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

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

JUNE, 1943.

Vol. 10 No. 2

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.

JUNE, 1943.

Vol. 10 No. 2

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HIGHLIGHTS.

The Commonwealth Government announces appointment of Mr. J.F. Murphy, Secretary, Department of Commerce, as Commonwealth Food Controller.

The Prices Commissioner has fixed maximum prices of straw, hay, chaff and oats at the levels ruling on June 16, 1943. Explaining the order, Professor Copland said it was essentially in the nature of a stay order. Prices ruling on June 16, he stated, provided for the time being the maximum level, pending a review of the whole position.

The total amount to be paid by the Commonwealth Government as a subsidy to the dairying industry has now been raised to £6,500,000 per annum. In announcing this increase the Prime Minister said that this was an increase of £4,500,000 on the subsidy granted in October, which was £1,500,000 for nine months - a rate of £2,000,000 a year. A basic wage for employees in the dairying industry is also to be determined by the Arbitration Court and sales of dairy lands will be subject to control by the Treasury. This latter decision is designed to prevent an increase in land values which, it is stated, could in the long run only embarrass producers.

The Prices Commissioner announced on 26th May, 1943, that from that date the maximum retail price of swedes would be fixed at 3d per lb. Ceiling prices have also been fixed for sales of swedes on a wholesale basis, viz., at £18.0.0 per ton, or 18/- a cwt. and 4/6 a quarter.

It is announced that the first of the three plants set up by the Commonwealth Government to produce power alcohol from wheat would be in production before the end of this year. It is understood that each of the three plants to be established will have a capacity of 3,000,000 gallons of power alcohol.

MARKETING OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Secretary, New South Wales Government Offices, London, has supplied the New South Wales State Government with copy of Statutory Rules and Orders dated 8th January, 1943, relating to trading in fresh fruit and vegetables. Hereunder is copy of Clauses (1) to (9), inclusive, of such Statutory Rules and Orders, and the balance will be published in our July issue:-

(1) In this Order -

"The Minister" means the Minister of Food.

"Buy" includes offer or agree to buy, and "sell" includes offer or agree to sell or expose for sale.

"Cash sale" means a sale of fruit or vegetables where payment of the price is made by the buyer at the time of sale.

"Catering business" includes the business or undertaking of an inn, public house, hotel, restaurant, buffet, coffee stall or of any place of refreshment open to the public, or of any club, boarding house, refreshment contractor or canteen, and the expression "caterer" shall be construed accordingly.

"Fruit" and "vegetables" include fruit and vegetables which have been preserved by freezing or by gas or cold storage or by any other method of storage, but do not include potatoes and carrots, or fruit or vegetables which have been canned or bottled or preserved otherwise than as aforesaid.

"Grower" in relation to any fruit or vegetables includes any person in whom the property in the fruit or vegetables is vested prior to the severance thereof from the land.

"Licensed wholesaler", "licensed selling agent" and "licensed buying agent" mean respectively persons for the time being licensed as such under this Order.

"Manufacturer" means any person who for the purposes of his trade or business, other than a catering business, processes or preserves fruit or vegetables or uses fruit or vegetables in the composition, manufacture or preparation of any article, and "licensed manufacturer" means a manufacturer who is authorised to engage in such processing, preservation or use of fruit or vegetables under any Order of the Minister for the time being in force regulating the same.

"Maximum prices Order" means in respect of any fruit or vegetables any Order of the Minister prescribing maximum prices for such fruit or vegetables for the time being in force.

/"Sale ....

"Sale by retail" means any sale to a person buying otherwise than for the purpose of resale and includes any sale to a person for the purposes of a catering business carried on by him, but, except where the context otherwise requires, does not include -

(a) in the case of any specified fruit or vegetables, any such sale as aforesaid by the grower except it be a sale under any provision of a maximum prices Order or any licence or authorisation granted thereunder authorising the fruit or vegetables to be sold by retail at a price exceeding the maximum price on a sale by the grower which would otherwise be applicable under such Order; or

(b) a sale to a manufacturer for the purposes of his manufacturing business;

and the expression "retailer" shall be construed accordingly.

"Sale by wholesale" means any sale other than a sale by retail or a sale by the grower and the expressions "buy by wholesale", "sell by wholesale" and "wholesale" shall be construed accordingly.

"Specified fruit or vegetables" means any fruit or vegetables in respect of which there is a maximum prices Order for the time being in force, and the expression "non-specified fruit or vegetables" shall be construed accordingly.

(2) (i) Except under and in accordance with the terms of a licence (hereinafter referred to as "a wholesaler's licence") granted for the purposes of this Article by or on behalf of the Minister, no person shall sell by wholesale any fruit or vegetables, and no person shall buy by wholesale any fruit or vegetables except from a person duly licensed under this Article.

(ii) Nothing in this Article shall prohibit any person who is the holder of a licence to sell fruit or vegetables by retail granted under the Food Control Committees (Local Distribution) Order, 1939, as amended, from selling such fruit or vegetables to any other person who is the holder of such a licence, for sale by that person in the course of his retail business, provided that the seller carries on a retail trade in fruit or vegetables as his principal business.

