

Commercial

PRODUCE

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report:—

Oats.—There is no quotable change in the market. Prime Gartons and sparrowbills are in fair demand for milling purposes. Shippers have some inquiry for lines of A and B grades for export, but in most cases sellers' reserves are too high to allow of business. Stocks in store are not heavy, and choice lines are moving off to supply seed orders. Prime milling, 2s 2½d to 2s 3d; good to best feed, 2s 1d to 2s 2½d; inferior to medium, 1s 9d to 2s 1d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Moderate supplies are coming forward. For really well-conditioned lots there is fair demand at late quotations, but indifferent quality is almost unsaleable. Best table potatoes, £2 10s to £2 15s; medium to good, £2 to £2 5s per ton (bags included).

Chaff.—Prime oaten sheaf commands ready sale on arrival. The demand is almost entirely for best quality, and during the week we have quoted a considerable quantity ex store and ex truck.

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report for week ended Tuesday, September 16, 1913, as follows:—

Oats.—There is very little change to report. There is an inquiry for A and B grade Gartons, but vendors' prices are too high to admit of business. Quotations: Prime milling, 2s 2½d to 2s 3d; good to best feed, 2s to 2s 2d; inferior to medium, 1s 9d to 2s 1d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—There is a fair demand, millers being buyers of all choice lots. There is also a good demand for whole fowl wheat. Quotations: Prime milling velvet, 4s to 4s 2d; velvet ear, 3s 9d to 3s 10d; Tuscan, 3s 7d to 3s 9d; best whole fowl wheat, 3s 4d to 3s 6d; medium to good, 3s 1d to 3s 3d; broken and damaged, 2s 1d to 2s 3d per bushel (sacks extra).

WOOL

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report as follows:—

Rabbitskins.—We held our weekly sale yesterday when we offered a very large catalogue. Competition was very keen and prices were fully up to late rates. Quotations: Prime winter does, to 39½d; good, 33d to 37d; second winter does, 26d to 31½d; prime winter bucks, to 28½d; good bucks, 22d to 24½d; incoming winters, 18½d to 20d; autumn, 17½d to 18½d; early autumns, 16d to 17d; outgoing winters, 16d to 17½; best racks, to 13½d; light racks, to 12½d; winter hawk torn, 16d to 17½d; hawk torn, to 12d; small, to 9d; best winter blacks, to 49d; good, 40d to 45d; autumn blacks, 30d to 36d; fawns, 24d to 27d; hareskins, to 20½d per lb. Catskins, to 13½d each. Horsehair, 17d to 18½d per lb.

Sheepskins.—There was a good attendance of buyers at to-day's sale and owing to the rise in the London market bidding was very brisk although prices did not show a material change. Quotations: Best halfbred, 8½d to 8¾d; good, 7½d to 8d; inferior, 5½d to 6½d; best fine crossbred, 7½d to 8¾d; best coarse crossbred, 7½d to 8½d; medium to good, 5½d to 6¾d; best merino, 6½d to 7¾d; medium, 4½d to 6d; best pelts, 4½d to 5¾d; inferior, 2d to 3½d per lb. Broken and damaged skins, 5d to 6d.

Hides.—We held our fortnightly sale on Thursday when we offered a good catalogue. Competition was very keen and prices were very firm at last sale's quotations. Quotations: Extra stout heavy ox hides, 9d to 9½d; stout heavy, 8½d to 8¾d; heavy, 7½d to 8½d; medium, 7d to 7½d; light weight, 7¾d to 8d; extra stout heavy cow hides, to 8¾d; stout heavy, 7½d to 8d; medium, 7½d to 7¾d; light, 7½d to 7¾d; damaged and inferior cow and ox hides, 5½d to 6¾d; bull and stag hides, 5¾d to 6½d; best calfskins, 10½d to 10¾d; medium, 9½d to 10d; damaged and inferior, 5d to 8¾d per lb.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

The Convent School, Darfield, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, was examined on August 19 by Mr. Owen, Education Board inspector, who, in his report, says: 'Generally speaking, this school is in a satisfactory condition. The written tests were carefully done, and in most of the oral work the intelligent answers of the children showed that they had been well trained. Reading and recitation are good subjects throughout. The Primer classes have covered suitable programmes of work, and all the tests submitted were of a satisfactory nature. The children are attentive, and the discipline is commendable.'

St. Joseph's School, Papanui, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, was examined on August 13 by Mr. Mayne, Education Board inspector, who, in his report, says: 'Drawing, composition, and sewing are commendable in nearly all the classes. Reading, arithmetic, and recitation are generally satisfactory. The lower department, which consists of Standards II., I., and Primer classes, makes on the whole a pleasing appearance. Nature study is taught on satisfactory lines. The pupils throughout the school are orderly, attentive, and well-behaved.'

Greymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

The West Coast Competitions start on Monday next, the 22nd inst., and give every promise of being as successful as ever. The St. Columba Club's representatives are hard at work of late, and intend putting up a good fight to retain the Russell Cup. The club meetings of late have all been devoted to competition work, and as the hall has been doing service as a church, all social functions have had to be abandoned in the meantime.

The supporters of Mr. M. Hannan made him a presentation of a well-filled purse of sovereigns at the Opera House last week, and Mrs. Hannan a handsome piece of silver. The much discussed sectarian cry was dealt with by Mr. Hannan in a very few words. He said that although he had had time to cool down, he had not changed his views on the tactics used at the late election. A special feature of the concert, held in conjunction with the presentation, was the success of a young artist (Miss Coughlin, of Sydney), who has been engaged by the local convent to teach the violin and elocution. This young lady, who received a very flattering reception, had to respond to two encores for the violin solo and three encores for a recitation. She is a decided acquisition to the teaching staff of the local convent.

There are people who are pessimistic about the future prospects of the West Coast, but this cannot be said of the Catholic portion of the community. The new presbytery and the additions to the church show that Very Rev. Dean Carew and his congregation have bright hopes for the future, of the Coast, and evidently the good Sisters of the local convent hold similar views, as I understand they are contemplating the addition of a storey to St. Patrick's School. The present building, which is of brick, was erected ten years ago, and contains three very commodious classrooms, but of late the accommodation has been severely taxed, and, to overcome this difficulty, the good Sisters have conceived the idea of adding a storey to the present building. It is a very interesting study to note the progress of Catholic education in the Grey parish, and I think Very Rev. Dean Carew can say that for Catholic educational facilities, the Greymouth parish is second to none in New Zealand. We have three schools in Greymouth—Marist Brothers, St. Mary's, and St. Patrick's (secondary),—and one each at Cobden, Runanga, and Brunner, all of which are controlled by Sisters from the local convent. The repeated success of pupils from our schools is very pleasing to all concerned, and the annual reports of the Grey Education Board's inspector bear ample testimony to the high state of efficiency in which our schools are kept.