sacks extra). Wheat.—The market shows little change. Millers decline to operate except in the case of choice lines, and for medium sorts there is therefore little sale. Fowl wheat continues to meet with fair sale, both locally and for export. We quote: Prime milling, 3/6 to 3/9;

medium, 3/3 to 3/5; whole fowl wheat, 3/- to 3/2; broken and damaged, 2/6 to 2/10 per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Stocks are freshly picked. Derwents are now much reduced, and for these there is very good inquiry at improved prices. Derwents, which have been bagged for some time with white potatoes of all sorts, continue to move off slowly. We quote: Best freshly-picked Derwents, 35/- to 40/-; others, 25/- to 30/-; inferior sorts, 20/- to 25/- per ton (sacks in).

Chaff.—For some days the market has been more heavily supplied with chaff of good quality. Prime, bright oat straw is still inquired for, but medium and inferior lines have no demand. We quote: Prime oat straw, £3/7/6 to £3/10/-, medium to good, £2/15/- to £3/5/-; inferior and light, £2/5/- to £2/10/- per ton (bags extra).

Straw.—The market is almost bare, and nearly all coming forward during the past week was quitted at 35/- to 40/- per ton.

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

Wheat.—The demand is no better this week, and prices may be quoted the same as last week, viz., prime milling, 3/7 to 3/10; medium, 3/3 to 3/6; best whole fowl wheat, 3/- to 3/3; broken and inferior, 2/6 to 2/10.

Oats.—Prices are if anything a shade easier, but the demand is still good. Prime milling, 1/7 to 1/8; best feed, 1/6; medium, 1/4 to 1/5; inferior (of which there is little offering, 1/1 to 1/3).

Chaff.—Prices are much easier than last week and there are large consignments still arriving, which indicates a still further drop. Prices all round are 5/- to 7/6 per ton easier.

Potatoes.—A lot offering for which there is little or no demand.

WOOL.

London, October 28.—The Bradford wool market is weaker owing to possible complications with Russia. Forties, 14d, forty-sixes, 11½d, common sixties, 23½d; super, 24½d.

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

Sheepskins.—Our catalogue was an average one for this week. Prices were again very firm, especially for well-woolled skins, and we can confidently recommend consignments being sent to our care as soon as convenient. Halfbred made 7½d, crossbred 7½d, and merino 7d. Interior sorts in proportion.

Rabbitskins.—We had a large catalogue for Monday's sale, when we regret to report that they were down considerably in price. Well selected does made 16½d, bucks 11½d, autumn 12d, springs 10d, fawns 15d, black 21½d.

Hides.—No sale since last report.

Tallow and Fat.—No change to report.

LIVE STOCK

OTAGO FARMERS' HORSE BAZAAR.

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

We held our usual weekly horse sale at our bazaar on Saturday last, when there was a splendid attendance of buyers from the country, and the bulk of the town carters and traders were present, all of whom were keen on business, and bid well for all young, good sorts offered. One entry was made up mostly of useful plough and spring-carters. We had no young heavy draughts in the yard, although we had plenty of buyers for this class, as well as for van and spring-carters. The following are a few of the prices obtained on Saturday:—Active spring-carters realised prices ranging from £27 to £37; lighter sorts, £22 to £26. A few hackneys brought good money up to £18/10/-; these were only medium sorts. A few draught geldings (light) brought from £27 to £35. We quote: First-class draught mares and geldings, £55 to £65; lighter sorts, suitable for farm work, active and fresh, £45 to £50; van horses, same description, about same value; spring-carters, £26 to £37; hackneys showing breeding and style, £25 to £30; useful buggy horses, £20 to £27; cobs, up to 15st, £25 to £30; well-matched carriage pairs, £80 to £100.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

Owing to heavy weather entries in most classes were small.

Fat Cattle.—170 were yarded, nearly all good quality. Steers: The demand was good, and prices well maintained. Sixty-three North Island steers brought