

Commercial

For week ending December 7.

PRODUCE.

London, December 2.—Wheat: The European markets are firmer, and there is a good speculative demand for distant cargoes. Nine thousand quarters of Australian February and 12,000 quarters December and January shipments sold at 35/-, Australian spot is slow of sale at 33/6 to 34/-.

Flour is slow, with an easier tendency. London, 25/6 to 26/-; Glasgow, 26/6 to 27/-.

New Zealand Wheat: Spot, long berried, 32/6; short 33/6.

Butter is firm, and there is a good inquiry for all classes of colonial, especially secondaries. Danish, 114/- to 116/-, a few saltless at 108/-, New South Wales, 102/- to 104/-.

London, December 4.—Wheat: An Australian cargo and 10,000 quarters of December and January shipment sold at 33/3, and 13,000 quarters of February shipment at 33/1½.

Frozen Meat—The Trade Association's Smithfield market quotations for the undermentioned classes of frozen meats are based on actual sales of not less than 100 carcasses of mutton or lamb or 25 carcasses of beef of fair average quality. These quotations are not for selected lines, but parcels fairly representative of the bulk of the shipments now on the market:—Mutton: Canterbury, light, 48-56lb, 4½d; medium, 56-64lb, 4½d; heavy, 64-72lb, 4½d; North Island, 56-64lb, 4½ to 4¾d. Lambs: New Zealand sorts unchanged. New Zealand Beef: Ox foies, 180-220lb, 2½d; ox hinds, 180-220lb, 2½d. River Plate sheep: Heavy, 3½d; light, 3 5-16d. Beef: Forequarters, 2½d; hindquarters, 2½d.

Wellington, December 5.—The Department of Industries and Commerce has received the following cable message from the Agent-general, dated London, December 3.—The mutton market is firm. Stocks of mutton are light and firmly held in a few hands. The retail demand is becoming very much restricted on account of the high prices ruling. Average price to-day: Canterbury mutton, 4½d per lb; other brands North Island mutton, 4½d. The stock of lamb is light and there is a good demand for all offering. Average price to-day: New Zealand lamb, Canterbury brands, 6½d per lb; Australian lamb, 5½d. Beef is in better demand. Average price to-day: Hindquarters New Zealand beef, 3d, foies, 2½d. Quotations for New Zealand beef are nominal. The butter market is very firm, and there is general confidence in the maintenance of the present prices. The supply of new season's New Zealand butter per 'Papanui' is practically exhausted. Average price choicest New Zealand butter to-day is 105/- per cwt, Danish, 116/- The cheese market is quiet, but firm; Canadian, 19/- The hemp market is firm. Good business has been done during the past week. The price of New Zealand hemp, for good fair Wellington grade, on spot to-day, is £31/10/- per ton, for January to March shipments, £31/10/-.

Invercargill prices current.—Wholesale.—Butter farm, 5d; separator, 7d; butter, factory, 10½d. Eggs, 8d per dozen. Cheese (factory), 6½d. Hams, 9d. Potatoes, £2/10/- 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, 7d; separator, 9d; butter, factory, 10½d, 11/- Cheese, 6d to 8d. Eggs, 10d per doz. Bacon, 9d. Hams, 10d. Potatoes, 4/- 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, £3. Chaff, £3 to £3/15/-; clover hay, £2/10/- to £3. Straw: Pressed wheat, 30/-; oats, 35/-; loose, 35/- Flour: Sacks, £10, 100lb, £10/10/-; 50lb, £10/15/-; 25lb, £11. Oatmeal, £8/10/- Pollard, £4. Bran, £3/5/- Butter: Dairy, 8d to 10d; factory, 11d. Cheese: Factory, 4½d, dairy, 4½d. Eggs, 9d. Onions: Melbourne, 2/9.

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co. report:—Wheat—There is not much doing, the principal demand having been for fowl wheat. Quotations: Prime milling, 3/6 to 3/9; medium, 3/2 to 3/5; best whole fowl wheat, 2/11 to 3/1; broken and damaged, 2/6 to 2/9.

