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MONTHLY MARKETING

REVIEW



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

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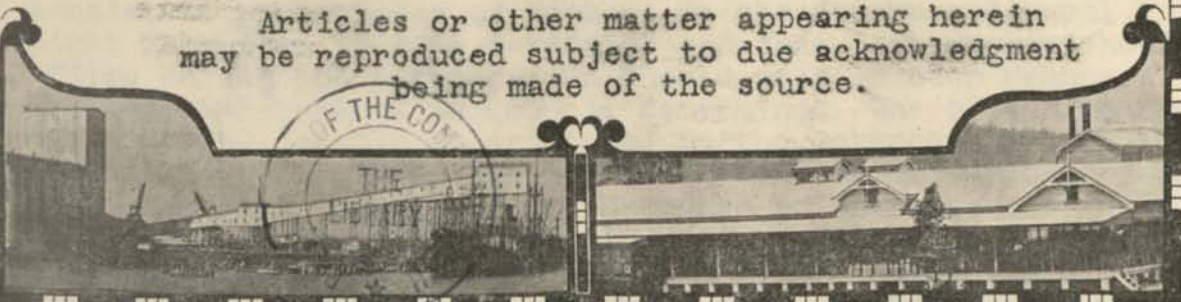
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MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW.

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.

NOTES ON MARKETING ORGANISATION.

V.

Canadian Marketing Legislation.

On 28th January, 1937, "The Lords of the Judicial Committee" of the Privy Council delivered judgment on an appeal from the Supreme Court of Canada, on a reference by the Governor-General in Council raising the question whether the Natural Products Marketing Act, 1934, as amended by the Natural Products Marketing Act Amendment Act, 1935, is ultra vires of the Parliament of Canada. The Supreme Court had unanimously answered the question in the affirmative.

The judgment of the Privy Council makes interesting reading. With reference to the subject Act, the judgment points out that it consists of two parts. The first provided for the establishment of a Dominion Marketing Board whose powers included powers to regulate the time and place at which - and the agency through which - natural products to which an approved scheme relates were to be marketed. In respect of an approved scheme, the said Board had power to determine the manner of distribution and the quantity, quality, grade or class of the product that should be marketed by any person at any time and to prohibit the marketing of any of the regulated products of any grade, quality or class.

The Act set forth that the Dominion Marketing Board should consist of such number of persons as the Governor-General in Council might from time to time determine and that each member should hold office during the pleasure and should receive such remuneration as the Governor-General in Council determined. One of the members, it was provided, should be appointed by the Governor-General in Council as Chairman. The Governor-General in Council was empowered to authorise certain members of the Board to exercise its functions in respect of any product or class of products and the Board, with approval, could employ such technical, professional and other officers and employees as the Board deemed necessary or desirable.

As to the financing of the Dominion Marketing Board, it was provided that the Governor-in-Council might, from time to time, authorise payment to the Board out of moneys appropriated by Parliament of such sums of money as were necessary to assist in the organisation of local boards and to defray the operating expenses of the Board incurred or authorised by the Board by authority under the Act.

There was further provision with respect to finance that the Dominion Marketing Board, whether exercising the powers conferred by the Natural Products Marketing Act, or by Provincial legislation, might impose charges and tolls in respect of the marketing of the whole or any part of the regulated product. It could, when co-operating or acting conjointly with any marketing board or agency, impose charges and tolls and utilise such funds in connection with the exercise by it, or by a local board, of any of its powers for pooling of returns, creation of reserves and any necessary operating or capital expenditure.

A 'local board' meant one authorised to administer a scheme approved under the Act. The Dominion Marketing Board could authorise a local board to exercise such of its own powers as might be necessary and could withdraw that authority at any time.

An interesting feature of the subject Act which may be mentioned here was that which gave the Board power to require any or all persons engaged in the production or marketing of the regulated product to register their names, addresses and occupations with the Board, or to obtain a licence from the Board, which licence was subject to cancellation by the Board for violation of any provision of the Act or regulation made thereunder.

The Act provided that a scheme to regulate the marketing of a natural product was to be initiated by a representative number of persons engaged in its production or marketing. Such a scheme was to be referred by the appropriate Minister to the Dominion Marketing Board and, as approved by that Board and further approved by the Minister, the Governor-General in Council was empowered to approve the scheme.

Alternatively to recommending approval of a scheme, the Minister was authorised to require that a poll be taken and to state the percentage of voters favouring the scheme necessary to warrant its further consideration.

A striking provision of the Act provided that if the Minister was satisfied that trade and commerce in a natural product were injuriously affected by the absence of a scheme prepared as above, he himself had power to propose a scheme for approval of the Governor-General in Council.

'Natural product' under the Act included animals, meats, eggs, wool, dairy products, grains, seeds, fruit and fruit products, vegetables and vegetable products, maple products, honey, tobacco, lumber and such other natural products of agriculture and of the forest, sea, lake or river, and any article of food or drink wholly or partly manufactured or derived from any such product that might be designated by the Governor-in-Council, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

It was essential, in terms of the Act, that the Governor-General in Council should be satisfied either that the principal market for the natural product was outside the Province of Canada in which it was produced or that some part of the natural product might be exported. The latter provision, the Privy Council remarks in its judgment, makes it clear that the regulatory power of the Dominion Marketing Board could have applied to marketing transactions in natural products which had nothing to do with foreign export or inter-provincial trade.

The Governor-General in Council was given power, under the Act, by order or regulation to regulate or restrict importation into Canada of a natural product which entered Canada in competition with a regulated product; and to regulate or restrict the exportation from Canada of any natural product.

Part II of the Act contains provision for the appointment by the Minister of a Committee to be entrusted with the duty of investigating all matters connected with the production or marketing of natural or regulated products, for the purpose of ascertaining the charges made in their distribution.

The judgment of the Privy Council states (inter alia) a finding of complete agreement with the judgment of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, wherein he said:-

"The enactments in question, therefore, insofar as they relate to matters which are in substance local and provincial are beyond the jurisdiction of Parliament. Parliament cannot require jurisdiction to deal in the sweeping way in which these enactments operate with such local and provincial matters by legislating at the same time respecting external and inter-provincial trade and committing the regulation of external and inter-provincial trade
/and

and the regulation of trade which is exclusively local and of traders and producers engaged in trade which is exclusively local to the same authority (King v. Eastern Terminal Elevators. (1925) S.C.R. 434)."

So it is that the Natural Products Marketing Act, 1934, of Canada and its Amending Act are invalid on constitutional grounds. The resultant Canadian position, it will be noted by readers of previous instalments of these notes, resembles somewhat closely that existing in Australia. So long as matters remain as they are in Canada, marketing legislation must virtually be left to the Provincial Legislatures. As corresponding matters stand in Australia, marketing legislation, apart from overseas export control, is virtually the prerogative of the States. Nevertheless, it is highly significant of a wide-spread trend that advanced marketing legislation of the type herein reviewed, paralleling very similar but less comprehensive laws of the United Kingdom and of certain of the States of Australia, to mention no other countries, should so recently have been included in the Dominion statutes of Canada.

