



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

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

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

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

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

MONTHLY MARKETING

REVIEW



ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND PREPARED
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, SYDNEY.

Vol. 5

MARCH, 1940.

No. 3

Page

Highlights	57
Australian Trade Publicity in the United Kingdom	58
Central Tableland Statistical Division (Continued)	64
Sheep, Cattle and Pig Sales at Homebush	68
Fruit and Vegetables - Sales at City Markets	74
Alexandria and Sussex Street Sales ..	78
South African Deciduous Fruit Regulatory Scheme	81
Commodity Prices in Sydney ..	82
Fruit and Vegetables - Imports into New South Wales	83
Rainfall Chart - 1939	84

@@@@@@@@@@@@

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



MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

A miscellany of matters relating to the marketing of primary products, at home and abroad.

Released during the second week of each month.

Issued by authority of the Minister for Agriculture and prepared under the direction of the Director of Marketing in the State Marketing Bureau, Department of Agriculture, New South Wales, Australia.

HIGHLIGHTS

Commonwealth Government announces that Sugar Agreement with Queensland Government will be extended for a further five years from September 1st, 1941, and that provisions thereof will remain unchanged.

Federal Cabinet votes £500,000 towards cost of transferring wheat-growers from "marginal" lands of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

Chairman, Australian Meat Board, recommends that the levy on exported mutton and lamb be reduced from $\frac{1}{2}$ d to $\frac{1}{4}$ d per carcase. Purpose of said levy is to provide funds for Board's administrative expenses, research and publicity.

Chairman, Australian Wheat Board, announces that during fortnight ended 9th March, 1940, sales of 6,043,000 bushels of Australian wheat had been effected, making a total to date of 92,355,000 bushels.

Levies on dried vine fruits exported from Australia reduced to 3d per cwt. for currants and $4\frac{1}{2}$ d for sultanas and lexias. These levies are for administrative purposes and overseas advertising.

Continued drought in producing centres results in scarcity of green vegetables at Sydney Municipal Markets and prices reach high levels, but not as high as peak of early months of 1939.

ADVERTISING AND PUBLICISING

DOMINION PRIMARY PRODUCTS

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

AUSTRALIA.

In the February, 1940, issue of the "Monthly Marketing Review" appeared a summary of steps taken by New Zealand, South Africa and Canada to advertise their produce in the United Kingdom. In order that comparison may be made between the methods of the foregoing Dominions and those of Australia, there is published hereunder a statement on Australian Overseas Trade Publicity, made available by courtesy of the Secretary, Department of Commerce, Canberra:-

Origin.

The Australian Overseas Trade Publicity scheme had its origin in legislation passed over twelve years ago by the Commonwealth Government to provide for the orderly marketing of dairy produce, dried fruits and canned fruits.

For these industries export control boards were established, whose personnel consisted of representatives of the industries concerned, together with a representative of the Commonwealth Government. The Boards were empowered to collaborate with the Government in fixing export standards and conditions, to establish agencies in principal markets, to regulate oversea sales where necessary, to impose uniform selling conditions, to negotiate for favourable transport, freight and insurance rates, and to engage in advertising and sales promotion overseas.

Co-operative publicity.

To gain the full benefits from orderly marketing arrangements it was realised that a regular flow of considered publicity was essential to emphasise to British consumers, wholesalers and retailers the fact that high quality Australian supplies were available, and through what avenues they might be acquired.

The industries concerned, therefore, approached the Commonwealth Government with a proposal for a joint publicity scheme in the United Kingdom to maintain existing sales and to extend markets. The Commonwealth Government endorsed the scheme and agreed to subsidise contributions collected from the industries upon a £ for £ basis, provided, however, that this did not involve the Government in more than £50,000 in any one year.

Funds.

Contributions from the industries were collected by means of Export Charges Acts which imposed levies to provide /administrative....

administrative and publicity costs. Two voluntary organisations - the Apple and Pear Export Council and the Egg Producers' Council - also agreed to co-operate, and contributions from these industries were collected by means of inspection fees levied under the Commerce Regulations for a time and later under the Primary Produce Export Charges Act. Recently the Australian Apple and Pear Board was appointed by statute to replace the voluntary Australian Apple and Pear Council and the Board will assume the position of the Council for publicity purposes. In 1927-28 and 1928-29 the honey industry also participated.

Total amount spent.

The scheme came into operation during the financial year 1926-27 and in thirteen years £A988,671 has been allocated by the Commonwealth Government and the industries combined. To this total the Commonwealth has contributed £A374,137 and the industries have provided £A614,534.

