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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

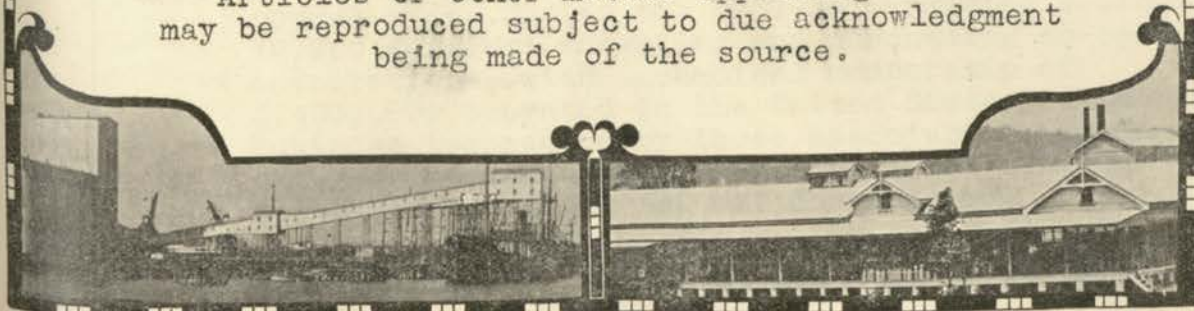
AUGUST, 1939.

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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. At Australian Wheat Conference Prime Minister submits scheme guaranteeing Australian growers 3s.4d. per bushel f.o.r. ports for wheat, subject to two limitations - (a) The supplementary finance to be provided by the Governments of the Commonwealth and States, in addition to the flour tax, shall not exceed £3,500,000 a year; and (b) Should the marketed crop exceed 140,000,000 bushels, the return per bushel to be reduced accordingly.
2. Mass meeting of poultry farmers held at Parramatta, New South Wales, reaffirms confidence in producer-controlled organised marketing.
3. Australian Dairy Produce Board decides to regulate cheese shipments to the United Kingdom to ensure better spread of deliveries.
4. Newspaper reports announce that India will send a delegation to investigate possibilities of expanding her export trade with the Commonwealth of Australia.
5. Statistics published by the Farm Credit Administration reveal that, during the 1937-38 marketing season, 10,900 farmers' marketing and purchasing co-operative associations, with a combined membership of 3,400,000, operated in the United States of America. Business transacted by these associations during the year amounted to - Marketing 1,960 million dollars; Purchasing 440 million dollars.

WHEAT PRICE STABILISATION SCHEMES.

In the February issue of the "Monthly Marketing Review" appeared an article dealing with the Australian legislation for a "Home Consumption" price for wheat. It is now proposed to give brief resumés of the principal features of some of the wheat price stabilisation schemes in other countries.

UNITED KINGDOM.

While the United Kingdom maintains an open market for wheat and the locally produced wheat must be disposed of competitively on that market, the efforts of the home grower are encouraged under the provisions of the Wheat Price Act of 1932. This Act specifies 10/- per cwt. (approximately 5/4½d per bushel) as the "standard price" and a registered grower is entitled to receive from the Wheat Commission a "deficiency payment" for each hundredweight of wheat sold by him representing, subject to two provisos, the difference between the "ascertained average price" and "the standard price". The two provisos are (1) that a deduction be made to defray the cost of administration and (2) that should the quantity of wheat sold by certified growers during the cereal year exceed the anticipated quantity, the quantity for which deficiency payments are to be made shall be reduced proportionately for each grower.

Funds for the financing of the foregoing "deficiency payments" are obtained by means of "Quota Payments" on all flour milled or imported into the United Kingdom. The rate of these "Quota Payments" may be varied by order from time to time, according to fluctuations in the price of wheat. Under the Wheat (Quota Payments) No.1 Order, 1939, every mill and every importer of flour was required to pay to the Wheat Commission a quota payment in respect of deliveries of flour on or after 29th January, 1939, at the rate of 31.2d per cwt. (equivalent to 6/6 a sack of 280 lb.). This rate represented an increase of 6d a sack on that in force from 13th November, 1938. Where flour or bread is exported, the quota payment is repaid to the exporter.

CANADA.

On 4th August, 1938, the Canadian Government arranged to guarantee a minimum price of 80 cents per bushel (equivalent to 4/3 per bushel, Australian currency) on the basis of No.1 Northern Manitoba Wheat delivered at Fort William, with lower grades at proportional discounts. While growers were not compelled to sell their wheat to the Canadian Wheat Board, only by so doing were they assured of receiving the guaranteed price, and the fact that this price exceeded market rates resulted in the Board being obliged to take practically all offerings. The Board sold the wheat through regular grain exchange channels to traders for either domestic consumption or export, sales being made at prices in line with those obtainable for export wheat. According to a recent estimate, the amount which will be payable from Government funds under the guarantee may be as high as 48 million dollars.

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On 16th February, 1939, the Minister for Agriculture announced that this policy of fixing a price for wheat would terminate at 31st July, 1939, the end of the crop year. In view of the heavy loss incurred, and the inequality of a bonus on a bushel basis - many thousands of farmers in Western Canada whose land produced no wheat received nothing from the bonus and had to receive direct relief - it was proposed to substitute a plan providing the payment to Western wheat growers of a bonus on an acreage basis.

The proposed policy aroused strong opposition in the Western Provinces, and representatives of grain producers and marketing organisations sought a continuance of the minimum price scheme. Latest reports indicate that the Dominion Government has reverted to the arrangement for a guaranteed price, but at the lower level of 70 cents (about 3s.9d. per bushel Australian currency). In addition, it is stated that the amending Act extends the provision of a guaranteed price to farmers in Eastern Canada, whereas formerly it was applicable only to Prairie Provinces. A further notable feature is the limiting of the guarantee to a quantity of 5,000 bushels per farm unit, thereby confining distribution of relief to cases of greatest need.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A number of distinct plans appear to operate in the United States of America. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration allots individual farmers an acreage for seeding, and makes "price adjustment" payments to those producers who plant within their acreage allotment. Such payments are made on the normal yield of each producer's allotted wheat acreage; for 1939 the announced payments are at the rate of 11 cents per bushel. These payments are supplementary to those termed "Agricultural Conservation" payments, made to co-operators on the normal yield of their acreage allotments, and which will total 28 cents per bushel for 1939. The Agricultural Adjustment Act also provides for commodity loans involving "parity prices" and for crop insurance.

In addition, the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation purchases wheat from regular grain dealers and producers on domestic markets and sells it to exporters at prices which will enable United States wheat to maintain its relative position in world markets. Flour exports are subsidised on the basis of the difference between the domestic and foreign prices at the time of sale.

By means of the foregoing, the United States prices of wheat and flour have been maintained above world levels. The costs of the subsidies are met from funds specially allotted by the Government.

ARGENTINA.

