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563

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

MONTHLY MARKETING

REVIEW



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

Vol. 2

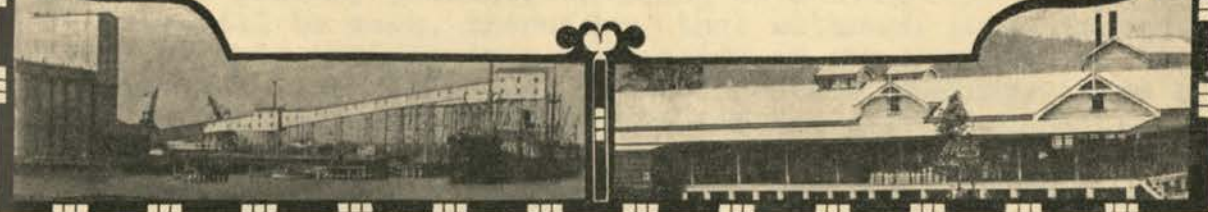
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No. 7

	<u>Page</u>
Interstate trade in primary products ..	375
Cold Storage for the country producer ..	380
Financing marketing organisations ..	384
Stock Sales at Homebush ..	388
Farm Produce - Sales of ..	391
Fruit and Vegetables - Trading at City Markets	394
Commodity Prices in Sydney ..	397
Fruit and Vegetables - Imports into N.S.W.	398
Graph - Peas and Beans - Costs of Marketing	399

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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.

NEW SOUTH WALES AND ITS TRADE IN PRIMARY PRODUCTS WITH OTHER STATES.

In approaching the subject of inter-State trade in Australia one is greatly handicapped by the lack of complete statistical information. Prior to the advent of Federation the Customs Department of each State, or Colony as it was then termed, kept complete records of its external trade, showing quantities when available, and values in all cases. Subsequent to Federation in 1901, the Customs were taken over by the Commonwealth and the Federal Department of Customs kept full records of inter-State trade until September, 1910, when, the procedure laid down in the Braddon Clause (No. 87) of the Constitution having been superseded, it was considered that these records could be discontinued. That is to say, the Commonwealth has not recorded quantities or values in respect of inter-State trade since 1910. For a few years after the year mentioned, Western Australia and Tasmania for special reasons kept certain records of inter-State trade connected with financial assistance from the Commonwealth but those records were very naturally limited to inter-State trade in which Western Australia and Tasmania were respectively involved. Latterly, however, the various Government Statisticians have taken the matter up and all States have agreed to endeavour to re-include a system of necessary records of inter-State trading, restricted to the principal items at the outset. Western Australia and Tasmania have restored virtually complete recording, Queensland has largely re-established a system of recording values, whilst Victoria and South Australia have certain incidental records more or less complete. So far as New South Wales is concerned, reasonably complete records are obtained only in respect of the principal primary products entering or leaving the State. It readily will be seen, therefore, that although it is intended to restrict this article to a discussion of the question as it affects New South Wales and its inter-State trading, there are gaps in the statistical records which are a great handicap in any investigation.

The situation may be likened to a business organisation which bought and sold goods and kept insufficient records of whom

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it bought from and to whom it sold, or of quantities bought from or sold to particular persons and of the values paid to or received from those persons. The conduct of a business along such lines would everywhere be considered unsound. It is apparent that each State needs to know definitely whether the balance of inter-State trade is with it or against it. This can be definitely determined only when complete records are kept regarding the movement of commodities from one State to another.

Of the six States of the Commonwealth of Australia, New South Wales is probably by far the largest buyer of the primary products of other States. Each of the States, including New South Wales, is a buyer from and a seller to the other States, but it would appear from the records available and from the fact that she has the largest population, that this State heads the list as a purchaser. Under the circumstances it may fairly be said that the citizens of New South Wales are a "boon and a blessing" to farmers of other States. We recoup ourselves, of course, to the extent that the products of our farmers - and other commodities such as coal and manufactured goods - are sold in other States, but the purpose of this article is to discuss our trade in primary products as a distinctive feature of our inter-State relations and as a factor in the economic life and development of New South Wales.

It will be interesting, at this stage, to look over a list of primary products which New South Wales does not produce in sufficient quantities to meet her own requirements. Experts have expressed the opinion that the potato-growing districts of New South Wales could produce the whole of the potatoes needed within her borders. In the year 1936/37 New South Wales consumed approximately 130,000 tons of potatoes with a market value in Sydney of £1,193,000. During the same period she produced only 66,255 tons with a market value in Sydney of approximately £406,000 leaving it to Tasmania and Victoria to supply the shortage and reap the resultant financial benefit.

Inasmuch as the recorded production of onions within New South Wales in season 1936/37 was only 299 tons with a Sydney market value of £5,640, it follows that the great bulk of the onions consumed in this State is produced outside its borders. In actual fact, Victoria produces substantially the whole of the onions grown in Australia, although expert advice is to the effect that large tracts of land suitable for the production of this crop are to be found within this State and that the climate of New South Wales is particularly well adapted to onion growing. In addition, the season in this State is several weeks ahead of the Southern State which would give the local grower a considerable advantage on the Sydney market.

Although the quantity of maize imported from other States, chiefly Queensland, has fallen away materially through various causes during the last couple of seasons, nevertheless it amounted to £48,000 worth in 1936/37. Once more it has to be said that if

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imports were governed by ability to produce, New South Wales should rarely, if ever, need to look to other States for its supplies of maize.

During the year 1936/37 New South Wales imported 1,568,000 bushel cases of fruit (exclusive of bananas and pineapples) from other States, and exported 1,147,000 bushels to other States. So far as temperate climate fruits are concerned, New South Wales is capable of supplying her own requirements and as regards bananas, production within New South Wales has increased very considerably.

It may, perhaps, be difficult to realise that a great dairying State like ours should find it necessary to import from other States no less than 8,936,788 lb. weight of bacon and hams worth wholesale in Sydney the sum of about £408,000, but such was the case during the year under review and it regularly happens that we import bacon and hams from Queensland, despite our own capacity to produce. Cheese also is imported, mainly from Queensland, the quantity during the same year having been 3,941,426 lb. weight of an estimated value in Sydney of almost £160,000. There does not seem to be any reason why we could not keep ourselves in cheese.

Coming now to those primary products of which New South Wales produces an excess over and above her own requirements, we naturally think of wool and wheat, our staple products. Imports of either of these commodities are, of course, negligible, but it would be a mistake to suppose that imports occur only when local production is insufficient. In connection with eggs, it is to be said that we imported from other States during 1936/37 approximately 968,390 dozens, and were compelled to export overseas 5,429,732 dozens out of our production. Organisation of the egg industry is well-established in New South Wales, but surplus production in other States seeks an outlet in Sydney in preference to overseas.

Under Section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution, freedom of trade between the various States is guaranteed and it is the undoubted right of each State to avail itself of that provision to the full. It is to be said, also, that, whilst inter-State competition can be pushed too far, it may present within rational trading limits, many advantages. The question naturally arises as to the most effective manner of imposing and securing recognition of such limits.