The original basis of the Commonwealth contribution was adhered to until the position of Government finances in 1930-31 made revision necessary. In that year the Commonwealth subsidy was reduced to £E17,500, and during the following three years the amount was reduced to £E12,500 per year. In 1935-36, however, the subsidy was increased by £E10,000 to £E22,500, and for 1936-37 the grant was increased to £E30,000, which rate was maintained during 1937-38 and 1938-39.

The following statement shows the amounts contributed by each industry and by the Government during the last three financial years:-

OVERSEAS TRADE
PUBLICITY.

Amounts made available during financial years 1936-37,
1937-38 and 1938-39.

	1936-37 £A	1937-38 £A	1938-39 £A
<u>Trade Publicity in the United Kingdom.</u>			
Australian Dairy Produce Board	20,000	25,000	25,000
Commonwealth Dried Fruits Control Board	18,500	13,500	12,500
Australian Canned Fruits Board	14,000	4,000	4,000
Apple and Pear Council	4,994	5,770	5,614
Apple Trade (England)	3,750	2,500	2,508
Egg Producers Council	4,203	2,799	1,746
<u>Total Contributions by Producers Organisations</u>	<u>55,447</u>	<u>53,569</u>	<u>51,368</u>
Commonwealth Govt. contribution	37,500	37,500	37,612
<u>Total Contributions</u>	<u>92,947</u>	<u>91,069</u>	<u>88,980</u>

OVERSEAS TRADE PUBLICITY
(Continued)

	1936-37	1937-38	1938-39
<u>Butter Advertising</u>			
<u>Netherlands India.</u>	£A	£A	£A
Australian Dairy Produce Board	-	325	2,020
Commonwealth Government	-	216	1,347
		<u>541</u>	<u>3,367</u>
<u>Hong Kong and Manila.</u>			
Australian Dairy Produce Board	-	-	420
Commonwealth Government	-	-	280
			<u>700</u>

Exhibitions vote.

Before the inauguration of the trade publicity organisation it had been the practice of the Commonwealth Government to allocate £E2,500 per year for exhibition purposes in the United Kingdom. With the establishment of the wider scheme the handling of this fund was made a responsibility of the Director of Trade Publicity.

Experience proved that the £E2,500 vote was inadequate. Australia's competitors were spending far greater amounts and the displays made by Australia suffered in comparison. The Government, therefore, increased the exhibition vote in 1936-37 to £E7,500 per annum. The money allocated for exhibitions in the United Kingdom since the trade publicity organisation came into being, amounts to £E47,500 (£A63,153) in addition to the trade publicity subsidy.

The object of this special grant is to enable Australia to participate in exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom, and one of the mediums regularly used is the British Industries Fair. Special grants have been made for other exhibitions such as the Johannesburg Empire Exhibition, which has just finished, the Paris International Exhibition of Arts and Crafts in Modern Life (1937) and the Glasgow Empire Exhibition (1938).

Control.

The scheme is administered by an honorary committee, which, from the outset, has comprised representatives of the dairying, dried fruits and canned fruits industries, and the Secretary of the Department of Commerce. A representative of the egg industry was admitted to membership of the Committee in 1931 and the apple and pear industry became represented in 1931.

The Overseas Trade Publicity Committee is now composed of the following members:-

- A.F. Bell, Esq., C.M.G. - (Chairman) representing the Commonwealth Dried Fruits Control Board.
- A.W. Wilson, Esq., - Representing the Australian Dairy Produce Board.
- Sir Charles E. Merret - Representing the Australian Canned Fruits Board.
- R.E. Boardman, Esq., - Representing the Apple and Pear Export Council.
- C.W. Sayers, Esq., - Representing egg exporting interests.
- J.F. Murphy, Esq., - Representing the Department of Commerce.

The direct control of activities in the United Kingdom has been continuously in the hands of the present Director of Overseas Trade Publicity (Mr. A.E. Hyland) since the scheme commenced. Mr. Hyland is an officer of the Victorian Government who was loaned for the purpose. His office is located at Australia House, London, but his operations extend throughout the United Kingdom.

Publicity principles.

The system has developed into something more than a mere publicity organisation which publishes its messages on boardings or in newspapers. It has become an extensive trade promotion service which follows up its advertising with personal contact. The organisation accepts the principle that advertising, of itself, cannot achieve the objectives sought. An advertisement to be successful must be backed by availability of supplies. These supplies must be of a boasted quality. Traders must be informed as to the means by which they may secure the advertised commodities. Special occasions suggesting avenues for increasing sales must be exploited by special methods. The goodwill of the wholesaler, the retailer and the consumer must be sought by a variety of methods. All these principles have been incorporated in the system which has been evolved in the past eleven years, and though their practice is not always apparent to the casual observer the activity is nevertheless intense.

Methods.