In the next instalment of these notes, attention will be directed to Provincial Marketing Boards now operating in Canada.

A.A.W.

(To be continued).

-----oooOooo-----

It is interesting to note that the following marketing Boards have been established under the Victorian Marketing of Primary Products Act which was passed by the Victorian Parliament and assented to on 2nd December, 1935:-

Onion Marketing Board

Chicory " "

Maize " "

Egg and Egg Pulp Marketing Board.

A petition was also received from the growers of potatoes for the establishment of a Potato Marketing Board but on a poll being taken the growers decided against the establishment of a board.

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THE ORGANISATION OF THE MEAT INDUSTRY
FOR MARKETING PURPOSES.

Articles appearing in the December and January issues under this heading dealt principally with the local organisation of the meat industry. In this, the third and concluding article, reference is made, inter alia, to the conditions governing the export of meat to the United Kingdom.

Since 1933 the British Government has taken action designed to safeguard the home livestock industry and to raise prices of meat primarily in the interests of British farmers. Supplies of meat to the British market were given special consideration at the Ottawa Conference, and the principle of quantitative restriction of exports (conserving an expanding share to the Empire countries) was accepted. In accordance with the Ottawa Agreement, the British Government applied the quota system of meat imports from Australia as from 1st January, 1935, fixing permissible arrivals in the United Kingdom in respective periods. In July, 1936, the Australian, British and other interested Governments reached an agreement whereunder a duty was imposed on foreign meat, the proceeds to be used to subsidise British livestock raisers; Dominion meat continued entry free; foreign imports were to be gradually reduced to a determined degree and the import quotas of the Dominions correspondingly increased. The total quota allotted Australia for a half-year or quarter, as the case may be, is allocated amongst the various States by the Department of Commerce after consultation with the Australian Meat Board. The basis of the apportionment is the respective average exports of previous years for a similar period. As the export season advances, the Department of Commerce arranges such transfers of portions of the quotas either between the States or between individual exporters within a State as may be necessary to ensure that the total for the Commonwealth shall be fully shipped. The Livestock Industry Act of the United Kingdom, enacted on 20th July, 1937, is a further effort by the Home Government toward the better organisation of the livestock industry and other industries connected therewith and is of great interest to those engaged in the meat export trade of Australia seeing that imports of meat into the United Kingdom may be regulated under that Act.

The widespread adoption during recent years of a policy of economic nationalism through the raising of tariff barriers by European continental countries has practically excluded imports of meat, thus leaving Great Britain the chief importer and the main market for all meat exporting countries; for Australia, the United Kingdom is now practically the whole market. In 1929/30, only 50% of Australia's total beef export went to Great Britain, but after that year the proportion rose steadily to 91% in 1936/37. Very little mutton has ever been exported to foreign countries.

The following are the total export figures of beef and mutton from Australia for the year 1936/37:-

Variety	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land	S.Aust.	W.Aust.	Total Australia
Beef & Veal (Chilled & Frozen)	Cent. 161,552	135,958	1,925,144	10,602	112,270	2,345,526
	£A. 229,509	175,857	2,484,625	12,678	124,567	3,027,236
Mutton & Lamb (Frozen)	Cent. 662,474	1,184,955	58,187	130,907	45,547	2,085,150 (b)
	£A. 1,551,609	3,086,968	110,266	352,953	123,485	5,233,652 (b)

(b) Includes 3,080 centals valued at £8,371 from Tasmania.

The exports of pork for the year 1935/36 were:-

State	Quantity lb.	Value £A.
New South Wales	1,170,028	28,700
Victoria	7,312,160	193,245
Queensland	11,680,256	283,872
South Australia	1,730,598	45,334
Western Australia	1,550,285	32,313
Tasmania	134,416	3,946
Total:	23,577,743	587 410

The above figures have been extracted from the Commonwealth Trade Bulletin No. 33.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that the export of mutton and lamb is of considerable importance to New South Wales, but that beef and veal are only exported from this State in comparatively small quantities, while the trade in pork is a minor one.

The interstate movements of sheep reveal an annual excess of exports from New South Wales over imports from other States, except in years of severe drought, ranging from just under one million to nearly three million head; this excess is mainly accounted for by the disposal of sheep from the southern districts (particularly the Riverina) in Victorian markets, and has the effect of loading Victorian exports with an appreciable proportion of lamb and mutton actually grown in New South Wales.

/With

With cattle, however, there is a heavy but fluctuating import into New South Wales from Queensland and a considerable export to Victoria, while the interchange with South Australia is small; the average net gain to New South Wales is over 100,000 per annum. As the local production is scarcely sufficient to meet local consumption, the excess imports of cattle allow the limited export trade in frozen and tinned beef to be carried on.

Similarly, the number of pigs raised within New South Wales is insufficient to fully supply local requirements, and imports from other States, principally Queensland, make up the deficiency and also permit the maintenance of the small overseas export trade.

C.K.

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THE CALIFORNIAN AGRICULTURAL PRORATE ACT
AND ITS OPERATION.

Details have already been given in the last two issues of the reasons leading up to the introduction of Prorate legislation in California, the method of operation of the Act and the schemes established under it. The following article, which is the concluding one of this series, summarises the main points of the Californian Act and makes reference to analogous legislation in New South Wales, viz., the Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927-34.

California, with an area of 155,652 square miles, has a population of over 6 million. The State of New South Wales, with almost twice the area (309,427 square miles), has a population of 2,657,666 of which over 1½ million live in the Metropolitan Area of the Capital City of Sydney. Sydney is the greatest market in the Commonwealth of Australia and, for that matter, in Australasia. In California there are two very large metropolitan markets, viz., Los Angeles and San Francisco, the former with a population of 1,238,000 and the latter with 634,400. There are also in close proximity to San Francisco, destined, it may be, to become actually a part of it, the two cities of Oakland and Berkeley with a combined population of 366,200. It must not be overlooked, also that vast quantities of Californian-grown fruits and vegetables are regularly marketed in the great eastern cities of the United States. The Californian grower, therefore, enjoys great advantages as regards 'home' markets.

The Act, which, as previously stated, applies only to crops in which a surplus exists at some time during the marketing season and excepts commodities which meet substantial marketing competition from other States, may be said to have the following as its main points:-

/(1) ...

- (1) Provision for the establishment, subject to certain requirements being met, of Proration Zones which cover all districts producing the crop to be prorated.
- (2) Provision for the setting up of Committees for the administration, control, etc., of proration programmes who determine the method, manner and extent of proration.
- (3) Provision for civil and criminal prosecution of violators of the control programme.
- (4) Provision for the termination of a programme when a sufficient number of growers petition.
- (5) The establishment of an Agricultural Prorate Commission charged with the general administration of the Act.

The essence of this form of marketing control is the intended equality of treatment of producers aimed at seeing that each secures his fair share of the available market.

