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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. 4

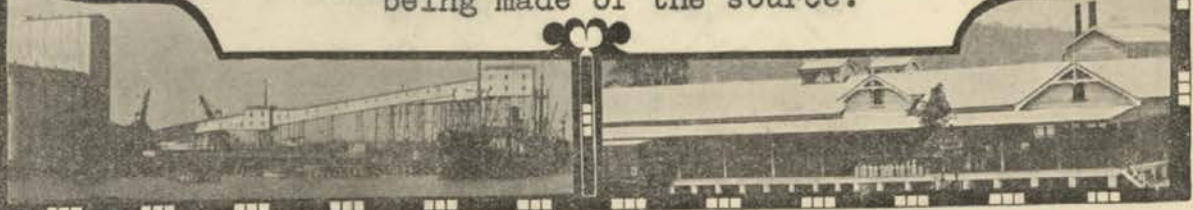
MAY, 1939

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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.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. New Zealand Government announces drastic reduction in import quotas for second half of present year, covering practically the whole range of the tariff schedule and entailing complete prohibition of many items.
 2. Australian exports of wine to New Zealand are expected to cease, unless a special credit system, suggested by exporters, can be arranged.
 3. For the second successive year, Australian exports of lamb to the United Kingdom during 1937/1938 exceeded 5 million carcasses.
 4. Early May witnessed improvement in Sydney wheat market, season's highest price being recorded. Stronger demand for wool also reported, principally due to greater inquiry from Continental sources.
 5. Shipments of New Zealand potatoes to Australia since partial relaxation of embargo have consisted only of an experimental consignment of 30 bags.
 6. According to an American report, Argentine fruit canners are endeavouring to promote an export trade.
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THE AUSTRALIAN DAIRYING INDUSTRY AND THE OPERATIONS
OF THE COMMONWEALTH DAIRY PRODUCE EQUALISATION COMMITTEE, LTD.

Growth of the Dairying Industry.

The cattle industry of Australia, including dairying, had its genesis in the six animals, consisting of one bull, four cows and one calf of unknown breed, which were landed on the shores of Port Jackson from the First Fleet in 1788. Twelve years later, there were over 1,000 cattle in the colony. By 1821, by breeding and importation, the number had been increased to nearly 103,000, and the million was reached between 1840 and 1850.

As the early records did not differentiate between the types of horned cattle, the figures given indicate the beginnings of both the beef and dairying industries.

By 1820 the white settlers of the colony were being supplied with all their requirements of milk, cheese and butter and by 1830 there was a surplus. Between 1830 and 1850 butter and cheese were exported overseas.

However, dairying remained in its early primitive stage as regards means, methods and dimensions up the early eighties of last century, when mechanical science effected a remarkable change. Three inventions were chiefly responsible, these being refrigeration, the mechanical cream separator and the milk and cream testing machine. With these aids, the industry expanded rapidly and Australian exports overseas increased enormously.

The present importance and more recent growth of the dairying industry may best be illustrated by quoting figures given in the Commonwealth Year Book for the year 1938:-

Dairying Industry - Australia

Year	Number of Dairy Cows	Production of Butter	Value of machinery employed on Dairy Farms	Number of males employed
	No.	lb.	£	No.
1916-17	1,747,351	182,470,778	1,076,738	57,864
1926-27	2,434,745	253,250,173	2,526,000	83,956
1936-37	3,343,293	396,261,693	4,235,000	124,000

The relative position in the dairying industry of the various States of the Commonwealth is shown in the following table:-

/Dairy Cows....

Dairy Cows and Production
1936-37.

State	Dairy Cows (a)	Milk Production	Butter Production	Cheese Production
	No.	1,000 gals.	lb.	lb.
New South Wales	1,036,131	317,617	109,830,751	7,417,640
Victoria	938,968	423,305	154,769,391	13,350,124
Queensland	899,092	206,315	87,474,757	7,789,890
Sth. Australia	157,485	63,699	20,892,369	12,164,819
West Australia	121,697	36,771	12,360,924	1,012,139
Tasmania	95,504	31,156	10,918,278	2,994,227
Aust.Cap.Terr.	1,022	365	15,223	-
Australia (b)	3,249,897	1,079,228	396,261,693	44,728,839

(a) Mean for the year.

(b) Exclusive of the Northern Territory.

Exports of Dairy Produce.

In 1835 Australia sent a few hundredweights of keg salted butter to England. In 1907 our nett exports of butter to all sources aggregated over 66 million lbs., valued at £2,889,351, while the figures for 1911 were 101,699,529 lbs., worth £4,636,281.

The present day magnitude of exports of butter and cheese may be visualised from the following table compiled from the Commonwealth Overseas Trade Bulletin:-

Australian Exports of Butter and Cheese
1937/38.

State	Butter		Cheese	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	lb.	£	lb.	£
New South Wales	31,373,738	1,895,222	983,422	42,321
Victoria	77,695,589	3,577,351	10,371,747	350,649
Queensland	75,061,449	4,534,924	5,780,882	158,020
Sth. Australia	8,809,153	496,326	10,109,467	294,136
West Australia	3,617,590	235,739	120	4
Tasmania	788,128	41,562	-	-
Total Australia	197,345,647	10,781,124	27,245,638	845,130

The United Kingdom was the principal market for both these commodities, taking 184,169,810 lb. Butter valued at £9,970,954 and 26,145,962 lb. Cheese worth £792,905.

/Federal

Federal Pooling Scheme.

While earlier efforts had been made in some of the Australian States to place the dairy industry on a stable basis as regards returns to the producers, the first definite interstate move was the inauguration, towards the end of 1916, of the Federal Pooling Scheme whereby arrangements were made to form a Pool to negotiate the sale of the Australian butter available for export, and from 1917 to 31st March, 1921, the whole of the surplus was purchased by the British Government. On the cessation of this scheme, the industry was faced with serious difficulties in regard to the disposal of the exportable surplus on the open market. During 1921/22 a Queensland - New South Wales Stabilisation Committee was formed but failed to receive support from other States and was soon discontinued.

Paterson Butter Scheme.

During the five years ending with the 1925/26 season, the total production of butter in Australia amounted to 1,315,998,178 lb. and nett exports aggregated 507,248,786 lb., or 38% of the total production. Exported butter had to compete with supplies arriving on the United Kingdom market from other countries, particularly Denmark and New Zealand. During this period, prices realised for Australian butter in London fell considerably. The "Average Top Price" in 1926 was 169/6 per cwt., as against 234/- per cwt. in 1921.

In view of the large surplus requiring to be exported a scheme was evolved to encourage butter factories to engage in the export trade. Known as the Paterson Plan, this operated in the various Australian States, with the exception of Western Australia, from 1st January, 1926, until 25th April, 1934. Made possible by the widespread voluntary co-operative organisation of butter producers in the States concerned, the scheme provided for the payment of a levy by all butter factories in such States at the rate of so much per lb. on all butter manufactured. Proceeds of the levy were paid into the funds of the Committee which operated the plan. These funds were used for the purpose of providing a bounty on all butter exported overseas, subject to levy in respect of such butter having been paid.

In the next and succeeding issues of this Review, it is proposed to outline the Dairy Products Acts and the operations of the Dairy Industry Equalisation Scheme, which came into being on the termination of the Paterson Scheme.