The sales promotion campaign in the United Kingdom is conducted upon a carefully co-ordinated basis, each medium receiving due weight in the campaign as a whole. The activities of the trade publicity organisation are briefly summarised below:-

- (a) A staff of out-door representatives is maintained who

/travel.....

travel from centre to centre calling on retailers, caterers and hotel keepers to stimulate interest in and to demonstrate quality of Australian goods.

- (b) Such out-door representatives organise window, shop and counter displays and distribute leaflets, window stickers, price tickets and general display material.
- (c) Shopping weeks, exhibitions and Exhibition Shops, accompanied by intense canvassing and advertising campaigns, are organised.
- (d) Tasting demonstrations are staged in large stores where customers are shown methods of preparing Australian products for the table.
- (e) Recipe books, leaflets and window display material are distributed to traders on request.
- (f) Form letters are issued to traders dealing with special aspects of our products.
- (g) Window display competitions among traders are staged.
- (h) Distribution of Australian publicity films and lantern slides, illustrated lectures, distribution of photographs, and addresses to clubs, etc., are extensively invoked.
- (i) Posters advertising our goods are displayed on hoardings, vans, 'buses, and railway stations in a large number of centres.

Note: These activities have been suspended owing to the outbreak of war.

Results.

Australian trade publicity activities are designed for three main purposes -

- (i) To increase sales.
- (ii) To gain the goodwill of retailers.
- (iii) To encourage British customers to patronise retailers who sell Australian goods.

In regard to (i) there has been a tremendous increase in sales of goods covered by the scheme since it came into operation. Obviously all this cannot be ascribed to the operations of the campaign, but there is ample proof that the organisation has played a considerable part in making the increase possible.

/The.....

The following table shows the average annual purchase by Great Britain during the three years 1923-24 to 1925-26 compared with the average annual purchases by Great Britain during the three years 1933-34 to 1935-36 and 1936-37 to 1938-39.

EXPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

	<u>Average of 3 years - 1923-24 to 1925-26.</u>	<u>Average of 3 years - 1933-34 to 1935-36</u>	<u>Average of 3 years - 1936-37 to 1938-39</u>
Butter	89,552,000 lb.	224,769,000 lb.	187,297,000 lb.
Cheese	6,775,000 lb.	12,412,000 lb.	24,617,000 lb.
Eggs	952,000 doz.	19,489,000 doz.	12,561,000 doz.
Canned Fruits.	12,797,000 lb. (a)	49,555,000 lb.	65,712,000 lb.
Sultanas, Currants and Raisins	52,309,000 lb.	80,194,000 lb.	93,345,000 lb.
Apples and Pears (Fresh)	97,707,000 lb.	180,986,000 lb.	189,514,000 lb.

(a) Average of 1924-25 and 1925-26 only. The figures are not available for 1923-24 or earlier years.

So far as (ii) is concerned, it is known that the number of shops selling Australian produce in the United Kingdom has increased from 8,000 in 1926 to 50,000 at present. It is also interesting to note that the following important houses sell our goods as Australian:

Selfridges of London.
Harrods of London.
Sainsburys of London.
Civil Service Stores (3,000 shops)
United Dairies (700 shops)
Scottish Wholesale Co-op. Socy. (318 branches)
International Stores (1,700 shops)
Wholesale Co-op. Socy. (3,314 branches).

That British customers are purchasing more and more Australian goods requires no argument in view of the above facts.

Advertising of Australian meat:-

The Secretary of the Australian Meat Board advises that, up to the present, no regular organised publicity for Australian meats in the United Kingdom has been undertaken by the Board.

However, a survey of conditions and prospects regarding the sale of Australian meats in London and provincial markets has been completed by a special investigator appointed by the Board, and plans for their advertisement throughout the country have been prepared. The putting of these plans into operation has been interrupted by the war.

PHYSICAL FEATURES, PRODUCTION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION

OF THE

CENTRAL TABLELAND STATISTICAL DIVISION NO.6, NEW SOUTH WALES.

(Continued)

In the February issue of the "Monthly Marketing Review", brief mention was made of the early history of the Central Tableland Statistical Division, particulars of its area, population and climate were given, and the pastoral, cereal and lucerne-growing industries were described. In continuation, it is now proposed to deal with additional primary pursuits and other matters.

Noted fruit-growing centres.

The Central Tableland includes some of the most notable fruit-growing districts of New South Wales, and the area under Orchard Fruits (other than citrus) in 1937-38 was 10,979 acres (8,665 acres of productive trees and 2,314 acres not yet bearing), representing approximately one-quarter of the State's total. Pome fruits and stone fruits are extensively cultivated, especially around Bathurst and Orange, the latter district being famed for its cherry orchards. The Statistical Register gives the Division's production of the principal fruits in 1937-38 as:-

Apples	-	368,849	bushels
Pears	-	167,968	"
Peaches	-	25,277	"
Plums	-	56,235	"
Apricots	-	10,443	"
Cherries	-	79,417	"

It is of interest to note that the above production of cherries was over half that for New South Wales, those of plums and pears more than one-third the respective totals for the State, and that of apples between one-quarter and one-third.

