

Commercial

For week ending April 9.

PRODUCE.

London, April 4.—The wheat markets are quiet. The English is steady, the Continental easier, and American hardening. Cargoes are firmly held. Victorian and South Australian February shipment, 29s 6d; parcels afloat, 28s 9d.

Butter is quiet. New Zealand, 105s to 106s. Danish, firm at 114s. Cheese is unchanged.

Sydney, April 4.—The breadstuffs market is strong and advancing. Flour is quoted at £8 15s per ton. For wheat 3s 10½d was refused for a large parcel, holders want 4s.

London, April 6.—Frozen Meat.—New Zealand mutton has risen 1-16th, heavy River Plates ¼d, and New Zealand beef has advanced ¼d. The beef quotations are nominal. New Zealand lamb has declined 1-16th.

Sydney, April 8.—Breadstuffs and foodstuffs are active, owing to the short supplies. The Adelaide wheat market is excited, while Melbourne anticipates startling advances in wheat up to 4s, and of flour up to £9.

SOUTHLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

Invercargill prices current.—Wholesale—Butter (fresh), 8d; butter (factory), bulk, 10½d, pats, 10½d, eggs, 1s 3d per doz; cheese, 4d; bacon, farm, 7d; do, rolled, farm, 6d; hams, 9d; potatoes, £3 to £3 10s per ton; fowl wheat, 3s 3d; barley, 2s to 2s 6d; chaff, £4 10s; flour, £9 10s to £10 10s, oatmeal, £12 5s to £12 15s; bran, £4 ¼d, pollard, £4 15s. Retail.—Fresh butter, 10d; butter (factory), pats, 1s; bulk, 1s, eggs, 1s 6d per doz, cheese, 6d to 7d, bacon, rolled, 9d; hams, 10d, potatoes, 4s per cwt; flour, 200lb 21s, 50lb, 5s 3d. Oatmeal, 50lb, 7s 3d; 25lb, 3s 9d; pollard, 8s per bag; bran, 5s; chaff, 2s, fowls' feed, 3s 9d per bushel.

Mr. F. Meenan, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices only.—Oats: Feed, fair to good, 2s 3d to 2s 4d; milling, 2s 4d to 2s 5d. Wheat: scarce. Milling, 3s 6d to 3s 8d; fowls', 3s 1d. Potatoes: New Oamaru and Tairā, £3 10s to £3 12s 6d. Chaff: inferior to medium, £2 10s to £3, good to best, £3 15s to £4 10s. Straw: Loose, 32s 6d, pressed, 30s. Flour: 200lb sacks, £10; 50lb, £11 5s. 25lb, £11 6s. Oatmeal: 25lb, £12 10s. Butter: Dairy, 6d to 8d; factory, 1s to 1s 0½d. Cheese: Dairy, 4½d, factory, 5d. Eggs: 1s 5d. Onions: Melbourne, new, £6.

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

Oats.—There was a good demand for all good to prime feed lines at prices fully equal to late rates. A large proportion of the season's crop being damaged and discolored, has had a hardening effect on milling and other prime lines. We quote: Prime milling, 2s 3½d to 2s 4½d; good to best feed, 2s 2d to 2s 3d, inferior and medium, 2s to 2s 1½d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—The quantity of prime milling quality on offer is extremely small, and as prospects for the new grain are far from promising, prices have undergone a sharp advance. We quote: Prime milling, 3s 8d to 3s 10d, medium, 3s 6d to 3s 7d; best whole fowl wheat, 3s 3d to 3s 6d; damaged, etc., 2s 9d to 3s 2d per bushel.

Potatoes.—The market is moderately supplied with Derwents and kidneys. Prime Derwents are in fair demand at £3 10s to £3 15s, and freshly picked kidneys and white potatoes at £3 to £3 5s per ton (sacks extra).

Chaff.—There is little or no old oaten sheaf offering, and for this class there is good inquiry. Sound new chaff is also scarce and commands ready sale, but inferior sorts are out of favor. We quote: Best old chaff, £4 7s 6d to £4 10s, prime new chaff, £4 to £4 5s, medium and inferior, £3 to £3 15s per ton (bags extra).

WOOL.

London, April 4.—The Bradford wool market is firm but unchanged.

DUNEDIN WOOL SALES.

The Dunedin Woolbrokers' Association held their fourth wool sale for this season in the Board Room, Agricultural Hall Buildings on Tuesday.

Messrs Stronach Bros and Morris report as follows:—The offerings altogether comprised only a little over 1500 bales, and were made up of late shorn stragglers' wool, passed in lots from previous sales, and oddments. The attendance of buyers did not include all those who usually bid at large auctions, but, notwithstanding this competition was good, and particularly so in regard to merino wools, all re-offered lots of this description showing decided improvement. For all sorts the demand was better, in sympathy with recent London cables, and on the whole our fourth sale may be described as comparatively satisfactory. We offered 172 bales, the bulk of which were sold at auction.

