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ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD
AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Potato supplies increase.

There was a marked increase in the quantity of potatoes which arrived in Sussex Street from Tasmania; consignments amounted to 150,736 bags and 4,653 crates compared with 98,517 bags last month. The bulk of the tubers comprised Brownells, Bismarcks, Snowflakes and Up-to-Dates and a substantial percentage was made available for civilian needs.

At Alexandria Goods Yards, supplies from Victoria increased slightly, 57,753 bags being received. These comprised mostly Carmans and Snowflakes and all lines were in request. It was necessary to ration these supplies, a quantity being stored as well as quantities going to essential services.

Arrivals at Alexandria from local centres were exceptionally light, only 2,209 bags coming to hand. These tubers were received from Guyra, Blayney, Millthorpe, Taralga and Moss Vale. The bulk of the supplies were disposed of at ruling rates. No fresh consignments were received at Darling Harbour landing during the month. Prices were as follows:- Wholesalers' rates to retailers: Local and Interstate No.1 Grade £7.17.6; undergrades £6.7.6 per ton. Rates for N.S.W.-grown potatoes for delivery to country areas are as quoted, plus freight from loading station. Prices for Interstate potatoes to N.S.W. country areas are as quoted, plus freight from Sydney or loading station, whichever is the lower. Primary merchants' prices to wholesalers are £1.5.0 per ton less than figures quoted.

Tasmanian swedes again in light supply.

Swedes from local centres received at Alexandria increased to 2,824 bags as compared with last month's total of 1,973 bags. There was a good inquiry and although some early sales were made at £5.0.0 to £7.0.0 later disposals were at £7.0.0 to £8.0.0.

Arrivals in Sussex Street from Tasmania were again restricted; only 421 bags came to hand and no rates were disclosed.

Other root vegetables exceptionally scarce.

The only offerings of carrots were at Alexandria and comprised 121 bags from Queensland which brought £18 and 160 bags of inferior grade from Victoria which sold at £5 to £6 per ton.

At Darling Harbour landing, 2 trucks of sweet potatoes from Queensland were disposed of at £14 per ton.

Queensland pumpkins plentiful - values lower.

Pumpkins from Queensland totalled 101 trucks, which arrived at Alexandria. Early sales were effected at £9 to £10 and subsequently a stronger demand resulted in supplies moving out at from £12 to £16. However, during the last three days of the period there was a marked decline in values, sellers being forced to reduce rates to effect clearances as numbers of lots were breaking down and it was necessary to regrade. Closing prices ranged from £5 to £7 with some new season's lots at £8 to £13 per ton.

From local growing areas, 5 trucks and 116 bags arrived. A few lots sold early at £10.10.0 but the 5 trucks opened up in very faulty condition and to effect clearances sales were made at £2 per ton. These pumpkins would be used as stock food.

Consignments at Darling Harbour landing included 13 trucks from Queensland which realised £10 to £16 but later it was difficult to effect sales except at very low rates.

Queensland onions in heavy supply.

Arrivals of Queensland onions at Alexandria showed a marked increase, supplies being the heaviest for a considerable period. Stocks aggregated 25,651 bags comprising 21,531 bags of brown Globe and 4,120 of white. In the first half of the period sales were recorded at approximately £14 to £16, with few at £17 per ton but later, owing to continued heavy supplies, disposals were effected at £12 to £14.10.0. Some white lines realised approximately £19 to £21 earlier. Also received at Alexandria were 460 bags of white from local centres. Early sales were made at £19 to £20 but later £15 to £16 per ton was realised. Victorian consignments consisted of 332 bags of brown table lots (no rates disclosed) and 256 bags of white which brought £14 to £15 per ton. Receipts at Darling Harbour included 3 trucks of Queensland brown table onions. Opening sales were made at £16 but subsequently rates were lower at £14 per ton.

Oaten chaff scarce.

Consignments of oaten chaff totalled 46½ trucks, including a few new season's lots. All lines met good inquiry at the maximum rate of £10.5.0 with the exception of two trucks of new season's good sound which brought £9 to £9.10.0 with 1 truck of good sound bringing £10.5.0 per ton at auction.

