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P. FITZGERALD
PAINTER AND PICTORIAL WRITER

HOUSE DECORATOR,

MAIN ROAD, SOUTH DUNEDIN.

Estimates given.

Commercial

(For week ending February 26).

PRODUCE.

London, February 21.—The wheat markets are quiet, but steady. Cargoes of Victorian January and South Australian January-February shipments are quoted at 30s. A wheat cargo by the Lota sold at 29s 7½d.

Butter, firm: Colonial, 110s to 112s; New Zealand, occasionally, 114s. High prices are checking business. Danish, firm, but unchanged.

Wellington, February 24.—The Agent-General's cablegram, dated London, February 22, reports:—The mutton market is very dull, trade for all classes low, and prices barely maintained. There is a scarcity of prime quality. Average price to-day: Canterbury, 3½d; Dunedin, Southland, and Wellington Meat Export, 3½d; other North Island, 3½d. River Plate, 3½d. Lamb is weak. The weather lately has been very unfavorable to the sale of lamb. Competition amongst holders of Australian to clear stocks has lowered values. Canterbury lamb, 5½d; other brands, 5½d; Australian, 4d. Beef is firm. The high prices are restricting business in New Zealand beef, of which there is some real prime quality now on the market. Hinds, 4½d; fores, 3½d. Butter is firm, and is in good demand. New Zealand butter is giving satisfaction to buyers. The price to-day is 11 3-16d. There is a better demand for cheese, of which only small supplies are on hand; price 50s.

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

Oats.—We offered a quantity of medium to good feed, chiefly old oats, for which there was fair competition. We quote: Prime milling, 2s 4d to 2s 5d; good to best feed,

2s 3d to 2s 4d; medium, 2s 1d to 2s 2½d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—Prime milling is in moderate demand at late quotations. Medium quality is out of favor except as fowl wheat, for which there is good demand. We quote: Prime milling, 3s 2d to 3s 3d; whole fowl wheat, 3s to 3s 1d; broken, etc., 2s 9d to 2s 11d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—The market is not so heavily supplied, and good, freshly-picked lines realised slightly better prices. We quote: Best, £2 10s to £2 12s 6d; medium to good, £2 to £2 7s 6d per ton (sacks in).

Chaff.—Fair supplies to hand, and late quotations barely maintained. We quote: Prime oaten sheaf, £3 7s 6d to £3 12s 6d; medium to good, £3 to £3 5s per ton (bags extra).

SOUTHLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

Invercargill prices current.—Wholesale—Butter, fresh, 6d; butter (factory), bulk, 10d; pats, 10½d; eggs, 10d per doz; cheese, 4d; bacon, farm, 7d; bacon (rolled), farm, 6d; hams, 9d; potatoes, £3 per ton; fowl wheat, 3s; barley, 2s to 2s 6d; chaff, £3 10s; flour, £8 5s to £9 5s; oatmeal, £13 10s to £14; bran, £4; pollard, £4 10s. Retail—Fresh butter, 8d; butter (factory), pats, 1s, bulk, 1s; eggs, 1s per doz; cheese, 6d to 7d; bacon (rolled), 8d; hams, 10d; potatoes, 4s per cwt; flour: 200lb, 18s 6d; 50lb, 5s; oatmeal, 50lb, 7s 9d; 25lb, 4s; pollard, 7s 6d per bag; bran, 5s; chaff, 2s; fowls' feed, 3s 6d per bushel.

Mr. F. Meenan, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices only.—Oats: Feed, fair to good, 2s 5d to 2s 6d; milling, 2s 7d. Wheat: scarce. Milling, 3s 2d; fowls', 3s 2d. Potatoes: New Oamaru, £2 5s. Chaff: Inferior to medium, £2 10s to £3 5s; good to best, £3 15s to £4. Straw: Loose, 32s 6d; pressed, 30s. Flour: 200lb sacks, £8 5s; 50lb, £9; 25lb, £9 5s; Oatmeal: 25lb, £14. Butter: Dairy, 6d to 8d; factory, 9½d to 10d. Cheese: Dairy, 4½d; factory, 5d. Eggs, 1s 2d. Onions: Melbourne, new, £6 10s.

