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Commercial

PRODUCE

Wellington, November 11.—The High Commissioner cabled from London on November 9 as follows:—

Mutton.—The market is steady. Shipments now arriving are very small. Canterbury brands, 3½d; North Island, 3¾d; light-weights, 3¾d.

Lamb.—The market is slightly weaker, with less demand. New Zealand stocks on hand are light. Canterbury brands, 5½d; other than Canterbury, 5d.

Beef.—The market is steady, the demand being chiefly for forequarters. Average prices, 3½d and 2½d for hind and forequarters respectively.

Butter.—The market is steady, without animation. The average price realised throughout the week was 122s per cwt. In choicest New Zealand brands the stocks are almost exhausted. Danish butter, 126s; Siberian, 112s; Argentine, 120s.

Cheese.—The market is quiet. There is no alteration in prices to report.

Hemp.—The market is quiet, with moderate inquiry at rates cabled last week.

Wheat.—New Zealand long-berried, 42s 6d; short-berried, 41s 6d for 496lb, ex granary. The market is quiet, but steady.

Invercargill Prices Current:—Wholesale—Butter, (farm), 7d; separator, 8d. Butter (factory), pats, 1s 0½d. Eggs, 10d per dozen. Cheese, 7d. Hams, 9d. Barley, 2s to 2s 6d. Chaff, £5 10s to £6. Flour, £14 10s to £15 10s. Oatmeal, £17 10s to £18s. Bran, £5 15s. Pollard, £6 10s. Retail—Farm butter, 9d; separator, 10d. Butter (factory), pats, 1s 2d. Eggs, 1s. Bacon, 10d. Bran, 6s 9d. Pollard, 11s. Chaff, 3s 3d. Oatmeal, 50lb, 10s; 25lb, 5s 3d. Flour, 200lb, 31s; 100lb, 16s; 50lb, 8s 6d; 25lb, 4s 3d.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co., report as follows:—

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Tuesday. We submitted a representative catalogue to a good attendance of buyers, and with the exception of potatoes cleared most of the lines on offer at satisfactory prices. Values ruled as under:—

Oats.—All lines on offer continue to meet with good demand at prices fully equal to late quotations. Prime bright samples are in most request, and short plump oats are readily saleable at quotations as fowl feed. We quote: Prime milling, to 4s; good to best feed, 3s 10d to 4s; inferior and medium, 3s 7d to 3s 9d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—More favorable reports from the Commonwealth, together with a slight slackening in the London market, has had a somewhat quieting influence here. Holders, however, are firm, and there is no change in prices to report. We quote: Prime milling, 6s to 6s 2d; whole fowl wheat, 5s 10½d to 6s; broken and damaged, 5s 3d to 5s 9d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Arrivals during the week have been exceptionally heavy, and as the shipping demand has fallen off, the market has become glutted. At our auction sale to-day bidding for all lots on offer was very slack, and it was impossible to effect sales unless at a reduction of £2 to £3 per ton on prices obtained at our sale last Monday. Medium and inferior sorts were unsaleable. Unless the demand improves, we fear that, with the large quantities forward,

the market will ease still further. We quote: Prime Derwents and Up-to-dates, £3 17s 6d to £4; good to best do, £3 12s 6d to £3 15s; medium, £3 to £3 5s; inferior, £2 to £2 10s per ton (sacks included).

Chaff.—Consignments of late have been barely sufficient for late requirements, and prices have hardened still further. Prime quality is readily saleable on arrival at £6 10s to £6 15s per ton; medium is not in such strong request at from £6 to £6 7s 6d; inferior has poor sale at £5 to £5 10s per ton (bags extra).

Straw.—Fair supplies have been forward during the past week, and any arriving still meet with ready sale at—for oaten, £2 15s to £3; wheaten, £2 5s to £2 10s per ton (pressed).

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

Oats.—Competition has not been so keen during the week, and with the good rains falling in Australia and locally prices have receded from ½d to 1d per bushel. Quotations: Prime milling, 3s 11d to 4s; good to best feed, 3s 10d to 3s 11d; inferior to medium, 3s 7d to 3s 9d per bushel, ex store (sacks extra).

Wheat.—There is still very little offering, but in sympathy with the decline in Australia, prices have receded from 1d to 2d per bushel here. Prime milling, 6s to 6s 1d; medium (selling as fowl wheat), 5s 10d to 5s 11d; broken and damaged, 5s 3d to 5s 7d per bushel, ex store (sacks extra).

Chaff.—Prime oaten sheaf is still very scarce, and is selling up to rates quoted last week. Anything not first class is harder to dispose of. Quotations: Prime oaten sheaf, £6 5s to £6 10s; extra, to £6 15s; medium to good, £5 15s to £6; light and inferior, £4 15s to £5 10s.

Potatoes.—The market is swamped, and there are absolutely no buyers. Unless there is a demand from the north potatoes will go lower than they were some weeks ago. Quotations: Best Derwents and Up-to-dates, £3 15s to £4; medium to good, £2 10s to £3 10s, with no buyers.

Pressed Straw.—The market is still bare. Oaten, 55s to 60s; wheaten, 47s 6d to 50s.

WOOL

Sydney, November 12.—At the wool sales bidding was brisk, but values were lower than last week. Good wools showed a decline of from 2½ to 5 per cent., and faulties from 5 to 7 per cent.

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

Rabbitskins.—As sales are to be held fortnightly in future, there is nothing to report.

Sheepskins.—We submitted a medium catalogue to-day. Bidding was slightly brisker than at last week's sale, but prices, except for good halfbred skins were much the same. Best halfbred sold from 9½d to 10½d; medium to good, 7½d to 8½d; best crossbred, 7d to 7½d; medium to good, 6d to 7½d; inferior and medium stuff brought from 4d to 5½d.

Hides.—There has been no sale since last report.

Tallow and Fat.—Prices still continue good for all coming forward. Best rendered tallow, 22s to 26s; medium, 18s to 21s 6d; inferior, 14s to 15s 6d; best rough fat, 17s to 19s 6d; medium, 14s 6d to 16s.

A curious anomaly in the hours of labor awarded by (he Arbitration Court was mentioned, according to the 'Napier Daily Telegraph,' by Mr. W. Ward at the Builders' Conference. Mr. Ward stated that in his 'bit of a business' he was working under no less than five different awards—carters, 48 hours, carpenters 47, machinists 46, plumbers 45, and painters 44.

The Forestry Department's report states that over 18 millions of trees have been planted. There is no precise information as to the dates when the trees will be fit for milling. Larch and eucalypti are frequently milled at from 30 to 50 years, whilst the general run of timber trees might be fit for milling at from 50 to 100 years, or even later.

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