(To be continued)

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A MARKETING SCHEME FOR EGGS PRODUCED IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

Proposed Poultry Bill.

According to recent advices from London, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries has announced that a Poultry Bill will be introduced during the current session of the British Parliament. This Bill will make provision to regulate egg imports into the United Kingdom, but the power to regulate imports will only be exercised if the position with regard to supplies and prices should render such a course necessary.

The following extract from the London "Daily Telegraph and Morning Post" of 8th March, 1939, gives an indication of some of the proposals of the Bill:-

"Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith, Minister of Agriculture, speaking at Heathfield, Sussex, yesterday, said that among the Government's plans for agriculture it was intended that the home poultry and eggs market should be protected against sudden collapse due to the glut of imported supplies such as had occurred in the past.

The Government proposed in the Poultry Bill which was to be introduced this session to regulate imports when such a danger arose. The Government fully appreciated that events moved rapidly at such times, and there was no intention that the regulation of imports should only be imposed when the collapse of the market had started. Further, if the industry took steps to introduce a scheme for the storage of eggs during the spring flush, for release in the autumn, thus evening out the present wide fluctuation in prices, the Government would be mindful of the scheme and its objects in deciding on the regulation of supplies.

The Minister was speaking at the opening of a new model National Mark packing station at Heathfield. If, he said, the home producer of poultry and eggs was to maintain the place to which he was entitled in the home market, the industry must be prepared for a sustained effort in the way of maintaining constant standards of grading and packing its produce.

It was therefore proposed that such standards should be set up, to which the distributor of eggs and poultry must conform in all his sales. When the time came for these proposals to be put into force, the co-operative packing station would have an important part to play. It was proposed that the establishment and extension of stations of this kind should be encouraged and assisted by State loans."

/Poultry

Poultry Industry expands rapidly after Great War.

From information published in the report issued in January, 1938, by the "Poultry Technical Committee for Great Britain", it appears that the high egg prices prevailing in the years following the Great War, and the attraction of an outdoor occupation, led many ex-service men to take up poultry farming. Also, in some districts trade deterioration was responsible for an influx of men from other industries, only a relatively small amount of capital being necessary to start a poultry business. As a result, from being "the Cinderella" of British agriculture, poultry-keeping expanded and became the third most important of all agricultural branches, with an annual output amounting to £30,000,000. In 1913 the total fowl population on holdings of one acre or over was about 33 million, whereas today it is estimated to be nearly 60 million. The peak year was 1934, when the fowls numbered over 69 million.

Marketing Reform Schemes.

Of recent years, poultry farmers in Great Britain have experienced difficulties, and various schemes of marketing reform have been formulated. A joint Committee, representing the National Farmers' Union and the National Poultry Council, was appointed in May, 1937, to explore the different possibilities. This Committee submitted recommendations favouring the inauguration under the Agricultural Marketing Acts, 1931 and 1933, of a scheme regulating the marketing of eggs. Following the issue of the Poultry Technical Committee's report of January, 1938, however, the Joint Committee was asked to reconsider the recommendations.

Subsequently, new proposals were evolved, which contemplated merging egg marketing with poultry stock improvement under a single organisation. As the Agricultural Marketing Acts did not provide for such an organisation, it was stated that special legislation would be necessary. On the 11th July, 1938, the then Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (Mr. W.S. Morrison) announced in the House of Commons that the Government proposed to set up a Poultry Commission to conduct a stock improvement scheme, assisted by premiums from the Exchequer. This Commission was to be given power to regulate the marketing of eggs, and also of dead poultry, by the standardisation of grades, etc., up to the point of final sale to the consumer. Mr. Morrison also stated that consideration would be given to the granting of loans to facilitate the establishment of producers' Co-operative egg-packing stations. He added that the Government proposed to seek power to regulate imports of eggs and other poultry products to safeguard against possible market dislocations by abnormal arrivals from overseas.

The information contained in the press extract quoted at the beginning of this article is too limited to determine whether all the proposals outlined in July last will be proceeded with. The subject will receive further attention when details of the Poultry Bill are made available.

PHYSICAL FEATURES, PRODUCTION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL DIVISION NO. 3.

Articles dealing with the North Coast and Hunter-Manning Statistical Divisions of New South Wales appeared in the January, February and March issues of the "Monthly Marketing Review". In continuation of this series, attention is now given to the Metropolitan or Statistical Division No. 3.

Introductory and Early History.

While it is not practicable in this article to deal extensively with the historical association of the Metropolitan Statistical Division with the wealth and progress of New South Wales, so many of our primary industries commenced here that brief mention must be made of the early days of Sydney as the birthplace of the agricultural, pastoral, dairying and horticultural pursuits of the Commonwealth.

The task of forming the "First Settlement" in Australia was allotted to His Excellency, Governor Phillip, who arrived with the first fleet conveying the earliest settlers on the 26th January, 1788. The site selected for the foundation of the young colony was Sydney Cove. Apart from the building and erection of suitable structures to house the colonists, the most pressing need of the settlers was to become self-supporting in regard to food and other necessities of life. Consequently, land was cleared and attempts made to cultivate such seeds and plants as were available - obtained chiefly in the course of the voyage from England, at Rio de Janeiro and the Cape of Good Hope; these included coffee plants and seeds, cocoa-nuts, cotton seed, banana plants, guava seed, tamarinds, sugar cane, vines of various kinds, orange, fig, quince, apple and pear trees, as well as a number of miscellaneous plants. An early report on the position stated:- "Some ground having been prepared near His Excellency's House (on the east side of the present Circular Quay) the plants were safely brought on shore and the new settlers soon had the satisfaction of seeing the grape, apple, pear, the fig and the orange - those delicious fruits of the old world - taking root and establishing themselves in new surroundings".

The First Farm and Early Development.

From this modest beginning an expansion was made by clearing, for farming purposes, an area of 9 acres at the head of the adjoining Cove. It was on this land that cereals, which were to become of paramount importance in the development and wealth of Australia, were first cultivated. The few cattle, sheep, and horses brought out by the First Fleet were also depastured here, and this marked the commencement of the livestock industry. This historical site, named Farm Cove, is now part of the Botanical Gardens. The early attempts at farming in close proximity to Sydney were not wholly successful, and in searching for more suitable country, Governor Phillip explored what is now known as the Parramatta River. Promising land was located to which he gave the name of Rosehill (subsequently called Parramatta).

/Apart

Apart from the early efforts at farming near Farm Cove, some of the most interesting events in our agricultural history occurred in and close by this part of the Colony. It was here that James Ruse conducted farming so successfully that his property became practically self-supporting; owing to his success and progress he received the first free grant of land made in Australia. The property was named "Experiment Farm", the name it carries to the present day. Adjoining this property was "Elizabeth Farm", a place of great significance in the development of New South Wales. It was first owned by Captain John McArthur, one of the most prominent of the early settlers, whose actions and foresight affected to a large degree the future success and welfare of the Colony. The most important and far reaching work performed by McArthur was that connected with the breeding of sheep for the production of fine wools. Success in this respect brought great prominence to the young country and today the Commonwealth is recognised throughout the world for the high quality wool it produces.