The Californian Agricultural Prorate Act, apparently, is breaking new ground so far as the United States are concerned. Whilst many Americans have held tenaciously to the belief that free access to production and free competition could best be relied upon to guarantee remunerative returns to producers, California has been the scene of great co-operative endeavour and triumphs. It would appear, however, that voluntary co-operation in California, fortified by a system of individual contracts as between co-operator and the co-operative society, has not been sufficient. A new school of thought has arisen which contends that the time has arrived when competition must be further controlled and compulsory orderly marketing given wider application. Enforcing the curtailment of a producer's marketings must, one would imagine, entail very considerable difficulty and it will be of very great interest to us to note what measure of success is attained, now that the constitutionality of the Agricultural Prorate Act has been upheld.

As has been set forth in previous issues of this journal, schemes for the compulsory marketing of primary products are no new thing in New South Wales. The Marketing of Primary Products Act, first passed in 1927, provided the machinery for the setting up of producer-controlled marketing boards. The initiative lies entirely in the producers, who must lodge a petition for a ballot to be held on the question of constituting a marketing board before the particular product is declared a commodity under the Act. The producers of a number of primary products have taken advantage of the Act and marketing boards have been formed in respect of the commodities concerned and the way is open for the producers of other commodities to take steps towards the establishment of marketing boards if they so desire.

THE NEWCASTLE ABATTOIRS.

The history of the growth of the meat industry in the Newcastle district is bound up with the development of the Hunter River Valley.

Following the great advancement of the coal mining industry, which was evident as early as 1851, the rich lands, and the undeveloped areas along the coast north and west of Port Stephens were receiving close attention from a growing number of farmers and graziers. These rich lands were becoming known to pastoralists who had established themselves further out beyond the great dividing range and, in a northerly direction, even as far as Central Queensland. Many of these graziers owned and worked two or more properties and adopted the practice of "overlanding" their drafts of cattle to the rich country of this district within striking distance of a market.

Marketing problems were just as acute then as they are now, for although the population was growing in the cities of Sydney and Newcastle, stock population was outpacing the demand and some outlet had to be found for the surplus. Following on a slump in prices, a grazier named Dangar, in an endeavour to relieve the situation, established a meat canning works with Mr. Edwin Matthews, a British expert, in charge. These works which, in addition to canning undertook the salting of meats, were situated near the city on a site known as Honeysuckle Point, and are believed to have been the first meat works in Australia.

The works were successful at the beginning, but as world competition in meat canning became keener, it was found easier to dispose of carcasses frozen and, after a number of years of very successful trading, the works were closed.

At this time slaughtering was carried out in small private slaughter houses, which made it difficult to provide adequate supervision of conditions under which meat was prepared for human consumption. Agitation for some form of centralised control was commenced, and after lengthy negotiations, an agreement was finally reached in 1911 to establish a municipal abattoirs and to ask the Government of the day for a franchise to control the slaughtering and disposal of all stock in a defined area.

The Newcastle District Abattoir and Saleyards Act was passed in 1912 with the object of introducing a necessary public health reform in the interests of the residents of Newcastle and its suburbs. Under the Act the Newcastle District Abattoir Board was constituted.

For the facts which follow, we are indebted to Mr. J. Laver Lawson, Secretary and General Manager for the Board.

/The

The Act provides that the district of the Board is to be the area of land within a radius of fourteen miles from the Newcastle Post Office. This area embraces the whole of thirteen municipalities and parts of three shires.

After careful selection of a suitable site, plans were prepared for the erection of a modern abattoir at Waratah, close to Newcastle. When opened in 1916, it automatically closed 35 small slaughter houses and since then all meat slaughtered in the district has been treated in a most sanitary and hygienic manner and subjected to a strict ante- and post-mortem inspection by a highly trained staff of certified meat inspectors under the direction of a Chief Inspector.

It is the policy of the Abattoirs to have carried out, by its own employees, the slaughtering and inspection service, the cost of which is but a small fraction of a penny per lb. of meat.

The Abattoir is a Municipal undertaking controlled by a Board of five members elected by the 145 Aldermen and Councillors of constituent Municipal Councils. The whole of the money borrowed has been loaned by the Commonwealth Bank on the security of the rates and revenues of the Councils within the Board's district.

Since the commencement of operations, steady progress has been made, and it has been necessary from time to time to make additions and extensions to the buildings and equipment to cope with increased demand and to keep abreast of modern times. Today there is a modern and up-to-date plant and hygienic methods for ensuring the utmost protection to public health have been introduced.

Adequate facilities are available for the slaughtering of all meat consumed within the district, and for the treatment of by-products - a very necessary adjunct to a business of this nature. The by-products manufactured are of the highest quality and have created a demand throughout the Commonwealth and overseas. Varieties include Premier Jus (edible fat), dripping, lard, neatsfoot and trotter oils, beef, mutton and miners' tallows, fertilizers, poultry foods, casings and sundry products, such as horns, hooves, hairs, sinews, gluepieces, etc.

During recent years, the treatment of stock for export has been undertaken, and the abattoir has carried out the service of slaughtering, freezing, storing and shipping mutton, lamb, pork and sundries and boning beef for several export firms located in Sydney and Melbourne. In addition, direct consignments overseas are arranged for primary producers to whom the Board advances 75% of the estimated value of the shipment when it is placed on board the export steamer.

/A selling

A selling service instituted in 1918 for supply of carcase meat to butchers, together with a bacon curing department, introduced in 1923, is particularly valuable in disposing of carcasses which are rejected for export on account of weight or grade.

Some excellent consignments of pork and bacon pigs have been despatched to London, Glasgow and other ports, and this trade, particularly in the bacon pig section, appears sure of a greatly increased market. Development of export trade should help to establish Newcastle as a natural outlet for the produce of northern and north-western New South Wales.

From time to time the works have installed more modern equipment in each department, and, at present, a new installation is in course of construction to meet the increasing demand for chilled beef. The Technical Staff have closely followed trade trends and the needs of the market are well known to them.

Methods of killing, grading, packing and despatching are of the highest efficiency and the Abattoir is looked upon as being one of the most efficient, not only in the State, but in the Southern Hemisphere.

How the Abattoirs have grown.

The expansion of the Board's undertaking will be readily appreciated from the following tabulation comparing the figures from the first complete year of slaughtering operations with those for 1935.

	<u>1917</u>	<u>1935</u>
	(first complete year of operation).	
Revenue	£42,585.9.3	£188,213.2.4
Expenditure	£40,640.9.5	£181,680.2.4
Coal Consumption	2,800 tons	4,805 tons
Hunter District Water	1,022,600 galls.	11,849,000 galls.
Dam Water used	2,750,000 "	24,933,000 "
Electricity Purchased	400,000 units	601,120 units
Tallow, Dripping, &c. manufactured	397 tons	859 tons
Fertilizers	355 "	1,431 "
Oils	919 galls.	2,518 galls.
Poultry Foods	17 tons	206 tons
Sundry By-Products	60 "	182 "

Slaughtering were:-

	<u>1917</u>	<u>1935</u>
Cattle	15,033	33,820
Calves	261	18,215
Sheep and Lambs	61,179	156,786
Pigs	8,932	25,949

out of which the following were condemned as unfit for food:-

/Cattle

	<u>1917</u>		<u>1935</u>	
	<u>Carcases</u>	<u>Parts of Carcases</u>	<u>Carcases</u>	<u>Parts of Carcases</u>
Cattle	151	6,872	539	24,364
Calves	2	-	231	-
Sheep and Lambs	16	8,353	246	41,156
Pigs	54	2,135	244	21,724

The total number of employees at the Newcastle Abattoir is about 250, and it is of interest to note that in 1935 the Board paid wages totalling £42,794.5.9, compared with £10,788.1.7 in 1917.

Saleyards.

A necessary adjunct to the abattoir is the saleyards, which were purchased from the Australian Agricultural Company in November, 1913. The consigning of stock to the Waratah Saleyards by graziers is a decided advantage to operators, as it eliminates unnecessary droving and deterioration of stock prior to slaughter. A comparison of yardings in 1917 and 1935 will show how the Saleyards have grown:-

	<u>1917</u>	<u>1935</u>
Cattle and Calves	5,340	29,324
Sheep	19,772	96,818
Pigs	6,505	13,621

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SYDNEY WOOL SALES - JANUARY.

The Sydney Wool-Selling Brokers' Association advises that 72,698 bales of wool, including 70,262 greasy and 2,436 scoured, were sold in Sydney during the month of January. The average prices realised were as follow:-

<u>Class of Wool.</u>	<u>Per Bale</u>	<u>Per lb.</u>
Greasy ..	£15. 9. 6	12.7d
Scoured ..	£17.11. 7	18.4d
Greasy and Scoured	£15.10.11	12.9d

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A SURVEY OF THE BROADCASTING ACTIVITIES OF THE
STATE MARKETING BUREAU.

Prior to the establishment of the State Marketing Bureau in 1927 there was no official authority in New South Wales undertaking the collection of the prices realised for stock and produce sold on the local markets. Producers were, therefore, dependent upon reports as to current values, price trends and market movements from information supplied either to the press or direct by interested parties, whose responsibility had not been and, in the nature of the case, could never have been authoritatively defined. The Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927-34, under which the Bureau was inaugurated, provides, inter alia, that, subject to the approval of the Minister, the functions of the Bureau shall include the keeping of wholesale and retail or other prices of local and imported products and that the Minister may arrange for broadcasting markets information. At the inception of the prices collection service, the necessary tabulations were made in the official records and details were forwarded to country newspapers for publication. Broadcasting was then in what might be termed its infancy but as radio facilities developed and improved it was recognised that this modern means of transmitting news was destined to revolutionise the State's marketing service and that it would be particularly beneficial in giving market prices, etc., on the same day as the sales took place. Negotiations were therefore entered into with the then leading broadcasting organisation in New South Wales and satisfactory arrangements completed for broadcasting daily the Sydney wholesale market prices in respect of fruit, vegetables, wheat and farm and dairy produce; similar information was broadcast regarding stock sales on the days these were held. The first broadcast of this nature was made on 6th February, 1929, and this service has been maintained and extended since that date. The work of collecting prices and other marketing information is done by specially trained officers who personally attend and watch sales from as early (in the case of the Fruit and Vegetable Markets) as 6 a.m. each day. In all cases, excepting the Fish Markets (where there are special conditions) officers are in attendance from the commencement of sales and, in every instance, the prices made available for broadcasting are those which represent the main volume of sales in relation to each of the products covered. The Act states "The information so furnished shall alone be published or broadcasted as official information."

The Bureau is still the only organisation of its kind in Australia and since 1929 up to the present date has delivered prices quotations twice daily for the "A" class stations in this State with unfailing regularity. There has never been the slightest breakdown in this difficult service and the absence (prior to recent alterations in the time of broadcast and the curtailment of market reports) of complaint from primary producers has been most gratifying.

/Expansion

Expansion of the service took place from time to time in the first 2½ years and, although the broadcasts were designed for New South Wales, sections of it became equally of interest to other States, notably Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and, to a lesser degree, South Australia.

It will, of course, readily be understood that New South Wales in general, and Sydney in particular, provide Australia with its greatest home markets, the Eastern States having a special interest. It was recognised that the era of expansion of the subject service was not unending and it should here be emphasised that no extension of any consequence from the standpoint of time required for broadcasting has been taking place since September, 1931, when cattle, sheep and pig sales were added.

For a considerable period, the following broadcasting programme was maintained in respect of the prices issued from the State Marketing Bureau:-

10.30 a.m.	2FC and 2NC
12.25 p.m.	2FC and 2NC
7 p.m.	2FC and 2NC
7.25 a.m.	2FC, 2NC, 2CO,
(following morning)		3LO and 7ZL.

The duration of these broadcasts ranged from one minute (that at 10.30 a.m.) to an average of about 15 minutes at 12.25 p.m. The time given to them in evening and early morning sessions was usually a little greater on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when the cattle and sheep sales occur, but there was an arrangement whereby Dairy Produce, Meat and Fish, or any one of these, would be omitted from the evening session when necessity arose. The average durations were:-

10.30 a.m.	...	1 minute
12.25 p.m.	...	15 minutes
7 p.m.	...	12 "
7.25 a.m.	...	12 "

Total for each day
in four sessions 40 minutes

Manifestly, therefore, it was the considered view of the National broadcasting authorities, over several years, that an average total daily allowance of 40 minutes for the rendition by the National stations of New South Wales of a vital service to primary producers was not excessive. Estimating that the National stations are 'on the air' for about 17 hours, or 1020 minutes daily, 40 minutes represented an approximate allocation from the time available for all purposes of only 4%, in which to confer the greatest individual boon upon primary industry which radio can bestow.

In May, 1936, as a result of discussions between the Director of Marketing and the General Manager of the Australian

/Broadcasting.....

Broadcasting Commission, the form of the evening broadcast was amended in order that the recital of prices would be curtailed and additional information substituted as to the trend of the market, quantities offered, anticipated arrivals and other comment of interest to those engaged in primary pursuits.

The evening report has been continued in this form since the date mentioned and, whilst the Australian Broadcasting Commission usually devoted approximately 10 full minutes each evening to it and an extra 4 to 5 minutes on the days when sheep, cattle and pig sales were held, the time of broadcast was recently altered to 9.11 p.m. and only 4 minutes allowed for reading it in a condensed form.

The time of the midday broadcast was also altered from 12.25 p.m. to 1.10 p.m. and from correspondence received from many representative growers in different parts of the States there appears no doubt that this alteration has been a retrograde step as the new time is not as suitable as 12.25 p.m. The present service is as follows:-

6.40 to 6.45 a.m.	- 2BL -	5 minutes
10 " 10.1 "	- 2FC -	1 minute
1.10 " 1.22 p.m.	- 2FC -	12 minutes
9.11 " 9.15 "	- 2FC -	4 minutes

Total for the day in four sessions	<u>22 minutes</u>
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That is to say, the proportion of the broadcasting day given by the National stations to this truly national service has been reduced from the 4% of less than two years ago to the 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ % of today.

Representations were made to the Commission with a view to the restoration of the former service and it is pleasing to be able to record that the management is sympathetic and advice has been received that early next month it is proposed to amend the programme in a manner which should give general satisfaction. The present intention is to commence what is known as the "midday" market broadcast at 12.30 p.m. and to allow a full 10 minutes from 8.50 p.m. for the evening broadcast.

The result of the Bureau's negotiations with the Commission will no doubt be received with pleasure by the many thousands of listeners who are dependent on Official Marketing Quotations to assist them in the marketing of their produce.

Many letters have been received from time to time commending the Bureau and the Australian Broadcasting Commission on the service thus rendered and the following extract from one of these communications is typical of many:- "The wireless brings the news (market reports) always ahead of the speculator or buyer which in bygone days the producer often only heard after he had sold on a rising market and had lost considerably on his stock or pigs, etc."

HEAVY YARDINGS OF STOCK AGAIN EXPERIENCED
AT HOMEBUSH SALEYARDS, SYDNEY.

Supplies of both sheep and lambs were particularly heavy during the greater part of January but there was a definite reduction in numbers yarded towards the close of the month. On several sale days record yardings occurred. The actual penning for the month was 351,742 head comprising 208,003 head of sheep and 143,739 lambs. These figures represented approximately 10,000 head more than was available during the previous month and exceeded the total for January, 1937, by 102,000 head. The large numbers which were offered for sale would have been greater only for the fact of the industrial dispute at the Homebush Abattoirs which resulted in owners holding back supplies on one sale day, when out of a total of 40,950 head of sheep and lambs listed for sale, only 7,677 were offered. Adverse seasonal conditions are the main contributing factors to such heavy yardings and one has only to take into consideration the condition of a large proportion of the stock offering to realise the seriousness of the position in many parts of the State. Quality lines of wethers and ewes were not at any time plentiful; as a matter of fact, on a number of sale days they were particularly scarce. Naturally it could be surmised that with such a large number of sheep about values would fall, but it should not be overlooked that at no stage of the month's operations was the supply of good sappy mutton in excess of buyers' requirements. Values for the better grade of mutton were fairly constant throughout the first half of the month, although about the middle of January a fall of about $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. occurred. The market from then on acquired a much stronger tone, the cost of mutton on the hoof advancing by $\frac{1}{2}$ d to $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. A very strong demand was evidenced by all operators for prime sheep. Best quality wethers and ewes, which were costing from 3d to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. early in the month sold at 4d per lb. during the closing stages. Rates for fair to good trade mutton were from 3d to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. over the latter part of the period and showed on an average an advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. Sales of wethers were made to 23/- per head but generally good trade sheep realised from 15/- to 19/- per head. Ewes reached the very satisfactory figure of 20/- per head and in some instances this price was exceeded; however, rates were for the most part lower and were normally from 12/- to 16/- per head. Plain to fair trade sheep also realised lower prices and in some instances very plain and aged sheep were hard to dispose of and returns in many cases would barely clear the expense of marketing.

As in the case of grown sheep, lambs and hoggets were well represented in the pennings but, as was to be expected at this time of the year, suckers were only available in limited numbers. The hoggets on offer comprised chiefly fair to good trade lines but there was quite a number of very attractive consignments. A large proportion of the lambs was of only fair quality but did not show the effects of the dry season to such an extent as the grown sheep.

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Good trade lambs were only moderately represented while suitable export lambs were at all times scarce. A draft of Southdown cross suckers of nice shape and conformation were amongst the best offered during the month. They were in prime condition and responsible for active and spirited competition making the very satisfactory figure of 7d per lb.

Lambs reached to 20/- per head and suckers to 25/- per head; these values, however, were not representative and are only quoted as an indication of the prices reached for choice quality. Lambs and suckers were mostly disposed of at prices ranging from 18/- to 22/- for good trade lines and fair to good export grade with other grades realising lower figures. The market throughout was comparatively steady, although in common with sheep a very strong demand over the latter part of the month resulted in values appreciating by about $\frac{1}{2}$ d to $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. Suckers were costing from 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 7d per lb. according to quality, old lamb 5d to 6d and hoggets 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 5d per lb. at the close of the month's operations.

The skin market has been very unstable and values low, several falls of from $\frac{1}{2}$ d to $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. occurring during January, but it should not be overlooked that on one occasion prices advanced by $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.

There is no doubt that the influx of visitors from the country and overseas to Sydney for the Centenary Celebrations has created an improved demand for mutton and lamb and increased the normal consumption considerably, for, despite the heavy yardings and lower skin values, prices have advanced for most suitable grades of sheep and lambs and the return to the grazier should have improved.

The total number of cattle auctioned in January was 29,002, or about 4,000 more than the previous month. Once again store stock formed an unusually large proportion of the supply, over 3,600 head being yarded, but as sales in this section now commence at 8.30 a.m. instead of 9 a.m., fat stock sales are not delayed as was formerly the case.

The quality, or more correctly the lack of quality, of the cattle coming forward has become increasingly apparent, but when the unfavourable conditions with which graziers have had to contend is considered it would appear to be a matter of congratulation that stock generally do not show even worse signs of the severe shortage of feed. Some good rains were received during the period, notably on the Northern Tableland and also parts of the Central Tableland, Western Slopes and North Central Plain. There has also been a marked decrease in pest activity but considerable hand feeding has had to be carried out and large numbers of stock were moved to agistment where available.

On each sale day large numbers of plain cattle were yarded but in most cases there was a moderately good supply of suitable trade descriptions, while on a few days at least drafts of well furnished stock of really good appearance were represented.

Bullocks and steers on offer were for the most part of light to medium weight and very few lots that would "dress" at more than 680 lbs. were noticed. Among the heavier bullocks, say from 680 to 770 lbs., sales selected as representative of the best quality available during the period show that the price of this class of beef per 100 lbs. on the hoof was often worth from 36/- to 37/-. Several lots of light weight bullocks and steers, in which were included a limited number of Black and Red Polls, realised the equivalent of from 37/- up to 41/- per 100 lbs. There were, however, many bullocks and steers hardly suited to trade requirements and naturally rates for these were much below those obtained for the better lines.

Plain to medium types comprised the bulk of the cows and heifers sold and very many lots were disposed of comparatively cheaply. There were, however, occasional drafts of both cows and heifers of attractive appearance and throughout the month light weight young cows made as high as 34/- per 100 lbs. dressed weight, while a moderate number of sales of heifers were effected at the equivalent of from 36/- to 39/- per 100 lbs.

In the vealer and yearling section the scarcity of really finished stock was always evident and, although odd lots were available on each sale day, the total of these for the month would not be very great. Suitable trade sorts, too, were not well supplied and a fairly steady demand was thus created.

From the sellers' viewpoint, the market early in the period was highly satisfactory but a fairly sharp decline in rates followed, plain and medium descriptions being at first affected while later good to prime grades also receded in values. The fall was generally between 15/- and 25/- but an improved tone was not long in manifesting itself so that by the end of the month rates had gradually regained approximately the levels existing at the opening.

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The area under wheat in England and Wales in 1937 was 1,731,833 acres, or 1.6 per cent. greater than in 1936, and the estimated yield per acre was 16.1 cwt. compared with 16.2 cwt. in 1936. The increase in the acreage, therefore, accounted for the increase in the total production from 1,378,000 tons in 1936 to 1,393,000 tons in 1937, or 1 per cent. All counties, with the exception of those of the North-Western Division and Northumberland, Durham, Dorset and Wales, showed yields below the average for the preceding ten years. The yield of 16.1 cwt. for the whole of England and Wales was 1.6 cwt. below the ten years' average.

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

Local potatoes from the Dorrigo district were again the outstanding feature of the potato market in Sydney during January. Totals of locally-grown stocks at Alexandria aggregated 8,352 bags which included 3,171 from the above district. The latter were graded to an exceptionally high standard and were, undoubtedly, the best potatoes available. They were of the "Factor" variety and all previous records for quality and appearance were maintained. All lines were sold at auction and met with keen competition amongst buyers. Quotations ranged from £5.0.0 to £7.13.4 per ton throughout the greater part of the month but in the last week, when a shortage of supplies was feared, from £9.15.0 to £12.10.0 per ton was the ruling range. Locally-grown tubers from various other centres were quoted at £4.0.0 to £6.10.0, whilst final realisations reached £9.15.0. The fear of a shortage which caused rates for locals to advance so sharply was a result of the ravages of blight which made its appearance in the Tasmanian consignments. Considerable regrading was necessary on the arrival of Tasmanian potatoes in Sydney in the last portion of the month and it was decided in Tasmania to curtail shipments until the difficulty was overcome. The sole effect of this decision on the January market was to create a firmer tendency at the close. Shipments during the period amounted to 63,914 bags and the position generally was much firmer. New Brownells were introduced about the middle of January and were much in request at £7.0.0 to £7.10.0 per ton. A few old Brownells were also on offer at £4.10.0 to £5.0.0. New Bismarcks constituted the bulk of all shipments and, although this variety was considerably affected by blight, clearances were satisfactory at £6.0.0 to £6.10.0 per ton. A total of 1,726 bags of Victorian potatoes came to hand at Alexandria and moved out readily at £6.10.0 to £7.0.0 per ton.

Stocks of Queensland onions continued to decline during the month and supplies totalled only 1,100 bags. The percentage of brown was very small and, due to the advancement of the season, good quality lines were scarce. Disposals were slow at £6.0.0 to £7.0.0 per ton. With the white variety, however, the position was the exact reverse. Stocks were inadequate to supply the demand and, under the influence of keen competition, rates advanced to range from £10.0.0 to £15.0.0 per ton. Local growers railed 1,176 bags of onions to Alexandria which met with a satisfactory request at the following rates:- Brown £4.10.0 to £6.0.0; White £5.0.0 to £11.0.0 per ton. The wide range in realisations for white onions resulted from considerable variations in quality. Rail consignments of Victorian brown onions amounting to 756 bags were also received. Quiet clearances were effected at £6.0.0 to £6.10.0. In Sussex Street, extremely heavy arrivals of Victorian onions were forthcoming. The 12,500 bags on offer were in excess of trade requirements, despite a considerable increase in demand. Quotations for brown ranged from £5.0.0 to £7.0.0, whilst white were quoted at £11.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton.

A feature of trading in Queensland pumpkins during the period under review was the growing demand for loose stocks as consigned in trucks and the corresponding rejection of bagged lines. Shipments to Sussex Street during the period aggregated 6,350 bags for which a considerably fluctuating market ruled. A large proportion of the offering came to hand around the middle of the month and, for a time, supplies were in excess of requirements. This caused prices to decline and agents experienced difficulty in effecting clearances, even at £3.10.0 to £4.10.0 per ton. Throughout the remainder of the period, however, from £5.0.0 to £7.0.0 per ton was obtained with ease. Rail consignments to Alexandria increased and the 38 trucks in position cleared well at £4.0.0 to £7.0.0 per ton. The market, generally, varied in accordance with conditions ruling in Sussex Street.

Larger supplies of new season Tasmanian swedes were received during January. A very strong request ruled at all times and the 1,740 bags available moved out rapidly. Quotations varied between £4.0.0 and £7.0.0 per ton in accordance with the quantities of other vegetables on the market. The first shipment of new carrots from Tasmania arrived at the end of the month. It amounted to only 42 bags which were quickly disposed of at £14.0.0 per ton.

The tendency to firm which was so noticeable in the forage market during the month of December reached its peak during the period under review. Almost immediately with the commencement of January buyers began to accumulate stocks for fear of a shortage. Consequent upon keener competition, rates, particularly for oaten chaff, advanced sharply and from £6.10.0 to £7.10.0 represented the ruling market quotations. As is usually the case, the sudden rise in prices resulted in an influx of supplies, both local and interstate. Tasmania was quick to consign 8,000 bags of oaten chaff to Sydney and local growers who had been holding stocks immediately railed them to Alexandria. The high market was short-lived as, in order to maintain deliveries, agents were obliged to reduce rates drastically. Quotations for local supplies throughout the remainder of the month ranged from £5.10.0 to £6.10.0 per ton, whilst Tasmanian moved out slowly at the same rate. In all, local growers consigned 225 trucks of oaten chaff by rail. The 43 of wheaten chaff received sold satisfactorily at £5.5.0 to £7.0.0 per ton, prices being based upon the corresponding market for oaten.

Arrivals of lucerne chaff, although larger, were well within the requirements of the trade. Generally speaking, the quality of the 99 trucks at rail showed considerable variations. Really choice chaff was scarce at all times during January but a fair percentage of prime was available. Values were more or less influenced by realisations for grain chaff but were much higher at £6.5.0 to £8.5.0 per ton.

The outstanding feature of the market for lucerne hay was the shortage of fully matured stocks which are usually forthcoming from the Mudgee district. This was not a result of dry weather in that centre but originated from the considerable increase in the demand from far west New South Wales. Appreciable quantities were consigned each week direct to the dry inland areas in order to provide fodder for stock. The offering on the Sydney market at Alexandria was, therefore, curtailed and only 37 trucks were received. Competition for possession of these limited stocks was spirited and values appreciated considerably. From £7.0.0 to £9.5.0 per ton was obtained and it is important to note that realisations for mature lucerne hay were unaffected by the overloading of other sections of the forage market. Maitland producers consigned a much larger quantity totalling 160 trucks to Alexandria but this was more than balanced by the smaller offering of Hunter River green hay in Sussex Street. Prices at rail opened early in the month at £3.15.0 to £5.10.0 per ton but soon advanced to range from £5.0.0 to £7.10.0. There were, however, one or two periods of over-supply towards the close. In Sussex Street, the market commenced at £2.10.0 to £3.5.0 per ton and closed firm at £4.12.6 to £6.10.0. Only 343 bales arrived.

Larger supplies of Victorian oaten hay totalling 270 bales were forthcoming during January. Demand, however, improved materially and agents were able to effect brisk clearances at the unchanged rate of £9.0.0 to £9.10.0 per ton. Local oaten hay amounting to 40 trucks at Alexandria was also much in request. Buyers were inclined to purchase it as a substitute for lucerne hay. From £5.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton was realised, according to quality.

A very satisfactory request ruled for the 5,820 bales of Tasmanian straw shipped to Sydney during the month. On account of the larger quantity, rates eased a little to range from £4.10.0 to £4.15.0 per ton but disposals were well maintained. The quality of the 42 trucks of local straw railed to Alexandria varied widely and prices ranged accordingly from £3.0.0 to £4.10.0 per ton. Demand was satisfactory.

Trading in wheat at Alexandria cannot be said to have shown any improvement during January. On account of the smaller offering of 71 trucks, rates were a little higher at 4/5 to 4/8 per bushel but clearances were as quiet as those of the previous month. The greater part of the arrivals was of f.s.q. standard.

Shipments of Northern Rivers maize to Sussex Street during January aggregated 860 bags. Most of this supply had been taken from store and considerable damage from weevils was apparent. Because of this, inquiry slackened perceptibly and clearances were difficult to maintain. Values ranged from 4/- to 5/3 per bushel according to quality. The 200 bags to hand from the Illawarra district were of high standard and moved out readily at
5/6

5/6 per bushel. Prices of the 20 trucks of maize at Alexandria were based mostly on Sussex Street quotations. Yellow was quoted at 4/6 to 5/7 and White at 5/- per bushel. A large proportion was from Queensland districts.

Very little trading took place for the 30 trucks of local oats railed to Alexandria. Most of the consignments were taken into store, although a few sales were recorded at 3/2 to 3/8 per bushel.

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EGG PRICES

The following alterations have been made by the Egg Marketing Board in the wholesale prices of eggs since 1st December, 1937:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Hen</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Pullet</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Duck</u> <u>1st Grade</u>	<u>Duck</u> <u>2nd Grade</u>
8/12/37	1/4	1/1	11d	1/1	1/3	1/1
7/1/38	1/6	1/2	1/-	1/2	1/3	1/1
4/2/38	1/6	1/2	1/-	1/3	1/5	1/3
5/2/38	1/7	1/3	11d	1/3	1/5	1/3

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SHIPMENTS OF CITRUS TO NEW ZEALAND.

The following shipments of oranges were made to New Zealand ports during the month of January, 1938:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Export cases</u> <u>(1 1/3 bushels)</u>
3/1/38	"Wanganella"	Auckland	112
6/1/38	"Waitaki"	Wellington	2
14/1/38	"Awatea"	Auckland	1,554
20/1/38	"Aorangi"	Auckland	517
21/1/38	"Awatea"	Wellington	500
25/1/38	"Waitaki"	Wellington	4
28/1/38	"Wanganella"	Auckland	681
			<u>3,370</u>

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FRUIT AND VEGETABLES -
TRADING AT THE CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

Although precipitations of varying intensity were received periodically throughout the month, the weather for the most part was hot and fine with high humidity readings and was, generally speaking, favourable for the sale of fruit. There was a good inquiry for choice peaches, particularly those of the white fleshed varieties such as Shanghai and Shanghai Seedling and values were well maintained. Yellow fleshed sorts, such as Elberta, were plentiful and not so much in request, but generally clearances were satisfactory at nominally steady prices. Supplies from New South Wales districts were augmented by consignments from Victoria.

Cherries were available in moderate quantities early in the month but the end of the second week saw the termination of the season. A steady demand was maintained throughout and choice descriptions realised from 5/- to 7/- per quarter-case.

Nectarines were moderately stocked during the first fortnight but later were plentiful, inland districts being the principal source of supply. Choice large fruit was in request but small descriptions, which constituted the greater proportion of the available supplies, were difficult to clear. The prevalence of "brown rot" fungus made it necessary to clear stock as soon as possible (this applies to stone fruit generally) and was not conducive to high prices, but large fruit of good quality was cleared at satisfactory rates. Fairly heavy supplies of plums were on offer throughout, midseason varieties giving place to the later sorts towards the end of the month when Pond's Seedling, President and Grand Dukes were available. Demand centred chiefly around large fruit of quality, difficulty being experienced in disposing of small and inferior sorts. Prices ranging from 3/- to 7/- per half-case were quoted during the first two weeks, but after that a gradual downward trend in values was apparent.

Passionfruit were heavily supplied and would have presented a serious problem to agents but for the large quantities of average quality fruit purchased by factories for the manufacture of pulp. This allowed vendors to maintain steady values for choice lines for which up to 7/- per half-case was realised.

Choice coloured dessert apples were sought after but these were rather scarce during the early part of the period. The available Gravensteins were too green for other than cooking purposes and Democrats, therefore, cleared well for the first two weeks but gave place to new season varieties when colour and quality had sufficiently improved. Best quality Gravenstein and McIntosh Reds realised to 14/- per case up to the third week, but subsequently values declined with increasing supplies. Demand for

/cookers

cookers was restricted but prices of choice new season Granny Smiths remained fairly steady at 4/- to 9/- per case. At the close of the month supplies of medium quality fruit were excessive and an easier tendency was apparent. Only limited quantities came to hand from Tasmania but some very nice quality fruit was received from the Stanthorpe (Queensland) district and was disposed of at satisfactory prices.

Heavy consignments of Williams pears were forwarded from Victoria and were supplemented by gradually increasing quantities from New South Wales districts. The market for choice lines was fairly firm throughout the month but towards the close considerable quantities of ripe fruit had to be cleared at concession rates and this had a tendency to force prices down generally.

There was a good demand for selected sizes of choice main crop Valencias and satisfactory prices were obtained. This class of Valencias was, however, relatively scarce. Fairly heavy stocks of lower and second crop oranges were on offer but these were not favoured by buyers, particularly the latter which were at times practically unsaleable.

Ample supplies of lemons were marketed early in the month but towards the close only limited quantities came to hand. Request centred principally around choice cured descriptions of 163-252 counts per case and up to 12/- and in some instances 14/- per case was realised for these classes. Freshly picked lemons lacking colour were rather slow of sale.

Although fluctuations occurred in the prices of rock-melons, generally speaking values and clearances were very satisfactory considering the large quantities which were available.

Water-melons were well stocked and, being generally of good quality, cleared steadily. A gradual downward trend in values, however, was apparent over the period.

Black Muscatel Grapes, chiefly from local districts, made their appearance on the market about the second week of the month and choice lines realised to 15/- per half-case. Values, however, gradually declined as supplies increased and at closing 7/- to 8/- per half-case, with some sales of extra choice higher, were the ruling rates. Waltham Cross were also available later in the month and sold steadily at prices ranging to 7/- per half-case.

Approximately 55,900 cases of bananas were received during the month. Of this number about 47,100 were from New South Wales districts and the balance from Queensland.

Hot, muggy weather was responsible for hastening the ripening of many lines and this was aggravated by the arrival of
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many consignments in a mixed ripe condition which caused vendors much concern. Accumulated stocks of ripe and fully coloured fruit were offered at relatively low prices in an endeavour to clear stocks, while inferior fruit was offered for as low as 1/- per case. This had an adverse effect on the market generally and a decline in prices was apparent. Most handlers would show a considerable amount of waste, particularly those without cooling accommodation.

A preference for pineapples from Northern Queensland districts on account of the soundness of the fruit was again manifest among buyers and values were 2/- to 3/- per tropical case higher than for most Southern brands. Moderate quantities were forward during the first week and sales opened at 11/- to 15/- but subsequently on receipt of heavy consignments totalling up to 4,000 cases, values gradually decreased, closing quotations being 6/- to 9/- per tropical case, with some sales of extra choice higher.

Peas were heavily supplied during the first week and prices depreciated. During the following week a severe frost caused extensive damage to crops in some districts and supplies were greatly reduced, with the result that choice lines moved out freely at advanced rates, up to 14/- per bushel being realised. Subsequently increased quantities were forthcoming and, while quality lines were still in good demand, an easier tendency was apparent in price levels.

Beans for the most part were moderately stocked up to Wednesday, 19th January and choice lots cleared well at prices ranging to 9/- per bushel. During the greater part of the following week only comparatively light supplies were offering and prices of choice lines advanced to 12/- per bushel. On Tuesday, 25th January (the eve of the 150th Anniversary Holiday), however, approximately 1,650 bags came to hand from Victoria to supplement local supplies, and caused a collapse in values, those ruling the previous day being halved. The market recovered somewhat during following days but only temporarily.

Generally tomatoes were heavily stocked, supplies from local sources being supplemented by fairly extensive consignments from Victoria. A limited quantity also came to hand from Queensland. With a few exceptions the quality of both local and interstate supplies was only medium with a considerable percentage of inferior grades which were difficult to sell. There was, however, a fair inquiry for choice coloured lines throughout the month. Prices, which fluctuated considerably, rose as high as 10/- per half-case for the best quality descriptions during the second week but thereafter showed a gradual downward trend until Tuesday, 25th January. After Anniversary Day only moderate supplies were available and choice coloured descriptions, which were relatively scarce, were in request and values appreciated.

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

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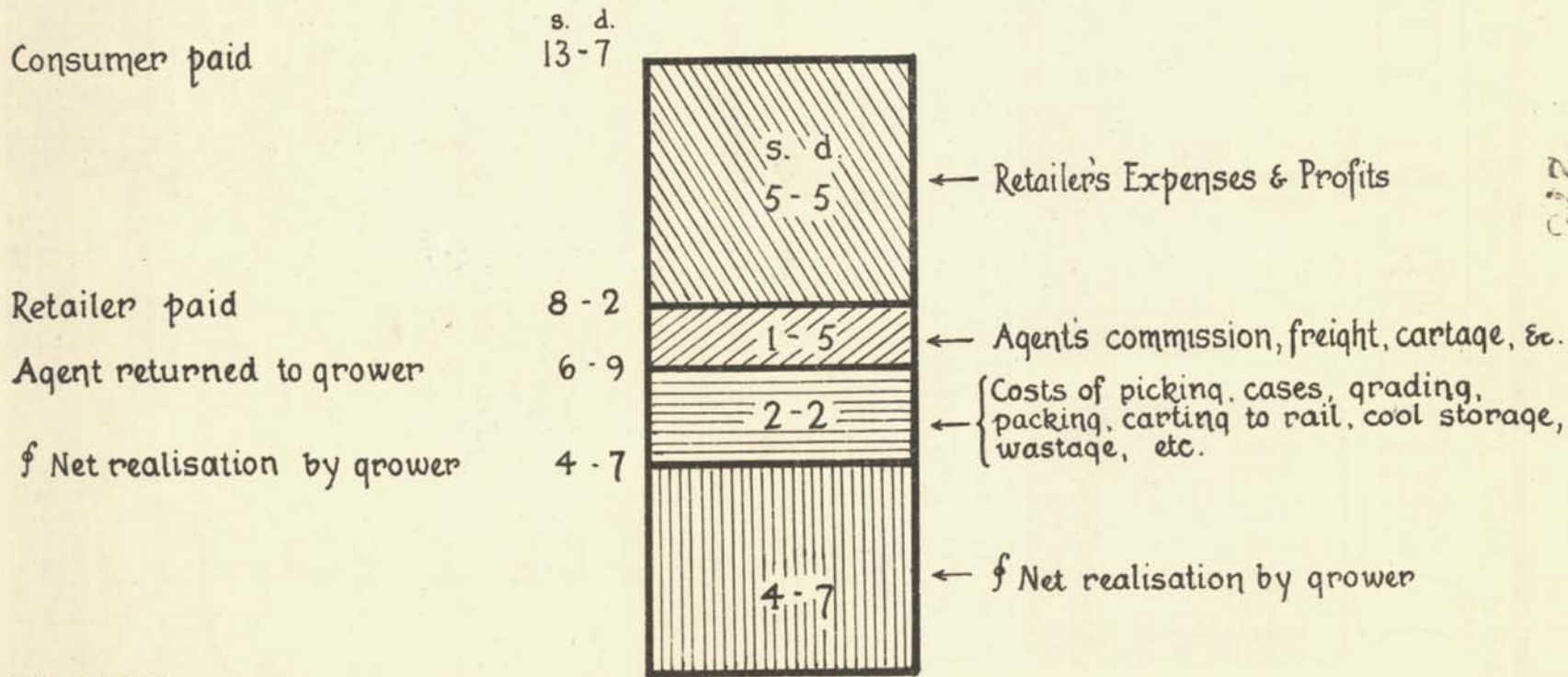
(COASTAL & M.I.A) LEMONS (CHOICE: 163-234)

"SPREAD" BETWEEN THE RETURN TO THE PRODUCER
AND THE PRICE PAID BY THE CONSUMER

SEASON - JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1937.

38-100

PER BUSHEL CASE



270

Compiled - J.H. 27-1-38
Drawn - E.H.S. 28-1-38
Checked - C.K. 28-1-38

£ Costs of production should be deducted from this return.

A. A. WATSON,
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING