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604

NEW SOUTH WALES
STATE MARKETING BUREAU
DIVISION OF MARKETING
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

JANUARY, 1943.

Vol. 9 No. 5

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING,
SYDNEY

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MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

A MISCELLANY OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS, AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Released during the Second Week of each Month.

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ACTING CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

JANUARY, 1943

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Table of Contents.

	Page
Highlights	88
Control of Second Hand Cases ..	89
Sheep, Cattle and Pig Sales at Homebush	93
Fruit and Vegetable Sales at City Municipal Markets, Sydney	98
Alexandria Railway Goods Yard and Sussex Street Sales	102
Commodity Prices in Sydney	105
Fruit and Vegetables - Imports into New South Wales	106
Graph - Lettuce - Weekly Average Wholesale Prices	107

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HIGHLIGHTS

By Order issued 6th January, 1943, a grower shall not distribute, sell, supply, deliver, remove, use, consume or otherwise dispose of citrus fruits (excluding Navel oranges and mandarins) except with the consent of the Controller or Deputy Controller of Defence Foodstuffs.

The New South Wales Egg Marketing Board's annual report for the pool year ended 30th May, 1942, discloses that the quantity of eggs controlled by the Board during the period totalled 38,535,037 dozens. This is an all time record but it has to be remembered that the Board assumed control of that part of the State outside the Counties of Cumberland and Northumberland and the Shires of Nattai and Wollondilly from 3rd November, 1941, and thus during portion of the pool year additional producing areas were drawn upon.

The Milk Board begins inquiry into costs of distribution of milk.

The reduction of 6d per bushel in the price of wheat for stock feed purposes is to continue until 30th June, 1943. It is reported that the estimated cost to the Federal Government will be £150,000.

The Australian Wheat Board announces arrangements have been made for paying 4/- per bushel (bagged basis) to all growers in respect of which the Wheat Stabilisation Board has issued the necessary authority.

The Minister for Post War Reconstruction has announced the appointment of a Rural Reconstruction Commission which the Minister states "has been given a wide charter to investigate problems associated with primary industry generally".

CONTROL OF SECOND HAND CASES.

The urgent necessity for effective conservation of supplies of used fruit and vegetable cases was brought about by the war. Even before the outbreak of hostilities the question of obtaining adequate supplies of cases was occasioning fruit-growing and fruit-handling interests much concern. After having been used once for the sale of fruit many of the cases were never returned to the fruit-seller or fruit-grower, but found their way into other industries for such diverse purposes as the packing of glassware, groceries and other commodities in no way connected with the fruit industry which provided the cases. A great deal of wastage was also occasioned by the destruction of cases by utilisation as firewood, etc.

Since the war commenced the position has been aggravated by the fact that importations of timber for fruit cases from North America and elsewhere have virtually ceased.

The foregoing circumstances illustrate the necessity for maximum utilisation of second hand fruit cases and the desirability of keeping, as far as is practicable, fruit cases within the fruit and vegetable industries for repeated use, thus obviating their loss to these industries through diversion into other channels or by unnecessary destruction. They also give point to representations which were made to the Minister for Agriculture by fruit-growing and allied interests for the introduction of legislation aimed at the conservation of second hand cases.

The solution of similar problems which arose in Queensland was sought in that State by the passing of "The Second Hand Fruit Cases Act of 1940", being "an Act to conserve, control and adjust supplies of second hand fruit cases". Under that Act a Second Hand Fruit Cases Committee is set up which is empowered to license dealers in second hand cases and to limit the business of such dealing to dealers so licensed. The Act also provides that no person other than a grower of fruit and/or vegetables may purchase or otherwise obtain any second hand fruit cases, or use any second hand fruit cases for the purpose of containing any goods other than fruit or vegetables purchased, sold or supplied by the case, except with permission from the Committee.

A draft bill along the lines of the Queensland Act was prepared to meet the position in this State, but provision was also made to control second hand bags. Further, provision was also made under which the sterilisation of cases or bags might be required.

After very full consideration, however, it became apparent that difficulties arising out of or made acute by the war

/could.....

could best be met in New South Wales by regulation rather than by special enactment. It was thought that special matters are apt to require variations of treatment from time to time at short notice and that this could much more easily be accomplished by amendment of Regulations than by amendment of an Act of Parliament. In view of the fact that the Commonwealth Government had issued an Order under the National Security Regulations to control second hand bags the inclusion in the New South Wales Order of provision to deal with such containers was rendered unnecessary.

In Victoria the position was met by regulations made under the National Security (Emergency Power) Acts which simply prohibit the use of any second-hand fruit case otherwise than for the purpose of containing fruit or vegetables and the damaging or destruction of any second-hand fruit cases except (in both instances) under permit from an Officer of the Department of Agriculture.

It was finally decided to take action in New South Wales under the National Security (General) Regulations and the following Order No. 27 was made by the Premier under Regulation 35A on the 27th November, 1942.

