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R. B. DENNISTON & CO.
Stuart street.

Commercial

(For week ending April 30)

PRODUCE.

London, April 23.—One Australian cargo of wheat sold at 29s 6d, and two others at 29s 10½d.

London, April 25.—The wheat markets are strong, owing to the want of rain. For winter wheat, United States cargoes, there is a brisk demand. Two Australian cargoes sold at 29s 9d, three at 29s 7½d, and one at 29s 10½d. Victorian parcels afloat, 29s 9d.

Rabbits, dull. Small sold at 6½d, large 8d. Stocks are accumulating. London, April 27.—Frozen Meat—Mutton. All classes of New Zealand and River Plate advanced 1-16d. Lamb. Prime Canterbury, 5 1-16d fair average (including Dunedin, Southland, Wellington, and secondary Canterbury), 4 13-16d. New Zealand beef (180lb to 220lb, fair average quality) Ox fore, 4½d, hinds, unchanged.

Hemp. Quiet. Fair. Wellington, February and April shipment, £35 10s.

Cheese. New Zealand, 47s.

Butter: 104s to 106s.

Leather and basils are unchanged. Wellington, April 28.—The Agricultural Department has received the following cable message from the Agent-General, dated London, 26th inst. —The mutton market is firm, but trade slow. The average price to-day is 1s. Canterbury mutton, 3½d. Dunedin, Southland, and W.M.E. Company's mutton, 3½d. other North Island mutton 3½d. The lamb market is weak. The shipments of lamb now arriving are very heavy. There has been no alteration in the lamb or beef market since last week. Buyers of butter are holding back expecting prices to go lower. The price of butter to-day is 105s. The cheese market is very firm, the price being 56s. The hemp market is depressed at £36 nominally; May and July shipment, £33. There is a better demand for cocksfoot seed. New Zealand, 17lb standard, 47s.

SOUTHLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

A Press message under date April 25 states that the oat market is greatly excited, holders being of opinion that top prices have not yet been reached. Current rates. B grade, 2s 3d to 2s 3½d (up-country stations), 2s 4d for prime milling, which is scarce.

Of wheat very little local is on offer. A local merchant has an offer of American at 3s 4d (c.f.), and Californian flour at £8 5s (c.f.). The weather is still most unsatisfactory, drying winds being succeeded by a drizzle.

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 10s per ton; fowl wheat, 3s 3d; barley, 2s to 2s 6d, chaff, £4 10s; flour, £11 10s to £12 10s, oatmeal, £14 10s to £15, bran, £4 10s, pollard, £5 10s. 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, £4 10s per ton; flour, 200 lb, 25s, 50lb, 7s 3d, oatmeal, 50lb, 8s 3d, 25lb, 4s 3d. Pollard, 9s per bag; bran, 5s 6d; chaff, 2s, fowls' feed, 3s 9d per bushel.

THE OAT CROP IN SOUTHLAND.

Writing on the prospects of the Southland oat crop the Invercargill 'Times' says it is a subject of general conversation that the excellent prices ruling for oats this season will substantially benefit the revenue of the farming population. The amount of the grain may, perhaps, be estimated with more approximate accuracy than by a guess at hazard. A fair forecast of the traffic for the approaching season would be 600,000 sacks of four bushels, or 2,400,000 bushels. The price which has prevailed during late years has averaged 1s 3d, while this season the average at the lowest has been 2s. A simple sum will show that an advance of 9d per bushel on 2,400,000 bushels is equivalent to an aggregate increase of £90,000 in the value of the crop. It would not be overbold to reckon that the rise in the value of oats will return £100,000 to the farmers of Southland this year, a sum which should very largely compensate for the depression in the wool market at sale time.

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

Oats—Good to prime quality are well competed for at prices on a par with late values. Inferior and discolored lots do not meet the same demand, and are not so readily quoted. Quotations: Prime milling, 2s 7d to 2s 8d; good to best feed, 2s 5½d to 2s 6½d, inferior to medium, 2s 2d to 2s 5d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat—Of prime quality there is very little on offer, and quotations for this class are nominal. Medium quality is not so much sought after, and fowl wheat, although in fair demand, is only saleable at a slight reduction. Quotations: Prime milling, 4s to 4s 4d, medium, 3s 8d to 3s 11d, whole fowl wheat, 3s 3d to 3s 6d, broken and damaged, 3s to 3s 3d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes—Prime Derwents continue to meet with a fair inquiry. Supplies are somewhat heavier, and late values are barely maintained. Quotations.—Best Derwents, £5 to £5 5s, medium and other sorts, £4 10s to £4 15s per ton (sacks in).

