

COMMERCIAL

The High Commissioner cabled from London on April 24 as follows:—

Mutton.—Market very firm, partly owing to the Government buying Australian mutton. Canterbury, 6½d, and as high as 6¾d for best quality light-weight. There is a limited supply of North Island at 6 1-16d, and as high as 6¾d for light-weight. Ordinary quality, 6d; ewes, 5½d.

Lamb.—Market dull and unsettled. Canterbury, 8d for all weights; other than Canterbury, 7½d.

Beef.—Market very firm. Supplies of American chilled are small. Prices for frozen beef have been affected by large purchases for the Government of Australian and New Zealand beef. New Zealand hinds, 6¾d; fores, 6½d; chilled hinds, 7½d; fores, 6½d.

Butter.—Market quiet, but steady. Fair demand for best quality, but poorer demand for lower grades. Danish (steady), 142s to 144s; New Zealand (market quiet), 132s to 134s; unsalted, 137s to 140s; Australian, 128s to 130s; Siberian (fair demand), 128s to 130s; Argentine, 126s to 130s.

Cheese.—No alteration in market since last week. Larger quantities from the United States continue to arrive. The Government purchases still keep the market steady. Prices are well maintained for New Zealand. There is a dull demand in the usual trade on account of the high price. The Canadian stock is small. White, 96s to 98s; colored, 94s to 96s. New Zealand, steady; white, 93s to 94s; colored, 93s. United States is in good demand. Flats and doubles, colored, 85s to 88s; white, 88s to 90s. Australian white, colored, 88s to 90s. English cheddar (supplies nearly exhausted), 104s to 106s.

Hemp.—Market very quiet, and nothing doing. Prices have declined. New Zealand good fair grade, £32 10s; fair, £30 10s. Manila, £38. Forward shipment: Good fair, £31 10s; fair, £29 10s; Manila, £36 10s.

Wheat. Market firm, with improved demand. Canadian and American, 6s 6d per quarter; Argentine, 58s for any position.

Oats.—Market firm, with improved demand. Argentine, 30s per quarter.

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report for week ended Tuesday, April 27, 1915, as follows:—**Rabbitskins.**—We held our usual sale on Monday, 26th inst., and offered a fair catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. Prices were much the same as at our last sale. Quotations: Prime winter does, to 1½d; best winter bucks, to 9d; autumns and incoming, 9d to 10½d; prime racks, to 7½d; light racks, 4d to 5½d; prime winter blacks, to 26d; horsehair, 19d to 20½d per lb. **Sheepskins.**—Our next sale will be held on Tuesday, May 4. **Hides.**—We held our fortnightly sale on Thursday, and offered a fair catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. There was good competition and prices were much the same as last week. Quotations: Stout heavy ox, 10d to 10½d; medium, 9½d to 10d; light, 9d to 9½d; best cows, to 9½d; light to medium, 8d to 8½d; inferior, 6d to 8d; calfskins, 6d to 10½d; medium, to 9½d; yearlings, 8d to 8½d per lb. **Tallow and Fat.**—We offered a medium catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. Best rendered tallow, 22s to 24s; medium to good, 18s to 20s; best rough fat, 16s to 18s 6d; medium, 14s to 15s 6d. **Oats.**—Buyers are not operating keenly, and the market is easier. A good many samples are coming to hand, but prices are easier than last week's quotations. Prime milling, 3s 10½d to 3s 11d; good to best feed, 3s 9d to 3s 10d; inferior to medium, 3s 6d to 3s 8d per bushel (sacks extra). **Wheat.** The market is quiet and millers are fully stocked and are not operating freely. Prime velvet, 6s 10d to 6s 11d; Tuscan, 6s 8d to 6s 10d per bushel (sacks extra). **Chaff.**—There is a good demand for prime oaten sheaf. Small consignments are coming forward and the market is firm. Best white oaten, £6 to £6 5s; choice black oaten, to £6 10s; medium to

good, to £5 10s per ton (sacks extra). **Potatoes.**—Supplies have been coming to hand more freely, and the market shows an easier tendency. Best tables, £4 10s to £5; medium to good, £4 to £4 7s 6d per ton (sacks in).

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report:—We held our weekly sale of grain and produce on Monday, when values ruled as under:—**Oats.**—Exporters are not keen buyers, except for special lines, but nearly all the good to prime Gartons and sparrowbills offering during the week have been dealt with at prices a shade below late quotations. Choice lines, suitable for seed, have more inquiry. Prime milling, 3s 10½d to 3s 11d; good to best feed, 3s 9d to 3s 10d; inferior to medium, 3s 6d to 3s 8d per bushel (sacks extra). **Wheat.**—The tone of the market has been quieter, and only choice lots are readily placed. A large proportion of later thrashed wheat is in questionable condition for milling, and is not easily placed. Fowl wheat is in moderate demand at quotations. Prime milling velvet, 6s 10d to 6s 11d; Tuscan, velvet ear, etc., 6s 8d to 6s 10d; best whole fowl wheat, 6s 6d to 6s 8d; inferior to medium, 6s to 6s 4d per bushel (sacks extra). **Potatoes.**—Full supplies have come forward, and with only a moderate local demand, late values are barely maintained. Best table potatoes, £4 15s to £5; others, £4 to £4 10s per ton (sacks included). **Chaff.**—Prime oaten sheaf is in strong demand, but lower grades have not the same attention. The market is moderately supplied, and all prime lots meet with ready sale. Best oaten sheaf, £6 2s 6d to £6 5s; choice black oat, £6 7s 6d to £6 10s; medium to good, £5 10s to £6; light and discolored, £5 to £5 7s 6d per ton (bags extra).

FATHER VAUGHAN IN A BIPLANE

Father Bernard Vaughan, after his recent biplane flight, told a press representative that he believed he was the first priest who had ever sailed through the air, and he was proud of the fact.

'Not bad for an old man of sixty-nine,' he said, 'to risk a journey to the clouds. It was my first flight towards heaven, but (with a twinkle in the eye) I am hoping it won't be the last.'

Father Vaughan said some of his friends were rather doubtful as to the wisdom of his making the experiment, 'but what is good enough for our gallant aviator is good enough for me or any other man,' he said.

'I wanted to know something of what our fliers experience, and as the machines are made now there is not much danger. If you went through the aircraft factory and saw the scrupulously careful manner in which every little bit of the machine is made and fitted together, and how thoroughly all the parts are tested, you would not be afraid to make a voyage in any of the military aeroplanes.

'If you were on the look-out for risks you would find, if you could see the complex machinery of the human body, that there was even a danger in living.'

He said a pilot from the aircraft factory took him aloft, and they had a cross-country flight of forty miles, ascending to a height of about 4000 feet.

'Except in the first few minutes of the ascent, when all my attention was devoted to holding on like grim death, I was very comfortable,' said Father Vaughan. 'It was a biplane that carried us, and I sat in front of the pilot, well protected from the cold—and it was cold—by a leather jacket.

'We went along smoothly, except for an occasional "bump" when a gust of wind buffeted us, and I could hardly tell that we were moving. The only evidence was the gradually moving panorama of the country underneath.

'It was so clear that every object on the earth could be distinctly made out, and I felt that I could drop a bomb on any spot below to an inch. As we travelled sometimes at the rate of 75 miles an hour, that might have been, perhaps, rather difficult.'