As settlers found it necessary to seek new land for the raising of stock and the growing of crops, settlements were established on the Hawkesbury River and to the west and south of Sydney and Parramatta. As further country was explored, so did the people move farther afield, and inland areas and other coastal districts became populated.

Area, Population and Climate.

The Metropolitan or Statistical Division No.3 is situated in the coastal section of New South Wales and covers an area of 1,497 square miles or 957,967 acres. It is bounded on the north by Broken Bay and the Hawkesbury River, on the west by part of the Hawkesbury River and Nepean River, on the south by the southern boundary of the Campbelltown Municipality and the Sutherland Shire, and on the east by the coastline from Cape Barrenjoey to close by Garie Beach on the south. The areas referred to cover 6 Shires and 53 municipalities. The latest available data (1936/37) on the distribution of lands in this division shows that the area of holdings of 1 acre and upwards given to agricultural pursuits is 289,975 acres alienated land and 7,604 acres leased from the Crown. Crops were being grown on 35,744 acres of this land, while pasture improvement work was being carried out on 8,555 acres, which were sown to grasses. In addition to these areas, extensive use is made of small tracts of land for the purpose of market gardening and poultry farming.

The City of Sydney, which is the capital of New South Wales and the largest city in the Commonwealth of Australia, together with the surrounding suburbs housed 1,279,080 people as at 31st December, 1937, out of the total population of 1,413,990 in the division on that date. It is worthy of record that Parramatta, the second oldest town in Australia, was recently granted the status of a city; its population of 18,900 is included in that of Sydney and suburbs. Places of note as centres of considerable rural

/activity...

activity are Campbelltown, Liverpool, Penrith, Windsor and Richmond.

The division is located in what is termed the "Temperate Climatic Zone" and Sydney, which is situated on the coast approximately halfway between the northern and southern boundaries, experiences a mean annual temperature of 63 degrees (according to calculations made over a period of 78 years), the mean summer temperature being 71 degrees and that during the winter 54 degrees. Although these temperatures are relatively mild, those districts further inland experience higher temperatures in the summer and lower during the winter months than the city itself.

The precipitation of rain varies considerably, falls on the coast being heavier than those that occur at places some distance inland. Coastal rains sweep in from the seas with both south-east and north-east winds, while further falls are derived from thunderstorms, chiefly during the warmer months, from the west and north-west. The rainfall throughout the division shows a variation from 27½ inches annually at Windsor to 47 inches at Sydney.

It is of interest also to note that Sydney has adopted the mean time of the 150th meridian of East longitude, or 10 hours east of Greenwich, so that in New South Wales the time is 10 hours ahead of the standard time in the United Kingdom.

Poultry Farming a profitable source of income.

During the early years of settlement in New South Wales, poultry was usually kept as a sideline to other more important primary industries and the produce from the poultry was generally disposed of locally or on the open market to the best advantage. One very favoured means of selling eggs was through the local storekeepers, who purchased at an agreed price and placed the sum to the credit of the farmer, who obtained groceries and other necessities to an equal amount. Over the past 30 years, however, this industry has made rapid progress and at the present time it is conducted as a specialised commercial undertaking. Much land not suited for agricultural purposes has been utilised for poultry farming. On account of the relatively small area of land required for the maintenance of poultry for egg production, quite a number of the people engaged in this industry conduct farms of less than one acre, and statistical data is not collected by the Government Statistician in respect of such areas.

An indication of the magnitude of poultry farming operations within this Division may be gained from the figures compiled by the New South Wales Government Statistician for the year 1936/37:-

Commercial Poultry Farms.

	<u>Metropolitan Division</u>	<u>Total New South Wales</u>
Fowls at 31/3/1937 (including chicks)	1,581,852	2,160,100
Total eggs gathered ...	14,334,268 dozen	19,405,082 dozen
Eggs incubated or set ...	5,518,795	6,689,323
Chickens hatched ...	3,529,233	4,270,671
Day-old chicks sold ...	1,392,723	1,647,364
Table poultry used or sold	877,034	1,109,833

A "Commercial Poultry Farm" for statistical purposes is regarded by the Government Statistician as one having at least 150 head of female domesticated fowls and thus does not include many farmers who carry on operations for the production of eggs or poultry for sale. Nevertheless, the foregoing statistics demonstrate the importance of the Metropolitan Division in respect of the three principal phases of the poultry industry - eggs, table poultry, and "day-old" chicks.

In 1928 the commercial poultry farmers within that part of New South Wales comprising the Counties of Cumberland and Northumberland and the Shires of Nattai and Wollondilly availed themselves of the machinery provided in the Marketing of Primary Products Act, and lodged a petition asking for a poll on the question as to whether a Board to control the marketing of eggs be constituted. Following an affirmative vote by the egg producers, the Egg Marketing Board for the above-named areas was constituted and has functioned continuously since 16th November, 1928.

The activities of the Egg Marketing Board for the 1937/38 pool period may be illustrated by the following figures:- The total production of eggs in the area controlled by the Board amounted to 20,341,747 dozen of which 12,134,977 dozen were consigned direct to the Sydney floor, 1,848,237 dozen were received on the Newcastle floor and 6,358,533 dozen were disposed of by Producer Agents. Of the receipts on the Sydney floor, 3,679,380 dozen were exported to the United Kingdom.

Market Gardens and Vegetable Growing prominent pursuits.

An essential and very important item in the foodstuff requirements of the people is a constant supply of fresh vegetables. Over recent years there has been a steady upward movement in the numbers of persons growing vegetables for the Sydney market (the largest in the Commonwealth), and many areas within a reasonably short distance of the metropolis have been devoted entirely to vegetable culture. The principal centres of production are Botany, Bankstown, Windsor, Richmond, Penrith, Pendle Hill, Fairfield, Liverpool, Campbelltown, and Mona Vale, all of which are well within a 2 hours' run by Motor Truck or train from the main markets.

An examination of statistics for the year 1936/37, compiled by the New South Wales Government Statistician, reveals that of the 31,000 acres devoted to the commercial production of vegetables in this State, some 7,000 acres were used for Market Gardens and the remainder given over to the cultivation of various vegetable field crops. The Metropolitan Division was the leading one in respect of market gardens, having over 3,000 acres with a total production valued at approximately £225,000. In addition, 2,150 acres of field crops of vegetables were grown within this division, the value of the principal items produced being:- Peas and beans (dry and green) - £10,843; pumpkins and melons - £10,000; tomatoes - £24,000; cabbages and cauliflowers - £4,440. The foregoing refer to holdings of one acre and upward; production on smaller areas would considerably augment the values given.

(To be continued)

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THE ANGLO-AMERICAN TRADE TREATY.

In our April issue there appeared a summary of the major features of each of the Articles of the Anglo-American Trade Treaty. Of the four Schedules to the Agreement, the first, which sets out the rates of duty applying to products of the United States of America imported into the United Kingdom or Northern Ireland, is of chief importance to Australian exporters, and a condensation of it is now included, with a view to convenient reference as to primary products of Australian interest:-

SCHEDULE I.

Part I.

Section A.