For the 1938 wheat crop, the Government guaranteed a minimum internal price approximately equivalent to 3/2 per bushel, Australian currency, basis seaboard ports. The difference between the export realisations and the guaranteed price will be financed from the fund created from profits on transactions in foreign exchange; two official exchanges are provided - an official exchange market and a free market. Exporters are required to sell their bills of exchange to the Exchange Control Committee at the official rate and the Committee then sells them to importers at a profit. For instance, recently, the British pound has been bought at 15 pesos per £ and sold at 17 pesos, leaving a profit of 2 pesos per £. Recent newspaper reports state that the guaranteed price for the 1938 wheat crop has involved such a heavy loss that it is very doubtful whether the Government will consider any such scheme for future harvests.

EUROPEAN EXPORTING COUNTRIES.

In Russia, the export trade in wheat is entirely controlled by the Government. The various Danubian wheat exporting countries, such as Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria, arrange wheat exports by means of agreements with importing countries, particularly Italy and Germany, and such exports are generally subsidised by bounties. In some instances, domestic prices are also controlled.

EUROPEAN IMPORTING COUNTRIES.

While the chief exporting countries have adopted various export subsidy schemes to partially offset the low world wheat prices, importing countries have instituted import control and duties to protect their local producers. In some instances, the restrictions on imports were originally imposed some years back with the object of stimulating local production in an endeavour to attain self-sufficiency. The decline in the general world market price has been responsible for more stringent import control or higher import duties in most of the importing countries.

Examples of the different measures of protection are:-

Germany: The regular duty on wheat is a prohibitive one. Imports on other terms are under governmental control.

Italy: Wheat can only be imported under ministerial license and purchases abroad can only be made by a semi-official agency. The domestic price of wheat is fixed by the Government.

Denmark: Effective from 26th August, 1938, Denmark prohibited imports of wheat except with permission of the Government, and increased other restrictions.

Belgium: From 15th September, 1938, the import licence tax was doubled.

/The Netherlands: ...

The Netherlands: The wheat tax was increased by 25% from 21st August, 1938. Wheat flour restrictions are imposed on bakers, requiring the use of a fixed percentage of flour mixed with the local product.

France: The price of wheat is fixed by the Government and a special excise tax is levied to enable the export of any surplus.

INDIA.

As it was said that imported wheat had been entering the country at prices which prevented the sale of domestic wheat in the vicinity of ports, while Indian wheat could not be profitably exported at ruling world market levels, a new import duty on wheat and flour was imposed as from 7th December, 1938. Previously there had been no duty on wheat, while flour paid 25 per cent. ad valorem. The new duty was fixed at 1.5 rupees per cwt.

BRAZIL.

Under a Presidential decree of 15th December, 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, Australian currency), and will be required to purchase a quota of home-grown wheat.

CHILE.

The Chilean Agricultural Export Board fixed the price for the 1938/39 wheat crop at 85 paper pesos per metric quintal (approximately 5/- per bushel Australian currency) at railway stations in Santiago. The Board is said to favour stabilisation purchases of about 18 million bushels by the Farm Bank.

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ASSISTANCE TO UNITED KINGDOM SHEEP RAISERS.

The United Kingdom Government has announced a scheme of assistance to sheep raisers, the details of which were made available by the Minister of Agriculture in the House of Commons on 18th May, 1939. The Livestock Commission is to prepare a scheme of price insurance providing a deficiency payment from the Exchequer on sheep (excluding ewes and rams), which are presented for sale for slaughter and exceed a prescribed qualifying minimum weight. It is proposed that the monthly standard price for sheep should follow the normal seasonal variations and be such as will average 10d per lb. over the year, and that this figure should be related to a total United Kingdom sheep population of 27,000,000, provision being made for variation should the sheep population rise above this number or the standard price exceed the market price for two years in succession.

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PHYSICAL FEATURES, PRODUCTION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE SOUTH COAST STATISTICAL DIVISION NO.4, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Introductory.

In previous releases of this publication there have appeared from time to time a general resume of the Statistical Divisions of New South Wales and articles dealing more specifically with Statistical Divisions No.1 (North Coast), No.2 (Hunter-Manning) and No.3 (Metropolitan). It is now proposed similarly to review Statistical Division No.4 which comprises the South Coast, or the balance of the coastal belt of the State so far undealt with.

Area, Population and Climate.

Reference to the Official Year Book of New South Wales discloses that the South Coast Statistical Division comprises that area bounded on the north by the rivers Nepean and Cataract, which separate it from the metropolitan County of Cumberland; on the south, by the eastern portion of a surveyed straight line running from Cape Howe to Forest Hill in the Snowy Mountains, separating the States of New South Wales and Victoria; on the east, by the waters of the Pacific Ocean from a headland north of Bulli to Cape Howe on the south; and on the west by the River Warragamba, by the river Wollondilly and its tributary headwaters, and by the Shoalhaven River to its source near Mt. Italy, then by the Gourock section of the main Dividing Range to the western watershed of the Kybean and Umaralla Rivers, and thence by the South Coast Range running southward from the successive points of Big Hill, Thoko Hill, Mount Marshall, Burimbucgo and Mt. Tennyson on the Victorian border. This division constitutes the narrowest part of the whole coastal strip and probably does not average more than 30 miles wide, the steep slopes of the Great Dividing Range hemming it in on the western side. Thus there are no large rivers or extensive valleys and river flats.

The division includes 10 Shires and 18 Municipalities with an aggregate area of 5,967,653 acres. Of this total, 1,804,916 acres are alienated or virtually so, whilst 4,162,737 are unalienated Crown lands. The holdings within this area include a proportion of unalienated lands held under lease from the Crown in addition to the bulk of the alienated lands and constitute in all 2,287,278 acres. Holdings of one acre and upward total 4,713. Most of the **country represented by the difference between the total area and the acreage in holdings** is either reserved for various purposes or considered unsuitable for agricultural or pastoral pursuits. In 1936/37, the latest season for which figures are available, the area under crops was 55,838 acres, whilst 184,196 acres were under sown grasses.

Despite the prosperity attaching to primary production on the South Coast, the Division suffered a process of depopulation, chiefly owing to the departure of a number of dairy farmers and their families to North Coast districts when the construction of

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the railway began to unlock the northern littoral. Nevertheless, it is of interest to note that there has been a fairly large proportionate increase in population numbers in the southern coastal belt. During a period of a little over twenty years, the population has grown from about 79,000 to 105,000, the latter being recorded at the 1933 census. The figure is now substantially higher as an estimate made available by the Government Statistician placed the population at nearly 114,000 head at 31st December, 1937. The increase can no doubt be attributed to the influx of workers and others caused by the extension of the steelworks and allied industries at Port Kembla.

The municipalities with the largest populations are: Wollongong 13,500 (includes Port Kembla), Illawarra North 8,500 (includes a number of small coal mining towns), Nowra 3,200, Bowral 3,100, Berry 2,800, Bega and Camden 2,600 each and Kiama 2,500.

The climate on this part of the coast is temperate, the mean ranging from 60° to 63°, the summer mean being from 66° at the foot of the ranges to 70° on the sea coast and the winter from 50° to 55° over the same area. The average rainfall, although substantially below that of the North Coast, nevertheless is considerable, ranging from 30 to 60 inches per annum.

The Cradle of Specialised Dairying in Australia.