With regard to dried fruits, the position is that the industry is faced with the problem of disposing of a huge surplus each year, over and above domestic requirements. Under such circumstances, unrestricted inter-State competition would be ruinous as every grower would naturally wish to dispose of his produce locally in preference to exporting to the less remunerative market overseas. This led to the passing of Acts in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia in which

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provision was made for the control by State Boards of dried fruit packing and selling intra-State. Power was also given to the Boards to determine the amount required to meet Australian domestic requirements and to fix uniform quotas for the purpose of sale within each State. Whilst this could prevent the sale in the State of origin of dried fruit in excess of the declared quota, inter-State trade could not be controlled by State legislation. Supplementary Federal legislation was therefore passed which prohibited the movement of dried fruits from one State to another, except under license issued by State Dried Fruits Boards (acting on behalf of the Federal Authorities), such licences being also contingent upon export quotas being complied with; these export quotas were determined by the Commonwealth Minister for Commerce on the recommendation of the State Boards and were complementary to those under the State Acts. The regulation of inter-State trade through the provisions of the Commonwealth Dried Fruits Act was recently declared by the Privy Council to be ultra vires that section of the Constitution which provides that "trade between the States shall be absolutely free". However, the marketing machinery set up under the foregoing legislation now functions under voluntary arrangements. It is understood that the voluntary regulation of the dried fruits industry has been satisfactory during the relatively short period it has been conducted on that basis, but it is difficult to say whether it can continue to be so permanently. Its success would appear to depend wholly upon the support accorded by all within the industry.

In the case of butter, elimination of all ill-advised inter-State competition was formerly secured through the operation of the "Paterson scheme for the stabilisation of the Dairy Industry" which came into operation on 1st January, 1926, with the object of stabilising the better market in Australia under the control of the Australian Stabilisation Committee. The application of the scheme was made possible as the result of widespread voluntary co-operative organisation of producers of butter in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. The main object of the scheme was to maintain the Australian price of butter at 3d per lb. above London parity. The system which was adopted provided for a monetary levy on each pound of butter produced in Australia, the proceeds being devoted to the payment of a bounty on each pound of butter exported from Australia to overseas countries.

By the operation of the scheme stability was preserved in the local market and prices in Australia were maintained at 3d per lb. above London parity, but subsequently it became very evident that, through a number of causes, purely voluntary action would not be sufficient to meet the needs of the industry. The problem received consideration by the representatives of various Governments and it was finally decided that suitable legislation should be enacted in order that each State might be in a position to determine both the export quota and the home consumption quota, and generally regulate and control the industry. Under such an

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arrangement all States would share in proper proportion the proceeds of both the export and the home market.

In order to fix both the home quota and the export quota some form of inter-State control was required and as the States are unable to pass legislation providing for such control, it was necessary to have supplementary Federal legislation. In effect, the situation was similar to that which arose in regard to dried fruits and referred to earlier in this article. However, the main producing States and the Commonwealth passed Dairy Products Acts and the provisions thereof were applied to butter as from 1st May, 1934.

Although the Privy Council decision referred to above similarly affected the legislation with regard to butter, the marketing problems are met by voluntary co-operation between producers (principally through the dairy factories) and Equalisation Committees functioning in the main dairying States. If any butter producer sells on the local market a quantity in excess of the declared domestic quota, an amount equal to the difference between the home price and export price, realised on the quantity sold in excess of the quota, is paid into an equalisation fund. Conversely, those producers who sell less than their quota on the home market by shipping butter overseas are recouped their losses on export from such fund.

In conclusion the position from the standpoint of New South Wales may be briefly summarised as follows:- In the first instance, there is urgent need for complete statistics covering the interchange of Australian products, both primary and secondary, between the States of the Commonwealth. Secondly, there is scope for increased production in New South Wales of a number of important primary products, such as potatoes, onions, bacon and hams and cheese. Admittedly such increased production would be expected to lessen recourse to inter-State supplies but the development of this State and its economic welfare alike demand that it shall be as reasonably self-sustaining as possible. The magnet which attracts inter-State suppliers is the Metropolitan area of Sydney, but the interests of Sydney and the rural parts of New South Wales are so inter-woven that the development of the latter is of greater moment to the former than the encouragement of inter-State sources of necessary supplies. Sydney is, and is destined to remain, the greatest market in the Commonwealth. Thirdly, inter-State trade in primary products emphasises the need for both intra- and inter-State organisation of primary producers. In the absence of such organisation New South Wales, by reason of the value of her market, is peculiarly liable to unnecessary inflows of inter-State products, to periodical gluts and to cut-throat competition. Given effective organisation, however, the producers of New South Wales will be in the best possible position to avail themselves of their proximity to the best market in Australia.

A.A.W.

COLD STORAGE FOR THE COUNTRY PRODUCER - A TALK BY
THE SUPERINTENDENT OF MARKETS.

An interesting and informative address was recently given by Mr. Willis J. Williams, B.Sc., Superintendent of Markets, Sydney, in which he outlined the development and the advances which have been made in the methods used for the preservation of foodstuffs, together with a discussion of the advantages to be derived from modern cold storage.

Mr. Williams has kindly consented to it being published in these columns for benefit of the many parties interested in this phase of activity.

The conservation of foodstuffs demanded the attention of man in his primitive state, for all ancient races throughout the world have preserved certain foods by the use of either salt or smoking, two methods which are in vogue even today. There are other ways used when various chemicals are applied to the produce or when certain fruits or meats are placed in hermetically sealed vessels so that the air can be excluded and the contents sterilised. Heat was commonly used for a great many years as a means of preserving foodstuffs but with the advance of science far better methods were evolved whereby they were preserved by the use of low temperatures.

In 1839 Captain Nicolle brought ice from the United States and delivered it in Sydney and in 1861 he commenced a small plant in Darlinghurst to manufacture artificial ice, while three years previous to this Mr. James Harrison patented a machine for making ice in Victoria.

Captain Nicolle, in conjunction with Thomas Sutcliffe Mort, one of Australia's pioneers, carried out many experiments in Sydney with the object of exporting meat from Australia to England. Mort formed a company not only with the object of making ice but also preserving foods. He was a man who, knowing that Australia was a place where all the primary products could be obtained in abundance, realised it would be necessary to export produce beyond the shores of the continent if the population was to be maintained. He carried out experiment after experiment and was just on the eve of success in 1876 when he died. However, Mort laid the foundations for the preservation of food by cold. In 1879 the first frozen meat left Australia and arrived in England in 1880, the experiment proving a decided success. It was not, however, until 1890 that the first shipment of fruit left Australia for England and arrived in comparatively good order and condition.

Exports of chilled and frozen produce for the year ended 30th June, 1937, were worth over £20,000,000, which gives some idea of the advantage accruing from the use of cold storage in the preservation of foods.

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There are many advantages arising out of and uses to which cold storage can be put and with the advance of scientific knowledge these extend in many directions, but consideration is only given herein to cold storage in connection with primary products. The advantages have ably been summed up by an English authority under three headings as follow:-

- (1) It is more effective than any other method of preservation.

Many methods of preservation have been in vogue, such as drying, salting, sugaring, smoking, use of chemicals and by the exclusion of air, known as the "Appert" method. When one considers these various methods of keeping foods, it can be seen that cold storage is a much more effective method than any of these older methods.

- (2) There is no material alteration in the food value of produce.

This can easily be seen because if smoking or drying or chemicals are used, there is always the possibility of the food value being diminished, but in cold storage such change does not take place.

- (3) There is no material alteration in the appearance or taste of the produce.

