

COMMERCIAL

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report for week ended Tuesday, May 18, 1915, as follows:—Rabbitskins.—Our next sale will be held on Monday, 24th inst. Sheepskins.—We held our fortnightly sale to-day and offered a full catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. Competition was keen, and previous values were fully maintained. Best half-bred, to 11½d; medium, 9½d to 10½d; best coarse crossbred, to 11½d; medium, 9½d to 10d; best fine crossbred, to 11½d; medium, 9½d to 10½d; best merino, 7½d to 8½d; medium, 6½d to 7½d; best pelts, to 9½d; lambskins, 9½d to 10½d per lb. Hides.—Our next sale will be held on Thursday, 20th inst. Oats.—There has been a better inquiry during the last few days for prime quality, more especially for Gartons. Prime milling, 3s 8d to 3s 9d; good to best feed, 3s 6d to 3s 7d; inferior to medium, 3s 3d to 3s 5d per bushel (sacks extra). Wheat.—Millers are still holding good stocks, and the market is quiet. Prime milling velvet, to 6s 10d; Tuscan, 6s 8d to 6s 9d; best whole fowl wheat, 6s 6d to 6s 7d per bushel (sacks extra). Chaff.—There is still a strong demand for prime quality. Medium quality, however, is not so much sought after. Choice black oats, £6 7s 6d to £6 10s; best white oats, £6 to £6 5s; medium to good, £5 10s to £6 per ton (sacks extra). Potatoes.—The market is easier owing to consignments coming forward more freely. Best tables, to £4 15s; medium to good, £4 5s to £4 10s 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. During the past week there has been better inquiry for good to prime lines suitable for shipment, and fair sales have been made, both ex store and on trucks at country stations. The demand is chiefly for A and B grade Gartons, but sparrowbills are also saleable, and choice, clean lines of other varieties suitable for seed have more attention. Prime milling, 3s 8d to 3s 9d; good to best feed, 3s 6d to 3s 7d; inferior to medium, 3s 3d to 3s 5d per bushel (sacks extra). Wheat.—The market is still in a quiet state, and no sales of any importance are passing. Millers will probably be in the market again before long, and, as holders are not disposed to sell at a reduction on late values, prices are nominally unchanged. Fowl wheat is in moderate demand at, for best, 6s 6d to 6s 7d; medium, 6s to 6s 4d per bushel (sacks extra). Potatoes.—The improvement in prices lately reported has not been maintained. In view of reduced quotations in other markets it has been impossible to effect sales at last week's values, and to-day best table potatoes are offering more freely at £4 15s per ton, while a few small choice lots may be worth £5; medium to good, £4 to £4 10s per ton (sacks included). Chaff.—The demand for prime quality remains firm, and is, if anything, a shade stronger. Medium and lower grades have not much inquiry. We sold choice black oat at £6 7s 6d to £6 10s; best oatsen sheaf, £6 to £6 5s; medium and light is worth, £5 to £5 15s per ton (bags extra).

NAZARETH HOUSE, CHRISTCHURCH

A Christchurch correspondent writes:—'Everybody's Picture' Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. A. Bidgood, and with the kind assistance of Miss Claris Holgate and Messrs. F. Woledge and L. C. Barnes, gave a delightful little concert on Sunday afternoon to the inmates of Nazareth House. Every item on the programme was greatly enjoyed. At the conclusion of the concert, the performers were entertained by the Sisters at afternoon tea, and afterwards shown over the building. All the performers were non-Catholics. They were delighted at the opportunity of giving pleasure to the young and old, and were also very much impressed with the splendid work being done by the Sisters. The performers deserve much praise for their kind thoughtfulness in providing an entertainment which was so highly appreciated.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By telegraph, from our own correspondent.)

May 17.

The social held recently in St. Benedict's Hall, in aid of the Grey Lynn parish, was a great success, the net proceeds being about £40.

Disappointment was experienced here at the non-arrival of the last number of the *Tablet*, which only arrived to-day instead of, as usual, on Saturday.

Rev. Father Cahill addressed the last meeting of the Holy Family Confraternity, and dealt with the history of the Catholic Church in a most interesting manner. It was the first of a series of addresses which will be given by him on the same subject.

His Lordship Bishop Cleary cabled from Hamilton, Victoria, to Mr. Nerheny, congratulating him on his treble victory in securing seats on the City Council, Harbor Board, and Hospital Board. The official count of the voting for the City Council transfers Councillor Nerheny from fifth to third position, his total being increased from 6614 to 6949.

The Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation met on last Friday evening, the president (Mr. McLaughlin) being in the chair. A quantity of correspondence was dealt with, much of it being from the central executive. The annual meeting of the council was fixed for the third week in July. Votes of congratulation were passed to the Right Rev. Mgr. Mahoney and the Right Rev. Mgr. Hackett on the high honor which was recently conferred on them by the Holy Father.

TWO DISTINGUISHED BELGIAN SINGERS

Mdlle Lina Nyberg, coloratura soprano, and Mons Paul Saldaigne from the Theatre Royal, Antwerp, are to appear in a grand operatic concert in the Garrison Hall on Friday, May 28. Both these artists were in Antwerp during the bombardment, and were fortunate enough to make their escape with two hundred of their townsfolk, who shared the comforts of a cowshed, one cup, and one towel for a whole week. Although they relate the story of their escape in a quiet, unassuming manner, it is easy to recognise the horror of the situation of all who were making for the neutral borders of Holland. The visiting artists, after many trials and vicissitudes, crossed the border, ultimately securing a passage to London, where they gave some wonderfully successful concerts in aid of their brothers and sisters in Belgium. Mons. Saldaigne has sung in grand opera with such great artists as Caruso, Nordica, Melba, Zenatello, etc. He played the part of Rudolph (Caruso's great part in 'La Boheme') at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, at the time the great tenor had an affection of the throat, and was heralded throughout America as one of the finest exponents of this role. At the forthcoming concert, Mons. Saldaigne will sing 'The poet's song,' 'Your little hands are frozen,' which is recognised as one of the gems of Puccini's great work, and with Mdlle. Nyberg many of the scenes from the grand operas. It behoves one and all to attend this first concert in our city by Belgian artists, and thus show our appreciation of our gallant little allies. The box plan will be open at the Bristol at an early date, and inquiries have set in from everywhere already for reserved accommodation.

The claims of 23 widows, arising out of the loss of the bread-winners in the disaster at Ralph's mine, Huntly, on September 12, have been amicably settled. In the original claim each widow assessed the damages done at £1000. The following are the terms of settlement:—Sixteen widows receive £775 each; in five cases the applicants receive £200 each; in one case, where orphans were left, the children receive £1000; in another, where there was no legal claim on the company, the sufferer was granted £50. The total is £14,500. The company will also pay all legal expenses.