"I, The Honourable William John McKell, Premier of the State of New South Wales, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon me by Regulation 35A of the National Security (General) Regulations under the National Security Act, 1939-1940, of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, and after consultation with the Minister of State for Home Security and with the Commandant of the Military District in which this State is comprised or included, do by this my Order make the following provisions -

1. This Order, as amended from time to time, may be cited as the Second Hand Fruit Cases Order, 1942.

2. In this Order, unless the contrary intention appears -

"Department of Agriculture" means the Department of Agriculture of the State of New South Wales.

"Minister" means Minister of Agriculture of the State of New South Wales.

"Second-hand case dealer" means a person who carries on business, whether alone or in conjunction with any other business, of buying and selling second-hand fruit cases.

"Second-hand fruit case" means a case of the description and measurement set forth in the Schedule to this Order which has been used for the packing of fruit or vegetables.

/3. .....

3. No person shall sell or supply any second-hand fruit case to any person who is not -

(a) a bona fide fruitgrower or vegetable grower; or
(b) a second-hand case dealer who has registered his name and address under Clause Five of this Order,

except under and in accordance with a permit in writing issued by an officer of the Department of Agriculture authorised in that behalf by the Minister.

4. No person shall -

(a) use any second-hand fruit case otherwise than for the purpose of containing fruit or vegetables; or
(b) damage or destroy any second-hand fruit case,

except under and in accordance with a permit in writing issued by an officer of the Department of Agriculture authorised in that behalf by the Minister.

5. Every second-hand case dealer shall within one month after the date upon which this Order takes effect or within one month after commencing in business as a second-hand case dealer register with the Minister his full name and the address of his place of business.

6. A second-hand case dealer shall if so required by the Minister by notice in writing under his hand or under the hand of an officer of the Department of Agriculture authorised by him in that behalf furnish to the Minister within the time specified in the notice such particulars in respect of second-hand fruit cases which are or have been in the possession or control of the second-hand case dealer as are required by the notice.

7. (1) Any person authorised in that behalf by the Minister (whether generally or in any particular case) may enter and inspect any land, or premises, books, accounts, documents and records for the purpose of ascertaining whether the provisions of this Order have been complied with.

(2) No person shall obstruct or hinder any person so authorised in the execution of his powers under this clause.

8. Nothing in clauses three or four of this Order shall apply (a) to any member of any of the Armed Forces of His Majesty or of any Power which is allied or associated with His Majesty in any war in which His Majesty is or may be engaged whilst such member is acting in the course of his duties; (b) to any sale or supply of a second-hand fruit case to by or in pursuance of an agreement with the Commonwealth or any Power which is allied or associated with His Majesty in any war in which His Majesty is or may be engaged.

9. This Order shall take effect on and from the twenty-seventh day of November, one thousand nine hundred and forty-two.

/SCHEDULE .....

SCHEDULE

Description of Case.	Inside Measurements.
One bushel case	18 inches long by $8\frac{2}{3}$ inches wide by $14\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep.
One bushel case (with or without hinged lid)	18 inches long by $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep.
One-half bushel case	18 inches long by $8\frac{2}{3}$ inches wide by $7\frac{1}{8}$ inches deep.
One-half bushel case (with or without hinged lid)	18 inches long by $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide by $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep.
One-quarter bushel case	$13\frac{3}{4}$ inches long by $10\frac{1}{8}$ inches wide by 4 inches deep.
Orange crate (two bushels)	$24\frac{3}{4}$ inches long by $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep.
Melon crate	$24\frac{3}{4}$ inches long by $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep.

Signed at Sydney this twentieth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and forty-two.

W.J. McKELL
Premier.

It will be noted that special provision has been made that the Order shall not apply to the Armed Forces or to any sale or supply of second-hand fruit cases to, by or in pursuance of an agreement with the Commonwealth. A considerable number of cases of fruit are sent to the various military establishments and it is possible that a substantial proportion of these cases is not required for military purposes. The New South Wales Minister for Agriculture has approached the Minister for the Army requesting that he make arrangements that second-hand fruit cases not required by the Army be protected from damage and deterioration as far as possible and made available for further use by fruit and vegetable growers either direct in accordance with their requirements or through registered second-hand case dealers.

It is hoped that by co-operation of all interests associated with the second-hand case trade it will be practicable to effect a very considerable saving in cases and that fruit and vegetable growers will experience a minimum of difficulty in obtaining their supplies.

----oooOooo----

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

INCREASED SUPPLIES OF CATTLE AND PIGS; SMALLER YARDINGS OF SHEEP AND LAMB.

Smaller consignments of sheep and lambs.

Supplies of sheep and lambs were considerably lighter. Restricted truckings due to adverse weather conditions, the heavy marketing of lambs in the past few months and the advent of the Christmas holidays could all be regarded as contributing factors. Pennings aggregated 334,579 head or a decline of about 122,000 head on November's total.

Moderate offering of good mutton.