As soon as anything is added to or taken away from food there is at once an alteration in the appearance and in many cases the original flavour is lost, whereas food kept by the use of cold storage when properly taken from the low temperatures the appearance in nearly every case is the same and there is very slight alteration in the taste of but few of the products so treated.

The uses of cold storage are many and varied but they have been very concisely stated by an American authority as coming under four headings:-

- (1) Delaying the process in the decay of perishable foods.

Foods under ordinary circumstances waste very considerably, decomposition sets in and the food is spoilt; when a produce is held in cold storage, however, it can be kept for varying lengths of time according to its life in cold temperatures and decay is delayed.

- (2) Extending the period of consumption.

With the advent of people living in large cities, some means of holding produce is necessary in order that the period of consumption might be extended. Today it is possible to use the various fruits in and out of season in good condition.

- (3) Enabling the producer to market produce as needed.

This has been the means of preventing the many gluts that have taken place, especially in respect of summer fruits. These can be placed in cold storage, held for a few weeks and then used. It has also been the means of assisting the canning industry; as those fruits which are canned come in for a very short season, they can be placed in store and sent to the factory at regular intervals. In addition, the value of the foodstuffs is protected.

- (4) Making transportation possible irrespective of distance.

This factor is a very important one and controls the whole of the export trade in foodstuffs from one country to another. In a land of great distances like Australia, it enables the producer to send his produce to the cities in perfect safety and enables not only the people of the country of production but also the people of other lands to benefit. On account of the great variety of foods that can be obtained throughout the whole year, the health of a community should be much better than before the advent of cold storage.

The machinery invented by engineers for cold storage purposes would be of little use if installed in an ordinary building. What is required is a building that is insulated. What do we mean by insulation? Perhaps the best illustration that can be given is that man insulates his body by the clothes he wears; animals are insulated with the fur or wool on their backs; trees are insulated with the bark that surrounds them, the object being, of course, to maintain an even temperature within the body so that it might function in the best possible way.

When we speak of an insulated building, we refer to one that has been insulated so that the heat might be kept out and an even temperature maintained within.

Insulation, then, must be a poor conductor of heat and to effect this, feathers, wool, hair, bark, pumice or charcoal might be used. The ideal would be a vacuum surrounding the building but so far this has not been practicable in an extensive way. The type of insulation to be used depends on the locality. In a building to be erected in a city where the land is decidedly valuable, the very best insulation - that is, one that is the poorest conductor of heat - will be used. This insulation is cork, which should be the best procurable. In a country district, however, where land is not so valuable, insulation might be used that would not be quite so effective as cork but can be made effective by using a much larger quantity. For instance, four inches of cork would be equal to 10 inches of charcoal, so that cork would be used where land values are high and charcoal, which is much cheaper, where land values are much lower.

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Having obtained the insulated building, certain other essentials are required. There must be the machinery to produce the cold and this will be effected either by extracting the heat from the room or driving cold into it. This will mean an addition of various ducts, fans, piping and batteries, and some means will have to be devised for the ventilation of the rooms for the purification of the air which will be contaminated by the gases which come from certain products, such as fruits.

It will be necessary to guard against the introduction of hot air, otherwise the humidity and temperature will be affected and the amount of work on the machinery increased. It is very important wherever foods are kept in cold storage to be able to maintain a constant and even temperature and, at the same time, to have a regulated humidity. Humidity is the amount of water suspended in the air; should there be too much humidity moulds will develop and spoil the goods. On the other hand, should the humidity be low, moisture will be taken out of the foodstuffs and there will be a serious loss in the weight of the product. Humidity and temperature go hand in hand in the successful keeping of those things which are placed in cold storage and just as there will be spoiling of the goods with uneven humidity so there will develop certain bacteria in the foods, if the temperature is not kept constant.

It has taken many years of experience and experiments to determine the right temperature and the proper humidity. The development of cold storage was a slow process and it was only after ordinary storage was used that, with the advent of science, machinery was brought into vogue to produce a more even temperature.

Caves in the earth are generally of a constant temperature and regular humidity; rarely is the temperature about above 60 degrees or the air comparatively dry, and for a long time these were made use of in the preservation of foodstuffs. Certain foods were kept until the winter months with a fair amount of success. It will be within the memory of many when cellars were provided under many houses and the most familiar example is that of housewives placing butter in jars during the time of plenty, so that there would be a supply during the winter months. This butter kept remarkably well and it was only necessary to scrape the top off and the contents could be used in the home. In 1805 great use was made of snow and ice in places where it could be obtained. This natural product was placed over and in the rooms, and it was herein that large quantities of fish were kept. There was, undoubtedly, a variation in the temperature but it was an advance towards something better. Later on ice-chests were brought into being in the homes and here was a further advance by means of which various foods, both cooked and uncooked, were kept for much longer periods than in ordinary air temperatures. Then came the introduction of machinery and the refrigeration engineer. Great advances have been made over the last fifty years, and quite apart from the large stores that exist throughout the world for the effective keeping of foods, the engineer has been able to

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produce a small machine for affording the housewife an opportunity of keeping in the home those things which recently had to be kept in large cold storage warehouses.

Cold storage for the country man is of very great value when you consider that such articles as eggs, poultry, milk, butter, cheese, fruit and vegetables can all be kept for varying times, from a time of plenty to a time of scarcity. These varieties of foodstuffs assist in maintaining the health of the community and are especially to the advantage of the people of a young country like Australia.

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A SURVEY OF SOME OF THE METHODS ADOPTED FOR
FINANCING MARKETING ORGANISATIONS OR SCHEMES.

In marketing, especially large scale statutory marketing, finance plays equally as great a part, relatively, as it does in government. Marketing organisations require finance for various purposes such as general administration, for necessary buildings and plant, for pooling, for marketing as distinct from pooling, including local and overseas selling and cold storage. Various systems of finance are adopted, some organisations obtaining the necessary funds by direct charges against the proceeds of sales, others employing the "revolving fund" system, while many secure accommodation from banks, by means of overdrafts. In this article it is proposed briefly to outline the legislative provisions relating to finance of the Agricultural Marketing Acts of the individual States of the Commonwealth, of Great Britain and other parts of the Empire, and to show how these provisions have been put into practice.

Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927-1934, New South Wales.

Marketing Boards constituted under the Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927-1934 (New South Wales), are empowered to arrange for financial accommodation with the Government of the Commonwealth or with any banking institution or person approved by the Governor, and to give such securities for advances as will effectually place the commodity or any other assets of the Board under the legal control of the party affording such accommodation.

A Marketing Board collects no share capital from the producers but is able to arrange financial accommodation on the security of its ownership of the commodity it represents. The Act provides, moreover, that a Board may deduct from the proceeds of sale of a commodity the expenditure incurred in and about the marketing or treatment of the commodity, the costs, charges and expenses of the administration by the Board of the Act and any sums necessary to repay any advances made to the Board and interest thereon. Thus the Board is enabled to secure funds for (a) costs of administration, erection and equipment of offices, depots and the like, (b) the repayment of loans for these or

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similar purposes and (c) for the reimbursement of overdrafts. It also stipulates that the grower shall receive from the Board the average nett proceeds of sales of all the products of the same quality or standard delivered to and sold by the Board during a prescribed period which represents the pool period and, in connection with Boards so far constituted, extends over approximately twelve months.

