

On the Land

MARKET REPORTS.

There was a fairly large entry of fat cattle at Burnside last week, numbering 297 head, with a preponderance of cows and heifers. There was nothing outstanding as to quality, a number of pens lacking finish. Prices were practically unchanged compared with the previous sale. Towards the close buyers were not plentiful, and passings were frequent. Quotations: Extra prime steers to £17 5s, prime £13 to £14 10s, medium £10 10s to £12, light to £9 10s, extra prime cows and heifers to £10 5s, prime £7 to £8 10s, light from £4 10s. Fat Sheep.—An average yarding, numbering 2099, consisting principally of ewes, the proportion of wethers being small. A number of pens contained sheep of rather indifferent quality. The sale opened under dull competition at under the preceding week's prices, but firmed for good quality sheep as it progressed, the appreciation for wethers could be stated at 1s on the average compared with prices obtaining at the previous sale. Backward ewes and lighter weights were easier if anything. Quotations: Extra prime wethers to 50s, prime 44s to 46s, medium 38s to 40s, light 31s upwards, extra prime ewes realised 44s 9d, prime 32s 6d to 35s, medium 24s to 26s, light 17s upwards. Fat Lambs.—Nine hundred and eighty-eight were forward, the quality generally was good, but a proportion of the entry was unfit for export. Prices were fully 2s down on last sale's rates. Quotations—Extra prime heavy to 45s 6d, prime 36s to 39s, medium 31s to 32s 6d, light from 26s. Pigs.—There were 160 fats and about 130 stores. Prices for bacon pigs were slightly easier, and porkers were about the same as on the preceding week.

There were heavy entries at Addington last week in the store sheep and fat cattle sections. Fat cattle, fat lambs, and fat sheep were all easier in price. Good store ewes held previous values well, but secondary and wethers and lambs were practically unchanged in price. Fat Lambs.—The entry of 2620 head was the smallest since the season commenced. Values were back another 1½d per lb, prime, under 36lb, making 12d, other grades 11½d to 11¼d. Extra prime lambs made 43s 1d, prime 37s to 39s 6d, medium 34s 6d to 36s 6d, light 32s to 34s, store 28s to 31s 6d. Fat Sheep.—Nine races were penned, the bulk being ewes, and the quality indifferent. Values were easier by 1s 6d to 3s for ewes, and for wethers by about 1s. Exporters bought ewe mutton freely at slightly under schedule prices. Extra prime wethers made 48s 9d, prime 37s 6d to 41s, medium 34s 6d to 37s, light 30s to 34s 6d, extra prime ewes 40s 6d, prime 32s to 35s, medium 28s to 31s 6d, light 24s 6d to 27s 6d, aged 21s 6d to 24s. Fat Cattle.—Another very heavy yarding of 690 head of good quality, sold at practically the previous week's values, but secondary stuff was back about 20s per head. A draft of 36 cows and heifers from the North Island sold at up to £14, averaging £11 7s 6d. Prime beef averaged from 35s 6d to 37s 6d per 100lb, heavy 32s to 35s, good cow and heifer beef 32s 6d to 35s, light and medium 26s to 29s. Extra

prime steers made £17 15s, prime £14 5s to £16, medium £11 10s to £14, light £9 to £11, rough £6 10s to £8 10s, extra prime heifers £13 2s 6d, prime £9 to £11 5s, ordinary £5 to £8 10s, extra prime cows £14, prime £8 10s to £10 15s, ordinary £5 5s to £8 5s, aged £3 to £5. Vealers.—Good vealers sold well. Runners made up to £5, good vealers £2 10s to £4 5s, good calves 25s to 45s 1d, small calves 10s to 20s. Fat Pigs.—There was a good entry and improved values. Choppers made £3 to £6, light baconers £3 15s to £4 5s, heavy £4 10s to £4 15s. The average price per lb was 6½d to 7½d. Light porkers made 48s to 54s, heavy 57s to 65s. The average price per lb was 7½d to 8½d.

FARM BUILDINGS

(Contributed.)

CONCRETE FLOORS ON THE FARM.