In addition, citrus plantings represented 3,526 acres of productive trees, from which 187,698 bushels of oranges, 12,994 bushels lemons and 93,745 bushels of mandarins were harvested. There were also 507 acres not yet bearing. Most of the citrus groves are located in the Colo Shire, on the eastern slopes of the Blue Mountains, and thus closely adjacent to the coastal belt.

The cultivation of grapes is limited, being principally confined to the Mudgee and Orange districts, and in 1937-38 the acreage consisted only of 188 for wine-making, 393 for table use and 18 of young vines, from which 9,550 gallons of wine were made and 532 tons of table fruit were marketed. A small area (45 acres) was devoted to passion-fruit.

/Potato

Potato-growing extensive.

The Central Tableland, with 8,042 acres yielding 17,350 tons of potatoes in the 1937-38 season, is the leading potato-growing division of New South Wales, accounting for more than one-third of the total production. Crookwell and Millthorpe are the chief centres of this industry, but the Lyndhurst, Blaxland and Oberon Shires also contribute fairly considerable quantities of good quality tubers. Many of the growers are engaged in the production of certified seed, much of which is sold to growers in the coastal districts.

From 347 acres of other root crops, 852 tons were harvested.

Prominent in the vegetable industry.

Parts of the Central Tableland Division are eminently suitable for the cultivation of certain vegetables, and are prominent sources from which supplies for the Metropolitan market are drawn; for instance, Bathurst is renowned for cauliflowers and asparagus, Oberon for peas and the Orange-Millthorpe region for peas and other vegetables. Reference to statistics of the industry, compiled in the State Marketing Bureau from information collected by the Government Statistician, shows that in 1937-38 the acreage and production of the chief vegetable crops in respect of areas of one acre and upward, in the subject division, together with those for New South Wales, were:-

	<u>Central Tablelands.</u>		<u>New South Wales.</u>	
	<u>Area</u>	<u>Value of Production.</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Value of Production.</u>
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>£</u>
Market Gardens	342	12,658	7,268	398,217
Peas	7,259	63,632	11,760	124,239
Cauliflowers	547	8,860	792	16,585
Asparagus	383	Not Given	391	Not Given
		<u>Production.</u>		<u>Production.</u>
Tomatoes	462	59,355 $\frac{1}{2}$ -c/s.	2,029	602,975 $\frac{1}{2}$ -c/s.
Pumpkins & Melons	650	2,280 tons	4,738	13,882 tons.
<u>Total Area under Vegetables (Other than potatoes):</u>	<u>10,349</u>		<u>35,105</u>	

It is noteworthy that the total area devoted to vegetables in the State during 1937-38 was approximately 4,000 acres greater than that for 1936-37, and that the Central Tableland accounted for 1,300 acres of this increase.

/An.....

An up-to-date factory at Bathurst specialises in the canning of asparagus, peas and other vegetables.

Famed for Honey.

This richly-endowed Division of highly-diversified production also produces approximately one-quarter of the annual honey yield of New South Wales, and is famed for the fine flavour of its output. The Statistical Register shows that during 1937-38 bee hives were kept on 660 holdings and totalled 22,016 productive and 5,789 unproductive, and that 847,036 lb. honey and 10,626 lb. beeswax were obtained therefrom. This season was an unfavourable one, due to the dry conditions experienced, and the production was considerably below that of 1936-37, when 1,349,554 lb. honey and 21,325 lb. beeswax were produced.

Forestry.

While timber is said to be fairly plentiful over most of the subject division, there are only comparatively small scattered areas of forest, the inroads of settlement having seriously depleted the natural stands. Such forests as remain are, except for two of inland timbers in the Cowra district, principally of the highland species and are mostly situated along the Dividing Range, with isolated sections elsewhere. White and yellow box occur throughout, generally on the better class soils, while on the Dividing Range the typical Blue Mountain timbers predominate, that is, stringybark, peppermint, messmate, black ash, mountain ash, blackbutt, apple and white gum, and red box. Over the remainder of the area, the most common trees, in addition to white and yellow box, are red box, stringybark, apple, peppermint, iron bark, woolly butt, red and white gum and, in the Mudgee and Cowra portions, pine.

Rivers.