The Boards at present operating under this legislation are:-

The Egg Marketing Board (for the Counties of Cumberland and Northumberland and the Shires of Nattai and Wollondilly).

The Rice Marketing Board.

The Wine Grapes Marketing Board.

The Banana Marketing Board.

The receipt and disposal of eggs by the Egg Marketing Board continue throughout the year, and the producer is paid the local price as determined by the Board from time to time, irrespective of whether his eggs are sold locally at that rate or on the London market at a higher or lower price; from such payment, however, the Board deducts so much per dozen (at present one penny) for marketing purposes and five per cent. commission to cover handling and selling expenses. Should a balance remain at the close of the pool period after allowances have been made for any losses sustained on export or other operations, together with any debits carried forward from previous pools, it is available to be distributed amongst producers on a pro rata basis. The Board has permitted egg producers to sell direct to local consumers or retail vendors under a 'producer agency' system at prices not less than those fixed by the Board for eggs in their various grades instead of delivering the eggs to the Board. Such 'producer agents' are required to furnish the Board with regular returns and to remit therewith amounts based on a charge per dozen in respect of the numbers of eggs thus sold, being the equivalent of the 'pool deduction' charge against eggs delivered to and sold by the Board. Moneys so collected are applied to pool, administration and other costs of the Board, whereby prices levels are maintained for the benefit of the industry as a whole.

A normal procedure in the conduct of most pools would be as follows:- Payments in the nature of advances are made to producers during the pool period in respect of the commodity delivered to the Board, the amounts thereof being determined in the light of prevailing and anticipated conditions influencing price levels and having in view the desirability of so fixing the amount of the advances that the aggregate payments thus made will not exceed the final sales realisations at the close of the pooling period; that is to say, that care would be taken to the end that

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there would be a balance available when the accounts were closed for meeting liabilities or for distribution to producers on a pro rata basis. Under the system adopted by the Egg Marketing Board, the producer is paid within a fortnight after delivery, a price fixed by the Board from week to week, which may be higher or lower than the price eventually realised. This variation of ordinary pool practice has been adopted in consideration of special features presented by an industry which has daily crops of eggs and running expenses for feed, etc., which must be met at frequent intervals.

The purchase of plant, furniture and equipment for the Egg Marketing Board's offices, receiving and packing floors in Sydney and Newcastle, was financed by bank overdraft accommodation. The necessary funds for carrying out the cool storage and export operations of each pool and the payments, in anticipation of realisations, to producers for eggs delivered are obtained by similar means, the bank having as security a charge over the eggs produced within the area controlled and over the Board's tangible assets, such eggs being vested, by proclamation, in the Board. Should capital be required for any extraordinary purpose, the bank may raise the question of added security, as in the case of any other business.

The Rice Marketing Board receives the harvested rice (i.e. 'paddy' or un-dehusked rice) from the growers and arranges for its sale on the Australian and overseas markets. In order to make advances to the producers as soon as they have delivered the rice, the Board secures a bank overdraft against the security of the rice held. Further advances are made as realisations permit and the pool is wound up as early as practicable each year, when an equalised price is established; this price, minus charges for handling and overhead expenses, and less advances made, forms the basis of the final distribution to growers. Storage sheds, sidings and railway connections costing approximately £20,000 were erected by the Board in 1928/29 and the cost liquidated by charges on the rice delivered during the three years 1929, 1930 and 1931.

The Wine Grapes Marketing Board functions mainly as a negotiating body between the growers and wine makers, fixing prices at which the producers may deliver wine grapes to the wineries. The latter pay the producers of these grapes, making a deduction, however, of 6d per ton, which is remitted to the Board to meet administrative expenses.

The Banana Marketing Board controls the marketing within the State of bananas produced in New South Wales and also engages in the marketing of bananas grown in this State, in Melbourne, Adelaide and Hobart. The Board markets bananas in Sydney (its principal outlet) through approved agents, the proceeds being paid to the Board, which then remits payment to the individual growers. The agents are allowed a remuneration of $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ commission and 1/- per case ripening fee, while for any regrading done by agents under the supervision of the Board's inspectors, a fee of 6d per case is authorised to be charged. The agents pay to the Board a service charge of 3d per case.

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Under an arrangement between the Banana Marketing Board and the Banana Growers' Federation Co-operative Company, Ltd., transport license fees at the rate of one half-penny per case are paid by the latter to the former in respect of all bananas transported and on account of bananas transported to Sydney an 'agency fee' of $\frac{3}{8}$ d per case is also paid to the Board.

The Banana Marketing Board has appointed a limited number of growers as producer-agents on condition that they furnish monthly returns to the Board, together with a remittance computed on a per case basis on account of bananas sold. These producer-agents must also undertake not to sell for less than the rates fixed by the Board.

The income of the Banana Marketing Board is mainly derived from (a) collections from the transport contractors (the Banana Growers' Federation) amounting to $\frac{7}{8}$ d per case on consignments to Sydney ($\frac{1}{2}$ d per case to other destinations), (b) collection from the Board's authorised agents of 3d per case and (c) collection from producer agents at the rate of 3d per case. The expenses charged to the Pool are those arising from the general administration and conduct of the Board, including advertising, publicity and the issue of the "Banana Bulletin", depreciation of office furniture and equipment at Sydney, Murwillumbah and Lismore and of the ripening plants at Sydney, Lismore and Hobart.

At the end of the 1936-37 Pool, the Board had a surplus of over £5,000, which was carried forward to assist in financing future extensions, including the construction of ripening rooms in Sydney.

Any funds necessary for the operations of the consignment account, in anticipation of realisations, are obtained by bank overdraft accommodation, secured by the Board's assets (furniture, fittings, the accrued pool surplus, fruit unsold, etc.)

(To be continued)

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The current term (3 years) of the Banana Marketing Board will expire on 8th August, 1938, and in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing of Primary Products Act and Regulations a poll is to be taken on 29th July, 1938, for the election of producer-members. The Board comprises seven members, five of whom are to be elected and two are appointed by the Government. Ten nominations were received by the Returning Officer (Mr. A.A. Watson) in respect of the five producer-members to be elected. T.M. Ronan and J.J. Murphy were elected unopposed for Electoral Districts Nos. 3 and 4, respectively, there being no other nominations. Ballot papers were despatched to producers enrolled for Electoral Districts Nos. 1 and 2 on 15th July, 1938.

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STOCK SCARCER AT HOMEBUSH SALEYARDS, SYDNEY.
SHEEP AND LAMBS VERY DEAR.

The light supplies of sheep and lambs at the Homebush Saleyards in June were only to be expected, the market invariably being somewhat short at this time of the year. Flocks were considerably depleted by the drought recently experienced over such a large section of the State and owners are now holding back stock for shearing as well as making an endeavour to build up their flocks. The yardings throughout June were exceptionally small, totalling 197,826 or about 7,000 less than in the corresponding period of last year. How penning have fallen off is instanced by a reference to the numbers available during May when 376,441 sheep and lambs were sold. In reviewing the position over a number of years it was found that during the 10 year period 1927/1936 the annual average yardings of sheep and lambs totalled 3,576,000, while supplies for the year ended 30th June, 1937, aggregated 3,462,400, a figure somewhat below the 10 year average. Owing to the prolonged dry weather forcing so many sheep and lambs on to the market during 1937/1938 (3,583,000 head), the 10 year average and also the total for the previous year were substantially exceeded. With the lighter supplies coming to hand, it was noticeable that there was a definite improvement in the general quality, plain wethers and ewes not being so plentiful as previously. Fair to good sheep were the most numerous but quite a few of nice quality and appearance were offered. Some good lines of store sheep were offered and were secured for restocking purposes. The scarcity of sheep created a particularly strong demand as the penning were at all times far short of buyers' requirements. The market was the dearest experienced for some considerable time and, although on two occasions a fall of from 1/- to 2/- per head occurred, this was more than offset by several increases of from 1/- to 3/-; taking the position as a whole, the market could be quoted as closing 3/- to 4/- dearer than at the end of May.

