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N.S.W STATE MARKETING BUREAU - DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE





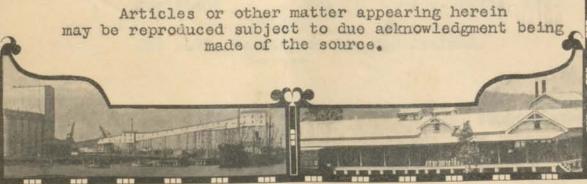




ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, SYDNEY.

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MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW.

A miscellany of matters relating to the marketing of primary products, at home and abroad.

Released during the second week of each month.

Issued by authority of the Minister for Agriculture and prepared under the direction of the Director of Marketing, in the State Marketing Bureau, Department of Agriculture, New South Wales, Australia.

SUNDRY NOTES.

The appointment of Trade Commissioners to represent Australia in important centres of commerce overseas has been a feature of the Commonwealth Government's commercial policy of recent years. That the practice has already justified itself in the national interest must be equally gratifying to those who favoured and to those who were not convinced of the need for such appointments, when originally under consideration.

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Australia is represented by Trade Commissioners in Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Netherlands East Indies, China and Egypt. Following are particulars of the representation in each instance:-

Canada

Assistant do. - R.E. Ellen, Esq.
Office.

15 King Street West, Toronto 2, Ontario, Canada.

New Zealand

Assistant do. - J. Payne, Esq.
Office.

Box 1677, Wellington Cl, New Zealand.

Japan

Trade Commissioner - E. Longfield Lloyd, Esq. Assistant do. - J.A. Tonkins, Esq.

Office.

8 Sanchome, Marunouchi, Tokyo.

/Netherlands.

Netherlands East Indies

Trade Commissioner - Vacant, appointment pending, vice Mr.C.E. Critchley, transferred to New Zealand.

Assistant

do.

- C.J. Carne, Esq.

Office

Noordwijk 39, Batavia Centrum, Java.

China

Assistant do. - A.L. Nutt, Esq.
Office

Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Building, 12, The Bund, Shanghai, China.

Egypt

Trade Commissioner - Lt. Col.C.E. Hughes, C.B.E.

Office

National Insurance Building, 41 Sharia Kasrelnil, P.O. Box 273, Cairo, Egypt.

In two other countries, where Australian Trade Commissioners have not been appointed, the Commonwealth Government has commercial representation of other kinds. Particulars of this representation are as follow:-

United States of America

D. McK. Dow, Esq., Official Secretary, Commonwealth of Australia Office, 25, Broadway, New York City.

France

C.H. Voss, Esq., Trade Representative, 6, Rue Halevy, Paris.

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Yet another highly valuable and necessary type of commercial representation has been provided by each of the States of the Commonwealth. Particulars of this representation are:-

New South Wales .. A.E. Heath, Esq., Agent General,
N.S. Wales Government Offices,
Wellington House, 125, The Strand,
London, W.C.2.

Victoria .. Brig. General M.W.J. Bourchier, Agent General, Melbourne Place, The Strand, London, W.C.2.

Queensland L.H. Pike, Esq., Acting Agent General, 9 The Strand, London, W.C.2.

South Australia .. C.C. McCan, Esq., Agent General, Marble Bar, London.

Western Australia .. Sir Hal Colebatch, Agent General, 115/116, The Strand, London.

Tasmania .. C.E.W. James, Esq., Agent General, Australia House, The Strand, London.

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In the United Kingdom, the office of High Commissioner for Australia in London combines trade with other representation but there is a Commercial Officer on the High Commissioner's staff.

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as in the case of the High Commissioner, the Agents-General carry other responsibilities on behalf of their respective Governments than those of a purely commercial character, but it may safely be said that their activities as the Official Trade Representatives on behalf of their respective States are fully comparable with their other important functions and will become of progressively greater consequence.

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It will be noted that an Assistant Trade Commissioner is associated with each of the Australian Trade Commissioners, with the exception of the position in Egypt where an Assistant will shortly commence duty. This evidence of thoroughness in the arrangements is gratifying. For Trade Commissionerships, men of high educational attainments and a wide understanding of the principles and procedure of international trade, together with an encyclopaedic knowledge of Australian production and a definite capacity to negotiate and officially implement trade treaties and understandings are essential. Obviously such men should receive practical training over a period of years and the Commonwealth Government is acting accordingly.

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In this tremendously important matter of trade representation, there are three spheres; Commonwealth, State and private. The part of the Commonwealth has regard to the interests of Australia as a whole and is along lines indicated in the previous paragraph. The part of the States primarily arises from the fact that each State has its own well-defined interests calling for separate and whole-time attention, as well as for the national representation which the Commonwealth gives. Private representation occurs in connection with some large individual export businesses and is provided (either regularly, or at intervals) in order that they may have the individual whole-time attention which their proprietors find necessary. The effective prosecution and suitable co-ordination of all three types of representation are most desirable and should not be impracticable.

A.A.W.

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INCREASE IN FREIGHT RATES ON GOODS FROM ENGLAND TO AUSTRALIA.

Advices have been received from the New South Wales Agent-General in London giving particulars of new freight rates which came into effect on 1st July, 1937.

The Australian Conference Lines have given notice that as from the date mentioned the new rate per ton measurement will be £5.10.0 as compared with the old rate of £5.0.0, and for machinery and metals packed in crates £4.2.6 per ton as against £3.15.0. For ordinary steel plates shipped loose the new rate will be £2.2.6 against £2.0.6.

The reason given for these increases by the Conference Lines (i.e. the shipping companies concerned) in England is that it is unfortunately necessary for the Australian traffic to follow other trade in a general increase in outward rates because operating costs have heavily increased and are still increasing.

Two polls will be held this year for the election of Producers' Representatives to Boards constituted under the Marketing of Primary Products Act; the Boards referred to are the Rice Marketing and Egg Marketing Boards. The dates approved for the holding of the polls are as follow:-

Poll for Rice Marketing Board Representatives - 22nd October, 1937.
" Egg " " 29th " "

THE FISHING INDUSTRY ITS HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The object of this article, the second to appear under the above heading, is to give a brief survey of the history and methods of trawling, and to discuss matters relating to the principal sources of supply of fish with references also to popularity.