LIVE STOCK.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

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

There was only a moderate entry of horses for Saturday's sale, the number, however, including a consignment of useful farm horses from Teviot station. For these there was good competition at prices ranging from £20 to £38. The lower price was for a very old gelding. A large number of town and country buyers were in the saleyards, wanting horses for harvesting operations, and at the present time several town carriers are hard up for powerful young mares and geldings for stone-hauling and lorry work. We note a decided improvement in the demand for all classes of draught horses, and where owners are reasonable in fixing their reserves sales are easily effected. Several good horses were sold on Saturday at from £40 to £44 10s. The same remark applies to strong young harness horses, the demand for which at the present time is practically unlimited. We quote: Superior young draught geldings, £45 to £50; extra good prize horses, £52 to £55; medium draught mares and geldings, £30 to £40; aged do, £20 to £27; upstanding carriage horses, £30 to £35; well-matched carriage pairs, £80 to £90, strong spring-van horses, £28 to £35; milk-cart and butchers' order-cart horses, £18 to £25; tram horses, £12 to £18; light hacks, £10 to £15; extra good hacks, £18 to £25; weedy and aged hacks and harness horses, £3 to £8.

ADDINGTON MARKETS.

At the Addington markets, fat cattle, of which 202 were yarded, met with rather dull sale, with a downward tendency. Heifers brought £6 5s to £8, and up to £9 5s for extra prime; cows, £5 5s to £7 2s 6d, and up to £8 12s 6d for extra good.

Store cattle showed a large entry, but a poor sale for young sorts. Fresh-conditioned and well-grown cattle were selling well; yearlings, 25s to 27s; 15 to 18 months, £1 12s to £2 16s; two-year-old steers, £4 2s 6d to £5 2s 6d; do heifers, £3 2s 6d to £3 9s 6d; three-year-old steers, £5 15s; do heifers, £5 15s; dry cows, £2 to £3 10s; dairy cows (best), £7 to £9; others, £4 to £6.

Of fat sheep 3700 were yarded, mostly ewes and a number of North Island freezers. They were sold at a slight advance for the best, and ewes showed an improved sale, but sold irregularly. A few prime heavy wethers brought 18s 6d to 19s; best freezers, 15s to 17s; lighter, 13s to 14s 6d; best ewes, 12s 6d to 14s 6d; others, down to 6s 9d. Ordinary merino wethers sold at 7s 3d to 11s; prime, 11s 3d to 13s 6d.

In fat lambs there were 2215 entered, mostly unfinished sorts, but they met a good sale, considering the quality, 1256 were taken for export at 12s to 13s 6d, and 14s to 14s 8d for extra prime; 336 went to the butchers at 10s 4d to 13s 6d, and 150 to the graziers at 9s 6d to 10s 7d. Nearly 500 were passed in at 7s to 13s 11d.

Of store sheep 9295 were yarded, mostly wethers and ewes. The bulk were inferior sheep from the North Island and Marlborough, and a dull sale resulted in nearly half being withdrawn. A few forward wethers made 11s 6d to 13s; others, 8s 10d; good ewes, 11s to 13s; fair, 8s to 10s 6d; others, 5s 6d to 7s 6d. Good lambs sold at 8s to 10s 11d; others, 4s 4d to 7s 6d.

Pigs numbered 420, including a lot of unfinished sorts in fat pens. The fats were dearer, and good stores sold well for stubble purposes, baconers realising 36s to 54s, or 3½d to 4d per lb; porkers, 25s to 36s, or 4d to 4½d; large stores, 15s to 28s; smaller, 10s to 14s; suckers and weaners, 5s to 9s.

Ancient Irish Surgery.

Perhaps the most ancient instance on record of the surgical operation of trepanning is that recorded of Connor, King of Ulster, who reigned about 80 years before the Christian era. It is stated that he was struck by a missile thrown from a sling, and his skull fractured by the blow. He remained senseless until the arrival of a celebrated surgeon, who, having first obtained the consent of the chief officers of the State, proceeded to remove the extraneous substance that caused the wound, and to relieve the brain from the pressure of the fractured fragments of the skull. The operation was successful, and the King was restored to good health, which he enjoyed for several years; but, being a man of irascible temper, he was easily enraged, and it is said on one occasion of excitement exerted himself with such violence that the wound in his head burst forth and he died immediately. The name of the surgeon who effected this remarkable cure was Finyeen.

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