Some particularly good sales of sheep were effected, wethers making up to 36/- a head, while disposals at 28/- to 32/- were quite frequent; ewes also sold remarkably well, realising to 30/-, but generally buyers paid from 22/- to 27/- for good to prime grades. Plain sheep were cleared at relatively lower figures but the short supplies forced buyers to concentrate on the plainer grades of mutton and values showed a substantial increase. At the beginning of June wether mutton cost 4d to 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. on the hoof according to weight and quality, and at one stage could be obtained at 4d to 5d, but as demand became stronger, buyers, in an endeavour to obtain sufficient for their requirements, were paying 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. at the close of the month. The position in respect of ewes was somewhat similar, the lowest rates being 4d to 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d and reaching 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d on the last sale held in June. Some idea of the strength of the market may be gained by referring to the best price recorded for mutton during the corresponding month last year when wethers reached 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and

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ewes 4d per lb. Values for skins also showed an improvement during June, further enhancing the return to the producer.

There was a shortage of really prime lambs, the supply being mostly of fair to good quality with quite a few plain sorts. Hoggets were also fairly scarce but some very attractive lots were offered. On one occasion a consignment of new season's sucker lambs was available; they were of Border Leicester Cross and in prime condition. The request for this lot of lambs was particularly good and they realised the very high rate of $9\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. on the hoof, one of the best prices paid for some considerable time.

The strong position of the sheep market was also reflected in the prices paid for lambs, some sales being effected at as high as 32/- per head, although average values ranged from 26/- to 30/- for the better grades with plainer sorts realising relatively lower rates. The cost of lambs on the hoof increased by about 1d per lb. during June, carcasses costing from $6\frac{1}{2}$ d to $7\frac{5}{8}$ d per lb. on the hoof during the early part of the month and $7\frac{1}{2}$ d to $8\frac{5}{8}$ d at closing. There was also a substantial increase in the cost of hogget mutton, rates at the end of June ranging from $5\frac{5}{8}$ d to $6\frac{1}{2}$ d which represented an increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1d per lb. on the price ruling at the commencement of the period.

The market as a whole was very satisfactory and given continued light yardings and a further strong demand there is every possibility of mutton and lamb reaching peak prices during next month. Prices obtained on a per head basis have been considerably higher in the past but as skins were also making good prices the actual cost of the mutton did not reach such levels as were experienced during the month. Further trouble was experienced with mutton slaughtermen at the Homebush Abattoirs but fortunately it was only of short duration and did not affect the sale of mutton and lamb to any great extent.

Truckings of cattle to Homebush were lighter during the past month than for some considerable time, the advent of good and fairly general rains at the latter end of May and towards the close of June causing a reduction in consignments. At this time of the year lighter yardings are to be expected but the demands of the trade continued strong and throughout the month, particularly towards the close, it was apparent that many buyers were finding it difficult to obtain supplies. In all, 25,714 head of cattle were yarded, including the now usual heavy proportion of 4,413 bulls and stores.

When compared with the previous month the standard of quality was, if anything, somewhat better, although during the early part of the period it would be hard to imagine plainer offerings. On succeeding sale days increased numbers of fair to good cattle were forward. It is as yet much too early for

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the improved grazing conditions to be reflected at Homebush but much credit is due to cattle owners who, despite setbacks, are able to maintain a fairly reasonable standard of quality. In reviewing the position in regard to beef supplies, it might perhaps be as well to remember that the relief afforded to large sections of the grazing areas has, at best, only eliminated fears regarding the immediate future.

With regard to the offerings themselves, an outstanding feature was the almost total absence of heavy cattle. Bullocks and steers were chiefly light to medium weight; many consignments were very plain but notably good lots arrived from the Hunter-Manning district and from parts of the Central Tableland. Probably, the best line of bullocks seen for some time arrived from the Hunter River area and, although hardly typical of sales for bullocks, some particulars should be of interest. The animals were mostly Shorthorns and were on the heavy side, the "top" yard being estimated to weigh between 850 lbs. and 900 lbs. while few of the hundred odd in the draft would dress at less than 675 lbs. They sold to £13.18.0 and averaged approximately £12.15.0 per head. On the same day a really good line of lighter bullocks from the Goulburn district averaged £12.8.0 per head or the equivalent of 37/- per 100 lb. of beef. This latter lot was nearer to the general type of quality bullocks that have been coming forward. Other sales of good to prime bullocks and steers were noticed where prices per head and value on the hoof compared very favourably with those just quoted, but large numbers of plain to fair descriptions were disposed of at considerably lower rates. A number of typical realisations on a basis of dressed weight ranged between 33/- and 36/- per 100 lbs.

A feature of sales of both bullocks and steers for this and previous months, which caused comment, was that, although rates realised for bullocks and steers were satisfactory, they suffered by comparison with those obtained for cows, heifers and vealers.

These classes of cattle were, generally speaking, in strong demand throughout and it was at times rather surprising to observe the rates obtained even for indifferent quality lots, the equivalent of 29/- to 30/- per 100 lbs. of beef being often recorded, while up to 35/- was by no means uncommon. For fair trade heifers, 33/- to 35/- per 100 lbs. was more or less general while good lines, which of course were much less numerous, reached to £2 per 100 lbs. The centres around Dungog and Gloucester figured prominently in supplying both cows and heifers of good quality.

Only very light to moderate supplies of vealers were in evidence during the period. Demand on most days was particularly strong, high rates being paid for fair to good trade lines, while anything showing quality was nearly always disposed of at (from the buyer's viewpoint, at least) an almost prohibitive price. This state of affairs was more pronounced towards the close of June.

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The most notable feature was the steady tone of the market. The increase in values apparent towards the end of May was for the most part well maintained. Fluctuations were noticeable, especially where plain cattle were concerned, while values for good lines, notably bullocks and steers, were often irregular but they did not rise or fall to any great extent.