As is the case with other sections of the coastal belt, dairying is the principal activity, natural conditions favouring this field of endeavour. Although rainfall is adequate and natural pastures are generally available throughout the year, except in very dry seasons, dairy stock are usually given supplementary rations such as maize and saccaline. The Illawarra section of the State was really the cradle of specialised dairying in Australia, the industry according to reports being established there on a substantial scale as far back as the twenties of last century, the dairy cow travelling there from the Hawkesbury and Cowpasture Country with the pioneer farmers. Owing to the comparatively high concentrated value of butter and cheese and their suitability for rough transport on pack horse and by small sailing boats, the manufacture of these products became the specialised industry of the South Coast and the Illawarra from their very first settlement.

Today, those districts north of Nowra loom very largely as the source of supply of raw milk for the city and suburbs of Sydney, providing more than half of the 26½ million gallons received by the Milk Board for the Sydney section in 1937/38. Centres which figured prominently in the season mentioned were: Camden 2,043,149 gallons, Nowra 1,895,627, Bowral 1,385,941, Jamberoo 1,320,248, Albion Park 1,252,691 and Berry 1,158,843 gallons. Further south, however, the bulk of the milk produced is manufactured into cheese and butter, respectively. Here again, the division is outstanding so far as cheese is concerned, production in season 1936/37 aggregating nearly 5,600,000 lb., representing fully 75% of the total output of the State. Cheese

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factories are numerous and are well and favourably known for the quality of their products, Bodalla and Kameruka being examples. Although butter production is not on a scale comparable with that of certain other coastal sections, nevertheless it is of considerable extent, the quantity manufactured in 1936/37 being 11,096,776 lb. The major proportion of the 250,000 head of cattle in this division comprise dairy stock although there are substantial numbers of dual-purpose cattle, chiefly of the Australian Illawarra Shorthorn breed which was originally developed in this section of the State.

Pig raising is carried on in conjunction with dairying and is considered a profitable sideline. The quantity of bacon and hams processed by bacon factories in the subject division have remained fairly constant over the past ten years, ranging between 404,000 and 625,000 lb.

Sheep and Wool Growing.

Although today, with only slightly over 400,000 head of sheep, it is not recognised as a major sheep raising area, the great pastoral industry virtually saw its birth in the South Coast Division. Admittedly a few sheep arrived by the First Fleet in 1788, which, with others imported subsequently, were depastured in the County of Cumberland, and the first sample fleeces were sent to England by John Macarthur in 1800 from his small flock at Parramatta, but the real foundations of what was destined to become the main source of Australia's national wealth were laid by Macarthur at Camden, where he secured a grant of 5,000 acres on his return from England in 1805. Here was built up from sheep purchased from the King's flock a strain of pure-bred merinos which were the forerunners of today's great flocks of that breed.

Importance of Fodder Conservation recognised.

Conservation of fodder appears to be more extensively practised in this Division than in any other portion of New South Wales. Of 1,350 farms in the entire State where ensilage was made in season 1936/37, no less than 515 were located within the South Coast section. The quantity of silage put down amounted to 41,250 tons valued at £58,861 out of a total of 113,542 tons worth £170,167.

Maize the principal Cereal.

The principal crop grown is maize, largely for green feed and ensilage. Each season an area of approximately 20,000 acres is planted of which less than half is allowed to mature grain. The bulk of this crop is grown on alluvial soils which form river flats, although a substantial portion is produced on more elevated situations, chiefly for fodder purposes. The growing of maize is looked upon by dairy farmers as an integral part of the farm practice. In normal seasons particularly good yields, at times exceeding 100 bushels per acre, are obtained from the

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better class soils. Outstanding areas of production are along the Shoalhaven, Moruya, Tuross, Bega, Pambula, Towamba and Kiah Rivers. The outturn of grain in 1936/37 aggregated 318,000 bushels which was largely absorbed locally in topping off pork and bacon pigs and for other farm purposes, relatively limited quantities only reaching the Sydney market. Other fodder crops are grown fairly extensively, nearly 9,000 acres being devoted to the cultivation of sorghum, rape, etc., almost 15,000 acres of oats being sown, the bulk for green fodder purposes, and over 3,000 acres of lucerne being cultivated, partly for hay and partly for green fodder.

Fruit and other Crops.

While small areas of fruit trees are to be found throughout most of the division, fruit-growing on a commercial scale is practically confined to the northern portions comprised by the Shires of Wollondilly and Wingecarribee, which embrace such well-known districts as Camden, Picton, Lakesland, Thirlmere, Penrose, Wingello, Tallong and Bundanoon. The New South Wales Statistical Register gives the 1936/37 acreages as:-

	<u>Acres</u>
Citrus Fruit - Productive	244
" " - Young Trees	109
All other Orchard Fruits - Productive	2,384
All other Orchard Fruits - Young Trees	859
Passion Fruit ..	168
Grapes - For Table use	116
" - Young Vines	18

and shows the production of the main fruits in that year as:- Apples 150,256 bushels, Pears 21,965, Oranges 12,635, Peaches 7,411, Passion Fruit 3,208, Plums 2,997 and Lemons 2,385 bushels.

So far as other crops are concerned, the chief feature is the attention given, mostly in parts within relatively easy distance of Sydney, to market gardening and the cultivation of such vegetables as peas, beans, cabbages, turnips, etc. In 1936/37, approximately 3,500 acres (including 768 acres of market gardens) were devoted to vegetable growing, the total value of the produce of market gardens being nearly £24,000 and the return from peas and beans exceeding £19,000.

On the higher elevations, which include such centres as Robertson, Moss Vale and Exeter, and to a lesser extent in areas nearer the coast, potatoes are grown, the production in 1936/37 amounting to 3,716 tons from 1,233 acres.

(To be continued)

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SHEEP AND CATTLE SALES AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

Further increase in numbers of sheep and lambs yarded.

The improvement in the numbers of sheep and lambs reaching the Homebush markets manifest during the previous month was further continued in July, when 299,508 head were submitted or 29,997 more than were offered in June. Compared with the yardings for the same period of 1938, there was a very substantial gain during the month under review, 157,747 more sheep and lambs being marketed, which is a very good indication as to how much better conditions in the country are this year in regard to available supplies of fat sheep and lambs.

Heavy sheep numerous.

The supply of good quality heavy sheep, of which wethers predominated, was the best for some considerable time, the only drawback being that local trade requirements do not lend themselves to the consumption of the heavy class of mutton. That section of the trade able to utilise this heavy mutton and the near country butchers, however, were well provided for in this respect. Many lines of prime heavy full-woolled merino and crossbred sheep, with weights ranging from 48 lb. upwards, were available; in fact, some exceptionally heavy pens of crossbred wethers were disposed of. Although not so noticeable in the early part of the month, there was a steady increase throughout in the proportion of sheep "off shears", quite a fair number being yarded on each sale day. As shearing in the country progresses, heavier yardings of shorn descriptions and fewer consignments of sheep carrying full-woolled skins must be expected. There was only a limited offering of really good quality light trade mutton, sheep dressing from 36 to 40 lb. being rather scarce, but fair to medium trade sorts of these weights were fairly well represented.

While a slight improvement was noticeable in the number of ewes marketed, supplies were still much below average requirements.

Quality lambs well supplied.

