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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES
AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Fruit in relatively light supply.

The position with regard to supplies was not relieved to any extent until after mid-November except for stone fruits, which arrived in larger quantities. Such lines as apples, pears, main crop Valencia oranges and pineapples were lightly stocked and buyers were unable to secure sufficient to cope with their trade requirements.

Marketing of 1944/45 apples completed.

The only apples available were Tasmanian Democrats, Croftons and Western Australian Granny Smiths. The supplies, which were limited, were sold on a rationed basis by the Apple and Pear Marketing Board at the maximum of 29/- per bushel. Breakdown was apparent in many packs and a good deal of loss occurred. Stocks were exhausted on 24th November and the Board's floors will be closed until new season's Tasmanian consignments become available.

During the last few days of the month, small quantities of new season's "cookers" from coastal orchards made their appearance on the market and sales were made at 29/- per bushel.

Victorian pears practically finished.

Consignments of pears from Victoria showed a sharp decline and prior to the close of November the only variety available was Winter Nelis. With the scarcity of apples, demand was keen, especially when such varieties as Packham's Triumph, Josephine and Winter Cole were obtainable, and the maximum of 30/- per bushel was paid readily. No further supplies are expected until harvesting of new season's Clapp's Favorite and Williams commences.

Cherries in request.

High prices ruled for cherries early in the period owing to the limited supplies available, and up to 35/- per quarter-case was paid. With the advent of increased consignments from the main producing centres of Orange and Young, the market was easier; nevertheless realisations could not be classed other than satisfactory. At closing, extra choice Polliours and Ron Seedlings were selling at 20/-, while 10/- to 12/-, and occasionally higher, was paid for light varieties.

Large peaches sell well.

Supplies of peaches increased considerably as the month progressed. The general rate of 20/- per half-case, which ruled while stocks were light, was not maintained other than for specially

selected large sizes. Counts of 180 at 10/- to 12/- found favor with buyers, as a line to sell at 1/- per dozen, but small fruit was difficult to clear and some lots were offered at 5/- per half-case.

Choice apricots realise high prices.

A very satisfactory inquiry was maintained for apricots and choice fruit realised high prices, up to 35/- and higher being paid. Most supplies came from coastal orchards but late in the month marketing of this fruit from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area commenced.

Small plums slow of sale.

Moderate supplies of plums were forward. Large fruit met a good inquiry but small sizes were difficult to sell owing to the scarcity of sugar.

Maximum rate paid for choice bananas.

The market for choice, large bananas was firm at the maximum of 5⁵/₄d per lb. but values were easier for under-grade and fruit of medium quality at from 4d per lb.

Pineapples in short supply.

Consignments of pineapples were light and considerably below trade requirements; the bi-weekly receipts at times were well below the two-thousand case mark. Supplies were rationed but some buyers were unable to make any purchases. The maximum of 21/3d ruled except for a few underweight packs.

Papaws well supplied.

Fairly large quantities of papaws came to hand. With the scarcity of a number of lines of fruit demand was very satisfactory and prices were maintained at fairly high levels, choice, colored packs selling to 30/-.

Apple Mangoes in demand.

There was a keen request for apple mangoes at rates ranging from 20/- to 25/- per half-case.

Light supplies of main crop Valencia oranges.

Main crop Valencia oranges from coastal and Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area groves were lightly supplied and, with active inquiry ruling, maximum rates were paid.

Both second-crop Navels and Valencias were available. The quality was variable and prices covered a wide range. Small sizes

proved difficult to sell but where size and juice content were satisfactory the position was reversed.

Market for lemons slightly easier.

The market for lemons was firm early in the month owing to purchases of fairly large quantities for Service needs, but there was an easier trend in values when this avenue of disposal closed.

Peas more plentiful.

Fairly large quantities of peas were available during the first week of November, including many consignments from Victoria. The hot, windy weather reflected itself in the condition of a large percentage of supplies.

While up to the maximum of 23/4d per bushel was paid for extra choice early, values eased appreciably later and at one stage 18/- was the top rate. During the latter part of the month, supplies varied considerably but as the number of choice lines in daily receipts was relatively small, the ceiling price was realised, other grades selling from 10/-. At the close of November, a few consignments of peas from the New England district were received. The quality was choice and little difficulty was experienced in effecting disposal at the maximum. Peas from western districts generally were small and lacking in color.

Sharp decline in supplies of beans.

Beans were fairly plentiful until after mid-November when supplies declined to low levels. The hot, dry conditions prevailing during this period adversely affected crops, noticeably in near Metropolitan areas. During the time of the heaviest supplies rates were reduced, but on most days choicest descriptions sold to 20/- per bushel.

The market was very firm at closing, good to choice lots selling freely at ceiling rates.

Cabbages cheaper.

With the curtailment of purchases of cabbages for Service requirements, supplies available to the trade were more plentiful. The fairly high prices which ruled until towards mid-November could not be maintained and values fell sharply. Up to 30/- per dozen was obtained early in the month but it was difficult to obtain above 12/- at the close. Stocks could not be cleared on some days.

Tomatoes in request.

Choice lines of glasshouse tomatoes sold to 32/- and occasionally higher early in the month, but rates varied subsequently and were mostly lower.

Supplies of field-grown fruit from Metropolitan sources showed an increase and choice packs were selling to 30/- at the close of November.

Consignments from the North Coast continued to come forward. The largest single consignment approximated 21,000 half-cases but following heavy rains in the growing areas supplies declined appreciably. The quality of offerings showed considerable variation ranging from choice to low grade. Realisations for good quality packs were in the main very satisfactory but low prices had to be accepted for some poor quality supplies. Light to moderate consignments came to hand from the Monindee district and also from Queensland.

Root vegetables in short supply.

Carrots were in short supply and any reasonably good quality lines realised the maximum of 25/-. Small consignments received from Queensland opened up well and were quickly sold. Swede turnips were also scarce and choice parsnips were in very short supply.

(R.D. Meaker).

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

New season's potatoes arrive.

Tasmanian potatoes were again in fairly heavy supply, 199,766 bags and 2,567 crates being received in Sussex Street. The tubers mainly consisted of Brownells, Bismarcks, Snowflakes and Up-to-Dates. In the early part of the period, there was a good demand but later inquiry showed a falling off. A large percentage was available for the trade; the remainder went to essential services and a quantity was stored.

The first supplies of new season's potatoes were received at Alexandria Goods Yard on the 5th November and from that date forward supplies continued to increase. An aggregate of 37,490 bags came to hand. The tubers, mostly new grade Factors, opened up in very good condition. All lots were disposed of readily. It was necessary to regrade only about 150 bags, owing to mechanical injury, greening and second growth. The bulk of the arrivals were from North Coast districts.

During the period, consignments arriving at Alexandria from Tasmania via Victoria amounted to 645 bags (mostly Brownells)