

## ON THE LAND

## MARKET REPORTS.

There was a medium yarding of fat cattle at Burnside sale last week, 235 being penned. There was a good demand for all heavy-weight bullocks, which sold up to the previous week's rates. Medium and unfinished sorts showed a decline of £1 per head. Extra prime heavy-weight bullocks £22 7s 6d, prime from £18 15s to £20 10s, medium from £13 12s 6d to £16 10s, others from £10 upwards, best cows and heifers to £12 12s 6d, medium from £9 10s to £11 12s 6d, others from £6 upwards. Fat Sheep.—There was a fair yarding of sheep forward for last week's sale, 2654 being penned. At the commencement prices were back to the extent of 1s per head on the preceding week's, but as the sale progressed they again reached that week's parity. A few extra heavy-weight wethers realised 30s 3d, extra prime wethers from 26s to 29s 3d, prime from 21s to 25s 9d, medium from 18s 3d to 19s 6d, others from 14s to 17s, prime ewes from 19s to 22s 3d, medium from 14s to 17s 6d, others from 9s 6d upwards. Fat Lambs.—A very small yarding, 737 being penned. The quality was inferior, but for any prime sorts the demand was keen and these were readily cleared at prices slightly firmer than previous sale. Extra prime lambs from 25s to 28s 6d, prime from 20s 3d to 24s 6d, medium from 17s to 19s, inferior sorts from 10s 6d upwards. Pigs.—A medium yarding, consisting mostly of porkers. There was good competition, and the prices realised were equal to the preceding week's rates. Best baconers realised from 8½d to 8¾d per lb, and best porkers from 8½d to 9d per lb.

Addington market last week was marked by an excess yarding of fat sheep, and prices receded. Other sections of stock were in average supply, and met a firmer sale. Fat Sheep.—An overflow yarding, being the biggest for some years. Values eased by about 3s a head all round. Extra prime wethers 26s 6d to 35s 7d, prime 19s 9d to 24s 6d, medium 17s 3d to 19s 6d, light and unfinished 15s 9d to 17s, prime ewes, 17s 9d to 22s 3d, medium 14s 9d to 17s 3d, light and unfinished 13s to 14s 6d, extra prime hoggets 20s to 25s 6d, ordinary to good 14s 3d to 17s 3d. Fat Cattle.—A small yarding, and big improvements in values, prices advancing about 20s a head. Extra prime bullocks up to £25 7s 6d, prime £15 to £18 12s 6d, medium £11 5s to £14, prime heifers £10 5s to £14 17s 6d, ordinary £6 to £10, prime cows £9 to £13 2s 6d, ordinary £5 to £8 15s. Vealers.—A small entry and a good demand. Runners up to £8, good vealers £4 2s 6d to £4 15s, medium £2 10s to £4, small 20s to £2 7s 6d. Fat Pigs.—Better prices. Choppers £5 to £9 5s, light baconers £5 to £5 15s, heavy £6 to £6 17s, extra heavy baconers £7 to £7 17s 6d—average price per lb 8½d to 9d; light porkers £2 15s to £3 10s, heavy £3 15s to £4 10s—average price per lb 10d to 10½d.

## SOME LARGE TIMBER TREES.

Mr. James Hill writes to us as follows:—

At the present time there is a move in the direction of tree-planting for timber purposes. Quite recently a Christchurch syndicate purchased a block of 100 acres of poor land at Rolleston Junction and are planting it all out this season with *pinus insignis* for timber purposes. In 30 years' time these trees (at the present rate of value) should be worth about £2 each—say £1 for building timber and £1 for firewood. If the trees are planted 8 feet apart on the square, this should give 680 trees per acre, which at £2 per tree means £1360 per acre. Is there any product could realise that amount say from land worth about £10 per acre? I don't think so. A few days ago I went into a plantation of *pinus insignis* at Orari, where a saw mill was then cutting timber from the trees there, and the proprietor of the property informed me that out of 50 of the largest trees they had sawn out for selling purposes 75,000 feet of timber, or an average of 1500 feet per tree, and then there remained the waste, or firewood. The cost of cutting and working the timber fit for use was 11s per 100 feet, and the selling price £1 per 100 feet, which left 9s per 100 clear, or £6 15s per tree—not counting the firewood. I must mention that they were very old trees; as near as I could find out, probably over 50 years. I was also shown some gum trees, which the owner estimated would

cut 1500 to 2000 feet of timber, of which the selling price was 35s per 100 feet, at which price the trees would return him about £15 per tree. To those having land of a poor quality to spare, I would suggest giving the above figures earnest consideration.

## SMALL BIRDS: ONE SIDE OF THE PROBLEM.

The official *Agricultural Gazette of Canada* makes the following editorial comment: "The economic value of birds to agriculture, both as regards insects and weeds, is not sufficiently realised. As the natural guardians against destructive insects they are the farmer's chief ally. Their extermination would soon see mankind at the mercy of the insect world, and they should be protected by every possible means. The instinct to kill the wild things, so persistent in youth, is a survival from primitive man which should be controlled by instruction and enlightenment. The study of bird-life in the schools and the formation of bird clubs, both for young people and adults, should accomplish very useful results in this connection."

## THE CALIFORNIAN THISTLE PEST.

Methods of dealing with the Californian thistle pest were referred to at the last meeting of the North Canterbury Executive of the New Zealand Farmers' Union by Mr. W. J. Heney, of Kaiapoi, who said that there was considerable variance of opinion as to the best means of keeping down the thistle. The law demanded that the farmer must cut the thistle when it was green, but, from personal experience, he had found that only encouraged the pest. He had discovered that the best means was to allow it to flower and then cut. By doing so, only one cutting a year was needed, while if the thistle were cut when green, two or three such operations were necessary. The present law acted to the detriment of the farmer, who wanted to keep the pest down. The chairman, Mr. W. A. Banks, said it would be rather dangerous to advocate that the thistle should flower before being cut. Many farmers would let it flower too far, and then the seed would germinate and make the position worse than ever. However, Mr. Heney was advised to bring his experiments under the notice of the Agricultural Department.

## LADINO CLOVER.

A robust type of white clover that has attracted a great deal of attention in the Department of Agriculture's fodder plots at the Royal Show, is labelled "Ladino." (says an Australian exchange).

It is learned that this clover hails from Northern Italy, and was introduced by the department some three years ago. It is a selected, improved strain of white clover, characterised by greater vigor of growth and heavier seedling qualities than the old and familiar variety. As shown in experiments carried out at Glen Innes, it runs much faster than ordinary white clover. Rows planted 4 feet apart will meet each other in one season.

This clover should have special importance in the coastal districts, owing to the fact that, if it can, with its desirable characteristics, replace white clover in *paspalum* pastures, it will mean a bulkier and more nutritious fodder, owing to the higher proportion of protein content, which is badly wanted in a pasture of *paspalum* alone.

The Department of Agriculture has worked this clover up to such an extent that it is in a position to co-operate with farmers in testing it in other parts of the State by supplying small samples of seed to applicants. It should be adaptable to practically any part of the coast and tablelands.

## IMPROVING CONDITIONS.

A distinct improvement in the economic situation—as applied to Farm Implements, is at last indicated by the substantial reduction in prices recently put into effect by that well-known firm, BOOTH, MACDONALD & CO. LTD., whose line of Carlyle Farm Implements has established itself throughout the Dominion as one of the factors essential to success in N.Z. farming methods. Catalogue and latest price list will be posted on application, and the firm will be obliged if this paper is mentioned when enquiry is made.