A moderate number of good wethers and ewes was available but supplies generally were of medium to good trade standard. Prime heavy wethers were in relatively short supply, but heavy ewes of good to prime grade were fairly well supplied. Light trade ewes and wethers comprised a fair percentage of available supplies.

Fairly steady market for sheep.

The market for grown sheep did not fluctuate to such a marked degree as during the previous month, although some irregularities occurred. At the opening sales values did not vary appreciably but subsequently lower prices generally ruled, a decline of up to 1/- per head being evident.

At later sales good quality wethers sold reasonably well and rates mostly were unchanged but plainer grades and all classes of ewes were about 1/- per head cheaper. About mid-December a further fall of 1/- per head took place in values of ewes. From then on until the end of the period values of sheep improved, ewes and light wethers being from 1/- to 2/- dearer, but owing to a somewhat slow demand for heavy wethers, closing auctions were marked by a somewhat weaker tendency for this class of sheep.

Some actual sales are given hereunder:-

First Week

Good	trade	46 lb.	wethers	(skin	3/6)	made	17/8	per	head	or	3¾d	per lb.
"	"	42 lb.	ewes	("	2/-)	"	13/4	"	"	"	3¼d	" "

Second Week

Good	heavy	58 lb.	wethers	(skin	5/-)	made	18/4	per	head	or	2⅝d	per lb.
"	trade	40 lb.	"	("	1/6)	"	12/3	"	"	"	3¼d	" "
"	"	44 lb.	ewes	("	5/-)	"	15/3	"	"	"	2¾d	" "

/Third Week ....

Third Week

Good trade	40 lb. wethers	(skin 4/6)	made	15/6	per head	or	3¼d	per lb.
" heavy trade	46 lb. ewes	(" 7/6)	"	18/1	"	"	2¾d	" "

Fourth Week and Closing Auctions.

Good trade	44 lb. wethers	(skin 4/6)	made	16/8	per head	or	3¼d	per lb.
" "	38 lb. ewes	(" 4/9)	"	15/7	"	"	3¾d	" "
" heavy trade	56 lb. ewes	(" 2/6)	"	14/11	"	"	2¾d	" "

Average cost of mutton practically unchanged.

Good light trade wethers realised from 3d to 3½d per lb. with odd lines to 3¾d, and heavy wethers 2¾d to 3¼d. Good light trade ewes were worth from 2½d to 3¼d and heavy 2¼d to 2¾d, but in some instances prime light ewe mutton made 3½d per lb.

Some of the best wethers available sold to 25/- per head but for the most part prices ranged from 13/- to 20/- per head. Ewes generally were disposed of at from 10/- to 16/- but odd lines realised 20/-. Medium to plain sheep were obtained at relatively lower prices.

Lighter yardings of lambs.

The numbers of suckers and lambs auctioned showed a sharp fall, a total of 177,691 head being yarded, compared with 277,931 during the previous month. The general quality of the offerings was very fair, although medium to plain lambs were fairly well in evidence.

Rates for lambs improve.

Apart from an advance of 1/- to 1/6 per head early in the month, values remained fairly steady until the closing sales when prices again advanced by 1/- per head.

Some of the actual sales which were recorded are indicated below:-

First Week

Good trade	33 lb. suckers	(skin 3/9)	made	23/10	each	or	7¼d	per lb.
" heavy	38 lb. "	(" 5/-)	"	26/-	"	"	6¾d	" "

Second Week

Good trade	33 lb. suckers	(skin 3/6)	made	23/8	each	or	7¼d	per lb.
" heavy	38 lb. "	(" 5/6)	"	25/9	"	"	6¼d	" "

/Third Week ....

Third Week

Good trade	35 lb. suckers	(skin 3/6)	made	23/5 each	or 6¾d	per lb.
" " heavy	38 lb. "	(" 4/6)	"	24/- "	" 6¼d	" "

Fourth Week and Closing Auctions.

Good trade	36 lb. suckers	(skin 3/6)	made	24/11 each	or 7d	per lb.
Prime heavy	48 lb. lambs	(" 5/6)	"	28/11 "	" 5¾d	" "

Dearer lamb.

In some instances prime light suckers made up to 7½d per lb. or about ½d per lb. more than the best price obtained in the previous month. For the greater part of the period, however, good light suckers cost from 6½d to 7¼d per lb. and heavy grades 5½d to 6½d. Prime heavy lambs were worth from 5d to 6d and light from 5½d to 6½d per lb. It might be noted that rates were about ½d per lb. dearer at closing sales than at the earlier auctions.

Extra good quality lambs and suckers realised from 28/- to 30/- per head, but most of the drafts submitted sold at from 20/- to 26/- per head, with medium to plain descriptions making from 10/- to 18/-.

Increased consignments of inferior cattle.

Substantial supplies of cattle continued to arrive during December, the yardings aggregating 16,273 head, including 1,410 auctioned in the store section. The total was somewhat less than receivals during the previous month but there were nine sale days in that period, while at the auction on Christmas Eve only 374 head were submitted.

