



FIRST.
Boots with this Brand on the heel are Guaranteed to Fit and Wear Well.

SECOND.
On this Brand only the Very Best of Workmen are employed.

THIRD.
Only the Very Best of Materials are used in this Brand of Boots and Shoes.

FOURTH.
Farmers, Miners, and all who want to keep their feet dry, try this Brand.

FIFTH.
The "STANDARD" Brand Boots and Shoes are known from Auckland to the Bluff for sterling quality.

Commercial.

(For week ending January 2.)

PRODUCE.

London, December 28.—In the wheat market nothing is doing. Butter: Firm and brisk. Colonial, unchanged; Danish, 128s.
Wellington, December 26.—The Department of Agriculture has received the following from the Agent-General, dated 23rd inst.:—
'The average price for the choicest mutton is 11s. The market is steady. Finest cheese, 55s; the market is dull. The Kumara's cargo is not discharged. The hemp market is depressed. Good, fair Wellington, L22; fair, current Manila, L30. There is a disposition to sell distant hemp. Bright cocksfoot, seventeenth standard, is quoted at 35s per cwt. The market is expected to remain quiet.'

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—
WHEAT—Market unchanged. Prime milling, 2s 6d to 2s 7d; medium, 2s 2d to 2s 5d; fowl wheat, 1s 11d to 2s 1d per bushel (sacks in).
OATS—In fair demand. Milling, 1s 6d to 1s 6½d; good to best feed, 1s 5d to 1s 6d; medium, 1s 3½d to 1s 4½d per bushel (sacks extra).
CHAFF—Prime oaten sheaf, L2 7s 6d to L2 12s 6d; medium, L2 7s 6d per ton (sacks extra).
POTATOES—Best Derwents, L3 10s to L4 per ton (bags in).

SOUTHLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

Invercargill prices current:—Wholesale: Butter, fresh, 6d, factory, bulk, 10d; pats, 10½d; eggs, 8d per doz; cheese, farm, 3½d; bacon, farm, 7d; do (rolled) farm, 6d; hams, 8d; potatoes, L4 per ton; barley, 2s to 2s 6d; fowl wheat, 2s; chaff, L2 10s; flour, L6 10s to L7 5s; oatmeal, L9 10s to L10; pollard, L4; bran, L3 10s, including bags. Retail—Fresh butter, 8d, factory, bulk, 1s; pats, 1s 0½d; eggs, 10d per doz; cheese, 6d; bacon, rolled, 8d, sliced 9d; hams, 10d; potatoes, 5s per cwt; flour, 200lbs, 14s; 50lb, 4s; oatmeal, 50lb, 6s; 25lb, 3s; pollard, 6s 6d per bag; bran, 4s per bag; chaff, L3 per ton; fowls' feed, 2s 9d per bushel.

DAIRY FACTORIES IN THE COLONY.

The annual list of dairy factories in the Colony, published by the Department of Agriculture, shows a considerable increase in the number of factories and skimming stations. In 1899 the factories numbered 233 and the skimming stations 171, the figures for 1900 being respectively 249 and 202. The North Island, of course, is ahead of the South in the number of factories and stations, the factories totalling 178 as against 71 in the South, and the skimming stations 156 as against 46. During 1900 the North Island has had an increase of 20 factories and 23 skimming stations, while in the South Island the number of factories has decreased by four; the skimming stations showing an increase of eight. In Otago there are 42 factories and 30 skimming stations, as against 50 factories and 23 skimming stations in 1899.

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices only:—
Oats: Fair to good feed is 4d to 1s 6d; milling, 1s 6d to 1s 7d
Wheat: milling, 2s 5d to 2s 6d; fowls', 1s 9d to 2s 1d. Potatoes: Northern, L4; Southern, L3 15s. Chaff: Inferior, 30s to 40s; good to prime, 47s 6d to 50s. Straw: pressed 27s; loose, 28s. Flour: Sacks, L6 10s; 50lbs, L7; 25lbs, L7, quiet. Oatmeal: 25lbs, L9 10s. Butter: Dairy, 6d to 8d; factory, 9½d to 10½d. Cheese: Dairy, 5d; factory, 5½d. Eggs, 11d. Onions: Melbourne, L8.

BURNSIDE STOCK REPORT.

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—
FAT CATTLE—113 head yarded. Prices ruled about the same as last week. Best bullocks, L10 to L11 17s 6d; medium to good, L7 15s to L9 15s; best cows and heifers, L6 to L7; medium, L5 to L5 17s 6d.
SHEEP—990 penned, prices ruling 6d to 1s lower than last week. Best wethers, 18s to 19s; medium, 16s 6d to 17s 9d; best ewes, 16s 6d to 17s 6d; medium, 15s to 16s 3d.
LAMBS—563 penned, prices ruling fully 1s 6d lower than last week. Best lambs, 13s to 14s 6d; medium, 11s 6d to 12s 9d.
PIGS—Only 36 forward, and sold as follows:—Slips, 10s to 14s; stores, 18s to 20s; porkers, 24s to 30s; baconers, 35s.

WOOL, SKINS, TALLOW, ETC.

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—
RABBITSKINS AND SHEEPSKINS—No sale since last report.
WOOL—The next sale will be held on January 11.
HIDES—Market firm. Prime heavy ox, 4d to 4½d; medium, 3½d to 3¾d; cow hides, 3d to 3½d per lb.
TALLOW—Market unchanged.

Wellington, December 28.—At the Wellington wool sales to-day prices all round remained on a par with the sale on the 7th inst. The bidding was good at this level, and most of the offerings were quitted.

FIRST THINGS IN LITERATURE.

THE first literary journal ever published was issued at Paris on the 30th of May, 1666, by Deonis de Sallo, ecclesiastical counsellor to the Parisian Parliament. Its title was *Journal des Savans*. This work met with a favorable reception and was soon imitated throughout Europe. Its author had the gratification of seeing it translated into several languages.

The first almanac in England was printed in Oxford in 1673. 'There were,' says Wood, 'nearly 30,000 of them printed, besides a sheet almanac for two pence, that was printed for that year; and because of the novelty of the said almanac and its title, they were all vended. Its sale was so great that the Society of Booksellers in London bought off the copy for the future in order to keep the profits in their own hands.'

The first daily paper in Paris appeared only a few days prior to the French Revolution and was called the *Journal de Paris*.

The first journal published in France was edited by a physician named Theophraste Renaudot, and appeared on the 30th of May, 1631, under the title of the *Gazette*. The far-sighted Richelieu, the man before his age who was as necessary to France of that day as President Loubet is to the present, greeted its appearance with pleasure.

The earliest magazine issued in America was entitled *The General Magazine and Monthly Chronicle for the British Plantations in America*. The first number appeared in January, 1741.

The first English literary production penned in America, which has any rank in the general history of literature, is the translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, by George Sandys, printed in London in 1626.

The first collection ever made of American poetry was in 1793. It was edited by Elihu H. Smith, of Connecticut.

Tussicura, the wonderful cough remedy—sold by all chemists and grocers.—*.*.

Wanted, about 50 clerks to help read testimonials re Tussicura. Sole manufacturer, S. J. Evans, 2s 6d.—*.*.

Wanted, everyone who has proved the worth of Tussicura to recommend it to their friend.—*.*.