

Commercial

PRODUCE.

London, December 30.—A healthy holiday tone pervades the European wheat market. The liberal offers of Argentine and Indian stocks are depressing values, and there is consequently a poor demand. Cargoes of Australian (January-February shipment) were sold at 32/1½, and the same figure was offered for off-the-coast cargoes. Blizzards having resulted in unfavorable crop reports, the American market has a stiffening tendency. Australian and New Zealand wheats on the spot are nominally unchanged.

Flour in London is unchanged, but the Glasgow market is recovering at 26/3 to 26/9.

Rabbits are in poor demand.

Butter is quiet and weaker, owing to large arrivals. Choicest Victorian fetdhes from 96/6 to 98/-; New South Wales, 94/- to 96/-, and a few lots 98/. South Australian and Queensland, 92/- to 94/-; New Zealand, 100/-.

Cheese is in strong demand. Canadian realises 54/-; New Zealand, 51/- to 52/.

The butter agents generally are favourable to the Government grading Victorian butter on similar lines to those adopted by New Zealand, which are satisfactory.

Invercargill prices current. — Wholesale — Butter farm, 5d; separator, 7d; butter, factory, pats, 10½d. Eggs, 8d per dozen. Cheese, factory, 6½d. Hams, 9d. Barley, 2/- to 2/6. Chaff, £2/5/- per ton. Flour, £10/10/- to £11/10/-. Oatmeal, £8 to £8/10/-. Bran, £3/15/-. Pollard, £5. Retail — Farm Butter, 7d; separator, 9d; butter, factory, pats, 1/- . Cheese, 6d to 8d. Eggs, 10d. per dozen. Bacon, 9d. Hams, 10d. Flour: 200lb, 23/-; 50lb, 6/6. Oatmeal: 50lb, 5/3; 25lb, 2/9. Pollard, 8/6 per bag. Bran, 4/6. Chaff, 1/6.

LIVE STOCK

The Addington Market was of a holiday character, both entries and attendance being small, the entries comprised 4312 sheep, 252 cattle, and 153 pigs.

Fat Cattle.—Eighty-eight head were yarded. The demand was very languid, and the sale was very irregular at an average range of prices considerably lower than has been recently current, a large proportion being withdrawn. Prime beef sold at the rate of 22/6 and cows and secondary, 19/- to 20/- per 100lb. Per head steers made £7 to £8/17/6; heifers, £5/12/6 to £7/12/6; cows, £5 to £6/17/6.

Fat Calves.—The entry was of good quality. Prices ranged from 14/- to 40/-.

Store Cattle.—The entry was small, and there was no change in value. Sales were made at the following prices:—Yearlings, 26/-; 15 to 18 months, 39/6 to 53/-; two-year heifers, £3/10/- to £4/3/6; three-year steers, passed at £6/8/-; dry cows, 30/- to £4.

Dairy cows.—There was a small entry and business was unimportant.

Fat Sheep.—Business was extremely dull, and the small entry was not fully cleared at the lower prices which were current. Wethers were easier, while ordinary ewes suffered a further decline of 1/- to 2/-. Prime wethers sold at 21/- to 22/6; others, from 18/-; prime ewes, 18/- to 19/-; and aged, from 16/-.

Fat Lambs.—The supply was small, but included a good proportion of prime quality. Prices were very irregular, but on the average 1/6 lower than last week. The best pens sold at 17/- to 20/-; others, 13/6 to 16/8.

Store Sheep.—A fair entry of store sheep came forward. The sale was rather irregular, but on the whole previous values were maintained. The principal sales were of two-tooth wethers—a small line at 19/6, 94 at 18/5, 82 at 17/9, 72 at 17/4, and 267 at 16/9; two and four-tooth wethers—295 at 17/3; halfbred and crossbred ewes, at 19/- to 19/9; 241 ewes with lambs, at 11/6, all counted; a small line of lambs at 12/9.

Pigs.—A small entry averaged previous rates—namely, 4d to 4½d for baconers, and 4½ to 4¾d for porkers.

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DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

December 29.

The Christmas festivities were impressively carried out in the city churches. At the Cathedral Masses were said at 6 a.m., 6.30, 7.30, 9, 10, and High Mass at 11 o'clock, which was celebrated by Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., Father Holbrook being deacon, and Father Cahill subdeacon. The early Masses were largely attended, and the communicants were very numerous. The confraternities of the Children of Mary and Guard of Honor in their regalia were in attendance. His Lordship the Bishop was present in the sanctuary at the last Mass, and after the first Gospel addressed the congregation in language appropriate to the great festival of the Nativity. The choir was in good force and form, and rendered in fine style Mercadante's Mass, under the charge of Mr. P. F. Hiscocks. The church was crowded, many having to stand throughout the Mass. In the evening Vespers were sung, after which the Rev. Father Benedict, O.P., delivered a suitable discourse. Pontifical Benediction followed by the Bishop, Rev. Father Holbrook being deacon and Father Cahill subdeacon. Rev. Father Benedict, O.P., also assisted. There was again a very large congregation present. The church has recently undergone a thorough renovation inside, and now looks very well. The high altar was very tastefully decorated, and at Benediction presented a beautiful spectacle. The Christmas crib in the southern wing was strikingly realistic, and during the day and evening was visited by many of the faithful. At St. Benedict's the early Masses were attended very well, and the number and devotion of communicants were most edifying. The high altar was handsomely decorated by the good Sisters of St. Joseph. Vespers and Benediction were given, at which the faithful assisted in large numbers. At the Sacred Heart Church there were early Masses and a Missa Cantata at ten o'clock. After the last Mass Rev. Father Buckley made a nice presentation, on behalf of the members of the choir, to the conductor, Mr. T. Adams, for his long and valued services as choirmaster and conductor, and hoped that he would long continue to wield the baton in the Sacred Heart choir, a wish which he re-echoed on behalf of the parishioners and himself. Mr. Adams suitably replied and returned his most hearty thanks.

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