(3) (i) Except under and in accordance with the terms of a licence (hereinafter referred to as a "buying agent's licence" or a "selling agent's licence" as the case may be) granted for the purposes of this Article by or on behalf of the Minister, no person (whether or not he is the holder of a licence granted under Article 2 of this Order) shall buy or sell fruit or vegetables as an agent

/on...

on commission, and no person shall buy or sell fruit or vegetables through any agent on commission who is not duly licensed under this Article.

(ii) Nothing in this Article shall prohibit the sale or purchase of fruit or vegetables by a servant on behalf of his employer, by whom he is solely employed, by reason of such servant being wholly or partly remunerated on a commission basis.

(4) (i) Any reference to a selling agent in any maximum prices Order in respect of any fruit or vegetables shall be construed as a reference to a licensed selling agent, and any such Order shall have effect accordingly.

(ii) Where under any maximum prices Order in respect of any fruit or vegetables a maximum addition to the maximum price is prescribed in respect of the commission paid or payable to a selling agent, no selling agent shall charge and no person shall pay or agree to pay to a selling agent a rate of commission in respect of such fruit or vegetables in excess of such a maximum addition.

(5) (i) No person shall -

(a) sell any specified fruit or vegetables of which he is the grower except to a licensed wholesaler, or through the agency of a licensed selling agent to a retailer, or to a licensed manufacturer, or

(b) sell otherwise than by retail any non-specified fruit or vegetables of which he is the grower except to a licensed wholesaler, a manufacturer or a retailer;

and no person other than a person to whom a grower is authorised under this paragraph to sell fruit or vegetables shall buy fruit or vegetables from a grower.

(ii) The foregoing provisions of this Article shall not apply to the sale of specified fruit or vegetables by the grower thereof to a retailer or by retail if the grower is authorised under any provision of a maximum prices Order or any licence or authorisation granted thereunder to charge on such sale a price exceeding the maximum price on a sale by the grower which would otherwise be applicable under such Order.

(iii) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (i) of this article, any grower may sell and any person may buy from a grower, otherwise than by retail, a growing crop of fruit or vegetables where the property therein is transferred under such sale before severance from the land or where the price is to be calculated otherwise than by reference to the quantity or weight of

/the ...

the crop provided that every buyer on any such sale shall for all the purposes of this Order be deemed to be the grower.

(iv) Nothing in this Article shall relieve any person from complying with any restriction on the sale of fruit or vegetables to a manufacturer imposed by any maximum prices Order or other Order or direction of the Minister for the time being in force.

(v) A manufacturer who has bought fruit or vegetables pursuant to this Article shall not resell the same except to another manufacturer or use the same except for the purposes of his manufacturing business.

(6) (i) Every person holding a licence under this Order shall indicate in legible characters upon all circulars, business letters, invoices, statements of account and other documents relating to his business as a trader in fruit or vegetables otherwise than by retail and sent by him to any other person in the course of that business, the description of such licence together with the number thereof. Such indication shall be in the following form or such other form as the Minister may authorise:-

'Holder of Ministry of Food Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Licence No. ... (a)..... as a .... (b) .....'

such indication being completed by inserting at (a) the number specified on the licence and by inserting at (b) the expression "wholesaler", "selling agent", or "buying agent" as the case may be.

(ii) No person not duly licensed under this Order shall send to any other person any document bearing any words or marking calculated to lead the recipient to believe that the sender is licensed under this Order.

(7) The holder of a wholesaler's licence shall not be entitled by virtue thereof to sell fruit or vegetables except to other licensed wholesalers, to manufacturers or to retailers.

(8) The holder of a selling agent's licence shall not be entitled by virtue thereof to sell fruit or vegetables - (a) except as an agent on commission, (b) except where his principal is permitted under this Order or, as the case may be, the Food Control Committees (Local Distribution) Order, 1939, as amended, to sell to the buyer.

(9) The holder of a buying agent's licence shall not be entitled by virtue thereof to buy fruit or vegetables - (a) except as an agent on commission, (b) except where his principal is permitted under this Order to buy from the seller, (c) unless he shall have been previously authorised by such principal to buy the fruit or vegetables on his behalf and shall have previously disclosed to the seller the identity of the principal by whom he has been so authorised. (To be continued)

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

INCREASED CONSIGNMENTS OF SHEEP, LAMBS AND PIGS ON OFFER BUT SLIGHTLY REDUCED NUMBERS OF CATTLE.

Supplies of sheep and lambs improve.

Although supplies of sheep and lambs continued to be relatively light, the numbers available were somewhat higher than the previous month's aggregate. During the period a total of 318,456 was auctioned, lambs representing 129,480 head. Supplies of both sheep and lambs may be fairly short in the immediate future owing to the approach of shearing.

Medium quality sheep numerous.

Medium quality sheep were largely represented in the offerings, aged wethers and ewes being plentiful. Good to prime light sheep were in comparatively short supply but some attractive lots of prime heavy wethers and ewes, more particularly crossbreds, were available.

Fluctuating values.

The market throughout showed considerable fluctuation. At the opening sales good quality sheep were up to 1/- dearer but on the next two sale days values declined sharply by from 3/- to 4/- per head. During the following week prices remained fairly constant but over the closing stages of the month's operations demand was particularly strong, good to prime sheep being extremely dear, values advancing in most instances by from 3/- to 5/- per head. The improvement in rates for medium to plain descriptions, however, was not so manifest.