In the latter years of the nineteenth century, many minor trawling cruises with both commercial and scientific aims were undertaken, but it was not until 1907 that the Commonwealth Government decided to inquire thoroughly into the possibilities of commercial advancement in this sphere. In 1909 the "Endeavour", a ship specially constructed for the purpose, "laid the foundation stone of commercial trawling in Australia, for it demonstrated definitely and convincingly that within short distances from the principal ports on the coast of Australia there are vast areas of good trawling ground abounding with fish of many varieties." (Fishes in Australia: by T.C. Roughley). It was later calculated that a submerged ledge of less than one hundred fathoms depth surrounds the Australian continent. The waters which cover this ledge are the kind most suitable for trawling operations. The "Endeavour" located in all approximately ten thousand square miles of trawling fields, including portions of the Great Australian Bight, and the quantities caught compared very favourably with the hauls of the North Sea trawling fleets.

The operation known as "trawling" consists in casting a net of considerable proportions over the side of a vessel and drawing it along so that it sweeps the ocean floor. The connecting cables are so arranged that they keep the trawl clear of the ship's stern, whilst the length of cable required to keep the trawl on the sea bottom is approximately three times as great as the depth of the water in which the work is being carried out. Casting the net is a difficult operation and requires the skill which only long experience can give. The net, which is usually about 15 feet in height at the centre, moves along the ocean bed and collects the fish which are swimming in its path of action. All the fish which enter the net are not, however, retained as some manage to escape either by the mouth of the net or through the mesh. In the case of the latter, it is highly desirable that they should escape as they would be too small for marketing purposes. The greater part of the fish caught in the trawl die from suffocation and thus do not suffer any loss of condition which results from death struggles.

The trawl is left down for from two to four hours according to the nature of the ground and the size of the catch. At the end of this time it is hauled aboard and the fish are spilled out on a specially prepared portion of the deck known amongst fishermen

as the pound. From here the fish are sorted, according to the various species, into special baskets and finally conveyed to a cool chamber in the forward part of the ship. Several tons of ice are carried by the trawling vessels on each trip for the purpose of storing the fish. If the operations have been remarkably successful, the "ground" is marked by a buoy in order to keep the ship's course to the fish-yielding area.

When the ship has obtained a sufficiently large haul, it returns to its base to discharge. Trawlers working for the Sydney market work to and fro from either that pert or from stations further down the coast. A trawling cruise usually takes from three to five days although some boats have carrier vessels to take the catch to port on every second day thus enabling a fresher product to be marketed. This permits the trawler itself to stay out for approximately twelve days, the time being dependent on the prevalence of supplies.

Before leaving this survey of trawling in order to deal with estuarine supplies, it is worth mentioning that, apart from the smaller varieties of fish which are at present trawled in the New South Wales coastal waters, there are also large numbers of immense tropical fish to be found in the waters along the Queensland coast. At Gladstone there is at present a fish-distributing centre which supplies the Brisbane market. Catches in these waters are enormous. There are scores of edible varieties obtainable and weights range from 15 to 100 lb. per fish. An excellent trade is done in supplying overseas vessels but the potential export trade is extremely large and very little has been done to exploit it.

The bulk of the New South Wales inshore supplies of fish is obtained from the northern part of the coastline. Of the estuaries and lakes which are in that division, the two most important are the Clarence River and the Wallis Lake and Manning River area. Each of these supplied nearly two million lb. of fish to the Sydney market during the year 1935/36. Considerable supplies, however, are also forwarded from practically all the rivers, lakes and tidal waters along the coast. Trawled fish are obtainable in most of the ocean waters, although special areas known as "trawling grounds" are found to be more suitable to the catching of fish than others. The most prolific grounds are found to be between 50 and 60 fathoms in depth. Trawlers operating for the New South Wales market work from the north coast of Tasmania to the latitude north of Newcastle.

Of the fish marketed, the most important are flathead, mullet, bream, schnapper, blackfish, whiting, jewfish, garfish and Murray cod. The first two mentioned, namely flathead and mullet, are the most prominent varieties in public use in New South Wales, largely because they are more easily obtainable. Mullet is the most readily saleable of the products of the inshore fisheries, but demand

for it has lessened considerably with the increasing popularity of trawled flathead. The question of the comparative popularity of the various species is, however, largely a matter of supply. If varieties such as bream, whiting and schnapper were obtainable in larger quantities over the whole year, instead of spasmodically as they are at present, there is little doubt that they would take a more prominent place in public favour. Flathead owes its present popularity chiefly to the regularity of its supplies, being obtainable in varying but usually appreciable quantities all the year round. This regularity is, however, interrupted for short periods when unfavourable weather conditions and rough seas make trawling difficult. There is also a regular supply of estuarine mullet, the period of the greatest production being the travelling season, which includes February to May, when the fish are preparing for spawning. Mullet roe is also much in demand both for local and export trade, Egypt being one of the main importing countries.

(To be Continued)

E.J.C. & T. McK.

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COLD STORAGE OF TOMATOES.

Very interesting results were obtained by Mr. Willis J. Williams, B. Sc., Superintendent of the City Municipal Markets, in respect of experiments recently carried out in the cold storage of tomatoes, and we are glad to publish details of the investigation.

Several cases of tomatoes were placed in cold store with a view to obtaining information regarding those grown in the vicinity of Sydney, New South Wales.

The picking of these tomatoes was carried out during the last week in May, but unfortunately the fruit was pulled away from the stalk and this proved detrimental to the cold storage of the produce. Mr. Williams points out that the stalk should be cut as close to the fruit as possible thus leaving a very short stalk attached to the fruit which would avoid the development of mould. Apart from the loss of juice and the cracking of this part of the tomato, it was proved conclusively that mould developed on this portion of the fruit after being in cold store.

The packing is equally important; in some cases the fruit appeared to be forced into the cases causing a certain amount of bruising. On the other hand, it is advantageous to pack the fruit firmly. When packing for cold store it was also proved to be an advantage to wrap each individual fruit in paper.

These tomatoes were fully grown. Some were green and some had a slight colour in evidence; some had a fair tinge of colour all round the fruit, but none could be described as fully ripe.

The temperature used for this experiment was 36 degrees. The highest reading was 37 degrees and the lowest 34 degrees, but the temperature maintained was very steady and even. The humidity throughout the experiment ranged from 80 to 85 per cent. An air circulating room was used and the air passed over a brine battery.

The length of the test was six (6) weeks and an inspection was made every seven (7) days. At the first examination after seven days no perceptible change was noted, but at the second examination, which was made after fourteen (14) days, there was a slight advance in the colour of the majority of the fruit.