Chaff—The market is completely glutted. A large proportion of the supply is only of medium quality, for which there is poor demand. Prime quality is in most favor, but is only saleable at a reduction of 15s to 20s per ton on last week's values. Quotations: Prime oatmeal, £4 10s to £4 15s, prime old chaff, to £5, good, £4 to £4 7s 6d, inferior and medium, £3 to £3 15s per ton (bags extra).

Mr. F. Meenan, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices only—Oats: Milling, 2s 6d to 2s 7d, feeding, 2s 5d to 2s 7d. Wheat (good demand): Milling, 4s to 4s 3d, fowls, 3s 6d. Potatoes, £5 to £5 5s. Chaff: Inferior to medium, £3 10s to £4; prime, £5. Straw (scarce). Pressed, £2, loose, none in market. Flour: 200lb sacks, £11 10s, 50lb, £12 5s, 25lb, £12 10s. Oatmeal: 25lb, £14 10s. Butter: Dairy, 7d to 9d, factory, 1s. Cheese: Dairy, 4½d, factory, 5d. Eggs, 1s 8d. Onions: Christchurch, £6.

WOOL.

London, April 25.—The Bradford wool market is firm. Common sixties, 20½d; super, 21½d.

London, April 27.—Rabbitskins: A small supply and quiet trade. Thin-pelted advanced ½d, and stout declined ½d.

LIVE STOCK.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

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

There was a large entry of horses for Saturday's sale, and buyers for most classes were well represented. In draughts Mr. D. McLennan's team of nine draught geldings from Wedderburn was the principal attraction, and as they were of a good stamp and heavy (but mostly six years old and over) they were well competed for, and the best of them brought from £38 to £48 10s; the aged ones, from £17 to £28. A few other good draught geldings were sold at from £40 to £47 10s, and five or six medium draughts at from £30 to £36. A fine, upstanding spring-cart horse brought £26 10s, and another, an aged horse, £22. A considerable number of useful harness horses changed hands at from £14 to £23, and 10 remounts, in low condition, offered by us on account of the Department of Agriculture, were sold at from £5 10s to £17. We also sold several light hacks at from £8 to £15. The high price of oats and chaff is to some extent affecting the demand for light horses, but, notwithstanding this, more light horses changed owners this week than have been sold at any of the weekly sales for some time past. We quote: Superior young draught geldings, £40 to £50; extra good, prize horses, £55 to £60; medium draught mares and geldings, £30 to £38, aged do, £20 to £28; upstanding carriage horses, £30 to £35; well-matched carriage pairs, £80 to £90; strong spring-van horses, £30 to £35; milk-cart and butchers' order cart horses, £18 to £25; tram horses, £12 to £16; extra good hacks, £18 to £25; weedy and aged hacks and harness horses, £5 to £8.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

There was a good attendance and large entries at Addington market. The yardings were:—Sheep, 20,832; cattle, 488; pigs, 735.

Fat Cattle—213 head, mostly heavy bullocks, yarded. There was a slow sale at the opening, but it improved towards the close, though a decline on last week's prices must be recorded. A line of 22 bullocks from Mount Palm made £10 10s to £13 7s 6d, 21 from Hawke's Wood, £11 12s 6d to £13 2s 6d, 15 from the North Island, £10 12s 6d to £12 2s 6d; 14 from Mr. W. Birdling, £9 17s 6d to £11 2s 6d. Other steers made £6 15s to £13 2s 6d; heifers, £5 5s to £9 2s 6d; cows, £5 2s 6d to £9 12s 6d, equal to 19s to 24s per 100lb.

Store Cattle—A fair entry sold at about last week's figures. Calves fetched up to £1, and young cattle from £1 10s for yearlings up to £4 1s for two-year-olds, steers, £6 11s for three-year-olds, dairy cattle as usual, one good cow fetching £9 5s.

Fat Sheep—A full entry, but of a mixed description and varied quality. Freezing wethers fetched 16s to 18s 5d, ewes and wethers, 13s 6d to 16s 7d; medium, 10s to 12s 6d; light and inferior, 7s to 9s 6d.

Fat Lambs—The large entry of 2157 were mostly backward. Bidding was slack, and prices easier. Nine hundred and thirty four were bought for export at 9s to 13s 2d; 189 by butchers for 7s 1d to 13s 11d, while 1034 passed.

Store Sheep—15,170 penned, mostly wethers in good condition, 1400 from the North Island were really good sheep. Forward wethers were in demand and good ewes, but lambs and inferior sheep were dull and easier.

Pigs—A large market, much above trade wants, and prices were easier in consequence. Stores were unsaleable. Baconers brought 32s to 40s, equal to 3d to 3½d, porkers, 20s to 30s, or 3½d to 3¾d per lb.