There was an excellent showing of lambs and suckers, but here, too, the preponderance of exceptionally heavy lines, particularly amongst the old or summer lambs and, in some instances, suckers, was again evident. Many lots of lambs were in splendid condition and of outstanding quality but were considered by operators to be overfat for the trade. Quite frequently, lambs dressing from 46 to 50 lb. were available, while some drafts weighed up to 54 lb. Fairly substantial numbers of suckers were yarded, including a good percentage of prime grades, and quite a few of outstanding quality and finish, which were as good as one would wish to see in any fat stock market. The supply of fair to medium trade lambs could not be regarded as heavy, but, for the most part, appeared to satisfy buyers' requirements.

/Only

Only odd lines of plain lambs were submitted during the month and it was indeed pleasing to see on each sale day the splendid showing of lambs and suckers.

Sheep market closes cheaper.

The market for grown sheep showed a good deal of variation throughout but closed considerably cheaper. During the first three weeks of operations several rises and falls of from 1/- to 1/6 occurred, the variation in prices being more noticeable on heavy sheep and fair to medium trade descriptions. Very often the gain on one sale day would be lost on the next, while on other occasions the position would be reversed. The last two sales held, however, were marked by considerably heavier yardings and a restricted enquiry by operators, so that prices for all classes of sheep dropped sharply and closing rates were on an average from 2/- to 3/- below those obtained early in July. Good quality light weight trade sheep were not affected to such an extent as the heavy classes. Some of the prices paid on the opening sale of July, during which good light trade wethers weighing 38 lb. sold at 16/2 per head or 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. and heavy sheep weighing 50 lb. made 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. or 18/3, when compared with closing realisations will serve to indicate the extent of the fall in prices. At the auctions of the 31st July, 1939, wethers dressing 50 lb. of mutton cost 2d per lb. and were purchased at 16/6 per head, while nice quality sheep weighing 46 lb. were obtained at 17/11 each or 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. The best rate for wether and ewe mutton was 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb., equal to the highest ruling price for June. Although the average value per pound for heavy mutton was lower during July, that for light sheep did not vary, being 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d for heavy and 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ d to 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d for light. The prices per pound for mutton on the last sale held in July, however, were much lower at 2d to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d for heavy and 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d for light.

At this stage, it would appear that a continuation of heavy yardings during the ensuing month is likely to result in a further decline in prices.

Actual realisations per head were up to 22/- for wethers and 18/- for ewes, with the bulk of the sales being made at from 16/- to 19/- and 12/- to 16/-, respectively, and did not vary to any great degree from those of the previous month. Skin values, however, generally were better, several increases of $\frac{1}{4}$ d occurring which further reduced the cost of the carcase to the butchers.

Heavy lambs cheap but light descriptions in good demand.

The supply of heavy lambs was in excess of buyers' requirements and prices during the month declined by about $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb., with some of the exceptionally heavy lines showing a much more substantial fall. On several occasions, outside interests purchased fairly large numbers of big, heavy, well-developed ewe lambs for restocking purposes; when this occurred, the added competition caused prices to advance sharply. Some of the best realisations for the heavy class of lamb were up to 23/- per head,

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but for the most part rates ranged from 17/- to 21/- each. The market for lambs of 40 lb. dressed weight and upwards was very dull towards the close of the month, so that lamb which cost from $4\frac{1}{2}$ d to $5\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. early in July was obtainable for 4d to $4\frac{3}{4}$ d. In direct contrast to the heavy descriptions, light lambs, particularly suckers, were mostly in strong demand and, although values were a little irregular throughout and became easier by the end of the month, the market as a whole was very satisfactory. Light suckers of quality, weighing from 25 to 28 lb. realised $6\frac{5}{4}$ d to 7d per lb. and heavier sorts dressing from 29 to 34 lb. brought from 6d to $6\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb., according to weight and finish. Average realisations were from $\frac{1}{4}$ d to $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. better than during the preceding month.

The steady demand is illustrated by the following sales. A line of suckers sold on 3rd July, weighing 32 lb., cost $6\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. and realised 18/11 per head. Later in the period a draft of suckers dressing 28 lb. made 18/8 each, equivalent to 7d per lb. The weaker tone which developed during the final sale day of the month enabled buyers to secure 32 lb. suckers at 6d per lb., or 18/7 per head.

Prices per head were a little higher than during June and ranged from 16/- to 20/-.

Light weight summer lambs were not so numerous as suckers; when available, they realised from 5d to 6d per lb., with some making as much as $6\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb.

Prices considerably below July, 1938.

During July, 1938, rates reached the highest levels for a number of years, so that the following comparison of the prices ruling then with those obtained during the month under review is of interest:-

		<u>July, 1938.</u>	<u>July, 1939.</u>
Suckers	...	to 9d per lb.	to 7d per lb.
Hoggets	...	" 6d " "	" $4\frac{1}{4}$ d " "
Wethers	...	" 6d " "	" $3\frac{1}{2}$ d " "
Ewes	...	" $5\frac{1}{2}$ d " "	" $3\frac{1}{2}$ d " "

Up to 22/- per head was paid for wethers, 23/- for lambs and 18/- for ewes in July this year, but realisations for the same month in 1938 were up to 33/-, 33/- and 32/- per head, respectively. While these figures show a remarkable difference, due allowance must be made for the very short supplies, scarcity of quality stock and better skin values which were features of the market at this time last year.

/Cattle

Cattle supplies maintained.

Supplies of cattle were well maintained during July and consignments aggregated 23,292 head, of which 2,151 were auctioned in the store section. This total was considerably in advance of the truckings during the corresponding period of 1938, when only 16,895 head were available. On the whole, the standard of the yardings was fairly satisfactory but, as in the case of the previous month, quality varied from sale day to sale day. On some occasions, the percentage of good to prime cattle was all that could be desired; at other times, the proportion of plain to medium grades was larger than one would reasonably expect considering the mainly favourable season. However, this was probably due partly to the effects of winter conditions, particularly in the more elevated areas, and partly to the fact that certain sections of the State, such as the Hunter Manning district, still required more rain.

Variable yardings of bullocks.

Bullocks were fairly well represented, although the numbers available on some sale days were very limited. Light weight descriptions predominated, heavy sorts being seen in odd lots only. Quality was rather variable but on the whole it was fairly good. During the early part of July values hardened and good to prime bullocks ranged in price from 29/- to 34/- per 100 lb. dressed weight. During this period, a line of Shorthorn bullocks from Moree, in good condition and weighing about 750 lb., sold at £11.14.0 per head, realising the equivalent of 31/- per 100 lb. on the hoof. The increased rates were not maintained, however, and a progressive decline in values was noticed throughout the second half of the month, closing quotations being from 26/- to 31/- per 100 lb.

Quality steers well represented.

Except on one or two occasions, steers were well supplied and mostly were of a very satisfactory standard. For the greater part of July this class of cattle met a strong demand and sales of quality descriptions were effected at from 33/- to 37/- per 100 lb. Towards the close of the period, in sympathy with a generally weaker market, lower prices ruled, from 29/- to 33/- per 100 lb. being obtained.

Medium grade cows plentiful.