<u>Article</u>	<u>Rate of Duty</u> <u>American Product</u>
Wheat in grain	Free
Maize in grain, other than flat white maize	Free
Rice, husked, including cargo rice and cleaned rice whole, but not including broken rice	2/3d. per lb.
Oatmeal (including all cuts of oatmeal, oat groats, oat flour and feeding oatmeal or ground oats; but not including oat husks, oat dust or oat husk meal); rolled oats and flaked oats	5/- per cwt.
Maize starch	10 per cent. ad.val.
Linseed cake and linseed meal	10 per cent. ad.val.
Fish meal, other than herring meal	10 per cent. ad.val.
Hams, not preserved in air-tight containers	Free
Pork, chilled or frozen	Free
Note:- The right is reserved to regulate quantitatively the imports of pork, chilled or frozen, into the United Kingdom.	
Pigs' tongues preserved in air-tight containers	10 per cent. ad.val.
Pigs' heads, pigs' feet and pigs' offal, edible, not preserved in air-tight containers	Free
Sausage casings, wholly of animal origin	10 per cent. ad.val.
Fresh or raw fruit:	
Apples	3/- per cwt. from 16th August to 15th April, inclusive.
Pears	3/- per cwt. from 1st August to 31st January, inclusive.
Pecan nuts, shelled or unshelled	10 per cent. ad.val.
Fruit, preserved by chemicals or artificial heat and fruit (other than fresh fruit) preserved by artificial cold; but not including fruit preserved in sugar:	
Grapefruit	Free
Dried apples, dried pears, dried peaches and dried nectarines.	7/- per cwt. or 10 per cent. ad.val., whichever is the greater.

<u>Article</u>	<u>Rate of Duty</u> <u>American Product</u>
Apples, other than dried apples ..	3/6 per cwt.
Ripe black olives in brine, imported in a container when the gross weight (including the weight of the container) does not exceed 1 cwt.	15 per cent. ad.val.
Fruit of the following descriptions, preserved in syrup:	
Apples	2/3 per cwt.
Apricots	15 per cent. ad.val.
Cherries, stoned, with or without added flavouring matter	15 per cent. ad.val.
Fruit Salad, viz., mixtures of fruit (but not including mixed fruit pulp) containing not less than 4 separate descriptions of fruit, in which each of at least 4 descriptions constitutes at least 8 per cent. and no one description represents more than 50 per cent., by weight, of all the fruit in the mixture (excluding syrup) ..	5/6 per cwt.
Grapefruit	Free
Loganberries	4/- per cwt.
Peaches	15 per cent. ad.val.
Pears	15 per cent. ad.val.
Pineapples	5/- per cwt.
Fruit juices of the following descriptions, sweetened or unsweetened, including such juices concentrated or preserved or flavoured:	
Grapefruit juice	Free
Orange juice, including such juice containing the detached cells of the fruit but excluding cut or pulped oranges containing the peel.	Free
Prune juice	10 per cent. ad.val.
Pineapple juice	10 per cent. ad.val.
Citrus fruit pectin in powder form ..	10 per cent. ad.val.
Honey	5/- per cwt.
Lard	Free
Hide leather, undressed, the following:	
Bellies and shoulders for 'soles' ..	10 per cent. ad.val.
Hides and skins, undressed, the following:	
Pickled splits other than grain splits	10 per cent. ad.val.
Reptile leather, undressed of the following descriptions:	
Snake, lizard, crocodile and alligator skins, not shaped	10 per cent. ad.val.
Leather, dressed, the following:	
Waxed splits, not chrome tanned or shaped, other than grain splits	15 per cent. ad.val.
Hardwood, not further prepared than square sawn	10 per cent. ad.val.

Part I - Section B.

<u>Article</u>	<u>Rate of Duty</u> <u>American Product</u>
Dried prunes and dried apricots ..	10/6 per cwt.
Raisins	10/6 per cwt.

(Note:- No duty is imposed by Great Britain upon the abovementioned items if produced in the British Empire).

General.

It is provided in Schedule I of the Agreement that the foregoing articles and others included in Part I of such schedule shall not, on their importation into the United Kingdom, from whatever place arriving, be subject to duties or charges of any kind other or higher than those set out in this Part in respect of such articles except that where any of the articles specified in Section A, Part I, of this Schedule are liable in whole or part on the day of signature of this Agreement to the duties set forth in Part 5 or Part 6 of "Customs and Excise Tariff of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in operation on the 20th August, 1938", published under the authority of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs and Excise, they shall continue to be subject to such duties at rates now in force, or as subsequently changed by the law.

Effect on Australian Export Trade.

In future issues of this publication it is intended to briefly comment on the probable effects of the Anglo-American Agreement on the Australian export trade with the United Kingdom.

S.D.R. & J.H.

(To be continued)

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POSSIBILITIES OF GAS STORAGE.

"Ice and Refrigeration" of January, 1939, publishes a synopsis of a paper by Mr. R.M. Smock, Department of Pomology, Cornell University. The author states that while gas storage of fruit has become very popular in Europe, very little use had been made of it in U.S.A. Investigations at Cornell and other experiment stations had shown that, although not a substitute for cold storage, it has advantages and could be used profitably in some instances for apples and pears. So far attempts to store stone fruits in gas storage over extended periods have failed.

Mr. Smock indicates that further investigations are required before pomologists can tell fruit growers of the real practicability of gas storage, even though they may be aware of the enhanced value of the fruit resulting from such treatment.

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SHEEP AND CATTLE SALES AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

Light supplies of sheep and lambs.

Supplies of sheep and lambs at Homebush during April were again light. Although on some sale days heavier yardings were submitted, receivals showed a falling off about the middle of the month, so that the total penningings were 23,923 head less than the aggregate for March, the number available being 174,908. Heavy rains were experienced in a number of districts with resultant local floodings; furthermore, the heavy nature of the roads prevented sheep movements from station properties to the railways so that, in many instances, loadings to the Homebush market could not be carried out. Also, the intervention of the Easter holidays and the shorter month reduced the selling days to seven as against nine during March. The position in respect of supplies has altered considerably from that of a year ago; 297,120 head of sheep and lambs were sold at Homebush during April, 1938, or over 122,000 more than were offered during the period under review.

Quality very fair.

The improvement in the general quality of the sheep and lambs noticeable throughout March was further manifested in April. For the most part, stock were in fair to good condition, and the fresh appearance of many lines evidenced the beneficial effects on pastures of the recent rains.

There was a continued shortage of ewes. Good light types were somewhat scarce but medium quality lots were comparatively well supplied. Several drafts of good heavy ewes were disposed of and some of these were of particularly good quality.

Wethers were more numerous than ewes and, although heavy animals were not over plentiful, there were far more of these available than during the previous month, including a few pens of choice description. Light weight wethers were well represented, and comprised, for the greater part, fair to good trade grades, although occasional consignments of prime light were offered.

Hoggets were by no means over-supplied, but this was more than counterbalanced by heavier yardings of lambs and suckers. Much larger numbers of heavy lambs were submitted; quite a few were of exceptional quality. Light lambs and suckers of nice shape and finish and of suitable trade weight were somewhat scarce, but there was a good showing of fair to medium trade sorts.

With feed and water supplies plentiful, there should be a continued improvement in the quality of the stock coming forward to Homebush. There is a possibility, also, that before long, sheep will be carrying far too much condition for local requirements and be better suited to the overseas trade.

/Heavy

Heavy lambs cheaper.