The waterways of the Central Tableland may be divided into coastal and inland streams, the former having their sources in the eastern watershed of the Dividing Range and the latter in the western. In the north-eastern portion of the division we find the headwaters of the Goulburn River, which flows east to join the Hunter River, whilst in the central-eastern section the principal rivers are the Macdonald, Colo, Grose and Cox's, with the Nepean and Hawkesbury forming the boundary between the Central Tableland and the County of Cumberland. On the western side of the Dividing Range, the Macquarie River and its tributaries, chiefly the Cudgegong, Turon, Fish, Campbell's and Boll Rivers, water the northern and central sectors and the Lachlan, Abercrombie and Belubula Rivers traverse the southern and south-western areas.

The Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission has constructed on the Lachlan River near Woodstock the Wyangala Dam which has a storage capacity of 303,900 acre feet; the maximum depth of water stored will be 165 feet. This dam was
/built.....

built with the object of providing water for domestic purposes and for stock along the full length of the river, while schemes are being prepared whereby any surplus water may be utilised for the irrigation of fodder crops.

Renowned Tourist Resorts.

The recognised pre-eminence of the tourist resorts of this portion of the State is an additional explanation of its prosperity. The Blue Mountains with their unusual beauty, healthful air and comparative proximity to the city of Sydney, afford an opportunity for a complete change with a minimum of travelling. The construction by the Main Roads Board of superb concrete roads has enabled the motorist to travel to Katuomba and even as far as Bathurst in a few hours. Limestone caves of majestic proportions and ornamented with wonderful dripstone formations are to be found at a number of centres within the Central Tableland, such as Jenolan, Abercrombie, Wellington, etc. Of these, the best known are the Jenolan Caves, situated 36 miles south-east of Mount Victoria, which are considered to rank among the finest limestone caverns in the world and annually attract thousands of visitors from all parts of Australia and from overseas. With tourists who prefer a drier climate than that of the Blue Mountains, Bathurst and Orange are becoming increasingly popular.

Secondary Industries.

With its natural resources of coal, iron ores, clays and minerals and its varied primary production, this division is particularly favoured for the establishment of secondary industries but has been overshadowed in this respect by the coastal manufacturing centres of Sydney, Newcastle and Port Kembla. Nevertheless, some progress has been made and the statistics published in the New South Wales Statistical Register reveal that in 1937-38 there were 286 factories operating, with an average of 3,401 employees, and the value of the goods manufactured and work done was £2,717,000. It is interesting to note that 86 of these factories were in the Industrial Metals class.

(To be Continued)

-----0000000-----

Mr. R.R. Ellen, Assistant Australian Trade Commissioner in Canada, reports that the agreement between the Canadian and British Governments for the purchase of Canadian bacon will be administered in the Dominion by the Federal Bacon Marketing Board. He understands that this Board will purchase all bacon to be exported from Canada and an advisory committee comprising producer and packer representatives will assist the Board. Presumably an important duty will be the supervision of Canadian pig and bacon prices.

-----0000000-----

HOMEBUSH LIVESTOCK MARKETS

Fewer sheep and cattle yarded, but more pigs available.

Light pennings of sheep and lambs.

There was no improvement in the position as regards supplies of sheep and lambs at the Homebush Saleyards during February. Consignments from country districts were again light and the numbers of sheep and lambs available during the month when nine sales were held totalled 213,525, a decline of 15,507 head on the January aggregate. Reference to the yardings for February, 1939, discloses that 249,755 sheep and lambs were received at Homebush, or some 36,000 more than for the corresponding month this year. The continuation of drought conditions in many parts of the State has largely influenced truckings, as good sheep are fairly scarce throughout, while at this time of the year very few lambs are being marketed.

Heavy sheep well represented.

Operators were well catered for in respect of heavy weight sheep as on many occasions this class of mutton represented a fairly large proportion of available supplies. Some drafts were in splendid condition and carried good skins, but quite a few were overfat and thus unsuitable for trade requirements. Light weight sheep of quality were rather scarce but there was quite a good showing of medium trade descriptions; in this class an improvement was apparent towards the end of the month.

Continued shortage of ewes.

The fact that many graziers are retaining ewes for flock purposes resulted in a continued shortage of ewes, particularly good quality lines. Most of those offered were only of plain to medium grades, although on occasions drafts of good trade were to be seen. Outside interests again operated and where lots suitable for restocking purposes were submitted realisations were substantially above those for similar sheep entering the usual trade channels.

Strong market for sheep.

Mainly as the result of the light yardings there was a particularly active demand for all good quality sheep, while the medium to plain descriptions also were in much better request, values throughout being higher than those of the previous month. For the most part the market showed a strong upward trend but towards the end of February irregularities were apparent and values of some of the medium grades weakened. Generally the advance on good sheep was approximately 2/- to 3/- per head and on other grades about 1/- to 2/- each. An indication of market trends is given by listing hereunder some of the actual sales:

/On

On the 1st February a line of good quality wethers weighing approximately 54 lb. sold at 18/6 per head or 2³/₄d per lb. Towards the close of the period 52 lb. wethers realised 23/9 each, costing 3¹/₄d per lb., while at the final sale held in February a consignment of 50 lb. sheep brought 22/6 per head, making the equivalent of 3¹/₂d per lb.

