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Commercial

PRODUCE

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report for week ending February 9 as follows:—

Oats.—Prime milling, 1s 6½d to 1s 7d; good to best feed, 1s 5½d to 1s 6d; inferior to medium, 1s 4d to 1s 5d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—There is still a good demand for fowl wheat. Prime milling, 4s 8d to 4s 8½d; whole fowl wheat, 4s 6d to 4s 7d; medium, 4s 3d to 4s 5d; broken and damaged, 3s to 4s per bushel (sacks extra).

Chaff.—Prime oaten sheaf, £3 to £3 2s 6d; medium quality is hard to deal with at from £2 10s to £2 15s; inferior and light brings from £2 to £2 7s 6d per ton (bags extra).

Potatoes.—The market is largely over-supplied. Best newly-dug, £3 to £3 2s 6d; medium, £2 10s to £2 15s; stale, £2 to £2 5s per ton (bags in).

Messrs. Dalgety and Co. report as follows:—

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday, when we submitted an average catalogue to a full attendance of buyers. Competition was fairly animated for chaff, but for oats and potatoes bidding was dull. Values ruled as under:

Oats.—Prime milling, 1s 7d; good to best feed, 1s 5d to 1s 6d; inferior to medium, 1s 3d to 1s 4d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—Prime milling, 4s 8d to 4s 8½d; medium milling and fowl wheat, 4s 6d to 4s 7d; broken and damaged, 3s 6d to 4s 3d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Prime, £3 to £3 2s 6d; medium and inferior, £2 per ton (bags in).

Chaff.—Prime oaten sheaf, £3 to £3 2s 6d; medium, £2 10s to £2 15s; inferior, £2 5s per ton (bags extra).

WOOL

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

Rabbitskins and Sheepskins.—Our next sales will be held on the 22nd and 23rd inst.

Hides.—We held our fortnightly sale on Thursday last, when we offered a very large catalogue of 624. The sale was most satisfactory, every lot being cleared at prices in excess of late values. The principal rise was experienced in light weight hides, although all sorts brought almost extreme prices. Quotations: Prime stout heavy ox hides, 7d to 7½d; good heavy do, 6½d to 7d per lb; medium weight, 5½d to 6½d; light weight, 5½d to 5¾d; staggy and inferior, 1d to 3½d; best heavy cow hides, 5½d to 5¾d; medium weight, 5½d to 5¾d; light weight, 5½d to 6d; inferior, 3½d to 4½d; yearlings, 3½d to 5½d; calfskins, 1d to 7½d; horse hides, 5s 6d to 8s each.

Tallow and Fat.—The market remains practically the same, there being very little change to report. Quotations: Best rendered tallow in casks, 20s to 22s 6d; medium to good, 18s to 20s; inferior, 14s to 16s; best rough fat, 16s to 18s; medium to good, 14s to 15s; inferior, 12s to 13s.

Five pupils of the Sisters of Mercy, Colombo street, Christchurch, were successful in the following examinations: Junior Civil Service, Mabel Shaw and Robert John Petre; intermediate and local centre practical examination, Hannah Ryan and Lalla Hemus. The account of their success was withheld until the results of the December theory examinations were known. At the Christchurch competitions, musical and elocutionary, Miss Flossie Storey gave 'such an intelligent temperamental reading of the piece "Not Understood" that the judge, to mark his appreciation of the quality of Miss Storey's performance, gave her a special prize.' These are the words of a local newspaper.

Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

February 8.

The Hibernian Society, in conjunction with the Hibernian Band, intend holding a national concert and social on St. Patrick's Night.

The children of the parish schools will hold their annual picnic on Wednesday, the 17th inst., at Ocean Beach (near Bluff). A committee of young men is making arrangements for a successful gathering.

On Wednesday the Hibernian Band gave a promenade concert from the Rotunda in the Post Office Square. A very large crowd turned out—quite the largest that has honored any of the bands since the commencement of these municipal promenade concerts. The band, under Conductor Wills, was well received.

The secretary of the Irish Athletic Society informs me that everything points to a record sports meeting this year. Applications for programmes have been received from as far north as Auckland. It is interesting to note that prospective competitors are sometimes unconsciously humorous in addressing their letters. Perhaps the best of these was one addressed as follows:—'Secretary, Irish Caledonian Society, Invercargill.'

(From an occasional correspondent.)

On February 1 the Marist Brothers' School was reopened with every indication of another prosperous year. In fact, for the past three years there has been an average increase of eighteen. The friends of the pupils in other parts may be interested in learning that during 1908 they were victors in the football field against all the primary schools of the town. They wished to play a match against the combined schools, but it did not come off. They gave a very satisfactory account of themselves to the school inspector at his annual visit, and four of their number passed the Junior Civil Service examination. The thanks of the teachers and pupils are due to the local clergy for the great interest they take in its success. The Very Rev. Dean Burke, notwithstanding the many calls on his time, instructs the boys in Christian doctrine twice a week. Then at the end of the year, after a painstaking examination, he bestows on the successful competitors many valuable prizes. He also gives a prize for success achieved in the study of Irish history. Although the school syllabus is so overcrowded, still Irish history is taught with enthusiastic ardor. The teachers believe that the study of this subject is not only a patriotic duty, but that it is likewise, for reasons that are patent, a powerful support to our holy faith.

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