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BUY



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Commercial

PRODUCE

Wellington, December 3.—The Department of Industries and Commerce has received the following cable from the High Commissioners, dated London, December 1:—The mutton market is dull, but holders are firm, and stocks on hand are small. Average price for Canterbury is 4½d per lb; North Island, 4½d; and River Plate, 3½d. The lamb market is firm and the supply is falling short of the demand. The weather continues favorable for the sale of lamb. The nominal price of Canterbury brands is 5½d per lb. This season's Australian is selling at 5½d per lb. The beef market is dull. Supplies of River Plate are heavy. New Zealand beef is quoted at 3½d and 3½d per lb for hind and forequarters respectively. The butter market is overstocked and depressed. Buyers are holding back expecting prices to go lower. The weather is very unfavorable for the sale of butter, and heavy arrivals are anticipated. Danish butter is quoted at 11½s, choice New Zealand, 11½s; Argentine, 10½s; Australian, 10½s; and Siberian, at 9½s per cwt. The cheese market is steady, but there is only a small demand. Canadian make is quoted at 6½s per cwt. The hemp market is firm. The excitement lately prevailing on the market is subsiding. There is a good demand for all descriptions. Good fair grade on spot is quoted at £39, and January-March shipments at £37 10s per ton.

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

Cats.—This market continues very quiet, quotations being as follow: Prime milling, 2s 0½d; good to best feed, 1s 11d to 2s; inferior to medium, 1s 8d to 1s 10½d per bushel.

Wheat.—This market also continues quiet, although fowl wheat meets with a fair inquiry. Quotations, Prime milling, 2s 3d to 3s 3½d; medium to good, 3s 2d to 3s 3½d; whole fowl wheat, 3s to 3s 0½d; broken and damaged, 2s 6d to 2s 11d per bushel.

Potatoes.—The arrival of outside supplies has had the effect of easing the demand, and quotations are as follow: Prime table sorts, £10 to £10 10s; medium, £8 per ton.

Chaff.—Business in this line is quiet, the demand being principally for prime samples. Quotations: Best oat sheaf, £3 15s to £3 17s 6d; choice, £4; medium to good, £3 to £3 12s 6d; inferior and light, £2 10s to £2 15s per ton.

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

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our store on Monday. Our catalogue was a moderate one, and as competition was weak a number of lots on offer had to be passed in. Prices ruled as under:—

Oats.—Local stocks are now in small compass and moderate consignments are coming forward. There is therefore only a limited quantity offering, but the effect does little to influence buyers, who decline to purchase except for actual orders. A and B grade have been offering at reduced rates at other ports, and in consequence it has been difficult to maintain values in the market. Quotations: Prime milling, 2s to 2s 0½d; good to best feed, 1s 11d to 2s; medium, 1s 9d to 1s 10d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—The market is in a stagnant condition, and millers are buying only in small lines. Several southern samples have been offering during the week, but in view of the prices quoted in the north millers are not disposed to buy except at fowl-wheat prices. Medium milling has had in many cases to be sold as fowl wheat, for which there is fair demand. Quotations:

Prime milling, 3s 2½d to 3s 3½d; good to best, 3s 1d to 3s 2d; medium milling fowl-wheat, 2s 11½d to 3s 0½d; broken and damaged, 2s 6d to 2s 11d per bushel (bags extra).

Potatoes.—Although consignments during the week have been very light, prices for all classes show a decline. There is a limited demand for prime samples, but most merchants are filling their requirements with imported and local new potatoes. Medium and small potatoes are extremely difficult to quit. Quotations: Prime Derwents, £10 to £10 10s; medium to good, £9 10s to £9 15s; small and inferior, £2 to £5 per ton (sacks in).

Chaff.—During the last two weeks the market has been poorly supplied with prime chaff, and consumers have been obliged to draw on the large stock of medium chaff held in store. This has now been practically cleared out, and prices all round were firmer at today's sale. The demand, however, is chiefly for prime quality, which sells readily at £4 per ton; good to best, £3 12s 6d to £3 17s; medium, £3 5s to £3 10s 6d; inferior, £2 5s to £2 15s per ton (bags extra).

Pressed Straw.—There is good inquiry for wheaten straw, but there is none offering. Quotations: Oaten straw, 37s 6d to 40s; wheaten, 32s 6d to 35s per ton.

WOOL

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

Wool.—We have received the following cable from our London agents:—Market very firm; shows a hardening tendency. Compared with closing rates of last London sales, good to extra good scoured merino advanced 5 to 7½ per cent.; faulty and inferior scoured merino advanced 7½ to 10 per cent.; crossbreds advanced 10 per cent. We look forward to very high prices at our local sale on the 20th inst. and no effort will be spared on our part to obtain the highest prices possible for clips entrusted to our care.

Rabbitskins.—We offered a fair-sized catalogue at our sale on Monday last, prices being a shade firmer than those ruling at the previous sale. Small made up to 7½d, summers to 8½d, spring does to 10d, spring bucks to 13d, winter bucks to 17d, winter does to 20½d, and black to 20½d. Horse hair made up to 18½d per lb.

Sheepskins.—We offered a large catalogue at Tuesday's sale, competition being keen and prices much about the same as last week's. Our top price for crossbreds was 3s 1d; fine do, 10 9s 4d; merino, to 9s 8d; and halfbreds, to 12s 6d. We can confidently recommend consignments at the present time.

Hides.—We submitted a catalogue of 271 at our sale on Wednesday last, when prices continued very satisfactory. Our top price for ox was 8½d, and for cows 6½d per lb.

LIVE STOCK

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

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

The attendance on Saturday was very large during the early part of the day. There was a large entry, all classes being represented, but with few exceptions the lot was composed of medium and aged draughts and light harness horses. For useful draught mares and geldings the demand was good, and a number changed hands at prices ranging from £30 to £45. The light harness horses included a number of the most useful sorts we have offered for some time, and many sales were effected at prices varying from £13 to £26. Taken all through the sale was a good one. The condition of the market is healthy for good young draught mares and geldings, three to six years old, and we could sell a large number of these at quotations. The demand, however, for aged and stale horses is slackening, and sales of these can only be effected at a reduction on the values of a month ago. Good harness horses, young, sound, and thoroughly educated to their work, are very scarce and command keen competition and excellent prices when it is known horses of the kind are to be offered. Aged and used-up animals of this class are hard to sell at even low prices, especially geldings. At the present time we have inquiries for good, reliable harness horses, and could place a number to advantage. 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, £30 to £40; aged do, £15 to £25; well-matched carriage pairs, £75 to £100; strong spring-van horses, £25 to £30; milk-cart and butchers' order-cart horses, £18 to £25; light hacks, £10 to £15; extra good hacks and harness horses, £20 to £25; weedy and aged do, £5 to £8.

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