Returns to the producer were consistently good, some lines of wethers selling to 26/- per head and ewes to 20/- each. Generally, however, disposals of the bulk of the better class of wethers were made at from 14/- to 24/- per head, according to weight and skin values. Ewes for the most part realised from 11/- to 17/- each. Medium to plain sheep sold at relatively lower figures.

Owing to the substantial increase in prices during the period rates per lb. for mutton covered a fairly wide range and heavy wethers made from 2¹/₂d to 3¹/₂d per lb., with perhaps the larger proportion costing from 2³/₄d to 3¹/₄d. Light wethers realised to 4d per lb. but mostly sold at from 3d to 3³/₄d per lb. Heavy ewes brought from 2¹/₄d to 3d and light from 2³/₄d to 3¹/₂d per lb. On an average, mutton cost from ¹/₂d to ³/₄d per lb. more than during the previous month.

Very small offering of lambs.

Very few lambs were forwarded to the Homebush Saleyards, the highest quota on any one sale day during February being 16,000 and the lowest 5,000; in all, lambs and suckers comprised only 37% of the total penning. Really good quality lambs were rather scarce and medium lines were predominant. Heavy lambs also were in short supply, light to medium weight descriptions being the most numerous. On a number of occasions, however, drafts of very nice quality suckers were yarded and these contrasted sharply with the other lines of lambs offered.

High prices for lambs.

The limited supplies promoted a very strong demand and prices reached levels considerably above the average of the preceding month. One consignment of exceptionally good lambs brought the very satisfactory figure of 30/- per head, while sales also were made at from 26/- to 28/- each. Average realisations for the better grades of lamb were mostly from 20/- to 25/- per head, with medium quality at relatively lower rates.

Sharp rise in values.

The active interest displayed by operators created a particularly strong market, with a resultant sharp rise in values, all grades of lambs and suckers participating in the improved prices. While it was possible to obtain suckers at from 6¹/₄d to 6³/₄d per lb. early in February, buyers had to pay from 7d to 8d per lb. by the end of the month, which was equivalent to ¹/₂d per lb.

/more

more than the top realisations during January. Some classes of lambs showed a gain of as much as 5/- per head but the average increase on the previous month's figure would be from 3/- to 4/- each. The advance in the prices of summer lambs was equally as great, as these cost from 6d to 6³/₄d at the beginning of February and 6¹/₄d to 7¹/₄d towards the close.

Some of the actual sales are quoted below to illustrate how prices rose:-

Suckers weighing approximately 36 lb., disposed of at the opening sales of the period, realised 23/10 each or 6¹/₂d per lb. Later about mid-February, 34 lb. suckers cost 7d per lb. and sold at 23/8 per head. By the end of the month, 33 lb. suckers made 24/11 each or the equivalent of 7³/₄d per lb.

Mutton dearer than in February, 1939.

Brief reference to prices of both sheep and lambs for the corresponding month in 1939 indicates fairly substantial gains in values during 1940, the increases approximating ¹/₂d to 1d per lb. on suckers, from 1¹/₂d to 1¹/₂d per lb. on old lambs and mostly about ¹/₂d per lb. on sheep.

The return to the producer during February, which one must regard as a month of enhanced prices, should be pleasing and while, owing to the shortage of stock, the cost of mutton and lamb is high, values have not yet reached the peak level recorded last year.

Limited offerings of quality cattle.

Supplies of cattle during February, 1940, were slightly below those of the previous month and aggregated 19,605 head. In February, however, there were nine sale days compared with seven during January and thus average consignments on each sale day during the period under review were considerably smaller. The yardings for the corresponding period of 1939 totalled 25,300 head. Quality, on the whole, was only fair and the proportion of good to prime cattle forward showed a somewhat marked decline. Quite a percentage of the total offering comprised cows from near country centres which were submitted in unusually large numbers on account of the increased market values. Cattle sold in the store sections amounted to 2,727 head, this relatively large number reflecting the unsatisfactory position insofar as fat stock are concerned.

Whilst restocking continued in some areas where dry feed is still ample, reports indicate that in many districts where the season has been more adverse, stock are rapidly losing condition and hand feeding is being resorted to. Unfortunately for the Sydney market, the portions of New South Wales where the most favourable pastoral conditions prevail at present are those from which consignments are usually forwarded to other selling
/centres....

centres. Very dry weather was experienced almost generally throughout the month and widespread rain is urgently required. Only in parts of the extreme north-east quarter of the State were beneficial falls received during February. Under the circumstances a pronounced shortage of prime quality beasts for beef purposes was only to be expected.