An increase in the percentage of inferior quality stock was a pronounced feature. On several occasions the general quality was disappointing, lightweight stock of indifferent breeding being all too plentiful. A considerable improvement, however, became apparent late in the month and the general standard on the final sale day was very satisfactory and more in keeping with the improved pastoral position throughout the State. Excellent rains were again experienced in many districts, particularly in the northern half of the State.

Irregular supplies of bullocks.

Bullocks made a good showing during the final week when many good trade to prime light and medium weights were submitted. Yardings otherwise were only fair. Only odd heavy bullocks were submitted. A slightly weaker market was in evidence at opening but values soon recovered and, for the remainder of the month, were fairly steady. For the most part, quotations for good to prime

/bullocks ....

bullocks were:- Medium weight 45/- to 48/-; light 47/- to 50/- p 100 lb. Average rates were slightly below those of November.

Steers plentiful.

Steers were plentiful throughout the period and light-weights greatly predominated. A considerable improvement in quality occurred towards the close of the month. The market was fairly steady and quotations mostly ranged from 48/- to 54/- per 100 lb. The highest rate during the period was 56/- per 100 lb.

Cows well supplied.

Supplies of cows were most variable, nevertheless this class was well in evidence on most sale days. Quality generally was only fair, although, on occasions, a noticeable percentage was of good trade to prime description. Heavy cows were well represented. The market was steady and rates for the most part were:- Heavy 36/- to 42/-, light 40/- to 43/- per 100 lb. The market showed a small advance on the final sale day.

Steady demand for heifers.

Heifers made a fair showing, although on some occasions prime sorts were obtainable in odd lots only. Demand was steady and sales of good trade to prime lines were effected at the equivalent of from 45/- to 52/- per 100 lb.

Prime vealers scarce.

Truckings of vealers were variable, both as to numbers and quality. Generally, however, supplies were moderate. From a quality standpoint the heavier vealers were the best. Prices were fairly steady at from 53/- to 60/- per 100 lb. until the close of the month when a sharp rise occurred, prime descriptions ranging to 67/- per 100 lb.

Cattle market steady at slightly lower level.

Average values of cattle showed a small reduction when compared with the November rates, but the market generally was steady.

Increased supplies of pigs available.

Consignments of pigs for auction were extremely irregular. Average pennings, however, showed an increase when compared with those of the previous month and the aggregate for the five sale days amounted to 9,599 head, of which 4,601 were received by rail.

/Swine Feve

Swine Fever outbreak.

The month of December, 1942, proved very unfortunate for producers, particularly those located about the Sydney Metropolitan Area or County of Cumberland. The marketing position and conditions generally were most favourable in the first half of the period, but subsequently circumstances were such as to change the whole future outlook. In the first place industrial trouble at the Homebush Abattoirs brought about a sudden drop in values of most classes of pigs. Then followed an announcement by the Department of Commerce that the Australian Meat Industry Commission intended to regulate prices of pig meats early in 1943. The rates in the schedule of values were considerably below current market prices and consternation reigned amongst producers, many expressing the opinion that production would be adversely affected. During the third week an outbreak of Swine Fever was detected and at the close of the period the whole of the County of Cumberland was under quarantine. Some 30,000 pigs are held within this area and even if the spread of the disease is checked many thousands of pigs will be lost. At present pigs may only be removed from holdings for sale for slaughtering and then under permit. All pigs on holdings on which Swine Fever is detected must be destroyed. Many producers rushed their pigs to operators and it is reported that they were obliged to accept prices well below those prevailing at the Saleyards. The present outlook for the local producer is therefore rather a gloomy one. It is feared that many will be forced out of business, which is most unfortunate when it is considered that pig production is already insufficient for requirements.

Record prices for light porkers.

Except on the first sale day, porkers were well supplied and quality generally was fairly good. Medium weight, however, made the best showing while prime lightweights were sometimes difficult to secure. A very firm demand prevailed during the early part of the period and the peak level of values reached the previous month was exceeded for light porkers. These sold to 62/6 for 50 lb. and 67/6 for 60 lb. Values of heavier porkers showed a small reduction. A weaker demand prevailed on subsequent sale days and rates declined progressively. By the final sale day the total drop in prices was substantial in all classes, quotations for prime pigs being:- 50 lb. to 45/6; 60 lb. to 52/6; 80 lb. to 67/6; 90 lb. to 71/6.

Baconer values decline.

Moderate numbers of baconers were forward but there was a substantial decline in the consignments of heavy descriptions. Quality generally was satisfactory. The bacon market continued to weaken, although values were steady during the two early sales. At closing, however, the best price for baconers was £5.11.6 per head. All grades of good to prime quality were quoted at 8d to 8¾d per lb. on this sale day compared with rates ranging to 10½d early in the period.

/Lighter ....

Lighter supplies of backfatters.

Consignments of backfatters were moderate during the first half of the period when a noticeable proportion was of prime grade. Later, however, supplies were very limited and prime pigs were difficult to secure. A very strong demand prevailed early and values were at peak levels, quotations being:- 250/350 lb. 7d to 8¼d per lb; 350 and over 6½d to 8d per lb. These values, however, were not maintained and at closing 6¾d per lb. was the best price obtained.