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

Supplies of potatoes on the Sydney market during June were much lighter and, as a result, values were approximately 10/- per ton higher. Tasmanian growers restricted their consignments and only 85,716 bags arrived in Sussex Street. Quotations throughout the period ranged as follow:- Brownells £10.0.0 to £11.0.0; Albas £9.0.0 to £10.10.0; Bismarcks £8.10.0 to £10.10.0; Snowflakes and Arranchiefs £8.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton. A feature was the remarkable shortage of choice, large whiteskin potatoes, a large proportion of the arrivals being of the Brownell variety. A strong inquiry was apparent at most times and stocks passed from first hands fairly early each week. In addition to the above supplies, Victorian growers forwarded 2,250 bags of the Carman and Snowflake varieties which sold well at £8.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton. Also, 220 bags of West Australian Delawares came to hand and were disposed of at £9.0.0 to £10.0.0. It is interesting to note that prices of interstate potatoes were almost double those of June last year when 40% more tubers were available. Local growers forwarded 13,708 bags of potatoes, mainly of the Factor variety, to Alexandria and a very satisfactory request prevailed at all times. Values of No. 1 Grade, which opened at £6.1.8 to £8.15.0 per ton, advanced steadily throughout the month and finally attained £11.3.4, all realisations being at auction. The standard of quality was considerably higher than that of May, although a slight amount of grub-infestation was still in evidence. Local growers benefited from the shortage of large whiteskin stocks as well-graded Factors can always fill that requirement. Seed potatoes were offered in moderate quantities and brought from £5.5.0 to £9.5.0 per ton. In addition, 328 bags of Victorian Snowflakes were on hand and were disposed of at £10.0.0 to £10.5.0 per ton.

Prices of Victorian onions on Sussex Street wharves were firmer throughout June. Shipments aggregating approximately 11,000 bags were received and stocks, generally, were well within buyers' needs. Pickling onions were scarce and cleared rapidly at £5.10.0 to £7.0.0 per ton. White onions were available during the early part of the month only at £20.0.0 per ton and passed out of season. The field was then clear for Victorian brown table onions and a keen request ruled. Values were very stable, varying between £9.10.0 and £10.10.0 per ton and most good quality

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lines were sold at the latter rate. Victorian growers also forwarded 1,107 bags of brown table onions by rail to Alexandria and these were quoted at wharf rates.

A satisfactory but fluctuating market was noticeable in respect of pumpkins at Alexandria. Consignments comprised 51 trucks from local centres and 18 from Queensland, most of which were of a very good standard. Early, stocks were mainly from local centres, whilst the Queensland offerings came to hand subsequently. Prices ranged from £5.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton and rose and fell in accordance with the variations in the quantities available. Arrivals of Queensland pumpkins by sea amounted to 1,450 bags which were of a satisfactory standard and moved out readily at £6.10.0 to £8.0.0.

Arrivals of Tasmanian swedes, carrots and parsnips were lighter during June. Agents reported that the cooler weather, coupled with the smaller offering, resulted in an exceptionally firm demand and all stocks passed out early in each week. The quantities available were as follow:- Swedes 8,936 bags; Carrots 3,084; Parsnips 871. Receipts were not regular in size and prices fluctuated a great deal, but the general range was as follow:- Swedes £3.0.0 to £8.0.0; Carrots £4.0.0 to £10.0.0; Parsnips £10.0.0 to £14.0.0 per ton.

A further fall of rain during June served to relieve drought conditions in many districts of the State but, taken generally, the rainfall was well below average. In areas where rain was received, germination of grasses followed and, in some instances, fairly satisfactory growth, sufficient to render the hand-feeding of stock unnecessary, resulted. In other districts, however, heavy frosts and cold weather prevented graziers from discontinuing the use of supplementary rations in feeding stock. Forage supplies continued to be much below requirements and the outlook for the next few months is not bright. It is reported that reserves of fodder in the main producing districts are lower than they were in 1919, when as high as £18.0.0 per ton was quoted for chaff on the Sydney market. Now season forage supplies will not be available before November/December. Present supplies are almost entirely made up of large consignments of Tasmanian fodder to Sydney and Victorian and South Australian chaff which is being transported in large quantities direct to country districts of the State.

The offering of local oaten chaff at the Alexandria market comprised only 88 trucks which were well within the requirements of the trade. The market suffered temporary set-backs on each occasion rain was received but, generally, values were well maintained. From £6.0.0 to £9.5.0 per ton was quoted according to quality. Tasmanian growers forwarded only 9,200 bags to Sussex Street and these stocks were rapidly disposed of each week. Realisations were unaltered at £6.0.0 to £7.10.0 per ton.

/Wheaten.....

Wheaten chaff was scarce, only 15 trucks being on offer, and, although medium was quoted at £6.0.0, all lots of choice were disposed of at £8.10.0 to £9.0.0 per ton.

Supplies of lucerne chaff at rail were fairly extensive and, as a large proportion of the 70 trucks in position was of medium and inferior standard, a fairly unstable market was in evidence. Prices may be divided into three sections: inferior at £6.10.0 to £8.0.0, medium at £8.10.0 to £9.10.0 and good at £10.0.0 to £11.0.0 per ton. Best quality lines were always in request but agents periodically experienced difficulty in clearing the other grades.

The outstanding feature of the market was the part played during June by lucerne hay from the Maitland district. All other lines of fodder were more lightly supplied than in the previous month but the much larger total of 155 trucks of hay from the above centre served to offset the deficiency to some extent. The greater part of the offering comprised new green stocks. Prime green and dry hay from this district was also to the fore for country orders. Realisations were as follow: New Green £3.10.0 to £6.0.0, special to £8.0.0; Dry £6.5.0 to £8.10.0 per ton. Agents are of the opinion that values of Maitland lucerne hay may appreciate during ensuing months owing to the probable shortage of chaff. Receipts of mature hay from various other centres aggregated 45 trucks for which a very good request was forthcoming. Prices varied between £6.0.0 and £11.0.0 per ton, some exceptionally choice Mudgee stocks being available at the latter figure. In addition, growers of soft hay in the Hunter River district forwarded 228 bales which were disposed of at £3.10.0 to £6.0.0 per ton.

Values of Victorian oaten hay throughout the month were firm at £10.0.0 per ton. Receipts were much lighter, amounting to only 150 bales, and agents were able to effect brisk clearances. At rail, stocks of local oaten hay amounted to 29 trucks, the quality of which showed considerable variation. Realisations ranged accordingly from £5.6.8 to £9.10.0 per ton.

Tasmanian growers continued to forward supplies of Red Clover hay during June and this commodity was again much in request. Altogether, approximately 2,000 bales came to hand, disposals each week being most satisfactory at £5.10.0 to £6.0.0 per ton.

The offering of straw on the Sydney market comprised 6,000 bales from Tasmania and only 8 trucks from New South Wales centres. Supplies were at all times too small for trade requirements and stocks were cleared early in each week. On the wharves, Tasmanian was quoted at £4.10.0 to £5.0.0, whilst local at rail brought from £4.0.0 to £4.15.0 per ton.

An indifferent demand was in evidence for wheat at Alexandria throughout June. The 21 trucks on hand were quite sufficient for the limited inquiry and agents were able to effect disposals in small lots only. Values were again easier and ranged from 3/8d to 4/- per bushel, according to quality.

As was mentioned in the forage section of this report, the beneficial rains received during the month did not entirely obviate the necessity for hand-feeding of stock. As a result, country orders for maize continued to be received on the Sydney market. Receipts from the Northern Rivers district were much smaller and totalled only 3,766 bags which moved out well at the following rates:- Yellow 4/6d to 5/-, White 4/9d to 4/10d per bushel. Rail consignments to Alexandria amounted to 35 trucks, inclusive of both Queensland and local supplies, for which a steady demand operated at 4/4d to 5/3d for Yellow and 4/6d to 4/10d per bushel for White.

There was a scarcity of choice feed oats in Sussex Street as a large proportion of each shipment was required for milling purposes. Prices ranged from 3/9d to 4/- per bushel throughout the month. The two trucks on hand at Alexandria were not offered to buyers.

