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Commercial

PRODUCE.

London, June 9.—The wheat markets are quiet but steady; 31/6 was bid for an Australian cargo off the coast, and 31/6 to 32/3 for cargoes afloat.

Butter: Dull, and unchanged. The rain has checked the demand. There are but small offerings of colonial butter.

Wellington, June 12.—The Department of Industries and Commerce has received the following cablegram from the Agent-General, dated London, June 10: 'No alteration in mutton market since last week's report. Lamb market steady, high prices restricting business, scarcity prime quality lamb. No change in price. No alteration in the beef market since last week's report. Butter market firm, with good demand. Average price choicest New Zealand butter to-day is 97/- per cwt. Cheese market rather more active. Average price finest New Zealand cheese to-day, 52/-. Hemp market dull, poor business being done. Price New Zealand hemp, good fair Wellington grade, on spot to-day, per ton, £26; July-August shipments, £27. Price Manila hemp, fair current grade, on spot to-day, per ton, £37. No alteration in the cocksfoot seed market.'

Wellington, June 12.—The New Zealand and African Steamship Co., which holds the contract for the West of England service, announces a reduction of butter freights for ports in the west of the United Kingdom from 3d to 9-16d per lb.

Invercargill prices current.—Wholesale—Butter, farm, 8d; separator, 10d; butter factory, pats, 1 1/4. Eggs, 1/6 per dozen. Cheese, factory, 6 1/4. Hams, 9d. Barley, 2/- to 2/6. Chaff, £3 per ton. Flour, £9 to £10. Oatmeal, £9/10/- to £10. Bran, £1/5/-. Pollard, £6. Potatoes, 1/- per cwt. Retail—Farm butter, 10d; separator, 1/-; butter, factory, pats, 1 1/2. Cheese, 6d to 8d. Eggs, 1/9 per dozen. Bacon, 9d. Hams, 10d. Flour, 200lb, 20/-; 50lb, 5/9; 25lb, 3/-. Oatmeal, 50lb, 6/-; 25lb, 3/- Pollard, 10/6 per bag Bran, 5/- Chaff, 1/9. Potatoes, 14lb for 1/-.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. (Limited) report:—

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday. Our catalogue was a large one, and with fair competition from a good attendance of buyers, nearly all lines on offer, with the exception of chaff, which was in full supply, were quitted at quotations. Prices ruled as under:—

Oats.—There has been a steady demand for shipment for all consignments of good feed quality. Garters are most in favor, but sparrowbills and other short oats also have good inquiry. Prime milling and seed lines have fair demand from buyers for these classes. Quotations: Seed lines, 1/9 to 2/-, prime milling, 1/8 1/2 to 1/9; good to best feed, 1/7 to 1/8; inferior to medium, 1/5 to 1/6 1/4 per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—Prime milling lines have rather more attention, but at present holders show little disposition to sell at current values. Medium qualities are not inquired for, but fowl wheat has better sale at quotations. Quotations: Prime milling, 3/- to 3/2; medium, 2/10 to 2/11; whole fowl wheat, 2/8 1/2 to 2/9 1/2; broken and damaged, 2/6 to 2/8 per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Although a fair quantity came forward for Monday's sale, consignments during the past week

have been exceptionally light, and prices have again slightly advanced. Quotations: Good to choice white potatoes, £6/10/- to £7; prime Derwents, £6/5/- to £6/15/-; medium qualities, £5/15/- to £6/5/- per ton (sacks in).

Chaff.—Monday's market was heavily supplied with medium to best quality. There was a slackening in the demand from local buyers, and consignments were correspondingly difficult to quit, late quotations being only maintained in a few cases. Quotations: Best oaten sheaf, £2/15/- to £3; medium to good, £2/7/6 to £2/12/6; light and discolored, £2 to £2/5/- per ton (bags extra).

Hay.—Full supplies are coming forward. Prime clover and ryegrass is saleable at £2/15/- to £3, and lower qualities difficult to quit at £2/5/- to £2/12/6 per ton (pressed).

Straw.—The market is barely supplied, and good wheaten straw is in fair demand at 35/-; oaten, 35/- to per ton (pressed).

Turnips.—These are in over-supply, and although most consignments are being quitted at 13/- per ton, this price is difficult to maintain in view of the quantity arriving.

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

Wheat.—There is very little change in this market, and prices remain the same, viz., prime milling, 3/- to 3/2, medium, 2/10 to 2/11; good whole fowl wheat, 2/8 to 2/9; broken and damaged, 2/3 to 2/7 per bushel.

Oats.—There is a good inquiry for bright clean seed lines, and prime milling and B grade also command attention at the following prices. Seed lines, 1/9 to 2/3; prime milling, 1/8 1/2 to 1/9; good to best feed, 1/7 to 1/8, inferior and medium, 1/5 to 1/6 1/2 per bushel.

Potatoes.—Supplies are somewhat scarce, and prices have again advanced. White sorts (seed), £6/10/- to £7, and best Derwents bring from £6/5 to £6/15/-; other sorts, £5 to £6 per ton.

Chaff.—Stocks are still very large, and prices have eased somewhat. Prime oaten sheaf, £2/17/6 to £3; medium, £2/12/6 to £2/15/-; light and discolored, £2/5/- to £2/10/-.

Messrs. Nimmo and Blair report as follows:—

Wheat.—The market is if anything easier, but holders show no desire to reduce their reserves, and the value of business passing is small. We quote: Prime milling, 3/- to 3/1; fowl wheat (whole), 2/8 to 2/9 per bushel.

Oats.—All coming forward have been readily taken at late quotations. We quote: Prime milling, 1/8 1/2 to 1/9, good feed, 1/7 to 1/8 per bushel.

Chaff.—Large supplies have caused prices to recede slightly. We quote: Prime oaten sheaf, £2/15/- to £3 per ton.

Potatoes.—These are coming forward very sparingly, and prices have advanced in consequence. We quote Prime Derwents, £6/5/- to £6/15/- per ton.

Butter.—In firm demand. Dairy prints, 8d; best grade milled, 8d to 9d; separator in half-pound and one-pound pats, 9d to 9 1/2d per lb.

Eggs.—In good demand. Fresh, 1/8 to 1/9 per dozen; preserved, 1/2 per dozen.

Pigs.—Supplies are falling off. Prime baconers, 4d to 4 1/2d; porkers, 3 1/2d per lb.

Poultry.—Not so plentiful. Hens, 2/6 to 2/9; roosters, 3/- to 3/9; ducks, 3/- to 4/-; turkeys, hens, 7d; cocks, 8d per lb, live weight.

Note.—We receive consignments of all produce for sale, on commission, which has our best attention at all times.

WOOL.

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

Rabbitskins.—We offered a very large catalogue on Monday, to an average attendance of buyers, and prices had an easier tendency, although on the whole we had a very successful sale. We obtained up to 7d for small, summers to 8 1/2d, springs to 10 1/2d, autumns to 14 1/2d, early winters to 15 1/2d, winters (mixed bucks and does) to 17d, fawn to 14 1/2d; black to 3 1/2d, and we sold horse hair to 16 1/2d.

Sheepskins.—We offered a medium catalogue on Tuesday, and had a satisfactory sale, prices being on a par with those lately ruling. We can recommend consignments being forwarded at present, and we are sure returns would give satisfaction.

Hides.—No sale since last report.

Tallow and Fat.—There is a slightly easier tone in this market, although all coming forward is disposed of at late rates.