G.C. & J.W.

----oooOooo----

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Firm market for new season's apples.

Only limited supplies of apples from cool stores were available and the final consignment of Board stocks was received during Christmas week. Keen inquiry ruled and maximum prices were realised for best packs of Granny Smith, Democrat and Yates. Average realisations for all varieties and sizes averaged 22/- per bushel for the first half of December and 24/- subsequently.

Small consignments of new season's apples from coastal orchards were available towards the close of the month. A few well coloured Carringtons sold to 40/- per bushel. Cooking varieties met a good inquiry and 25/- per case and occasionally more was obtained.

Few pears on offer.

The small quantities of pears received from Victoria early in the month cleared quickly, and the market was bare until the arrival of a few bushels of new season's Clapp's Favourite towards the end of December. Supplies of the variety mentioned and Williams are expected to be more plentiful from about mid-January.

All stone fruits sell well.

A considerable proportion of the cherries from the Orange and Young districts showed rain damage. Some lines had to be sold to factories but generally little difficulty was experienced in disposing of supplies. The doubt expressed earlier in the season regarding the ban on "faced" packs being likely to affect sales was not borne out and average realisations were well above normal.

Supplies of peaches showed a gradual increase, but the quantities available rarely exceeded demand. The high rates ruling early in December could not be maintained, nevertheless realisations for choicest packs were very satisfactory and generally

/were....

were around 12/- to 14/- per half-case. No interstate fruit was on offer but consignments from Victoria were expected to reach the market early in January.

The bulk of the apricots on offer was from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. Apart from some consignments which showed breakdown, the general quality was satisfactory and good clearances were effected. Late in the month this source of supply was exhausted and only small quantities from other districts were obtainable; prices advanced in consequence.

Receivals of plums were light on most days; compared with other seasons, only relatively small quantities had to be disposed of to jam factories. Choice, large fruit met a good request at all times and values mainly were well above average.

Valencia oranges in light supply.

The market for Valencia oranges was somewhat quiet early in December and values were easier. Towards the close of the month there was a marked decline in supplies. With good inquiry ruling prices firmed and advanced to 26/6d per bushel for the main selling sizes of standard packs. On some days buyers were unable to secure sufficient quantities for their requirements. At closing, prices appeared likely to rise to higher levels.

Coloured lemons sell well.

Demand for lemons was principally for coloured lots, and values showed a marked advance towards the end of December. Green packs met a restricted inquiry owing to many lines lacking keeping quality.

Pineapples realise high prices.

Consignments of pineapples varied, the largest being slightly over 3,000 cases, while only 237 cases arrived on Thursday, 17th December. As no supplies came to hand during the period 21st to 28th December, the market for available stocks was very firm, prices ranging to 36/- per case and occasionally more. Throughout the month, the range of values was maintained at high levels.

Supplies of bananas heavier and values generally easier.

Increased quantities of bananas were available and generally prices were lower than those ruling in November. During the second week of December much ripe fruit was in evidence and low rates were accepted to enable disposals to be effected. Values of trade lines were also lower, but, with the clearance of ripe lots, there was an upward trend in prices.

/Green....

Green vegetable prices lower at close of December.

Rates for green vegetables were maintained at comparatively high levels until just prior to the Christmas season, when supplies increased considerably, particularly of peas and beans, and an appreciable fall in prices followed.

Beans over-supplied late in December.

The market for beans was satisfactory for the first three weeks of December and choice lines ranged in price from 10/- to 20/- per bushel. Subsequently the position changed quickly as deliveries to agents' floors exceeded 2,000 bags for some days; in addition, large quantities were on offer in the growers' section of the market and values slumped. Apart from choice lots, demand was limited and many lines were unsaleable. The market showed slight improvement for best quality offerings just prior to the close of the month but inquiry for lower grades continued dull and daily carryovers were heavy.

Prices of peas decline owing to heavier supplies.

Consignments of peas varied considerably but generally the quantities available were not sufficient to result in any substantial fall in values until the 23rd December, when 3,000 bags were forward. Included in this supply were many lots from the New England which were delayed in transit and opened up in a sweated condition. Low prices had to be accepted to enable these stocks to be cleared. Receivals continued heavy until the close of the month, daily totals exceeding 2,000 bags. Rates at the beginning of December ranged to 24/- and occasionally 26/- per bushel, while at the close it was difficult to obtain above 8/- for choice lots.

Supplies were received principally from Central Tableland districts, New England and Victoria. There was only limited buying for canneries.

Tomatoes realise peak rates for the year.