Prime bullocks scarce.

Bullocks again were in limited supply, with heavy sorts particularly scarce. For the most part, quality ranged from fair to good trade and usually only odd lots of prime descriptions were to be seen. Demand was very keen and the market showed a further improvement. Early sales were effected at the best rates obtained during the previous month, viz., 35/- to 37/6 for good to prime heavy beasts and 37/- to 39/- per 100 lb. dressed weight for prime light animals. Subsequently prices fluctuated a little but generally were higher and on the second last sale day heavy bullocks brought to 39/- and light to 41/- per 100 lb. Sales during the period included a line of good quality Hereford bullocks, estimated to weigh approximately 750 lb., which realised £14/16/- per head, equivalent to 39/9 per 100 lb.

Steers well supplied.

Steers were comparatively well represented throughout the period and prime sorts made a very fair showing; nevertheless, the greater proportion of the offering could only be classed as good trade, whilst a number was of medium grade. Quality steers were always in request and for the most part values rose progressively, generally being considerably higher than those obtained in January. On the first sale day this class of beef was quoted at 36/- to 41/- per 100 lb. dressed weight for good to prime grade; by the third week of the month prime light sorts were making the equivalent of 46/-. The increase in the rates for heavy descriptions was not so marked.

Medium grade cows plentiful.

Although cows were plentiful, plain to medium types predominated and only occasional lots of quality sorts were available. Lighter weight animals were more numerous than in January. On the first sale day heavy cows realised 30/- to 34/- and light brought 32/- to 35/- per 100 lb. for good to prime grades. In common with those for other classes of beef, rates showed a gradual increase until heavy sold to 36/6 and light to 37/6.

Light heifers in demand.

Heifers made a very fair showing throughout the period and many of the consignments were of prime grade. The animals ranged in size from rather small to heavy (dressing over 700 lb.). Quality lines, especially the lighter weights, always met active
/competition

competition and during the first half of February prices mostly were from 35/- to 41/- per 100 lb., representing an increase on the previous month's rates. During the following sale days supplies generally were lighter and values rose until the best prices for heifers were equal to those for prime light steers, namely 46/- per 100 lb. At this period heavy sorts were selling from 37/-.

Variable offerings of vealers.

While the percentage varied considerably from sale day to sale day, on the whole the offering of vealers was somewhat limited. Prime sorts were sometimes difficult to secure and brought remarkably high prices per head. Values generally were above those of the previous month and on a number of occasions rates for quality lines ranged from 44/- to 49/- per 100 lb., whilst on the final sale day prices advanced to the very high level of 48/- to 54/-.

Cattle market buoyant.

As already indicated, during February cattle values rose considerably, reaching the highest level for some time. The market could be described as an extremely satisfactory one for the producer with prime stock available; unfortunately, the number that benefited to the fullest extent must have been relatively small but it must be remembered that prices of even medium grade beef were comparatively high. Heavier supplies during early March caused some retrogression in rates, especially for medium grades; there is little immediate prospect, however, of any substantial decline in prices of quality beef.

Increased yardings of pigs.

Compared with the previous month yardings of pigs during February, 1940, showed an increase and totalled 4,869 head, which aggregate also exceeded the number penned for the corresponding period of 1939. Arrivals by rail accounted for 2,277 head. It is interesting to note that yard dues were paid to the Metropolitan Meat Industry Commissioner in respect of 5,571 pigs during February, thus indicating that at least some 700 animals were disposed of privately and not by public auction within the area under the Commissioner's jurisdiction, viz., the County of Cumberland. These private sales would include bacon pigs sold to operators at a fixed rate per lb. on the dressed weight of the carcass.

Store pigs plentiful; values of porkers decline.

Porkers, as usual, comprised the bulk of the pennings. A notable feature was the unusually large consignments from country centres of animals in store condition; these met a keen inquiry from store buyers who appear most anxious to raise all the pigs they possibly can to baconer weights, as the prices paid /were.....

were, in some instances, higher than those for finished porkers of equal weight. This demand, however, weakened considerably on the final sale day. The quality of the porkers offered was variable but, on the whole, could be classed as very fair. While comparatively few prime sorts were available, a large proportion of the pennings was of satisfactory grade. The usual percentage of medium quality porkers was noticed throughout. The market for porkers during February was very irregular, values fluctuating to a marked degree on some sale days. Early in the month, prices were very satisfactory and at the opening sale, when the yarding was rather small, prime light porkers brought to 42/6 for animals of 60 lb. dressed weight and heavy realised to 59/6 for 90 lb. With increased offerings available on the following sale day, rates for heavy pork fell to 55/- and remained at that level during the remainder of the period. Values of other lines of pork showed a small but progressive decline, as yardings continued to be rather heavy, and at the final auctions light porkers made to 39/6. On a per lb. basis, prices of good to prime porkers during the month ranged from 7d (90 lb.) to 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d (35 lb.).

