

COMMERCIAL

Wellington, February 22.

The High Commissioner cabled on February 20 (the quotations, unless otherwise specified, are the average market prices on spot):—

Meat.—Good demand continues for all descriptions; market firm, owing to reduced supplies in consequence of the dock strike during the week. The strike has now terminated, and work has been resumed.

Mutton.—Supplies of Canterbury are on hand. North Island, 5 13-16d; best quality ewes, 53d.

Lamb.—No supplies of Canterbury on hand; other than Canterbury, 7½d.

Beef.—Hindquarters, 6½d; fores, 6d. Chilled beef in limited supply. Hindquarters, 7½d; fores, 6½d.

Butter.—Market quiet at a decline. Danish, 132s to 136s; New Zealand, 128s to 132s; Australian, 126s to 130s. Siberian, 15,000 casks expected from Vladivostok during next week. Argentine, no arrivals.

Cheese.—Market steady at a decline. The Canadian supply is running short. White colored, 89s to 92s; New Zealand, white colored, 86s to 88s. A quantity of United States cheese is on the market, and is quoted at 84s to 86s. Australian cheese continues to arrive, but the Essex's cargo is not available.

Hemp.—Market firm. It advanced suddenly owing to a difficulty regarding tonnage. Light shipments of hemp are expected from Penang. New Zealand fair grade, £29; fair current Manila, £35. Forward shipment: New Zealand good fair grade, £31 10s, fair grade £29 10s; fair current Manila, £35. The output from Manila for the week was 28,000 bales.

Wool.—Market strong.

Wheat.—Market is very erratic, and during the last week prices fluctuated from 62s to 65s. There is a fair trade doing, and holders are firm. There are plenty of buyers. Canadian, 65s; American, 65s (any position); Argentine, 64s (February-March shipment).

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report for week ended Tuesday, February 23, as follows:

Rabbitskins.—We held our fortnightly sale yesterday, when we offered a full catalogue and competition was very keen. Quotations: First winter does, to 17d; second winter does, 10½d to 12d; first winter bucks, to 14½d; spring bucks, 6½d to 7d; autumn and incoming, to 9½d; 1st winter blacks to 29d; lawns, to 15½d; horsehair, to 22d per lb. **Sheepskins.** At the sale to-day we offered a large catalogue to a full attendance of buyers and competition was keen throughout. Quotations: Best halibred, 10½d to 10½d; medium, 9½d to 10d; inferior, 8½d to 9d; best fine crossbred, to 10½d; coarse crossbred, to 10½d; medium to good, 9½d to 10d; inferior, 8½d to 9d; best merino, to 8½d; medium, 6d to 6½d; lambskins, to 9½d per lb. **Hides.** Our next sale will be held on the 25th inst. **Tallow and Fat.**

We held our weekly sale on Saturday, 20th inst. There was a full attendance of buyers and keen competition. Best tallow in tins, to 22s 6d; medium to good, 18s to 19s 6d; inferior 17s to 17s 6d; rough fat, good from 15s to 16s, inferior 10s to 12s. **Oats.** Supplies are light, and there is a keen demand for all sorts, more especially for milling samples. Quotations: Prime milling, 3s 11d to 4s; good to best feed, 3s 9d to 3s 11d per bushel (sacks extra). **Wheat.**—Very few sales have been made so far, growers holding off till after threshing. There is a strong inquiry, but prices are barely yet established. **Chaff.**—Supplies have not been coming to hand as freely consequently the market is firmer. Quotations: Prime oaten sheaf, £5 15s to £6; choice black oat, to £6 5s; medium, £5 to £5 10s per ton (sacks extra). **Potatoes.**—Supplies have been coming to hand more freely and the market is a shade easier. Quotations: Best tables, £7 to £7 10s; medium, £6 to £6 15s per ton (sacks in).

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report as follows:—We held our weekly sale of grain and produce on Monday, when values ruled as under:—Oats.—Prime Gar-

tons and sparrowbills are in better demand, and can be readily placed at quotations. Lower grades, although not so keenly sought after, meet ready sale. Supplies are not heavy, and we have good inquiry for all classes. Prime milling, 3s 11d to 4s; good to best feed, 3s 9d to 3s 11d; inferior to medium, 3s 6d to 3s 8d per bushel (sacks extra). **Wheat.**—A few sales have been made on trucks at country stations, but most growers are not inclined to sell until threshing begins. All sorts have good inquiry, but prices have not yet become established. **Potatoes.**—The market is more fully supplied, and late quotations are barely maintained. Freshly-dug lots alone are in favor with buyers, and any stale lots are difficult to place. Best, £7 to £7 10s; others, £6 to £6 15s per ton (sacks included). **Chaff.**—Moderate supplies are coming to hand. Local stocks are still fairly heavy, and but for this fact values would certainly be higher. Prime oaten sheaf is in most request, and sells at £5 15s to £6; choice black oat, £6 to £6 5s; medium, £5 to £5 10s per ton (sacks extra).

WEDDING BELLS

McDONALD—DOUGHERTY.

(From a correspondent.)

A very interesting wedding was celebrated in St. John's Church, Ranfurly, on Monday, February 1. The contracting parties were Mr. Michael McDonald, of Wanganui, and Miss Annie Dougherty, eldest daughter of Mr. J. Dougherty, of Gimmerburn. A large number of friends were present at the ceremony, which was performed by the Rev. Father McMullan. The bride was given away by her father, and was attired in a stylish grey costume, trimmed with silk, chiffon, and pearls, with hat to match, and she carried an ivory-covered prayer book, with streamers of satin ribbon and orange blossoms. The bridesmaid, Miss S. Dougherty (cousin of the bride), wore a tangerine embroidered voile frock with hat to match of crinoline and satin, trimmed with roses, and carried a bouquet of roses and asparagus fern. Mr. E. McDonald (brother of the bridegroom) was best man. After the breakfast, which was partaken of at the residence of the bride's sister (Mrs. J. Mulholland, 'Mayfield'), the happy couple left by motor car for Palmerston en route for Dnnvirke and Wanganui. The bride's travelling costume was blue, relieved with oriental silk collar and cuffs, and blue and cream hat trimmed with cerise feathers. The presents were both numerous and valuable, including several cheques, and also a silver tea set presented by the members of the Gimmerburn Football Club.

Greymouth

(From an occasional correspondent.)

February 18.

In the Public Service Examinations the following pupils of St. Mary's High School, Greymouth, were successful:—Leo Higgins, Mary Moore, and Eileen Leamy. Another pupil of the school, Gwen McCarthy, passed the Junior Scholarship Examination and gained a board scholarship. She also won the Seddon memorial medal, which is awarded to the girl who obtains highest marks in English and arithmetic at the Junior National Scholarship Examination. This much-coveted medal is competed for by candidates throughout the Grey district, and this is the second year in succession in which it was won by a pupil of St. Mary's School. A third success gained by Gwen McCarthy was the winning of the Bevilacqua gold medal and prize.

In the country centres, states the latest report by the Labor Department, work continues to be plentiful. In many of the smaller towns there were no applicants for employment, and in others all men applying were placed in positions.