Consignments of cows were consistently heavy but, for the most part, they comprised light weight sorts of plain to medium grade. On several occasions, however, drafts of better conditioned animals were noticed throughout the yards. Despite the numbers on offer, prices were mostly very satisfactory, at one period ranging from 29/- to 34/- per 100 lb. dressed weight for good to prime grade. A pronounced slump in values occurred towards the end of the month and on the final sale day quality lines were changing hands at from 25/- to 28/- per 100 lb.

/Satisfactory

Satisfactory offerings of heifers.

The supply of heifers was somewhat variable but on the whole this class was well represented. Quality was also inclined to fluctuate and at times prime grade lots were difficult to secure. For the most part, however, sufficient quality sorts were available to meet the demand. During most of the period, the market for heifers was an excellent one and prices generally were equal to those ruling for steers, prime grade descriptions realising up to 37/- per 100 lb. of beef. Towards the close, however, values, in common with those of cows, declined sharply and agents experienced difficulty in obtaining even 30/- per 100 lb. for prime sorts.

Limited numbers of vealers available.

Vealers were present in mostly limited numbers and medium grade sorts predominated. Small vealers were scarce, the supply generally comprising medium to heavy weight descriptions. Yearlings were particularly noticeable during July. Compared with closing rates in June, values of vealers for the most part showed a pronounced improvement and, for a while, prime quality sold to 44/- per 100 lb. dressed weight. Prices declined, however, towards the end of the period, when ruling rates ranged from 36/- to 40/-.

Closing cattle values lower.

For the greater part of the period, the market was firm and prices generally were very satisfactory from the viewpoint of the producer. As indicated, a sharp decline in values took place towards the close of the month which, considering the heavy supplies of meat available throughout the country and the better yardings at Homebush, was not unexpected. Early sales in August saw the decline arrested, at least temporarily, by a slightly firmer market, for which lighter consignments were held responsible.

G.C. & J.W.

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In a report to the Department of Commerce, the Australian Veterinary Officer in London, commenting on Argentine beef, states that an interesting point in dressing practised by some South American exporters is the use of a plug of hard fat inserted in the kidney vein as high up as possible, to avoid the dripping of blood, etc., down the chine. This plug is in the shape of a cork stopper, the length being about $1\frac{3}{8}$ " and the end diameters being approximately $1\frac{1}{8}$ " and $\frac{5}{8}$ ". The plug, apparently of hard kidney fat, is made in a mould and is certainly effective, particularly as there is no necessity to remove the plug before shipment, as in the case of the usual cloths. The main objection appears to be that the moulding and placing of the plugs may be thought rather tedious, but the point is mentioned in view of the considerable amount of staining still seen in the area concerned in Australian hindquarters.

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TRADING IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IN THE
CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Business shows steady improvement.

Business was dull during the early part of the period under review but later, with most kinds of fruit in lighter supply and conditions generally favourable to sales, a steady improvement in trading was apparent.

Smaller shipments of apples from Tasmania.

Much smaller shipments of apples were received from Tasmania, the aggregate for the month being approximately 107,500 cases as against 215,000 for June. The general quality of these consignments showed a marked improvement over those previously received. The smaller quantities were offset to some extent by the large stocks held in Sydney cool stores but clearances were easy to effect and realisations generally were higher. Choice coloured dessert varieties were most in request, the principal demand being for Croftons which, at this time of the year, replace Jonathans to a great extent, except in cases where the latter are of particularly good standard. Coloured French Crabs were difficult to dispose of but choice lines cleared satisfactorily.

Local supplies were limited and choice Granny Smiths, Delicious and Dohertys met a steady sale, up to 17/- per case being obtained for the best sizes of Delicious, while up to 13/- was realised for the two other varieties mentioned. Some Yates of exceptionally good quality were received from Western Australia and these, too, were disposed of at very good prices.

Only limited quantities of pears available.

The proportion of pears contained in the Tasmanian shipments was small, while only limited quantities were consigned from local sources and Victoria. Choice fruit in firm condition was in request, but ripe and inferior lines were difficult to sell. Local Packham's Triumph were the subject of the principal demand, values of these showing an upward trend.

Navel oranges - Demand centred chiefly around selected sizes.

Supplies of Navel oranges from both coastal and inland areas were relatively light and consisted mostly of large fruit which was rather slow of sale; nevertheless, clearances were satisfactory, although prices obtained for the larger fruit were relatively low in comparison with those realised for the smaller sizes. Quality Navels of counts suitable for retailing at either 6d or 1/- per dozen were sought after and values showed a steady improvement, up to 10/- per case being obtained, with special lines higher. This class, however, was not available in sufficient quantities to meet trade requirements.

/Common

Common oranges sell well.

Owing to the scarcity of small and medium sized navels, there was a good demand for Common oranges, particularly Joppas, suitable for the 6d and 8d per dozen retail trade and realisations up to 7/- per case were recorded.

Values of lemons show little variation.

Lemons met a fair inquiry early in the period and values advanced by about 1/- per case. Thereafter, rates were evenly maintained, although sales for the most part were quiet. The fact that supplies were by no means heavy was in the main responsible for the stabilised prices.

Little inquiry for other than special grade grapefruit.

There was little inquiry for plain and standard grade grapefruit and, although prices were made attractive, vendors had difficulty in clearing stocks, so that a certain amount of wastage of lower grade descriptions was unavoidable. Some special lines from both coastal and inland districts were received and these met a ready sale at prices ranging to 12/- per case, and, in some instances, higher.

Smaller quantities of bananas received.

According to figures supplied by the Banana Marketing Board of New South Wales, arrivals of bananas from the North Coast during July totalled approximately 20,500 cases and were considerably below last month's receipts. Reports issued by the Queensland Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing show that between 1st and 26th July approximately 7,700 cases arrived on the Sydney market from the Northern State. Early in the period sales were restricted and stocks of ripe fruit accumulated, causing vendors much concern. Later, however, with smaller quantities coming forward, the market was cleared of the bulk of this ripe fruit and a steady improvement in values resulted.

Pineapples slow to clear.

Only moderate consignments of pineapples came to hand from Queensland, the total receipts up to the 26th July being in the vicinity of 8,500 tropical cases. Many lines consisted of green fruit and were unattractive to buyers, thus making clearances difficult to effect. Choice coloured lots, however, sold satisfactorily, particularly medium sized fruit of the 18 to 24 per case counts. The market fluctuated slightly but generally prices ranged from 7/- to 11/- per tropical case, with some special lines higher.

Record deliveries of Queensland strawberries.

According to a report which appeared in "The Queensland Producer" of 26th July, 1939, deliveries to the Sydney market of
/fresh

fresh strawberries from Queensland during the week 16th to 21st July, inclusive, easily constituted a record for this fruit. Quantities handled by the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing and forwarded by train from South Brisbane during that period were 4,194 trays and 503 cases from North Coast (Queensland) stations and 568 cases from South Coast (Queensland) centres, equalling 18 tons 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. for the week, of which 7 tons 3 cwts. left Brisbane on the Thursday train (20th July). The report goes on to say that deliveries to Sydney this season (up to 22/7/39) were equal to 119,510 pint boxes, while totals for the same period in 1938 and 1937 were equivalent to 37,908 pint boxes and 53,796 pint boxes, respectively.

Although the quantities of strawberries received during the period mentioned above were exceptionally heavy, arrivals during the following week showed a further increase, totalling 1,363 cases of 20 pint boxes and 4,096 trays.

A percentage of the strawberries received from the Northern State was rather green and, at times, a considerable amount of wastage was apparent in many lines; nevertheless, a number of good quality lots was available. Despite the large stocks on offer, disposals throughout the month were very satisfactory, particularly at the week-ends. Vendors were materially assisted in effecting clearances by arrangements made with a Jam Factory, whereby carry-over stocks were purchased by the factory at a price approximating 2/3 per tray, equivalent to about 10d per lb.

In addition to Queensland consignments, small quantities of good size and quality were received from local sources and were readily disposed of at prices ranging from 9/- to 15/- per dozen punnets, with some sales of extra choice at higher rates.

Vegetables, particularly greens, clear satisfactorily.

Steady trading in vegetables was apparent throughout the month and clearances of greens such as peas, beans, cabbages and cauliflowers were for the most part very satisfactory.

Prices of peas show upward trend.

Supplies of peas, drawn principally from coastal districts, were for the most part only moderate and sales of choice lines, particularly "Gems", were readily effected and an upward trend in values was apparent, some sales at 11/- per bushel being recorded at the close of the period.

Heavy consignments of beans.

Only limited quantities of beans were obtained from local districts but heavy consignments came to hand from Queensland and the North Coast of New South Wales, and stocks were sufficient to meet trade needs. Generally speaking,

/clearances.....

clearances of quality lines were gratifying, particularly during the week ended 19th July when choice lots realised up to 10/- per bushel, showing an advance of 2/- to 3/- per bushel over the prices ruling earlier. While rates were not maintained at this level during the balance of the period, mostly they were satisfactory, best grades of beans selling at 8/- per bushel.

Steady improvement in the market for cabbages.

During the early part of the month, prices of cabbages were relatively low, being from 1/- to 4/- per dozen. Later, however, values showed a steady improvement and at the close ranged from 2/- to 6/- per dozen.

Supplies of cauliflowers mostly relatively light.

Fairly large stocks of cauliflowers were available during the first week of July and a downward trend in values was apparent. With a continuance of the dry weather, however, partial failures of crops were reported from most centres and subsequent supplies were relatively light. Choice quality "heads" sold more readily and from the end of the second week to the close of the month prices improved, best quality descriptions realising to 12/- per dozen, with odd sales at higher rates.

Values of bunched vegetables well maintained.

Although bunched carrots and parsnips were well supplied, clearances generally were satisfactory and values were steadily maintained. There was an improved demand for rhubarb and higher prices were realised. Owing to the scarcity of mint and parsley, exceptionally high rates were obtained for these lines, but values of most other kinds of bunched vegetables were unchanged.

Heavy receivals of Queensland tomatoes.

In addition to tomatoes from New South Wales districts, including the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, approximately 12,000 half-cases per week were received from Queensland. Early in the month demand was limited and prices were relatively low, particularly for Queensland "greens", which were quoted at 3/- to 5/- per half-case; choice coloured locals brought up to 7/- and Queensland repacks sold to 6/6. Later there was a much better inquiry, especially for coloured descriptions, with the result that values steadily improved. Closing quotations were as follow:- Local 7/- to 12/-, Repacked 7/- to 12/-, Queensland - green 6/- to 8/- and coloured 9/- to 10/- per half-case.

E.J.C.

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

Higher rates for Tasmanian potatoes.

The total quantity of Tasmanian potatoes received in Sussex Street during July amounted to only 68,553 bags but was approximately 6,000 bags more than the previous month's supply.

For the initial period of July, the market was fixed at £18.0.0 for Brownells and £15.10.0 and £15.0.0 per ton, respectively, for Arranchiefs and Snowflakes, which prices were the same as the closing quotations in June. On the arrival of heavier shipments in the next period, rates were reduced slightly, subsequently rising sharply in the following week. It was stated that, at certain times during the month, a quantity of tubers was withheld from sale for reconditioning owing to second growth and generally inferior condition; this factor tended to make the market for sound potatoes firmer still. Taken as a whole, however, the quality was quite satisfactory and very firm deliveries were reported. Prices obtained for Tasmanian potatoes during the month were as follow:- Brownells - No.1 £17.0.0 to £20.0.0, No.2 £12.0.0 to £15.0.0; Arranchiefs £15.10.0 to £18.10.0; Snowflakes £15.0.0 to £18.10.0 per ton.

Victorian growers forwarded 462 bags by sea to Sussex Street and 494 bags by rail to Alexandria. As has been the case for some time past, a percentage of the offerings was affected with second growth, necessitating reconditioning. The general quality of the remainder was found to be good and rapid clearances were effected at £16.0.0 to £18.0.0 per ton for the shipments to Sussex Street, and £14.11.8 to £14.15.0 for the consignments to Alexandria.

Arrivals of potatoes from Queensland comprised 5,738 bags in Sussex Street and 239 bags at Alexandria, representing a greater supply than in June. These tubers were of the Factor variety and, notwithstanding the heavier deliveries, higher rates ruled in both markets. In Sussex Street, sales were made at a level comparable with prime Tasmanian potatoes, prices ranging from £15.0.0 to £19.0.0, whilst at the Alexandria auctions realisations were recorded at from £13.0.0 to £14.0.0 per ton. It must be pointed out that the stocks railed to Alexandria came to hand early in July, when prices were at about the previous month's levels.

The 324 bags of North Coast Autumn-cropped new potatoes shipped to Sussex Street were of excellent quality and all varieties were in very firm request at the following prices:- No.1 Grade £14.0.0 to £16.0.0, No.2 Grade £10.0.0 to £12.10.0, Chats £5.0.0 per ton. Receivals of the above-mentioned class at Alexandria totalled only 147 bags and clearances were reported at £14.0.0 to £19.0.0 for No.1 Grade, £16.1.8 for No.2, £11.10.0 for Seed Grade, whilst some stock feed tubers sold at £10.0.0 per ton.

Consignments of potatoes from Tableland districts to the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard comprised 27,280 bags. Although this

/total

total was about 7,000 bags in excess of that for June, the market was firmer and prices were substantially higher. The "Stock Feed" grade of tubers was well in evidence and a number of buyers appeared to trade principally in this and "Second Growth" grades, slightly reducing the demand for No.1 potatoes. There was a large and representative attendance of buyers at each sale held during the month and very good disposals took place at the following rates:- No.1 Grade £13.10.0 to £20.0.0, No.2 £7.0.0 to £16.15.0, Seed £9.5.0 to £17.8.4, Small Seed £10.0.0 to £16.0.0, Chat £4.0.0 to £16.0.0, Second Growth £8.0.0 to £17.0.0, Stock Feed £4.0.0 to £16.0.0 per ton; Chat 5/- and Stock Feed 8/- to 14/- per bag.

Japanese onions available.

An outstanding feature of the trading in onions was the arrival of 3,000 cases from Japan towards the close of the month's operations. It was reported that deliveries were taken at from £28.0.0 to £30.0.0 per ton, plus sales tax, at which rates stocks quickly passed from first hands.

