

# On the Land

## MARKET REPORTS.

There was a large yarding of fat cattle at Burnside last week, 380 being penned. This entry was much in excess of butchers' requirements, and in consequence there was a very dragging sale. Prices opened at about 30s below the previous week's values, and as the sale progressed there was an easing tendency, and at the end of the sale prices were back at least 20s below opening rates, and a good many pens were turned out unsold. Although the entry was a big one there were very few pens of prime cattle forward, and for this class there was not such a big drop in values as there was in the medium and unfinished cattle. Fat Sheep.—For last week's sale 2025 were yarded. There was a good proportion of heavy-weight wethers forward, but the bulk of the yarding was of medium quality. About one-third of the entry was made up of ewes of good to medium quality, and taken all over prices may be quoted as on a par with late rates. The sale was very erratic, especially for heavy-weight wethers, but all exporters were operating for light sheep, and there was a steady sale throughout for this class. Prime heavy-weight wethers made from 46s to 49s 9d, medium 42s to 44s, light 37s to 39s, heavy ewes 38s to 41s, medium 32s to 34s, light 26s to 28s. Fat Lambs.—650 were penned. The quality was good, and all exporters were operating at late rates. Extra prime heavy-weight ewes made from 44s 6d to 47s 3d, prime 38s 6d to 41s, medium 34s to 36s, light 28s to 32s. Pigs.—A large yarding. The entry was much in excess of requirements, and prices receded 5s per head below late rates.

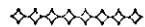
At Addington market last week there were very heavy entries in the shorn sheep and fat cattle sections. Fat Lambs.—A small entry of 3150. There was an improved market. Prime made 123d, light-weights 124d, and over-weight 113d, extra prime lambs 47s 6d, a few special 50s, prime lambs 40s to 44s, medium 37s 6d to 39s 9d, light 34s 6d to 37s, store 32s to 34s. Fat Sheep.—A small entry, mostly ewes priming in price, values being beyond exporters' limits except in occasional pens. Extra prime wethers made 49s to 52s 6d, prime 44s to 46s 6d, medium 40s 6d to 43s 6d, light 35s to 39s 6d, extra prime ewes 45s 9d, prime 38s to 41s, medium 34s 6d to 37s 6d, light 32s 6d to 34s 3d, old 29s to 32s. Fat Cattle.—An exceptionally heavy yarding of 610 head, mostly cows and medium steers. It was too heavy for the market, and there was an easing of 30s to 35s per head. Primest beef made 37s 6d to 40s, and there were a number of passings; prime steers £15 10s to £17 17s 6d, medium £12 10s to £15 5s, light £7 to £12, extra prime heifers £12 2s 6d, prime £8 10s to £11 10s, medium £5 10s to £8 5s, extra prime cows £13 2s 6d, prime £8 to £11, medium £5 10s to £7 15s, aged £3 to £4 15s.



## FUNGUS DISEASES: PREVENTATIVE TREATMENT.

Fungus diseases are caused by minute vegetation organisms attacking plants of a high order, and in some seasons the losses

caused are very serious, and humid conditions are very advantageous for most of them. Where the drainage of land is bad, the conditions are usually very favorable for the rapid propagation of these minute plants. In spraying against fungus diseases, it should be borne in mind that treatment should always be preventative rather than curative, for once these organisms enter their host plant they are beyond the reach of effective treatment. The aim of the horticulturist should be to coat with a fungicidal spray the plant to be protected, so that the spore of the disease, on germination taking place, would come into contact with the fungicide that separates it from its host plant, and thus cause its death. If the tree has not been protected by coating it with a fungicide, the spore or germination sends out mycelial threads, which find their way beneath the skin of the host plant and commence to feed on its tissues. The skin and tissue of the affected parts are killed, and it is the inability of these dead parts to expand and keep pace with the growing parts of fruit that causes the cracks in apples and pears when attacked by Black Spot fungus.



