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

January, 1948.

Reduced Supplies of Potatoes from Local Sources, but Interstate Consignments Increase.

Receivals from local centres amounted to 58,779 bags of new grade Factors and Katahdins. Main supplies arrived from Windsor, Grafton, Dorrigo and Maitland with small quantities from other centres in the Northern part of the State and North Coast. Some of the consignments were bagged wet and consequently had deteriorated upon arrival.

No difficulty was experienced in disposing of the smaller quantity available at Alexandria. In addition 310 bags of Victorian Carmens were received, representing the first consignment of the season from that State. Heavier supplies are expected from Victoria.

From Interstate sources, arrivals at Sussex-street increased to 41,774 bags of Bismarks and Brownells from Tasmania, compared with 33,490 during the month of December, and 21,000 Delawares from Western Australia. Most of the tubers were made available for trading, only small quantities being reserved for essential services.

Prices fixed for the month ending 31st January, Sydney basis were Wholesalers' Prices to Retailers: Local and Interstate—No. 1 Grade and Undergrades £10 per ton, plus cartage, which must not 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.

Other Root Vegetables Still Scarce.

With the exception of a few bags of parsnips which were auctioned for 6s. 3d. per cwt., no fresh supplies of swedes, carrots or parsnips were received at Alexandria. At Sussex-street, a total of 1,610 bags of new swedes from Tasmania, were made available for trading and were disposed of at £10 to £14 per ton with inferior lines lower.

Pumpkin Supplies Again Increase and Values Decline.

A total of 120 trucks were received from Queensland and 23 from local centres. Rates varied considerably. Local lines sold at £6 to £14 and Queensland £6 to £15 per ton. Demand was firm for most lots available. Some of the Queensland consignments were regraded owing to deterioration.

Onion Supplies Well Maintained.

Receivals amounted to 11,206 bags of Victorian brown, 4,557 of white, 517 Queensland brown, 6,370 local brown and 900 white, a quantity of the consignment listed as Victorian white being transhipped from Adelaide. During the month values were firmer for brown as compared with the white varieties, large consignments of which were of inferior quality.

Victorian brown realised £18 to £21, white £10 to £22; Queensland brown £16 to £21, local brown £13 to £21 and white £18 to £21 per ton.

Aggregate figures showed a total increase in receivals of approximately 4,500 bags compared with arrivals at Alexandria during December, 1947.

Reduced Supplies of Oaten Chaff Available.

Arrivals totalled 109 trucks representing a reduction of 36 trucks. With supplies of all forage well maintained and the weather conditions producing abundant natural feed in pastoral areas, most chaff and hay sold slowly and rates were slightly lower.

Medium realised £7 to £8 10s. 0d. and good sound £8 to £9 10s. 0d., prime £9 to £11, choice £10 to £11 10s. 0d., while at auction medium made £7 6s. 8d., good sound £7 15s. 0d. to £7 18s. 4d. and prime £9 16s. 8d. per ton.

Heavier Offerings of Wheaten Chaff.

During the month a total of 28 trucks was received. Values compared favourably with those ruling in December.

Sales were effected of good sound at £8 10s. 0d. to £9 10s. 0d., prime £9 to £10 15s. 0d., choice £10 to £11 and at auction medium £6 5s. 0d. and good sound £7 8s. 4d. to £8 15s. 0d. per ton.

Smaller Consignments of Lucerne Chaff.

Supplies were reduced to 36 trucks. Rates eased slightly, some receivals being disposed of with difficulty.

Good sound brought £8 to £10, heated £7 to £9 15s. 0d., prime £9 to £11 10s. 0d. and choice £12 to £12 10s. 0d. Highest price obtained for choice lines in December was £13 10s. per ton.

Lucerne Hay Supplies Well Maintained.

A total of 101 trucks was received, but this included less from the Maitland district and more derrick pressed from other centres. Receivals amounted to 29 trucks from Maitland and 72 from other centres, including 30 derrick pressed.

Sales of most lines were difficult to effect and prices varied considerably, according to quality. Inferior new soft green from the Maitland district brought £3 to £3 10s. 0d., new soft green £3 10s. 0d. to £5 10s. 0d. and well made £5 to £6 10s. 0d. From other centres medium realised £5 to £6, good sound £5 10s. 0d. to £8 10s. 0d., prime £8 to £9 and choice £10 to £11, while medium derrick pressed was disposed of at £3 to £5 10s. 0d., good sound

£5 10s. 0d. to £8 10s. 0d., prime £10, and at auction inferior heated £3 6s. 8d., medium £3 10s. 0d. to £5 and good sound £4 to £5 6s. 8d. per ton.

Smaller Supplies of Oaten Hay.

A total of 10 trucks was received at Alexandria compared with 21 available in December. This figure included 4 trucks of derrick pressed.

Medium rack realised £6 10s. 0d., early sales of prime £11 10s. 0d. and later, choice £10. Good sound derrick pressed was disposed of at £7 10s. 0d. and prime £9 per ton.

Wheaten Hay Consignments Limited.

The two trucks of good sound available were disposed of at auction and realised £4 6s. 8d. per ton.

Consignments of Oaten Straw Reduced.

Twenty trucks were forward including 6 from Victoria and sales were firm for most lines.

Local medium brought £6 10s. 0d., good sound £7 and prime £8 to £8 10s. 0d.; good sound Victorian £7 10s. 0d. and prime £7 10s. 0d. to £8 10s. 0d. per ton. Only one truck of wheaten straw was received during December.

Wheat Consignments Maintained.

Receivals aggregated 47 trucks. The bulk was not offered for sale, but 4 trucks of shot and sprung were auctioned during the month and realised from 4s. 4d. to 5s. 6d. per bushel plus cost of bags.

Maize Supplies Steady.

Approximately 3,600 bags of Queensland yellow and 400 of yellow from local centres were received during the month. Some sales of Queensland yellow were effected at 7s. 10d. per bushel.

Heavy Receivals of Oats.

Consignments amounted to 53 trucks. Some sales were made by auction at 3s. 10½d. to 4s. per bushel.

Other Grain Limited.

In addition, 4 trucks of barley (including 1 of cape barley which was auctioned at 4s. 6d. per bushel) 2 of seed and 2 of milo arrived at Alexandria in January.

I. E. STILES.

Sydney: Thomas Henry Tennant, Government Printer—1948.