Generally stocks of tomatoes were only light to moderate. Marketing of the glasshouse crop was completed about mid-December and other supplies comprised mostly local field grown, North Coast and Balranald lots. Demand for choice lots was brisk at times and exceptionally high prices ruled, peak levels being reached on 23rd December, when up to 45/- per half-case was obtained for selected local packs. Some coloured North Coast lots also realised above 40/- per half-case. The Balranald consignments in the main were of indifferent quality, much grub infestation and in some instances breakdown, being in evidence. A small percentage of supplies of a smooth skin variety opened up in good condition and realised reasonably satisfactory prices but rates for many lines were very

low....

low. Stocks carried over during the Christmas holiday period matured rapidly under the hot conditions prevailing and in some instances an over-ripe stage was reached. Losses were occasioned and a good deal of repacking was necessary. With additional consignments available at the opening of business after the holidays, values had to be lowered and many lots were sold cheaply. The market remained weak until ripe stocks were cleared and rates then showed an upward tendency.

Cabbages in light supply.

Supplies of cabbages were comparatively light. Consignments from the Moss Vale district generally were of good quality and at times selected "heads" sold to 24/- per dozen. With heavy stocks of peas and beans available late in December demand for cabbages was somewhat restricted and values declined, medium to lower grade lots being slow to clear.

Lettuce plentiful.

There was a marked increase in supplies of lettuce and difficulty was experienced in effecting disposals on some days and rates remained low throughout the greater part of the month.

In the bunched vegetable section, parsnips were well supplied but carrots were insufficient to meet requirements. Beetroot supplies declined towards the end of the month and prices firmed. Spinach met a slow inquiry when beans and peas were plentiful and low rates ruled.

Only small consignments of loose carrots came to hand and inquiry was brisk. The market was practically bare of swede turnips and sweet potatoes late in December.

R.M.

----oooOooo----

According to a report issued by the Victorian Department of Agriculture on 18th January, 1943, very heavy wheat yields have been obtained in the Wimmera district and the outlook in all other districts is satisfactory.

Whereas the October forecast was 38 million bushels, it is now estimated that the Victorian wheat crop may reach 42 million bushels.

----oooOooo----

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Exceptionally heavy supplies of potatoes

Supplies of local New Factors at Alexandria were particularly large during December, 76,406 bags coming to hand. The bulk of consignments came from the undermentioned districts, the figures in parenthesis representing the number of bags in each instance:- Raleigh (16,946), Grafton (15,498), Windsor (8,854), Dorrigo (6,242), Murwillumbah (5,771) and Macksville (5,080). Quality was variable, and "wet rot" and "second growth" were noticed in many of the lines, some of which were held for 'picking-over'. During the last week of the month a large quantity had to be destroyed.

At opening sales demand was good at the maximum fixed price of £17.5.0, but as consignments increased inquiry slackened, and prices were lower at from £3.0.0 to £6.10.0 per ton. During the last three days of December, agents found difficulty in effecting clearances at auction at £2.0.0 to £2.15.0 for lots carried over from the holiday period and at from £2.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton for fresh arrivals.

About 1,938 bags of Victorian potatoes were received at the close of the month and from £2.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton was realised at auction.

In Sussex Street North Coast New Factors amounted to 4,634 bags compared with 8,962 received during November. A keen demand ruled early at £17.5.0 for No. 1 and No. 2 grade, while a small quantity of Chats was quoted at £8.0.0 per ton. Later, however, prices eased to £11.0.0 for choice and £9.0.0 per ton for fair average quality.

Tasmanian Bismarcks received during the last week of the month totalled 7,330 bags and agents reported satisfactory sales at £7.0.0 per ton.

Arrivals at Darling Harbour were heavier, aggregating about 3,370 bags. Only a small quantity was taken by the Federal Authorities, the balance being released to the general public at £17.5.0 per ton early in the period and at £11.0.0 to £14.0.0 for choice at closing.

Supplies of swedes exceptionally light.

Only 190 bags of local swedes came to hand at Alexandria compared with 1,870 received during November. These were disposed of at undisclosed rates.

No sales were reported in Sussex Street.

/There ....

There were no arrivals of either carrots or parsnips during the period.

Light supplies of pumpkins but prices easier.

Only four trucks arrived from local centres. Early, demand was good at from £13.0.0 to £20.0.0 per ton, but with much larger supplies of potatoes late arrivals of pumpkins sold at £6.10.0 per ton. Forty-three trucks of Queensland pumpkins came to hand. Early realisations were at £18.0.0 to £20.0.0 with a few to £25.0.0 per ton, but prices eased to from £10.0.0 to £16.0.0 per ton. Late in the period, agents found difficulty in disposing of stocks at £4.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton. Approximately 8 trucks from Queensland were on offer at Darling Harbour. Up to £30.0.0 per ton was paid early in December but at closing sales were reported at from £13.0.0 to £15.0.0 per ton.

Lighter supplies of Interstate onions.

About 7,046 bags arrived from Queensland growers and 232 from Victoria. Early, Queensland lots were firm at £12.0.0 to £16.0.0 but demand weakened later and stocks cleared at prices ranging to £10.0.0 per ton. No sales of the Victorian offering were recorded. Consignments of local onions amounted to about 2,607 bags and sales were effected at from £10.0.0 to £16.0.0 per ton.