The increased pennings of heavy weight lambs caused values to weaken considerably and at the close of the period buyers were able to secure this class at from 4⁵/₄d to 5¹/₄d per lb., whereas at the early sales held during April disposals were effected at from 5¹/₂d to 6²/₄d per lb., according to weight and finish. The trend of the market can more readily be illustrated by quoting some of the realisations:- On 6/4/1939 a draft of prime heavy Border Leicester Cross Lambs weighing 40 lbs. sold at 23/6 per head, making the equivalent of 6d per lb.; on 20/4/1939 lambs of similar weight and quality were disposed of at 19/4 each or approximately 4⁵/₄d per lb. Between the dates mentioned the market for heavy lambs was irregular but generally showed a downward tendency. It was evident from the falling off in values that supplies of this class of meat were in excess of buyers' requirements.

Variable rates for light lambs.

Light lambs, although always in good demand, showed a good deal of variation in price but the fluctuations were not so pronounced as those for heavy lambs. Early in the period, rates advanced by 1/- per head but this increase was lost on the succeeding sale day. Fairly steady values then prevailed until 24th April, 1939, when prices showed a slight upward movement which held until the close of the month. Some exceptionally good sales of lambs were made during April; for instance, a draft of good trade Southdown Cross Suckers, weighing 28 lb., made 7⁵/₄d per lb. and brought 20/11 per head. Later in the month, Southdown Cross Suckers, weighing 30 lb. sold at 18/2 per head or the equivalent of 6¹/₄d per lb. This indicates the irregular state of the market and the variations were just as pronounced on other weights and qualities of light lambs.

Lamb prices generally lower.

In contrast with the high rates ruling in March, when buyers paid up to 8¹/₂d per lb. for lamb, the trade was in a much better position during April and was able to obtain requirements at a much lower figure. Prices during the month ranged from 6d to 7⁵/₄d per lb. for sucker lambs and from 5¹/₂d to 7d for other grades of light lambs; closing values, on an average, were about ⁵/₂d per lb. less than those at the beginning of the month. Prices per head were not unduly high but nevertheless up to 24/- was obtained, while quite a few lines were sold at from 19/- to 22/- for heavy lambs and 16/- to 21/- for light; these realisations can be regarded as satisfactory.

Sheep values fluctuate considerably.

The sheep sales were marked by a much more irregular tendency than was noticeable for lambs, the rise or fall in many cases being from 1/- to 1/6 per head. In fact, the gain on one sale day was invariably lost on the succeeding day, while, at times, an advance in values during the morning was lost during the

/afternoon....

afternoon. Owing to adverse weather, supplies were somewhat uncertain and often the yarding was much below that listed for sale. Such factors do not tend to promote steady prices and fluctuating markets must be expected; short supplies invariably create a much stronger demand, while heavier yardings have the opposite effect.

Sheep values generally were considerably below the extreme rates of last month, the type of wethers which made up to $4\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. during March being obtained for $3\frac{5}{8}$ d per lb. On an average, good wether mutton cost from $2\frac{5}{8}$ d to $3\frac{1}{4}$ d for heavy and from 3d to $3\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. for light. Ewes were in good demand throughout and did not vary to the same extent as wethers. At times, prices were almost as good as the best obtained during the dearest part of the auctions held in March. In the main, however, heavy ewes made from $2\frac{1}{2}$ d to $3\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. and light weight descriptions brought from 3d to $3\frac{3}{4}$ d.

Values per head were good. On a number of occasions, wethers realised to 23/- and ewes to 20/- each but, for the most part, prices ranged from 16/- to 20/- for good quality wethers and 14/- to 19/- for ewes. Fair to medium grades of sheep were disposed of at relatively lower figures.

Skin values decline.

A further decline in skin values occurred during the month and was reflected in the prices paid per head. It so happened, however, that this coincided with a rising market for sheep and lambs and this made the cost of the carcase greater.

No increase in numbers of cattle.

Although the total offering of cattle during April was even smaller than that for the previous month, a pleasing feature was the attractive appearance of the stock generally. It is understood, too, that there has been a marked improvement in the killing weights over recent weeks. In the fat stock section 16,825 head were auctioned, while bulls and stores disposed of amounted to 2,138. These figures show a considerable decline when compared with those of recent months and with the corresponding period of last year, but the percentage of good quality cattle now available compensates somewhat for the lack of numbers. It is difficult to say whether any immediate increase in consignments can be expected but, with the continuance of favourable seasonal conditions indications are that owners will, to a great extent, withhold supplies.

Chilled beef affects sales of bullocks.

Sales were held on seven days during the month and at each one there was a big proportion of bullocks, usually of light to medium weight and, for the most part, of fair to good quality. Heavy descriptions were noticed occasionally and some lots arrived in very satisfactory condition. Demand was fairly good throughout

/but

but realisations were weaker than those obtained for light weight younger cattle. One of the reasons advanced for this was that considerable quantities of chilled beef arrived in Sydney from the North Coast and Queensland during the period. Thus, although numbers at the saleyards were small, the supply of beef available for distribution was really much greater than at first apparent. Good prices, however, were paid and the better descriptions generally sold at consistent levels throughout the month. Sales representative of the best quality offered included a line of Shorthorn "heavy weights" from Narrabri which made to £13.16.0 and averaged £12.9.6 per head. These animals were about four years old and weighed approximately 825 lb. each. A line of bullocks of mixed breeds and weighing from 740 lb. to 800 lb. realised from 33/- to 34/- per 100 lb. dressed weight. Some attractive Devons (one of many lots noticed) brought slightly over 35/- per 100 lb. on the hoof.

Quality light weight steers scarce.

Apparently the supplies of chilled beef did not include a great number of carcasses of light cattle, as the demand for young steers was particularly good. There were several drafts sold at different times throughout the month where the equivalent of from 37/- to 40/- per 100 lb. of beef was paid. However, the proportion of this class to the total number of stock yarded was very small.

Cows and heifers in light supply.

Good quality beef breed cows and heifers were in short supply throughout the period and at times were almost unnoticed. Local cows and heifers of dairy strain were fairly well in evidence but did not affect the high values for the better quality descriptions. Some attractive Shorthorn cows weighing about 570 lb. realised £9.8.0 per head while a line of Herefords of approximately 560 lb. weight brought £8.19.0 each. From time to time, good trade heifers were seen which made the equivalent of 35/- per 100 lb. dressed weight.

Vealers again in demand.

During the greater portion of the month vealers were only lightly supplied and a keen inquiry was evident for any lots showing condition. Prices generally were high and remained so until the close when increased numbers became available. The majority of the best quality lines was disposed of at from 44/- to 46/- per 100 lb. on the hoof.

Cattle market fairly steady throughout.

Considering the small yardings and the extra demand normally apparent during the Easter season, a sharp general rise in values would not have occasioned surprise. Evidently, the

/chilled...

chilled beef supplies on hand had a steadying effect on the market. In addition, the percentage of suitable trade cattle was greater than during past months. Values, however, were satisfactory from the owner's viewpoint, especially in the case of good vealers, heifers and cows, while the rates for bullocks and steers, although most affected by any fluctuation, were in the main reasonably good.

G.C. & A.T.

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

Heavier consignments of Tasmanian Potatoes.

