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Commercial

PRODUCE.

Wellington, September 17.—The Department of Industries and Commerce has received the following cable from the High Commissioner, dated London, September 15:—There has been more inclination to purchase mutton during the past week. Stocks on hand are heavy, but the market is firm in anticipation of smaller supplies arriving. Canterbury mutton is quoted at 3½d, North Island 3½d. Lamb: The market is firm, with a hardening tendency. Canterbury lamb is extremely scarce at 4½d. Average price for other than Canterbury brands, 4½d. The stock of New Zealand beef on hand is light, and there is a much better demand for it. Hindquarters are quoted at 3½d, forequarters 2½d. Butter: The market is firm, with a large demand for better grades. 2442 boxes of New Zealand butter arrived during August. Choice New Zealand makes are quoted at 115s; Danish, 123s; Canadian, 114s per cwt. Cheese: The market is quiet, and the tendency in favor of buyers. A good deal of cheese is now arriving and being held in store. Canadian makes are quoted at 61s per cwt. Hemp: The market is quiet, with little business doing. A good feeling, however, prevails. Prices are unchanged since last week. Cocksfoot: The seed market is quiet. Bright seed is scarce; 17lb clean dressed lots are worth 45s per cwt.

Invercargill Prices Current:—Wholesale—Butter, (farm), 9d; separator, 11d. Butter (factory), pats 1s 0½d. Eggs, 8d per dozen. Cheese, 7d. Hams, 9d. Barley, 2s to 2s 6d. Chaff, £3 5s per ton. Flour, £9 10s to £10. Oatmeal, £11 to £12. Bran, 4d. Pollard, £5 10s. Potatoes, £10. Retail—Farm butter, 11d; separator 1s 1d. Butter (factory), pats, 1s 4d. Cheese, 9d. Eggs, 10d per dozen. Bacon, 9d. Hams, 9d. Flour—200lb, 21s; 50lb, 5s 9d; 25lb, 3s. Oatmeal—50lb, 7s, 25lb, 3s 6d. Pollard, 9s 6d per bag. Bran, 5s. Chaff, 2s. Potatoes, 12s per cwt.

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

Oats.—There is a fair inquiry for both feed and seed lines, but there is not the same inquiry for milling. Quotations: Seed lines, 2s 5d to 2s 9d; prime milling, 2s 2½d to 2s 3d; good to best feed, 2s 1d to 2s 2d; inferior to medium, 1s 10d to 2s per bushel.

Wheat.—No change to report in this market, there being a good inquiry for fowl wheat, and quotations (nominal) are as follow: Prime milling, 3s 5d to 3s 6d; medium, 3s 3d to 3s 4½d; best whole fowl wheat, 3s 1d to 3s 2d; broken and damaged, 2s 9d to 3s per bushel.

Potatoes.—There is very little change to report in this market, quotations being as follow: Seed lines, £11 10s to £12 10s; extra choice picked, £13; prime table sorts, £10 10s to £11 10s; medium, £9 to £10.

Chaff.—No change to report, prime quality bringing up to £4 per ton.

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

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday. —We had a full catalogue of oats, wheat, potatoes, and chaff suitable for the local trade, and although competition was not keen the bulk of the entry changed hands at prices about on a par with late quotations. Values ruled as under:—

Oats.—We have more inquiry for good to best feed oats suitable for shipment, but in most cases shippers' limits are rather below vendors' ideas of value. Milling lines have not much attention, but good clean seed lots, chiefly sparrowbills and Gartons, continue to move off freely. Quotations: Seed lines, 2s 5d to 2s 9d; prime milling, 2s 2½d to 2s 3d; good to best feed, 2s 1d to 2s 2d; inferior to medium, 1s 10d to 2s per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—The conditions in this market are practically unchanged from those reported last week. No business is being done in milling quality, although a few sales are reported in northern markets. Fowl wheat has fair demand both locally and for export. Quotations: Prime milling, (nominally) 3s 5d to 3s 6d; medium to good, 3s 3d to 3s 4½d; whole fowl wheat, 3s 1d to 3s 2d; broken and damaged, 2s 9d to 3s per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—With heavier consignments from both north and south the market is more fully supplied. Values for specially-picked seed lines are well maintained, but for uneven lots and for most table sorts the demand is not quite so strong, and quotations are a shade lower. Inferior quality and small sorts of all descriptions are almost unsaleable. Quotations: Best Seed lines, £12 to £13; fair do, £11 to £11 10s; best table sorts, £10 10s to £11 10s; medium to good, £9 10s to £10 5s; small and inferior, £5 to £8 per ton (sacks included).

Chaff.—Prime bright oat sheaf continues to meet with good demand at quotations, but with medium to good quality the market is over-supplied, and even at a reduction on late values sales are not readily effected. For medium and inferior kinds there is no inquiry. Quotations: Prime oat sheaf, £3 17s 6d to £4; medium to good, £3 10s to £3 15s; light and inferior, £3 to £3 5s per ton (bags extra).

Pressed Straw.—Quotations: Best oat, 45s to 47s 6d; wheaten, 32s 6d to 35s per ton (pressed).

Turnips.—Quotations: Best swedes, 14s to 15s per ton (loose, ex truck).

WOOL

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

Rabbitskins.—We offered a very large catalogue at Monday's sale, prices being quite up to those ruling a week ago, a shade better if anything, with the exception of blacks. Winter bucks made up to 16½d and winter does to 19d, fawns to 12d, and blacks to 15½d. Horse hair sold up to 19½d per lb.

Sheepskins.—We submitted a large catalogue at our sale on Tuesday, competition being keen and prices firmer, with the exception of merinos, which were slightly easier. Halfbreeds sold up to 10½d, crossbreeds to 19½d, and merinos to 8d per lb.

Hides.—No sale since last report.

Tallow and Fat.—Owing to the improved state of the London market and extra competition locally we are pleased to report a considerable rise in this commodity. Quotations are as follow: Best rendered tallow, 19s 6d to 22s per cwt; medium to good, 17s 6d to 19s; inferior tallow, 15s to 17s; prime caul fat, 15s to 16s; rough fat, 12s to 14s 6d per cwt.

LIVE STOCK

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

Messrs. Wright, Stephenson, and Co., report as follows:—

The number of horses forward this week was larger than for a few weeks past, and the quality was good, especially the draughts. The attendance was first class, buyers being present from far and near, all anxious to secure horses fit to go into immediate hard work. The continued scarcity of both draught and strong harness horses is making itself increasingly felt, and this was evidenced at this week's sale in a very pronounced manner. The sale of the draughts was the liveliest we have experienced for a long time, and prices were higher than at any sale this year. The feature of the sale was a consignment of first-class draught mares and geldings, four and five years' old, from Mr. William Baird, Invercargill. They were a really nice serviceable lot, were greatly admired, and each horse, as it came under the rostrum, was eagerly competed for, and sold at up to £57 10s. For other vendors we sold twenty draught mares and geldings at, from £27 to £46 10s. The light harness section was not so well represented, and nothing of any note was on offer; only a few aged sorts changing hands at up to £20. Taken all through, Saturday's sale was the best we have had for considerable time. We quote: Superior young draught geldings, at from £45 to £52; extra good do (prize takers), £55 to £60; superior young draught mares, £55 to £65; medium draught mares and geldings,

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