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TRADING AT THE MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY -
FRUIT DULL OF SALE BUT MOST VEGETABLES SCARCE AND DEAR.

As is usual during the mid-winter period, trading in fruit generally was dull throughout the month, the public demand being minimised by the cold weather. The exceptionally high prices of vegetables have also appeared to react adversely on the sales of fruit, the money available for the purchase of fruit being curtailed.

The principal demand for apples was for New South Wales grown Granny Smith, Jonathan and Delicious, prices being steadily maintained. Shipments of between 30,000 and 40,000 cases were received from Tasmania weekly. Agents had some difficulty in effecting clearances of other than choice lines but values throughout the period showed little variation.

Supplies of pears were only moderate, although consignments were received from Victoria and Tasmania to supplement local stocks. There was a steady request for quality fruit, particularly local Packham's Triumph, and the market was firm throughout.

Owing to the export of considerable quantities of Navel oranges from the Irrigation Area to New Zealand, supplies on the local market were not as heavy as would otherwise have been the case. Nevertheless, stocks were sufficient to meet all requirements

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and the volume of sales was not sufficient to bring about any improvement in prices; in fact values showed a downward trend owing to the somewhat restricted demand. Mandarins moved out fairly well early in the month at prices ranging to 7/- per case for the best sizes of Emperors. Later, however, inquiry became limited, values depreciated, and small fruit was very difficult to dispose of. There was little inquiry for lemons but as supplies were not excessive rates showed little variation. Choice Grapefruit had steady sale and up to 10/- per case was obtained for special brands. Small and inferior types, however, were rather hard to dispose of.

Supplies of bananas were relatively light during the early part of the period under review and a considerable rise in values was apparent. Sales were so retarded as a result of these higher rates, however, that vendors subsequently were obliged to accept lower prices to facilitate clearances. The market showed slight fluctuations during the remainder of the month but the general trend of values was downward.

Fairly heavy consignments of pineapples came to hand during the first week and prices declined by about 1/- per tropical case and, notwithstanding later supplies were only moderate, values showed little improvement.

Passion-fruit were moderately supplied but demand was rather spasmodic and prices fluctuated within a margin of about 2/-; the general quotation for the best descriptions was 9/- per half-case. Strawberries came to hand from Queensland in limited quantities during the latter half of June and realised to 9/- per tray and 16/- per dozen packets for best quality lots.

Dry weather and heavy frosts were responsible for the relatively light supply of green vegetables available.

Consignments of cauliflowers from inland districts, such as Bathurst, were much smaller than usual while crops in local areas have not come up to expectations. A notable feature was the preponderance of small to medium "heads" on the market, large sizes being particularly scarce. Clearances of the moderate supplies available were readily effected at very satisfactory prices, up to 16/- per dozen being recorded.

Cabbages were fairly plentiful, but, owing to the fact that peas and beans were for the most part short of normal requirements and cauliflowers in lighter supply than usual, vendors were able to effect more ready disposals and values showed a general upward trend throughout the month.

Limited supplies of beans from local sources were supplemented by consignments from Queensland and the North Coast of New South Wales. Stocks early in the month were at times

/insufficient

insufficient for normal requirements with the result that prices improved by from 2/- to 3/- and up to 13/- per bushel was obtained. Subsequently more plentiful supplies were forthcoming from the North Coast and Queensland but values of choice lines were well maintained, stock clearing readily.

Heavy frosts experienced in inland districts and some coastal areas caused heavy damage to pea crops and the Sydney market had to depend on near Metropolitan areas and some nearby coastal districts (notably Gosford) for its restricted supplies. Quality descriptions found ready sale and prices ranging from 9/- to 14/- per bushel were consistently maintained, while towards the close of the month up to 15/- was realised for a limited quantity of extra choice.

Lettuce for the most part were in light supply and, while demand was somewhat limited, very satisfactory prices were obtained.

Bunched vegetables generally were fairly well supplied.

Carrots and parsnips were relatively cheap early in the period but subsequently met a ready sale at considerably improved prices. Spinach was in request throughout at rates ranging from 2/6 to 4/- per dozen bunches while most other kinds cleared steadily, values being very satisfactory.

Limited supplies of tomatoes from New South Wales districts were supplemented by weekly consignments from Queensland and, in addition, several shipments were received from Western Australia. Choice, coloured lots were sought after up to about the middle of the month when prices ranging to 14/-, 10/- and 12/- per half-case were obtained for the best local, Queensland and Western Australian, respectively. At this particular period a small quantity of glass-house tomatoes from the Narrabeen district made their appearance and realised to 20/- per half-case. Subsequently sales were retarded by the extremely cold weather and values showed a steady downward movement.

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In a recent review of the "World Wheat Position" the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture reports that estimates of acreage under wheat in 1938 in twenty-two countries totals 205 million acres, or 4% more than in these same countries a year earlier. The bulk of the acreage increase has occurred in the United States, where substantial increases over the large acreage harvested in 1937 are indicated for both Winter and Spring wheat.

As at 1st July, 1938, it was estimated North American yields alone this season would aggregate 1,310,000,000 bushels, which, after making allowances for domestic consumption, would leave a surplus of 260 million bushels in excess of the quantity so available last year.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN
SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING JUNE, 1938.

The following table gives particulars of the range of wholesale prices in Sydney as collected and recorded by the State Marketing Bureau in respect of sales of various commodities during the month of June, 1938:-

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	
Wheat:-			
Bulk	3/6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d	3/9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	per bushel.
Bagged	3/7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d	3/10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	" "
Flour	£8.15.0	£9.0.0	per ton.
Bran	£7.0.0 per ton)		
Pollard	£7.0.0 " ")		no variation.
Eggs (Hen)	1/9d	2/-	per dozen
Butter:-			
Choice	151/10d	161/2d	per cwt.
First Quality	147/2d	156/6d	" "
Second Quality	142/6d	151/10d	" "
Cheese:-			
Loaf	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	11d	per lb.
Large	10d	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	" "
Special Brands	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	1/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	" "
Pigs (Abattoir Sales):-			
Prime Light Porkers	36/6d	43/6d	per head.
" Med.Wgt. "	42/6d	52/6d	" "
" Heavy "	49/6d	56/6d	" "
" Baconers	61/6d	75/6d	" "
Backfatters	£3.10.0	£7.10.0	" "

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SYDNEY WOOL SALES - JUNE, 1938.

The Sydney Wool Selling Brokers' Association advises that 41,153 bales of wool, including 35,901 greasy and 5,252 scoured, were sold in Sydney during the month of June.

The average prices realised were as follow:-

<u>Class of Wool</u>	<u>Per Bale</u>	<u>Per lb.</u>
Greasy	£12. 7. 6	9.8d
Scoured	16. 3. 0	16.8d
Greasy and Scoured	12.17. 2	10.5d

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RETURN OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IMPORTED INTO NEW SOUTH WALES
BY LAND AND SEA - MAY, 1938.