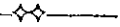
## WORKING HORSES: CARE ON THE FARM.

Horses, like all other farm animals, require to be carefully treated and attended to if the maximum is to be got out of them; especially is this the case with the working horse (says an exchange).

A teamster should be a man of great patience, and must be prepared to study the temperament of his horses individually. The hours of work should not be too long and should be regular, as far as possible, each day's work being balanced with the previous day's. A four hours' spell in the chains is quite long enough for horses doing heavy farm work, but the animal may be saved a great deal of strain by careful handling, and by putting each horse in the team in a place which best suits him. Horses in the collar should never be hurried in turning. The teamster who yells and roars at his horses is never a good horseman.

The proper and regular feeding of horses is the most important consideration of all. The time to be given them in the morning should be of not less than one hour and a half's duration; in fact, three hours is better, while at noon the minimum should be set at one hour and a quarter. In the evening the time allowed should be two hours. Working horses should never be fed the whole meal in one lot. The horse, especially when tired, will only nibble at the food and pick it over, taking all the oats he can and leaving the chaff. A feeder should be small on the bottom so that the animal cannot sort out the oats easily. However, if food is given a little at a time, the animal is induced to clean up each lot, and in this way will eat a good deal more. A horse cannot work continually if he does not eat well. During winter months, if grass is scarce, a small ration of carrots will be found beneficial. In dry weather chaff should be moistened for working horses. Half an ounce

to one ounce of Epsom salts in the feed every morning will be found to keep the animals free and soft in the coat. Salt is an absolute necessity, and every manger should have some placed in it.



## GARDENING NOTES

FEBRUARY.

The Vegetable Garden.—The present is a suitable time to plant out a square of autumn giant cauliflowers to mature before the winter brocoli; also a square of early, medium, and late brocoli. Borecole or kale is a very desirable vegetable, and should be planted now to provide for a supply of greens during late winter and early spring. Sow for a supply of lettuce, spinach, and turnips; together with a line of French beans, and, if required, broad beans and peas, although it is somewhat late now for the profitable culture of the latter. A bed of silver beet, if sown now and thinned out to about 6in apart, will provide a good substitute for winter spinach. Where a good supply of water is available the hose should be used frequently on the vegetable crop; plenty of water and well-manured soil are essential to successful vegetable growing. Give a good supply of liquid manure to vegetable marrows, cucumbers, and pumpkins, and also to rhubarb. Keep the Dutch hoe constantly employed amongst growing vegetables. Plant celery and leeks in well-manured trenches and water them occasionally to encourage sturdy growth.

The Flower Garden.—Lawns require to be mown at least once a week, and during dry weather water frequently to ensure a green sward; roll after each watering. Cut back herbaceous plants that have finished flowering. Dig up bulbs, sort them, and plant back sufficient of the largest; the remainder can be planted out later. Stake and tie up dahlias and chrysanthemums, sow seeds of herbaceous plants, and put in cuttings of carnations, pinks, and picotees. With regard to the latter, pull them off the parent plant by the heel and insert firmly in a bed prepared in a shady spot, using plenty of sand and watering well. Now is a good time to cut roses, which should be done on a cool day if possible. Amateurs would be well advised to take lessons from a professional gardener on the process of budding, as it is not an easy matter to explain it fully by writing. Cut back old foliage of violas and pansies which have finished flowering and thus encourage a new growth on the old plants. The many seedlings to be observed growing in the bed will be useful for planting out later on. Gather the seeds of sweet peas for future sowing.

The Fruit Garden.—Continue the summer pruning away of all superfluous growth from apple and pear trees. Prune back young growth on currant and gooseberry bushes. Dig away all useless shoots from the raspberry plantations, leaving about six strong shoots for bearing the next year's crop; the old canes which have finished bearing should be cleaned away and burned. Spray with helibore powder to destroy the leech which attacks the foliage of cherry, pear, and many other fruit trees.

TRY ... Dom. McCarthy

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