Onions consigned by sea to Sussex Street from other countries comprised 600 bags from New Zealand and 940 tons from Egypt. Portion of the final shipment of Egyptian origin was found to be unfit for consumption and approximately 370 tons were dumped. Quotations for the Egyptian product were much higher than those ruling in June, being £24.0.0 early and from £28.0.0 to £30.0.0 per ton at closing, all rates mentioned being "plus sales tax".. The New Zealand offerings were of very good quality and sold readily at £30.0.0 per ton.

Victorian growers forwarded 1,515 bags to Sussex Street and 340 bags to Alexandria. The latter were not offered at Alexandria but were taken to Sussex Street for sale from stores at that centre. The market in Sussex Street was much firmer than that ruling in June and prices accordingly were higher, ranging from £18.0.0 to £30.0.0 per ton for Table and from £8.0.0 to £14.0.0 for Picklers, according to quality.

Pumpkins cheaper.

Stocks of pumpkins received at Sussex Street during July consisted of 616 bags from Queensland and 1,459 bags from North Coast districts, whilst truckings to Alexandria aggregated 46 trucks from local centres and 13 from Queensland. The market was quiet again and prices were lower than those ruling during June. The local offerings in both centres included a number of bad type and inferior lots, so that sales were somewhat restricted at the following prices:- In Sussex Street £2.0.0 to £5.0.0, at Alexandria £2.10.0 to £6.0.0 per ton, both quotes being according to quality. The Queensland supplies were cleared at from £6.0.0 to £6.10.0 in Sussex Street and from £5.10.0 to £6.10.0 per ton at Alexandria. In addition to the above-mentioned quantities, one truck of inferior pumpkins came to hand from Victoria and realised from £2.10.0 to £3.0.0 per ton.

/Other

Other vegetables more heavily stocked.

Arrivals in Sussex Street of other vegetables from Tasmania during the month totalled 4,769 bags of swedes, 3,012 of carrots and 1,436 of parsnips. The stock of Tasmanian swedes was heavier than that for June and was supplemented by the receipt of 1,615 bags of local produce at Alexandria, resulting in a slightly easier market. The swedes at rail were of very mixed quality and some lines were very difficult to clear. Quotations for Tasmanian swedes at Sussex Street were from £4.0.0 to £5.0.0 per ton, whilst at Alexandria from £1.6.8 to £6.10.0 per ton was recorded, according to quality. Although supplies of carrots and parsnips were heavier than those of the previous month, a very firm request was noticeable and rapid clearances were reported at from £8.0.0 to £10.0.0 for the former and from £6.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton for the latter. Arrivals at Alexandria were only light, the 4 bags of carrots realising £5.0.0 to £11.0.0, and the 2 bags of parsnips being disposed of at £12.0.0 per ton.

Rates for Tasmanian Dry peas remained unaltered at 20/- to 21/- for choice Blue and 11/- to 11/6 per bushel for prime Grey.

Larger consignments of white chaff.

Consignments of white chaff to Alexandria during July were heavier than June deliveries and comprised 207 trucks of Oaten and 58 of Wheaten. The inquiry became even more restricted and vendors found that stocks mostly were difficult to clear; prime lines, however, sold readily. Prices ranged as follow:- Oaten - Medium £3.10.0 to £4.0.0, Good £4.5.0 to £4.15.0, Prime £5.0.0 to £5.5.0; Wheaten - Inferior £2.15.0, Medium £3.0.0 to £3.10.0, Good £3.15.0 to £4.5.0 and Special lots to £4.10.0 per ton.

Poor demand for medium quality lucerne commodities.

As was the case during June, the demand for medium quality lucerne chaff and hay was poor, buyers centering their attention around choice lines, which were very lightly stocked. Arrivals at Alexandria amounted to 64 trucks of lucerne chaff and 152 of lucerne hay. The chaff was of very mixed quality and disposals for the most part were very dull at from £4.0.0 for medium to £6.15.0 per ton for prime lots. The lucerne hay consisted of 44 trucks from Maitland, which were of fairly satisfactory quality and cleared at from £3.15.0 to £4.10.0, and 108 trucks from other centres, mainly Mudgee and Tamworth, which were chiefly Autumn cut hay and met a limited inquiry at from £3.0.0 to £6.0.0 per ton. Choice Dry Mudgee hay, however, sold very well at as high as £7.15.0 per ton. Shipments of 401 bales of hay arrived in Sussex Street from the Hunter River district and good deliveries were effected at from £3.0.0 to £5.10.0 for New Green and from £3.5.0 to £4.5.0 per ton for small quantities of Brown Sweated.

/The

The 150 bales of Victorian special oaten hay which came to hand in Sussex Street were cleared at £9.0.0 per ton. Of the 54 trucks of oaten hay railed to Alexandria, only a limited quantity was submitted for sale. The stocks offered were mainly of medium quality and realised from £4.0.0 to £5.10.0 per ton.

The 2,760 bales of Tasmanian straw available this month represented a lighter supply and quotations were higher, being £4.10.0 to £5.5.0 per ton for oaten and from £4.15.0 to £5.10.0 for wheaten and barley. The 23 trucks at rail at Alexandria brought from £3.5.0 for medium and stained lots to £4.15.0 per ton for special.

Lighter receipts of grain.

Receivals of grain at Alexandria Railway Goods Yard this month were lighter than those in June and comprised the following quantities:- Wheat 41 trucks; Maize - local 5,205 bags, Queensland 533 bags; Oats 39 trucks.

While a good inquiry prevailed for F.A.Q. wheat, medium and under-quality lots were hard to clear, even at lower rates. The oat market remained dull and prices generally were below those ruling during June. Rates realised were:- Wheat - by auction 1/11 to 2/8, by private treaty 2/4 to 2/8; Oats - by auction 1/3 to 2/8, by private treaty 1/9 to 2/- per bushel.

In the maize section, a firm request was noticeable throughout the month. The general quality of the offerings was quite satisfactory and sales were effected at the following prices:- New South Wales - Coastal yellow 4/-, Inland yellow 4/1 to 4/3; Queensland yellow - By auction 4/0½ per bushel. In addition to the arrivals at Alexandria, 3,222 bags of maize from the Northern Rivers of New South Wales were shipped to Sussex Street; rates were maintained at last month's levels of 4/- for yellow and 4/2 per bushel for white.

E.A.G.

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A recent issue of the "Swedish-Australian and Swedish-New Zealand Trade Journal" contains some interesting figures illustrating the growing importance of Australia's direct export trade with Sweden.

Practically unknown some 25 years ago, Australian direct exports to Sweden have now reached an annual total value of from £265,000 to £473,000. During the year 1935-36, Australian direct exports to Sweden amounted to £264,918, during 1936-37 to £344,839, during 1937-38 to £472,657, an increase over two years by 78.4 per cent. A still much higher figure will be reached during the 1938-39 year, as during the ten months from July, 1938, to April, 1939, direct exports to Sweden amounted to £567,016.

