

province and South Canterbury. Local buyers were well represented, and farmers and town-carriers were to the front in full force. The large gathering comprised a great number of buyers, all of whom competed well and bid briskly for all horses suitable to their requirements, and prices obtained for young, sound, Clydesdale geldings were quite as good as values of three months ago. Buggy and hackney horses were also well competed for, and a large number changed hands at satisfactory prices. We quote: Heavy draught mares and geldings (young and sound), £55 to £65; lorry and van horses, £42 to £52; plough horses, £38 to £45; spring-carters, £25 to £32; buggy geldings, £20 to £25; show ring geldings of this class, up to £40; ordinary hackneys, £18 to £25.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

There were good supplies at Addington in most departments and an average attendance.

Fat Cattle.—The entries numbered 236 head, on the whole of good quality. Prices were very irregular, but on the average about 10/- a head lower than the previous week, good to prime beef selling at the rate of 23/- to 26/- per 100lb; inferior and cows, 21/- to 22/6. Of North Island cattle 30 steers sold at £8/10/- to £11; other steers, £7/10/- to £11; heifers, £6 to £9/10/- (one at £10/15/-); cows, £5/17/6 to £8/17/6.

Fat Calves.—Prices were irregular, and ranged from 7/6 to 60/-.

Store Cattle.—There was a large entry. Well-bred young stock brought good competition, but others were in poor demand.

Fat Sheep.—There was a moderate entry, but good in quality, and competition by butchers and exporters was keen. Most of the sheep were shorn. Prices showed little improvement on the values of the previous market, and a good many lines were taken for freezing. Butchers who did not obtain their supplies early had to pay very full rates at the close. Woolly wethers brought 23/6 to 27/6; ewes, 20/- to 21/3; shorn wethers, extra, 22/9 to 25/-; prime, 19/- to 22/3; others, 17/3 to 18/11; ewes, prime, 18/6 to 21/6; others, 15/- to 18/-.

Fat Lambs.—About 500 were penned, the quality generally being good. There was a keen demand and very little decline from previous values, although competition was practically confined to butchers. Current rates were—for good pens, 16/6 to 19/3 (a few extra pens 20/6 to 22/6); second quality, 14/3 to 16/-.

Store Sheep.—There was a fair entry of store sheep, mostly wethers, and all shorn. With a good demand previous values were maintained. Ewes and lambs, all counted, sold at 10/1 to 12/-; two-tooth ewes, 15/7; wethers, fair condition, 16/9 to 18/9; backward, 15/- to 16/-; two-tooth wethers, good, 15/6; backward, 12/6 to 13/8.

Pigs.—There was a moderate entry in the fat pens, and a very large entry of stores. Baconers and porkers were fairly firm, but stores were much lower.

NEW ZEALAND GENERAL

Nearly a ton of whitebait arrived in Christchurch by the evening train from Kaiaipo on Thursday last.

The double express service, according to Sir Joseph Ward, is answering all expectations, and the returns from it are excellent. It is not improbable that the service, if it continues so satisfactory, will be permanently maintained.

Sir Joseph Ward states that the net revenue from the Railway and Postal Departments is very satisfactory so far, and that there is no reason to anticipate any falling off in the financial year from these branches of the service.

Speaking at Wellington at an early-closing meeting, Mr. John Hutcheson, referring to the immigration laws, pointed out that many men who would make good settlers were now debarred from entering the Colony because they could not pass an examination test, but on payment of a poll tax Chinese were at all times admitted. This meant that the State took a bribe of £100 from the alien, but strong-limbed, healthy European men could be rejected.

During his recent visit to Invercargill Sir Joseph Ward informed a press reporter that he was very anxious to arrange that the second express should get into Invercargill about 10.30 p.m., instead of 12.55, and was endeavoring to make arrangements to give effect to this. A good deal depended on the ability of the steamer services of the North Island to connect at Wellington earlier, and enable the departure for Lyttelton to be made, say, a couple of hours earlier than at present. This would allow the through express to leave Christchurch

correspondingly earlier, and the benefit would be experienced all along the line. He was very hopeful of success in this matter, and in that of the new service.

