

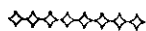
On the Land

MARKET REPORTS.

There was a large yarding of fat cattle at Burnside last week, 361 being penned, consisting principally of good quality. As the number forward was in excess of requirements, prices were easier by 35s per head on previous sale's rates. Prime bullocks made £13 to £14 10s, extra to £17, medium £9 to £10 10s, inferior £7 to £8, best cows and heifers £7 to £8 10s, extra to £9 10s, medium £5 10s to £6, inferior £4 10s to £5 5s. Fat Sheep.—There was a large number forward, 2264 being penned. Butchers did not compete keenly, and had it not been for freezing buyers prices would have shown more than the drop recorded last week—namely, 2s. Extra prime wethers made to 49s 6d, prime 41s to 43s, medium 36s to 38s, inferior 30s to 32s, best ewes to 44s, prime 32s to 36s, medium 27s to 30s, inferior 20s to 23s. Fat Lambs.—There was a medium entry, 888 being penned. Competition for all lambs fit for freezing was very keen, and prices were firmer. Graziers competed for all unfinished sorts, and these met with good inquiry. Extra prime lambs made to 46s, prime 40s to 43s, medium 34s to 36s, forward 26s to 28s. Pigs.—There were 146 fats and 67 stores. At the opening of the sale it seemed that baconers were about the same, while prices for porkers were a trifle better.

At Addington last week entries were larger in all classes of stock. Fat lambs, fat sheep, and store sheep showed a weakening in prices, whilst there was firming for both fat and store cattle. There was a big offering of lambs, which were down on the preceding week's sky-high rates by 2s 6d a head, except for special pens, which were slightly easier. A line of Southland lambs made a top price of 34s 5d. Wethers made prices equal to the previous week. A few decent lines of ewes were forward. Forward lambs made 30s 6d to 34s 7d, ordinary 28s to 30s, medium 26s to 27s 9d, cull 18s 6d to 25s 6d. Good halfbred ewe lambs made 33s, culls 27s 3d to 29s, four and six-tooth 33s 10d to 36s 10d, plain 31s 6d to 33s, two-tooth wethers 32s 3d to 35s, failing-mouth crossbred ewes 31s to 33s, aged ewes 23s 6d to 26s 6d, aged ewes with lambs 23s 10d. Fat Lambs.—There was an entry of 5330 head, easing off from 1d to 1d per lb. Prime under 42's made to 12d per lb, heavy and light-weight from 11d to 11½d. There was a poor quality yarding, and numerous purchases by graziers were made. Extra prime lambs made to 44s 9d, prime 39s to 42s 6d, medium 36s 10d to 38s 6d, light 33s to 35s 6d, rough 30s to 32s 6d. Fat Sheep.—There were heavier yardings, easing in price by 1s 6d a head. Exporters operated freely. Extra prime wethers made to 48s 7d, prime 42s 6d to 45s 6d, medium 39s to 42s, light 36s 6d to 38s 6d, extra prime ewes to 40s 6d, prime 36s 6d to 39s, medium 33s 6d to 36s, light 30s 6d to 33s, old 28s to 30s. Fat Cattle.—There was a heavy yarding of 480 head. There was an improved market by 25s a head for steer beef and 15s for cow. Extra prime made to 48s per 100lb, prime 43s to 46s, medium 39s 6d to 42s 6d, light 35s to 39s, rough down to 25s, extra prime

steers to £22 10s, prime £18 to £20 10s, medium £14 15s to £17 10s, light £10 5s to £14 5s, rough £8 10s to £10, prime heifers £11 to £13 2s 6d, ordinary £7 10s to £10 10s, weedy £3 17s 6d to £6, extra prime cows £15 5s, prime £10 to £12 5s, medium £6 to £9. Vealers.—There was a small yarding. Good market runners made to £6 10s, vealers to £5 15s. Fat Pigs.—Choppers made £2 10s to £4 5s, baconers £3 10s to £3 15s 9d, heavy baconers £4 to £4 10s; price per lb 5½d to 6½d; porkers £2 10s to £2 15s, heavy porkers £3 to £3 5s; price per lb 7d to 8d.



Fruit Farming

OVERCROWDING AND MOVING FULL-GROWN TREES.

An orchard expert writing in a Home paper, says:—

It often happens that through overcrowding it is necessary to lessen the number of trees in an orchard. It is a mistake to allow the trees to remain too near together. Growers feel sometimes that the greater the number of trees the greater will be the yield per acre, and this belief is justified up to a point. When definite overcrowding takes place, however, not only will the trees yield a smaller quantity of fruit, but the fruit will be small and inferior, and of much less value on the market. Even experienced growers often leave trees too close together rather than dig them out, where they are too close. Especially is this the case in modern orchards, which are planted with a view to taking out alternate trees after a number of years.

Unless the trees which it is advisable to move are old, there is no reason why they should not be replanted on suitable land, if such is available, and the work is done with care. Not only will almost all the trees live, but they will in all probability yield an increased supply of fruit, for nothing tends to improve the bearing capacity of trees quicker does disturbing the roots, providing these are not injured.

All fruit trees are not suitable for moving in this manner; among such may be mentioned trees on paradise stock which are badly cankered. It is far better to remove these and destroy them if there is not enough space for them in the orchard.

In dealing with an overcrowded orchard it is sometimes difficult to decide which trees should be removed; whether alternate trees in the row are the most suitable, or whether all the trees in every other row should come out.

The first consideration will be the kind of stock on which the trees are budded. If they are alternately on paradise and crab stock, those on paradise will in all probability be cankered more or less when these should be removed. If all the trees are on similar stock, however, the grower should use his judgment as to the best method of allowing light and air to get at all the trees. Whether it is decided to remove alternate trees in each row, or all the trees in alternate rows,

the work will need care if the trees, or some of them, are to be replanted.

In digging comparatively big trees such as these for replanting it is advisable to dig and replant only three or four at once. The holes into which the trees are to be planted should first of all be dug; after this two or three of the trees should be dug up and at once moved to the position that they are to occupy, and the work of replanting completed. This work should be done in the late autumn or early spring.

In digging round the trees it is necessary to begin work far enough from the stem. It is not always correct that the roots extend outwards exactly the same distance as the branches, but this distance may be taken as a working guide. If digging is commenced a slightly smaller distance than this from the stem, the roots will receive a certain amount of pruning, which will help the bearing qualities of the trees. If, on the other hand, digging is begun too near the stem the roots may receive serious damage, which will not only hinder the cropping power of the trees, but may be responsible for the death of them.

Trees suitable for moving in this way should not be more than twelve or fourteen years of age, though experienced growers do sometimes remove trees of greater age.

In planting trees of this description the roots should take as far as possible their natural position; the greatest care should be taken that they do not become crowded together all on one side of the tree. When replacing the earth in the hole after the tree has been placed in position it should be firmed from time to time, and it may be necessary to stake the trees until they become established.

The result of moving trees of this description will be a certain checking of the growth, but otherwise they should remain healthy. It is not advisable to move trees suffering badly from any particular pest or disease near to other trees which are free from that pest or disease.

To encourage trees to yield good crops after moving, different varieties blossoming at the same time should be planted near together. Cross-fertilisation always improves both the quantity and the quality of the fruit, and this applies to such trees as are here described no less than to trees in a newly-planted orchard.

If the trees are to be planted on land on which bush fruit or other crops are to be grown between the rows, such land should be very thoroughly cleaned before the trees are planted. This will be a much easier and cheaper matter than will cleaning the land once the trees are in position.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Steinmetz Port, £2/12/6; Steinmetz Sherry, £2/12/6; Steinmetz Madeira, £2/12/6; Claret, £2/12/6; Hock, £2/12/6; Gov. Frontignac, £2/8/-. Assorted cases at above prices.

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