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SALES OF FARM PRODUCE AT ALEXANDRIA AND SUSSEX STREET, SYDNEY.

May, 1948.

Potato Consignments Increase Considerably.

Whereas only a light supply of 54,589 bags was available in April, consignments during May increased to 159,843 bags. At Alexandria, 6,603 bags of No. 1 grade local Factors and a few No. 3 grade and seed were forward, mostly from the Crookwell and Grafton districts. About 21,367 bags of No. 1 grade Carmans, Snowflakes, Katahdins, and Manistees came to hand from Victoria, whilst 4,480 bags of Tasmanian Brownells and Bismarcks also arrived by rail from Victoria. There was a marked increase in the quantity received from Tasmania at Sussex Street which aggregated 127,393 bags. The supply consisted mainly of Brownells and Bismarcks, but some Snowflakes, Arran-chiefs, and Up-to-Dates were included. Demand was exceptionally keen and all stocks were readily sold for general trading.

Prices fixed for the month ended 31st May, Sydney basis, were: Wholesalers' Prices to Retailers, local and Interstate, No. 1 grade and undergrades, £10 per ton, plus cartage, which was not to exceed 10s. per ton. Rates for New South Wales grown potatoes for delivery to country areas were as quoted, plus freight from loading stations. Prices for interstate potatoes to New South Wales country areas were as quoted, plus freight from Sydney or loading station, whichever was the lower. Primary merchants' prices to wholesalers were £1 per ton less than the figures quoted.

Swede Supplies Again Larger.

Receivals from local centres at Alexandria increased to 568 bags. Early sales of choice grades were recorded at £12, but later the bulk of the arrivals consisted of large sizes and sales were made at £8 per ton. Tasmanian arrivals at Sussex Street increased to 5,467 bags. £13 per ton was obtained for choice and £10 to £11 for large sizes.

Other Root Vegetables Scarce.

Supplies at Alexandria were limited to 357 bags of carrots, the total comprising 161 bags of Victorian and 196 of Tasmanian which were also railed from Victoria. Victorian lots realised £17 to £18 and Tasmanian £25 per ton. Receivals of Tasmanian carrots at Sussex Street amounted to 504 bags and sold at £22 10s. od. to £25 per ton. Parsnips were again in light supply. A total of 86 bags of Tasmanian varieties were received by rail from Victoria and brought £25 per ton.

Pumpkin Prices High Early But Decline Later.

Arrivals in the previous two months had been fairly light, but increased in May to 109 trucks of which three came from Queensland and the remainder from local sources. Rates showed a fairly wide variation. Inquiry was good at opening sales, but demand weakened as stocks increased. Early sales were made at £10 to £11 and later at £6 to £8, whilst loose lots were quoted at £5 to £5 10s. od. per ton.

Victorian Onion Supplies Again Fairly Heavy.

Consignments at Alexandria were maintained when a total of 25,476 bags arrived from Victoria. The supply included 24,126 bags of brown table, 569 of pickling and 781 of white table. All lines cleared readily. Brown table brought £20 10s. od. to £21 and white £21 whilst brown pickling realised £17 to £18 10s. od. per ton.

Oaten Chaff Receivals Lighter.

Supplies showed a reduction of thirteen trucks on last month's total of 132 trucks. Demand was good, especially for prime and choice grades, but rates showed little change. Medium brought £7 10s. od. to £9 10s. od., Good Sound £9 to £10 10s. od., Prime £10 10s. od. to £11 5s. od., and choice £11 to £11 10s. od. Medium realised £8 15s. od. per ton at auction.

Wheaten Chaff in Short Supply Sells Well.

Only sixteen trucks were on offer and consequently all lines sold well at higher rates. Good sound was quoted at £10 to £10 15s. od., prime £10 10s. od. to £11, and choice £11 5s. od. to £11 10s. od. per ton.

Lucerne Chaff Prices Maintained.

Stocks showed a further reduction and totalled only thirty-six trucks which is the smallest quantity since February. The supply was insufficient for requirements, and as a result the bulk of the arrivals was readily sold and rates remained firm. Medium brought £7, good sound £9 10s. od. to £10 15s. od., prime £11 to £11 10s. od. and choice £11 10s. od. to £12, with a few £12 10s. od. per ton.

Lucerne Meal.

Only two trucks came to hand, prime lines being sold at £14 10s. od. per ton.

Maitland Lucerne Hay Well Supplied—Rates Higher.

Arrivals from the Maitland district increased considerably when sixty-six trucks came to hand, the quantity being the heaviest since September. Only thirty-three trucks were forward last month. Demand was good for the bulk of the supply, which, as a result of favourable weather conditions, included a number of good quality lines. New soft green realised £5 10s. od. to £6, well made (early) £7 10s. od. to £8, (later) £6 10s. od. to £7, and a few special £8 per ton. Receivals from other centres were considerably reduced and totalled forty-one trucks, including six of derrick pressed. Since stocks were short, no difficulty was experienced in disposing of all lines. Sales of autumn cut medium lines were made at £6 5s. od., good sound £6 to £8, prime £8 to £9, choice £9 10s. od. to £10, and a few special dry green prime lots £10 to £10 10s. od. with choice £11 to £11 10s. od. Derrick pressed medium grassy realised £4 10s. od. and medium £5 to £5 15s. od. per ton.

Oaten and Wheaten Hay Scarce.

Only six trucks of oaten hay arrived during the period. The supply included one truck of choice rack which brought £12 and five trucks of derrick pressed. Some sales of good sound derrick pressed were made at £9 10s. od. per ton.

Straw Again Scarce.

Supplies were again exceptionally light, only fifteen trucks coming to hand. The total included ten trucks of local oaten, four from Victoria, and one of local wheaten. Damaged oaten sold at £4 to £6, good sound £7, and prime £7 10s. od. to £8, whilst damaged wheaten brought £6 per ton.

Wheat Consignments Lighter.

Only forty-four trucks were received in comparison with the fairly heavy arrivals during April. Most of the offerings were of inferior grade. Thirty-one trucks were sold by auction. Damaged realised 2s. 7d. to 3s. 6d., sweepings 4s., and inferior 4s. 6d. to 6s. 11¼d. per bushel.

Maize Still Selling Well.

Supplies were maintained when 4,245 bags were received at Alexandria. The total comprised 2,820 bags of yellow and 340 of white from the North Coast and North-west, together with 965 bags of yellow and 120 of white from Queensland. Request was fairly quiet, but choice lines sold well. Local yellow realised 7s. 6d. to 7s. 10d. and choice small yellow 8s., whilst Queensland choice small yellow brought 7s. 10d. to 8s. and weevily 7s. 6d. per bushel. White lines were taken direct to store for milling purposes.

Oats in Light Supply.

Only eleven trucks came to hand at Alexandria, the bulk being taken to store.

Milo.

Two trucks were on offer, one of which was sold at auction for 6s. 6d. per bushel.

C. H. FERRY.