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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.

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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.

DECENTRALISATION OF CITY AND SUBURBAN MARKETS.

(Address by Director of Marketing, Mr. A.A.Watson, to the Annual Conference of the Agricultural Bureau of New South Wales on 13th July, 1939.)

The subject of my address as set down in the official programme is "Decentralisation of City and Suburban Markets" but, whilst matters involved in a consideration of the decentralisation of metropolitan marketing facilities will have my attention, I hope to find that introduction of other aspects of the metropolitan marketing situation will not be recorded against me. Truth to tell, it is not my desire, nor would it be appropriate to delve too deeply or definitely into the subject of decentralisation of metropolitan markets at this time. A Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Fruit Industry has only recently completed its labours and the report of the Commissioner, now before the Government, makes mention of the matter. It thus happens that the question impinges upon recommendations to which consideration is being given and upon which decisions have yet to be made.

At the outset we should agree as to what we actually mean by metropolitan marketing facilities. There are several types of markets in the metropolitan area of Sydney. For example, there are the cattle, sheep, pigs and calves saleyards at Homebush. At Alexandria is a market for what is comprehensively but very vaguely, and quite unsatisfactorily designated 'farm produce': this market is held at truckside in the Railway Goods Shed - a vast affair - and therein are sold potatoes, onions, pumpkins, swedes, wheat, maize, oats, millet seed, barley, oaten, wheaten and lucerne chaffs, oaten and lucerne hay, lucerne dust and straw. The importance of the Alexandria market has declined considerably of recent years and retrogression in the forage section is still apparent: no doubt the progressive disuse of horses and the removal of dairies from within metropolitan limits are chiefly responsible.

The Homebush Saleyards are provided by the Metropolitan Meat Industry Commission and the Alexandria Market by the Railway Department. Supplies to both these centres are received by rail. We now come to the wharves in Darling Harbour at which potatoes,

/onions

onions, pumpkins, swedes, carrots, parsnips, eaten chaff, lucerne and eaten hay, maize, oats and straw are sold. These wharves are leased from the Maritime Services Board by the Union, Melbourne, Adelaide, A.U.S.N., Illawarra and South Coast, Howard-Smith, Huddart-Parker and North Coast Steamship Companies, respectively. Most prominent of these boat-side markets are those supplied by the Union, Melbourne, Adelaide and North Coast Steamship Companies. Incidentally, the considerable importance of these Darling Harbour Wharves Markets reflects the fact that Sydney is a magnet drawing immense supplies of primary products from all over the Commonwealth. To a limited extent, Alexandria is also an interstate market, notably for Victorian onions and Queensland pumpkins. Adjoining Darling Harbour is the far-famed Sussex Street wherein are to be found the warehouses of merchants specialising in potatoes, onions, pumpkins, wheat, maize, straw and also eggs, butter, bacon and hams. These merchants receive most of their supplies via the Darling Harbour wharves and rail and to a lesser extent from Alexandria. The Darling Harbour Railway Goods Station is situate close to the Wharves and to Sussex Street and also to the City Municipal Markets.

The City Municipal Markets, as their designation implies, are supplied by the City of Sydney Municipal Council. It thus happens that the very heavy capital investment required to supply the metropolis with public markets is wholly borne by the ratepayers of the city: suburban ratepayers are not involved, although it would not be disputed that the markets meet a metropolitan rather than a City need. Nor would it be disputed that the whole State is concerned in the provision of public marketing facilities in Sydney and that, by providing them, the City is rendering a conspicuous service to producers throughout the State (and many in other States) who use these markets either directly or indirectly - and to all consumers in the metropolitan and other urban areas whose cupboards are supplied via the City Municipal Markets. At your last Annual Conference, you were addressed by Mr. W. Williams, the Superintendent of these markets. Mr. Williams is a lecturer of rare skill and I feel perfectly safe in assuming there is no need for me to enter upon any detailed description of the markets which he so ably administers. It will be sufficient, then, for me to say by way of describing them that they are the most important public markets of their kind in the Commonwealth and, for that matter, in Australasia, and that they comprise Fruit, Vegetable, Poultry and Fish Markets, respectively. They also make provision in the new Vegetable Market for the wholesale selling of cut flowers. The cut-flower industry is apt to be regarded as a section of primary industry catering for a non-essential or luxury trade. The fact remains that flower-growing is an expanding primary industry, reflecting the demand for cut flowers which arises and increases under metropolitan conditions throughout the world.

And now having refreshed our memories as to the situation and purposes of our various metropolitan markets, we are in a position to consider which of the public marketing facilities of Sydney we have in mind when speaking of decentralisation of markets. Assuredly, we are not thinking of the Homebush Saleyards or of the

/Darling

Darling Harbour Wharves. Quite a deal could be said about Alexandria. The Potato Growers' Council of New South Wales has for years been urging that provision should be made by the Railway Department and by the City Council, respectively, for the delivery and sale of potatoes within the City Markets Area in lieu of Alexandria, but that and other questions which arise in connection with the Alexandria Market are hardly germane to the issue of decentralisation.

The marketing of fish is possibly not included in the array of subjects within the ambit of interest of an Agricultural Bureau. To most folk, fishing is a pastime rather than an industry, but the fact is that efforts now being made further to develop commercial fishing along our coast give promise of valuable results, including an added or expanded source of fertiliser supplies for the man on the land. That, however, is by the way. The City Municipal Council is taking steps to modernise and greatly improve the Fish Market and no question of its decentralisation arises at the moment.

Poultry-farming, of course, is well within the ambit of the Agricultural Bureau and any idea of decentralising that market would be of interest to you. The Poultry Market has reached an interesting stage in its development. The growing interest in the raising of table birds in certain parts of the country is partly responsible for this. If increased production of turkeys and other table poultry were associated with increased despatches of live birds from country centres to the City for auction sale in the Municipal Poultry Market, that market, already presenting certain disabilities suggesting the need for reconstruction, would also be due for early modernisation. The indications, however, point to an increasing tendency to kill in the country before despatch to the City. This practice links-up with several important considerations, such as whether the producers' interests in the vital matter of prices levels can effectively be safeguarded. They lie outside the scope of this address but might well receive attention at a future conference or at local meetings in the districts principally concerned. It is likely that the City Poultry Market will continue to receive extensive patronage from the poultry industry in the County of Cumberland and those other counties near to the metropolis and Newcastle where commercial poultry-farming is so much in evidence. It is unlikely, therefore, that its position as the principal poultry market of the State and as the chief agency in the establishment of values for all types of table-birds will be disturbed.

It is interesting to reflect that Australians resident in urban areas are, generally, not given to a considerable consumption of poultry meat, though it may well be that when improved methods of distribution such as are current in other countries are more widely adopted, the demand will grow. In this connection, the Table Poultry Council is doing notably good work in the promotion of effective killing and dressing regulations and in other directions.

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There remain for consideration from the angle of decentralisation the Fruit and Vegetable Markets and it is fairly safe to assume that, irrespective of whether other types of markets should or should not be involved, these are the markets most folk are thinking about when they raise the issue of decentralisation. The idea of decentralisation also needs clarifying. There is danger that like the blessed word 'Mesopotamia' it may become a symbolic generalisation rather than a definite project. What, exactly, is meant by decentralisation of metropolitan marketing facilities? Do we mean that one wholesale market for a city like Sydney, population 1,300,000, is insufficient and there should be one or more additional wholesale markets? Or do we mean that there should continue to be only one Wholesale Market plus a number of semi-wholesale or retail markets at suitable points in the metropolitan area? Do we contemplate separate controls for the additional markets? Or is it the idea that all public markets in the metropolitan area, whether wholesale or retail, should be under one control? If we favour unified control, what form do we contemplate that it should take? Should it be municipal or should it be some other form of statutory control? If municipal control be intended, how is to be unified, seeing that no local government body has authority beyond the boundaries of its own municipality or shire? Do we contemplate that a Greater Sydney Council shall take over the job of providing the metropolitan area with all necessary public marketing facilities? These and a few equally knotty problems await attention before a scheme of decentralised public marketing facilities can be presented as a complete project.

I take it that the interest of primary producers in this matter of public marketing facilities is due to a recognition that, whilst the grower's control may end at, or even before the first sale of his product, his interest continues to the point where purchase is made by the housewife or consumer. That is to say that, although methods and costs of distribution are matters of abiding importance to consumers and matters to which the representatives of consumers should give constructive attention, they also concern producers for the very excellent reason that ultimate retail prices are the big factor in demand. This is only another way of saying that in the interests of both producers and consumers, the costs occurring between them must not be excessive. I think you will agree that the intervening costs, of whatever kind, should be reduced to a minimum. That is only another way of saying that all unnecessary handling after the product leaves the farm should be viewed with apprehension as tending to raise retail prices, to increase the cost of living, to reduce demand and to diminish farmers' returns to the point where they cease to be adequate. One does not suggest, of course, that the millennium can be ushered in over night or that any one scheme that may be propounded will prove a panacea for all the ills that arise from inefficiency in marketing and distribution. "Facts, more facts, still more facts" may well be the cry of those who undertake to find ways and means of reducing the 'spread' between what the producer receives and what the consumer pays. Fortunately,

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the facts as to prices and costs have been systematically collected, tabulated and graphed in the State Marketing Bureau over the past ten years and I cannot better conclude this brief address than by thanking the farmers of the State for the ready response to requests made from time to time for co-operation with the State Marketing Bureau and by assuring that few problems are receiving closer attention at the present time than those which concern the marketing of our primary products, whether at home or abroad, to the united advantage of producers and consumers.

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

In the August issue of the "Monthly Marketing Review" information was published concerning the area, population and climate of the South Coast Statistical Division No.4 of New South Wales, the dairying and pastoral industries, as well as the principal crops, being dealt with. It is now proposed to outline the chief features of other primary industries, of secondary development, and of the transport facilities and to give schedules of production, etc.

Forests and the timber-getters.

In common with other parts of the State, the inroads of settlement have greatly diminished the timber resources of the South Coast. It must be remembered that early settlers, apart from those in the immediate contiguity of Sydney, moved southward through the Illawarra and other South Coast areas and it happened therefore that large belts of the more valuable timbers were "cut out" over a long period of years. In addition, considerable quantities of timber of lesser value were removed to make way for the establishment of farms. Nevertheless, substantial areas still remain, noticeably in the Bateman's Bay and Eden districts. By far the greater part of the timber cut for commercial purposes is Spotted Gum (*E. maculata*), which is common to this portion of the State and occurs on a wide range of soils. This timber is fairly extensively used for general hardwood requirements, being comparatively light and easily worked. It is frequently employed in making tool handles and for waggon building and is a good bending timber. Other hardwoods include Blackbutt, Turpentine, Ironbark, Blue Gum and Box. Over a thousand persons are employed in felling and cutting, hauling, and in timber mills which in 1936/37 handled hardwoods estimated at 56,582,200 super feet.

An anglers' Paradise.

Although there are no very extensive lakes or estuaries, there are numerous small lakes, inlets and rivers which permit the professional fisherman to operate. Chief among these waters may be mentioned Lake Illawarra, Jervis Bay, St. George's Basin,

/Conjola

Conjola Lake, Ulladulla, Bateman's Bay, Moruya River and adjacent lakes, and Twofold Bay. A fish-canning works has been established on the Wagonga River at Narooma and is the only enterprise of the kind existing in the State. Its operations extend over about nine months of each year, being busiest when shoals of salmon are known to move up the coast, and over 50 persons are said to find employment in this activity.

The annual report of the Fisheries Department discloses that the value per year of fish, prawns, oysters, etc. from this Division verges on £100,000. It should be distinctly understood that this figure does not include trawled fish which are taken in large quantities from many grounds along this part of the New South Wales coast-line. In point of fact, the main trawling areas lie here.

The amateur angler finds himself in a veritable fishing paradise. Fish are taken per medium of handline and rod while the big game angler became prominent during recent years when it was known that game fish, such as marlin and swordfish, abound in these waters. Facilities exist at Eden, Bermagui, Narooma and Bateman's Bay for those who wish to indulge in this form of sport. Anglers from overseas, in addition to local enthusiasts, have expressed the opinion that these big game fishing grounds compare more than favourably with those in other parts of the world.

In days gone by, Eden and Boyd Town on Twofold Bay were very active as the headquarters of the whaling industry in Australia but their former glory in this respect has departed with the virtual extinction of whales in these waters.

Extensive Coal Deposits.

Coal constitutes the bulk of the mineral resources of the South Coast Division. The first discovery of coal in this Division was made at Coalcliff, about forty miles south of Sydney, in 1797, only nine years after the foundation of the colony of New South Wales. Today, nineteen collieries are in operation in the Illawarra section, and over 3,300 persons are directly employed. Townships such as Helensburgh, Bulli and numerous others primarily owe their existence to coal. Figures issued by the Department of Mines reveal that in 1937 the southern collieries contributed 1,880,440 tons of coal valued at £1,181,311. Since the inception of mining in this area 85 million tons of coal have been won. Bulli coal is said to produce a strong coke, specially suitable for smelting purposes by reason of its capacity for sustaining the weight of ore burden in a blast furnace. This factor was no doubt taken into consideration in the selection of Port Kembla as a site for the establishment of steel and smelting works.

In past years, fairly substantial quantities of gold were taken, mainly from the Araluen Valley, but at present activities are restricted, although there has been some revival

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in a few centres, where the introduction of modern methods and machinery enables mining to be carried out on an economic basis.

The development of Port Kembla.

