

ON THE LAND

MARKET REPORTS.

There was a medium yarding of fat cattle at Burnside last week. 262 head was forward, consisting of some excellent quality bullocks and heifers. Prices opened on a par with those of the previous week's sale, and were fully maintained till the last race, when a slight easing in values was noticeable. Extra prime bullocks realised £14 to £16, prime £11 10s to £13, medium £9 5s to £10 7s 6d, light and unfinished £6 to £8 5s, extra prime heifers to £10, prime £7 to £8 10s, medium £5 5s to £6 10s, light and inferior £3 10s to £4 15s. Fat Sheep.—A small yarding of 1563 head, the quality of which was below the usual standard. The major portion of the yarding contained medium and light-weight sheep—very few heavy wethers were penned. Export buyers were operating for handy-weight wethers in addition to which country butchers were also buyers, resulting in an animated market. Prices for both wethers and ewes showed a marked improvement on the preceding week's rates, values appreciating to the extent of 4s to 5s on the average. Extra prime wethers brought 54s to 56s 3d, prime 42s to 45s, medium 33s to 37s, light and unfinished to 27s, extra prime heavy ewes made up to 51s 6d, prime 41s to 45s, medium 32s to 36s, light and aged 21s upwards. Fat Lambs.—A fair yarding of 1230 was penned. The quality of the yarding was hardly as good as on the previous week, the greater proportion comprising medium-weight lambs, while there were also a fair number unfit for export. It was evident buyers were working on reduced limits, and, in comparison with the preceding week's rates, prices were down 3s on the average. Extra prime heavy lambs realised from 33s to 35s 6d, prime 30s to 32s, medium 26s to 28s 9d, light and unfinished sorts 18s to 21s. Pigs.—A small yarding, comprising mostly porkers. The limited entry resulted in keen competition at enhanced values, both baconers and porkers showing an advance of about 10s per head. Best baconers realised about 6½d and best porkers about 7½d per lb.

At Addington last week there was a good market in practically all classes of stock, notably in fat cattle, fat lambs, and hoggets. Fat Lambs.—2350 penned. There was a keen sale, freezing lambs making 10½d and lighter ½d less. The majority of the works will be closed down at the end of the month. Extra prime lambs 33s 3d to 36s 6d, a few special 41s, prime 30s to 33s, medium 26s 9d to 29s 9d, light and unfinished 22s to 26s. Fat Sheep.—A big yarding. Prices were maintained except for medium and light ewes. Freezers operated for wethers up to 7d and for ewes up to 5½d. Extra prime wethers 38s, special 42s 6d, prime 34s 6d to 37s 9d, medium 32s to 34s 3d, light 29s to 31s 6d, extra prime ewes 34s 10d, prime 26s to 29s 6d, medium 21s to 25s 6d, light 18s 6d to 20s 9d, old 16s 9d to 18s 3d. Fat Cattle.—434 yarded. One consignment of 32 from the North Island improved the sale of special beef to 35s. The average price was 27s to 31s per 100lb. Tops of the North Island steers £13 17s 6d, extra prime steers £17 5s, a truck of special cattle £20 15s to £22, prime £12 to £15, medium £9 to £11 15s, light £6 5s to £8 15s, extra prime heifers £11, a few special £13 12s 6d, prime £8 5s to £10 10s, ordinary £5 5s to £8, prime cows £7 to £9 7s 6d, medium £5 to £6 17s 6d. Vealers.—A small entry. Calves suitable for butchers showed an improvement on late rates. Good runners to £5 5s, ordinary heavy vealers £3 15s to £4 15s, medium £1 10s to £3, small calves 5s to 20s. Fat Pigs.—Pork was easier and bacon sold at about late rates. Choppers £3 10s to £3 17s, light baconers £3 15s to £4 5s, heavy £4 10s to £4 15s, extra heavy £5 10s—average price per lb 6½d to 7½d, light porkers 40s to 47s, heavy £2 12s to £3—average price per lb 7½d to 8½d.

WHITEWASH.

At the request of a correspondent we reprint the following preparation for the interior and exterior white-washing of out-buildings. It makes an effective wash for the inside of loose-boxes, cowhouses, and also for outside brickwork:—

Take ½ bushel of unslaked lime, slack with boiling water, and cover to keep in steam. When cool, strain through a fine sieve. Add 1 peck salt, dissolved in warm water (saturated); 3lb ground rice, boiled to a thin paste and stirred in while hot; 1lb Spanish whiting, 1lb glue, previously dissolved by soaking in cold water, and then melted in a water bath. Dilute with 5 gallons warm water, and allow the mixture to stand a few days before using, well covered from dust. This preparation is known as "Lighthouse" whitewash.



TURNING OUT THE STOCK.

Before stock are turned out from winter quarters, both they and the various pasturage at disposal should be considered in conjunction with the object of suiting the needs and requirements (says a writer in a Home journal). Dairy cattle, for instance, require rich pasturage as near the house as possible; stores will do with rougher turf and away from headquarters. Growing horses require plenty of room, and if the herbage is a bit sparse it does not matter, so long as there is plenty if sought for; whilst horses at work require a pasture where they can fill themselves with as little exertion as possible.

The pasture hedges should have received all necessary attention during the winter; but even when this has been done, directly stock is turned into a particular field it is satisfactory to take a final look round the hedges to see that no weak spot has been overlooked by the hedger.

Then, too, there is the question of water and shade. All pastured stock really require water in plenty always within reach, so that in one direction or another provision should be made for every pasture, either by natural or artificial means.

Natural watering-places should be clean, safe, and easily accessible, and, where necessary, should be adequately fenced. During hot weather cattle benefit by being able to stand about in shallow water, so that where suitable shallows exist, they should be made so available.

As regards shade, trees are the best, and all good pastures should provide such natural shade. Overgrown hedges are, too, useful in the same direction, as, of course, is open shedding. Shade of some sort, however, there must be, or the stock cannot be made comfortable during the heat of the day. Shade and water help materially in the preventing of stock straying.

In all stocking of pasturage it should be planned to run the different sorts of stock apart from each other. Also different grades, or classes, of the same sort of stock are best also run apart.

The stock should be changed about occasionally—sheep cannot be moved too frequently—a pasture may be rested now and then. The weather has a vital bearing upon the matter, and cattle should graze in advance of other stock. Pigs are now frequently—and quite rightly—pastured, and those new to such stock so quartered should remember that they graze close to the ground, very similarly to sheep.

By the moving of stock about understandingly and judiciously, the stock are benefited, this being the primary object of the moving. In addition, however, the pastures, too, benefit, and are grazed in even fashion. When a pasture during the grazing season looks ragged and unkempt and there are tufts of overgrown herbage to be noted here and there, it is an almost certain sign that the farmer either does not know how to graze it properly or that he neglects to put his knowledge to practical use.



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