Increased consignments of wheaten chaff.

There was an improvement in the quantity of wheaten chaff on hand, 97½ trucks being available compared with 75½ trucks in September. There was a good demand for prime lines, but the market for lower grades was easier. Old season's medium realised £8 to £9 but other grades sold at the maximum rate of £10.5.0. At auction, one

truck of medium brought £7 per ton. Sales of new season's good sound were effected at £9 to £10 with prime at the maximum of £10.5.0. Auction sales also included 4 trucks of heated lines which realised £6.15.0 with good sound at £8.16.8 to £9.10.0 per ton.

Lucerne chaff supplies again restricted.

Arrivals were again very light, only 26 trucks being at rail. There was a good enquiry for prime but other lines sold slowly. Clearances were made as follows:- Grassy £10, good sound £11 to £12.15.0 (a few early £13), prime and choice £13.5.0 to the maximum rate of £13.10.0 per ton.

Maitland hay well supplied.

Consignments from the Maitland district continued to increase, 135½ trucks coming to hand. This constituted the largest quantity since October of last year. Despite increased supplies, demand continued satisfactory and values showed little change. Sales were made as follows: New soft green lines £4 to £6; well made new green £6 to £7.15.0, few £8 to £8.5.0 per ton. Included in supplies were 4½ trucks of derrick pressed new soft green which sold at £5.5.0 to £5.15.0 and well made new green which brought £7.10.0 to £8.10.0 per ton.

Supplies from other centres also increased considerably and amounted to 55½ trucks, including 17½ trucks of derrick pressed. There was a good demand for prime lots which continued scarce.

Opening sales of inferior grassy lots were made at £4 to £6, medium £8.10.0, grassy £8 to £9, good sound £9 to £9.15.0 with few prime and choice lots at £12 to the maximum of £12.5.0. Later, owing to supplies increasing, rates were reduced, some prime lines selling at £11 to £11.10.0. At auction, inferior grassy brought £4.15.0. Sales were also effected of derrick pressed heated lots at £5.5.0, inferior grassy at £5 to £6.10.0, good sound £7 to £8.10.0, prime £9.5.0 per ton. Sales at auction included 6 trucks which sold at prices ranging from £4 to £9.1.8 per ton.

New season's oaten and wheaten hay arrives.

Supplies, which were the heaviest for some years, comprised 126½ trucks. The bulk consisted of derrick pressed lots. There was a good demand for most lines on offer despite heavy supplies, a substantial percentage being reconsigned to the South Coast. Early in the month old season's oaten derrick pressed good sound brought £8.10.0 to £9 and oaten and wheaten mixed lots £7.10.0. New season's oaten mainly realised £5 to £6 (few £6.5.0) with one truck of extra special lots at the maximum of £9. Sales by auction included new season's at £5 per ton. Sales of new wheaten were made early at £6 to £6.10.0 but later, owing to heavy supplies, clearances were made at £5 to £6. Old season's good sound sold early at £6.15.0. to £7.10.0, but subsequently values ranged from £6.10.0 to £5.15.0.

Eight trucks of old season's wheaten submitted at auction sold at £5.16.8 to £6 while new season's brought £5.10.0 to £6.0.0 per ton.

Straw supplies again exceptionally light.

Only one truck came to hand during the period; this was badly stained and no rates were disclosed.

Wheat supplies restricted.

Receivals of wheat at Alexandria consisted of 2 trucks which were taken to store.

Wheat from interstate sources.

Arrivals from other States in the period February to 8th October amounted to 4,393,369 bushels.

Maize in short supply.

Supplies were exceptionally light at Alexandria, totalling 2,696 bags compared with last month's aggregate of 5,183 bags. Particulars are as follows: 1,479 bags of yellow and 267 bags of white from local centres; 950 bags of yellow from Queensland. There were no supplies offered for general trading. Arrivals in Sussex Street from the North Coast consisted of 377 bags of yellow; a few sales were made at 7/3 per bushel.

Oats.

Supplies again declined, only 4 trucks being received at Alexandria. There were not offered for sale.

(C.H. Forry).