Following the short supply of potatoes in Sussex Street the previous month, Tasmanian growers shipped substantially heavier quantities for sale during April. As a consequence, rates for all varieties declined considerably.

Shipments of potatoes from Tasmania amounted to 114,028 bags. No Western Australian tubers were on offer, the season for these having ended. At the close of business in March, the rate for Brownells was £24.0.0 but the receipt of a large quantity in the opening week of April necessitated a reduction to £16.0.0 per ton for No.1 Grade, with other qualities at correspondingly lower levels. Throughout the next period, trading was very good at unaltered prices for No.1, but No.2 declined by £1. In the third week, quotes were raised by £1. Subsequently, on the arrival of the season's heaviest consignment in the final week, prices of No.1 Grade fell £4.0.0 to £13.0.0 per ton, while lower grades sold at £7.0.0 for No.2 and £6.0.0 for Seed. The Whiteskin varieties of potatoes were more heavily supplied than previously, and rates for these were fixed separately, price ranges for the month being as follow:- Albas £12.0.0 to £16.0.0, Arranchiefs and Snowflakes £8.0.0 to £15.0.0 per ton. During the first week of April, Bismarcks were quoted at £16.0.0 per ton for No.1, £12.0.0 for No.2 and £9.0.0 for Seed Grade; the quantities of this variety included in later shipments were insufficient to warrant the fixation of rates.

The first consignments of this season's potatoes from New South Wales districts came to hand at the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard during April. The earlier offerings were somewhat immature and showed some signs of second-growth, necessitating some picking-over, with the result that sales were fairly quiet. The auctions held during the period were, for the most part, attended by a representative number of buyers and disposals of the produce which arrived at the latter end of the month were good. Realisations were as follow:- No.1 Grade £8.11.8 to £15.10.0, No.2 Grade £7.0.0 to £10.10.0 per ton, Chat Grade 6/- and Stock food potatoes 5/- per bag.

/Arrivals

Arrivals of Egyptian Onions in Sussex Street.

The long-awaited shipment of Egyptian brown onions finally came to hand in Sussex Street this month. The consignment amounted to 2,000 bags and 600 cases and agents reported a very good demand and the entire offering was cleared very quickly at the fixed rate of £27.6.0 per ton, which represented £26.0.0 plus a sales tax of 5% (£1.6.0).

The other onions received during April consisted of 480 tons and 500 bags from New Zealand and 70 tons and 1,200 bags from Victoria. The request for these stocks was very firm throughout and prices exceeded those paid during March. At the close of the period, the market was practically bare of all varieties of onions and quotes were mainly nominal. During the month sales were effected at the following rates:- New Zealand - Brown £25.0.0 to £30.0.0; Victorian - Brown Spanish £25.0.0 to £30.0.0, White £20.0.0 per ton.

Quieter inquiry for Queensland Pumpkins.

The inquiry for Queensland pumpkins received both in Sussex Street and at Alexandria was, generally, quieter than during March. Agents stated that the market was tending to become over-supplied. Rates for the 5,108 bags from Queensland offered in Sussex Street showed a gradual decline from £14.0.0 early in the month to £8.10.0 at the end, whilst the 470 bags shipped from local ports ranged in price from £8.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton for prime quality, with immature and inferior lines selling at concessions.

The receipts at Alexandria Railway Goods Yard comprised 8 trucks from Queensland and 7 from local growers. The demand was similar to that experienced in Sussex Street and sales were reported at the following rates:- Queensland £8.0.0 to £12.0.0, Local £5.10.0 to £10.0.0 per ton.

Other vegetables cheaper.

Arrivals of other vegetables from Tasmania totalled 8,781 bags of Swedes, 2,595 of Carrots and 847 of Parsnips. Rates for these were affected by the heavier offerings of potatoes and were below those ruling during March. Moreover, nearly twice as many Swedes were received this month as compared with last and prices declined from £9.0.0 originally to £3.0.0 per ton in the final stages. The stocks of Carrots were in demand and ready clearances were effected each week; prices ranged from £12.0.0 to £14.0.0 per ton. In the first week of April the quotation for Parsnips was fixed at the lower level of £15.0.0 per ton, and was maintained at that figure for the remainder of the period.

A very firm market ruled for the light stocks of Tasmanian dry peas and good clearances were reported at the following prices:- Blue 14/6 to 16/-, Grey 10/- to 11/- per bushel.

/Lighter....

Lighter arrivals of Chaff.

Although the quantities of chaff which came to hand at the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard this month were smaller than during March, demand was limited and prices were somewhat lower. The 188 trucks of oaten chaff railed from local centres were in excess of buyers' immediate needs and consequently sold slowly. A proportion of these stocks was offered at auction and a fairly substantial amount was sold at prices ranging from £2.15.0 for damaged lots to £4.10.0 for good quality; sales by private treaty were recorded at from £3.10.0 to £5.15.0 per ton, according to quality. Of the 46 trucks of wheaten chaff available, choice green lines met a satisfactory inquiry at prices up to £5.0.0; the bulk of the yarding was of medium to good standard and realisations generally were only fair at the rates of £3.10.0 to £4.10.0 per ton and occasionally higher. Vendors found the request for the 66 trucks of lucerne chaff was restricted to choice green leafy lots which sold well; other qualities were rather difficult to clear and were cheaper. Quotations were:- Inferior £4.10.0 to £4.15.0, Medium £5.5.0 to £5.15.0, Good £6.0.0 to £7.0.0 and Choice to £7.10.0 per ton.

During this period, quantities of other lucerne commodities (with the exception of lucerne hay) came to hand and sold at the following rates:- Lucerne Dust £3.0.0 to £10.0.0, Lucerne Pods £4.10.0 to £5.0.0 and Lucerne Threshings £5.0.0 per ton.

Prime mature Lucerne Hay in request.

The arrivals of lucerne hay at the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard consisted of 38 trucks from the Maitland district and 66 from other centres, about the same as deliveries during March. The principal inquiry for the Maitland offerings was for the dry variety at from £6.0.0 to £7.0.0, New Green selling slowly at £2.0.0 to £3.10.0 per ton, owing to the amount of moisture present in the bales. With the exception of prime green quality, hay from other centres met a quiet market and was quoted at:- Derrick-pressed £4.3.4, Medium £5.15.0 to £6.5.0, Good £6.10.0 to £7.5.0 and Choice £7.10.0 to £8.5.0 per ton.

The 223 bales of Dry Hay received in Sussex Street from the Hunter River district sold satisfactorily at £6.10.0 per ton.

Rates for the 100 bales of special oaten hay shipped from Victoria to Sussex Street were maintained at £11.0.0 per ton. Of the 23 trucks of oaten hay railed to Alexandria by local producers, only a portion was offered for sale and this realised from £4.5.0 to £5.10.0 per ton at auction.

Reduced inquiry for Oats.

The arrivals of grain at the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard during April included the following products:- Wheat 60 trucks,

/Oats

Oats 20 trucks, Barley 2 trucks, Seed (Queensland) 7 trucks,
Maize - Local 2,022 bags, Queensland 276 bags.

While a good request prevailed for F.A.Q. wheat at up to 2/8 per bushel by private treaty, only a fair inquiry was experienced for other qualities. Other private sales were recorded at from 2/3 to 2/7 and realisations at auction ranged from 2/1 to 2/5 per bushel, all sales being made according to quality.

