

Commercial

For week ending December 14.

PRODUCE.

London, December 9.—The wheat markets are quiet; American relapsing. Red winter, 118½ cents. cargoes are dull and holders less firm. Quotations: 33/- afloat; 33/3 to 33/6 for shipment.

Flour is dull owing to heavy arrivals. Glasgow quotations, nominally, 26/3 to 26/9.

Butter is steady. Trade prices are slightly easier. Danish, unchanged; Victorian, choicest, 102/- to 104/-, and occasionally 106/-; New South Wales, 100/- to 104/-; New Zealand, 104/- to 106/-.

Wheat: Owing to the advance in New York, 5000 quarters were shipped back there from Antwerp at 36/3.

Wellington, December 12.—The Department of Industries and Commerce has received the following cablegram from the Agent-general, dated London, 10th inst.:—“Since cabling last week no alteration has taken place in the mutton market. The lamb market is quiet. Beef is in better demand. The stocks of New Zealand beef on hand are light. The average price to-day for hindquarters of New Zealand beef is 3½d; forequarters, 2½d. The butter market is firm, with a good demand. The average price of choicest New Zealand butter to-day is 106/-; Danish, 116/-. The cheese market is steady, Canadian is quoted at 49/-. The hemp market is quiet, but firm. Choice New Zealand hemp, of good fair Wellington grade, on spot to-day, is worth 31/10/- per ton; January to March shipments, 31/10/-.

Invercargill prices current.—Wholesale— Butter farm, 5d; separator, 7d; butter, factory, pats, 10½d. Eggs, 8d per dozen. Cheese (factory), 6½d. Hams, 3d. 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, pats, 1/-; 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.

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 small catalogue to a fair attendance of buyers. Bidding for most of the lots on offer was well up to our valuations, and in consequence the catalogue was cleared at satisfactory prices. Values ruled as under:—

Oats.—Local stocks are now in small compass, and holders are disinclined to accept present values. Any sales passing are chiefly for direct delivery from country stations. Good to prime Gartons maintain their popularity with shippers, short oats being only occasionally inquired for. We quote: Prime milling, 1/7 to 1/8; good to best feed, 1/5½ to 1/6½; medium, 1/4 to 1/5 per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—The market shows no quotable change. Millers are only to be tempted with a few specially good lines for mixing, and under these circumstances medium milling sorts are scarcely saleable. Fowl wheat is in request, and commands ready sale at late quotations, despite the quantity lately put on the market. We quote: 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.—Prime Derwents were in short supply, and for best sorts there was a decided improvement in values. These sold at £3/10/- to £4, others, £3 to £3/7/6 per ton (sacks in).

Chaff.—Only small consignments of prime quality have come forward during the past week, and these have been readily quoted on arrival. At Monday's sales a further advance in prices was recorded, prime bright oaten sheaf realising £3/15/- to £4, medium to good, £3 to £3/10/- per ton (bags extra).

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

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

Wheat.—Milling lines are dull of sale, but fowl wheat keeps up to late quotations. Prime milling, 3/7 to 3/9; medium, 3/2 to 3/5; best whole fowl wheat, 2/11 to 3/1; inferior and damaged, 2/6 to 2/10.

Oats.—There has been a fair amount of business passing, and stocks in town are now very low. Quotations remain the same, namely, Prime milling, 1/7 to 1/8; good to best feed, 1/5½ to 1/6½; inferior and medium, 1/3 to 1/5.

Potatoes.—Best Derwents, £3/10/- to £4, others, £3 to £3/7/6.

Chaff.—Prices have risen during the week, and prime oaten sheaf is now worth £3/12/6 to £3/17/6; medium to good, £3 to £3/10/-.

WOOL.

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

Rabbitskins.—Sales are now held fortnightly, and there was no sale this week.

Sheepskins.—The market continues very high, and the large catalogue we offered to-day brought very full rates Merino, H, anything, being a shade higher.

Hides.—No sale since last report.

Tallow and Fat.—There is 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 sale at our Horse Bazaar on Saturday last, when there was a very large attendance of buyers from all parts of the province, and town carriers and traders were all present. It goes without saying that the shipment of Clydesdale mares, fillies, and geldings from Victoria was the feature of the day, although a number of provincial first-class geldings were offered and sold at highly satisfactory prices. On the whole the sale was most successful, and a large proportion of the entry changed hands at prices quite agreeable to vendors and buyers. We quote: First-class Clydesdale mares and geldings, £55 to £65; good cart horses showing a fair dash of Clydesdale blood, £48 to £52; extra good geldings, up to £70; and the right sort of Clydesdale mares, suitable for stud purposes, up to 150gs; van and spring-draw geldings, £40 to £50; spring-carters, £24 to £32; buggy geldings, quiet and sound and good movers, £25 to £35; medium class, £18 to £23; really good hackneys, £25 to £35; medium sorts, up to £22.

THE ADDINGTON MARKET.

There was a large attendance at Addington, consisting chiefly of farmers, who are in town for the wool sales. With a small entry of fat sheep, these and lambs had a spirited sale. Beef and pork were in heavy supply, and prices were lower.

Fat Cattle.—The large yarding of 264 head was in excess of requirements, and prices were on the average 20/- a head below those of the previous week, while the last few pens were passed without a bid, the best beef making 23/- to 24/6, and secondary and cows 20/- per 100lb; Steers sold at £8/2/6 to £11/2/6; 28 North Island steers and bullocks at £8/5/- to £11/2/6; other steers, £6/15/- to £10/17/6; cows, £5/17/6 to £7/15/-.

Fat Calves.—There was a large entry, and prices fell considerably, good butchers' vealers selling at 20/- to 30/-, and the full range of prices being from 4/6 to 10/-.

Store Cattle.—The supply was large and comprised a good proportion of grown cattle, most of which were included in a line of about 200 from Kaikoura, not conspicuous for breeding. Business was rather better than lately, a fair proportion being sold at the following prices: Calves, 20/-; 15 to 18-month cattle, £2/13/6 to £3/5/-; two-year-old steers, £4/2/- to £4/10/-; heifers, £4, three-year-old steers, £6 to £6/17/6; heifers, £5 to £5/10/-; dry cows, 30/- to £4/5/-.

Dairy Cows.—A poor selection and a limited demand, the highest price being £7.

Fat Sheep.—The entry was again small, though larger than last week. It consisted chiefly of shorn ewes of a wide range of quality. The sale was very irregular, opening quietly, not advancing to last week's high values, and, after further fluctuations, closing at a slight decline. Butchers commanded the market throughout. Prices ranged—Crossbred wethers (extra), 30/-; prime, 22/- to 23/9; others, 19/10 to 21/9; ewes, prime heavy, 22/- to 25/9; medium to good, 18/- to 21/9; others, 15/6 to 17/1; merino wethers, 12/2 to 15/4.

Fat Lambs.—There was a fair entry, and all good sorts met a spirited demand at previous prices, but unfinished lots, of which many were penned, were in less request. Best lines made 17/6 to 20/-; other 14/6 to 17/6.

Pigs.—A large number of all descriptions came forward. The sale of fats opened badly, but improved as it went on, although the best rates were still lower than those of last week. A line of porkers and baconers from Lincoln College made 30/- to 62/-.