At Darling Harbour, 10½ trucks of Queensland and one truck of Victorian were received. Prices were firm at £14.0.0 to £15.0.0 for the Queensland supplies, but the prices were not disclosed for the consignment from Victoria.

Heavy supplies of oaten chaff, prices easier.

Arrivals of oaten chaff totalling 263½ trucks were the heaviest since February, 1940, when 275 trucks arrived

Early in the period prices were firm but heavy consignments resulted in prices easing. Closing rates were:- Good sound £6.5.0 to £6.15.0, Prime £6.15.0 to £8.0.0. One truck of medium quality realised £4.11.8 per ton at auction.

Small consignments of wheaten chaff.

Wheaten chaff yarded comprised 43½ trucks. During the first half of the period the market was firmer at £6.0.0 to £6.15.0 for good sound and £8.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton for prime lines. Subsequently, however, prices eased.

Lucerne chaff in lighter supply.

Only 47 trucks of lucerne chaff were received. In the first half of the month prices were lower at £5.0.0 to £10.0.0,

/according .....

according to quality but the market then firmed slightly.

Arrivals of lucerne hay lighter - rates advance.

Receivals from the Hunter River district amounted to 49 trucks. Prices were higher, quotes being as follow:- New soft green £4.0.0 to £5.10.0, prime green £5.5.0, prime dry £6.0.0 and soft lines £5.10.0 per ton. A total of 64 trucks arrived from other centres. Prices at closing were:- Good sound £6.0.0 to £7.10.0, prime £7.0.0 to £9.10.0, choice £7.10.0 to £9.10.0 and derrick-pressed £4.10.0 to £7.0.0 per ton. At auction one truck of derrick-pressed hay realised £5.5.0 per ton.

Approximately 8½ trucks of oaten hay came to hand and agents reported steady sales at £5.10.0 to £6.0.0 per ton.

Supplies of straw very light - prices higher.

Arrivals of oaten straw were extremely light, amounting to only 15 trucks, two being from local centres and 13 from Victoria. Values were firmer at £8.0.0 for local and £8.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton for Victorian lots. There was no wheaten straw on offer during the period.

Wheat prices slightly lower.

Twenty-nine trucks were received and private treaty sales were firm at 3/8 to 3/9 per bushel for F.A.Q. wheat. At auction slightly damaged wheat realised 3/- to 3/4½d.

Maize prices firm.

Supplies from local centres were lighter, only 2,276 bags of yellow and 506 of white maize being received. Only limited stocks were available at 8/- by private treaty and 7/11 per bushel by auction.

Queensland consignments comprised 1,159 of yellow and 143 of red varieties. Small lots of old yellow sold privately at 8/3 per bushel, but at auction yellow realised 7/5½d and pinched grain 7/1½d per bushel. The consignment of red maize was submitted at auction and brought 7/7 per bushel. There were no arrivals of maize in Sussex Street during December.

Heavier supplies of oats - prices easier.

Ninety-one trucks and 14 bags were received during the month. At auction 15 trucks realised from 2/2½d to 2/5d, and the odd 14 bags 2/7d per bushel.

R.P.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING DECEMBER, 1942, AND CORRESPONDING FIGURES AT 31st AUGUST, 1939.

The following table gives particulars of the range of prices in Sydney as collected and recorded by the State Marketing Bureau in respect of various commodities for the periods indicated:-

Commodity	December, 1942 From	December, 1942 To	31st August, 1939
Wheat - Home Consumption:			
Bulk - per bushel	3/11½d (unchanged)		2/4d
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2 (plus £2.8.10 tax)	"	£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)
Bran - " "	£6.0.0 (unchanged)		£4.5.0
Pollard - " "	£6.0.0	"	£4.5.0
Eggs (Hen) - per dozen	1/6d	1/9d	1/-
Butter (choice) per cwt.	169/4 (unchanged)		161/2d
Cheese:			
Loaf - per lb.	1/0½d	"	11d
Large - " "	1/-	"	10½d
Special Brands per lb.	1/1d	1/3½d	1/2d

	December, 1942 From	December, 1942 To	29th August, 1939 From	29th August, 1939 To
Pigs (Abattoir Sales) Good to prime, per head:				
Porkers:-				
Extra light	30/6	62/6	31/6	40/6
Light	42/6	67/6	39/6	44/6
Medium weight	50/6	82/6	43/6	57/6
Heavy	65/6	84/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	£3.12.6	£6.3.6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£5.15.0	£14.13.6	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

Note: The pig sales nearest to the 31st August, 1939, were those held on 29th August, 1939.

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RETURN OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IMPORTED INTO NEW SOUTH WALES
BY LAND AND SEA - NOVEMBER, 1942.

F R U I T

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Melons crates	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS packages
Queensland	26,390	5,277	11,837	1,437	30,644	75,585
Victoria	41	43	16,096	-	5,595	21,775
Tasmania	-	-	114,175	-	-	114,175
Sth. Aust.	-	-	3,222	-	591	3,813
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	26,431	5,320	145,330	1,437	36,830	215,348

V E G E T A B L E S.