At the Magistrate's Court, Wellington, on Monday, Dr. Macarthur, in dismissing a case against a hotel-keeper, said he would like to warn licensees that there is now no such thing as a bona fide traveller in his estimation. He had looked most carefully into the Act, and the conclusion he had arrived at was that the bona fide traveller did not exist. If he were the licensee of a hotel he should certainly leave them severely alone. If a man was walking through New Zealand he could only demand meals and lodging. If he took a lodging he might get a drink, but unless he did so he was not entitled to a drink, he could not say even with his meals.

The following promotions have been made in the Post and Telegraph Department:—Mr. M. C. Cormiss, senior check clerk at Christchurch, to the officer-in-charge of Wanganui Telegraph Office; Mr. W. T. Scully, check clerk, to be senior check clerk at Christchurch; Mr. W. J. Walsh, postmaster at Port Chalmers, to be transferred to a similar position at Gore; Mr. J. T. Wylie, postmaster at Lawrence, to be postmaster at Port Chalmers; Mr. A. Clark, postmaster at Eketahuna, to be postmaster at Lawrence; Mr. W. Tregonning, postmaster at Ahaura, to be postmaster at Eketahuna; Mr. C. M. Price, Wellington, to be senior clerk at Lyttelton; Mr. J. James, telegraphist at Dunedin, to be postmaster at Naseby.

Mr. James M. Bell, the new Government Geologist, was selected from 57 applicants. Mr. Bell was offered the position of geologist to the British Antarctic expedition, and at the same time the position of expert to the Lake Superior Power Company, a large mining and development company operating in Central Canada, and accepted the latter in 1903. He was chosen leader of the Ontario Government expedition to James Bay, and has been engaged on other geological expeditions of special importance. Professor H. Lloyd Smith, professor of mining and metallurgy, of Harvard University, says: 'Mr. Bell is one of the most promising of the younger geologists of this continent.'

At the last meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society a letter was received from the executive, asking for the names of the delegates who were to attend the annual conference. Messrs. S. Madden, N. McDonnell, and J. Moison were selected as delegates for Ashburton. Two candidates were proposed. The programme for the evening was a debate, 'Has the Maori benefited by civilisation?' Mr. L. Madden opened the debate on the affirmative side, and Mr. G. Naismith took the negative. No less than 23 speakers took part in the debate, and some excellent speeches were made. The leader having replied, the 'ayes' won by a large majority.

In a perjury case at the Supreme Court (writes the Wellington correspondent of the 'Otago Daily Times') Mr. Justice Cooper referred to the prevalence of perjury in the Colony. He said people had in many instances shown a reckless disregard of the truth, and one could not avoid seeing that from day to day in the administration of justice there was false swearing committed by witnesses. It seemed to him that the public conscience was not really alive to the extreme heinousness of the crime. Our liberties, nay, our lives, might depend upon the truthful statements of persons called upon to give evidence in the witness box. The offence of perjury, to his mind, was one of the gravest known to the law. It struck at the very root of the fabric of society, and unless those whose duty it was to administer the law expressed their sense of the gravity of the offence and of the heinousness of the crime when sheeted home to the person charged, then they were not doing their duty. The crime of perjury, he did not hesitate to say, was very often committed in our midst, and if persons were to be allowed to go free with only the nominal penalty of paying the costs of the prosecution, and the stigma attaching to the crime, it would be striking a fatal blow at the administration of justice. In the case before him he administered a sentence of 12 months' imprisonment, with hard labor.

Mr. George Dyer, licensed plumber and drainer, Great King street, Dunedin, is prepared to undertake and carry out work so as to give entire satisfaction....

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