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Commercial

PRODUCE

Wellington, January 8.—The High Commissioner's cablegram, dated London, January 6, is as follows (note: quotations, unless otherwise specified, are average prices on spot):—

Mutton.—The market is firm. New Zealand stocks of mutton on hand are light and firmly held in a few hands. In anticipation of small arrivals quotations are nominal. Canterbury, 4½d per lb; North Island, 4¼d.

Lamb.—Market quiet. A small number of New Zealand lambs have arrived. Average price, 6½d per lb; Australian, large supply, 4½d; Argentine, plentiful, 4¼d.

Beef.—The market is firm, with improved demand. Stocks of New Zealand beef on hand are light. Quotations are nominal. New Zealand hinds, 3½d; New Zealand fores, 2¾d.

Butter.—The market is very firm, and there is a general and active demand. The market is affected by the expectation of light arrivals. There is general confidence in the maintenance of present prices. Average price for the week for choicest New Zealand butter, 134s per cwt; Australian, 131s; Argentine, 130s; Danish, 137s; Siberian, 128s.

Messrs. Dalgety and Co. report as follows:—

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday, when we offered a fair-sized catalogue to the usual attendance of the trade. Bidding was slack, and the bulk of the offerings were passed in. The following are quotations:—

Oats.—The market remains in the same quiet state. In the absence of shipping demand, the market is slightly easier. Very few lines are coming in from the country. Prime milling, 2s 11½d; good to best feed, 2s 10d to 2s 11d; medium, 2s 8d to 2s 9d; inferior, 2s 6d to 2s 8d per bushel (bags extra).

Wheat.—There is nothing fresh to report. Millers are not operating, and quotations are only nominal. Prime velvet, 3s 10d to 3s 11d; prime velvet ear and Tuscan, 3s 8½d to 3s 9½d; best whole fowl feed, 3s 7½d to 3s 8d; inferior, 3s 3d to 3s 6d per bushel (bags extra).

Chaff.—Prime oaten sheaf is sought after. Medium quality is very difficult to place. Choice black oaten chaff, £4 10s; good chaff, £4 5s to £4 7s 6d; medium, £3 5s to £3 15s; inferior, £2 10s to £2 15s per ton (bags extra).

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report:—

We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday, when values ruled as under:—

Oats.—The market remains quiet. Stocks are light, but sufficient for local requirements, while there is little demand from exporters. We quote: Prime milling, 2s 11d to 2s 11½d; good to best feed, 2s 10d to 2s 11d; inferior to medium, 2s 8d to 2s 9½d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—To-day's cablegrams report a slight advance in other markets, and although no business of any importance is being transacted here, there is a firmer tone. Millers' demand is confined to choice lots for mixing. Medium milling quality finds an outlet for fowl feed, which is scarce and in good demand. We quote: Prime milling velvet, 3s 10½d to 4s; Tuscan,

3s 9d to 3s 9½d; medium, 3s 8d to 3s 8½d; best whole fowl wheat, 3s 7d to 3s 8d; medium, 3s 4d to 3s 6d; broken and damaged, 2s 10d to 3s 3d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—A few consignments of old potatoes are coming forward. Best freshly-picked lots realise 22s 6d to 25s; others, 10s to 20s per ton (sacks included).

Chaff.—The market is quiet. Present requirements are not heavy, and consignments coming forward are sufficient to supply same. It is, therefore, difficult to effect sales of lines in the country. We quote: Best oaten sheaf, £4 2s 6d to £4 7s 6d; medium to good, £3 15s to £4; light and discolored, £3 to £3 10s per ton (bags extra).

WOOL

Mr. M. T. Kennelly, 217 Crawford street, Dunedin, reports as follows:—

Rabbitskins.—Prime winter does, 17d to 18d; second does, to 16½d; prime bucks, to 16d; incoming and early winter, 14d to 15d; autumn, 12d to 13d; racks, 7½d to 9d. Horsehair, 16d to 19d; catskins, 4d to 6d each.

Sheepskins.—Halfbred, 6d to 8d per lb; fine crossbred, 5½ to 7d; coarse do., 5d to 6½d; pelts, 3d to 5d.

Hides.—Sound ox, 6d to 8d; do. cow, 5d to 6½d; damaged ox and cow, 3d to 4½d; calfskins and yearlings (sound), 6½d to 9d. Horsehides, 8s to 14s each.

Tallow.—Best in casks, to 26s per cwt; do., 24s; mixed, 18s to 20s; rough fat, 16s to 20s.

Prompt returns. No commission.

Messrs Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report for week ended January 9, as follows:—

Rabbitskins.—Very small catalogues were offered at yesterday's sales, the majority of the skins forward being off season's lines. Competition was keen and prices ruled about the same as at last sale. Prime winter does 20d to 22d; bucks 16d to 16½d; second winter does, 14d to 15½d; second winter bucks, 12½d to 15d; autumns, 12d to 14½d; racks, 8½d to 9½d; light racks, 7½d to 8½d; outgoing, 11d to 13d; incomings, 13½d to 15d; hawk torn, 6d to 9½d; winter blacks, 18d to 20d; seconds, 9d to 13d; fawns, 14d to 15½d; horse hair, 13½d to 19½d.

Sheepskins.—At to-day's sale we offered a very large catalogue. There was hardly the competition of last sale and prices, if anything, were inclined to ease. Prime halfbred, 7d to 7½d; medium to good, 6d to 6½d; inferior, 4½d to 5½d; best fine crossbred, 6½d to 6¾d; coarse crossbred, 5½d to 6½d; inferior, 3d to 4½d; hoggets, 5½d to 6¾d; medium to good, 4½d to 5½d; best merino, 6d to 6¾d; medium to good, 5½d to 6d; pelts, 1½d to 4½d; lambskins, 5d to 5½d.

Hides.—We submitted a catalogue of 593 at our sale on Friday, 5th inst. Competition was very brisk and prices for all offered were fully up to the standard of last sale. Calfskins were very eagerly competed for and sold up to 10½d per lb. Our top price for ox hides was 8½d; for cow hides, 6½d. Quotations: Prime stout heavy ox hides, 7½d to 8½d; stout heavy, 7d to 7½d; medium weight, 6½d to 7½d; light weight, 6½d to 6¾d; staggy and inferior, 4½d to 5d; cut, 5½d to 6¾d; best heavy cow hides, 6¾d to 6½d; medium weight, 6½d to 6¾d; light weight, 6d to 6¾d; inferior, 4½d to 5½d; yearlings, 6½d to 6¾d; best calfskins, 10d to 10½d; good, 8½d to 9½d; inferior, 7½d to 8½d.

Tallow and Fat.—The market remains very steady and the small consignments coming forward readily placed.

Te Awamutu

For the last two years the Marist Brothers Old Boys' Club, of Auckland, have made a practice of visiting Te Awamutu during the New Year holidays (says the *Waipa Post*). During their stay they have given concerts in aid of the local Catholic Church, and the public has not been slow to fully appreciate the rich musical treat resulting from these concerts. The company arrived at Te Awamutu on December 30, and were met and warmly welcomed by the Rev. Father Lynch and many residents. As on former occasions the concert company was under the direction of Mr.