Outstanding among the secondary industries are the iron and steel-works at Port Kembla which are equipped with up-to-date furnaces, coke ovens, rolling mills, etc. Products include iron and steel of various grades, iron and steel pipes and spun cast-iron pipes, boilers, rails, steel sleepers, plain and galvanised steel sheets, wire and wire-netting. By-products are sulphate of ammonia, tar, benzol and solvent naphtha. This industry with its wide ramifications has led to a great deal of development in other directions. The harbour facilities have been improved and a railway line opened in 1932 links Port Kembla with Moss Vale on the main southern line. There has been an influx of substantial numbers of workmen and their families which has been responsible for an expansion in building operations and businesses of various kinds. The town of Wollongong, a few miles away, has also grown as a direct result. The demand for coal and coal products has also spelt increased prosperity for various mining towns of the Illawarra district.

Transport and other facilities.

The division is not as well served by railways as might be desired. Apart from the Port Kembla-Moss Vale cross-country line previously referred to, the only other rail link is between Sydney and Bomaderry, which lies on the north bank of the Shoalhaven River opposite Nowra, and is usually referred to as the Illawarra line. This was constructed primarily for the carriage of coal from the fields north of Wollongong and to a lesser extent for the transport of dairy produce from further south. From Nowra southwards a large proportion of produce of various kinds, including timber, is seaborne by small vessels running regularly between various ports and Sydney harbour.

Of late years, communications have been bettered by improved roads and the development of motor traffic and regular daily services for the transport of both passengers and freight are in operation between Eden in the far south to the railhead at Nowra. More recently a daily air service has been put into operation between Sydney and Bega, with intermediate stops, and, although this service is at present restricted to passengers only, the future will possibly see an extension to the carriage of goods other than human freight.

The main harbours on this section of the New South Wales coast-line are Port Kembla, Jervis and Twofold Bays but there are numerous indentations and inlets where loading facilities exist and where provision has been made for the reasonably safe anchorage of the smaller coastwise craft.

/Schedules.....

Schedules of Production, etc.

The following schedule, compiled from the Statistical Register of New South Wales shows the average annual quantities of the principal primary commodities produced and the average annual number of livestock in the South Coast Division in the five year period ended 30.6.1937:-

South Coast Division - Average Annual Production
Five Years ended 30.6.1937.

Dairy Products - Butter	13,255,392	lb.
Cheese	5,436,202	"
Bacon & Hams	517,733	"
Maize	318,910	bushels.
Fish	3,004,536	lb.
Prawns	413,598	"
Potatoes	65,680	cwt.
Other Root Crops	27,800	"
Tomatoes	9,915	half-cases.
Market Gardens (Value) ..	£20,064	
Peas and Beans (Value) ..	£15,695	
Apples	121,826	bushels.

Applying the 1936/37 annual average wholesale prices in Sydney to the foregoing products, an estimate of their approximate values, together with fresh milk and timber added, is £2,500,000. However, in order to reach a reasonably complete figure as to primary production in this Division, we must not omit to add the value of coal produced which was in the vicinity of £1,000,000 in each of the past five years. In addition, industrial expansion at Port Kembla is reflected in the considerably increased value of goods manufactured or work done by factories which during the past five years has steadily risen to reach the total of over £11½ million in 1936/37, the average per annum during the period being £7,984,000.

Average Annual Number of Livestock in South Coast
Division - Five Years ended 30.6.1937.

	<u>Head</u>
Horses ..	20,951
Cattle - Cows in registered dairies ..	145,985
do. - All other ..	90,577
Sheep ..	435,066
Pigs ..	29,476

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S.D.R. & R.M.

AUSTRALIA'S TRADE WITH EASTERN COUNTRIES.

(Note: Import figures are in sterling - export values are expressed in Australian currency).

The Commonwealth Department of Commerce has recently issued a booklet (April, 1939) containing some valuable and interesting information dealing with certain aspects of Australia's trade with the East for the fiscal year 1937-38.

A perusal of the booklet discloses that for the first time since 1921 Australia bought more from Japan than she sold to her, and that for the second successive year China was numbered in the ranks of countries with passive balances. As a result mainly of the loss of an active balance with Japan, and further increases in passive balances with several other Eastern countries, the passive balance on visible trading results increased from £1,959,885 sterling in 1936-37 to £7,493,649 in 1937-38.

Import Trade.

The booklet gives a brief analysis of the composition of Australia's import trade from the individual Eastern countries.

Japan: A notable feature regarding imports from Japan was the value of foodstuffs (comprising in the main tinned fish) which showed an increase of £157,500 over the previous year's total of £61,200. "Piece-goods", which are used for further manufacture in Australia, accounted for £2,674,200, while raw silk for use in our industries, was worth £577,500. Total imports from Japan amounted to £5,349,100 and were £1,344,000 above the corresponding figure for 1936-37.

British Malaya: Imports from British Malaya increased by £169,000 to £1,023,600, due mainly to increased imports of an essential raw material, crude rubber. During the year British Malaya supplied approximately two-thirds of Australia's rubber requirements.

Netherlands India: Since 1933-34 the value of imports into Australia from Netherlands India has risen from four millions to over seven and a half millions in 1937-38. Practically the whole of this phenomenal increase and the passive balance results from trading in one commodity, oil, another essential of Australian economic and industrial life. Oil importations to Australia from Netherlands India in 1937-38 were worth £5,254,300. The other large item of trade was tea, valued at £1,564,400.

India: Imports from India continue to increase, the balance here also being unfavourable to Australia. The predominating group of items of the import trade is that consisting of jute and jute manufactures, representing approximately two-thirds of the total import trade of £3,077,616. It is said that the Indian imports are mainly either raw materials for industrial purposes or else essential to Australian industry as a factor in trade.

/Ceylon

Ceylon: The bulk of Australia's imports from Ceylon is comprised of tea and rubber, neither of which is grown in Australia.

China: Imports from China declined by £82,000 during the year. The most important item of trade was tung oil, valued at £82,522.

The reason advanced for the large increase in recent years' imports is the expansion of industrial activity in Australia. This development of secondary industries calls for larger supplies of raw materials which this country cannot supply. Australia cannot hope to produce certain of these raw materials and, failing a reduction in imports, the question is asked, to what degree can she look to her exports to balance her Eastern trade? The statement is made, however, that, whilst recognising the difficulties, it seems possible that the two aspects of export and import trade with the East have certain complementary features.

Export Trade.

The following table, extracted from the booklet, shows the value of Australia's export trade with Eastern countries during the three years 1935-36, 1936-37 and 1937-38:-

Country	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38
	£ A.C.	£ A.C.	£ A.C.
India	973,171 /	1,088,848 /	1,104,692
China	1,212,821	842,963	616,520
Netherlands India	1,281,226	1,395,183	1,467,765
British Malaya	1,263,526	1,727,956	2,063,740
Japan	17,661,232	9,705,738	5,900,098
Hong Kong	624,663	803,010	1,048,833
Philippine Islands	553,311	666,733	619,504
Ceylon	970,961	928,151	871,221
Siam	100,959	118,291	117,382
French Indo-China	34,668	53,581	74,723
Manchoukuo	329,851	51,439	5,138
Portuguese Timor	1,936	924	37
British Borneo	13,551	13,651	15,623
Kwantung Territory	509,964	90,988	185,609
Burma	-	-	95,500
TOTAL £ A.C.	25,531,840	17,487,456	14,186,385
Sterling	20,384,741	13,962,040	11,326,457

/ Includes Burma.

