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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. 5

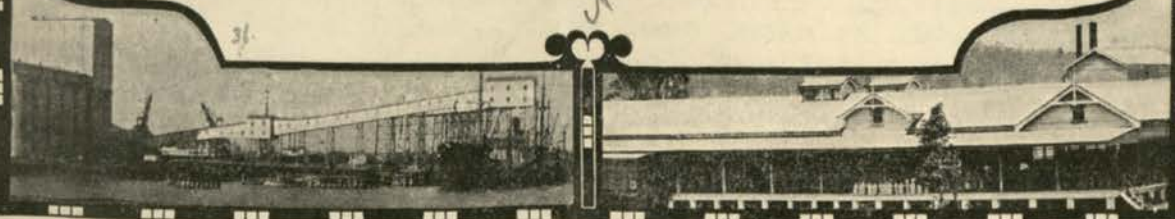
JANUARY, 1940.

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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

Commonwealth Government renews Wine Export Bounty for further 5 years from 1st March, 1940, at rate of 1/- per gallon. In 1938/39 this Bounty involved a total payment of £167,871

Western Australian Egg Marketing Act amended to provide that simple majority vote of poultry farmers sufficient to establish Marketing Board. Previously the necessary majority was three-fifths.

Advices from official sources indicate likelihood Australian wheat production from 1939/40 crop reaching 185,000,000 bushels. Record year was 1932/33 with approximately 214 million bushels.

Federal Department of Supply and Development investigating possibilities extending Australian cultivation linseed for fibre and seed. Imports from overseas in 1937/38 were valued at £414,000.

Agent-General advises importation into United Kingdom of all types fruit juices from Empire countries (excluding Palestine and Transjordan) may be made under Open General Licence.

Reported Canadian Government plans to purchase, at guaranteed prices, large part Dominion 1939/40 apple crop and utilise considerable portion such purchases for canning or drying.



PROVISIONAL SCHEME FOR THE MARKETING OF LIVESTOCK  
AND MEAT IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

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The Department of Agriculture and Forestry of the Union of South Africa, has forwarded particulars of a Livestock and Meat Marketing Scheme which was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry by the Livestock and Meat Industries Control Board. It is intimated by letter dated 20th October, 1939, that the scheme has not yet received official approval. In an earlier letter, dated 29th July, 1939, it was stated that "this Provisional scheme has, as yet, not been finally approved of by the Minister and, in consequence, the Livestock and Meat Industries Control Board has not been reconstituted in terms of the Marketing Act".

Name and Scope of the Scheme.

The Scheme shall be known as the "Livestock and Meat Marketing Scheme" and shall apply to slaughter cattle, slaughter sheep, beef and mutton and to slaughter pigs, pork and bacon and to the products and by-products derived from them. The provisions of the Scheme in its application will affect producers of the products mentioned as well as such other persons who sell or deal in the course of trade with these products.

Administration of the Scheme and Constitution of the Board.

Administration will be carried out by the Livestock and Meat Industries Control Board which shall consist of eighteen members, comprising representatives from farmers' organisations, pedigree stock breeders' association, commercial exporters, wholesale and retail butchers, local authorities, auctioneers, and in addition ex officio members who may be nominated from time to time by the Minister. Such members (ex officio) while not having the right to vote at any meeting, shall in all other respects have the same rights as other members of the Board.

Provision is made for an election of officers for definite terms of office while every appointment and every change of membership shall be gazetted.

If any person is, in the opinion of the Minister, not suitable for appointment as a member of the Board, the Minister may call for a nomination of some other person or may himself nominate any person whom he considers fit to be a member of the Board.

The decision of the majority of the members of the Board (eight members having the power to vote form a quorum) present at any meeting thereof and qualified to vote, shall constitute a decision of the Board, provided that in the event of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to his deliberative vote.

/After.....



After its first meeting which shall be held on a day and place nominated by the Minister subsequent meetings will be held as the Board itself may determine.

Powers of the Board.

The Board shall have power -

- (a) to appoint servants, acquire or hire property as it may consider necessary for performance of its functions and attainment of the objects of the scheme;
- (b) to impose on all cattle, sheep and pigs slaughtered a levy, in the case of cattle not exceeding 2/- per animal of six months and older and not exceeding 6d per animal under six months, and in the case of sheep not exceeding 6d per animal and in the case of pigs not exceeding 1/- per animal of two months and older and not exceeding 3d per animal under two months;
- (c) to pay out of its funds to any person who exports beef or mutton or slaughter cattle, sheep or pigs, pork or bacon from the Union, a bounty (which may vary according to grade or from which may be excluded meat or animals below a specified grade) of an amount which the Board, with the consent of the Minister, may determine;
- (d) to utilise levy funds to meet expenses incurred under paragraph (a) and, generally, to assist the development and betterment of the livestock and meat industries;
- (e) to create a reserve fund into which any surplus levy funds not required for immediate use shall be paid;
- (f) to pay, out of its funds, to any person who produces high grade slaughter stock slaughtered for local consumption, a premium of an amount which the Board, with the consent of the Minister, may from time to time determine;
- (g) to make advances out of its funds to any producer or producers' organisation, a percentage of the value of meat exported by them;
- (h) to act as an agent for producers for the export of chilled beef, fat lamb and frozen pork;
- (i) to purchase and export on its own behalf such cattle, sheep and pigs as it may deem necessary to add to its agency business;
- (j) .....



- (j) to charge commission for services rendered;
- (k) to establish cattle feeding depots and conduct the running thereof;
- (l) to require that no producer of slaughter cattle, sheep or pigs in the Union may sell his product in any area controlled by the Board unless he is registered by the Board;
- (m) to prohibit any retail butcher or wholesale butcher or any livestock auctioneer or speculator or dealer in livestock from selling slaughter cattle, sheep and pigs, beef, mutton or pork in such areas determined by the Board unless under authority of a trading permit issued by the Board;
- (n) to establish an Export and Stabilisation fund to enable the Board to exercise its powers to buy and sell, treat, pack, process, transport any livestock, meat etc. which it has bought or is handling;
- (o) to publish particulars of the prices of slaughter stock and of the wholesale and retail prices of meat and, generally, to disseminate information of the livestock and meat industries;
- (p) generally to advise the Minister on all matters concerning the development of the industries named above and to recommend steps which are calculated to promote the welfare of those industries.

In regard to an Export and Stabilisation fund, such a fund shall be divided into Cattle, Sheep and Pig accounts and each account shall bear such share of the overhead costs as the Board may determine. Any expenditure which may be incurred shall be made good from the respective accounts and any moneys accruing credited to them.

