

# ON THE LAND

## MARKET REPORTS.

At Burnside last week 245 head of fat cattle were penned—a full yarding. Prices opened on a par with those ruling on the previous week, and remained firm throughout the sale. Extra prime heavy-weight bullocks sold at up to £14, prime heavy-weight bullocks from £11 17s 6d to £12 12s 6d, medium from £10 5s to £11 7s 6d, others from £8 10s upwards, best cows and heifers to £8, medium from £6 12s 6d to £7 10s, others from £5 upwards. Fat Sheep.—There was a full yarding of good quality, 2219 head being penned. Prices opened on a par with those ruling on the preceding week, and gradually increased as the sale progressed. At the end of the day they were quoted 2s above the previous sale. Exporters were operating keenly for all medium weight mutton, and this naturally helped the sale of heavy-weight sheep. Extra prime heavy-weight wethers realised up to 48s 3d, prime heavy-weight wethers 42s 6d to 45s 9d, medium wethers from 35s 9d to 40s, lighter kinds from 31s upwards. Fat Lambs.—1342 penned—a larger yarding than on the preceding week. A good proportion was of inferior quality. Exporters were again operating, and the yarding was readily cleared at prices equal to those of the previous week. Extra prime lambs sold up to 36s 6d, prime lambs from 33s to 35s 9d, medium lambs from 27s 6d to 31s 9d, others from 25s upwards. Pigs.—A small entry, comprising mostly porkers. Competition was fairly brisk, and higher prices were obtained for both baconers and porkers. Prime baconers realised up to 6d, and prime porkers from 6½d to 7d per lb.

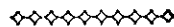
At Addington market last week fat lambs and pigs increased in value, while fat sheep values were maintained. Prices for fat cattle, however, showed a reduction. Fat Lambs.—A yarding of 4066, compared with 4640 on the preceding week. Freezing buyers got the majority of the yarding at prices which were from 1s to 1s 6d per head better than the previous market. On an average freezing works buyers paid from 10½d to 10¾d per lb. Graziers competed for light lambs, but generally found prices too high for them. Extra prime lambs 33s 6d to 38s 10d, prime 30s to 33s, medium 28s to 29s 9d, light and unfinished 24s 9d to 27s 6d. Fat Sheep.—The yarding was again small. The sale opened briskly, prices being all round about on a par with those of the previous week, wethers being perhaps slightly better and ewes slightly easier. Wether mutton made from 6½d to 6¾d per lb, and ewe from 5¾d to 6¼d. Extra prime wethers 37s to 40s, a few special to 43s 9d, prime 34s to 36s 6d, medium 28s 6d to 33s 6d, light 25s 1d to 27s, extra prime ewes, 30s 6d to 35s 10d, prime 28s 6d to 30s, medium 25s to 28s, light 23s to 24s 9d, aged 17s 9d to 22s 6d. Fat Cattle.—The yarding was a large one. The hot spell of weather had an adverse effect on the sale, particularly with regard to heavier stuff, and prices dropped all round 20s per head. Well-finished beef made from 27s 6d to 30s per 100lb, medium 24s 6d to 27s, unfinished 21s to 23s 6d, old cow beef to 20s, extra prime steers £14 5s to £16, prime £10 17s 6d to £13 15s, medium £8 15s to £10 10s, light and unfinished £4 15s to £8, prime heifers £6 15s to £7 17s 6d, ordinary £4 10s to £6, prime cows £6 to £7 17s 6d, ordinary £4 to £5 15s. Vealers.—Previous week's values were fully maintained. Good runners to £4 12s 6d, ordinary vealers £2 17s 6d to £4, small calves from 8s upwards. Fat Pigs.—A good demand resulted in improved prices. Choppers £1 10s to £3, light baconers £3 7s 6d to £3 18s, heavy £4 to £4 8s 6d (average price per lb 6d to 6½d); light porkers £2 5s to £2 12s, heavy £2 15s to £3 (average price per lb 7d to 8½d).

## WHERE THE WEEDS COME FROM.

It does sometimes seem mysterious where all the weeds do come from, even after the most careful scrutiny during winter and the most assiduous hoeing during summer. Perhaps the inquiry is scarcely worth pursuing, because we have to get rid of them, whether we know their source or not. But it is certainly profitable to carry the inquiry so far as to find out how the number can be reduced.

The presence of so many weeds is often due to the fact that the weeds are allowed to flower and seed. These may not be growing between the crops, but on a spare piece of land waiting to be cultivated. If such cultivation must be left, then the wisest course to pursue is to cut them over with a scythe rather than have the seeds distributed all over the garden.

Another source from which the supply of weeds is maintained is from neglected paths and hedgesides. These are too often neglected, and the neglect is reflected in the weediness of the garden. Another source is the manure, and we fear this is productive of more weeds than it used to be, because hoeing is not so frequently done among the straw crops as high cultivation demands. We have only so far control over this source inasmuch as we should refuse to have manure which is not made in conjunction with clean straw.



## GATHERING FLOWERS FOR MARKET.

Most flowers, as all growers should know, suffer if exposed to the sun for any length of time after being cut, and some are so sensitive that no matter what is done they will never regain their freshness. This being so, it is obvious that they should not remain out of water longer than can be avoided.

The sweet pea may be taken as an illustration. During hot, dry weather, no matter how the plants are watered, if the flowers are cut in the middle of the day, they are soft and flabby. If packed while in this condition the blooms would be withered by the time they reached the market, and unless sold at the commencement, would, in all probability, remain on hand or be disposed of at a very low figure.

Any boy can cut such flowers, but it is not everyone that can bunch them properly; for this reason it is advisable that they be put in water as soon as cut and taken to a cool shed, where bunching can be done by those who are proficient at the work.

Flowers should never be laid on the top of each other in such a manner as to crush them; neither should they be held long in the hot hand. If cut with stems as long as possible and placed in flat baskets or shallow trays, and taken to the shed, and placed in water, it is astonishing the amount they will take up in the course of a few hours.

The length of time flowers should stand in water before being packed must depend upon the time they have to reach the market; but in all cases where possible they should be allowed to stand in water through the night and packed early the following morning. In many cases, however, flowers have to be sent away at night in order to reach the market the next morning, in which case they should be allowed to stand in water at least a couple of hours previous to being packed.

In bunching the aim should be to have all the flowers facing one way if there is any danger of their being crushed in packing. Twelve flowers or sprays are usually put in a bunch, but this depends upon the season; for example, violets in the autumn are sold in much smaller bunches than in the spring when the flowers are more plentiful, and in like manner sweet peas and other common flowers.

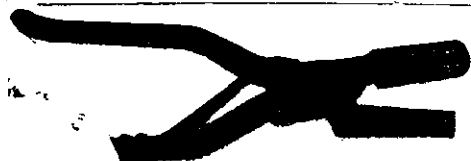


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