/A substantial.....

A substantial decline is evident since 1935-36, the peak year. This trend is attributed almost wholly to decreased trade with countries directly affected by the Sino-Japanese hostilities, namely, China, Japan, Manchoukuo and the Kwantung Territory. In the case of other countries (with the exception of Ceylon), Australia's export trade has generally expanded.

India: Beginning with India, some of the main features of the export trade are then revealed. A steady increase was noted in this instance, the chief item being wool, which was valued at £222,196. Wheat was the second item of importance, followed by tallow.

China: Despite the Sino-Japanese conflict, exports of Australian goods to China continued, although on a reduced scale as compared with 1936-37. Substantial declines were noticed in wheat, wool and butter, but increases were recorded in flour and tallow. Apart from the decline in trade, another movement was noticeable in the transfer of business from Shanghai to Tientsin. Previously the former port was the main point of entry for the bulk of the trade but, during the year under review, the occupation of the Yangtze Valley by the Japanese and the closing of the river to trade very greatly affected Shanghai. On the other hand, Tientsin came into the market for flour, partly as a result of the stoppage of Shanghai exports and also the increased needs of the populace due to the effects of the war on local production. The action taken by the National Government to impose exchange restrictions served to restrict imports, and the decrease in exports reduced the amount of free exchange available for purchasing foreign currency to finance imports.

Netherlands India: A steady increase in the value of the export trade with Netherlands India has been recorded since 1933-34. This has been due almost entirely to the increased price of flour, the total value of this item having risen by £300,000, while the volume remained comparatively stable. Foodstuffs comprised over 85 per cent. of the trade, the main items other than flour being butter, bacon and ham, malt, biscuits and tallow. There has been a noticeable loss on the butter exports, due chiefly to competition from Dutch butter and from margarine; in an endeavour to combat the increasing competition from margarine, an intensive advertising campaign is in operation.

British Malaya: Exports to British Malaya have more than doubled in value since 1933-34, the bulk of trade being, as with Netherlands India, in foodstuffs, notably flour and milk. It was stated that, in the normal course of events, this market should continue to rank as one of Australia's important outlets in the East.

Japan: As pointed out earlier, Australia's export trade with Japan, recorded at £5,901,000, was the lowest figure since 1920-21 and for the first time since the same year a balance adverse to Australia was experienced, due almost entirely to

/decreased

decreased purchases of wool. In 1935-36 these were valued at the record figure of £14,692,000, but a year later the effect of the trade dispute between the two countries was largely responsible for the decrease to £7,514,000, although the total value of Australian wool exports in that year was £62,503,000, the highest since pre-depression levels.

The view is expressed that practically the whole of the decreased trade with Japan can be traced to Sino-Japanese hostilities and the resultant abnormal economic conditions. It is thought, however, that if stability is established Australia should once more take her place as one of the main suppliers of raw materials to the troubled areas

Hong Kong: Exports to Hong Kong showed an increase of £245,000, due almost entirely to flour shipments, which were worth £634,000, as compared with £399,100 in 1936-37. Other items of importance in our trade with this port were butter, meat, milk, wool, timber, leather, wheat and sandalwood.

It can readily be seen from the foregoing that Australia's export trade with the East has suffered a marked recession from the favourable trends of former years. As this must be largely attributed to causes which lie beyond the control of Australia and which can only be rectified by a return to normal conditions, there seem, it is stated, to be reasonable grounds for assuming that this movement is only a temporary one.

Saving features have been the increased business with India, Netherlands India and British Malaya, as trade with these countries is not based on abnormal conditions but is giving evidence of steady progress.

Trade Representation in the East.

Brief and interesting mention is made in the booklet of the function of Australian Trade Commissioners, who have been, in a number of cases, directly responsible for the conclusion of new business. Good feeling towards Australia is promoted and knowledge of Australia's attractions, production and resources is brought home to the Eastern peoples. In these tasks, the Trade Commissioners co-operate with the Australian National Travel Association. They also keep the Commonwealth Government informed of developments in their territories which may affect Australia's trade.

Australian Official Commercial Representatives Abroad.

It is felt that this article can fittingly be concluded by publishing, for the information of readers, the following up-to-date list of Australian Commercial Representatives in overseas countries:-

/England: ...

CABLE ADDRESS

England.

The High Commissioner for Australia,
Australia House, Strand,
LONDON, W.C.2. ENGLAND.

"Crotonate"
London

High Commissioner- Rt.Hon. S.M.Bruce, P.C.,C.H., M.C.

Official Secretary - Mr. J.S. Duncan, C.B.E.

Director of Trade Publicity - Mr. A.E. Hyland.

France.

The Australian Trade Representative in France,
6, Rue Halevy, PARIS.

"Britomerce 96"
Paris.

Representative - Mr. C.H. Voss.

Canada.

The Australian Government Trade Commissioner
in Canada, 15 King Street West, TORONTO 2.

"Austrade"
Toronto.

Commissioner - (Vacant)

Assistant Commissioner - Mr. R.R. Ellen.

China.

The Australian Government Trade Commissioner
in China,
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Bldg.,
12 The Bund, SHANGHAI (G.P.O. Box 1580).

"Austrade",
Shanghai.

Commissioner - Mr. V.G. Bowden.

Assistant Commissioner - Mr. A.N. Wootton.

Egypt.

The Australian Government Commissioner in
Egypt, 41 Sharia Kasr-el-nil,
CAIRO (G.P.O. Box 273).

"Austrade",
Cairo.

Commissioner - Lt.Col. C.E. Hughes, C.B.E.,M.C.,F.R.G.S.

Assistant Commissioner - Mr. J. Payne.

Japan.

The Australian Government Commissioner in
Japan,
No.8 Sanchome, Marunouchi, TOKYO.

"Austrade",
Tokyo.

Commissioner - Lt.Col, E.E. Longfield Lloyd, M.C.,V.D.,

Assistant Commissioner - Mr. A.G. Hard.

/ Netherlands India ...

CABLE ADDRESS

Netherlands India.

The Australian Government Commissioner in
Netherlands India,
Noordwijk, BATAVIA CENTRUM, JAVA.
(P.O. Box 112, Batavia Centrum).

"Austrade"
Batavia.

Commissioner - Mr. H.A. Peterson, B.A.

Assistant Commissioner - Mr. C.J. Carne.

New Zealand.

The Australian Trade Commissioner in
New Zealand,
D.I.C. Buildings, WELLINGTON, C.I.
(P.O. Box 1677, G.P.O., Wellington).

"Austrade"
Wellington.

Commissioner - Mr. C.E. Critchley, M.B.E.

Assistant Commissioner - Mr. J.L. Menzies.

United States of America.