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

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Wheat:		
Bulk	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	2/5d per bushel
Bagged	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	2/6d " "
Flour	£7.5.0 (plus £5.10.0 tax)	£6.15.0 per ton (plus £6.0.0 tax)
Bran	£4.5.0 per ton)	
Pollard	£4.5.0 " ")	no variation.
Eggs (Hen)	1/3	(1/6 per dozen on 1st of month only)
Butter:		
Choice	161/2 per cwt.)	
First Quality	156/6 " ")	no variation.
Second	151/10 " ")	
Cheese:		
Loaf	11d per lb.)	
Large	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d " ")	no variation.
Special Brands	1/2d " ")	
Pigs (Abattoir Sales):		
Prime extra light porkers	24/6d	37/6d per head
" light porkers	30/6d	41/6d " "
" med. wgt. "	34/6d	48/6d " "
" heavy "	40/6d	51/6d " "
" baconers	54/6d	73/6d " "
		(occasionally higher)
Backfatters	£3.10.0	£9.0.0 per head

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SYDNEY WOOL SALES - JULY, 1939.

The Sydney Wool Selling Brokers' Association advises that there was no wool sold by auction in Sydney during July, but that disposals by private treaty totalled 1,819 bales Greasy and 5,636 bales Scoured.

The average prices realised were as follow:-

<u>Class of wool</u>	<u>Per bale</u>	<u>Per lb.</u>
Greasy	£13.11.7	10.3d
Scoured	£18.5.2	18.7d

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

F R U I T

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases.	Bananas tropical cases.	Other Fruit cases.	Tomatoes half-bushel cases.	TOTALS packages
Queensland	13,676	16,967	12,883 ^x	64,194	107,720
Victoria	17	121	5,379	10	5,527
Tasmania	-	-	194,066	-	194,066
Sth. Aust.	-	-	5,323	-	5,323
West Aust.	-	-	6,842	-	6,842
TOTALS:	13,693	17,088	224,493	64,204	319,478

x Also 2,774 trays Strawberries.

V E G E T A B L E S.

STATE	Potatoes	Onions	Swedes	Pumpkins		Cucs. & Chillies	Other Veggies.		TOTALS	
	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Tons	Cases	Pkgs.	Tons	Pkgs.	Tons
Queensland	12,400	124	-	12,050	41	1,815	5,198	-	31,587	41
Victoria	16,647	3,335	51	-	11½	-	14,349	10¾	34,382	22¾
Tasmania	65,308	-	3,532	-	-	-	4,340	-	73,180	-
Sth. Aust.	788	360	-	-	-	-	16,817	-	17,965	-
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	95,143	3,819	3,583	12,050	52½	1,815	40,704	10¾	157,114	63¾

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

39-1

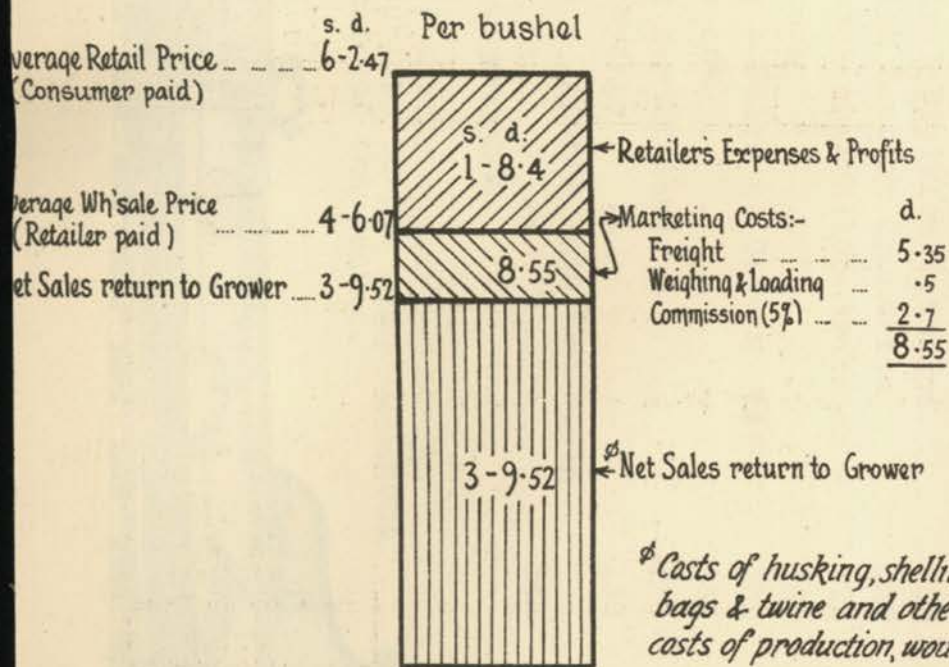
MAIZE

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

YEAR ENDED 30-6-39

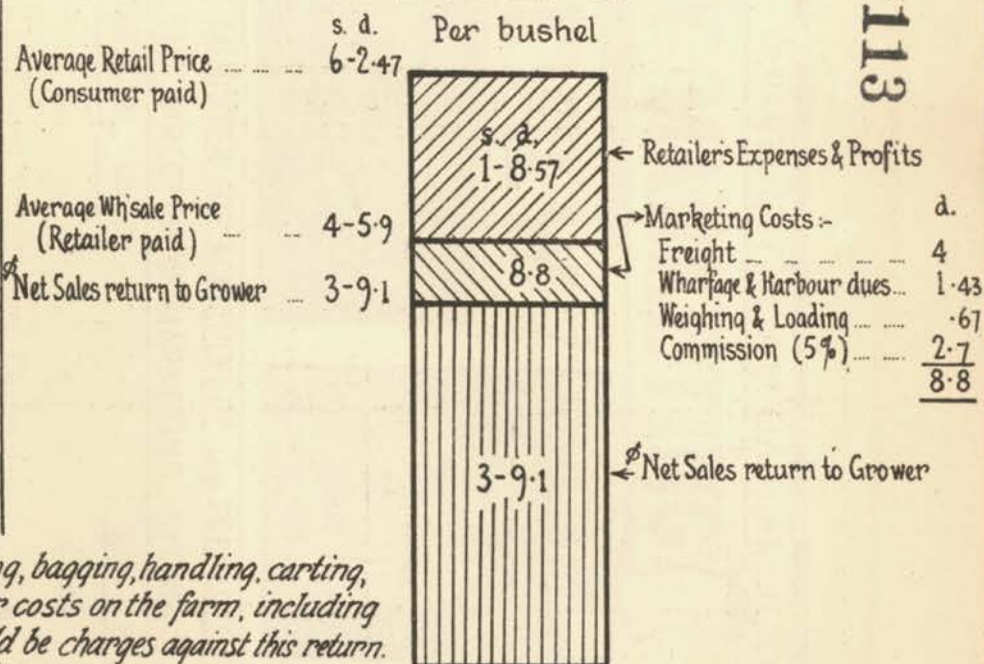
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AT ALEXANDRIA



** Costs of husking, shelling, bagging, handling, carting, bags & twine and other costs on the farm, including costs of production, would be charges against this return.*

AT SUSSEX ST.



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Compiled. A.M.T. 28-7-39
 Drawn. E.H.S. 31-7-39
 Checked. J.F.H. 31-7-39

A.A. WATSON,
 DIRECTOR OF MARKETING.