The market for Oats was quieter than that ruling during March and only a portion of the offerings was sold by auction at from 1/9 for inferior to 3/4 per bushel for choice quality Mulga. Of the 2 trucks of Barley at rail, one was disposed of by auction at 2/1 per bushel. Part of the arrivals of seed from Queensland was auctioned and brought from £5.0.0 to £17.10.0 per ton, according to the quality and the variety of the grain.

The stock of maize at Alexandria was supplemented by shipments to Sussex Street of 4,440 bags from the Northern Rivers of New South Wales. The local offerings at times met a quiet market in both selling places but towards the end of April inquiry firmed and prices by private treaty improved, being 4/- at the beginning and 4/2 per bushel at the close of the month. At the Alexandria auctions local maize was cleared at from 3/4 to 4/- per bushel. The Queensland consignments at rail were in fairly steady demand and sold out at 4/- per bushel.

E.A.G.

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BRAZIL STIMULATES HOME PRODUCTION OF WHEAT.

A report published by "Foreign Crops and Markets" (issued by the U.S.A. Department of Agriculture) states that by a Presidential decree of December 15th, 1938, flour mills in Brazil will be obliged to purchase domestic wheat at a fixed price, the minimum being 600 reis per kilo (equivalent to 5/1 per bushel, approximately). In addition, Brazilian flour mills will be required to purchase home-grown wheat on the basis of quota allocations to be fixed at a level not less than the equivalent of 10 per cent of their average annual total utilization during the past five years. No mill will be permitted to import wheat without first submitting proof of the extent to which it has taken its quota of Brazilian wheat.

The purpose of these measures is to facilitate governmental plans to expand Brazilian wheat production to a point where the nation will be as nearly independent of foreign sources of supply as possible. This has been the objective of numerous decrees issued by the Brazilian Government during the past two years. In the past, Brazil imported annually between 25 and 30 million bushels of wheat and an average of about 562,000 barrels of flour, principally from Argentina. These imports represented from 85 to 90 per cent of total requirements.

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TRADING IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES AT THE
CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

Satisfactory demand for choice fruit.

While wet weather had a somewhat depressing effect on trading during the commencing week of April, a better tone prevailed subsequently. Choice lines of fruit were in fairly satisfactory demand throughout but inferior grades were difficult to clear.

Increased shipments of Tasmanian apples and pears.

The arrivals of fruit from Tasmania totalled over 198,000 cases, representing nearly 50% increase over those for March. It is noteworthy that the consignment of 56,642 cases received on 17th April contained an unusually high proportion of pears, estimated at 60%. During the final week of the period, the shipments from Tasmania were not unloaded until the Wednesday and buyers operated more freely on local fruit which was, however, in rather short supply.

Choice quality apples of selected sizes were in good demand, the Jonathan variety being particularly favoured, and most prices rose about 1/- per case. Small fruit mostly was rather difficult to dispose of and at times stocks accumulated.

Some fluctuation was noticeable in the request for pears, sizes of 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ " and smaller tending to depreciate the market. On the month, Packham's Triumph showed an increase of 1/- per case, Beurre Bosc were unchanged, but Winter Cole fell 1/-.

Valencia orange season ends.

The bulk of the Valencia oranges available in the earlier part of April was of large size and became increasingly hard to clear, prices showing a downward trend. The relatively limited proportion of small and medium sizes was in demand at firm rates. By the end of the month, supplies consisted only of second crop fruit from Coastal districts.

A consignment of Navel oranges from Queensland received during the first week of the period under review realised from 15/- to 20/- per case. Subsequently, heavier supplies from that State came to hand and were augmented by stocks from New South Wales Coastal centres and closing quotes ranged from 14/- to 16/- per case for Queensland and 7/- to 10/- for Coastal.

Queensland lemons diverted to Melbourne.

Owing to plentiful offerings from local and Queensland districts during the earlier part of April, the values of lemons fell. Towards the close, the diversion of a large percentage of the Queensland consignments to the more favourable Melbourne market was responsible for improved realisations in Sydney, and final prices were equal to those ruling at the end of March.

/Passionfruit.

Passionfruit sell at high levels.

At one stage, supplies of passionfruit were so limited that up to 30/- per half-case was recorded. Subsequently, the receipt of small quantities from Victoria, Queensland and the North Coast of New South Wales caused values to decline somewhat, but closing rates were still very satisfactory from the grower's viewpoint.

Grapes affected by wet weather.

While choice lines of grapes usually brought satisfactory prices, at times a proportion of the offerings showed the effects of wet weather and had to be cleared quickly at concession rates.

Bananas cheaper.

Except during the third week of April, when a shortage of supplies caused a temporary upward tendency, values of bananas showed a downward trend. This was due to the presence of considerable quantities of ripe or inferior to medium quality fruit. Final quotes were from 1/- to 2/- per tropical case lower than those ruling at the commencement of the month.

Higher prices for pineapples.

Heavy consignments of pineapples from Queensland were received at the beginning of the period, but were disposed of at generally unaltered rates. Later, smaller quantities were forwarded and prices rose, the gain being from 4/- to 6/- per tropical case.

Peas plentiful.

Peas were rather plentiful throughout most of the month and a large proportion of the offerings was of medium to inferior grade. Buyers operated on behalf of canneries from time to time and assisted in the clearances of surpluses from the market. The limited percentage of choice lines sold satisfactorily. Final consignments were smaller and closing rates were firm, up to 12/- per bushel being recorded.

Heavy supplies of beans.

Supplies of beans almost reached "glut" proportions during the first week of April and prices dropped to the exceedingly low levels of 6d to 2/- per bushel. A slight improvement was noticeable the following week but during the next week large stocks of medium to inferior grades embarrassed vendors. Thereafter, consignments were of more moderate dimensions and closing quotations ranged from 2/- to 8/- per bushel.

/Sharp

Sharp drop in prices of cabbages, followed by partial recovery.

During the greater part of the period, the offering of cabbages, particularly medium grades, was heavy and prices fell considerably, being 1/- to 5/-, few 6/-, per dozen on 19th April compared with 2/- to 9/- at the end of March. Later, however, although still fairly plentiful, a better request prevailed, quality "heads" clearing steadily, and values improved by 1/- to 2/- per dozen.

Values of cauliflowers generally maintained.

Although the receipts of cauliflowers were greater than those for the preceding period, the demand for choice lines was fairly well maintained so that, despite occasional fluctuations, the closing quotations of 4/- to 14/- per dozen were equal to those ruling at the beginning of the month.

Limited consignments of Interstate tomatoes.

Only limited quantities of tomatoes from Interstate sources were available during April. Supplies from New South Wales districts were rather heavy early in the month but, later, were of moderate dimensions. A disappointing request was experienced prior to and just after the Easter Holidays and vendors were obliged to accept lower prices to facilitate clearances. Subsequently, better inquiry prevailed for choice lines, particularly coloured descriptions and values improved, some sales of fully coloured tomatoes being recorded at up to 14/- per half-case.

Local potatoes again available.

During the latter part of the period, small supplies of potatoes from some of the earlier districts of New South Wales were on offer, first grade lots realising from 10/- to 18/- per cwt.