The Australian Government Trade Commissioner
in the United States of America,
International Building, 630 Fifth Avenue,
NEW YORK, N.Y.

"Australcom"
New York.

Commissioner - Mr. L.R. Macgregor, C.B.E.

Assistant Commissioner (Acting) - Mr. C.V. Kellway.

In addition, Mr. Keith Officer, O.B.E., M.C.,
is Australian Counsellor, attached to the
British Embassy, Washington.

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In "The Wheat Situation" of July 24th, 1939, the United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimated prospective world wheat supplies (exclusive of the Soviet Union and China) for the year beginning 1st July, 1939, at about 5,290 million bushels, or about 120 million bushels above the record supplies of last year. The Bureau tentatively placed the 1939 world production at about 4,090 million bushels, or about 480 million bushels less than the record crop of 1938. This reduction, however, was said to only partly offset an estimated increase of approximately 600 million bushels in world stocks of old wheat carried over. The stocks on July 1st, 1939, were tentatively placed at about 1,200 million bushels compared with about 600 million bushels a year ago.

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SHEEP AND CATTLE SALES AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

Sheep numbers show a slight decrease.

The market at Homebush during August was again well supplied with mutton and lamb and, although July's total was not quite reached, the numbers coming forward were apparently sufficient for requirements. The aggregate of sheep and lambs yarded was 298,731 head, only 777 below the previous month's total. Compared with August, 1938, there was a gain in favour of the present year of 109,729 head, which in itself indicates how conditions in country districts have improved.

Light weight mutton scarce.

Trade requirements of light weight wethers and ewes were not fully catered for and on occasions buyers experienced difficulty in securing sufficient supplies. The general quality, too, of the light sheep on offer was by no means good and was in direct contrast to that of the weightier descriptions yarded. For the greater part of the period, there was an over-supply of heavy weight mutton. Apart from this aspect of the position, however, the excellent appearance and condition of numerous lines offered were indeed creditable. Some exceptionally heavy drafts of big framed merino and crossbred wethers were submitted; a consignment of the former was as nice a lot of sheep as had been seen in the yards for some time, fleece and condition both being particularly good. Sheep dressing from 48 lb. upward to 60 lb. were by far the most numerous; in fact, the supply generally possessed many features associated with that of the previous month. Shorn sheep again were fairly well represented and many attractive lines were marketed. There was a continued shortage of ewes, little improvement, if any, in the numbers available taking place; it is expected, however, that there will be an increase in supplies in the near future.

Improved demand for sheep.

During the early part of August, values for sheep improved, prices for light weight wethers and ewes rising by from 2/6 to 3/6 per head and averaging about $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. on the carcase cost, while rates for heavy sheep were about 1/- per head or $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. higher. The peak price for light weight mutton was reached towards mid-August and from then until the close of the period the market was fairly steady.

Heavy sheep, chiefly wethers, which, apart from an increase early in the month, were somewhat slow of sale, made a remarkable recovery over the concluding stages of the auctions, prices gaining as much as 3/- per head. The main contributing factor to this sharp rise was the interest displayed in this class of sheep and the active demand by exporters, one firm in particular taking large numbers of sheep out of the market. A good idea of the trend in values is conveyed by the following actual realisations:-

/A line

A line of heavy wethers weighing 54 lb. was sold on the 10th August at the equivalent of 2d per lb. and brought 12/2 each, with a skin valued at 3/-. Later in the month, following on the stronger demand for heavy sheep, a draft of 50 lb. wethers, with a skin valued at 2/6, realised 14/8 per head or 3d per lb.

In the case of light weight wethers, the advance was equally as much. Good trade sheep, weighing 40 lb. and carrying a skin worth 6/6, sold at 15/7 each or the equivalent of 2³/₄d per lb. during the early part of the month, yet a similar line of wethers weighing 40 lb., disposed of towards the end of August, made 17/3 each or 3¹/₂d per lb.; in this latter instance, the value of the skin was 6/3.

Summing up the month's operations, it can be said that both heavy and light mutton were, on an average, ³/₄d per lb. dearer at the close than during opening sales, final realisations being up to 3d for heavy and 3¹/₂d per lb. for light and equal to the best rates obtained in July. Heavy sheep on an average were cheaper than during the previous month, despite the sharp rise in prices at the end of August. Some of the best quality wethers realised to 22/- per head and up to 17/- was paid for ewes. A large proportion of the best quality wethers, however, was cleared at prices ranging from 17/- to 20/- per head for woolly descriptions and 10/- to 15/- for shorn. Ewes chiefly were disposed of at from 9/- to 16/- each, according to quality and skin values.

Heavier supplies of sucker lambs.

There was a fairly substantial increase in the offering of lambs, 139,501 head being yarded or some 13,000 more than in July. A large percentage of this number comprised sucker lambs, the supply of older lambs not being nearly as heavy as during the previous month. Heavy lambs were numerous; in some instances, pens of old lambs were offered, which would dress in the vicinity of 60 lb., while many lines of suckers were noticed weighing over 40 lb. The preponderance of heavy lambs and the general excellence of their condition and appearance reflect the favourable pastoral outlook, but unfortunately there is a limit to the quantity of this heavy class of meat that can be absorbed by the trade, so that, on many occasions, the market was over-supplied and consequently values declined. Suckers weighing from 26 lb. to 32 lb. (dressed) were in most demand, operators always bidding strongly for this class. Several outstanding consignments of suckers were submitted, and these were considered equal to any which have passed through the yards this year.

Lower realisations for lambs and suckers.

With the exception of an improvement of 1/- per head on suckers early in August, the market generally was weaker, prices on an average not being quite so good as those obtained in July. Heavy suckers and old lambs mostly were cheaper, owing to a somewhat restricted demand, but at times towards the end of August

/values

values showed a tendency to harden. A fair guide to this downward trend is given by the following sales: Early in the month a draft of good quality suckers weighing 36 lb. made $5\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. and were disposed of at $19\frac{1}{3}$ per head. Towards the end of the period similar quality suckers weighing 36 lb. cost $5\frac{3}{8}$ d per lb. and sold at $18\frac{1}{2}$ each. Realisations mainly were from 16/- to 20/- per head, although on a few occasions better rates were obtained. The highest price per lb. paid for suckers was 7d equal to the best of the previous month, but mostly light descriptions sold at from $5\frac{3}{4}$ d to $6\frac{1}{4}$ d, with odd lots to $6\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. Heavy suckers were chiefly cleared at from 5d to $5\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. Heavy weight summer lambs were most adversely affected and many lambs weighing from 46 lb. to 50 lb. and over made from $3\frac{1}{2}$ d to 4d per lb., or just about light weight mutton price.

Skin market uncertain.

Throughout August, skin values fell considerably and buyers discounted prices by from 1d to 2d per lb. The present outlook is very uncertain and at this stage it is impossible to state when normal conditions are likely to prevail.

Cattle supplies maintained.

Consignments of cattle to Homebush during August aggregated 22,950 head, of which 1,537 were auctioned in the store section. This total was approximately equal to that for July, 1939, but was considerably larger than the truckings for the corresponding period of 1938, when only 14,795 head were available. Quality on the whole was fairly good, although on a few occasions it was only fair. Offerings of the various classifications again varied from sale day to sale day both as to numbers and standard. The percentage of plain grades was relatively light and from this point of view it may be said that the standard of the consignments continues to improve, reflecting the better conditions prevailing in the producing areas. It is also reported that stock are now "killing out" remarkably well. In most centres the seasonal outlook is excellent, but dry weather is still being experienced in coastal districts. In some parts of the South West excess rain has hampered stock movements, whilst there has been a tendency to withhold from market cattle for which, as stores, high prices had been paid.

Lighter weight bullocks well represented.

The supply of bullocks was a moderate one, although it continued to show considerable variation from day to day. For the most part the quality was very satisfactory. Light weight descriptions comprised the bulk of the offerings, but medium and heavy weight sorts were more in evidence at the close of the period. Early in August prices rose slightly. They then remained fairly constant at 27/- to 32/- per 100 lb. dressed weight until the end of the month when values declined a little. Amongst the sales was that of a line of good conditioned Hereford bullocks

/from

from the Dungog district which sold at £10.5.0 per head; weighing approximately 650 lb. these animals realised the equivalent of 31/6 per 100 lb. on the hoof.

Yardings of steers mostly satisfactory.

Except on odd sale days, the offering of steers was very satisfactory with good to prime descriptions generally predominating. This class of cattle met a steady demand and rates mostly ranged from 30/- to 34/- per 100 lb., reaching to 35/- about the middle of the month.

Medium grade cows again plentiful.

The supply of cows was particularly good and heavy weight descriptions were well in evidence. Quality generally was only medium, nevertheless a satisfactory proportion of better conditioned sorts was noticed on several occasions. Early realisations for good to prime grades were 24/- to 28/- per 100 lb. Subsequently, despite large consignments, values improved and ranged from 26/- to 30/- per 100 lb.

Variable offerings of heifers.

During the first half of August heifers were well represented and quality sorts predominated. Later, however, the numbers were more limited and at times prime grades were difficult to secure. Values of heifers fluctuated more than those of any other class of cattle. On several occasions they were quoted on a par with steers, whilst at other times they could be purchased much cheaper. Early rates generally varied from 27/- to 31/- per 100 lb., but up to 35/- was obtained. For the most of the month prices were from 30/- to 34/-.

Firm demand for vealers.

The number of vealers available was somewhat limited, although heavier consignments were noticed towards the close of the period. Small sorts were scarce, the supply consisting mostly of medium weight descriptions. On the whole, the standard was fairly satisfactory, but sometimes prime vealers were difficult to secure: medium grades were well represented. A substantial number of yearlings was yarded during the month but these mostly were of moderate quality only. A generally firm market prevailed for vealers and except on the first sale day in August, prices were fairly steady at from 37/- to 42/- per 100 lb.

Cattle values firm.

Prices for the most part during the month may be classed as firm and fairly satisfactory from the producer's point of view. Even when a sharp decline might reasonably have been expected

/owing

owing to increased yardings the market held. While not quite as good as those of the previous month, values generally were much better than the rates ruling on the final sale day in July. There are indications that increased offerings will be available during September but it also appears probable that prices will, at least, be maintained.

G.C. & J.W.

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

Steady business in the fruit section.

Generally speaking business in the fruit section of the City Municipal Markets was of a steady nature throughout August. Clearances of choice quality fruit of most kinds were readily effected and realisations on the whole were very satisfactory.

Good demand for quality apples.

A good demand was apparent for quality apples, particularly coloured dessert varieties, and values of most kinds showed an improvement towards the end of the month. Only relatively small quantities were received from New South Wales districts and very satisfactory prices were obtained for such varieties as Delicious, Rome Beauty and Doherty, odd sales of the first-named being noted at rates ranging to 20/- per case. Granny Smiths also cleared well and values were evenly maintained. There was a steady decrease in the weekly shipments from Tasmania, aggregate receipts for the month being in the vicinity of 120,500 cases as against 215,000 for July. Choice lines of most varieties were in good request but coloured French Crabs and small fruit (that is under 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ ") of all kinds were difficult to dispose of. Small consignments continued to come to hand from Western Australia and sold readily.

Choice pears in request.

Only limited offerings of pears were available, Victoria being the principal source of supply. Choice lines in hard condition were sought after, particularly Packham's Triumph, values of this variety showing an upward trend. Josephines, Winter Cole and Winter Nelis also met a ready sale, unless of small size or on the ripe side, in which cases disposals were difficult to effect.

Bananas in relatively light supply.

Bananas were in relatively light supply, the total arrivals for the month being approximately 20,000 cases from New South Wales districts and about 8,700 from Queensland. While

/disposals

disposals were not brisk, up to the end of the third week values tended to improve. From then onwards to the end of the month, however, vendors found it more difficult to clear stocks and prices were reduced in an endeavour to stimulate sales.

Pineapples cheaper.

Only moderate consignments of pineapples were received from Queensland early in August but by the end of the month weekly totals had risen from 2,050 cases to almost 4,000. Sales generally were slow, particularly towards the close of the period, and values declined steadily.

Improved realisations for choice passion-fruit.

Passion-fruit were fairly plentiful but the proportion of choice quality lines was small. Inferior descriptions were practically unsaleable but choice lots were in good request and values showed a steady improvement.

Navel oranges mostly of large size.

During the first half of the period supplies of Navel oranges were only light to moderate but as the bulk of the fruit was too large for the popular 1/- per dozen retail price, clearances were not so freely effected as had been anticipated. Selected sizes, however, were in demand at higher prices. As a result of the arrival, during the latter half of the month, of heavy consignments from the Irrigation Area to supplement increased supplies from coastal districts, values again declined. With an improved inquiry towards the end of August, prices of the popular sizes returned to earlier levels, but large fruit was still slow of sale.

Small Navels being scarce, common oranges, such as Joppas, served the purpose of the cheaper lines for the retail trade and sales were recorded to 7/- per case, with odd lots at higher rates.

Quality mandarins in demand but lemons sell quietly.

There was a good demand for the moderate stocks of choice mandarins available, particularly towards the close of the period, and very satisfactory prices were obtained.

Supplies of lemons were not heavy but sales for the most part were quiet and prices showed little variation.

Hothouse tomato season opens.

The season for hothouse and glasshouse tomatoes opened at the beginning of August when small quantities from local sources were offered in the market. Inquiry at this time was

/rather

rather weak and realisations were not as high as had been anticipated but nevertheless were satisfactory, ranging from 12/- to 16/- per half-case. Although supplies had increased considerably by the end of the month, the warmer weather was more conducive to sales and clearances were made readily at advanced rates, some disposals of hothouse lots being recorded to 20/- per half-case.

Only very limited stocks of outdoor tomatoes from New South Wales districts were available but consignments, averaging about 15,000 half-cases per week, came to hand from Queensland. Demand was somewhat restricted early in the month owing to wet weather and a decline in values was apparent. Later, however, there was a much better request for choice lines, particularly coloured descriptions, and prices improved.

Fluctuating market for cauliflowers.

Rain, followed by mild weather hastened the maturity of cauliflower crops and the quantities on offer early in the month were almost too great for the trade to absorb, so that vendors were obliged to reduce prices to comparatively low levels to clear stocks. Towards the end of the month, supplies were not so large and realisations were higher.

Falling-off in supplies of beans.

Heavy consignments of beans were received from Queensland and the North Coast of New South Wales during the first two weeks of August; the quality generally was only medium, choice grade being rather scarce. Choice lots sold well, realising to 8/-, with some sales to 9/- per bushel, while clearances mostly were satisfactory. Later there was a marked falling-off in the quantities submitted and best quality lines met a particularly good inquiry, prices rising sharply by 2/- to 3/- per bushel.

Variable rates for peas.

Peas were in request at the beginning of the period, choice lots realising to 13/-, but, with increased quantities coming forward, by 10th August prices had fallen by about 4/- per bushel. The following week, only light supplies being available, rates rose to former levels and were fairly evenly maintained until towards the end of the month, when more plentiful stocks caused a downward trend in values.

E.J.C.

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

Tasmanian potatoes in lighter supply.

Receivals of Tasmanian potatoes in Sussex Street during August were lighter than those for the previous month and aggregated 56,644 bags. The outstanding features of trading were the high price ruling at the beginning and the gradual decline towards the end of the month. In the first week of August the rate for Tasmanian No.1 Grade Brownells was fixed at £21.0.0 per ton, a level that was maintained for a fortnight. However, the receipt of a heavier shipment in the third week caused a reduction of 20/- per ton, and prices fell a similar amount in the final period. During the month agents offered substantial quantities of "Stock Feed" tubers on the wharf by public auction, in addition to small stocks of inferior No.1 Grade and Seed tubers; realisations for these were as follow:- No.1 Grade £13.10.0 to £19.10.0, Seed Grade £9.5.0 to £14.0.0, Stock Feed £10.0.0 to £19.10.0 per ton. The ranges of the fixed market prices for the month were:- Brownells No.1 Grade £19.0.0 to £21.0.0, No.2 Grade £12.0.0 to £16.0.0, Snowflakes £17.10.0 to £19.10.0, Arranchiefs £17.0.0 to £19.10.0 per ton.

Arrivals in Sussex Street of potatoes from other States comprised 4,078 bags from Queensland and 1,180 bags from Victoria. The general quality of both offerings was satisfactory and clearances for the most part were good at the following prices:- Queensland Factors £17.10.0 to £21.0.0; Victorian Snowflakes £18.0.0 to £19.0.0 per ton. In addition, growers in North Coast districts of New South Wales forwarded 141 bags, which were sold at an undisclosed rate.

Consignments of potatoes to the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard consisted of the following quantities:- New South Wales - Tableland 20,953 bags, Coastal 287 bags; Queensland 977 bags; Victoria 213 bags. It became noticeable that the Stock Feed and Second Growth Grade tubers were in greater supply than No.1 and Seed lines, lowering the general standard of the potatoes available. A good demand prevailed early in August but as the month progressed sales became quieter until finally vendors experienced difficulty in clearing No.1 Grade lines at rates from £3 to £4 per ton under the values ruling for Tasmanian varieties. Auction realisations were:- New South Wales - Tableland - No.1 Grade £14.5.0 to £21.10.0, No.2 Grade £10.0.0 to £19.0.0, Seed Grade £10.0.0 to £19.1.8 per ton and 16/3 to 20/- per bag, Chat Grade £2.5.0 to £16.6.8 per ton and 2/- to 16/- per bag. Small Seed £5.0.0 to £18.5.0 per ton and 9/3 per bag, Second Growth Grade £9.5.0 to £18.5.0 per ton and 13/- per bag, Stock Feed £2.0.0 to £17.5.0 per ton and 3/- to 14/6 per bag; Coastal - No.1 Grade £18.5.0 to £20.5.0, No.2 Grade £13.3.4 to £19.0.0, Seed Grade £14.0.0 to £18.10.0, Chat Grade £10.0.0 to £17.5.0, Second Growth Grade £13.0.0, Stock Feed £9.5.0 to £16.10.0; Queensland Factors - No.1 Grade £17.10.0 to £21.0.0, Seed Grade £14.10.0, Stock Feed £14.15.0 to £15.5.0; Victorian Snowflakes £18.10.0 per ton.

/Onions

Onions cheaper.

Although opening rates for Brown onions in Sussex Street were the same as those ruling at the end of July, after the first week's trading the request weakened and prices declined. The quantities available during August were:- Victorian 15 tons and 229 bags; Egyptian 540 tons. Japanese 475 tons, New Zealand 571 bags. The Japanese offerings were said to compare very favourably with stocks from other sources and satisfactory clearances were reported at from £24.0.0 to £28.0.0 per ton, plus sales tax.

The Egyptian consignments were of very mixed quality, possibly owing mainly to faulty storage during transportation, and a large portion had to be reconditioned. Quotations ranged from £18.0.0 to £20.0.0 for medium and from £22.0.0 to £30.0.0 per ton for best quality, plus sales tax in all cases. Only small quantities of New Zealand onions came to hand and these sold readily at from £25.0.0 to £30.0.0 per ton, plus sales tax. The Victorian supply for the most part was of satisfactory quality and disposals were recorded at £28.0.0 to £30.0.0 per ton for prime table onions and £14.0.0 for picklers. No stocks of onions were received at the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard.

Queensland pumpkins dearer at end of August.

Receivals of Queensland pumpkins at Sussex Street during August exceeded those for the previous period and totalled 1,179 bags. Nevertheless, rates generally were maintained until towards the end of the month, when a sharp increase in price occurred. Realisations ranged from £6.0.0 to £7.10.0 per ton. A similar market was experienced for the 41 trucks of pumpkins consigned to Alexandria from Queensland centres, disposals being effected at from £5.0.0 to £7.10.0 per ton, according to quality. Arrivals from New South Wales districts comprised 62 bags in Sussex Street and 36 trucks at Alexandria; as these were of mixed quality, vendors experienced some difficulty in clearing stocks at the following rates:- Sussex Street - £2.0.0 to £5.0.0; Alexandria - £3.0.0 to £7.0.0 per ton.

Smaller arrivals of other vegetables.

Smaller quantities of other vegetables were shipped to Sussex Street from Tasmania during this month than during July. The 2,373 bags of Tasmanian swedes sold at the unaltered level of £4.0.0 to £5.0.0 per ton, while the 854 bags railed by local growers to Alexandria met a slightly improved demand, realising from £1.10.0 to £6.5.0, according to quality. The 1,470 bags of carrots and 647 bags of parsnips from Tasmania were within buyers' needs and sold readily at from £8.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton in each case. Locally-produced carrots and parsnips (4 bags and 12 bags, respectively) were disposed of by auction at Alexandria at from £5.15.0 to £8.0.0 for the former and from £7.15.0 to £11.0.0 per ton for the latter.