At the end of twenty-one (21) days there was a further increase in colour - in about one half of the fruit - while the other half remained quite green. A trace of mould was noted where the fruit had been broken away from the stalk, but there was no sign of breakdown.

At the end of twenty-eight (28) days the appearance was still good, and there was a further advance in the colour of the fruit. Some were taken out of store and kept in the air temperature and there was a further slight advance in the ripening process. Most of the fruit that had coloured could be described as half ripe.

At the end of thirty-five (35) days, there were signs of some external breakdown and the ripening of the majority of the fruit had progressed. Some, however, were still green. There was a greater development of mould at the point where the stalk had been removed but it was definitely confined to that part of the fruit. Those taken out and left in the air temperature kept in good order and condition for a few days. Definitely, this was the extent to which the fruit could be kept and was proved by keeping the balance in the cold store for a further week.

At the end of forty-two (42) days mould growth had developed and was apparent on some of the fruit that was breaking down. It was noticed that the fruit that had been packed very green was still green and had not ripened in ordinary air temperature after seven (7) days.

Mr. Williams summarises his conclusions as follow:-

- Tomatoes used in this experiment kept in good order and condition for a period of five (5) weeks and for a further week in ordinary temperature.
- 2. The test proved that with a temperature of 36 degrees and a humidity of 80 to 85 per cent five weeks was the limit for cold storage of these coastal grown tomatoes.
- 3. The picking and packing must be done with great care and the stalks left on the tomato.
- 4. Mould will occur when stalks are not left on the fruit and at that point.

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THE ORGANISATION OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY OF QUEENSLAND AND NEW SOUTH WALES FOR MARKETING PURPOSES.

Apart from 5,000 tons of Beet Sugar produced in Victoria, all the sugar manufactured in Australia is the product of sugar cane grown in Queensland and the Northern Rivers district of New South Wales. The following table gives the total acreage, production, and exports for the past seven seasons:-

Australian Cane Sugar Production, 1929/30 to 1935/36.

Year	Acres cane harvested.	Tons cane produced,	Tons raw sugar manufactured.
1929-30	222,847	3,755,375	538,084
1930-31	229,661	3,688,869	535,624
1931-32	241,576	4,213,453	603,735
1932-33	212,842	3,703,188	532,594
1933-34	238,169	4,898,040	666,145
1934-35	225,998	4,498,804	640,589
1935-36	235,000	4,501,500	635,850

Year	Total value of raw sugar manu-factured.	Tons of raw sugar exported.	Value of raw sugar exported.
1929-30	£ 11,359,760 10,458,998 11,909,407 10,394,925 10,640,318 10,791,092 10,500,000	181,745	£,216,984
1930-31		199,161	1,805,896
1931-32		287,920	2,514,718
1932-33		187,048	1,489,771
1933-34		307,977	2,295,155
1934-35		306,496	2,195,855
1935-36		310,219	2,462,353

All figures are taken from the Commonwealth Production Bulletin and Commonwealth Year Book, and those for 1935/36 are approximate.

/Of the...

Of the above, Queensland produced approximately 96%; 90% of the sugar exported is sent to Great Britain and the balance to Canada.

To the value of the raw sugar manufactured, the returns from by-products, which are considerable, should be added. The most important of these is the molasses, which consists of sugars that for various reasons cannot be recovered as such in commercial manufacture. Some is used for stock fodder purposes, some refined for Golden Syrup, and the greater proportion subjected to a farmentation process and the alcohol distilled; this alcohol is converted into rum, motor spirit, methylated spirits and other industrial alcohols. As an indication of the extent of this side-line, there are four alcohol distilleries in Queensland, the largest being that at Sarina, which has the capacity of 1,250,000 gallons of power alcohol per amnum.

Of recent years, the bulky residue of crushed cane stalks, known as bagasse, which is also extensively used by the mills as fuel, is being utilised for the manufacture of a fibre board similar to the American "Celotex".

In Queensland, the industry extends along the coast, from Mossman in the North to almost the New South Wales border, and is grouped in four divisions, the production of each of which in 1934 was given in the Statistics of Queensland, 1934/35 Edition, as:-

Division	Cane Crushed.	Raw Sugar Manufactured. tons.
Rockingham and York Peninsula Edgecumbe and Port Curtis Wide Bay	765,729	233,976 269,801 100,309 7,075
	4,271,380	611,161

To illustrate the growth of this branch of primary production in Queensland, the following are the total figures of raw sugar manufactured for every fifth year 1909 to 1934:-

1909	 134,584	tons	Raw	Sugar.
1914	 225,847	11	11	ii .
1919	 162,136	H	. 11	11
1924	 409,136	11	11	11
1929	 508,332	tr.	11	11
1934	 611,161	11	11	It

As the cane sugar produced in New South Wales represents only approximately 4% of the Australian total, the industry is very small in comparison with that of Queensland, but it represents

/a considerable....

a considerable factor in the wealth of the lower sections of the Tweed, Richmond and Clarence Rivers; the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Ltd. has mills at Conelong, Broadwater and Harwood. The area under sugar cane in New South Wales could be increased, but, for economic reasons this is not done.

In order to encourage the production of sugar within the Commonwealth by white labour, the Federal Government has enacted much legislation from time to time, commencing with a rebate provision in the Excise Tariff of 1902, and followed by the "Sugar Bounty Act, 1910" and various other measures.

At present, by virtue of an Agreement between the Common-wealth and Queensland Governments, there is an embargo on the importation of foreign sugar. This agreement further provides (inter alia) that the price chargeable for refined sugar needed for Australian requirements shall be regulated, that special concessions be made to certain consumers (e.g. jam manufacturers), that the Queensland Government shall acquire all raw cane sugar for the seasons 1936/37 to 1940/41, including that grown in New South Wales, and shall accept, on behalf of the industry, responsibility for any loss arising from the export of surplus cane sugar from Australia. Also, the Queensland Government undertakes to control production under -

- (a) The Peak Year Scheme, and
- (b) The "Regulations of Sugar Cane Prices Act, 1915 to 1933" in relation to the assignment of land for cane growing.

