

Commercial

PRODUCE.

London, January 4.—Wheat.—The severe weather has hardened the American and Continental markets. The English market is quiet and cargoes are neglected; 32/6 is offered for January-February shipments.

Flour is unchanged, owing to the holiday in the Glasgow markets.

Butter.—Good trade in all descriptions, and prices are unchanged. The chief demand for secondary is about 84/-.

The cheese market is firm; Canadian, 54/- to 55/-, and New Zealand, 52/-.

London, January 8.—Frozen Meat: Sheep—Canterbury, light, 4½d; medium, 4½d; heavy, 4½d; Dunedin and Southland, none offering; North Island, 4½d. Lamb—None offering. Beef—Fores, 3d; hinds, 3½d. River Plate sheep, heavy, 3 11-16d; light, 3½d. Beef, fores, 2 11-16d; hinds, 3½d.

Hemp.—Quiet and unchanged.

Wellington, January 9.—The Department of Industries and Commerce has received the following cablegram from the Agent-General, dated London, January 8: The frozen meat market is very dull, and quotations show a weaker tendency. Butter continues in active demand, the market being firm, with a hardening tendency. Average price for choicest New Zealand butter to-day is 100/-. The cheese market is active, and advancing, average price finest New Zealand being 52/- per cwt. The hemp market is very quiet at about last price. There has been no alteration in the cocksfoot seed market since last week.

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, 2½/5/- 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 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.

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

Wheat.—There is a rather better demand at present, and buyers seem more inclined to do business. Prime milling is worth 3/6 to 3/9; medium, 3/3 to 3/5; best whole fowl wheat, 3/- to 3/2; broken and inferior, 2/6 to 3/-.

Oats.—There has been rather more inquiry lately, and in consequence prices are a shade firmer. Quotations: Prime milling, 1/7½ to 1/9; good to best feed, 1/6 to 1/7; medium and inferior, 1/4 to 1/6.

Chaff.—Supplies have been smaller of late, and there has been a decided rise in the market. Prime oaten sheaf, £4/10/- to £4/15/-; medium to good, £3/15/- to £4/5/-.

Potatoes.—New seasons are more plentiful now, and are worth up to £9 per ton. Last season's best Derwents are worth £3/5/- to £3/10/-.

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 which met with good competition, and was readily cleared at satisfactory prices. Values ruled as under:—

Oats.—There is good export demand, both for "A" and "B" grades. Of the former there are very few offering, and of the latter barely enough on the spot to supply buyers' immediate requirements. Stocks of lower grades are almost exhausted, and values for all sorts are a shade firmer. We quote: Prime milling, 1/7½ to 1/9; good to best feed, 1/6 to 1/7; medium, 1/5 to 1/6 per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—A better tone pervades the market, and in good to prime milling quality millers are more disposed to operate. Medium qualities are still without much attention, but fowl wheat is scarce, and has ready sale on arrival. We quote: Prime milling, 3/6 to 3/9; medium, 3/3 to 3/5; whole fowl wheat, 3/1 to 3/2; broken and damaged, 2/6 to 3/- per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—We offered a few lots of medium quality kidneys, which realised 6/- to 9/- per cwt, and some of last season's up-to-dates, which sold at £3/10/- per ton (sacks in).

Chaff.—The market is bare, and there is strong

inquiry for prime oaten sheaf. We can confidently recommend clients who are in a position to send any forward to do so without delay. We quote: Prime oaten sheaf, £4/10/- to £4/15/-; medium to good, £3/15/- to £4/5/- per ton (bags extra).

Straw.—We quote: Best oaten and wheat, 32/6 to 35/- per ton (pressed!).

WOOL.

Wellington, January 7.—The Industries and Commerce Department has received the following cablegram from the Agent-General, dated London, 6th inst.: Wool market stronger. General confidence in the maintenance of present prices. A general and active demand is expected at next sales. Current Bradford quotations—For tops, 36's, low crossbreds, 1/3½ per lb; 40's, low crossbreds, 1/1½; 41's, medium crossbreds, 1/4½; 50's, half-breds, 1/7½, 56's, quarterbreds, 1/9; 60's, merinos, 2/0½.

London, January 8.—Rabbitskins: At the auction sales 1888 bales were offered and 1867 sold. Best advanced 1d, and low-furred suckers showed from par to ½d decline.

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

Rabbitskins.—We offered a fairly large catalogue at our sale on the 9th inst., when there was an average attendance of buyers present. Competition was good and all lots sold at prices fully better than those lately ruling. We sold springs to 11½d, autumns to 11½d; summers to 7½d, blacks to 26d, and lawns to 12½d.

Sheepskins.—Sales are only held fortnightly at present, but all coming forward meet with great competition. We can confidently recommend consignments being sent in at present, as the market keeps very firm.

Hides.—No sale since last report.

Tallow and Fat.—There is no change to report in this commodity, all coming forward being taken at the following rates: Best rendered tallow, 18/- to 20/-; medium to good, 15/- to 18/6; inferior, 12/- to 15/6; best caul fat, 11/- to 14/6; rough fat, 12/- to 14/-.

LIVE STOCK

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

The entries at Addington comprised 283 cattle, 5944 sheep, and 314 pigs. The attendance was small.

Fat Cattle.—Although only 128 head were yarded, there was very poor competition, and a large proportion was withdrawn, values, however, showing little change from those of the previous week. Steers sold at from £6/7/6 to £10, heifers, £5/5/- to £5/12/6, cows, £5/2/6 to £6/5/-, or equal to 19/- to 22/6 per 100lb.

Fat Calves.—There was a fair entry, and the sale was rather better than last week's. Prices ranged from 5/6 to 19/-.

Store Cattle.—The yarding was very small, and there was no improvement in prices. Yearlings sold at from 25/- to 39/-, 15 to 18 months (which included a good line), 49/- to 68/6; two-year-old steers, £12/6; two-year-old heifers, £1; three-year-old heifers, £5/11/-; dry cows, £1/12/6 to £1/15/-.

Dairy Cows.—There was a small entry, and business was dull. Useful cows sold at from £6 to £7/10/-, and old and inferior from £3/10/- to £5.

Fat Sheep.—Several lines of prime wethers were included in a moderate entry as regards numbers, and most of the ewes were of good prime quality. There was a good demand for all descriptions, butchers being bare of stock, and for the greater part outbidding the exporters. The Mount Pleasant wethers were one of the best lines that have come into the yards, and made the high average of 24/- for the line of 220, with a very short range of prices between the top and the last pens. Current prices were: For prime wethers, 21/- to 25/11; others, 18/6 to 20/-; prime ewes, 20/- to 22/11; medium to good, 17/- to 19/6; aged, 15/- to 16/6; merino wethers (medium), 15/4.

Fat Lambs.—The entry was not large, but was of excellent quality, and bidding of both exporters and butchers being very keen. Prices were rather better than at last week's sale. The best pens sold at from 18/- to 20/-, and medium, from 16/- to 17/9.

Store Sheep.—The entry was small, and buyers were few, but previous values were maintained. The principal sales were—54 two-tooth ewes at 17/9, 102 mixed two-tooths at 17/6, 531 two-tooth wethers at 16/- and 50 at 14/-, 430 two and four-tooth wethers and ewes at 16/6 to 18/6.

Pigs.—A small entry. Baconers sold at about last week's rates, and porkers sold rather better, but stores met with a dull sale. Baconers made from 44/- to 52/-, or 4d to 4½d per lb; porkers, 4½d to 4¾d per lb; stores (large), 23/- to 27/-; medium, 14/- to 22/-; small, 6/- to 12/-.