/Tasmanian

Tasmanian Dry peas were in very firm request at the unaltered rates of 20/- to 21/- per bushel for Blue and 11/- to 11/6 for Grey.

Quiet inquiry for white chaff.

Except for one isolated period during the month, the demand for oaten and wheaten chaff at Alexandria was quiet. The 159 trucks of oaten chaff were in excess of immediate trade requirements and prices ranged from £3.8.4 to £5.0.0, with occasional sales to £5.5.0 and £5.10.0 per ton. Wheaten chaff (28 trucks) met a similar request, sales being recorded at from £3.0.0 to £4.5.0 per ton.

Heavier offerings of lucerne commodities.

The arrivals of lucerne chaff at Alexandria during August aggregated 122 trucks of very mixed standard, and agents reported that it was difficult to clear stocks at generally lower rates. Sales ranged from £3.0.0 for inferior lots to £6.10.0 for good to prime chaff, with one line of extra special green leafy description bringing to £7.5.0 per ton. The lucerne hay railed to Alexandria comprised 50 trucks from Maitland and 119 from other centres. The Maitland offerings were in steady request at from £4.0.0 to £4.15.0 for New Green and £3.15.0 to £4.0.0 per ton for Dry, but those from other districts were in limited demand at from £3.0.0 to £7.0.0, according to quality.

The 252 bales of lucerne hay shipped from the Hunter River to Sussex Street were mainly of the New Green variety, which was cleared readily at from £4.0.0 to £5.0.0; Dry lots, however, sold slowly at £4.10.0 per ton.

Only 60 bales of Victorian special oaten hay were received at Sussex Street and these brought from £8.10.0 to £9.0.0 per ton. Of the 27 trucks of oaten hay to hand at Alexandria, only a small percentage was disposed of, prices ranging from £3.10.0 to £5.0.0 per ton.

Tasmanian growers forwarded 3,100 bales of straw to Sussex Street. The good demand ruling during July continued and sales were effected at the following generally unaltered rates:- Oaten £4.15.0 to £5.0.0; Wheaten and Barley £5.0.0 to £5.10.0 per ton. Inquiry for the 27 trucks of local produce in position at Alexandria was satisfactory at from £4.5.0 to £5.0.0 for prime, with damaged lots as low as £3.0.0 per ton.

Steady sales of grain.

All varieties of grain received at the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard during August met a steady request. The 56 trucks of wheat were slightly in excess of last month's arrivals and clearances were reported at from 1/11 to 2/7 by auction and

/from

from $2/3\frac{1}{2}$ to $2/8$ per bushel by private treaty. The major portion of the 29 trucks of oats was sold by auction at from $1/5$ to $2/7\frac{1}{2}$, whilst a small quantity was disposed of privately at $2/6$ per bushel.

Consignments of maize to Alexandria aggregated 168 bags from Queensland and 4,058 from New South Wales districts. Queensland yellow was quoted at 4/-, whilst realisations for the local offerings ranged from $3/10$ to $4/2$ for yellow and were $4/2$ per bushel for white. The 1,897 bags of Northern Rivers maize shipped to Sussex Street were of satisfactory quality and quotations remained unchanged at 4/- for yellow and $4/2$ per bushel for white.

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E.A.G.

HONEY MARKETING IN NEW ZEALAND.

The position regarding the marketing of honey in New Zealand is set out in the following extract from a report by the Australian Trade Commissioner in that dominion:-

"Regulations have been promulgated dealing with the marketing of honey for export and an Order-in-Council has been passed transferring the powers of the New Zealand Honey Export Control Board to the Minister of Marketing. This means that the responsibility for all export of honey would be vested in the Internal Marketing Department, which would co-ordinate export and local sales and enable a long range policy to be adopted in the interests of the honey industry and the consumers of honey.

The regulations provide that on and after 1st December, 1938, honey sold by producers would require to have affixed to the container a special honey seal stamp purchased on the basis of $\frac{1}{2}$ d a lb. This seal would not be an indication of the grade or quality of the honey packed, but is purely a marketing seal to ensure that all honey sold commercially would participate in the Government's efforts to improve the market and popularise the consumption of honey in New Zealand.

The marketing plan envisaged in these Regulations was first recommended by the Honey Export Control Board, and at the annual conference of the National Beekeepers' Association held in Timaru in June last it received overwhelming approval."

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

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Wheat:		
Bulk	2/2d	2/5d per bushel
Bagged	2/3d	2/6d " "
Flour	£6.15.0 (plus £6.0.0 tax)	£6.12.3 per ton (plus £6.2.9 tax)
Bran	£4.5.0 per ton)	no variation.
Pollard	£4.5.0 " ")	
Eggs (Hen)	1/-	1/3d per dozen
Butter:		
Choice	161/2 per cwt.)	no variation
First Quality	156/6 " ")	
Second	" 151/10 " ")	
Cheese:		
Loaf	11d per lb.)	no variation
Large	10 1/2d " ")	
Special Brands	1/2d " ")	
Pigs (Abattoir Sales):		
Prime extra light porkers	28/6d	40/6d per head
" light porkers	36/6d	44/6d " "
" med.wgt. "	40/6d	51/6d " "
" heavy "	48/6d	54/6d " "
" baconers	57/6d	75/6d " "
Backfatters	£4.0.0	£8.15.0 " "

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SYDNEY WOOL SALES - AUGUST, 1939.

The Sydney Wool Selling Brokers' Association advises that there was no wool sold by auction in Sydney during August, but that disposals by private treaty totalled 1,401 bales greasy and 5,593 scoured

The average prices realised were as follow:-

<u>Class of Wool</u>	<u>Per bale</u>	<u>Per lb.</u>
Greasy	£14.12.10	12d
Scoured	£17. 8. 6	17.8d
Greasy and Scoured	£16.17. 4	16.4d

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

F R U I T.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases.	Bananas tropical cases.	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS packages
Queensland	10,766	10,631	12,385 ⁶	75,723	109,505
Victoria	15	87	6,799	40	6,941
Tasmania	-	-	149,725	-	149,725
Sth. Aust.	-	-	1,737	-	1,737
West Aust.	-	-	4,955	-	4,955
TOTALS:	10,781	10,718	175,601	75,763	272,863

/ Also 14,160 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	19,303	233	-	1,525	510	513	13,863	4	35,437	514
Victoria	7,843	6,901	251	118	-	-	14,264	-	29,377	-
Tasmania	71,673	-	4,254	-	-	-	5,091	-	81,018	-
Sth. Aust.	1,414	269	-	-	-	-	11,969	-	13,652	-
West Aust.	160	400	-	-	-	-	-	-	560	-
TOTALS:	100,393	7,803	4,505	1,643	510	513	45,187	4	160,044	514