Some representative sales of typical lines of sheep offered throughout the period are given below as an indication of price trends:-

First Week

Good trade	46 lb.	wethers	(skin 10/6)	made	30/4	each or 5¼d	per lb.
" "	40 lb.	ewes	(" 9d)	"	14/10	" " 4¼d	" "

Second Week

Good trade	45 lb.	wethers	(skin 8/6)	made	24/1	each or 4¼d	per lb.
" "	42 lb.	ewes	(" 1/-)	"	12/6	" " 3¾d	" "

Third Week

Good trade	46 lb.	wethers	(skin 8/-)	made	24/5	each or 4¼d	per lb.
" "	38 lb.	ewes	(" 7/-)	"	16/8	" " 3d	" "

/Fourth .....

Fourth Week

Good heavy 54 lb. wethers (skin 3/6) made 24/7 each or 4¾d per lb.
" trade 40 lb. ewes (" 8/6) " 21/11 " " 4d " "

Closing Sales

Good heavy 50 lb. wethers (skin 7/-) made 28/1 each or 5d per lb.
" trade 40 lb. ewes (" 8/6) " 22/10 " " 4½d " "

Higher rates for mutton.

The cost per pound of good to prime mutton reached fairly high levels during May, the average being somewhat higher than in April. At the opening sales light wethers made to 5¼d and heavy to 4¾d but during the second and third weeks similar class of sheep could be secured for 4½d and 4d per lb., respectively. Prices, however, rose sharply and at the closing sales good light wethers were worth from 4½d to 5½d (odd four tooths at 5¾d) per lb., according to weight and finish, while heavy mutton cost to 5½d per lb. Light ewes also sold to 4¼d and heavy 4d per lb., although at the sales held in the second and third weeks heavy ewes realised from 2¾d to 3½d and light 3d to 3½d per lb. Plain and medium quality mutton was also dearer but the increased cost was relatively lower in comparison with the better grades.

More lambs offered.

The supply of lambs, although rather small, exceeded April yardings by approximately 8,000 head. Very few drafts of prime light suckers were penned, the supply comprising chiefly medium to heavy summer lambs. Medium trade lambs, however, were included in fairly substantial numbers with plain sorts also numerous. Some very nice drafts of prime heavy lambs were also noticed.

Strong competition for lambs.

Buyers at all times bid freely for lambs and a much steadier market prevailed than for grown sheep, demand being consistently good. The opening sale of the period was marked by an advance of 1/- per head for good to prime lambs but later values declined by 1/- to 1/6 each. A fairly steady market prevailed until the beginning of the fourth week, when increases of from 2/- to 3/- per head occurred, while at the concluding sales inquiry was particularly strong, a further improvement of up to 1/- per head and in some places 1/6 taking place.

Some of the actual sales are shown below:-

/First...

First Week

Good trade 34 lb. suckers (skin 2/6) made 26/5 each or 8¼d per lb.
" heavy 38 lb. lambs (" 5/6) " 29/3 " " 7¾d " "

Second Week

Good trade 31 lb. suckers (skin 3/6) made 23/3 each or 7½d per lb.
" heavy 45 lb. lambs (" 5/6) " 28/5 " " 6¼d " "

Third Week

Good trade 32 lb. suckers (skin 3/6) made 23/5 each or 7½d per lb.
" " 35 lb. lambs (" 4/6) " 25/7 " " 7¼d " "

Fourth Week

Good trade 36 lb. lambs (skin 4/6) made 29/9 each or 8¼d per lb.
" heavy 40 lb. " (" 6/-) " 30/- " " 7½d " "

Closing Sales

Good trade 36 lb. lambs (skin 4/6) made 30/3 each or 8¼d per lb.
" heavy 38 lb. " (" 5/-) " 31/6 " " 8¼d " "

High price for lambs.

Although the peak price of 8¾d per lb. recorded during the previous month was not exceeded in the case of suckers, other classes of lamb reached higher levels, light descriptions realising 8½d per lb. and heavy 8¼d. For the most part, however, suckers made from 7½d to 8d, light lambs 7d to 7¾d and heavy 6¼d to 7d per lb.

Reduced consignments of cattle.

Cattle supplies were well maintained during the early part of the period but consignments showed a falling off during the second half and the aggregate for May, 1943, was not quite equal to that of April. Total number penned was 19,168, including 2,094 stores. Quality generally showed considerable variation and on a number of sale days there was a scarcity of grown stock.

Dry conditions in coastal areas was relieved by heavy to very heavy rains, while satisfactory registrations were reported from many inland areas. The pastoral outlook is, therefore much brighter, although the rain came too late to give maximum benefit.

Fluctuating market for bullocks.

Bullocks were well supplied generally, although on a few occasions this class was relatively scarce. Pennings

/generally....

generally comprised light and medium weights of fair to good trade standard. Heavy bullocks were usually in limited supply. A firm market ruled at the beginning of the month and light bullocks sold to the equivalent of 49/- per 100 lb. The market became progressively cheaper and by mid-May 45/- per 100 lb. was the best price obtained. Values then followed a steady upward trend as supplies became lighter and at closing quotations ranged to 50/- per 100 lb Rates for medium weights ranged from 45/- to 48/-. During the last week odd prime heavy bullocks realised to £23.15.0 per head.

Steers plentiful.

Steers were well supplied throughout the period and quality for the most part was fairly good. Medium weights predominated and on some sale days prime lightweights were in very limited supply. A number of heavy drafts of prime quality were noticed during the month. The market was dearest at the commencement and close of the period when prime lightweights were quoted to 54/- per 100 lb. Values generally, however, were below those of the previous period as best quotations on several sale days failed to exceed 48/- per 100 lb.

Variable offerings of cows.

Truckings of cows fluctuated while quality also showed a fair amount of variation. Generally speaking, good trade descriptions were in fair supply and this class of beef met a strong demand. The market was dearest at the close of May when quotations for good to prime grade mostly ranged from 40/- to 44/- per 100 lb.

Prime heifers in strong demand.

Heifers made a fair showing throughout the greater part of the period but supplies were limited at the close when prime lines were difficult to secure. Towards the close of the month values advanced sharply, prime lightweights reaching as high as 55/- per 100 lb. Prime light heifers were actually dearer than steers of similar weight and quality on this occasion.

Good trade vealers fairly plentiful.

Vealers were well supplied throughout the period. In the main good trade descriptions predominated. A good demand prevailed and, although prime descriptions could be purchased for the equivalent of 58/- per 100 lb. on several sale days, 64/- was obtained at opening and during the final week.

Increased supplies of pigs.

Numbers of pigs submitted at auction during May, 1943, showed a small increase, the aggregate being 5,842, including 4,428 received by rail. Sales by private treaty totalled 1,049 head

/Reduced...

Reduced values of porkers.

Porkers were well supplied during the first half of the period but consignments subsequently were much lighter. Medium to heavy weight porkers of good trade quality comprised the great bulk of the pennings and lightweights, especially prime descriptions were relatively scarce. A firm market ruled on the opening sale day when light porkers dressing 60 lb. sold to 61/6 per head and heavy (90 lb.) to 77/6. Values subsequently declined, and during the final week respective rates were 54/6 and 73/6 per head. The reduced rates were probably due to the fixing of maximum wholesale price levels during the month. At present the "ceiling" level for porker carcases is 11d per lb. for pigs dressing under 80 lb. and 10d for those dressing 80 to 100 lb.

Firm market for baconers.

Baconers again comprised a very substantial proportion of the pennings and quality for the most part was fairly good. All grades of weight were well represented. Baconers met a very keen inquiry and although the market was somewhat irregular at times values generally were very firm and were even slightly higher than the rates of the previous month. Quotations generally ranged from £3.17.6 to £6.1.6 per head and good trade to prime lightweights dressing under 140 lb. were worth the equivalent of from 9½d to 10½d per lb. with odd lines higher.

Supplies of backfatters limited.

Backfatters were in relatively light supply, while quality ranged from medium to prime. Prime heavy pigs made a fair showing on one or two occasions, with prices ranging to £10.18.6 per head. On the opening sale day the market declined 15/- to 20/- per head, when quotations generally ranged from 5d to 6d per lb. The market remained steady until the close, although rates were slightly lower owing to a falling off in quality. At the final auctions competition was particularly keen and values advanced by from 20/- to 30/- per head, prime lightweights being worth to 6½d per lb. and heavy (over 350 lb.) to 6¼d.

G.C. & J.W.

----oooOooo----

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY

Rates for apples show substantial increases.

With limited supplies of apples available at the commencement of May and a further decline in stocks subsequently, values of all varieties showed marked advances. From local sources Delicious, Granny Smith and Rome Beauty comprised the chief varieties, although small consignments of Jonathan, London Pippin, Stayman's Winesap and Democrat were available at times. Opening rates for Granny Smith ranged up to 24/- and improved to 28/- about the third week of the month. Substantial rises for Delicious were recorded; best lines were selling around 24/- early but later 34/- and higher was obtained. Prices for Rome Beauty packs also registered sharp rises, up to 30/- per bushel being paid.

There was a fairly wide range of Tasmanian varieties on offer but the supplies generally were light. The following kinds were obtainable, Jonathan, Delicious, Cleopatra, Scarlet Pearmain, Granny Smith, Geeveston Fanny, Democrat, Sturmer and French Crab. Values of most varieties improved and late in the month none were quoted lower than 20/- per bushel. Some Western Australian Jonathans and Cleopatras were also on offer, the Jonathans selling to 25/- and higher and the Cleopatras to 23/- per bushel. At the close of the month the high prices ruling were having a steadying effect on demand but the supplies coming forward were so light that the market remained firm.

Pears sell at higher levels.

Receivals of pears from within New South Wales were light and consisted of Packham's Triumph, Josephine, Winter Cole and Beurre Bosc. From Victoria similar varieties were received. Generally values were much higher at the close of the month than those ruling in the early part. Local Packhams sold up to 26/- and Coles to 23/-, although a few special packs of both realised more. Rates for Victorian fruit also improved.

Rains restrict harvesting of oranges.

Consignments of Navel oranges from coastal zones commenced to come forward freely until towards the close of the third week of the month. The curtailment of supplies was brought about by the exceptionally heavy rains amounting to flood falls in practically all areas, which prevented harvesting. There was good inquiry early and selected packs realised the ceiling rate of 21/- but this rate could not be maintained and prices had to be reduced to lower levels when supplies commenced to overtake clearances. This applied particularly to the smaller sizes. During the last week of the month there was a scarcity of this fruit owing to the rains and most trade sizes were eagerly sought after and agents

/were....

were able to obtain the ceiling rate of 21/- per bushel.

Demand for intermediate crop Valencias fell away when Navels commenced to come forward freely and prices had to be reduced.

Small consignments of Joppas and Silettas were obtainable early but the supplies were very light subsequently.

Lemons in light supply.

Generally lemons were lightly supplied from both coastal and Irrigation areas, particularly during the latter part of the month. Choice lines sold to the ceiling rate of 20/- per bushel and prior to closing any reasonably good quality lines were selling at the figure quoted.

High prices realised for bananas.

The market was lightly supplied with this fruit and prices rose to very high levels. The range for sixes to nines was 42/- to 52/- per case during the last week of the month and the rates mentioned were exceeded for specially selected fruit of each size.

Grape marketing finishes.

The season for grapes has practically ended, only very small lots of Cornichons were coming forward at the close of the month. During early May choice Black Muscats were realising to 20/- per half-case but supplies later were generally of poor quality. Choice Cornichons sold well up to 18/- and occasionally higher rates were obtained for special packs.

Rates for pineapples ease.

During the first three weeks of May rates for pineapples were held at fairly high levels, choice packs selling up to 30/- per case. During the balance of the month, however, prices could not be maintained and there was a sharp drop in values, due largely to a restricted demand caused by wet weather. The market was dull at the close and it was difficult to obtain above 20/- per case.

Supplies of custard apples varied from light to moderate and generally there was a good inquiry. Rates showed fluctuations, some consignments selling to 14/- and higher, while for others it was difficult to obtain above 9/- per half-case.

The market for papaws showed little change until towards the close of the month when values of choice packs advanced.

A few trays of Queensland strawberries were received but the quality of the berries was only fair.

Heavy rains affect vegetable supplies.

Generally the market was lightly supplied with green vegetables during the first half of May. The copious rains received during the balance of the month flooded many areas and as a result growers in the localities affected were forced to market large quantities of cabbages, cauliflowers and carrots which were likely to become a total loss if allowed to remain unharvested for any length of time. This forced marketing had the effect of increasing supplies considerably with a consequent reduction of values; nevertheless the prices realised were in the main satisfactory. It is understood that some growers suffered substantial losses where flood waters submerged cauliflower crops.

It might be mentioned that on a number of occasions during the wet period bunched green vegetables from metropolitan gardens were in short supply and as a result values reached exceptionally high levels.

The market for peas fluctuates.

Supplies of peas were light during the first week of May and with good demand ruling values were maintained at high levels, up to 36/- per bushel being paid for extra choice lines. With larger consignments during the following week lower rates had to be accepted; generally best lines sold at from 26/- to 28/- per bushel. The heavy rains received during the remainder of the month caused a good deal of fluctuation in prices. During the week ended 21st May choice offerings sold to 34/- but there was a sharp fall in the following week owing to the arrival of heavier supplies mostly more or less damaged by excessive moisture. On some days it was difficult to obtain above 20/- per bushel, largely owing to the wet condition of consignments. Receivals from inland sources showed a good deal of frost damage which affected values. Supplies continued to come forward from Victoria.

Good demand for choice beans.

Only relatively light supplies of beans came to hand from local sources. The bulk of receivals came from the North Coast and Queensland, the greater percentage from the first mentioned area. During the first three weeks of May rates for choicest lots did not fall below 20/- per bushel, while as much as 28/- was obtained on one occasion. The market was easier during the concluding week and prices generally ranged up to 16/-, although 20/- was paid for some lots.

A fair amount of breakdown was apparent in North Coast supplies at one stage but generally little difficulty was experienced in effecting clearances and losses were not serious.

/Choice....

Choice coloured tomatoes sell at high levels.

There was a decline in supplies of tomatoes from nearby metropolitan centres and values of choice coloured lots were up to 30/- per half-case early in the month. The receipt of heavy consignments from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area subsequently brought about a weaker market and rates for all lines showed a gradual decline. The position, however, improved considerably towards the close of the month as supplies from all centres were much lighter and it was again possible to realise up to 30/- per bushel for best local packs. Some Victorian consignments were available but the general quality was indifferent as many lines showed breakdown. It was expected that supplies from Queensland would increase during June.

Cabbages realise good prices

The market for cabbages generally was maintained at satisfactory levels and rates for choice heads often exceeded 20/- per dozen. Values showed an easier trend towards the close of the month; this was largely accounted for by the heavy rains hastening the harvesting of crops likely to suffer damage and loss if allowed to remain in the ground, and from the competition of other green vegetables marketed for the same reason.

Good demand for cauliflowers.

Cauliflowers sold very well for the first three weeks of the month and on a number of occasions selected large heads sold from 30/- to 36/- per dozen.

The forced harvesting of many crops during the balance of the month brought about a decline in values but it was apparent that the setback was only temporary as rates were improving following the clearance of those crops likely to be affected by surplus moisture.

R.M.

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The Prices Commissioner has announced that an Order has been issued under Regulation 45 of the National Security (Prices) Regulations making it necessary for all retailers of potatoes, onions, carrots, oranges, apples and pears to display notices denoting the retail selling prices of such goods. The Order directs that the notices must be readily discernible and so placed as to denote to the buyer the goods to which the price is applicable. It is officially stated that the Order is an extension of the policy designed to assist housewives to become their own price inspectors.

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ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Decreased consignments of Tasmanian, Victorian and local potatoes.

Arrivals of local Factor potatoes at Alexandria Railway Goods Yards during May totalled only 2,051 bags, compared with 3,156 bags in the previous month. Choice lines were in demand at £16.0.0, No. 2 grade and seed at £14.0.0 and a few large stock feed lines sold at £12.0.0 per ton. Supplies from Victoria arriving at Alexandria, consisting mostly of Carmans, were also considerably lower than April's total and amounted to only 1,067 bags, compared with 11,875 bags in April. The quality continued very good with practically all lines being of choice grade; these realised £16.0.0 per ton, while a few No. 2 grade sold at £14.0.0. Arrivals at Darling Harbour showed an increase when 76 trucks of Victorian Carmans came to hand, representing an increase of 24 trucks compared with the previous month. Rates were unchanged, choice lots realising £16.0.0 per ton and No. 2 grade £14.0.0 per ton. Local lines comprised 7 trucks, but prices were not disclosed. In Sussex Street consignments from Tasmania showed a considerable decrease comprising 41,171 bags, which included Brownells, Bismarcks and Arranchiefs, also other varieties, as against 132,723 bags in April. Demand was very keen for the limited supplies that were made available for general trading purposes, the balance being taken by the Federal Authorities. During the period rates were as follows:- Brownell and Bismarcks £16.0.0, other varieties £15.10.0 to £16.0.0, with No. 3 grade gradually increasing from £6.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton; Brownell and Bismarck seed showed a similar tendency, increasing from £6.0.0 to £12.0.0. Consignments of local Factors at Sussex Street received from the North Coast consisted of only 30 bags of choice quality, which brought £16.0.0 per ton.

Tasmanian supplies of swedes increase.

Arrivals of local swedes at Alexandria were again very light, consisting of 46 bags; these were offered at auction and competition was keen, the high rate of £29.0.0 per ton being obtained. At Sussex Street supplies of Tasmanian swedes were considerably larger when 6,644 bags were received, as against 4,688 bags in April. Rates were unchanged at £15.0.0 per ton. At Darling Harbour 4 trucks arrived from Victoria and cleared at £15.0.0 per ton. Ceiling price has now been fixed at £18.0.0 per ton wholesale.

Carrots and parsnips from Tasmania increase.

No consignments of local carrots were received at Alexandria but supplies of Tasmanian consigned from Darling Harbour totalled 1,634 bags, the bulk being disposed of by auction at

/£9.15.0 ....

£9.15.0 to £14.0.0 with few at £15.15.0 per ton, whilst inferior lots sold at £3.5.0 per ton. From Victoria 166 bags arrived and brought up to £18.0.0 per ton. At Sussex Street moderate supplies were available when 7,597 bags arrived; a good proportion of these was disposed of at £18.0.0 per ton but some were inferior owing to delayed transit and were disposed of at undisclosed rates. Parsnips were limited to 229 bags at Alexandria; 100 bags of choice local at auction brought £26.10.0 per ton and 29 bags of medium realised £11.5.0 per ton. A small consignment of 100 bags of Tasmanian, also sold at auction, realised £15.0.0 per ton. At Sussex Street Tasmanian parsnips amounting to 1,640 bags were on offer; the only sales recorded were at £20.0.0 per ton.

Heavy arrivals of local pumpkins.

Supplies of local pumpkins were heavier when 102 trucks, including 14 trucks of loose, were received, also 31 trucks arrived from Queensland. These quantities compare with the total of 81 trucks in April. For local pumpkins prices ranged during the first portion of May from £6.10.0 to £8.0.0 for choice lots, £3.10.0 to £6.10.0 for mixed varieties, £2.0.0 to £4.0.0 for Triambles, £2.0.0 to £5.10.0 for loose lots, with odd lots £6.10.0 per ton. In the last week of the period rates increased owing to short supplies to £9.0.0 to £9.10.0 per ton. Quotes for Queensland supplies were at £6.10.0 to £8.0.0 and in the last week £8.10.0 to £9.10.0 per ton. About 340 bags arrived in Sussex Street from the North Coast; mixed lots sold at £3.10.0 to £4.0.0, with choice lots at £7.10.0 to £8.0.0. At Darling Harbour 3 trucks arrived from Queensland but no price was disclosed for these consignments.

Market firm for Victorian brown onions.

Supplies of Victorian brown table varieties of onions were heavier when 11,415 bags were available as against 8,040 bags in April. No difficulty was experienced in clearing these stocks at the fixed maximum rate of £17.10.0 to £18.0.0 per ton. At Darling Harbour landing 22 trucks of Victorian brown were received; these also were disposed of at £17.10.0 to £18.0.0 per ton.

Values of oaten chaff increase.

Consignments of oaten chaff increased considerably, 153 trucks coming to hand as compared with 93 trucks in the previous month. Despite increased supplies the market was firmer and gradually increased, especially for quality lines. Clearances were made at the following rates:- Medium £7.0.0 to £8.10.0, good sound £8.0.0 to £9.0.0, prime £8.10.0 to £9.5.0, with special lines at £9.0.0 to £9.10.0 per ton. Sales of 4 trucks of good sound chaff by auction were effected at £8.0.0 to £8.10.0 and special lines at £9.6.8 per ton.

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Increased rates for wheaten chaff with limited supplies.

Wheaten chaff was limited to 14 trucks and 40 bags including 2 from Victoria as compared with April's total of 25½ trucks. Owing to reduced supplies rates were higher, medium being sold at £7.10.0, good sound at £8.0.0 to £8.10.0 and prime £9.0.0 to £9.10.0 per ton.

Lucerne chaff consignments limited - market firmer.

Arrivals of lucerne chaff were reduced to 31 trucks, being 15 less than the previous month. These were in request owing to short supplies and rates increased during the month. Sales were recorded as follows:- Good sound at £11.10.0, prime £11.0.0 to £12.0.0, with choice £11.0.0 to £13.0.0 and few extra choice lots £13.10.0 per ton. At auction one truck of damaged lucerne chaff realised £9.3.4 per ton.

Maitland lucerne hay in demand.

From the Maitland district 50½ trucks were available; these met a keen inquiry and clearances were made at increased prices. New soft green and dry lines sold at £7.10.0 to £9.0.0 per ton. From other centres supplies were maintained, 66 trucks being received; these were also in demand and during the period rates were much firmer, sales being made for medium at £9.0.0, good sound £8.10.0 to £10.10.0, prime £10.0.0 to £11.10.0, choice £11.0.0 to £12.10.0, and a few extra choice £12.10.0 with a few at £13.0.0 per ton. Included in the total were 10 trucks of Derrick-pressed, prime realising £7.10.0 to £9.0.0 and grassy lines at £6.10.0 to £6.15.0 per ton.

Oaten and wheaten hay in demand.

Arrivals of hay consisted of 11 trucks of oaten, also 2 trucks of wheaten and 1 of meadow hay. During the period choice rack oaten brought £10.0.0 to £11.0.0, with prime at £9.10.0 per ton, also stained at £8.10.0 per ton. Derrick pressed good sound oaten brought £6.10.0 and wheaten £5.15.0 to £6.0.0 per ton.

Oaten and wheaten straw sell well.

Arrivals of oaten and wheaten straw totalled 28 trucks and 5 trucks, respectively. Medium oaten brought £4.0.0 to £5.0.0, with good sound at £5.0.0 to £6.15.0, prime £7.0.0 to £7.5.0 and choice £7.10.0 to £8.0.0 per ton.

Wheat consignments increase.

Supplies of wheat at Alexandria totalled 32 trucks as compared with 14 trucks during last month. There was a considerable number of under quality lines. Sales were as follows:- F.A.Q. 3/8 to 3/9, with slightly under quality at 3/6 and 3/7 per bushel.

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At auction 14 trucks were offered, inferior realising 2/9 to 3/5 per bushel, also pick-ups at 2/10 and 3/1, while damaged lines sold at 2/9 to 3/6 per bushel.

Maize again at high levels despite fair supplies.

Receivals of maize at Alexandria consisted of 4,136 bags of yellow, also 932 bags of white, these quantities being slightly less than those of last month. Good demand prevailed, rates gradually increasing from 5/9 until they reached 6/9 per bushel for yellow. Sales by auction were made at from 6/1 to 6/6 per bushel. No white was on offer for general trading purposes. Consignments from Queensland increased considerably, totalling 2,344 bags of yellow as against 1,594 bags in April. Prices also increased from 6/- to 6/9 per bushel. Sales by auction were made at 6/- and 6/3½d per bushel. Queensland white maize consisted of 530 bags; these were not offered for general trading purposes. Consignments of yellow maize arriving at Sussex Street from the North Coast showed a slight increase, 3,357 bags being received. During the period prices improved, opening rates being at 5/9, increasing to 6/6 per bushel.

Reduced supplies of oats.

Arrivals of oats were again less than those of the previous month, only 14 trucks coming to hand; the bulk of these was consigned to private buyers. The only sale recorded was for one truck offered at auction, which brought 2/7½d per bushel.

C.H.F.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING MAY, 1943, 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 period indicated.

Commodity	May, 1943		31st August, 193	
	From	To	From	To
Wheat: Home Consumption Bulk - per bushel	3/11¼d (unchanged)		2/4d	
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2 (plus £2.8.10 tax)		£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 ta	
Bran - " "	£6.0.0		£4.5.0	
Pollard - " "	£6.0.0		£4.5.0	
Eggs (hen) per dozen	2/- (unchanged)		1/-	
Butter (choice) per cwt.	169/4 (unchanged)		161/2	
Cheese:				
Loaf per lb.	1/0½ (unchanged)		11d	
Large " "	1/-		10½d	
Special Brands "	1/1	1/3½	1/2	

	May, 1943		29th August, 193	
	From	To	From	To
Pigs (Abattoir Sales): Good to prime per head				
Porkers -				
Extra light	26/6	52/6	31/6	40/6
Light	43/6	61/6	39/6	44/6
Medium weight	52/6	75/6	43/6	57/6
Heavy	65/6	77/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	£3.17.6	£6.5.6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£4.17.6	£10.18.6	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

Note:- The pig sales nearest to 31st August, 1943, 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 - APRIL, 1943.

F R U I T

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland	27,177	3,464	10,994	13,190	54,825
Victoria	-	244	28,759	5,746	34,749
Tasmania	-	-	216,882	887	217,769
Sth. Aust.	-	-	18,675	-	18,675
West Aust.	-	-	46,534	-	46,534
TOTALS	27,177	3,708	321,844	19,823	372,552

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 pkges
Queensland	212	10	-	5,707	189	3,247	9,365
Victoria	109,357	34,335	-	-	-	19,012	162,705
Tasmania	150,559[x]	1	5,960	-	-	6,839	163,359
Sth. Aust.	2,695	75	-	-	-	3,654	6,424
West Aust.	-	1,569	-	-	-	-	1,569
TOTALS	262,823	35,990	5,960	5,707	189	32,752	343,421

Note:- x Also 6 cases of potatoes for scientific purposes.

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

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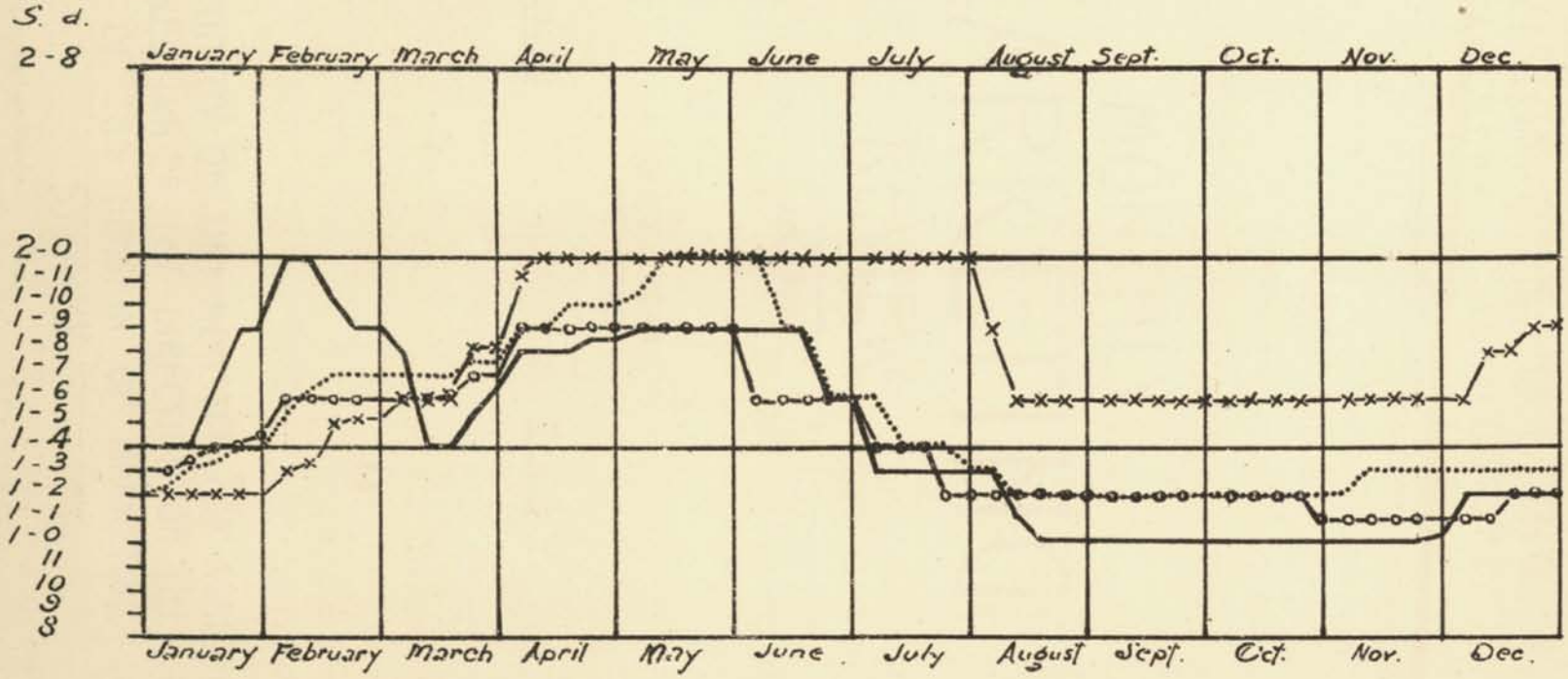
NEW LAID HEN — EGGS — CHOICE

43-518

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES PER DOZEN

FOR

YEARS 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942



1939 SHEWN THUS: —— 1941 SHEWN THUS: o-o-o-o-o-o

1940 " " ..... 1942 " " x-x-x-x-x-x

Drawn: E.H.S. 1-6-43.

Checked: [illegible] 1-6-43.

E. F. WHITBREAD.

Acting Chief, Division of Marketing.