Approximately 40% to 45% of the total raw sugar manufactured has to be exported and the world parity price is considerably
below that fixed for local consumption; moreover, there is only a
limited world demand. Thus it is essential that Australian production be kept down to a figure that covers local consumption plus
the quota allotted to Australia under agreements made with the
importing countries; the heavier the exports in proportion to the
total production, the lower the average price realised becomes, and
thus the return to the grower tends to be unprofitable. For these
reasons, the Government, the mill-owners and the cane-growers in
Queensland are endeavouring to restrict the quantity of sugar produced by allotting to each mill a production figure - known as the
"Peak Year" limit and determined in 1929 - and a defined area.

In New South Wales the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Ltd. controls the mills and is thereby in a position to curtail the production by agreeing to crush cane from specific areas only and by refusing to take cane from individual farmers from acreages in excess of the areas planted to cane in previous seasons; farmers have recognised the wisdom of this procedure and, through their organisations, co-operate with the Company.

GOVERNMENT GRAIN ELEVATORS: THE NEW SOUTH WALES SYSTEM.

New South Wales Grain Elevators are under Governmental control, their operations being governed by the Wheat Act, 1927.

New South Wales was the first State of the Commonwealth to adopt this system of handling and storing wheat in bulk. At the outset, with the country at war, time and cost were important considerations. Safe storage of wheat was urgent. For this purpose the first bins erected were necessarily of the cheapest and simplest fashion, being 36 feet in diameter and 70 feet high, with a capacity of 50,000 bushels each, these being erected at about 50 railway stations. The number of bins varied from one to six according to the productive capacity of the district. Improved facilities were later provided and now those plants have been brought up-to-date and are capable of handling the wheat efficiently and expeditiously.

The programme of elevator building has been extended to include stations at which small quantities of wheat are received. These country plants now represent the last word in economical and effecient design. In recent years, specially-designed weighbridges have been built and are erected over the receiving hoppers. By these weighbridges the gross weight is taken, the wheat emptied into the larger hopper beneath and the tare determined without the vehicle moving from the weighbridge. The wheat is then conveyed by gravity or by means of a conveyer belt to the basement or bootpit of the elevator, whence it is discharged into an elevator leg, consisting of a vertical endless rubber and canvas belt with a series of steel buckets attached, each carrying about six lb. of grain. The buckets travel to the top of the elevator on the endless belt and passing over the large head pulley, discharge the wheat into a distributing spout which connects to any one of the bins into which it is desired to place the wheat. Wheat can be elevated into the bins from the farmers' waggons at a rate of 2,500 bushels per hour. The bins are roofed with a framework of steel covered with corrugated iron. Ventilation and light is well provided for, so that the wheat whilst in storage can be inspected and kept in good condition. The capacity of the smallest type of country elevator is 30,000 bushels, whilst the largest type holds up to 350,000 bushels. this system, wheat can be received direct from farmers' bulk lorries, or in bags. Thus, growers who deliver their wheat to the silo in bags may, with care, use their bags again and again. This alone represents a considerable saving to the farmer. Further benefits of this system of bulk handling are the immunity from weather damage and from the ravages of rats and mice and other pests, as well as a substantial saving in time and money to the farmer.

The rapid growth of the elevator system since its inception can be gauged by the increase of last year's figures compared with those for the first year's operations. In 1920-21 the number of country elevators was 28 with a holding capacity of 5,450,000 bushels, the wheat handled being 1,941,694 bushels. Last year 175 country elevators were in use with a capacity of 23,123,000 bushels, but handled 29,230,560 bushels.

Terminal Elevators.

The Sydney Terminal Elevator, which is situated at Darling Harbour has a storage capacity of 7,500,000 bushels. At Newcastle another Terminal Elevator has now been completed with a capacity of 800,000 bushels, making a total storage capacity for the whole State at one filling of 31,423,000 bushels. At the time of writing, the Terminal Elevator at Newcastle, although completed, has not yet been used, but it is anticipated that with a good harvest in the Northern districts, it will be in operation for the first time during the 1937-38 season. The function of the terminal elevators is to receive wheat from the country and store it until orders are received for shipment overseas or to local flour mills.

Trains of trucks containing bulk wheat arriving at the Sydney Terminal Elevator are marshalled into four tracks leading to the unloading shed. The machinery in the Elevator pulls the trains into the shed five trucks at a time. In the unloading shed there are 20 receiving hoppers, 5 being arranged on each track so that 20 trucks can be placed simultaneously in position for unloading. The more modern trucks are fitted with 8 small hoppers and openings in the bottom, and the wheat runs out of these to gravitate to the steel receiving hoppers which are located immediately below. The belt conveyors then convey the grain from the receiving hoppers to the 5 elevator legs at the rate of 400 tons per hour.

The wheat is delivered at the head of the elevator legs approximately 200 feet above ground level and is deposited in steel garners each of about 40 tons capacity. It will thus be seen that provision has been made to accommodate in these garners the contents of the largest truck that is likely to be built by the Railway Department. Whilst in storage the wheat must be kept in good condition and this is done by turning it from bin to bin and by sometimes putting it through cleaning machines.

Loading Ships.

When instructions are received to load a vessel it is brought alongside the elevator wharf and special spouts are placed over the holds of the vessel. The weighed grain is then run from the shipping bins to a series of 36" conveyors which carry the wheat by a system of overhead steel galleries and towers to the shipping spouts on the wharf. An 8,000 tons ship can be loaded in

a day, so far as the capacity of the elevator is concerned, but it generally takes longer before the vessel is loaded for discharge, as it is necessary to trim the grain in the holds so that it will not shift during the voyage. All wheat delivered to ships is subject to inspection by the officers of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce.

Wheat Warrants.

For all wheat delivered to the elevators a warrant is issued. These warrants are negotiable instruments and can be transferred by means of endorsement. Advances are made by the banks on these documents and they are freely purchased by millers and shippers, the ultimate users of the wheat. When purchasing, it is usual for the buyers to deduct from the market price any charges which are payable before delivery can be obtained from the elevators.

By means of the warrant the farmer has the advantage of a freer market for his wheat, being able to sell the whole or portion of his warrant to whom he wishes, thus giving him the benefit of picking his market to the best advantage. In the meantime, the Government of New South Wales, subject to the provisions of the Wheat Act, 1927, accepts responsibility for the safe keeping of the wheat.

It will be seen, therefore, that wheat may be received or delivered at any point in the elevator system, thus accommodating all interests from the grower, who delivers a small parcel of wheat to the local elevator, to the shipper requiring anything up to 10,000 tons to be loaded from one of the Terminal Elevators into an overseas vessel.