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A recent issue of "Foodstuffs Round the World" reports that a shipment of 2,200 pounds of grapes grown in the Netherlands arrived at Batavia at the end of December, considerable local interest being shown in the manner in which this trial shipment was made. The grapes were loaded in a refrigerating container, which was unloaded as a unit at Batavia and connected to local electric power facilities immediately.

It is believed locally that Netherlands growers are very anxious to develop greater demand for their grapes in the Netherlands Indies, the United States and Australia being by far the most important suppliers at present, and that the above shipment, arranged by the Netherland Central Bureau of Auctions, constitutes an experiment in more efficient refrigeration of the Netherlands product.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN
SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING APRIL, 1939.

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 April, 1939:-

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	
Wheat:			
Bulk	2/4d	2/5 ³ / ₄ d	per bushel
Bagged	2/5d	2/6 ³ / ₄ d	" "
Flour X	£12.7.6	£12.10.0	per ton
Bran	4.15.0	5.0.0	" "
Pollard	4.15.0	5.0.0	" "
Eggs (Hen)	1/8d	1/9d	per dozen
Butter:			
Choice	161/2d)		
First Quality	156/6d)		no variation.
Second Quality	151/10d)		
Cheese:			
Loaf	11d)		
Large	10 ¹ / ₂ d)		no variation.
Special brands	1/2d)		
Pigs (Abattoir Sales):			
Prime light porkers	38/6d	46/6d	per head
" med.wgt. "	42/6d	51/6d	" "
" heavy "	47/6d	54/6d	" "
" baconers	56/6d	78/6d	" "
Backfatters	£4.5.0	£10.0.0	" "

X Commonwealth Flour Tax of £5.17.6 per ton from 15/3/1939.
 " " " " £5.5.0 " " " 27/4/1939.

Included in above prices per ton of flour.

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SYDNEY WOOL SALES - APRIL, 1939.

The Sydney Wool Selling Brokers' Association advises that 63,260 bales of wool, including 58,519 greasy and 4,741 scoured, were sold in Sydney during the month of April.

The average prices realised were as follow:-

<u>Class of Wool.</u>	<u>Per Bale</u>	<u>Per lb.</u>
Greasy	£11. 3.11	8.7d
Scoured	16.19. 5	17.6d
Greasy and Scoured	11.12. 7	9.2d

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EGGS

GRAPHS SHOWING "SPREAD" BETWEEN PRODUCER & CONSUMER IN RESPECT OF EGGS SOLD BY EGG MARKETING BOARD OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

LOCAL (6.6.37 to 4.6.38)
(NEW LAID 1ST GRADE HEN EGGS)

OVERSEAS (14.8.37 to 23.11.37)
(NEW LAID 1ST GRADE HEN EGGS)

s. d.

s. d.

s. d.

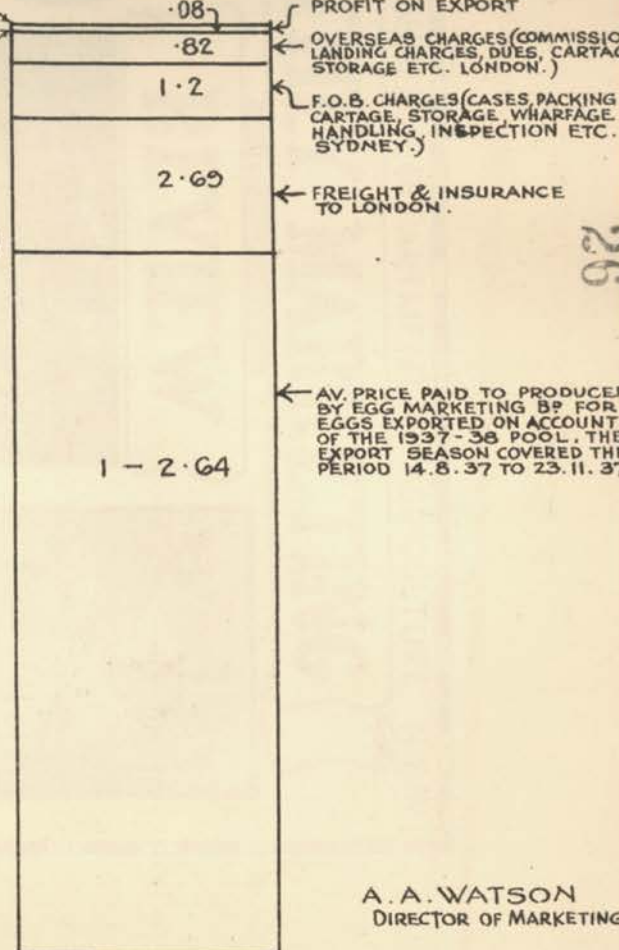
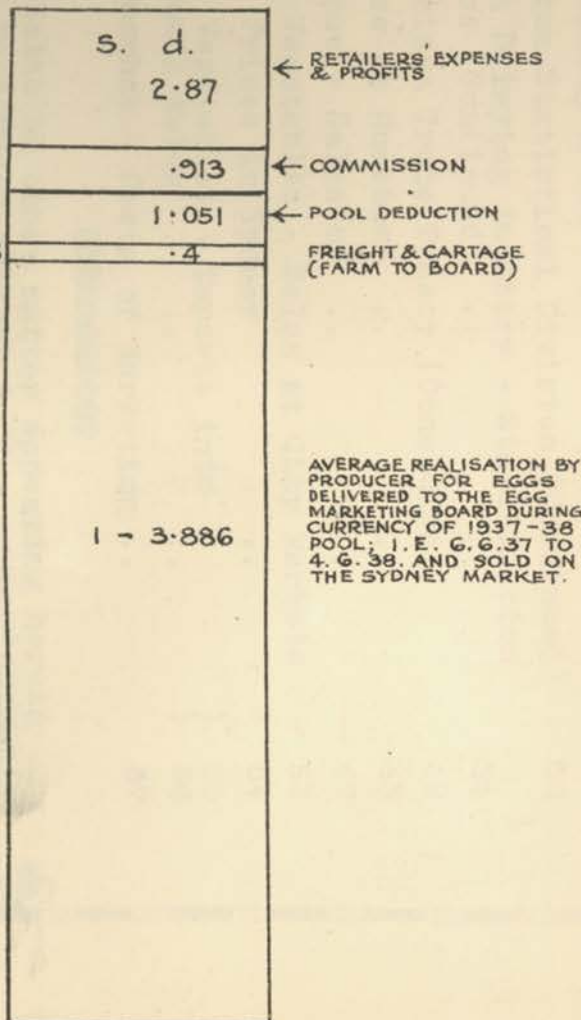
AVERAGE PRICE PAID BY CONSUMER 1.9.12

AVERAGE PRICE REALISED ON LONDON MARKET (PLUS EXCHANGE) 1-7.43
NET COST LANDED IN LONDON 1-7.35

AV. WHOLESALE PRICE 1.6.25

AV. NET REALISATION BY PRODUCER 1.3.886

AV. PRICE PAID TO PRODUCER 1-2.64



COMPILED, J.W.
DRAWN, E.H.S 1.5.39
CHECKED, A.T.

A.A. WATSON
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING