



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

604

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

JULY, 1939.

No. 3

	Page
Smithfield Market, some aspects of trading	58
Metropolitan Statistical Division (concluded)	62
Potato Marketing Scheme, Western Australia	67
Ducks and Chickens, Export to Great Britain	71
Stock Sales at Homebush	73
Farm Produce - Sales of	77
Fruit and Vegetables - Sales at City Markets	82
Commodity Prices in Sydney	86
Fruit and Vegetables - Imports into New South Wales	87
Graph - Peas and Beans - Marketing Costs	88

@@@@@@@@@

Articles or other matter appearing herein may be reproduced subject to due acknowledgment being made of the source.



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. Great Britain arranges to barter rubber for United States cotton.
2. Australian Minister for Commerce proposes a five-year programme for primary products, aiming at orderly marketing, prevention of over-production, reduction of production costs, and development of overseas marketing.
3. Australian-Japanese trade treaty replaced by temporary agreement allotting Australia two-thirds of Japanese total foreign wool imports and limiting exports of piece goods to Australia.
4. Wool sold at Sydney (New South Wales) auctions 1938/39 season totalled 1,143,856 bales valued at £15,077,537, representing increase of 48,834 bales but decrease of £2,543,884 in value compared with 1937/38.
5. International Wheat Conference meets in London on 7th July to consider question exporting countries sharing world wheat markets and suggestion minimum export price.

THE CENTRAL MARKETS, SMITHFIELD, LONDON.

Analysis of certain aspects of trading in 1938.

The Annual Report for the year 1938 on the Central Markets at Smithfield issued by the Central Markets Committee of the London City Council, which has just come to hand, contains many features of interest, particularly to those engaged in the meat export trade of Australia.

/The

The report shows that during the year under review (1938) supplies forwarded to the meat, poultry and provision section of the London Central Markets totalled 461,957 tons (the quantity of produce marketed in the fish, fruit and vegetable sections is not recorded). These show a decrease of 7,960 tons, or 1.7%, as compared with the 1937 figure. Produce of Australian origin, however, totalling 58,732 tons (12.7% of the total) increased by 2,955 tons, or 5.3%, over the corresponding period. An analysis of arrivals from Australia during 1938 as compared with 1937 is set out hereunder:-

Australian Arrivals on the London Central Market.

Product	1938	1937	Difference
	tons	tons	tons
Beef and Veal	27,166	24,083	+ 3,083
Mutton and Lamb	26,553	26,948	- 395
Pork and Bacon	2,176	2,540	- 364
Poultry and Game	23	36	- 13
Rabbits	2,739	1,965	+ 774
Butter, Cheese, etc.	46	129	- 83
Eggs	29	62	- 33
Sundries	-	14	- 14
Totals:	58,732	55,777	+ 2,955

It is of interest to note that the increase in the total quantity is attributable to beef and veal and rabbits, all other commodities showing a falling off.

The report points out that the supplies of meat produced in Britain and Ireland available for London are only sufficient to provide Londoners with a weekly ration of 3.2 ozs. of beef, 3 ozs. of mutton and lamb, and 2.6 ozs. of pork. The Dominions provide weekly 3.9 ozs. of beef, 7.6 ozs. of mutton and lamb, and 0.9 ozs. of pork, and foreign countries 13.06 ozs., 1.5 ozs. and 0.1 ozs., respectively. This shows how dependent are the 8,000,000 people of London upon overseas countries for their supply of meat. It is estimated that the livestock killed to maintain the year's meat supplies totalled 950,000 bullocks and calves, 7,800,000 sheep and lambs, and 925,000 pigs.

Although total supplies of chilled and frozen beef for 1938 were smaller than those of the previous year by 5,293 tons (202,615 tons as against 207,908) the Dominions furnished 1,849 tons more (44,895 as compared with 46,744 tons); foreign countries accounted for the difference, their total being 7,142 tons less than for 1937. Of the Dominions, Australia and Canada sent greater quantities, whilst supplies from New Zealand, the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia were smaller. The United States, Uruguay and Brazil amongst the foreign countries exported larger quantities, but the Argentine, by far the largest supplier, reduced exports by 8,769 tons.

/Imported

Imported frozen mutton and lamb aggregated 106,239 tons, as against 108,438 tons in 1937 - a decrease of 2,199 tons - due to lighter supplies from Australia, New Zealand, Argentine and Chile, whilst imports of frozen pork, totalling 10,594 tons, were 631 tons lighter - smaller supplies from Australia and New Zealand being responsible. Imports of "boned" beef, mainly from Australia and New Zealand, increased. There is a keen demand for this type of meat in northern cities, where it is used for conversion into mince and cheap sausages.

An analysis is presented of the various types of home produced beef and veal which were offered during the month of December as a representative cross section of the year's activities. The total quantity is stated at 1,729 tons, of which 697 tons - 40.4% - or 20,000 carcasses proved to be veal. Of these, 8,000 might be classed as fat, 5,600 as medium weights, and 6,400 as bobbies. The report raises the query as to whether this wholesale slaughter of calves will help to solve the problem of how to make Great Britain more independent of overseas beef.

A commentary on the source of imports mentions that the policy of the Ottawa Conference was to foster the production of beef cattle in the British Isles in particular, and in the Dominions afterwards. In order to do this, it was thought, amongst other things, necessary to (1) restrict imports of beef from foreign countries - mainly the Argentine - and (2) increase imports from Australia and New Zealand. The Dominions "rounded up" the quantity of beef to counterbalance the smaller shipments from Argentina, but quantity without quality is not helpful to the meat trade, and constitutes a poor advertisement for Empire produce. The result of this is that the actual quantity of English fresh killed beef placed on the Central Markets is less, the quality has not improved, neither has the price. In other words, in order to help home production, imports of all descriptions of meat and poultry, which aggregated 1,011,691 tons in 1931, now stand at 1,066,330 tons - an increase of 54,639 tons, or 5.4%. In this connection, it is interesting to note that imports of foreign beef declined from 523,181 tons in 1931 to 444,945 tons last year, or nearly 15%, whilst imports of Dominion beef increased in the same period from 85,173 tons to 194,516 tons, or nearly 129%. Imports of foreign mutton and lamb decreased from 105,536 tons in 1931 to 65,258 tons in 1938, whilst supplies from the Dominions, which stood at 250,075 tons in 1931, reached 279,242 tons in 1938. Imports of foreign frozen pork in 1931 aggregated 12,183 tons, as against 15,549 tons in 1938, whilst Dominion pork in the same period increased from 6,090 tons to 43,491. Imported foreign poultry in 1931 totalled 28,914 tons, and fell away to 17,685 in 1938 - due mainly to a decline in Russian and Austrian supplies. Imports from the Dominions were negligible in 1931, and only 759 tons in 1938 - mainly Canadian.

Eggs passing through the market from all quarters of the globe during 1938 aggregated 2,721 tons, as against 2,648 tons in 1937 - an increase of 73 tons.

/Supplies

Supplies of bacon totalled 3,837 tons, as against 2,699 tons in 1937 - an increase of 1,138 tons or 42.2%.

The capacity of the Central Markets has never yet been fully tested, and, although supplies for 1938 averaged 8,884 tons weekly, 71.4% of the supplies were marketed on three days of the week. Mondays averaged 2,664 tons, Wednesdays 1,947 tons, and Thursdays 1,934 tons - a total of 6,545 tons. The remaining 28.6% was dealt with on Tuesdays - 1,338 tons, and Fridays - 975 tons, with sundry small odds and ends on Saturdays when the market may for all practical purposes be deemed to be closed. Monday's tonnage, should occasion arise, could be handled on every market day in the week - and with ease. The heaviest day's delivery for the year was on December 19th - 4,012 tons - made up as follows:- beef 2,030 tons, mutton 879 tons, pork 460 tons, poultry, game, etc. 643 tons.

The Government is controlling the import of frozen mutton and lamb from Australia and New Zealand as from January, 1939, with a view to giving the home producer of mutton and lamb a firmer market. During the fall of last year, the price of New Zealand lamb was higher at times than home killed, but poor finish, due to drought and lack of feed, as well as the fact that the marketing of the home product was a little heavier, must be held mainly responsible.

It is stated that the receipts from tolls, rent, electricity and other sources totalled £208,164.5s.3d. This was £1,054.14s.1d., or 0.5%, less than for 1937. The decrease was due mainly to the fall in the quantity of meat sent to the market for sale, as well as the fact that certain premises were empty because of repairs to a bridge within the markets area. It is interesting to note that tolls paid on Australian produce increased by £328.6s.8d., or 5.3%, from £6,197.8s.11d. to £6,525.15s.7d.

-----0000000-----

WORLD WHEAT CROP.

The following advice has been received regarding the views of the United States Department of Agriculture on the world wheat position:-

"On the basis of the acreage reduction in the United States and the smaller yields in Europe, the Agricultural Department predicts a world wheat crop of nearly 600,000,000 bushels less than last year's, which totalled 4,555,000,000 bushels. It is said that the Northern Hemisphere production may be about 500,000,000 and the Southern Hemisphere about 75,000,000 bushels less than last year's production. However, the carry-over on July 1 will be about double last year's 600,000,000 bushels, of which 54 per cent. will be held by the four major exporting countries, divided as follows, United States 22 per cent., Argentina 17 per cent., Canada 11 per cent., and Australia 4 per cent., with the American carry-over estimated at 265,000,000 bushels.

-----0000000-----

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

In continuation of the articles published in the May and June, 1939, issues, dealing with the Metropolitan Statistical Division, consideration is given to industrial and mining features, to transport facilities and to the average annual production.

Secondary Industries.

While the Metropolitan Statistical Division is of comparatively minor importance so far as primary industries are concerned, a different story is presented when the wealth and magnitude of its secondary industries are examined.

Being the terminus of most of the transport facilities of the State and the centre to which the bulk of the primary produce was forwarded for sale, the City of Sydney naturally became the heart of most of the principal secondary industries. Throughout the years, great progress has been made in the art of treating primary produce and in the manufacturing of all types of foodstuffs, machinery and other goods. Such has been this progress that today it may be said that Australians are not wholly dependent on overseas countries for the supply of manufactured articles but rather they are advanced a long way along the road to becoming self-supporting from this angle.

The New South Wales Statistical Register shows that there were 8,726 factories and works within the State during 1936/37. Of this total, 5,647 factories were located in the Metropolis of Sydney, and a further 139 in other parts of the County of Cumberland. In all, factories and works in the subject division employed 171,802 persons to whom salaries and wages amounting to £28,252,960 were paid, while the value of goods manufactured and work done totalled £133,265,803.

These factories and works provide facilities for the manufacture of practically all types of commodities and articles required by the consuming public. Apart from the manufacture of specific articles, the treatment of primary produce is also of considerable importance. In this latter respect, growers situated in other divisions of the State are dependent upon the factories of the Metropolitan Area to treat their produce and convert it to a form generally acceptable for consumption. This may well be illustrated by quoting pigs, bacon and hams. While pig raising within the Division is only limited, many animals from other parts of the State are marketed here, and the output of bacon and hams from factories situated within its boundaries exceeds that of similar factories in any other division.

With Australia as yet only a young country, we may safely assume that great strides must and will be made in the expansion of existing secondary industries and in the introduction of new ones. So far as New South Wales is concerned, the wealth and importance of Statistical Division No. 3 may be expected to go hand in hand with any such advancement.

/Mining

Mining and Minerals.

As far as this division is concerned, the occurrence of minerals is practically nil. However, clay, utilised in the manufacture of brick, tiles, pottery, earthenware pipes, etc., occurs in substantial quantities. Ball and semi-ball clays used in the production of white-ware are principally found at Asquith, Brookvale, French's Forest and Hornsby; Brookvale has been the most important producer of high grade ball clay. There appears to be little doubt at this stage that the deposits of the Sydney district are more than equal to current demand.

Clay suitable for the manufacture of high grade building bricks and other structural materials is obtainable close to Sydney. The Wianamatta shales outcrop over a considerable area in the County of Cumberland. The beds consist mainly of dense, tough, dark grey to black shales with some intercalated beds of sandy shale. Various kinds of bricks, tiles, etc., are made from these deposits, about 1,250,000 tons of clay being quarried annually. There is a vast quantity available.

In places such as Sutherland, Botany, Asquith and French's Forest, the shales are sufficiently refractory to be used in the manufacture of firebrick.

The Central or Sydney Coalfields belong to the "concealed" type, their existence being inferred only as a result of geological work. In the past, several bores were sunk at such localities as Newington, Botany, Moore Park, Narrabeen and Rose Bay, to test the existence of a great concealed coalfield underlying Sydney, but not one was of sufficient depth to determine the presence of the Upper Measure in this area. In 1891 and 1893 bores were put down at Cremorne and suitable coal located. Subsequently two shafts were sunk and worked at Balmain, about 3 miles from the Cremorne bores. The "Balmain" is the only colliery operating in the County of Cumberland.

Metal Quarries, etc.

Several outcrops of stone occur which are very suitable for the production of road and concrete making materials. The chief source of supply is at Prospect. In addition, large quantities of sand and gravel for building purposes are taken from along the Nepean and Hawkesbury Rivers at Penrith, Castlereagh and North Richmond.

Sea Transport.

The Metropolitan Statistical Division No.3 is admirably situated in regard to the carriage of primary products by sea. Sydney Harbour, or Port Jackson, is recognised as one of the finest natural harbours in the world. It covers 14,284 acres or about 22 square miles, and has a depth of not less than 80 feet at the

/heads....

heads and approximately 30 feet over about half of the total area. The foreshores, which are irregular and over 188 miles in length, afford splendid facilities at many places for wharfage and accommodation for the largest of ocean going vessels. Approximately 266 berths, having a total length of 77,601 feet, are available. A very important feature of the harbour is the Terminal Wheat Elevators at Glebe Island; special facilities are provided for the bulk handling of wheat, and grain may be loaded into vessels at the rate of 1,400 tons an hour.

A notable phase in transport is the Sydney Harbour Bridge, constructed between Dawes Point on the southern side, and Milsons Point on the northern side. Opened for traffic on the 19th March, 1932, the main arch of the structure is a steel span of 1,650 feet, but over all, the bridge has a total length - including railway and roadway approaches - of $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles. The clearance for shipping is 170 feet from high water level and the width of the deck overall 160 feet; the deck carries a roadway 57 feet wide in the centre as well as a pair of railway tracks on each side and footways 16 feet wide on each extreme outside.

Ferry services controlled by private companies operate in Sydney Harbour, and carry many passengers to and from places on the foreshores, Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers and Circular Quay.

Rail Transport.

It can justifiably be said that Sydney is the starting point of practically the whole of the New South Wales Government railway net-work of 6,124 miles. The first railway, 14 miles in length, was opened for traffic between Sydney and Parramatta on the 26th September, 1855, and marked a most important step in the development of the Colony. The Metropolitan statistical division is well catered for in respect of rail facilities as all main lines pass through some portion of it. The whole of the electrified system of the State operates within the boundaries of this division and provides safe and speedy transport between Sydney and the outlying suburbs, as well as within the City itself. The suburban railway lines are for the most part operated by electricity but in some instances rail motors and steam trains are used. According to the New South Wales Statistical Register, the total length of track under the electric system is 94 miles 52 chains.

Roads.

In the matter of roads it can be said that no other part of the State is better provided for; concrete and macadamised roads comprise by far the greater proportion but in places there are gravel and metal formations, which are chiefly in a good state of repair. The Main Roads Board of New South Wales maintains all the main roads, while the minor or secondary roads come under the control of the various local governing bodies. The principal highways radiating from the city of Sydney are the Great Western, the Princes, the Hume and the Pacific, which, with the exception of the last named,

/follow

follow due west along Parramatta Road for varying distances, before branching off through the outlying suburbs and extending onwards to country districts. The Pacific Highway, which is the outlet to the northern parts of New South Wales, leaves the City via the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The approximate mileage of main and secondary roads in this division, excluding the City of Sydney, is 645.

Large quantities of primary produce, especially fruit and vegetables, grown in this division and neighbouring districts are carried by road transport to the Sydney Markets. Thus good roads, as a means to quick and safe transport to market, are vital to the producer.

Transport by Air.

With the introduction and development of air travel, Sydney was selected as the New South Wales base, all air-routes terminating at the Kingsford Smith aerodrome at Mascot, while Rose Bay, situated in Port Jackson, has been chosen and is used for the present as the base for Empire Flying Boats, carrying passengers and mail between London and Australia. Daily air services operate to Melbourne and Brisbane, and bi-weekly services to Bega, Broken Hill and New Guinea.

Tramways and Electric Trolley Buses.

The total length of the tramway route installation, which serves the City of Sydney and a number of the suburbs, at 30th June, 1937, was 163 miles 10 chains, and that of electric trolley bus route installation was 2 miles 9 chains. All services are electrically operated and under the control of the Commissioner for Road Transport and Tramways. At Parramatta, we find the last of the old steam trams in New South Wales, run by a privately owned company, over a course 2 miles 66 chains in length.

Motor Omnibus Services.

In conjunction with the railways and tramways, motor omnibuses are used for the transport of people in the Metropolitan Statistical division. During 1936/37 there were 458 of these vehicles, while a total of 59,339,037 passengers were carried and 14,607,410 miles travelled.

Schedules of Production and Livestock.

Appended hereunder are a schedule compiled from the New South Wales Statistical Register showing the average annual quantities of the principal primary commodities produced and a table of the average annual number of livestock in the Metropolitan Statistical division, during the five year period to 30th June, 1937.

/Metropolitan

Metropolitan Division - Average Annual Production
Five Years ended 30th June, 1937.

Milk	..	..	16,944,365	gallons
Butter	..	..	580,849	lbs.
Cheese	..	..	38,489	lbs.
Bacon and Hams	..	..	8,695,895	lbs.
Citrus Fruit	..	..	678,015	cases
Fresh Fruit - Peaches	..	..	94,537	cases
" " - Passion Fruit	..	..	14,900	cases
" " - Plums	..	..	42,617	cases
Tomatoes	..	..	83,732	half-cases.
Pumpkins and Melons	..	..	2,675	tons
Table Poultry sold or used	..	..	881,333	head) Comm'l Poultry
Eggs	..	..	13,047,511	dozen) Farm Production
Fish	..	..	876,282	lbs.
Prawns	..	..	450,576	lbs.
Oysters	..	..	7,387	bags
Market Gardens (Production of)	..	..	£192,028	
Peas and Beans (Value)	..	..	£ 7,842	

On the basis of the 1936/37 wholesale price levels in Sydney for the above-mentioned commodities, a purely tentative estimate of their approximate value is £3,000,000.

In arriving at a total figure of all primary production consideration must be given to the value of stone quarried for building purposes as well as roadmaking, clays used in the manufacture of bricks, tiles, earthenware pipes and pottery, and in addition sand and gravel for concrete and other purposes. Substantial quantities of these are obtained in the Metropolitan Statistical Division and it is estimated that they have an annual value of about £500,000 and in order to complete the estimate of Primary Production, this figure should be added to the value of the other commodities mentioned.

In the industrial field the Metropolitan division is the foremost of the State, the average annual value of the goods manufactured or work done by factories for the quinquennium ended 30th June, 1937, being £109,835,085.

Average Annual Number of Livestock in Metropolitan
Division - Five Years ended 30th June, 1937.

		<u>Head</u>
Horses	..	21,513
Cattle - Cows in Registered Dairies	..	23,140
" - All Other	..	38,123
Pigs	..	17,986

POTATO MARKETING SCHEME, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 1938.

A significant development in the potato industry of Western Australia occurred in 1938, in that the orderly marketing of the main potato crop was carried out by a very successful co-operative company known as "The Westralian Farmers' Ltd." As the operations of the Scheme will no doubt be of interest to readers, the following summary of the comprehensive report issued by the Company is published.

Initiation of Scheme.

In April, 1938, Western Australian potato growers had exceptionally large crops to dig so that it was anticipated that at least 3,000 tons would need to be exported. The Perth price was falling, £5.5.0 per ton having been accepted for first grade potatoes, while the market in the Eastern States of Australia was weak.

Certain growers accordingly approached the Westralian Farmers' Limited and a potato marketing scheme was formulated. Contracts were submitted to meetings of growers in all the important centres and accepted by large majorities. As the Scheme was a voluntary one, the Company felt that it required contracts to be signed between growers and itself in respect of at least 85% of the total tonnage of potatoes stored or to be stored before undertaking the venture. The requisite percentage being covered by contracts, the scheme was put into operation from 18th May, 1938.

Principal Features.

The Company undertook to purchase all potatoes already dug or to be dug prior to 31st August, 1938, anywhere in Western Australia, resell them to the best advantage and pay growers accordingly. For this service, it charged 2% and undertook not to disturb the trade or existing selling channels. The Company agreed to make available £4 per ton to growers on all their first grade potatoes immediately they were inspected and placed in growers' sheds, the growers to continue to be responsible for deterioration. Interest at 6% per annum was charged on advances made. Further progress payments were made as sales warranted them.

For export purposes, the Company agreed to purchase from growers at £6 per ton, on rails grower's siding, supplying the necessary new sacks at 5/- per ton. To protect the Company against any possible loss on the export, it was agreed that all growers should contribute to an "Export and Guarantee" Fund. Contributions to this fund were made at the rate of £1 per ton on all sales made up to £6 per ton, on rails country siding, and on all sales over £6 per ton, the whole of the amount exceeding the said £6 was to be paid into the Fund. This fund was to be disbursed later in the following order:-

/(1) To

- (1) To compensate the Company for losses on export sales (if any).
- (2) To guarantee the Company the repayment of advances made to growers.
- (3) To pay Interest to the Company at 6% per annum on account of all advances made - thus ensuring that all growers bear an equal amount per ton in interest.
- (4) The balance remaining in the Fund to be divided amongst growers, so that, as nearly as possible, all receive the same purchase price, except for differences in rail costs to Perth, for the same grade and quality of potatoes, including those exported.

Operations of Scheme.

A price Fixing Committee regulated the price on the Western Australian market, and immediately the scheme was inaugurated fixed the rate at £8 per ton, Perth basis. Certain adjustments were made for the Albany Zone, which was expected to supply Wheat Belt districts, and Kalgoorlie, where exporting costs were less. This price was gradually raised, until the level of £14.5.0 per ton was reached on 27th July, 1938.

An agreement with potato merchants enabled these to obtain requirements without disturbance to their normal business. Arrangements were made whereby salesmen at the Metropolitan Markets obtained regular supplies for their clients.

Several large grower-merchants did not sign contracts but entered into special selling arrangements, voluntarily paying the 2% administration commission.

In order to circumvent any attempts by buyers to secure potatoes at lower prices from growers outside the scheme or from growers who could be induced to break their contracts, the Company offered to buy at country sidings from growers outside the Scheme at 2/6 per ton less than the equivalent of the price fixed.

Export Market.

At the commencement, the prospects for export were very gloomy. It was hoped that the Singapore market would be helpful but, although a good one, the potatoes acceptable there were too small for the scheme's first grade classification. The first sales made to the Eastern States of Australia were at £6 per ton, f.o.b., but subsequently improved prices were obtained. Shipments to South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland aggregated 3,287 tons.

/West

West Australian Market.

Endeavouring to interfere as little as possible with the rate of consumption, the Price Fixing Committee gradually raised the price from £8 per ton, Perth basis, to £14.5.0. Unfortunately, no data from previous years was available for guidance and the controllers of the scheme found that at £14.5.0 consumption dropped to approximately 60% of its previous volume. In all 5,213 tons of potatoes were sold within the State of Western Australia. (This tonnage, together with that exported, covers all supplies controlled, whether under the Scheme, purchased by the Company or controlled by special arrangements).

Summary of Realisations.

The average realisations for First Grade potatoes handled through the Scheme were:-

Potatoes sold	-	6,943 tons.
Actual Gross Realisation		£67,942
Amount deducted for Inferiority		374
Total Gross Realisations, including Inferiority		<u>68,367</u>
Average Gross Realisation per ton		9.16.11½
Deductions (Railage, Commission, etc. £11,880)		
Amount of deductions per ton.		<u>1.14. 2½</u>
Average per ton at country sidings		8. 2. 9
Less per ton for Inferiority		<u>1. 1</u>
Net average per ton at country sidings		<u>£8. 1. 8</u>

The Company considered the costs of operating the Scheme somewhat higher than they would be for a continuous scheme, as they included establishment expenses.

Special Features.

Flooded conditions in some districts necessitated early marketing of crops therefrom and prevented the equitable allotment of quotas amongst growers. Thus an allowance to growers for depreciation of potatoes held in store for a lengthy period would have been justified but was not provided for in the contracts.

Growers generally stored their potatoes well. Most of the producers adhered to the conditions of the contracts.

/A few

A few growers elected to remain outside the scheme, thereby gaining some of the benefits of a controlled market without contributing to the costs, but these mostly did not average a net return equal to that paid under the scheme.

The Company considered that the retention of the existing channels of trade was justified by the manner in which all concerned co-operated.

Benefits of a controlled market.

Summing up, the Company claimed that the scheme demonstrated the many advantages of orderly marketing of Autumn and Winter potato crops on a contract basis, provided sufficient growers supported it and the scheme was administered by a Company owned and controlled by producers. The grower received good value for his product, while normal channels of distribution were not disturbed. Surplus supplies were disposed of equitably, each district being allotted its proper export quota. The advance of £4.0.0 per ton enabled growers to meet urgent financial obligations soon after their potatoes were dug. All stocks were cleared during the first week in October so that there was no carryover to interfere with the marketing of the new crop, nor was the State left short supplied. The Company considered that prices were at all times maintained at at least £3.0.0 per ton above those that would otherwise have ruled.

-----oooOooo-----

CANNED FRUIT AND TOMATO JUICES - U.S.A.

The following table, published in "A Survey of the Trade in Canned Foods" issued by the Imperial Economic Committee, illustrates the rapid expansion of the Canned Fruit and Tomato Juices industry in the United States of America in recent years:-

United States: Output of canned fruit juices, and canned tomato juice.

(Thousand cases of all sizes)

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1937
Pineapple (a)	700	2,000	2,500	5,000	7,500	39.4
Grapefruit	739	740	2,556	2,113	6,083	31.9
Grape	-	-	1,212	1,500(a)	1,650(a)	8.7
Orange	111	343	1,107	1,227	1,975	10.4
Lemon (a)	-	-	100	300	500	2.6
Berry and others	-	-	-	58	131	0.7
Fruit nectars	-	-	123	250	1,201	6.3
Total:	1,550	3,083	7,598	10,448	19,040	100.0
Tomato juice	4,171	5,704	9,287	13,105	13,445	-

(a) Unofficial estimates only.

-----oooOooo-----

EXPORT OF AYLESBURY DUCKS AND YOUNG CHICKENS
TO GREAT BRITAIN.

During 1937, publicity was given in the London press to a shipment of 30,000 Aylesbury ducks from Mr. R.A. Rhodes of Matraville, Sydney, which was offered on the London Market. As a result of this, the Agent-General received an inquiry concerning the possibility of obtaining direct from New South Wales supplies of spring season Aylesbury ducks and also chickens suitable for marketing in Great Britain.

Inquiries made by the Department of Agriculture amongst local poultry farmers elicited the information that there would be no difficulty in supplying the requisite quantities, the real obstacle being that a sufficiently remunerative price would be difficult to obtain in England. One producer suggested that 9d per lb. net would be the lowest level at which export could be carried out profitably.

The Agent-General intimated that fair prospects might be expected in London for frozen Aylesbury ducks of good quality if marketed in February, March or April. Ducks should weigh between $4\frac{1}{2}$ and 6 lb. and would probably realise an average gross price of 10d per lb. Approximate selling charges would be a commission of 5% on the selling price, although more favourable terms might be arranged. Freight would approximate 2d per lb., so that with the benefit of the exchange, the net return would approach $7\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. This net return appears to be the highest which could be expected, as, at any other time of the year, market conditions are such as to make export from this State definitely a losing proposition. There is a pronounced seasonal movement in London duck prices, the trend of which has been downward in recent years. English types, as a general rule, sell at 1d to 3d per lb. dearer than imported ducks.

Of the several firms of importers in London, only one recommended the export of ducks from New South Wales and then only in the months previously mentioned. A trial shipment of a few cases was suggested in order to test both the quality of the poultry and marketing conditions. Mr. Sproat of Sproat & Co., who operate outside the jurisdiction of the Smithfield Markets, considered that prospects did not warrant export of ducks from New South Wales. He stated, however, that there is a demand almost throughout the whole year in London for young chickens of good quality and from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 lb. in weight, the best demand being in December to April. He said that White Leghorn Cockerels would not be suitable for this trade.

A schedule of prices realised for chickens and ducklings in England during each month from January, 1937, to August, 1938, shows the following range of prices:-

	BRISTOL		LIVERPOOL		LONDON	
	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938
	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
Chickens	10d to 1/4d	10d to 1/4d	10d to 1/2d	10d to 1/4d	11 ¹ / ₂ d to 1/4 ⁵ / ₂ d	10 ¹ / ₄ d to 1/5 ¹ / ₂ d
Ducklings	9d to 1/3d	8d to 1/2d	10d to 1/2d	9d to 1/3d	8 ¹ / ₄ d to 1/2 ¹ / ₂ d	8 ¹ / ₂ d to 1/3d

So far as ducklings are concerned, the first half of the year appears to offer the best prospects, particularly in London. Rates quoted at Bristol and Liverpool are higher and more stable. The market for chickens does not seem to fluctuate to the same extent as for ducklings, and London prices appear to be the best offering. The demand, however, would no doubt be for the local product, and, as the Agent-General has stated, the English types usually bring 1d to 3d per lb. above the best quality imported lots. In the case of chickens, the best quality descriptions from Surrey often bring as much as 3d per lb. higher than best quality types from other parts of Britain. Assuming, therefore, that the above conditions apply, the most attractive price for Australian chickens would probably be 5d to 6d per lb. lower than for the best English birds.

From data available, the prospect of profitable export trade in Aylesbury ducks does not appear to be very favourable so far as Great Britain is concerned. Young chickens seem to be in demand but it is difficult to estimate the price which they would bring in competition with English types on English markets. An estimated price of 10d per lb. for Australian ducks reaching the English market in the early months of the year seems reasonable, but in the opinion of our local farmers, the net realisation may not be fully satisfactory. The question is one worthy of consideration, however, but it appears that any arrangements for a trial shipment would be better covered by more than one producer. There is the possibility that present prospects would show improvement following trial shipments to test the English markets.

-----0000000-----

According to a recent issue of "The Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Trades' Journal", the Food (Defence Plans) Department has announced that comprehensive arrangements have been made through the organisation of the Potato Marketing Board for the distribution of potatoes throughout Great Britain in the event of emergency. The plans provide for the Government taking over the saleable crop of potatoes. Fixed prices at the farm, fixed margins for merchants for wholesale collection and distribution, and maximum retail prices would be established.

-----0000000-----

SHEEP AND CATTLE SALES AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

Heavier yardings of sheep and lambs for month
but smaller total for year.

The increase in the numbers of sheep and lambs yarded, noticeable during May, continued throughout June, when 269,511 head were sold at the Homebush Saleyards, representing 25,943 more than the aggregate for the previous month.

During the 12 months which ended on the 30th June, 1939, a total of 3,292,306 head of sheep and lambs was disposed of as against 3,633,739 for the corresponding period last year. This was the lowest annual total since the year 1934/35, when 3,134,914 head were marketed. It is of interest to note that the average annual aggregate for the quinquennium ended 30th June, 1939, was 3,428,059.

The decrease of 341,433 in the yardings for 1938/39 as compared with those for 1937/38 is probably due to the relief afforded by the breaking of the drought in the earlier months of 1939 and the beneficial effects on pastures of the mild weather experienced during the autumn. Graziers have been able to hold for fattening purposes the plainer grades of stock, which otherwise would have been marketed and would have considerably augmented the figures for the year just past.

Good quality sheep well represented.

Pleasing features of the sales held during June were the continued improvement in the quality of the sheep marketed and the many lines of nice quality fresh stock available. The general appearance of the wethers and, to a lesser degree, ewes, was better than during May but it was difficult to find prime quality light weight mutton. Many lots of wethers were far too heavy for the local trade, although otherwise they were in beautiful condition and of excellent standard. Quite a few sheep noticed would dress over 60 lb. of mutton, while animals of from 48 lb. to 56 lb. dressed weight were plentiful. In the case of light mutton of the weight desired by the trade, however, the quality was by no means as good as that of the heavier types, supplies chiefly being of medium grade only. There was a continued shortage of ewes and little appreciable increase in the numbers of these can be anticipated for some time yet.

Heavy lambs numerous.

On occasions the supply of heavy lambs was far in excess of requirements but, owing to the shortage of hoggets, many of the very heavy weights received a much better reception than they would have experienced otherwise. Frequently, exceptionally good lines, weighing from 38 to 46 lb., were offered. Although fair to medium quality light weight summer lambs were well supplied, only a relatively small number of prime sorts was available.

/There

There was a much better showing of suckers than is usual at this time of the year and it is remarkable that so many are coming forward at this stage. The splendid condition and appearance of these early lambs are pleasing factors and it augurs well for the coming sucker lamb season when so many quality lots are being marketed at this time of the year.

Sheep market somewhat irregular.

Although prices for sheep did not fluctuate to the extent they did in May, there was a good deal of variation and values were by no means steady. Several rises and falls of from 1/- to 1/6 per head took place and at the close of the month's operations values on an average were about 1/- per head better than those obtaining early in the period. It was noticeable that there was a much steadier enquiry for ewes than for wethers. Some indication of the variable state of the market can best be visualised from a few typical sales: A consignment of wethers weighing 42 lb., sold on 1st June, realised 15/4 per head or 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. On the 8th June, wethers weighing 43 lb. cost 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. and were disposed of at 18/3 per head. A week later, similar weight of mutton was worth 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb., the draft of wethers bringing 15/11 each, while at the final sale held during June, the cost was 3d to 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb.

The highest price obtained for wether and ewe mutton during the period was 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. as against 4d and 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb., respectively, in May.

While the extreme rates of the previous month were not reached, the average cost of wether mutton during June was a little higher than that during May, being 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ d to 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ d per lb. for heavy wethers and 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d to 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d for light sheep. Ewes sold consistently well throughout and mutton cost on an average $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. more than during May, realising 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d to 3d for heavy and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d for light.

The realisations per head for sheep did not differ greatly from those of the previous month, wethers in places bringing 22/- but mostly selling at from 16/- to 20/- for the better quality, with other classes at relatively lower prices. Ewes, for the most part, were disposed of at from 13/- to 17/- per head, with odd lines making to 20/-.

Towards the latter part of the month, the lower skin values tended to make the rates for the carcasses higher. Also, quite a number of suitable lines of sheep were purchased for restocking purposes and this added competition was reflected in the improved prices secured.

Light lambs in strong request.

On occasions throughout the period there was a shortage of good light lambs and at no time could the supply have been regarded as sufficient to meet the demand. As a result, there

/was

was a remarkably steady request and, with the exception of an increase of from 1/- to 1/6 per head towards mid-June, values showed little fluctuation. The best rates of May were not reached for sucker lambs but on an average the June prices were about $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. better, the better grades of suckers usually making 6d to $6\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb., and plainer sorts bringing about $5\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. A consignment of very nice quality Southdown suckers weighing 30 lb. realised the equivalent of $6\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. and sold at 18/7 per head. It was particularly noticeable that, at times, the heavier the carcase the lower the price per pound and sometimes per head, despite the similar quality and finish of the lambs; for instance, a pen of Southdown Cross suckers of 32 lb. dressed weight brought 6d per lb. and made 18/1 per head. The demand was best for lambs dressing from 26 to 30 lb. but carcasses of 31 to 34 lb. also came in for a fair share of competition. No exceptionally high prices per head were paid, average rates being from 16/- to 18/- for light lambs and suckers. Light weight summer lambs cost from $5\frac{1}{4}$ d to 6d per lb., according to weight.

Fair demand for heavy lambs.

The large offerings of big framed weighty lambs were maintained throughout June and, at times, buyers were inclined to restrict operations for this class of meat. In consequence, prices were somewhat irregular but improved towards the end of the month when a better inquiry resulted from the comparatively short supply of hoggets. Realisations chiefly were 18/- to 20/- per head, with occasional lines exceeding these figures. Some lots of exceptionally heavy lambs made the equivalent of 4d per lb., with lighter lambs in the vicinity of 36 to 38 lb., dressed weight, clearing at the satisfactory price of 5d per lb. Generally speaking, the heavy lamb market did not vary to any great extent from that of the previous month.

Prospects of reduced supplies.

With shearing operations in progress in many centres and flood falls of rain in some country districts, indications at present point to reduced supplies of both sheep and lambs during the ensuing month, with resultant higher prices.

Larger consignments of cattle.

Consignments of cattle during June continued to increase and receipts totalled 22,966 head, of which 2,312 were auctioned in the store section; the total was approximately 2,700 greater than that for May. During the corresponding period of 1938 the aggregate was 25,714 but this figure included 4,413 bulls and stores.

The standard of the yardings generally was very fair and about equal to those of the previous month. A substantial proportion of plain cattle, however, was noticed on most occasions, and, reviewed as from sale day to sale day, the quality showed a

/fairly

fairly wide variation. Seasonal conditions are mostly satisfactory, although more rain would be beneficial in some districts, particularly the Hunter-Manning. The percentage of inferior grade cattle yarded was probably due to the culling out of stock which failed to respond to the improved seasonal conditions.

Bullocks more plentiful.

During the first half of the period the supply of bullocks was somewhat limited. Subsequently, however, increased numbers were available and at the close of the month they were rather plentiful. Heavy weight sorts were noticed in odd lots only, light descriptions predominating. For the most part, quality was only fair, except on one occasion when good to prime lots were well in evidence. Values showed an upward trend during the first few sale days and prices of good to prime bullocks ranged from 30/- to 36/- per 100 lb. dressed weight. During this period, a line of prime Shorthorn bullocks from Moree, weighing about 675 lb. each, sold at £12 per head and realised the equivalent of 35/6 per 100 lb. on the hoof. Later, the market developed a weaker tendency and, except for a brief and partial recovery, values declined substantially, so that closing quotations for this class of cattle were from 27/- to 32/- per 100 lb. dressed weight.

Quality steers well supplied.

On most sale days steers represented a large percentage of the yardings. Quality mostly was good to prime and was fairly well maintained throughout the month, although prime descriptions were, perhaps, not quite so noticeable during the second half. At the commencement of the period, steers in good to prime condition were quoted at 32/- to 37/- per 100 lb., but by the end of June values had declined to 30/- to 34/- per 100 lb., having, in the meantime, fluctuated in a similar manner to those of bullocks.

Cows more numerous but mostly of medium grade.

In contrast with the previous month, cows were somewhat plentiful. However, the standard, for the most part, was only medium and comparatively few prime animals were noticed. A fair percentage of heavy weight description was included in the offerings. Early in the period prime light cows realised to 34/- per 100 lb. dressed weight but closing rates for quality cows generally ranged from 26/- to 31/- per 100 lb.

Variable offerings of heifers.

Heifers were heavily supplied during the first half of June and were mostly good to prime types. Subsequently, consignments declined somewhat, both in numbers and quality. A typical early sale was that of a draft of prime light-weight heifers from Emerald Hill which realised approximately 36/- per 100 lb. dressed weight. In common with other classes of cattle, heifers were cheaper at the end of the period, and were quoted at from 30/- to 33/- per 100 lb.

/Values

Values of vealers decline progressively.

The supply of vealers comprised mainly medium weight sorts and was very irregular as to numbers. The standard, however, showed little variation and was generally medium to good. Odd lots of prime description were noticed throughout. For some time past values of vealers have been well maintained, but during June a progressive decline was apparent and prices fell about 5/- per 100 lb., closing rates for good to prime quality ranging from 36/- to 41/- per 100 lb. dressed weight.

Cattle market weaker.

As already indicated the market during the month was a fluctuating one and generally weaker. While this was partly due to the fact that consignments were heavier, it is understood that large supplies of meat that had been purchased in country districts also were available at the Meat Hall. From the producers' point of view, it is pleasing to note that an improved tone was evident during the first sale day in July.

G.C. & J.W.

-----oooOooo-----

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

Lighter arrivals of Tasmanian tubers but heavier local consignments.

Features of trading in Tasmanian potatoes in Sussex Street during June were the much lighter stocks of these tubers available for sale, and, consequently, the higher ruling rates.

As supplies from Tasmania were, on an average, lighter than those for some months past, consignments were received from other States, namely, Victoria and Queensland; in addition, quantities came to hand from the North Coast districts of New South Wales. Arrivals of potatoes in Sussex Street during June comprised 62,360 bags from Tasmania, 3,040 from Queensland, 2,800 from Victoria and 1,521 bags from the North Coast. While the general quality was good, some lots, particularly in the case of Snowflakes, showed traces of "glassy-end", necessitating repicking and reconditioning of such lines.

Quotations during the final week of May were the lowest for that month but the receipt of a comparatively small supply in the first period of June was responsible for an increase in prices.

A very firm inquiry prevailed throughout the month and values were in excess of those ruling in May. Rates for No.1 Grade Tasmanian Brownells rose steadily from £14.0.0 in the first week to £18.0.0 in the closing. As the quantities of the No.2 Grade
/Brownells....

Brownells were substantial in the first two weeks only, prices were fixed during those periods at £9.0.0 and £10.0.0, respectively. While a portion of the Snowflakes was affected with "second growth" and was withheld for reconditioning, the bulk of this variety was of satisfactory quality and rates were higher, ranging from £10.0.0 to £15.0.0 per ton. Tasmanian Arranchiefs were of slightly better standard than the Snowflakes and in some cases were dearer, realisations being £11.0.0 early and £15.10.0 per ton at the close of June. Early arrivals of Victorian Snowflakes were not passed by the inspector on the Sussex Street wharves owing to "second growth" and were reconditioned. Subsequent consignments, however, were much better and steady disposals were reported at £14.0.0 to £15.0.0 per ton. The Queensland Factor potato was at all times firm in price and good deliveries were effected at prices ranging from £11.10.0 to £16.0.0 per ton. Auction sales in respect of Autumn-cropped new potatoes from the Northern Rivers of New South Wales were attended by a representative number of buyers and all stocks cleared at the following rates:- No.1 Grade £9.10.0 to £15.11.8, No.2 Grade £6.0.0 to £13.5.0, Chat Grade £5.0.0 to £9.0.0, Second Growth Grade £11.0.0.

Receivals of all potatoes at the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard during June were as follow:- New South Wales - Tableland districts 21,255 bags, Coastal 675 bags; Victoria 816; Queensland 449 bags. Since last month a new potato grade has been gazetted, namely, "Second Growth Grade" which was defined as follows:- "Second Growth Grade shall consist of sound potatoes not less than five ounces in weight, showing evidence of second growth or abnormal malformation for the variety and having either a mature or immature skin; they shall be reasonably free from decay, fork injuries and greening from exposure, dirt and other foreign matter, and from damage caused by disease, sunburn or insects". Following the introduction of this grade local growers, in particular, consigned large quantities to Alexandria, for sale in the usual manner as table (No.1 and other grade) tubers. Another feature of the trading at Alexandria was the large quantity of "Stock Feed" tubers available for sale. It was noticed that a considerable quantity comprised tubers showing second growth only but a large portion was unfit for ordinary human consumption. Request for other tubers at this selling centre was good. A large number of choice lines was offered for sale and buyers were keen in bidding. No difficulty was experienced in clearing any fair to good quality lots owing to the comparative shortage of Tasmanian supplies in Sussex Street. Sales of all stocks were by auction and realisations were as follow:- New South Wales - Tableland No.1 Grade £10.5.0 to £17.5.0, No.2 Grade £7.5.0 to £14.10.0, Seed Grade £6.10.0 to £14.10.0, Second Growth Grade £6.0.0 to £13.11.8, Small Seed £6.0.0 to £11.10.0, Chat Grade £3.15.0 to £12.0.0, Stock Feed £2.0.0 to £14.0.0 per ton, Small Seed 5/-, Chat Grade 3/3, Stock Feed 2/1 per bag; Coastal No.1 Grade £9.5.0 to £14.0.0, No.2 Grade £6.0.0 to £11.0.0, Stock Feed £8.0.0; Victorian Snowflakes No.1 Grade £15.0.0; Queensland Factors No.1 Grade £10.6.8 to £13.15.0 per ton.

/Egyptian

Egyptian and Victorian Brown onions in request.

The total quantity of Brown onions received in Sussex Street this month comprised approximately 20,000 bags from Egypt and 1,653 bags and 30 tons from Victoria. At the beginning of June only small quantities were available for sale and the market was very firm. The Egyptian shipments were of excellent quality and agents reported that they had no difficulty in selling their stocks early. The closing quotation last month was £22.0.0 per ton plus sales tax, and the demand this month was such that prices advanced to £24.0.0 and £25.0.0 per ton plus sales tax.

The general quality of the Victorian offering was mixed and prices showed a wide variation at £15.0.0 for small sizes to £24.0.0 per ton for best quality large. Included in the arrivals were Pickling onions which were offered for sale at the generally lower rate of from £8.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton.

No supplies came to hand at Alexandria.

It might be mentioned that a quantity of Brown Onions were shipped from Japan to Australia. The consignment was due to arrive towards the end of June but the vessel grounded off New Guinea and it has not arrived to date.

Further decline in price of pumpkins.

The arrivals of pumpkins in Sussex Street during June totalled 1,860 bags from Queensland and 555 from local centres. Although stocks were lighter, the market became quieter and sales, especially towards the close of June, were difficult to effect even at lower rates. This situation is attributed to the heavy consignments to Alexandria which consisted of 25 trucks from Queensland and 22 from local growers.

Sales for prime lots in the first week were made at prices ranging to £8.0.0 but, later, it was difficult to move stocks at £6.0.0 per ton. A large proportion of the local offering, in Sussex Street particularly, was of inferior type and quality, and disposals were very difficult to effect in consequence, even at greatly reduced rates. The following prices were paid:- In Sussex Street: Queensland - Prime £5.0.0 to £8.0.0; Local - Inferior £2.10.0 to £4.10.0, prime to £6.0.0. At Alexandria - Queensland - Prime £5.0.0 to £7.0.0, Local - Prime £5.0.0 to £7.0.0 per ton. Quotations, except for local produce sold in Sussex Street, are for prime blue-skin pumpkins, medium and inferior lots being sold at relatively lower figures.

Lighter arrivals of other Tasmanian vegetables.

Consignments of other vegetables from Tasmania to Sussex Street during June were lighter than in May, and were as follow:- Swedes 3,963 bags, Carrots 2,280 bags, Parsnips 821 bags. Although

/the

the quantities received were much smaller than last month, agents stated that prices were lower and the demand for Swedes, especially towards the close of the month, was quiet owing to the quantities of locally grown coming to hand at Alexandria. Apart from the slow sale of Swedes, other vegetables cleared well. Ruling rates are:- Swedes £4.0.0 to £6.0.0, Carrots £7.0.0 to £11.0.0, Parsnips £6.0.0 to £13.0.0 per ton.

Other vegetables received at Alexandria (1,347 bags of local Swedes and 20 bags of Parsnips) were sold by auction, being:- Swedes £2.0.0 to £6.0.0, Parsnips £10.0.0 to £12.11.8 per ton.

Poor request for white chaff.

White chaff received at Alexandria comprised 187 trucks of Oaten and 32 trucks of Wheaten. The demand was dull and sales for the most part were not easily made, the exception being any extra choice lines which sold satisfactorily. The slow demand appears to be due to the fact that there is so much natural feed in the country. Current quotations are as follow:- Oaten - By auction, £2.11.7; By private treaty, Medium £3.0.0 to £3.10.0, Good £4.0.0 to £4.15.0; prime and special lots to £5.10.0; Wheaten - By private treaty, £2.10.0 for medium: to £4.15.0 per ton for prime green lots.

Limited inquiry for medium quality lucerne commodities.

Demand in all sections of the lucerne chaff and hay markets at Alexandria Railway Goods Yard and Sussex Street centred on choice lots, but, as these were somewhat scarce, the major portion of stocks was difficult to clear. The 70 trucks of lucerne chaff at rail were of mixed quality and were in excess of trade requirements. Sales of medium were effected by auction at £4.10.0, and by private treaty at from £4.0.0 to £4.15.0 per ton. Good quality realised from £5.0.0 to £6.5.0 and a few choice lots were cleared quickly at prices ranging up to £7.10.0 per ton. Receipts of lucerne hay were as follow:- At Alexandria - Maitland 52 trucks, other centres 108 trucks; In Sussex Street - Hunter River 199 bales. Hunter River New Green lucerne hay in Sussex Street moved out steadily at £3.0.0 to £3.10.0, but disposals of the Dry variety were dull at £6.0.0 to £6.10.0 per ton. At Alexandria, the quality was very mixed. Maitland hay included some very good lots which sold early at £4.0.0 to £4.10.0 whilst other varieties were cleared at from £3.0.0 to £3.15.0 per ton. Choice mature hay from other districts realised to £8.0.0 without difficulty, but only a very small proportion of these lots was at rail. The other offerings ranged in price from £2.0.0 for inferior soft hay to £6.10.0 per ton for good quality dry and a considerable quantity was not sold owing to lack of demand.

Only 50 bales of Victorian special oaten hay were available for sale in Sussex Street and the market rate declined to range from £8.10.0 to £9.10.0 per ton.

The 47 trucks of local produce which came to hand at Alexandria were mostly taken to stores. The small quantity offered was not in demand and sales were very dull at £3.5.0 for medium to £6.0.0 per ton for best quality.

Owing to the holding of the Sheep Show in Sydney, request for the 3,650 bales of Tasmanian straw shipped to Sussex Street was good, sales being satisfactory at £4.0.0 for medium oaten to £5.0.0 per ton for prime wheaten and Barley straw. The 9 trucks in position at Alexandria comprised a lighter supply and clearances were steady at £3.5.0 to £3.15.0 per ton.

Oats in poor request. Values for wheat slightly lower.

Arrivals of wheat and oats at Alexandria during June comprised 57 trucks of the former and 42 of the latter. Oats were over-supplied and, for the greater part of the month, clearances could not be readily made, even at rates lower than those ruling during May. Wheat of F.A.Q. standard was in request but quotations for other grades were lower. Realisations for these grains were as follow:- Wheat - By private treaty 2/2 to 2/8; By auction 2/2 to 2/8½d; Oats - By private treaty, Choice Algerian 3/3; By auction 1/3 to 3/- per bushel.

Good inquiry for prime maize.

Growers from the Northern Rivers of New South Wales shipped 4,185 bags of maize to Sussex Street. A good inquiry was evident for any prime lines, but a percentage of the shipments could not be regarded as coming within this category. Early in June millers showed very little inclination to purchase Northern Rivers maize in any substantial quantities unless free from blemish. Later on, however, the quantity of "off-quality" grain became smaller and sales were steady. The market rates throughout June remained unchanged at 4/- for yellow and 4/2 per bushel for white maize.

At Alexandria, 952 bags were received from Queensland and 4,801 from local growers. The Queensland maize met with keen inquiry at 4/- to 4/2 per bushel. Sales of "local" were quite satisfactory for good quality at prices ranging from 4/- for coastal to 4/3 per bushel for prime small grain inland maize. Medium and inferior lots were not in demand and were cleared at relatively lower rates.

E.A.G.

-----oooOooo-----

WOOL REALISATIONS - AUSTRALIA - 1938/39.

The value of wool, greasy and scoured, auctioned throughout Australia during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1939, was £38,673,957. The turnover during the 1938/39 season, however, was 2,929,548 bales, a rise of 6.1 per cent. on the previous season.

-----oooOooo-----

TRADING IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES AT THE
CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

Trading in fruit generally throughout the month was rather quiet. Retailers confined their activities chiefly to selected sizes of choice fruit and inferior descriptions were therefore rather difficult to dispose of.

Quality apples meet satisfactory inquiry.

There was a steady demand for quality apples, particularly coloured dessert varieties, values of which were well maintained.

Tasmanian shipments were heavier than last month, the total being approximately 215,000 against 178,000 for May. Notable features of the Tasmanian consignments were the large proportion of good and domestic grade fruit and the large quantity of small sizes of $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter and under; choice lines, being rather scarce, were cleared readily, but the small and inferior grades were difficult to dispose of even at relatively low prices.

The bulk of the Jonathans, Delicious and Scarlet Pearmains was rather on the ripe side, and in some instances faulty, and on this account was slow of sale. Choice lots sold freely and values generally were a little higher than those ruling during the previous month. Satisfactory clearances of local Rome Beauty and Delicious were effected, some sales of the latter being reported at as high as 17/- per case. Stayman's Winesaps also met ready sale at satisfactory rates but only small quantities of this variety were available. The greater proportion of the local Granny Smiths on the open market was of good grade, the trade requirements of "fancy" and "extra fancy" packs being drawn from cool storage.

Pears in relatively light supply.

Although consignments of pears were received from Tasmania and Victoria in addition to New South Wales districts, supplies were comparatively light. Local Packham's Triumph were in request and realised 14/- per case. The bulk, however, was on the large side and Winter Coles provided the smaller counts for the retail trade, realisations for this variety also being very satisfactory. Josephine, Beurre Bosc, Winter Nelis and Glou. Morceau were also available and were readily disposed of provided they were in firm, sound condition. This also applied to Winter Coles, ripe fruit being rather difficult to sell.

Values of bananas show downward trend.

On the average, between 6,000 and 7,000 cases of bananas arrived on the Sydney market each week from Queensland and the North Coast of New South Wales, the bulk of the supplies being drawn from the North Coast districts of the latter State. Inquiry generally was somewhat restricted, particularly during the latter part of the month, when values showed a downward movement. Early quotations

/ranged

ranged from 16/- to 23/- while those ruling at the end of the month were from 12/- to 18/- per tropical case, which represented a decline of up to 5/- per case over the period. During the third week of June, ripening was delayed by cold weather and vendors had practically a double supply of coloured fruit to dispose of during the balance of the period: this factor made clearances more difficult to effect and resulted in the lowering of prices in an endeavour to stimulate sales.

Pineapples moderately stocked but clearances not very satisfactory.

Substantial consignments of pineapples received from Queensland early in the month were responsible for a reduction in prices and while only moderate supplies came to hand subsequently clearances were not encouraging, owing to a large proportion of the stocks consisting of large fruit which was lacking in colour and a further downward trend in prices was apparent.

Steadily increasing supplies of strawberries.

There was a steady increase in the quantities of strawberries coming forward from Queensland but generally disposals of choice lines were satisfactory and prices were fairly stable. This position was maintained until the last week of the month, when many consignments arrived in a rather bad condition owing to the wet weather experienced in the producing areas and prices were reduced to facilitate clearances.

Prices of passionfruit fluctuate with supplies.

With fairly large supplies of passionfruit available early in the month sales were not very readily effected and prices showed a decline of about 1/- per half-case. Later there was a falling-off in the quantities coming forward and values of choice lots showed a steady improvement, realisations ranging to 8/- per half-case. Subsequently, however, stocks again increased and values receded to former levels.

Navel oranges plentiful.

Ample supplies of Navel oranges from both coastal and inland districts were available. Large fruit predominated, that is, counts of 64 to 113 to the case, the smaller sizes suitable for retailing at 6d and 1/- per dozen being particularly scarce.

Vendors found large fruit rather difficult to sell and were obliged to accept relatively low rates in order to move their stocks. There was a good inquiry, however, for selected sizes of quality fruit and very satisfactory prices were obtained. Some extra choice lots from inland areas realised as high as 10/- per case.

Owing to the scarcity of what is commonly termed the 6d and 1/- sized Navels, buyers paid more attention to common oranges such as Silettas and Joppas which fulfilled their requirements, particularly for the 6d line.

Market for lemons shows downward trend.

With moderate quantities of lemons available during the early part of the period under review, disposals of choice, coloured fruit were effected at improved rates, Coastal realising to 8/- per case, while the best from inland areas were a little higher still. Subsequently, however, more plentiful supplies were received, and, as demand was more limited, values declined.

Steady inquiry for choice mandarins.

Supplies of mandarins were moderate to fairly heavy but choice, large fruit had steady request; values were fairly evenly maintained, up to 8/- per case being realised with a tendency for values to improve at the end of the period. The Thorny variety was also available in half-cases and sold well at 3/- to 5/-.

Demand for grapefruit confined to special lines.

A moderate proportion of the grapefruit on offer was of plain to medium quality only and was rather slow of sale, the general range of prices being from 3/- to 8/- per case. There was a limited quantity of higher grade fruit, however, and this met with a satisfactory inquiry. Some special brands sold at enhanced prices, extra-choice coastal Wheencys, for instance, realising to 11/-, while one outstanding brand from the Narromine district sold for as much as 12/- per case, with odd sales reported at 16/-.

Papaws and custard apples.

The quantities of papaws which arrived on the market during the early part of June were too great for the trade to absorb and prices were reduced to the relatively low levels of 4/- to 8/- per tropical case; nevertheless there was a considerable carry-over from week to week, which resulted in a considerable amount of wastage. Later, however, with more moderate supplies coming forward sales were more easily made and as much as 12/- was obtained for best quality lots.

Custard apples were well supplied throughout and the general condition of the fruit was good. Demand was steady and, generally speaking, stocks cleared very well at 4/- to 8/- per half-case.

Mid-week trading in vegetables quiet.

Mid-week trading in vegetables was for the most part rather quiet but a very satisfactory volume of business was transacted prior to and immediately following each week-end.

Supplies of peas moderate to fairly heavy.

With the exception of a short period at the beginning of the month, supplies of peas were moderate to fairly heavy and were obtained chiefly from coastal districts. Opening sales were effected

/at

at prices ranging to 12/- per bushel with only relatively small quantities available but later, when more extensive consignments were forwarded, prices fell rather sharply, a reduction of about 4/- per bushel being apparent during the first week. The market thereafter fluctuated according to supply and demand, the full range being from 4/- to 8/-, with better quality lines from 1/- to 2/- per bushel higher.

Prices of beans display upward movement.

Heavy consignments of beans were received twice weekly from the North Coast to supplement decreasing supplies from local sources, and, in addition, moderate quantities came to hand from Queensland. Clearances were made of choice descriptions, particularly locally grown, and values showed a general upward trend. Closing quotations were:- local - 7/- to 11/-; North Coast and Queensland - 5/- to 10/- per bushel, with odd sales of extra choice at slightly higher rates.

Cabbages plentiful.

Plentiful supplies of cabbages were available, particularly during the early part of the month when prices were reduced to fairly low levels to facilitate sales. Disposals, however, were more easily effected towards the end of the month and the market for choice lines improved by about 1/- per dozen.

Fluctuating market for cauliflowers.

During the first half of June, with moderate to fairly heavy supplies of cauliflowers on offer, choice "heads" met a fairly good demand and, while prices varied considerably, a slight upward movement was apparent with some sales of choice at 10/- per dozen. Exceptionally large consignments came to hand during the following week, mainly from districts within a 40 mile radius of Sydney; as inquiry was limited, vendors had difficulty in clearing stocks, many lines being disposed of at concession prices, with values generally little more than half those ruling previously.

The market subsequently improved slightly for choice descriptions but small "heads", which constituted the bulk of the supplies, were difficult to sell.

Good lettuce scarce.

Choice lettuce were in exceptionally short supply, most of the moderate stocks being small and of rather poor quality. The limited quantities of choice were readily saleable at particularly high prices, some sales being recorded at 6/- per dozen. The poorer quality lettuce also cleared fairly satisfactorily.

E.J.C.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN
SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING JUNE, 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 June, 1939:-

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	
Wheat:			
Bulk	2/4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d	2/6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d	per bushel
Bagged	2/5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d	2/7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d	" "
Flour	£7.10.0 (plus £5.0.0 tax).	£7.5.0 (plus £5.10.0 tax)	per ton.
Bran	£4.5.0	£4.10.0	per ton.
Pollard	£4.5.0	£4.10.0	" "
Eggs (Hen)	1/6d	1/9d	per dozen.
Butter:			
Choice	161/2	" "	) no variation.
First Quality	156/6	" "	
Second	151/10	" "	
Cheese:			
Loaf	11d	" "	) no variation.
Large	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	" "	
Special Brands	1/2d	" "	
Figs (Abattoir Sales):			
Prime extra light porkers	25/6d	38/6d	per head.
" light porkers	32/6d	42/6d	" "
" med.wgt. "	36/6d	48/6d	" "
" heavy "	42/6d	51/6d	" "
" baconers	54/6d	74/6d	" "
Backfatters	£3.10.0	£8.0.0	" "

-----0000000-----

SYDNEY WOOL SALES - JUNE, 1939.

The Sydney Wool Selling Brokers' Association advises that 55,907 bales of wool, including 49,895 greasy and 6,012 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	£11.0.0	8.1d
Scoured	£15.6.0	15.7d
Greasy and Scoured	£11.9.3	8.7d

-----0000000-----

RETURN OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IMPORTED INTO NEW SOUTH WALES
BY LAND AND SEA - MAY, 1939.

FRUIT.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half bushel cases	TOTALS packages
Queensland	8,800	15,754	14,355 ^b	26,483	65,392
Victoria	26	185	6,066	10,623	16,900
Tasmania	-	-	283,508	378	283,886
Sth. Aust.	-	-	5,422	-	5,422
West Aust.	-	-	13,006	-	13,006
TOTALS:	8,826	15,939	322,357	37,484	384,606

Note: ^b Also 100 trays Strawberries.

VEGETABLES.

STATE	Potatoes	Onions	Swedes	Pumpkins		Cucs. & Chillies	Other Veggies.	TOTALS	
	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Tons	cases	Packages	Pkgs.	Tons
Queensland	4,127	116	-	8,895	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,158	2,999	17,295	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Victoria	7,383	8,842	228	20	-	-	6,078	22,551	-
Tasmania	117,355	-	7,134	-	-	-	6,635	131,124	-
Sth. Aust.	1,035	171	-	-	-	-	13,012	14,218	-
West Aust.	30	-	-	100	-	-	-	180	-
TOTALS:	129,980	9,129	7,362	9,015	8$\frac{1}{2}$	1,158	28,724	185,368	8$\frac{1}{2}$

BEANS

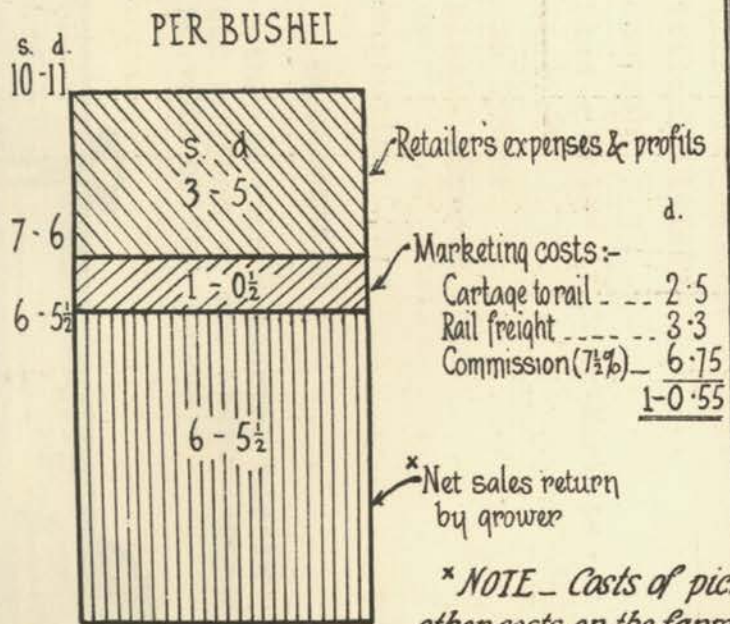
PEAS

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

JUNE 1938 TO MAY 1939.

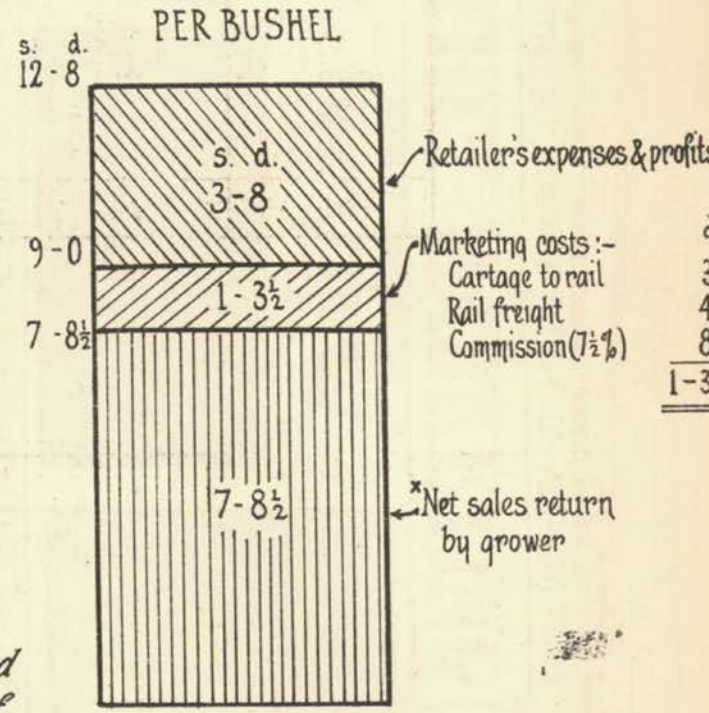
9-3
39-3

Average retail price (consumer paid)
Wholesale price (retailer paid)
Net sales return by grower



39-718

Average retail price (consumer paid)
 Average Wholesale price (retailer paid)
 *Net sales return by grower



* NOTE - Costs of picking & bagging and other costs on the farm, including costs of production, would be a charge against this return.



Compiled - A.M.T. 21-6-39
 Drawn - E.H.S. 22-6-39
 Checked - J.H. 22-6-39

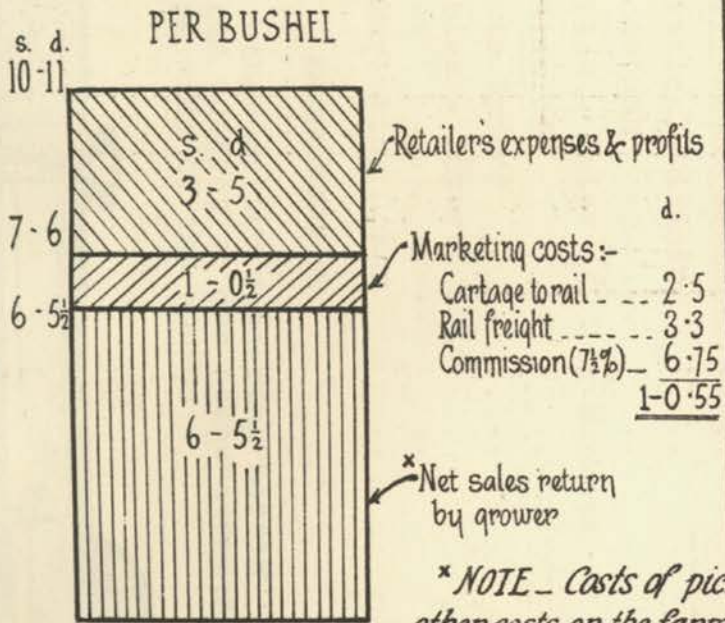
A. A. WATSON
 DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

BEANS

PEAS

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

JUNE 1938 TO MAY 1939.



39-718

Average retail price (consumer paid)

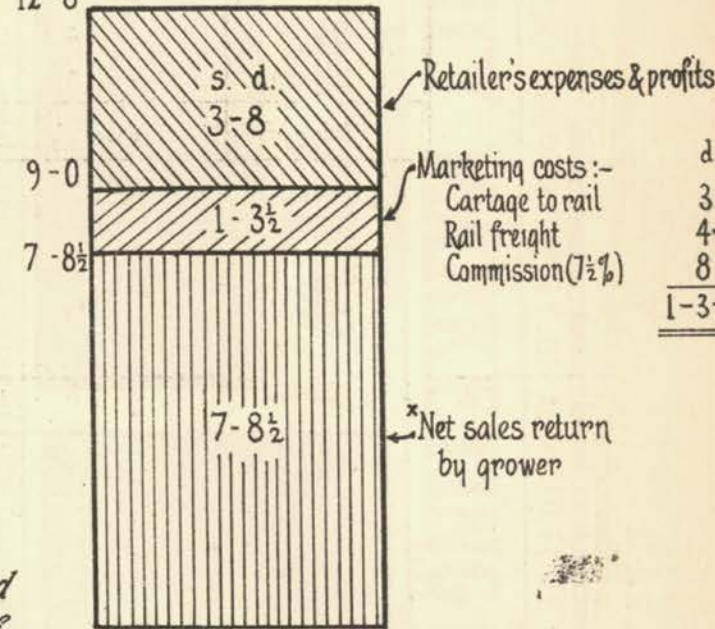
Average Wholesale price (retailer paid)
*Net sales return by grower

Marketing costs:-
Cartage to rail - 2-5
Rail freight - 3-3
Commission (7 1/2%) - 6-75
1-0-55

*NOTE - Costs of picking & bagging and other costs on the farm, including costs of production, would be a charge against this return.

PER BUSHEL

s. d.
12-8



Marketing costs:-
Cartage to rail 3
Rail freight 4
Commission (7 1/2%) 8
1-3-



A. A. WATSON
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

39-3
39-3
Average retail price (consumer paid)
Average Wholesale price (retailer paid)
Net sales return by grower

Compiled - A.M.T. 21-6-39
Drawn - E.H.S. 22-6-39
Checked - J.H. 22-6-39