Farmers can assist the elevators by seeing that the wheat is in a dry and a clean condition. Wheat should be allowed to thoroughly mature in the paddock before the machines are put in and after rain wheat should be allowed to dry out in the heads, giving nature a chance to restore at least some of its colour before being stripped and so avoid the possibility of wheat being rejected.

C.M.P.

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The total quantity of eggs delivered to the Egg Marketing Board's floors in Sydney and Newcastle during the 1936/37 pool period was 15,147,862 dozen, while producer-agents disposed of 5,900,000 dozen under permit constituting a total of 21,047,862 compared with 20,742,413 dozen during 1935/36.

Exports by the Board amounted to 5,100,000 dozen as against dozen during the previous season.

LARGER SUPPLIES OF SHEEP AND CATTLE AVAILABLE AT HOMEBUSH.

An upward trend in the number of sheep and lambs coming forward to the Homebush Saleyards occurred during the month of July, the actual number yarded being 243,542 head which represented an increase of 38,341 over the previous months pennings. About one-third of the supply comprised suckers, old lambs and hoggets with wethers and ewes available in about equal numbers. The heavier yardings could, to some degree, be attributed to larger supplies of new season's sucker lambs and to an increase in the number of sheep off shears from some of the early districts.

The advent of the three days selling at Homebush also was responsible to a certain extent for an increase in supplies, the number actually sold on the four Fridays' sales during the month of July totalling 12,677 head. There is a considerable difference of opinion as to the suitability or otherwise of the Friday sale at Homebush, but so far the sheep sales, although only small numbers were yarded, have been quite satisfactory, improved prices ruling in several instances. What the ultimate result of the experiment will be it is difficult to say, but at this stage it would appear that the scheme has not received the fullest support of all those interests closely associated with the saleyards.

Although the position in regard to feed is none too satisfactory in country districts, the general condition of the sheep and lambs, while not all that could be desired from the view-point of the trade, was appreciably better than that of stock penned last month. Some of the suckers noticed were dry and lacked condition, but on the other hand quite a number of particularly nice quality lines were available. Hoggets were again scarce, but old lambs were always well supplied and, while the quality was chiefly fair to good, odd consignments of prime, well-finished lambs were offered.

The wethers and ewes yarded, which included quite a number of plain sheep, could as a whole, be regarded as of fair to good trade quality. On several sale days prime heavy big-framed wethers and ewes carrying practically full-woolled skins, were penned.

The market throughout was irregular, particularly for grown sheep, and values, although satisfactory, did not reach June levels. Prices of suckers, good lambs and hoggets were not affected to any marked extent, but medium and plain lambs were a little cheaper. At times, very good sales were made, some of the best being a consignment of wethers which realised to 38/-, a draft of ewes which sold at 30/- and lambs which were disposed of at 33/- per head. Values for the most part, however, were not so high, rates for the

better class of wethers, ranging from 25/- to 33/-. per head, ewes from 18/- to 26/- and 22/- to 30/- for lambs. Values for the medium and plain sheep were relatively lower and in some instances, very plain sheep realised just about skin value. The skin market showed several advances of from 1d to 2d per 1b. for the better grades and this improvement was reflected in prices paid per head.

Mutton prices did not hold at June levels, but rates for lamb showed little variation. Taking the market throughout, best quality wether and ewe mutton cost from 24d to 3dd, although at times good heavy sheep could be obtained at 2dd per 1b. Hoggets cost from 4d to 4dd per 1b., and good light lambs and suckers sold at from 6d to 7d per 1b. on a dressed weight basis, the heavier lambs realising from 5d to 6d per 1b. All plainer grades of mutton and lamb could be obtained at rates lower than those quoted for the better descriptions.

Consistently heavy yardings of cattle were on offer at Homebush during the month, approximately 31,000 head, or nearly 10,000 more than for the same period last year, being auctioned. The supply included about 1,500 from Queensland stations while store stock accounted for the substantial total of 3,000 head.

In commenting on the quality generally it could be said that even though the great majority of cattle forwarded were hardly more than of fair trade description, there was a slight improvement apparent. Unfortunately, however, the likelihood of this improvement in quality being maintained appears doubtful, as rainfall in most areas has continued insufficient for pastoral needs and where hand feeding is not resorted to stock, particularly cattle, have little chance of holding their condition.

The market throughout the period was firm; there were, of course, fluctuations but the high rates ruling early generally were maintained and even bettered by the end of the month. Cattle in reasonably good condition were the subject of a very satisfactory demand. The introduction of an additional sale, held on Friday of each week, has had little influence on marketing conditions; only very small numbers were offered and a fair proportion of these were withdrawn from sale. What influence the extra selling day will have can only be ascertained after a fair trial.

During the period large numbers of bullocks and steers were available, all grades of quality being included with the better sorts sometimes very difficult to obtain. Heavy bullocks sold very well in most instances in spite of the fact that many lots were rather dry and hard in appearance. The best rates realised were the equivalent of from 29/- to 30/- per 100 lb. of beef. Good to prime bullocks and steers of the lighter weights

were never, at any time in the month, in excess of requirements and were keenly sought after. It was common for many drafts to average between 31/- and 32/- per 100 lb. on the hoof. There were occasions, of course, when these rates were difficult to maintain but it is equally true that there were other times when they were easily exceeded. Fair to good trade descriptions were not always in demand but generally satisfactory rates were realised.

Among the cows and heifers yarded odd lots were seen showing the results of careful breeding and handling; reaching the market in ideal condition, they realised top rates. Many sales of good to prime cows were effected at the dressed weight price of from 26/- to 29/- per 100 lb., while heifers reached as high as 31/- to 32/-. Trade lots and plain descriptions, however, and these were in the majority, were disposed of at much lower rates.

Buyers were also prepared to pay high prices for vealers and yearlings of quality. There is always a very strong demand for this class of beef and when limited supplies are available competition becomes very keen.

Fair to good trade lines were well represented and values for the most part were very satisfactory. Young calves in wasted condition although showing breeding were included in fair numbers; sales of these were made at prices below normal market levels on the days they were offered.

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SALES OF FARM PRODUCE AT THE ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND IN SUSSEX STREET, SYDNEY.

Prices again advanced for most lines of Tasmanian potatoes offered in Sussex Street during July. Supplies which totalled over 88,000 bags, were much lighter and thus agents were enabled to effect more satisfactory clearances. Weather conditions were very favourable to consumption and stocks moved out rapidly each week. Prices for Brownells ranged from £5.10.0 to £6.10.0; Bismarcks from £4.10.0 to £5.10.0; Snowflakes £4.0.0 to £5.10.0 and Arranchiefs £4.0.0 to £5.0.0 per ton. By far the greater proportion of each shipment was of the Brownell variety, choice whiteskins being scarce.

A considerable improvement was noticeable in trading in potatoes at Alexandria. Consignments received from New South Wales growers amounted to approximately 16,000 bags. Local "Factors" seem to have fully recovered from the grub-infestation

brought about by adverse weather conditions earlier in the year. The grading of tubers attained a very high standard and buyers were quick to show their appreciation.

The Taralga district growers forwarded regular weekly consignments, the quality of which was equal to that of any potatoes marketed. Prices showed a general advance of 10/- per ton for No. 1 Grade, but seed was less in request and values depreciated. Some excellent offerings of locally-grown "Satisfaction" tubers were in evidence and were much in demand. Prices obtained at auction ranged as follow:- New South Wales No. 1 Grade £3.10.0 to £6.0.0, No. 2 Grade £3.10.0 to £4.10.0, Seed £2.15.0 to £5.10.0 per ton.

Quantities of Victorian brown onions in Sussex Street during the month were similar to those of June and amounted to approximately 8,700 bags. The general market tone was much firmer and prices, in sympathy with a higher market in Victoria, advanced. Most sales took place at £13.0.0 to £13.10.0 per ton. Pickling and white onions were rather scarce. At Alexandria, 900 bags of Victorian brown onions were received and clearances were most satisfactory at prices ranging from £12.0.0 to £13.0.0 per ton.

The inquiry for local pumpkins at Alexandria increased considerably and, despite the fact that larger supplies, totalling 73 trucks, were received, clearances were brisk. The greater part of the offerings arrived during the early part of the month and sold out well at £3.0.0 to £5.0.0 per ton. Later in the period, supplies and the general quality thereof showed a falling-off, but, due to increased competition, values appreciated to £6.0.0 per ton,

Stocks of Tasmanian swedes returned to normal during the period under review. The 3,355 bags received were of an improved standard and, as a firm demand continued to rule, agents experienced little difficulty in effecting clearances at the generally firmer rate of £4.0.0 to £5.0.0 per ton.

Although shipments of carrots and parsnips from Tasmania were smaller, prices depreciated. Agents attribute this to a general slackening in demand for these vegetables. The 2,202 bags of carrots on offer moved out quietly at the fixed rate of £6.0.0 per ton. From £6.0.0 to £0.0.0 per ton was quoted for the 1,048 bags of parsnips received.

The rains received during the month of June were insufficient to alleviate to any marked extent the shortage of natural fodder in New South Wales. Although demand suffered a temporary set-back, business returned to normal with the advent of the month of July. Hand-feeding again became obligatory in many sections of the State. The 168 trucks of oaten chaff received at Alexandria

were well within the requirements of the trade. Keen competition ensued and, agents increased prices by 10/- per ton. Rates for inferior lines were reported to be as low as £5.0.0 but the bulk of the disposals took place at £7.0.0 to £7.5.0 per ton. The first consignment of Tasmanian oaten chaff to be received in Sussex Street for about 5 years came to hand towards the end of July. Agents reported that the 1,000 bags on offer moved out well at from £6.10.0 to £6.15.0 per ton. Wheaten chaff at Alexandria was also more heavily supplied. The additional stocks, however, were insufficient to weaken the market and they cleared briskly at the unchanged rate of £4.10.0 to £6.10.0 per ton. Inquiry for forage lines showed no alteration towards the end of the month and vendors anticipate a scarcity of grain chaff.

The dull tone which ruled for lucerne products towards the close of last month did not affect sales during July. Lucerne chaff at Alexandria was more lightly supplied and values appreciated by 10/- per ton for all qualities. Stocks cleared briskly at prices ranging from £6.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton. Heavy stocks of lucerne hay were forthcoming but demand showed considerable improvement. The 147 trucks at rail were fairly well suited to trade requirements and deliveries at all times were satisfactory. Large quantities of Maitland new season's soft hay were available at £3.10.0 to £4.10.0 per ton. Dry Maitland realised from £6.10.0 to £6.15.0. The quality of the matured offerings from other centres varied considerably and rates ranged from £5.0.0 to £8.15.0 per ton accordingly. Shipments of Hunter River lucerne hay in Sussex Street totalled 176 bales. These cleared rapidly at values ranging from £3.10.0 to £4.15.0 per ton for green and £5.10.0 to £6.5.0 for dry hay.

The slackness in inquiry for Victorian oaten hay was again in evidence. Only 150 bales were shipped throughout the period and demand even for this small supply was indifferent. Clearances were rather quiet at £9.10.0 per ton. Small quantities of local oaten hay were received at Alexandria and a steady volume of business was transacted at £7.0.0 to £8.10.0 per ton.

A generally lighter offering of straw was available on the Sydney market this month. Tasmanian shipments amounted to only 3,800 bales, but, as demand was by no means brisk, no alteration in price was recorded. Sales were effected between £4.5.0 and £4.15.0 per ton. No straw was received by sea but the greater portion of the 15 trucks railed to Alexandria was from Victoria. A good demand ruled and stocks were well within the needs of buyers. Rates generally were firmer at £4.5.0 to £4.15.0 per ton.

Wheat at Alexandria met with an improved request early in July but, later, less satisfactory sales were reported. Stocks were smaller, amounting to only 58 trucks but a larger percentage of prime wheat was included. Values ranged from 3/- to 5/4gd for

inferior whilst prime wheat was firmer at 5/6 to 6/- per bushel.

The month of July marked the termination of supplies of early maize from the Northern Rivers. At the commencement of the month, moderate quantities of dry maize were forthcoming and trading was most satisfactory at 6/- per bushel for yellow and 5/10 for white. Growers then commenced to forward early samples from the later crops. These were of soft quality, but were much in demand for hand-feeding of stock. Values, however, depreciated to 5/6 per bushel for yellow. Practically no white maize was available. The maize at present coming on the market is being harvested before it is really dry. The demand for maize, however, is urgent and this situation cannot be avoided. The sale of the 36 trucks at Alexandria was more or less affected by Sussex Street trading. Quotations ranged from 5/9 to 6/3 for yellow and were firm at 5/10 per bushel for white.

Oats were very lightly supplied at Alexandria during the period under review, only 5 trucks being received. Prices ranged from $3/4\frac{1}{2}$ d to $3/10\frac{1}{2}$ d per bushel according to quality. The latter quotation represents the highest recorded price for oats ex truck at Alexandria since 1930. In Sussex Street, the first consignments of Tasmanian oats to be marketed for some considerable time were available. They cleared briskly at 4/- per bushel.

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Parliament a programme of additional aids to British agriculture. For wheat the programme contemplates increasing to 67,200,000 bushels the maximum domestic wheat production quota on which production subsidy will be paid. Heretofore subsidy has been paid on a maximum of 50,400,000 bushels. Producers of oats, not also receiving wheat subsidy, would receive an annual subsidy per acre equal to the difference between the average price of oats and 8/-per cwt. for yields up to 21 bushels per acre. This subsidy would be proportionately reduced if total eligible acreage exceeds a limit not yet determined and subject to a maximum payment per acre of £1.0.0. Provisions for barley growers are the same as for oats.

The proposed plan contemplates no additional payments of grain subsidy at current grain prices. Since 18th April no payments have been made with respect to the wheat subsidy in view of the favourable prices prevailing.

VALUE OF WOOL EXPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA.

In concluding our series of articles relative to the growth and development of the sheep and wool industry of Australia, the following particulars are given as to the total value of wool exported from Australia to the various consuming countries of the world during the period 1919/20 to 1935/36:-

COUNTRY	1919/20	1920/21	1921/22	1922/23
United Kingdom France Germany Belgium U.S.A. Japan Italy Netherlands India Canada Other Countries	£ 37,256,915 2,352,749 3,356,349 2,516,142 2,010,732 2,832,951 - 63,520 154,445	£ 21,889,438 1,357,358 364,196 2,380,519 3,836,987 2,107,473 1,164,280 46,348 45,198 79,588 509,375	£ 23,013,128 6,842,265 2,404,833 3,784,065 4,347,360 4,438,672 2,667,081 44,388 50,243 245,421 139,787	£ 25,901,608 10,408,195 3,448,031 2,514,717 5,618,652 6,095,616 2,498,733 347,698 11,487 184,365 109,662
TOTAL:	50,543,803	33,780,760	47,977,243	57,138,764

COUNTRY	1923/24	1924/25	1925/26	1926/27
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom France Germany Belgium U.S.A. Japan Italy Netherlands India Canada Other Countries	20,136,750 12,278,938 3,576,436 4,951,127 4,323,239 6,212,881 2,634,990 1,625,493 123,550 154,323 179,431	24,386,464 12,484,097 4,929,589 3,844,335 5,926,430 7,479,586 3,327,166 367,651 108,522 162,395 246,910	23,195,387 15,821,883 5,034,599 4,221,646 6,076,012 5,869,969 2,523,541 117,408 14,897 121,359 213,175	19,013,978 13,164,721 7,920,677 5,507,034 4,080,960 7,868,883 2,156,454 89,078 23,670 69,695 159,210
TOTAL:	56,197,158	63,263,145	63,209,876	60,054,360

COUNTRY	1927/28	1928/29	1929/30
United Kingdom France Germany Belgium U.S.A. Japan Italy Netherlands India Canada Other countries	£ 19,993,795 11,960,477 9,080,643 6,186,070 3,105,212 10,316,846 2,944,103 13,527 53,026 79,137 2,364,282	£ 19,947,694 11,865,744 7,773,780 6,434,323 1,883,155 8,693,195 3,019,802 27,411 110,802 113,926 1,745,413	£ 12,648,045 8,075,006 4,626,041 3,316,902 1,154,433 4,434,746 1,641,166 44,061 74,292 82,850 502,968
TOTAL:	66,097,118	61,615,245	36,600,510

COUNTRY	1930/31	1931/32	1932/33
United Kingdom France Germany Belgium U.S.A. Japan Italy Netherlands India Canada Other countries	£ 10,257,653 5,479,746 4,165,020 2,623,906 1,117,533 6,478,587 1,482,943 41,616 41,839 109,280 205,182	£ 11,841,995 4,004,983 3,223,083 2,284,555 542,728 7,513,519 2,174,633 36,651 64,638 178,703 237,408	£ 11,479,976 4,996,227 4,561,321 3,376,311 337,215 7,969,600 2,567,680 119,867 94,509 241,346 663,881
TOTAL:	32,003,305	32,102,896	36,407,933

COUNTRY	1933/34	1934/35	1935/36
United Kingdom France Germany Belgium U.S.A. Japan Italy Netherlands India Canada Other countries	17,762,789 4,691,624 8,698,744 6,864,243 494,294 12,131,655 4,237,212 303,844 106,873 409,798 1,424,450	16,007,777 3,558,066 1,511,094 5,433,157 352,466 8,680,119 807,775 825,665 84,977 310,460 1,694,384	18,379,416 4,413,359 2,052,436 6,184,099 2,102,066 14,591,801 273,549 1,058,833 145,740 490,007 2,651,591
TOTAL:	57,125,526	39,265,940	52,342,897

TRADING CONDITIONS IN THE CITY MUNICIPAL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKETS.

Despite the generally quiet tone of the market, clearances of coloured varieties of apples were good and values firm. The position with regard to Tasmanian French Crabs, however, was not satisfactory, most agents reporting difficulty in disposing of stocks even though offered at low rates. This may be accounted for to a large extent owing to the quantities of Granny Smiths available. This fruit sold well and large sizes were in request at slightly higher prices up to 10/- per case being obtained. About 30,000 cases arrived each week from Tasmania and to augment this supply, stocks from cool stores within the State were drawn upon. Only light supplies of pears were offered and firm rates ruled. Choice "Packhams" were in request and sales were effected at values ranging to 13/- per case. Winter Coles, also, were sought after.

With the light crops of Navels in coastal districts, much of the fruit is of large size. Difficulty was experienced in obtaining sufficient medium-sized lots to satisfy demand and values for this type of fruit advanced, selected packs realising to 10/- per bushel. Retailers needing lines to sell at 6d per dozen were forced, in some instances, to turn their attention to Joppas or other common varieties. An improvement was noticeable in the prices realised for some of the Navels forwarded from the Murrum-bidgee Irrigation Area; special brands brought to 9/- per bushel while crates of medium-sized fruit sold to 14/-.

Choice mandarins of good size were in request and sold to 12/- per bushel; the major quantities coming forward however, were medium to small.