F R U I T.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bush. cases	TOTALS
Queensland	19,878	13,968	13,062	10,490	57,398
Victoria	10	118	8,829	11,557	20,514
Tasmania	-	-	252,092	55	252,147
Sth.Aust.	-	-	3,431	66	3,497
West Aust.	-	-	12	1,841	1,853
TOTALS:	19,888	14,086	277,426	24,009	335,409

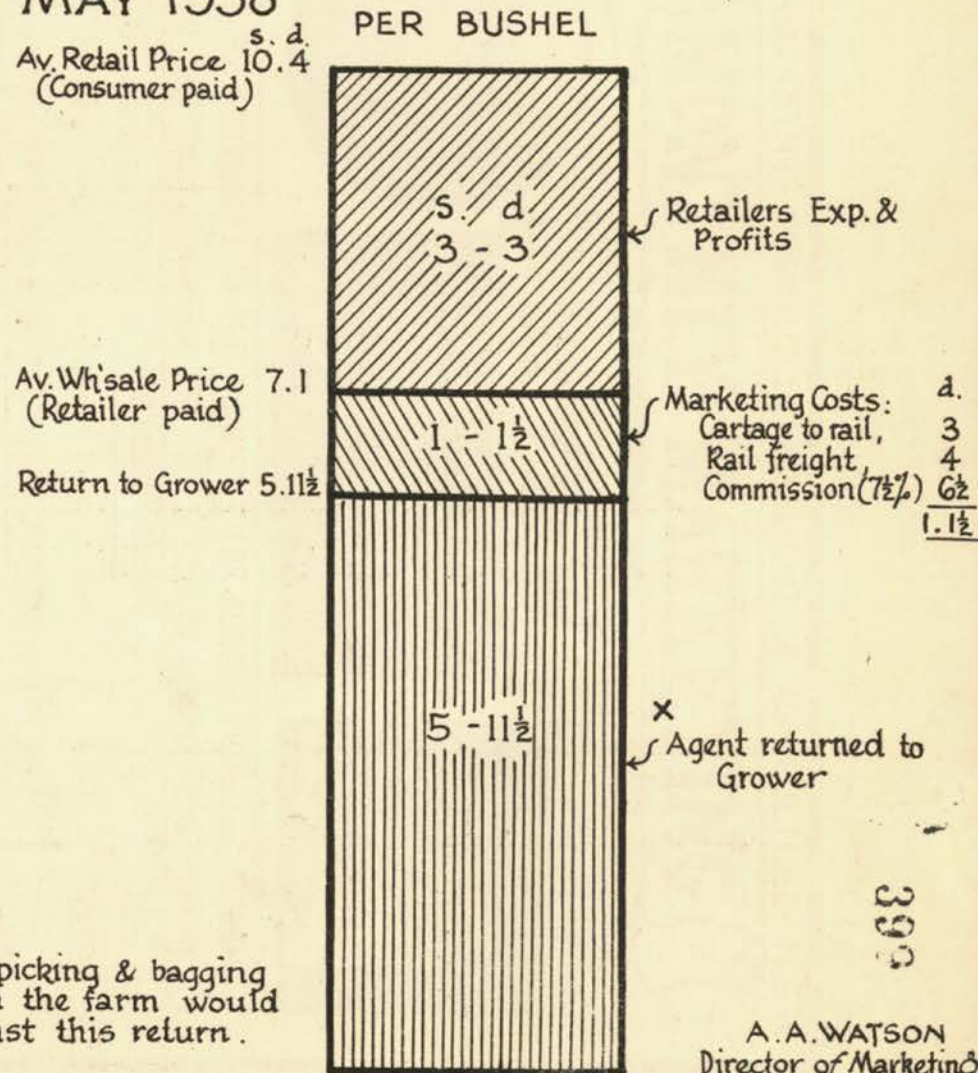
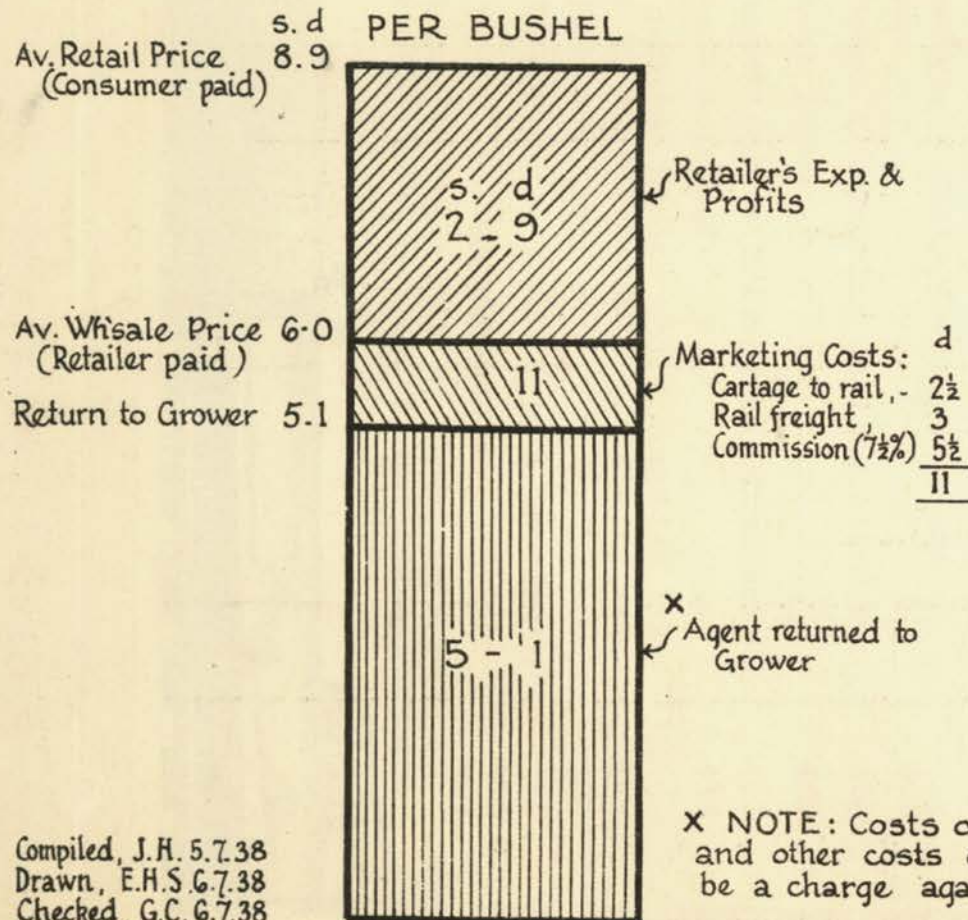
V E G E T A B L E S.

STATE	Potatoes Bags	Onions Bags	Swedes Bags	Pumpkins Bags	Cucs. & Chillies Cases	Other Vegs. Pkgs.	TOTALS
Queensland	78	25	-	727	104	5,070	6,004
Victoria	37,402	30,613	1,479	40	-	6,742	76,276
Tasmania	131,096	-	13,485	-	-	7,273	151,854
Sth.Aust	1,726	186	-	-	-	10,355	12,267
West Aust.	3,066	-	-	-	-	-	3,066
TOTALS:	173,368	30,824	14,964	767	104	29,440	249,467

BEANS

PEAS

GRAPHS SHOWING "SPREAD" BETWEEN RETURN TO THE PRODUCER & PRICE PAID BY THE CONSUMER.
 JUNE 1937 - MAY 1938



X NOTE: Costs of picking & bagging and other costs on the farm would be a charge against this return.

Compiled, J.H. 5.7.38
 Drawn, E.H.S. 6.7.38
 Checked, G.C. 6.7.38

A. A. WATSON
 Director of Marketing