#### Levy Upon Slaughtered Stock.

The amount of the levy to be imposed shall be published by the Minister, becoming operative upon the date stated in any such notice. Persons controlling abattoirs or slaughter places shall, not later than the fifteenth day of each calendar month, pay to the Board the amount payable on the number of animals slaughtered during the preceding calendar month. Such persons (if not the owners of such animals) may recover from the person at whose instance the animal has been slaughtered the amount of the levy.

Any person paying over any money to the Board in respect  
/ of such....



of such animals whereof he was not the owner when they were slaughtered shall be entitled to receive commission from the Board.

Separate funds for each class of slaughter animals shall be established and any bounty paid by the Board shall be defrayed from the particular fund concerned.

Any expenditure incurred by the Board other than the payment of bounties or premiums on the export of beef, mutton, lamb, pork or slaughter cattle, sheep or pigs shall be defrayed from the respective levy fund in accordance with the benefit either industry may be expected to derive from such expenditure: Provided that any amount of the levy on slaughter cattle and of the levy on slaughter pigs, respectively, in excess of 40 per cent. of such levies shall be used exclusively for the payment of a bounty or premium on the exports. Similarly, any amount of the levy on slaughter of slaughter sheep in excess of the sum of two pence per animal shall be used exclusively to the payment of bounties.

#### General and Supplementary Provisions.

Every livestock auctioneer, agent, dealer or speculator who has transactions in livestock or meat and every wholesale or retail butcher shall keep proper records and accounts. Every person who owns or controls any abattoir or slaughter place shall keep specified records of numbers slaughtered daily.

Any officer of the Board or other person appointed by the Board for the purpose shall at all reasonable times enter any abattoir or upon any premises occupied by any livestock auctioneer, dealer, agent etc., wholesale or retail butcher, and inspect all records and documents there being and require any explanation of any record or document in reference to livestock or meat, and seize all records, accounts or documents which may afford evidence of any contravention of the provisions of the Scheme.

Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provisions of the scheme or any prohibition shall be guilty of an offence and liable to penalty according to the nature and seriousness of the particular offence.

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#### IMPORT INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF PEACH AND APRICOT KERNELS.

The New South Wales Agent-General, London, advises that the Board of Trade has issued an Open General Licence authorising as from 21st December, 1939, the importation into the United Kingdom of apricot and peach kernels if consigned from any part of the British Empire, except Palestine and Trans-jordan. The announcement made in Notice to Importers No. 11 to the effect that no licences would be issued for apricot and peach kernels now applies to imports from foreign countries only.

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REVIEW OF EGG MARKET, UNITED KINGDOM  
JANUARY/JUNE, 1939.

In their Half Yearly Egg Review, January to June, 1939, Messrs. James Gillanders Ltd., London, state that the egg trade ran more or less normally with the prices moving on a somewhat lower basis than for the corresponding period of 1938.

Arrivals.

A return based on figures supplied by the Board of Trade, showing imports of eggs in shell into the United Kingdom for the first six months of each year for the past three years is reproduced herewith:-

Quantities are expressed in Long Hundreds.

	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>
Irish Free State	1,540,000	1,613,000	1,638,000
South Africa	4,000	-	-
Australia	227,000	94,000	86,000
Other British Countries	-	35,000	37,000
Finland	308,000	343,000	177,000
Sweden	123,000	321,000	332,000
Denmark	5,100,000	4,795,000	5,039,000
Poland	733,000	1,322,000	1,307,000
Netherlands	2,160,000	2,569,000	3,859,000
Belgium	145,000	77,000	25,000
China	231,000	94,000	100,000
Other Foreign Countries	962,000	2,036,000	2,037,000
	<u>11,533,000</u>	<u>13,299,000</u>	<u>14,635,000</u>

The figures for 1939 show an appreciable advance over corresponding figures for 1937 and 1938, the principal increase being from the Netherlands from which country the supply has

/doubled.....



doubled itself during the last four years. It will be noticed that Australian imports have decreased, as they have in fact done for the past seven years, during this first half of the year. The Australian supply in 1933 was 345,000 long hundreds.

#### Value.

The Board of Trade C.i.f. valuation for the arrivals in 1939 was placed at £5,704,000 or an average of 7/9.5d per long hundred.

#### Quota.

The view held in regard to "quota" was that although additional administrative power had been given to the Ministry of Agriculture, it was doubtful whether any drastic steps would be taken. The point stressed more than any other was if the home Producer was unable to increase supplies, then it is impossible to restrict imports without causing hardship to those who cannot afford to pay the high prices ruling for English eggs.

#### Quality and Packing.

It was stated that the improvement in quality was making good progress but it still remains necessary to maintain the keenest vigilance in this respect as the consumer is gradually being educated to look for and expect a higher standard of quality. In regard to packing the opinion prevailed among many exporters that any kind of box was suitable but experience showed this to be a great mistake. Eggs which have to be transported possibly thousands of miles before reaching the market may be seriously affected if they do not travel under proper conditions.

For instance, enough evidence exists to clearly demonstrate how important it is that eggs are not jarred owing to loose packing but carried in a firm upright position. Neglect in this direction results in eggs arriving on the market having an appearance of age. Only the best possible packing is good enough for an article which in itself is a delicate structure, quickly deteriorating if exposed to unfavourable conditions.

#### Stocks.

During the six months reviewed, stocks were more or less normal. While it was impossible to estimate the total stocks at the end of the six months, there was reasonable grounds to assume that they were somewhat heavier in Great Britain than in previous years. The reason advanced for this was owing to unsettled conditions in Europe, many near eastern countries shipped for storage in England rather than run the risk of holding the product themselves.

/ Empire.....



## Empire Eggs.

As to the prospects for the Autumn season, the advice of former occasions was repeated, that is, to take full advantage of the market when the demand can absorb the supply without expecting successfully to cater for a long period of high prices. One factor which was encouraging was that the British public was so favourably disposed towards Empire eggs that there should be no difficulty in disposing of such quantities which may come forward.

## Note as to Recent Developments.

On the outbreak of war at the beginning of September, 1939, the Food Defence Department (Food Ministry) took over control of the importation of all essential foodstuffs into the United Kingdom and entered into negotiations for the purchase of supplies from Dominion and foreign sources. In addition maximum prices were declared for many commodities, including eggs, these prices being temporarily fixed at about levels prevailing towards the end of August.

## Purchase of Australian Egg Surplus by British Government.

In November, 1939, the terms under which the British Food Ministry had contracted to purchase the Australian egg surplus for the 1939 export season were announced. Fixed prices (as published in the December, 1939, issue of the Monthly Marketing Review) were arranged, 85% of which would be paid on lodgment of shipping documents with the Commonwealth Bank, and the balance would be paid within 28 days of arrival of the vessel in Great Britain subject to deductions in respect of such breakages and inferior quality for which shippers might be adjudged responsible. The necessary shipping space to accommodate a total of 300,000 cases for the season from Australia was undertaken, while more eggs would be accepted if available and space could be provided. The fixed prices were to operate in respect of all eggs packed in Australia under the contract, up to 31st December, 1939. The contract prices were on the basis of f.o.b. Australian ports, but should shipping delays cause eggs to be held in storage in Australia for an unusually long period, consideration was to be given to making advances against eggs so stored and to some contribution to the cost of additional storage thus unavoidably incurred.

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## AUSTRALIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER IN INDIA.

The Commonwealth Government has announced the appointment of Mr. R.H.Gollan (formerly manager of the Australian National Travel Association in India) to the position of Australian Trade Commissioner in India. An office will be established at Calcutta from which the Commissioner and his Assistant will handle matters for British India and Ceylon.

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MARKETING OF EGGS ACT, 1938,  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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On 31st January, 1939, an Act to make provision for the marketing of eggs in Western Australia was assented to by the Governor of that State. The Act is termed the "Marketing of Eggs Act, 1938," having been enacted by the legislature of Western Australia at the close of that year. The measure, it appears, was introduced in Parliament by a member of the Legislative Council and is the outcome of persistent efforts by producers, extending over a considerable period, to have the poultry farming industry in Western Australia placed on a more satisfactory basis.

Comparison of the Marketing of Eggs Act with the original Bill discloses that certain sections of the latter were drastically amended during the course of its passage through Parliament. The principal amendment deleted a section in the Bill providing for the constitution of the Western Australian Egg Marketing Board on the coming into operation of the Act. As it now stands, the Board cannot be constituted unless a favourable decision has been given by the producers at a poll held in the accordance with the provisions of the Act.

As the Act at present reads, a person keeping more than seventy five head of female poultry with a view to selling eggs for profit is entitled to vote at any poll or election, and unless a producer is qualified likewise he is not governed by the provisions of the Act relating to vesting and delivery etc. In the original Bill a clause provided that no producer shall be entitled to vote unless he is the owner of at least one hundred and fifty head of poultry. A further clause defined a producer (for general purposes) as a person who keeps more than fifty head of poultry.

Other important amendments refer to producer representation on the Board and provision of expenses for polls and elections. The Act now provides that the number of elected producer members who shall sit on the Board shall be two, whereas the Bill provided for the representation of three elected producers on the five-member Board. The provision in the Act that one of the members appointed by the Governor shall be a "person of mercantile and commercial experience" reads in the Bill a "chartered accountant". With regard to the expenses associated with constitution polls and first election of the members of the Board the Act places the onus of providing the necessary funds on the signatories of the petition. It is provided, however, that they shall be reimbursed out of the proceeds of sales of eggs to be made by the Board. In the Bill all such expenses were deemed part of the Board's expenditure, to be borne and paid by the Board out of its funds.

Another amendment to the Bill was made in the section dealing with the question of dissolution. It was provided therein  
/that.....



that three-fourths of the votes polled must be in favour of dissolution before the Governor may declare that the Board shall be wound up. As the Act now stands the Governor may take action if three-fifths of the votes cast are in the affirmative. The final amendment to the Bill was the insertion of a clause specifically exempting from the operations of the vesting and delivery provisions of the Act eggs produced and retained by the producer for hatching purposes or for sale for such purposes.

In broad outline, the provisions of the Marketing of Eggs Act are somewhat similar to those contained in the Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927-38, of New South Wales. The wording of many portions of both Acts is practically identical but some of the sections vary considerably in effect. The chief differences between the Marketing of Eggs Act and the Marketing of Primary Products Act are as follow:-

- (a) Under the Marketing of Eggs Act a producer with more than seventy-five head of female poultry is entitled to participate in any poll or election whereas a Regulation gazetted under the provisions of the Marketing of Primary Products Act fixed the minimum number of birds which a person must own before being entitled to vote at one hundred and fifty.
- (b) In connection with a poll on the question of constitution, three-fifths of the votes polled must be cast in the affirmative before a Board may be established under the provisions of Marketing of Eggs Act whereas a simple majority only is required under the Marketing of Primary Products Act, provided three-fifths of the producers entitled to vote record valid votes.
- (c) The Marketing of Eggs Act provides for the representation on the five-member Board of only two members elected by the producers whereas the Marketing of Primary Products Act is designed to ensure that producer representation on marketing boards is always in the majority.
- (d) The sections of both Acts dealing with vesting and delivery are somewhat similar but as the definition of the word "producer" is different in each instance the effect of such sections vary considerably. Under the Marketing of Eggs Act only those producers keeping more than seventy-five head of female poultry are actually affected by the compulsory provisions of the Act. Under the Marketing of Primary Products Act a producer is defined as a person by whom or on whose behalf a product is actually grown or produced for sale. All persons selling eggs, irrespective of the  
/number .....



number of hens owned, must deliver their produce to the Board unless otherwise exempted. (An Egg Marketing Board has been constituted in New South Wales in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing of Primary Products Act. Incidentally this Act provides for the constitution of marketing boards representing various commodities.)

- (e) Under the Marketing of Eggs Act, expenses incurred in the conduct of the poll on the question of constitution and for the first election of members of the Board are borne by the signatories of the petition although they are to be reimbursed subsequently by the Board. Under the Marketing of Primary Products Act provision for expenses of any poll is made by the Minister.

To date no action has been taken by the producers of eggs in Western Australia towards the constitution of an egg marketing board in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing of Eggs Act. A review of some of the differences between the two Acts may explain why the producers have not taken the initiative. In the first place, producers may be unwilling to sign a petition which would involve them in monetary loss if the decision at the poll on the question of constitution was unfavourable to the establishment of a marketing Board. It is probable, also, that the producers may not be very keen in constituting a board on which their representation would be in the minority. As the Act now reads, it is possible that some considerable difficulty would be met in securing a vote of the producers favourable to constitution. A three-fifths majority is a fairly high one in any circumstances and when it is considered that producers whose poultry farming operations could only be classed as a side-line are entitled to voice their opinion on marketing control along with those commercial producers who are more intimately concerned, the difficulty is seen to be more pronounced.

Should the Western Australian Egg Marketing Board be constituted at any time despite apparent difficulties the clause defining a producer would probably negative to a large degree any attempt which the Board may make for effective marketing control. As the Act stands, the exemption from all obligations granted to producers who own up to seventy-five hens would result in too high a percentage of uncontrolled production. The New South Wales Egg Marketing Board grants an unconditional exemption only to persons owning less than twenty-one hens.

#### Further Amendments.

Recent press paragraphs indicate that in November, 1939, Mr. G.B. Wood, M.L.C., introduced to the Western Australia  
/Legislative....



Legislative Council amendments to the Marketing of Eggs Act, providing, inter alia, for increased representation of producers on the proposed Egg Marketing Board and for a simple majority of votes of qualified producers as sufficient to ensure the constitution of a Marketing Board. Only one amendment was carried, that being the provision that a simple majority of producers should be in favour before a Marketing Board could be constituted. The latest report states that the zone council of the poultry section of the Primary Producers' Association passed a resolution:-

"That this meeting agrees to the taking of a poll as provided for in the Egg Marketing Amendments Act recently passed by Parliament, and that a fund be established to cover the cost of such a poll."

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#### SHEEP AND CATTLE SALES AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

##### Increased Numbers of Sheep and Lambs Marketed.

Following on the dislocation of activities at the Homebush saleyards during the previous month due to industrial trouble with mutton slaughtermen, sales returned to normal during December, when a total of 292,283 head was available or an increase of approximately 40,000. Supplies undoubtedly would have been heavier, but for the intervention of the Christmas Holiday period. Reference to the total yardings for the year ended 31st December, 1939, shows that an aggregate of 3,384,872 head of sheep and lambs passed through the Homebush Saleyards, an average monthly supply of approximately 282,000 head. It is interesting to note that for 1938 the yardings comprised 3,322,113 head, a monthly average of approximately 277,000.

Drought conditions which prevailed during the early part of 1939 forced large numbers of sheep onto the market, while towards the latter part of the year, heavy supplies of lambs and suckers were available. Both these factors tended to increase the aggregate penning for the twelve months.

##### Quality Light Weight Sheep Scarce.

During December there was a further shortage of really good quality light weight wethers and ewes, and, although it could not be said that there was a pronounced scarcity of light descriptions - quite a number of fair to medium quality being available - the fact remained that the market was rather lightly supplied with well finished wethers and ewes dressing from 36 lb. to 40 lb. of mutton. In direct contrast, however, was the steady supply /of medium.....



of medium to heavy weight sheep, wethers in particular of from 46 lb. to 50 lb. dressed and from 50 lb. to 60 lb. being very well represented. In this section, many consignments were all that could be desired as to quality and finish, the only fault being that some were too heavy. Shorn sheep again formed by far the greater part of the supply, but on a number of occasions woolly sheep were noticed, which carried exceptionally good skins. Several lots of very plain wethers and ewes were yarded, reflecting the dry conditions prevalent in some parts of the State.

Better representation of ewes.

Ewes, which have been scarce over the past few months, were more numerous, and many lines of nice quality were offered. Drafts suitable for restocking purposes met with a ready demand.

Rates for sheep mostly steady.

A feature of the month's operations was the steady request which generally prevailed for sheep, particularly lines suitable for export. The market could be described as opening firm for all grades of sheep. As the result of an improved demand for heavy mutton, good weighty sheep, especially wethers, became dearer early in the period, rates advancing on an average of from 1/- to 1/6d per head. Following this increase, values were steady for the most part until the closing auctions of the period, when a further sharp rise in prices occurred, the gain being as much as 2/- per head in some instances, but mostly ranging from 1/- to 1/6d per head. Here, too, the most active competition was for good weighty wethers, this class of mutton showing by far the greatest increase in value.

Rates for good light weight wethers and for all grades of ewes were fairly consistent throughout and, although irregularities were apparent at times, the variations were not pronounced. Medium to plain sheep, however, sold at relatively lower prices and were a little cheaper on the average.

Some realisations are given below as indicative of market trends:-

Early in December good quality heavy wethers weighing approximately 52 lb. sold at 13/6d each or the equivalent of  $2\frac{5}{8}$ d per lb. Following on the improved market, on the next sale day nice quality heavy wethers weighing approximately 56 lb. brought 14/7d per head or  $2\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. About mid December wethers of similar quality and weight realised 15/4d each or  $2\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.

/At the.....



At the closing auctions held in December, following a strong request for sheep, a draft of good weighty wethers, estimated to dress 58 lb. cost 17/10d each or 3d per lb.

The good demand for light sheep and the remarkably steady market are illustrated by the following actual sales:-

Early in the month good trade wethers weighing approximately 44 lb. sold at 14/11d each costing 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. while later in the period wethers of about 42 lb. weight realised 13/10d per head or 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb.

#### General summary of realisations.

Some of the best prices obtained for sheep during the month were up to 25/- for woolly wethers and up to 19/- for shorn descriptions, with ewes making to 18/- per head. Generally speaking a large percentage of the available supplies changed hands at from 12/- to 18/- per head for good quality wethers and from 10/- to 15/- for good quality ewes. Medium to plain sheep sold at relatively lower prices.

The average cost of heavy wether mutton was from 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d to 3d per lb. and of light from 3d to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Ewes made approximately 2d to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d for heavy and 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d to 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. for light.

#### Moderate percentage of lambs and suckers.

Lambs and suckers comprised only a comparatively moderate proportion of the December yardings, totalling 151,244 head or a little over half of the aggregate pennings. Generally the standard was not as good as that of the previous month.

#### Plain lambs numerous.

The best of the suckers for this season appear to have been marketed, as quite a number of plain dry descriptions was submitted and, in addition, quite a few were noticed that were affected with grass seeds. In direct contrast, however, were drafts of shorn Southdown cross lambs, which were particularly attractive. A further consignment of Dorset Down lambs was received during the period; being much lighter than the previous lot offered, these lambs met with a much better reception from the operators. This lot was of nice shape and good appearance, and realised very satisfactory prices.

#### Heavy lambs fairly well supplied.

There was a good showing of heavy weight lambs, animals from 38 lb. to 40 lb. in weight being well represented,  
/while.....



while quite a number would be in the vicinity of 36 lb. Perhaps some of the most attractive lambs in this class were shorn descriptions, but several very nice quality woolly lines were offered also.

Really prime light suckers dressing from 28 lb. to 32 lb. were scarce, as consignments of this weight were mostly of medium quality.

Strong demand for good quality lambs.

Lambs of quality met with active competition throughout. Early in the month, prices rose from 1/- to 1/6d per head and at several other sales a firmer tendency was apparent, culminating in a further sharp advance of from 1/- to 2/- per head on the final sale day. The total increase in rates during December would range from approximately 2/- to 3/6d per head or  $\frac{3}{4}$ d to 1d per lb., according to weight.

Some exceptionally good realisations were recorded, a consignment of prime heavy crossbred lambs making 29/- per head, while on several occasions 25/- to 27/- was paid. Values for the most part, however, were from 18/- to 24/- each.

The following representative sales clearly indicate the upward trend of the lamb market throughout the period:-

Early in December, good trade suckers weighing approximately 33 lb. brought 19/7d each or  $5\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. On the next sale day good heavy suckers about 38 lb. in weight realised 23/9d per head or  $6\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. At the closing auctions, buyers paid 22/1d each for 36 lb. shorn suckers, which was equivalent to  $6\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.

Medium to plain grades and lambs affected by grass seed could be obtained from about 15/- to 17/- per head.

The improvement in lamb prices was substantial, early sales of suckers making from  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $6\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb., while at the close ruling rates were from 6d to 7d per lb. It was most noticeable that good quality heavy suckers and lambs of weights suitable for export commanded the highest prices.

The firm demand that prevailed for mutton and lamb and the prices paid by operators should have been pleasing to the producer.

Irregular yardings of cattle.

Although the numbers of cattle yarded from sale day to sale day were somewhat irregular, the total for December varied very little from that of the previous month and amounted to 20,459 head / of which...



of which 1802 were auctioned in the store section. The percentage of prime cattle was relatively small; nevertheless, for the most part, the quality was fairly good except on occasions when the proportion of fair trade sorts was greater than could have been desired. According to reports furnished by country correspondents to the State Marketing Bureau, stock generally are in good condition and feed is still ample in most districts. Rain is urgently required in parts of the north-west and coastal sections of New South Wales, however, and an advice from Gunnedah intimates that hand feeding has commenced.

#### Increased consignments of Bullocks.

During the first half of the period, only moderate numbers of bullocks were on offer, but subsequently the proportion yarded increased considerably. Quality was variable and mostly ranged from fair to good trade. Heavy descriptions were comparatively scarce, whilst the percentage of prime sorts offered was small. A very strong market continued to prevail and average prices showed an improvement on the rates obtained during November. Prime lots generally realised 35/- per 100lb. dressed weight, whilst on the final sale day of the month heavy bullocks brought to 36/- and light weight animals to 38/-, these values being the highest recorded for some time. Sales during the final day included a draft of Black Poll bullocks, weighing approximately 700 lb., which realised £12.15.0 per head, equivalent to 36/6 per 100 lb. dressed weight.

#### Steers plentiful but quality declines.

Steers were plentiful throughout the month, but after the earlier sale days the percentage of prime grade was below that noticeable recently. Still, on the whole, quality was fairly satisfactory. Prices were equal to those ruling during November and ranged from 35/- to 33/- per 100 lb. for prime lightweight sorts.

#### Cows well supplied.

Consignments of cows continued to be heavy during most of the period, but fell off towards the close. The offerings comprised chiefly heavy weight beasts of fair to good trade quality. Prices fluctuated somewhat but generally they showed a slight improvement on the previous month's level, both light and heavy descriptions bringing up to 32/- per 100 lb. on several occasions and 33/- on the final sale day.

#### Variable offerings of heifers.

Heifers were well supplied early in December and the proportion of prime lines was very satisfactory. Subsequently,  
/however.....



however, consignments were smaller and the offerings were of lower standard. Prices were consistently satisfactory, being mainly from 32/- to 35/- per 100 lb. dressed weight, whilst up to 37/- per 100 lb. was obtained for prime quality on the last sale day. On one or two occasions over-fat animals were in poor request and realised only 29/- per 100 lb.

Medium weight vealers well in evidence.

Vealers were well represented practically throughout December and comprised chiefly medium weight sorts in good to prime condition. Values were well maintained at 39/- to 44/- for a number of sale days; then prices dropped sharply and prime quality realised only to 38/- per 100 lb. dressed weight. By the close of the month, however, the market had fully recovered.

Cattle market firm.

From the view point of the producer, the December cattle market was very satisfactory. Compared with the previous month, values were more than maintained and there are no present indications of any material decline in prices during January, 1940.

G.C. & J.W.

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STAINLESS STEEL DRUMS FOR FRUIT JUICE STORAGE.

In connection with the question of fruit juice manufacture and its allied problem of containers, which have engaged the attention of the State Marketing Bureau for some time, interesting advice is to hand from a firm of manufacturers in Australia concerning the marketing of stainless steel drums, said to be suitable for bulk storage. The firm states that until recently it was not possible to manufacture steel drums having a full stainless interior. During the past two years, however, their American associates, working in conjunction with the foremost fruit canning and processing companies, have so far developed this type of container that it is now in regular production in the United States of America. Complete information is available in Australia regarding manufacture and the firm is ready to accept orders in the event of any demand arising. The specification of the drum most commonly used overseas is as follows:- "44 gallons, 22½" inside diameter, 32" inside length, 1-Bar rolling hoops, full open head fitted with lever operated locking ring, half round rubber gasket for sealing, 16 gauge solid stainless steel head and bottom, 16 gauge black steel body with 26 gauge stainless steel liner throughout, so constructed that the whole interior surface is of stainless steel."

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

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Potatoes cheaper.

Although only 382 bags of Tasmanian tubers were available for sale in Sussex Street market, rates for potatoes showed a decided decrease in December. The Tasmanian offerings included the last of the old season stocks and the first of the new season Bismarcks, and in the initial trading period of the month disposals were reported at £12.0.0 for Brownells and £10.0.0 per ton for the Bismarck variety, no prices being recorded for subsequent sales. The shortage of Tasmanian potatoes at Sussex Street was offset by heavy consignments from the Northern River Districts of New South Wales, totalling 20,390 bags, and of Western Australian new Delaware amounting to 4,400 bags. In a number of instances, particularly with offerings from the Northern Rivers, second growth and mechanical injury necessitated reconditioning. Rates paid for the Delawares, which came to hand in the first fortnight of December, ranged from £11.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton, at which prices satisfactory clearances were reported. As usual, the Northern River potatoes were submitted for sale by auction and, for the major portion of the month, no difficulty was experienced in clearing supplies from first hands at the following rates:- New Grade £4.0.0 to £6.15.0, No. 2 Grade £1.10.0 to £4.15.0, Stock Food £3.11.8 per ton, Chat Grade 1/3d to 3/9d, Second Growth Grade 4/- to 6/-, Stock Food 1/9d to 5/3d per bag.

The 34,758 bags of local potatoes railed to Alexandria represented a lighter stock than that received during November, but, notwithstanding this, realisations at auction were lower. A feature of the trading was the arrival of new potatoes from the Dorriggo district; these were of excellent quality and invariably attracted special attention.. The market generally was satisfactory and good disposals were effected at the following rates:- New Grade £2.10.0 to £16.0.0, No. 2 Grade £1.0.0 to £14.10.0, Stock Food £3.10.0 to £4. 0.0 per ton, No. 2 Grade 3/- to 11/-, Chat Grade 1/6d to 6/6d, Stock Food 2/- to 9/9d per bag. There were no receivals at Alexandria of potatoes from other States.

Quality of onions mixed.

Arrivals of onions in Sussex Street during December comprised 4,330 bags of brown from Victoria and 1,198 bags, including both brown and white varieties, from Queensland. The general quality was very mixed and thus, at times, sales were slow, even at rates below those ruling during November. The Victorian offering was quoted at from £4. 0.0 for medium to

/£7.0.0.....



£7.0.0 for prime lots, while some deliveries of screened onions from stores were reported at up to £7.10.0 per ton. Prices of Queensland onions ranged from £4.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton for both brown and white, according to quality.

Although lighter supplies of onions were on offer at Alexandria this month than during November, realisations were lower. The 3,205 bags railed from New South Wales centres included both brown and white varieties and disposals by auction were only moderate at the following rates:- Brown - Table £3.11.8 to £8.10.0, Picklers £9.15.0; White - Table £3.0.0 to £9.10.0; Picklers £7.10.0 to £15.15.0 per ton. The 205 bags of Victorian brown onions were sold by private treaty at £7.0.0 per ton. As was the case in Sussex Street, the 1,446 bags received at Alexandria from Queensland were of mixed quality and prices were as follow:- By auction - Brown - Table £7.0.0 to £8.5.0, Picklers £13.10.0; By private treaty - Brown and White £8.0.0 to £10.10.0 per ton.

Heavier arrivals of Queensland pumpkins.

The 10,970 bags of pumpkins shipped from Queensland to Sussex Street considerably exceeded the receipts during November, but the market generally showed a firmer tendency and deliveries were taken at the higher rates of from £8.10.0 to £12.0.0 per ton. The 11 trucks railed to the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard from the same State were in good request at from £9.0.0 to £11.0.0 per ton.

New season's swedes available:

Following the completion of the old season's crop of swedes in Tasmania, the first arrivals of the new season's crop - 1,373 bags - came to hand in Sussex Street from the abovementioned State. Agents reported excellent sales of all available supplies at from £5.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton.

Only very limited stocks of Tasmanian blue peas were on offer early in the month at 25/- per bushel, and for the remainder of December the market was bare of this variety, prices being nominal at the same level. The grey variety was more heavily supplied, but sold firmly at from 11/- to 11/6d per bushel.

Medium grade chaff predominant.

Arrivals of chaff at Alexandria during December comprised 180 trucks of oaten, 39 of wheaten and 81 of lucerne. Medium quality lines predominated, especially in the Oaten section, and consequently inquiry for the most part was restricted. Any prime lots, however, were in good demand at generally the same rates as those paid in November. The range of prices was:- Oaten - £3.15.0 for medium to £5.10.0.....



£5.10.0 for prime heavy; Wheaten - medium £3.0.0 to £3.10.0., good £3.15.0 to £4.10.0 and prime £4.15.0 to £5.5.0 with odd lines to £5.10.0; Lucerne Chaff - medium and inferior £3.5.0 to £4.15.0, good £5.0.0 to £6.0.0, prime £6.5.0 to £6.10.0 and extra prime £6.15.0 per ton.

#### Higher rates for lucerne hay.

Agents operating in the lucerne hay section at both Alexandria and in Sussex Street reported that rates for all varieties were higher than those during November. The 693 bales shipped from the Hunter River district to Sussex Street were mainly of good quality and early deliveries were taken at the following prices:- New Green £3.10.0 to £4.10.0, Dry £5.10.0 to £6.0.0 per ton. Receipts of lucerne hay at Alexandria comprised 71 trucks from Maitland and 53 from other centres. Some excellent quality lines were included and realisations were:- Maitland New Green £2.15.0 to £4.15.0, Dry £3.15.0 to £6.10.0; Other Centres £3.0.0 to £7.0.0 per ton, according to quality in all cases.

The 120 bales of Victorian special oaten hay available in Sussex Street were cleared at from £7.10.0 to £8.0.0., whilst portion of the 27 trucks of oaten hay railed to Alexandria by local growers was quoted at from £4.10.0 to £5.10.0 per ton.

The 416 bales of Tasmanian straw constituted a much smaller stock than that submitted during November, when 1,500 bales were received. Steady disposals were made at from £5.0.0 to £5.10.0 per ton. The 90 trucks of straw consigned to Alexandria from New South Wales districts were mainly of medium quality and were in excess of trade requirements, selling slowly at the following rates:- By auction - £3.0.0 to £3. 8.4; By private treaty £2. 5.0 to £4.15.0 per ton, according to quality in each instance.

#### Increased grain prices.

Although the 72 trucks of wheat received at Alexandria represented a heavier supply than the previous month's, sales were firm at the increased prices of 2/7d to 3/11d per bushel at auction and 3/2d to 4/2d by private treaty.

Arrivals of maize on the Sydney market comprised the following quantities:- Sussex Street - Northern Rivers 341 bags, Illawarra 200 bags; Alexandria - Queensland 537 bags, Local 1,033 bags. The general quality of the offerings was good, but some weevilly lines were noticed. Realisations were higher, ranging as under:- Sussex Street - Northern River yellow 4/6d to 4/7d, Illawarra yellow 5/-; Alexandria - Queensland 4/11d, Local 4/6d to 5/- per bushel.

The major portion of the 59 trucks of oats at rail was cleared by auction at from 1/3d to 1/11d, but some private sales were recorded at from 1/5d to 1/6d per bushel.

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E.A.G.



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

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Business generally throughout the month was of a steady nature. Trading before and after Christmas was not as brisk as had been anticipated, but, nevertheless, clearances of quality fruit were very satisfactory, while the volume of sales of vegetables was well up to expectations.

Upward trend in Apple prices.

A steady demand was maintained for quality apples, particularly small fruit and an upward trend in values was apparent. Only relatively light shipments, comprised principally of Democrats with a small proportion of Crofton, were received from Tasmania to supplement small consignments of Yates from Victoria and limited stocks of local Granny Smiths and Delicious. Towards the end of the month, a small quantity of new season apples, chiefly Carrington and Mobbs Royal, was on offer and realised very satisfactory prices.

Choice Valencia oranges scarce.

For the most part, Valencia oranges were only moderately stocked and, as the bulk of the supplies consisted of plain and standard grade fruit, choice lots were rather scarce. Vendors had little difficulty in disposing of the better quality descriptions of small sizes, that is counts per case of 198 to 216, suitable for the 1/- per dozen retail trade, but larger fruit was somewhat slow of sale. Prices moved steadily upward and some sales of extra choice fruit were recorded to 20/-. Most disposals, however, were effected at from 15/- to 18/- per case for standard grade, with plain grades lower.

Values of colored lemons maintained.

Colored lemons of quality, particularly small fruit - that is counts per case of 216 to 234 - commanded the attention of buyers throughout the month and values were well maintained. Large fruit cleared slowly, while green or inferior lines were neglected, even at fairly low prices.

Bananas plentiful.

Heavy supplies of bananas were received from North Coast districts during the first half of the month and were supplemented by consignments from Queensland. Rates for choice fruit were fairly steady during the first week, but later it was found necessary to reduce quotes to stimulate clearances.

/Throughout.....



Throughout the latter half of December, consignments were considerably lighter, resulting in a hardening tendency in prices.

Small Plums difficult to sell.

Some difficulty was experienced in disposing of small plums early in the month, as buyers for jam factories were not operating on the open market to any extent. Choice large descriptions, however, met a steady sale throughout the month at very good rates.

Good demand for quality Apricots.

Only light to moderate stocks of apricots were on offer during the first two weeks of December and choice lines were in request at prices ranging to 10/- per half-case. Later, steadily increasing quantities were received from inland districts to augment local supplies and values were lower, although they could still be regarded as very satisfactory.

Choice large Peaches in request.

Small peaches were plentiful early in the month and were somewhat slow of sale, but choice large descriptions were in request at prices ranging to 12/- per half-case, while odd sales of extra choice fruit were made at higher rates. These values were fairly evenly maintained until the close of the period.

Limited offerings of Cherries.

For the most part, only comparatively small quantities of both dark and light varieties of cherries were available. Supplies consisted principally of St. Margarets and Florence. There was a sharp rise in prices on Monday, 4th December, but later, owing to a temporary increase in stocks, rates receded to former levels. By the end of the second week, however, the market had fully recovered and realisations throughout the balance of December were relatively high.

Pineapples bring high prices:

Consignments of pineapples were smaller than for some considerable time and values moved upward steadily until about the end of the third week, when prices ranging from 14/- to 20/- per tropical case for best quality lines were recorded. Between Christmas and New Year, however, arrivals were much heavier and, as the intervention of the holidays reduced the selling period, vendors were obliged to accept lower rates to clear stocks.

Fluctuating market for Tomatoes.

In the first week of December, the hot weather was most favourable to the sale of tomatoes and, although large quantities / were .....



were received from both the North Coast and local sources, choice lots cleared readily and prices rose. During the following few days, owing to the arrival of increased supplies, vendors found it expedient to accept lower rates to facilitate sales. Prior to the end of the second week, an improved demand resulted in sales of choice lines at enhanced prices, but on the receipt of heavy consignments, particularly of colored descriptions, during the following week, sellers were unable to maintain the higher rates. Towards the end of the month, with large quantities still on hand, prices were further reduced, while ripe lots which were neglected by buyers were offered at very low prices.

Exceptionally heavy supplies of Peas.

Heavy supplies of peas were on offer from the beginning of December to the end of the third week, but as the surplus stocks were purchased by buyers operating on behalf of canneries, reasonably good prices, ranging generally to about 6/- per bushel, were obtained for the best quality descriptions. Between the end of the Christmas holidays and the New Year exceptionally large consignments came to hand and, as cannery buyers were not operating, prices fell to low levels, few sales being recorded at more than 3/- per bushel.

Values of choice Beans well maintained.

For the most part, beans were only moderately stocked and only a very small proportion was of choice quality. Poor to medium grades were difficult to sell even at low prices. Choice lots, however, were in request and realised very satisfactory prices throughout the month.

E.J.C.

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SALE OF AUSTRALIAN WHEAT TO  
BRITISH GOVERNMENT

The Commonwealth Minister for Commerce (Senator McLeay) has announced that the British Government has accepted the Australian Wheat Board's offer for the purchase of 56,000,000 bushels of wheat and 150,000 tons of flour. The Minister stated that this sale would be a valuable help to the Commonwealth and of great assistance to wheatgrowers. As the 150,000 tons of flour are equivalent to 7,000,000 bushels of wheat, the sale brought the total sales from the second Commonwealth wheat pool to 80,500,000 bushels.

Senator McLeay understood that the shipment of the order would not be completed until January, 1941. The purchase price of the wheat would not be disclosed.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN  
SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING DECEMBER, 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 various commodities during the month of December, 1939:-

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Wheat (1939/40 season's)		
∅ Bulk - Export	3/5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d	3/9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d per bushel.
" - Local	2/10d	3/9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d " "
∅ Bagged - Export - Millers Lots	3/8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d	4/0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d " "
" - Local	3/1d	4/0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d " "
* " - " - Line Orders	3/1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d	4/0 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d " "
" - " - Truck Lots	3/2d	4/1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d " "

∅ Separate rates fixed in accordance with these headings by Australian Wheat Board as from 12/12/1939.

\* 2,000 bags or more.

Flour	£8.12. 9 (plus £4.2.3 tax)	£11.2.9 per ton (plus £1.12.3 tax)
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Bran	£3.10.0	£3.15.0 per ton
Pollard	£3.15.0	£4. 0.0 " "

Eggs (Hen) 1/2d per dozen (no variation)

Butter:

Choice	161/2d per cwt.)	
First Quality	156/6d " " )	no variation.
Second Quality	151/10d " " )	

Cheese

Loaf	11d	per lb.)
Large	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	" " )
Special Brands	1/- to 1/1d	" " )

no variation.

Pigs (Abattoir Sales)

Prime extra light porkers	27/6d	41/6d	per head
" Light porkers	35/6d	46/6d	" "
" med.wgt. "	40/6d	58/6d	" "
" heavy "	49/6d	62/6d	" "
" baconers	65/6d	89/6d	" "
Backfatters	£4. 0.0	£8.3.6	" "



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

F R U I T

STATE	Pine-apples cases	Bananas Trop.cs.	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bush. cases	Melons crates	TOTALS packages
Queensland	27,942	8,640 <sup>x</sup>	11,879 <sup>±</sup>	97,597	455	146,513
Victoria	27	91	12,319	3,135	-	15,572
Tasmania	-	-	65,874	-	-	65,874
Sth.Aust.	-	-	2,057	-	-	2,057
West Aust.	-	-	250	-	-	250
TOTALS:	27,969	8,731	92 379	100,732	455	230,266

± 68 trays strawberries.

x 1 bunch bananas.

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	Pkges.	Tons	Pkges.	Tons
Queensland	9,742	16,402	8	15,959	694 $\frac{1}{2}$	12,534	8,342	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	62,987	701 $\frac{3}{4}$
Victoria	1,568	1,007	-	-	-	-	1,413	-	3,988	-
Tasmania	7,155	-	13	-	-	-	118	-	7,286	-
Sth.Aust.	872	221	-	-	-	-	5,439	-	6,532	-
West.Aust.	6,980	-	-	61	-	-	-	-	7,041	-
TOTALS:	26,317	17,630	21	16,020	694 $\frac{1}{2}$	12,534	15,312	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	87,834	701 $\frac{3}{4}$

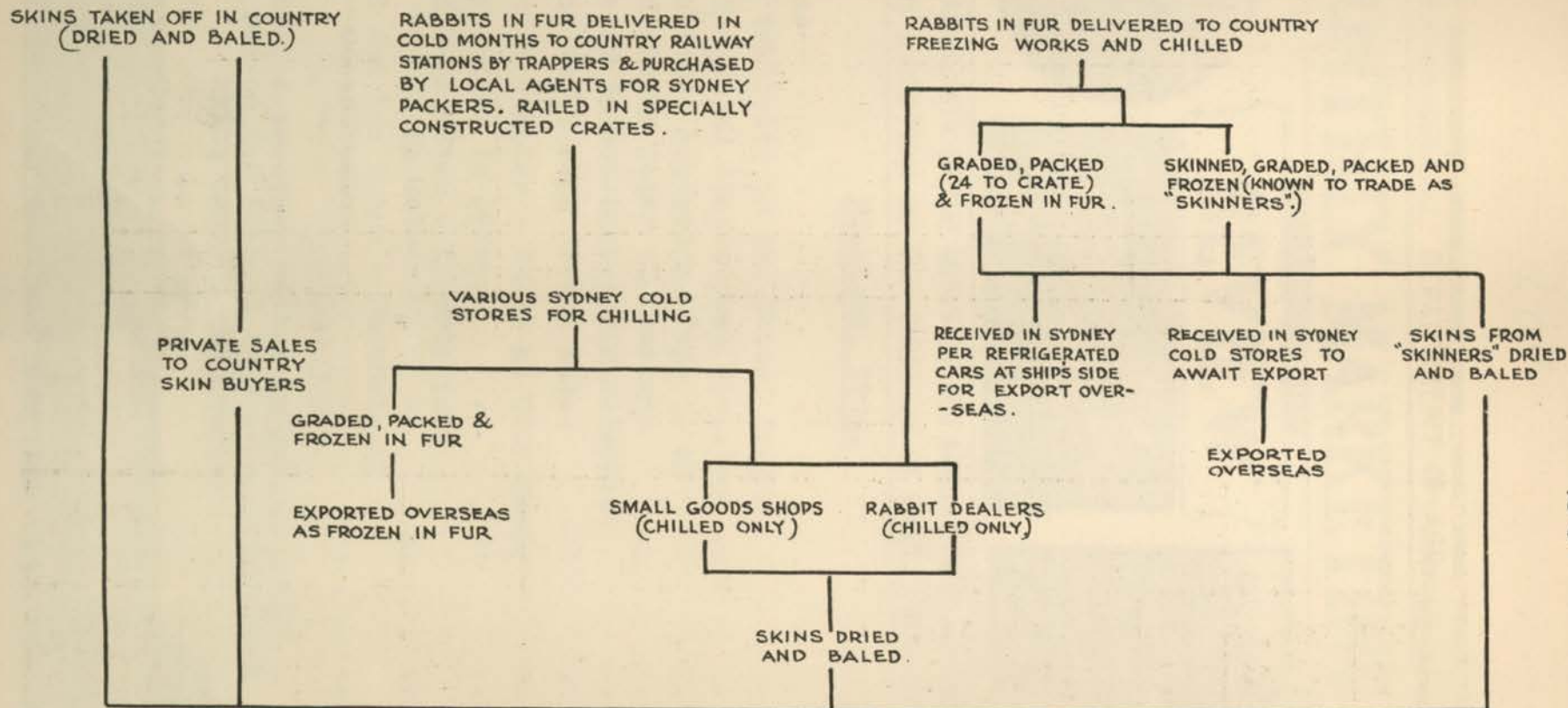
Note: Victorian figures not complete - Tocumwal return not yet to hand.



# RABBIT SKINS

## CHANNELS OF DISTRIBUTION IN N.S.W.

SKINNING OF RABBITS IS FREQUENTLY DONE AT PLACE OF TRAPPING. EXCEPTIONS WOULD BE DELIVERIES OF "RABBITS IN FUR" TO COUNTRY FREEZING WORKS, AND DURING THE WINTER MONTHS DIRECT CONSIGNMENTS OF "RABBITS IN FUR" TO THE STATE ABATTOIRS AND MUNICIPAL AND OTHER COLD STORES IN SYDNEY.



### NOTE:-

PROCLAMATION PROHIBITING EXPORT OF HIDES & SKINS  
GAZ. 20.9.35 (FURRED SKINS & WOOLED SHEEPSKINS MAY  
BE EXPORTED UNDER PERMIT.)

GRADING OF CARCASE FOR EXPORT CARRIED OUT UNDER  
SUPERVISION OF INSPECTORS OF COMMONWEALTH  
COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

COMPILED, G.C. 3.1.40 - CHECKED, S.D.R. 3.1.40

GRAPHED, E.H. 5.3.1.40 - CHECKED, G.C. 3.1.40.

A. A. WATSON  
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, 3.1.40.