Oats.—There has been a rather better demand lately, and the stocks in store are now very much reduced. There is no change to report in prices, which are as

follows: Prime milling, 1/6½ to 1/7½; good to best feed, 1/5 to 1/6; inferior and medium, 1/3 to 1/4.

Chaff.—There has been a rise since last report in prime samples, owing to short supplies. Quotations: Prime oaten sheaf, £3/7/6 to £3/12/6; medium, £3/2/6 to £3/5/-; light and inferior, £2/10/- to £3.

Potatoes.—Supplies of new potatoes are now increasing, and in consequence Derwents have eased somewhat. Best are worth, 50/- to 55/-; others, 40/- to 45/-.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report as follows:—

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday. Our catalogue was a small one, and, under good competition from a full attendance of local buyers, was cleared at satisfactory prices. All classes of produce were in demand at prices fully equal to late quotations. Values ruled as under:

Oats.—Prime Gairton have had most attention from exporters, and for sound lines, bright and clean, there is good demand for shipment. B grade sparrowbills and other good feed lines have more attention. Little actual business in these is passing, but as local stocks are much reduced, we expect to see better values ruling shortly. Quotations: 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.—Local millers' requirements are unusually small, and in consequence no business of any importance is being done in milling qualities. Fowl wheat continues to come forward freely, and meets a fair market. Quotations: Prime milling, 3/6 to 3/9; medium to good, 3/2 to 3/5; whole fowl wheat, 3/- to 3/1; broken and damaged, 2/6 to 2/10 per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Smaller supplies have been coming forward, and all good, sound Derwents are now readily quitted at an advance on late values. Quotations: Best Derwents, £2/15/- to £3; others, £2 to £2/10/- per ton (sacks in).

Chaff.—Prime oaten sheaf has strong inquiry. All consignments lately to hand have been readily quitted on arrival, and at Monday's auction sale a distinct advance in prices was obtained. Quotations: Prime oaten sheaf, £3/10/- to £3/15/-; medium to good, £2/15/- to £3/5/- per ton (bags extra).

Pressed Straw.—We quote: Best oaten wheat, 30/- to 35/- per ton.

WOOL.

London, December 2.—At the sheepskin sales 5800 were offered, and all sold. The bidding was spirited. Merinos were ½d to ¾d higher: fine crossbreds, ½d to ¾d; medium coarse, 1d. The advances are due to American purchases.

The Bradford wool market is excited. Common sixties, 21d, supers, 24½d; forty-sixes, to 17d.

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

Rabbitskins.—We offered a small catalogue on Monday, and found prices on a par with those lately quoted, blacks if anything being a shade better. The weekly sales will now be discontinued, as supplies have fallen off, sales being only held every second Monday.

Sheepskins.—We offered a large catalogue on Tuesday, and had a very good sale, all skins forward meeting a very good market.

Hides.—Our sale last Thursday was smaller than usual, but prices on the whole were good. Our top price for ox was 5½d and for cow 4½d.

Tallow and Fat.—There is no change to report in this market.

LIVE STOCK

OTAGO FARMERS' HORSE BAZAAR.

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

We held our usual weekly sale of horses at our bazaar, Crawford and Vogel streets, on Saturday last, when we had an entry of 73 horses all told. The attendance was exceptionally good, buyers being present from all parts of the country districts, and town carriers and traders were fully represented. A good number of draught mares and geldings, the property of various owners, changed hands at highly satisfactory prices, and a good many more sharp, cliffy geldings could have been placed at similar values; but there was a limit to our numbers in this class. Spring-carters were wanted and in good demand, but only a few suitable sorts of this class were forward, and met with ready sale. Express and buggy horses were also in fair demand, and a good many changed hands at good values, as also did a fair number of hackneys at prices quite satisfactory to vendors. We quote: Heavy draught mares and geldings, £55 to £65; lighter sorts (young and sound), £45 to £52; plough mares and geldings,