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Ripe Tomatoes Lightly Supplied and Fairly Dear.

Early in the period rates for well-coloured local tomatoes remained at fairly high levels, as much as 22s. per half-case being obtained. During the second and third weeks, however, a slight decline occurred and main sales ranged, according to size and condition, from 8s. to 16s. per half-case. An upward trend was again apparent in the final week when choice ripe packs brought 20s. to 24s. with closing sales higher. Consignments from Queensland were much heavier, the 52,649 half-bushel cases from the northern district being supplemented by 1,613 from the south. At opening, best northern packs brought 16s. and occasionally 18s., but rates declined subsequently and, during the third week, ranged mostly from 6s. to 10s. Towards closing the market regained the earlier levels.

Other Main Vegetable Lines.

Representative ranges of prices for other main lines of vegetables were as follow: Carrots (N.S.W.) 16s. to 36s., few special to 40s., occasional sales to 58s.; parsnips (N.S.W. and Vic.) 16s. to 24s., few to 30s., late sales to 48s.; potatoes, No. 1 grade, 10s. (fixed maximum price); onions (Vic.) brown 23s. 6d. (fixed maximum price); swedes (N.S.W.) 10s. to 20s., early sales to 28s., (Tas.) 16s. to 18s., few higher; pumpkins 7s. to 12s., late sales to 15s.; sweet potatoes 8s. to 16s., late sales to 36s. per cwt.; celery (local) 6s. to 16s., late sales to 24s. per dozen bunches, (South Australian) 18s. to 28s., few special to 30s., odd higher, per crate; cucumbers (Qld.) green 6s. to 10s., few to 14s. per half-case; Brussels sprouts (N.S.W.) 6s. to 12s., per 12 lb. (Victorian) 8s. to 14s. few 16s. per 12 lb. box.

T. M. McKEON.

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

June, 1948.

Potatoes Again Well Supplied.

A fairly heavy supply of 159,843 bags was available in May and June stocks were even more plentiful, 179,401 bags being forward. Only 6,304 bags were received at Alexandria, consisting of No. 1 grade local Factors and a few seed. Victorian receipts increased to 48,396 bags, comprising No. 1 grade Carmans and Snowflakes whilst 3,151 bags of No. 1 grade Factors came to hand from Queensland. Tasmanian consignments at Sussex Street totalled 121,570 bags, a slightly smaller quantity than last month. The bulk of the supplies was made available for trading, although about 4,000 bags were reconsigned to other stations. Demand was fairly good although slow at times.

Prices fixed for the month ending 30th June, 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 station; 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.

Swedes Sell Well.

Arrivals from local sources at Alexandria were reduced to 530 bags which were sold at £12 with large sizes at £8 per ton. Tasmanian supplies at Sussex Street increased to 5,687 bags. Request was very good, opening sales being recorded at £14 and later at £16, whilst at closing £13 per ton was obtained.

Other Root Vegetables in Demand—Supplies Increase.

Consignments of carrots at Alexandria showed an increase, 1,979 bags being received from Victoria. All lines were in demand and clearances were effected at £21 to £25 per ton. Arrivals at Sussex Street from Tasmania consisted of 704 bags which sold at the higher level of £25 to £30 per ton. At Alexandria, parsnip consignments from Victoria totalled 610 bags which were disposed of at £18 to £20, few £21 per ton. Tasmanian supplies at Sussex Street amounted to 124 bags and brought £21 per ton. Beetroot supplies comprised 110 bags of Victorian at Alexandria which brought £16 and forty-nine bags of Tasmanian at Sussex-street which were quoted at £15 per ton.

Pumpkin Prices Vary Considerably.

Receivals were maintained when 114 trucks arrived at Alexandria, four from Queensland and the remainder from local centres. Demand was very good at times but rates covered a wide range. During the first half of the month sales were recorded at £8 to £10, prices increasing later to £12 to £13 but were reduced at closing to £9 to £10 per ton.

Victorian Onion Supplies Reduced.

Supplies of Victorian onions in June totalled 18,394 bags, compared with 25,476 bags forward in May. The supply consisted of brown table lots which met a good inquiry at £20 10s. to £21 per ton.

Oaten Chaff Again Scarce.

Supplies were again reduced and amounted to only 106 trucks in contrast with a total of 132 trucks in May. This is the smallest quantity since November, 1947. As stocks were limited, no difficulty was experienced in disposing of all lines. Medium realised £8 to £8 10s., good sound £9 to £9 10s., prime £10 to £11, and choice £11 5s. to £11 10s. per ton.

Wheaten Chaff Supplies Exceptionally Light.

There was no improvement in the quantity available for trading which was reduced to only fourteen trucks, the lightest supply for a considerable period. All lines were in request, medium

bringing £9, good sound £10, choice £11 5s. to £11 10s. with a few £11 15s. Medium and damaged lines were sold at auction for £6 5s. per ton.

Lucerne Chaff Continues to Sell Well.

Receivals were again fairly light and equalled the previous month's total of thirty-six trucks. Demand was good but rates showed little change. Medium brown sold at £8 10s. to £9 15s., heated £9, medium £9 10s. to £9 15s., good sound £9 to £10 10s., prime £11 to £12, and choice £11 10s. to £12 per ton.

Maitland Lucerne Hay Scarcer.

Arrivals from the Maitland district were reduced to forty-eight trucks. Request was good for the bulk of the offerings. New soft green lines were fairly scarce in the second half of the month. New soft green realised £6 to £7 10s., well made £6 10s. to £8 10s., few higher, whilst dry, brown lines brought £7 to £8 per ton. Receivals from other centres increased to forty-nine trucks, the total including two of derrick-pressed. Prime and choice grades sold well. Inferior realised £5 5s., medium £6, good sound £7 to £9 10s., prime £9 10s. to £11 15s., choice £10 15s. to £11, few higher, and derrick-pressed prime £7, with choice £9 per ton.

Oaten and Wheat Hay Again Scarce.

Hay supplies were limited to ten trucks, which included seven of oaten and three of wheaten. Prime rack oaten was quoted at £11, derrick-pressed good sound £7 10s. to £10, good sound derrick-pressed wheaten £6 15s., and prime £7 per ton.

Straw Sells Well.

Supplies, which were very light during the previous two months, increased by twelve trucks when twenty-seven were available for trading. The total included twenty-one trucks of oaten and six of wheaten. Prime and choice grades were in demand. Good sound oaten brought £6 15s., prime £7, Victorian good sound £6 10s. to £7, prime £7 10s., and choice £8, whilst stained wheaten sold at £6 and good sound at £6 to £7 per ton.

Maize Scarce.

Receivals at Alexandria were considerably reduced and totalled only 2,300 bags compared with 4,245 bags last month. Inquiry was good late in the month, owing to the limited supplies. The supply consisted of 822 bags of yellow and 372 bags of white from local centres and 1,106 bags of yellow from Queensland. Local yellow sold at 7s. 10d. and choice small yellow at 8s. to 8s. 3d., whilst Queensland yellow realised 7s. 10d. to 7s. 11d., and choice small 8s. to 8s. 3d. per bushel.

Oat Supplies Again Light.

There was little change in the quantity available at Alexandria which amounted to only eleven trucks. No sales were recorded, the bulk of the arrivals being taken to store.

C. H. FERRY.