(Continued.)

Placing.—Sufficient help should be provided to mix and convey the prepared concrete to its destination as fast as the leveller or placer (on large jobs there may be two) can deal with it.

Delays in this particular allow time for the finer portion of the concrete—which is essential to make a good surface finish—to run back to a lower level.

The ground base should also be well saturated with water before commencing operations, and as the work proceeds (if necessary) in order that it may take up or absorb nothing of the finer mixed concrete.

The placer should have a trowel, float, shovel, and straight-edge of suitable length ready at hand.

The most convenient end to work from having been chosen, care should be exercised to rake back the coarser shingle from the screeds and tamp down the concrete at the edges of the prospective floor.

What adheres to the wheelbarrow after each successive dumping may be readily scraped off by means of the steel float.

The concrete should be allowed to heap up an inch or two above the level of the guiding screeds, then after each successive couple of wheelbarrows have been tipped apply the straight edge as quickly as possible, and "level off" working it to and fro with a short-stroke sawing motion, advancing slowly at each stroke. Note here, and this is important, that the levelling off be done as soon as possible after each quota of concrete is placed in the rough, and the coarser shingle raked forward; in order that the finer material which is essential to smooth finish may be, as it were, caught on the surface.

The consistency of the prepared concrete should be such as to permit of the fairly easy working of the straight-edge. After each "levelling off," if the straight-edge be rested on its edge across the screeds, it will shield the finished work from splash when emptying the wheelbarrow, and save labor—a splashed surface involving re-levelling.

The necessity of keeping the base of the floor-to-be-concreted will now be apparent—

a dry ground would absorb a considerable amount of the moisture from the concrete. As soon as a yard or so has been levelled right across the floor, the surface should be dusted lightly over with dry cement, and very lightly "floated off," while it is still moist.

This cement-dusting must not, however, be overdone. What suffices to assist in forming a surface finish—the rougher spots being treated a little more liberally will indicate the quantity.

Heavy cement dusting is apt to induce surface cracking some time after the setting.

The object in doing the dusting, yard by yard, as the placing and levelling of the concrete progresses, is to seize the opportunity of being able to reach over the finished work without taking any chances of causing any depressions on its surface, and at the same time to thoroughly spread the cement that it may be properly assimilated while the concrete is still wet and plastic.

Lifting the Centre Screed.—As soon as we have completed the laying down of the whole floor (18 x 36) we must pull up the dividing screed between the two sections composing the same.

This screed was put down solely for convenience in laying down and levelling off the floor, and it is important that it be lifted and the space which it has occupied be filled in while the concrete is still in the plastic state. To do this, first lay down a board 9in x 1in or 6in x 1in on each side of the screed about an inch clear of it on one side and just clear of the supporting pegs on the other, then stand over it, placing a foot on the boards on either side, and by the aid of a pick "prise" up one end and take it out as carefully as possible. Fill up the channel or rift resulting from the displacement of the screed with concrete, level off with a short straight edge and finish with the float, lifting or moving back the boards as the work progresses.

(To be concluded.)

Pleasant Striving to Quick Success

Many young men in New Zealand to-day are pushing on—surely—confidently—to the attainment of quick success with commensurate remuneration.

Under our guidance they are finding their work interesting—they appreciate the personal interest our tutors take in them and their study is their hobby. You, too, can be as these if you enrol with us.

These are a few of our Courses:—Teachers' "B" "C," "D," Journalism; Public Service Examination; Short Story Writing; Contracting; Maori.

NOW is the time to decide—now is the time to ACT. So write NOW for full particulars of the Course you are most interested in.

The NEW ZEALAND CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS

(Incorporating Metropolitan and Maoriland Colleges)

135 FLETCHER'S BUILDINGS,
22 CUSTOMHOUSE QUAY, WELLINGTON.

Somme Cycle Works
(LEN HOPKINS)

Speed Racing Cycles, Cycle Tyres of Quality and Low Prices. Pram Tyres Fitted. Our motto: Genuine Cycle Service.

Ashburton
Phone 247