

ON THE LAND

MARKET REPORTS.

At Burnside last week 394 head of fat cattle were penned, which was a large yarding. This number was considerably in excess of butchers' requirements, especially after the heavy yarding of the previous week. The entry consisted of a great many unfinished cattle, and beef of this description was in some cases practically unsaleable. The local graziers were operating for all unfinished sorts, and this helped the sale to some extent. Prime cattle were scarce, and there was good competition for these at prices equal to those realised at the preceding week's sale. Extra prime heavy-weight bullocks brought to £14, prime from £9 15s to £10 10s, medium from £7 10s to £8 17s 6d, others from £6 upwards, best cows and heifers to £5 15s, medium from £4 5s 6d to £5, others from £3 15s upwards. Fat Sheep.—A fairly large yarding of fat sheep was forward for last week's sale, 3186 being penned. The bulk of the yarding was comprised of medium wethers and ewes, and prices for this class showed a decline of from 1s to 1s 6d per head. Heavy-weight sheep were in good demand at prices 2s firmer than at the previous sale. Extra prime heavy-weight wethers realised from 45s to 49s, prime wethers from 40s to 43s 9d, medium wethers from 32s 9d to 37s 6d, others from 28s upwards. Extra prime heavy-weight ewes 32s 3d to 37s 6d, prime ewes from 26s 3d to 30s 9d, medium ewes from 23s to 25s 9d, others from 20s upwards. Fat Lambs.—A fairly good entry of 1477 was penned. All exporters were again operating at late limits, and the yarding was readily cleared at prices equal to those of the preceding week. Extra prime lambs brought to 35s 9d, prime lambs from 28s 6d to 32s, medium lambs from 23s to 26s 3d, others from 18s upwards. Fat Pigs.—There was an average yarding of pigs, all classes being represented. Competition was fairly brisk, and the previous week's prices were maintained. Prime baconers realised up to 6½d, and prime porkers up to 7d per lb.

At Addington last week there were heavy yardings in all classes. Beef again showed an easing tendency. Second quality fat sheep were also easier. Fat lambs were slightly firmer, and there was a good sale of store sheep. Fat Lambs.—2600 penned. A slightly firmer sale, the average increase being 9d, and in cases 9½d per lb. Extra prime lambs to 32s 6d, prime 27s 9d to 30s 6d, medium 24s 6d to 27s 3d, light 19s 6d to 21s. Fat Sheep.—A heavier entry than for some months. Prime wethers were unaltered, but other classes were weaker by 1s to 1s 6d per head. Extra prime wethers 34s to 37s, a few special 39s 1d, prime 30s to 33s 6d, medium 27s 6d to 29s 9d, light 25s to 27s 3d, extra prime ewes 30s to 32s 10d, prime 24s 6d to 28s 6d, medium 20s to 24s, light 16s 6d to 19s 6d, old 13s to 16s. Fat Cattle.—A heavy yarding of 445 head. A further easing in values. Extra prime made to 26s 6d, good to prime 22s to 24s, medium 19s to 21s, inferior 10s to 17s 6d per 100lb. Extra prime steers to £13 5s, prime £8 15s to £12, medium £6 10s to £8 10s, light £4 5s to £6 5s, extra prime heifers to £9, prime £4 10s to £7 5s, ordinary £2 15s to £4 7s 6d, extra prime cows to £7 12s 6d, prime £4 5s to £6 5s, ordinary £3 to £4. Vealers.—A heavy yarding and an all-round easing. Good runners £4 15s, ordinary heavy vealers £2 17s 6d to £3 12s 6d, medium vealers 18s to £2, small calves 15s. Fat Pigs.—Baconers were easier, but porkers sold at late rates. Choppers £3 to £5 10s, light baconers £3 to £3 10s, heavy £3 15s to £4, extra heavy £4 12s (average price per lb 5½d to 6d); light porkers £2 2s to £2 7s, heavy £2 10s to £2 17s (average price per lb 7d to 8d).

At the sale of rabbitskins, etc., last week, moderate catalogues were submitted to a full attendance of buyers. Bidding throughout was keen. The poorer grades were slightly easier, but the better grades showed an advance of 1d on average, as compared with the previous sale prices. Quotations: Prime does to 76½d, prime bucks to 73½d, first bucks to 68½d, first does to 73d, winter bucks to 64½d, winter

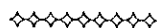
does to 68½d, early winter 57½d to 61½d, incomings 50½d to 57½d, late autumn 45½d to 50½d, autumn 45d to 48½d, prime racks 32d to 34½d, light racks 27½d to 29d, runners and suckers 18½d to 24d, summers 27d to 29½d, milky 22½d to 24½d, winter black to 68½d, autumn black to 60½d, winter fawn to 60½d, autumn fawn to 50½d. Hareskins to 29½d; horsehair to 26½d.



VALUE OF GRASS AS A FOOD.

The value of grass as a food is shown by the color and flavor of milk when cows are out to grass and also by the high quality of the butter and cheese made from it. "Grass" cheese is recognised to be superior even to "hay" cheese, although both the hay and the grass may be grown on the same land, the superiority of the grass arising from its being fresh when grazed, whereas hay is often old when cut.

The inferiority of winter dairy foods is not easy to explain, but, according to Professor Wrightson (says a Home paper), may be attributed to the following factors:—The age of the hay when cut, the introduction into the feeds of other foods, such as turnips and straw, to want of freedom and exercise; it may also be partly due to the cows being old in milk.



LUCERNE.

Of all fodder crops lucerne is probably pre-eminent. It has many advantages over others which are not appreciated by those who have not grown it. In the first place, it is a perennial, consequently when once established there is no further trouble of sowing afresh for some years. It is deep-rooted, going down, after moisture, as much as 18 or 20 feet, and thus is able to resist drought. It can be mown three times a year, so that when soiled off, if used in moderation, by the time the piece is finished the part first cut is ready to begin again, thus securing a succession of succulent food of the very best quality. If there is more than is required for green food it can be made into hay.

Cattle, horses, and pigs, the latter especially, do well on it when green, but sheep should not be folded on it, although they may be allowed to run over it in the autumn to finish off any odd stalks which would only be cut off with frost. It will produce as much as twenty tons to the acre of green food.

It is frequently sown broad-cast with a crop such as barley or oats at the rate of eighteen or twenty pounds to the acre in the same manner as seeds. A better plan, if the crop is drilled, is to drill the lucerne, also, in rows 9in apart crossway of the former. A few plants of the corn may be sacrificed with the coulters, but not so many as if all the rows ran the same way.

But if a piece of ground prepared as for roots and reduced to a good tilth can be spared lucerne may be sown late in the season. There are advantages in this late sowing. The ground can have a dressing of farmyard manure ploughed in during the spring, which is greatly in favor of the plant.

If sown after roots they should have been grown with such manure and not entirely with artificials. The land can be more thoroughly cleaned and annual weeds can be more easily destroyed. In fact, the life of lucerne seems to depend on its being kept clean.

Lime is also a necessity, and if the soil is deficient in this a dressing of two tons to the acre should be worked in before sowing the seed. The latter is drilled in rows 9in apart, 15lb to the acre being sufficient.

With a patch of lucerne one has always a crop of green feed during the summer.

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