With only a light crop of Sevilles in sight this season, factory buyers have advanced prices to 4/6 per bushel, compared with 2/6 to 3/- last year. With the exception of the "Wheeney" variety of grape-fruit and some Interstate lots, business in this fruit was slow.

Owing to the coastal crops of lemons not filling as well as was anticipated, disposals to buyers for peel purposes were affected. Stocks were by no means large but demand was limited and values were low.

Generally good supplies of pineapples were on offer, quality and colour being fair. A noticeable feature was the quantities of large sizes (12s. to 15s.) included in consignments; these lots, however, were difficult to sell. Some export to New Zealand took place, approximately twelve per cent of the available supplies going to that destination. The market throughout the month was maintained at a fairly even level.

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One of the best seasons on record for custard apples, so far as realisations are concerned, is reported.

Papaws were coming forward a little more freely towards the close of the month, but a fairly large percentage of the fruit was green, and in this condition it was difficult to ripen or to dispose of. Coloured lots were selling to 18/- per tropical case.

The fairly high rates ruling for bananas had a steadying effect on sales, but as only limited quantities were available any coloured fruit was soon cleared.

During the winter months, supplies of beans for the City Markets come forward from the North Coast and Queensland. Consignments this season are lighter than usual and largely may be attributed to the dry conditions experienced during the early Autumn, more particularly in Queensland, where the depredations of the bean fly also caused much damage. Another factor was the diversion of supplies to the Victorian capital where satisfactory prices ruled. Generally values were firm and realisations for choice lines should be pleasing to growers, 9/- to 14/- being the range at which the bulk of the sales were effected.

For the most part, consignments of peas were only moderate. The additional area under crop in the Gosford district this season was largely responsible for the maintenance of supplies, although growers in this centre were not favoured by suitable growing conditions early in the season. With excessive rains at the commencement of the harvesting period a large proportion of the crop was damaged. Nevertheless, disposals were effected at fairly satisfactory rates. Supplies from within the County of Cumberland were becoming more plentiful towards the close of the month, while a fair quantity from the South Coast was noticeable. During August, improved consignments are expected, principally from localities in reasonably close proximity to the City. Purchases for the Victorian market were made at different periods throughout July. Choice lines sold mainly at 10/- per bushel, the market not falling below 9/- at any time, while up to 14/- was obtained.

Since the glut period of June, cauliflowers have sold well at considerably better prices. At times the market weakened, but with any falling-off in supplies a quick recovery was made. The bulk of "flowers" on offer were mostly growers' lots from such districts as Windsor, Richmond, etc., only a few consignments arriving from inland areas.

With relatively light supplies offering late in the period the market for cabbages was firm, and, considering the lack of quality lines, prices realised could be classed as good. The supply from Moss Vale district was reported to be almost finished and the larger proportion of the quantities coming forward could safely be said to be local lots.

/Consignments...

Consignments of tomatoes from Bowen (Queensland) totalled about 12,000 cases per week and in addition further lots came to hand from Southern Queensland. The quantity of "locals" available was limited. Business in Bowen deliveries was restricted by cold weather and by the arrival of more than the usual quotas of coloured lines from Brisbane after purchases of green descriptions for ripening had been made. The general quality of the fruit was about on a par with the average of past years, with packing and grading mostly satisfactory. In a few instances, some large fruit came forward from growers who staked their crops. It was noticeable that green lots from Southern Queensland were difficult to ripen and these were also subject to Black Spot. Generally low values ruled throughout July and little activity was apparent in country trading. expected that prices will improve during August as it is usual for an upward movement to take place early in that month. Indications are that Interstate supplies will be heavy for some time, while the spring crop on the North Coast is also expected to yield well. The first case of hot-house tomatoes reached the markets during the last week of July and sold at 15/-. It is anticipated that increased quantities will arrive each week.

Business in other lines of vegetables was steady; high prices were obtained for lettuce, parsley and spinach, but on the other hand, swede turnips were at low price levels.

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CONSUMPTION OF MILK IN SCOTLAND.

According to a report issued in the "Glasgow Herald", the Scottish Milk Marketing Board is faced not with the earlier problems associated with the control of production but with devising means of increasing the winter flow of supplies.

It was pointed out that the two years that had witnessed this change from feared over-production to need for more winter milk coincided with the Marketing Board's first two campaigns in advertising the merits of milk as the most vital of all the foods nature confers. These campaigns were the first large-scale attempts ever made to advertise British farm produce and although other influences may have operated, it would be difficult to challenge the claim that the increased demand for liquid milk was due to advertising.

During 1936 the increase in consumption amounted to half a gallon per head, equal to 5% in the 1935 liquid sales. By the end of 1936 the rate of increase was over seven per cent. and this increase, it is said, was maintained in the early months of this year.

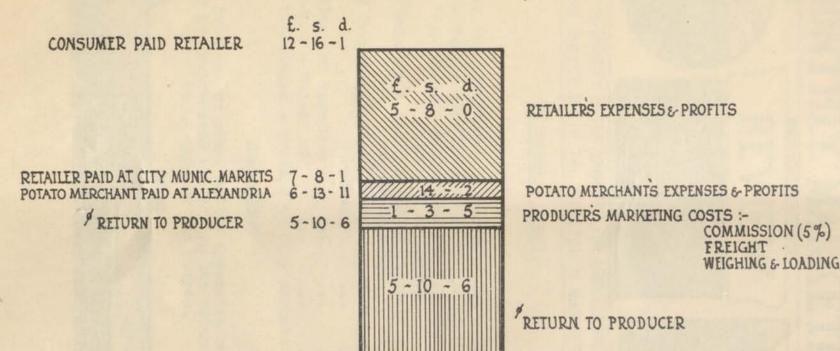
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MARKETING BUREAU - DEP! OF AGRICULTURE N.S.W.

P 19 b.

OLD POTATOES N.S.W.

SPREAD BETWEEN THE RETURN TO THE PRODUCER & THE PRICE PAID BY THE CONSUMER. YEAR ENDED 30-6-37 - PER TON



NOTE_ Costs of digging, bagging, handling, carting bags and twine and other costs on the farm would be a charge against this return.

Wholesale and retail prices obtained from S.M.B. records

Freight calculated on basis of distance weighted by production.

Compiled. J.H. 30-7-37 Drawn. E.H.S. 3-8-37 Checked. G.C. 3-8-37 Commission & weighing & loading _ set charges.

A.A. Watson Director of Marketing.

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