

ON THE LAND

MARKET REPORTS.

At Burnside last week there was a small yarding of fat cattle, 160 head coming under the hammer. The quality was very good, there being a large proportion of prime well-finished bullocks, while very few cows and heifers were offered. Competition was decidedly keen, and prices can be quoted fully £1 above those of last week. Extra prime bullocks to £24 2s 6d, prime £19 to £22 10s, medium £16 to £18 5s, light £11 to £14 10s, prime cows and heifers £12 to £15 10s, medium £10 10s to £11 15s, light £8 to £9 10s. Fat Sheep.—A medium yarding, 2155 being penned. A fair proportion of the yarding consisted of medium to good wethers. The number of heavy butchers' sheep were smaller than usual, while very few ewes were in evidence. Prime butchers' sheep were up 1s per head, while light and medium wethers sold at prices a shade firmer than last week. Extra prime wethers to 32s, prime 25s 6d to 28s, medium 19s to 23s, light 14s 6d to 18s 6d, prime ewes 17s 6d to 23s 6d, medium 14s to 16s, light 11s to 13. Hoggets.—131 were offered for sale, the quality of which was fair, but there were some pens of very fine quality amongst the entry. Competition was keener to-day, and higher prices were realised than late rates. Best lambs to 25s, others 12s to 18s 6d. Pigs.—There was a much larger yarding of fat pigs for to-day's market than has been the case for some weeks. Prices realised were on a par with last week's rates. Stores were in short supply, and met a brisk sale, prices being 5s to 7s 6d per head higher than at last sale.

There were big yardings at Addington in practically all sections of stock, and generally lower prices ruled, particularly for mutton. Store Sheep.—Good four, six, and eight-tooth ewes brought from 20s to 23s 3d, ordinary 14s 4d to 17s 4d, good fresh full-mouthed ewes 12s 9d to 15s 11d, cull ewes 5s to 6s 4d, sound-mouthed ewes and lambs (all counted) 10s, four and six-tooth wethers 12s 3d to 14s, mixed-sex hoggets 9s to 9s 9d, halfbred wether hoggets up to 7s 6d, ewe hoggets to 11s 9d. Fat Sheep.—An overflow yarding. The sale was the worst for a long time, values being from 3s to 6s below last market. Extra prime wethers brought from 24s to 29s, prime 16s 6d to 21s 3d, medium 14s to 16s 3d, light and inferior 11s to 13s 9d, extra prime ewes up to 21s, prime 14s 9d to 17s 6d, medium 12s to 14s 6d, light and unfinished 10s to 11s 9d, extra prime hoggets up to 24s 5d, prime 14s to 17s 6d, ordinary 9s to 13s 6d. Fat Cattle.—366 yarded, inclusive of much light-conditioned beef. The market was a shade down on recent rates. Extra prime steers up to £19 17s 6d, prime £14 10s to £17 10s, medium £10 15s to £14 5s, light and unfinished £7 to £10, prime heifers £9 10s to £12 12s 6d, ordinary to good £6 12s 6d to £9 3s, prime cows £9 2s 6d to £14 15s, ordinary £6 10s to £8. Fat Pigs.—An irregular demand. Choppers £4 to £8, light baconers £4 15s to £5 10s, heavy £6 to £6 15s, extra heavy £7 (average price per lb, 8½d), light porkers £3 to £3 15s, heavy £4 5s to £4 10s (average price per lb, 9½d to 10½d).

THE CULTIVATION OF MANGEL.

Mangels come in extremely useful for all classes of live stock, and no farmer can afford to be without a few acres of this valuable root crop (says a writer in *Mark Lane Express*). Mangels admit of intensive cultivation, by which it may reasonably be said that on good land, liberally manured, it is possible to grow 60 tons of sound roots to the acre. Yet many will admit that 30 tons per acre is a very reasonable yield, and one with which the average farmer is often contented.

A heavy yield effects considerably economy in labor, as it is simpler to hoe between large roots than between those thick on the ground and badly developed. If grown after wheat, the stubble should be cleared in autumn of foul perennial weeds, provided that the weather is suitable. On heavy soils all ploughing should be performed before

the end of the year; deep stirring of the soil is to be advocated, provided no indifferent material is brought to the surface. This practice admits of shallow ploughing in spring without again disturbing the unweathered soil below; the latter, if exposed to the drying winds of March, soon hardens and prevents the formation of a friable tilth. No mechanical contrivances will ever make a heavy soil workable. This fine division of the soil particles can alone be brought about by weathering, exposure to the frosts of winter, and other climatic influences.

A very important point when drilling mangels is to avoid burying the seed too deep, and shallow sowing can only be successfully performed when a fine tilth has been secured. While the second week in April is considered by many to be the best time for sowing, no definite rule can be adopted. If sown too early the plants are apt to be checked by frost or cold rains, and even should congenial growing weather favor the seedling, there is always a tendency, as with other biennials that are sown too early in the season, for a large percentage of them to "bolt" or throw up their flowering shoots toward the end of the first year.

When the condition of the ground is not such as can be described as rich, the plants should not be over-thinned, and on light soils the drills need be not more than 18in. apart, while on heavy loams from 25in. to 27in. will be necessary.

Steeping the seed in order to assist germination has often been advised by some writers, but the practice is not to be recommended, as the germ is excited into making an unnatural growth, which is not continued by the fertility of the soil when the seed has become embedded in it. Further, the seed will not run freely in the cups unless well dried. Seven pounds of seed to the acre may be regarded as a maximum quantity.

Cleaning and singling are expensive operations, especially as they demand attention early in June, when there are so many other jobs to be done. As soon as the plants "show drill," and there is no likelihood of their being damaged or buried in the moving of the adjoining soil or earth, they must be carefully flat-hoed. The breaking up of the surface soil at this stage will very considerably stimulate the seedlings into rapid growth, and as soon as they appear strong enough the horse-hoe may be used between the rows, after which the singling out may be performed if not done after the flat-hoeing, which is sometimes advisable.

Horse-hoeing should be proceeded with at intervals until the foliage renders the operation no longer practicable. A final hand-hoeing will be needed between the plants in the row, after which the foliage itself should prove ample discouragement to the growth of weeds.

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