LIVE STOCK.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

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

A large number of horses were entered for this week's sale, but the majority of them, both draught and light, were aged. The draughts were only second-class, and, as we have already stated, they were past their prime, still, where they were of good stamp they met with a fair demand, and most of them changed hands at from £20 to £36, one extra good mover fetching £39. For a six-year-old delivery-cart gelding there was keen competition, and it was sold for £36 10s, whilst for a five-year-old milk-cart mare we obtained £29. For first-class young horses, sound and staunch, of all descriptions, there is plenty of demand, but nondescripts of all classes are a veritable drug in the market—there are no buyers for them. Privately during the week we have sold several useful draught mares and geldings at from £35 to £44. We quote: Superior young draught geldings, £45 to £54; extra good, prize horses, £55 to £60; medium draught mares and geldings, £35 to £42; aged, do, £20 to £30; up-standing carriage horses, £30 to £35; well-matched carriage pairs, £30 to £90; strong spring-van horses, £30 to £37; milk-cart and butchers' order-cart horses, £22 to £28; 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 £7.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

Fat Cattle was 128, mostly light-weights, while heifers and cows numbered under 20. There was a short supply of steers, which caused a rise of 1s per 100lb. Beef brought 18s 6d to 22s 6d; steers, £6 15s to £10, and £13 10s for prime Polled Angus bullocks, heifers, £5 10s to £7 7s 6d, cows, £5 to £7 2s 6d.

Fat Sheep.—About 4000 yarded, mostly ewes. There were very few good wethers. Best wethers brought 15s to 17s 3d; others, 12s 6d to 14s 6d. Too many ewes for the trade, and a drop in price was experienced, except for a few extra prime, which made 14s to 15s 3d. Good useful trade sorts brought 11s to 13s 6d; inferior, 7s 6d to 10s.

Fat Lambs.—The total brought for ward was 751, mostly unfinished sorts. The sale was dull; One hundred and thirty-one were sold for export at from 12s 6d to 12s 7d. Two hundred and thirty-one went to butchers at from 9s 3d to 13s 11d. The balance passed in at 11s to 11s 9d.

Store Sheep.—Over 14,000 were offered, including some good lines of forward wethers and good breeding ewes; and these, with good forward lambs, met with a good sale; but other sorts remain about the same as last week. Forward wethers brought from 12s 2d to 12s 10d, others, 10s 2d to 11s 1d; small, 7s 1d to 9s 6d; good wethers and maiden ewes, 10s to 13s 1d; merino wethers, 8s 3d; two-tooth ewes, 14s to 15s 3d; four-tooths, 12s 1d, two and four-tooths, 12s 6d; six tooths, 13s 1d; four, six, and eight-tooths, 8s 3d to 11s 4d; sound-mouthed, 6s to 8s 3d; aged, 5s to 5s 9d, boilers, 1s 6d to 2s 3d, lambs, forward sorts, 9s to 10s, fair, 5s 1d to 8s; inferior, 1s 7d to 3s 3d.

Cupola of St. Peter's.

The greatest of the architectural enterprises Michael Angelo was called upon to take up was the completing of St. Peter's, and he devoted himself through pure obedience to this task, refusing all compensation, offering his unpaid services in that way both to his master and to the service of religion.

He had to struggle against the opposing ideas of the architects in charge of the Monument, who held by later plans than those of the first deviser, and their enmity and misapprehension of what was best aimed at a continual thwarting of all his intentions. He managed, however, to bring back the building to its original plan, that of his greatest enemy, Bramante, upon whom he has left this noble judgment. 'It cannot be denied,' said he, 'that Bramante laid the first plan of St. Peter's clear and simple, and all who have departed from this scheme have departed from the truth.'

We have not the great Cathedral as Michael wished it, nor can we see in it the creation of his genius. But the one thing that Michael Angelo left to his successors in the work is the cupola, whose outline remains as an unparalleled idea, as an important landmark in architecture as his other records of achievement in painting and sculpture. It is the mark of Rome and the expression of Rome's grandeur.

The Origin of Toasting.

The origin of the word 'toast' in drinking a health is interesting. The drinks most in use in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were sack, canary, claret sherry, and others, to which it was customary to add honey, sugar, ginger, cinnamon, and other ingredients; also a piece of toast, which floated on the top of the liquor, and was supposed to give it an additional flavor. Later on, in the eighteenth century, Dr. Johnson relates:—A certain beau, being at Bath, pledged a noted beauty in a glass of water taken from a bath; whereupon another roysterer cried out that he would have nothing to do with the liquor, but would have the toast—that is, the lady herself. From this incident, it is said, arose the habit of giving a lady's name to preface or flavor the drinking of wine. Hence a popular lady whose health was often drunk became a 'toast,' or 'a great toast.' Later the word has come to mean any sentiment which prefaces a drink. So says the 'Daily Chronicle.'

In cases of Lumbago, Rheumatism, or Sciatica there is nothing to equal EVANS'S WITCH'S OIL.***