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YARDINGS OF PIGS AT HOMEBUSH
ABATTOIR SALEYARDS.

The graph herein (page 291) illustrating the number of pigs yarded at the Homebush Abattoir Saleyards each week during 1943 and 1944 is indicative of important trends in the industry during the years in question. Unfortunately, such factors as the incidence of public holdings, industrial disputes and outbreaks of disease tended to affect considerably the normal trend.

Yardings during the early part of 1943 were relatively light and the outlook for the industry was rather gloomy. Industrial trouble at the Homebush Abattoirs in December, 1942, had caused a sudden drop in values, the Government had announced its intention to regulate and fix prices of pig meats at levels considerably below those then current, and the County of Cumberland was in the grip of an outbreak of Swine Fever. As the graph illustrates, however, the position improved considerably. Strong remedial measures by the Department of Agriculture restricted the outbreak of Swine Fever to the County of Cumberland and the prices being paid the producers were higher than anticipated. Furthermore, the war created a strong demand for pig meats which looked like continuing for some considerable time.

Examination of the graph shows a sharp decline in numbers arriving during August and September, 1943. This was partly attributable to industrial trouble but, more important, to the action of the Commonwealth Government directing that all suitable carcasses dressing 100-200 lb. be converted into bacon and prohibiting the slaughter of pigs of lower weights (porkers) for civilian consumption. It was the Government's desire, and still is, that porkers be taken to heavier weights or sold to other pig raisers with that end in view. The setback was only temporary and towards the close of 1943 the new policy was proving successful as increased numbers of baconers commenced to arrive. As the graph shows, the position during 1944 was mostly satisfactory; not only were increased numbers of baconers available but their average carcass weight had risen considerably compared with pre-war consignments.

The number of pigs yarded on 5th December, 1944, was the largest since December, 1941, and totalled 4,212 head. From the viewpoint of quantity of pig meat available, however, the pinnings created an all-time record.
