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Commercial

PRODUCE

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

We held our usual weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday. We submitted a small catalogue of feed oats, fowl wheat, chaff, etc., which met with moderate competition from the local buyers, prices generally being about on a level with late quotations. Values ruled as under:—

Oats.—The quantity on offer is little more than sufficient for the local trade, and although more inquiries are being received from shippers, only small quantities are available for export. The demand is almost entirely for good to best feed lots, damaged and inferior lines being almost unsaleable. We quote: Prime milling, 2s 0½d to 2s 1d; good to best feed, 1s 11½d to 2s; inferior and medium, 1s 8d to 1s 10d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—During the past week there has been a better tone in the market. Millers show more disposition for business, and favor prime quality of velvet or Tuscan. Medium quality attracts little attention. Fowl wheat continues to meet with good local and export demand, and is not offering quite so freely. We quote: Prime milling, 3s 4d to 3s 5d; medium to good, 3s 1d to 3s 3d; whole fowl wheat, 2s 11d to 3s; broken and damaged, 2s 8d to 2s 10d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Last season's potatoes are now practically out of stock, and the market is being supplied chiefly with Australian new season's crop and locally-grown kidneys and other early sorts. The latter are selling at about 2d per lb, while Australian Derwents are worth £8 to £9 per ton (sacks included).

Chaff.—No prime oaten sheaf has come forward for some time. Any arriving now is sure of ready sale at satisfactory prices. Buyers have a strong preference for the best, and in consequence even with a bare market indifferent quality has little attention. We quote: Prime oaten sheaf, £4 to £4 5s; medium to good, £3 10s to £3 17s 6d; light and discolored, £2 15s to £3 5s per ton. (bags extra).

Straw.—Wheat straw is scarce, and has good inquiry at 35s to 37s 6d. Oaten is fairly plentiful, and sells at 40s per ton.

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

Oats.—Stocks are now somewhat reduced, and there is a good demand for all offering. Quotations: Prime milling, 2s 1d; good to best feed, 1s 11d to 2s; inferior to medium, 1s 8d to 1s 10d per bushel.

Wheat.—There is a better inquiry for milling quality, and fowl wheat continues to meet with a ready sale. Quotations: Prime milling, 3s 4d to 3s 5d; medium to good, 3s 1d to 3s 3d; good whole fowl wheat, 2s 11d to 3s; broken and damaged, 2s 8d to 2s 10d per bushel.

Potatoes.—Supplies of old potatoes are just about finished. Australian Derwents are selling at from £8 to £9 per ton, while new potatoes are realising 2d per lb.

Chaff.—The market is bare of supplies, and as there is a good inquiry for good chaff, prices are firmer. Quotations: Prime oaten sheaf, £3 17s 6d to £4 2s 6d; extra, to £4 5s; medium to good, £3 to £3 15s; inferior to light, £2 10s to £2 15s per ton.

WOOL

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

Rabbitskins.—We offered a fair sized catalogue at our sale on Tuesday, prices being on a par with those ruling at the previous sale. Small made up to

6d, summers to 9½d, spring does to 12½d, spring bucks to 17d, winter bucks to 16½d, winter does to 20½d, and horsehair made up to 15½d per lb.

Sheepskins.—At Tuesday's sale we offered a large catalogue, which was keenly competed for, and prices were much about the same as last week's.

Hides.—We submitted a catalogue of 253 at our sale on Thursday, when late prices were well maintained. Our top price for ox was 7½d, and for cows 6½d per lb.

Tallow and Fat.—No change to report.

PALMERSTON NORTH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 9.

A retreat was given during the past week to the Children of Mary by the Very Rev. Father O'Farrell, C.S.S.R.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood, who is on a visitation to St. Patrick's parish, celebrated the eight o'clock Mass this morning, and it must have been very gratifying to him to find almost the entire congregation approaching the Holy Table. Both the men's and ladies' branches of the Sacred Heart Society, Hibernians, and Children of Mary in regalia made an imposing appearance. At the nine o'clock Mass a number of children received their First Communion. After Mass the children adjourned to the Zealandia Hall, where breakfast was waiting for them, under the tender care of the good Sisters, assisted by Mrs. Mrs. Higgins. After the eleven o'clock Mass his Grace held a reception in the Zealandia Hall, where he received deputations from the various parish committees, Hibernians, and Young Men's Societies. His Grace administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a large number of children and adults in the afternoon, when the church was again crowded. At Vespers an impressive sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Father O'Farrell, after which there was a reception of the Children of Mary by his Grace the Archbishop.

The second annual concert given by the senior pupils of St. Mary's Convent was held in the Opera House on Thursday last, when there was a very large audience. Judging by the hearty applause and the frequent recalls, it was evident those present were highly pleased with the entertainment. The stage was converted into a veritable garden of palms and arum lilies. It is impossible to pass the singing of Miss Gertrude Perrin in Meyerbeer's 'Shadow song,' the voice and rendition demanding an imperative double encore. Miss O'Brien quite took the audience by surprise, and well earned her encore. The following is the programme:—Duet on two pianos, 'Valse in Ab' (Moszkowski); Misses Meachen, Pegden, Holben and Solitt; Shakespearean chorus (a) 'Blow thou winter winds,' (b) 'Hark the lark,' (Stokes), soloist, Miss Tucker; song, 'The worker,' (Gounod), Miss Porter; part song, 'Lullaby,' Misses E. Abraham, Perrin, Clifford, Porter, and Simpson; song, 'Birds of balmy woodlands' (Weberlin), Miss E. Abraham (encore); part song, 'Evening' (Smart), Misses Clifford, Graham, Gaustad, Cameron, O'Connor, and Simpson; song, 'Out on the rocks' (Sainton-Dolby), Miss O'Brien (encore); song, 'Shadow song' (Meyerbeer), Miss Perrin; duet, 'Die Fischerinnen von Prociã' (Raff), Misses Rawlins and T. Graham; chorus, 'Spinning song' (Wagner), soloist, Miss Cameron; trio, 'The flower greeting' (Churchmann), Misses Abraham, Clifford and Gaustad; song, 'The beating of my own heart' (Macfarren), Miss Clifford (encore); piano solo, (a) 'Polonez Op. 9 No. 6,' (Paderewski), (b) 'Etude V.' (Liszt), Miss O'Connor (encore); song, 'Home song' (Liddle), Miss Cameron (encore); chorus, 'You stole my love' (Macfarren), Mrs. Innes, Misses Abraham, Clifford, Perrin, Gaustad, Graham, Garrity, Martin, Tucker, Dun't, Paton, Cox, Cameron, Porter, O'Brien, Simpson, O'Connor, Park, B. Perrin, O'Reilly and Hodgins. Accompanists, Misses O'Connor and Rawlins.

The Omakau art union will be drawn on January 1, and Rev. Father O'Dea requests all who have books to return blocks, with remittances, immediately.

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