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins bags	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkges.	TOTALS packages
Queensland	5,685	32,272	647	41,661	11,695	19,307	111,267
Victoria	1,126	461	-	-	-	956	2,543
Tasmania	8,345	-	434	-	-	-	8,779
Sth. Aust.	261	174	-	-	-	1,421	1,856
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	15,417	32,907	1,081	41,661	11,695	21,684	124,445

STATE MARKETING BUREAU — DIVISION OF MARKETING — DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE — NEW SOUTH WALES.

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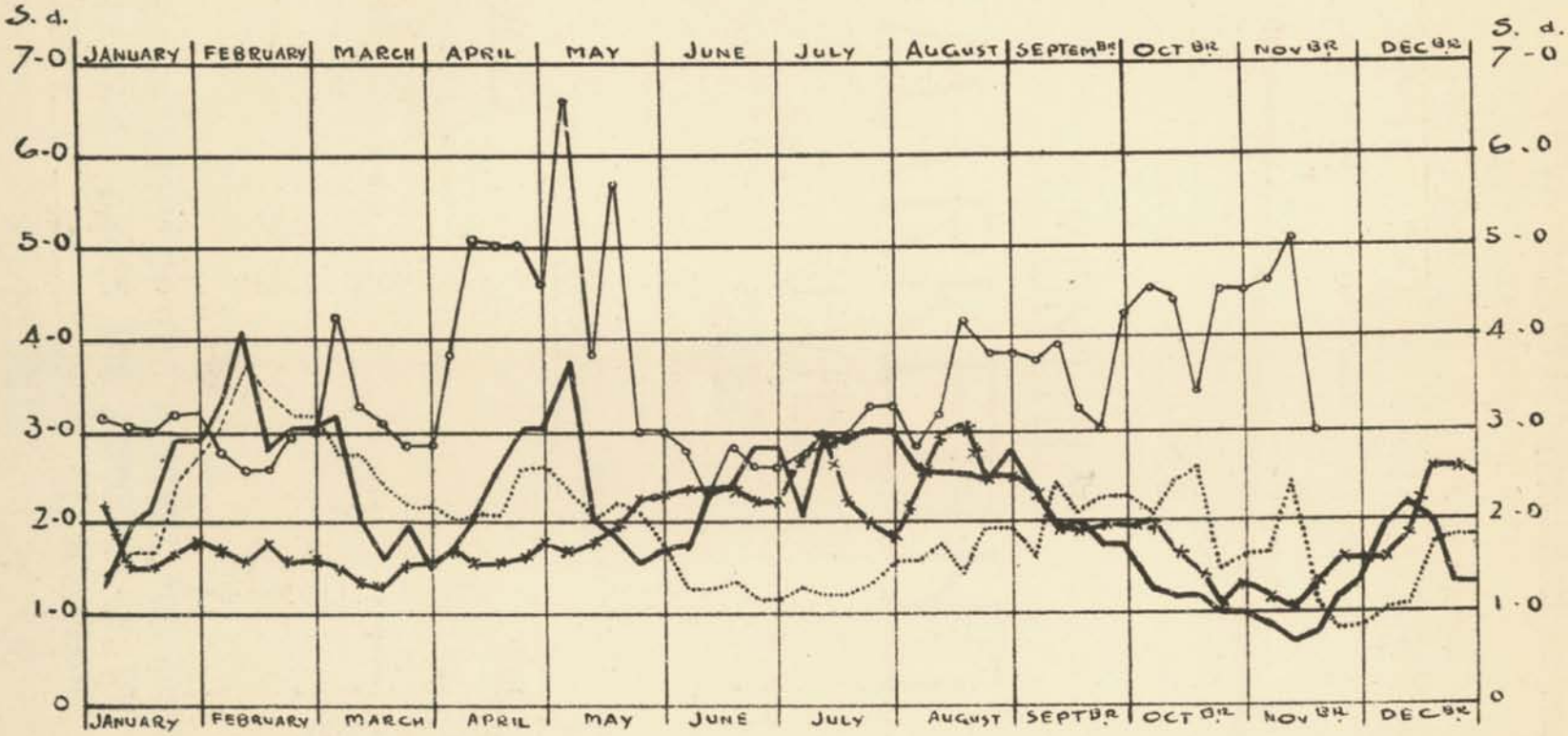
LETTUCE

43-68

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES PER DOZEN

FOR

YEARS 1939, 1940, 1941 & TO NOV. 1942



1939 shewn thus: ———

1940 " " : ·····

1941 shewn thus: —x—x—x—x

1942 (part of.) " " : —o—o—o—

DRAWN: E.M.S.
CHECKED: 5-1-43.

NOTE: FIGURES BASED ON S. M. B. PRICE COLLECTIONS.

E. F. WHITBREAD.

Acting. Chief Division of Marketing.

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