

COMMERCIAL

Wellington, August 2.

The High Commissioner's report, dated London, July 31, is as follows:—

Meat.—Market weaker; tendency downwards, partly owing to increased supplies being available for the general public, together with a very moderate demand for all descriptions.

Mutton.—Canterbury, 6½d per lb for light-weight; heavy-weight, 6¾d; North Island, 6d for best quality: ewes, 6½d.

Lamb.—Canterbury two's, 8½d; heavy-weight, 8½d; other than Canterbury, 8d for best quality light-weight.

Beef.—Only a small quantity of New Zealand beef in the market, and it is selling at: Hinds 7½d, fores 6¾d, chilled hinds 8½d, fores 6½d.

Butter.—Market quiet, but firm. Danish firm, but quiet, per cwt 164s to 166s, and up to 168s; Siberian, in good demand, finest 128s to 132s; exceptional, 134s; Irish creamery, firm, 148s to 150s, exceptional 152s; Australian, 138s to 142s; Argentine, unsalted, firm, 146s to 148s.

Cheese.—Market quiet, with tendency in favor of buyers. Canadian (a little better tone), white and colored, 74s to 76s per cwt; English (Cheddar (market quiet), 94s to 96s; New Zealand (market quiet), white and colored 74s to 76s, exceptional 78s; United States (market dull), 65s to 74s, according to quality and size.

Hemp.—Market steady, but demand only moderate. New Zealand, good fair grade, £31 10s per ton, fair £29 10s; Manila, new graded, to October shipment, fair, £36; medium, £32. Output from Manila for the week, 17,000 bales.

Hops.—Market firm. English, 105s to 130s per cwt; Californian, 90s to 105s.

Wheat.—Market quiet; prices slightly weaker. August-September shipment Canadian, 51s per quarter; American, 47s.

Oats.—Market quiet and steady. August-September shipment Argentine, 25s per quarter.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report: We held our weekly sale on Monday, when values ruled as under: **Oats.**—The past week has been one of the quietest of the season. This is largely due to the lack of shipping facilities, which is affecting the sale of all classes of produce. Clean seed lines are in good demand, but in other respects business meantime is restricted. Prime milling, 4s to 4s 1d; good to best feed, 3s 10d to 3s 11d; inferior to medium, 3s 6d to 3s 9d per bushel (sacks extra). **Wheat.** Millers are not in the market at present, except for small lots of choice quality. There is some inquiry for good seed lots, but otherwise the market is stagnant. Prime milling velvet, 6s 10d to 6s 11d; Tuscan, etc., 6s 7d to 6s 9d; best whole fowl wheat, 6s 3d to 6s 6d; inferior to medium, 5s to 6s 3d per bushel (sacks extra). **Potatoes.** The market continues to be fully supplied, and in the absence of any opportunities for export, stocks are heavier and values somewhat easier. We have good inquiry for well-picked Southland-grown seed, but offerings are light. Best table potatoes, £6 10s to £6 15s; choice, to £7; medium to good, £5 10s to £6 5s per ton (sacks included). **Chaff.**—Stocks have accumulated considerably owing to shippers being unable to arrange for freights. There is fair local demand for prime quality lines, but medium and inferior lots are neglected and difficult to place. Straw chaff is in full supply, and has no demand. Best oaten sheaf, £6 15s to £7; medium to good, £6 to £6 10s; light and discolored, £5 to £5 15s per ton (bags extra).

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report for week ended Tuesday, August 3, 1915, as follows: **Rabbitskins.**—We held our fortnightly sale yesterday, and offered a full catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. Competition was keen and values were fully

maintained. Quotations: Small, 3d to 3½d; racks, 6½d to 7d; autumns, 10d to 12d; incoming winters, 11d to 12d; early winters, 12½d to 13½d; prime winter bucks, 14d to 14½d; prime winter does, 17½d to 18½d; fawns, to 22d; prime winter blacks, to 66½d; medium to good, to 48d; horsehair, to 23d per lb; catskins, to 6d each. **Sheepskins.**—We held our fortnightly sale to-day and offered a full catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. Competition was keen throughout, and late prices were fully maintained. Best halfbred, to 11½d; medium to good, 10d to 11d; best coarse crossbred, to 11½d; medium, 9½d to 10½d; best fine crossbred, to 11½d; medium, 9½d to 11d; best merino, 7½d to 8½d; medium, 6d to 6½d; best pelts, to 9½d; medium, 7d to 8d; lambskins, 10d to 11½d; medium, 8½d to 9½d per lb. **Hides.**—We held our fortnightly sale on Thursday and offered a full catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. Competition was keen and prices were fully up to last sale's rates. Quotations: Stout heavy ox, 10½d to 12d; medium to good, 10d to 10½d; light, 9½d to 10½d; cows, stout heavy 9½d to 10d, medium 8½d to 9d, inferior 5d to 8d; yearlings, 9d to 9½d; best calf-skins, 10½d to 10½d; medium, 9½d to 10d; inferior, 4d to 8½d per lb. **Oats.**—The market is still very quiet. There are very few oats offering, and as shippers are not keen to operate there is very little to report. Prime milling, 4s to 4s 1d; good to best feed, 3s 10d to 3s 11d; medium, 3s 7d to 3s 9d, per bushel (sacks extra). **Wheat.**—Millers are not operating and there is practically no business being done in milling wheat at present. Values are nominally—Velvet, 6s 10d to 6s 11d; Tuscan and red wheats, 6s 7d to 6s 9d; fowl wheat, 6s 6d to 6s 7d per bushel (sacks extra). **Chaff.**—Owing to the shortage of shipping space there is still good stocks held in store. There is a fair demand for prime quality. Inferior lines, however, are not so keenly sought after. Best oaten sheaf, £6 15s to £7; medium to good, £6 to £6 10s; light and discolored, £5 to £5 15s per ton (sacks extra). **Potatoes.**—The market is still fully supplied, and as there is very little shipping demand values are a shade easier. Best tables, £6 10s to £6 15s; medium to good, £5 10s to £6 5s per ton (sacks extra).

OBITUARY

MRS. W. F. HEALY, WELLINGTON.

Our Wellington exchanges report the death on July 30, of Mrs. W. F. Healy, of Washington avenue, Brooklyn, wife of Mr. W. F. Healy, assistant wharfinger to the Wellington Harbor Board. She had been a resident of Wellington for the past forty years, arriving there in the ship *Rodney* in 1875. She leaves a family of five sons and two daughters. Two of the sons are serving at the front, and a third has volunteered. One of the daughters is a Sister of Mercy at Christchurch.—R.I.P.

The number of sick soldiers in hospital in the Wellington district on Saturday was 382.

On Wednesday of last week the Tory Channel whalers killed four whales, two of which they subsequently lost. This brings the total for the season brought safely home to 22.

Present indications favor an early spring (says the *Wynham Herald*). It has been a favorable winter for stock. In a number of cases farmers have kept the bulk of their turnips in reserve: the grass, supplemented by a little straw, sufficing for the cows' requirements.

Butter factories are just beginning to feel the indications of a start in the milking season (says the *Feilding Star*). Supplies to the factories have commenced to increase, though there is no appreciable difference from winter conditions yet. It is anticipated that the price of butter fat will drop considerably as soon as the season gets going in earnest. For this relief housewives will give much thanks. Dairy farmers ought not to complain, though, no doubt, some of them will, for it is certain that prices will be substantially higher than before the war.