Few heavy baconers auctioned.

As was to be expected, consignments of baconers for auction were very limited, although numbers arriving on the final sale day showed an improvement. Most of the animals were of light to medium weight with quality varying from fair to good trade standard. Heavy sorts were very scarce, as it is chiefly this class that is being sold locally to Sydney operators without passing through the saleyards. The market for those offered at auction was steady and values showed little variation. Compared with January quotations, a slight improvement was noticed. Prices of good to prime descriptions, dressing from 100 lb. to 150 lb., ranged from 62/6 to 84/6 per head, equivalent to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. Rates paid for pigs sold over the scale are understood to have been unchanged at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. for animals dressing up to 170 lb.

Backfatters in demand.

Backfatters were well represented and were mostly of medium to good quality. Quite a number of prime sorts was submitted, whilst generally a small percentage of plain pigs was present. Medium weights predominated and only a few heavy descriptions were noticed. The market for backfatters was an excellent one and returns to producers must have been very satisfactory. On the first sale day prices rose by 10/- to 15/- per head and prime light classes realised to 6d per lb. dressed weight. A further increase was apparent at the following auctions; for the remainder of the month values remained practically unaltered, good to prime grade bringing from 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. for weights between 200 lb. and 350 lb. and 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d to 6d per lb. for animals exceeding 350 lb.

/Market

Market values satisfactory.

As a whole, the pig market during February was a satisfactory one from the producer's viewpoint. Although values of porkers declined, they were above those ruling on a number of occasions during 1939. Returns from backfatters were very good, whilst bacon prices were better than those received during the corresponding period of last year. At the sales held early in March, a steady request prevailed for baconers and backfatters but lower rates have ruled for porkers; the continued hot weather has resulted in a weaker demand for the last named class of meat.

G.C. & J.W.

-----oooOooo-----

CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES.

There was a much larger quantity of fruit on the Sydney market during February than was evident during the previous month. Conditions generally being favourable, a normal volume of business was transacted and realisations for good quality lines were, on the whole, very satisfactory.

Owing to the continued hot dry weather in most of the producing areas of New South Wales supplies of vegetables from these sources were relatively small. This, however, was offset to some extent by the more or less regular arrival of beans from Queensland and beans, peas and cabbages from Victoria, where the season has been more favourable. While prices of most kinds of vegetables were much above the average, they did not reach the high levels attained during the corresponding period of 1939 when a severe drought, accompanied by periodical heat waves, was experienced throughout the eastern States of Australia.

Apples more plentiful - good demand for choice lines.

In addition to steadily increasing supplies of apples from New South Wales districts, Tasmanian shipments increased from 976 cases at the beginning of the month to 9,533 cases during the third week; moderate consignments were received from Queensland also. There was a good demand for selected sizes of quality fruit and, after a fall in prices at the commencement of February, values were fairly evenly maintained until the final week. In the closing period, the Tasmanian shipment was more than doubled (21,337 cases being received) and was augmented by increased offerings from local sources, which resulted in a downward movement in rates. With these heavier stocks available sales of small fruit (that is, sizes $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches and under) were rather difficult to effect. The most prominent Tasmanian varieties

/were.....

were Gravenstein, Worcester Pearmain, Alexander, Duke of Clarence and Alfriston, while the New South Wales offerings consisted principally of Granny Smith, Gravenstein, McIntosh Reds and Jonathan.

There was considerable speculation among all sections of the trade as to the probable effect the Commonwealth Acquisition Act would have on the market generally when it came into operation on March 1st. At the end of February there was a definite demand for good quality lines, and, providing the market was not overstocked, prospects for satisfactory realisations were good.

Prices of pears fluctuate with varying supplies.

With increased arrivals of Williams pears from most of the main producing areas of New South Wales during the first fortnight of February, supplemented by consignments from Victoria, a steady downward trend in prices was evident and small fruit became difficult to sell. During the latter half of the month, much smaller quantities were on offer and stocks cleared readily at enhanced rates, closing quotations being from 5/- to 11/- per case, with odd sales higher. While Williams were plentiful, Howells and Packhams Triumph, which were available throughout the month, were more or less neglected by buyers. When supplies of Williams decreased, however, these other varieties, particularly the Packhams Triumph, came more into favour and commanded higher prices.

Ready sale for choice peaches.

Peaches were more plentiful at the beginning of the month, heavier consignments being received from Victoria and inland districts of New South Wales, particularly the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, in addition to supplies from nearer centres. Consequently values were lower, especially those of yellow-fleshed varieties. Later, the end of the season having been reached in the County of Cumberland, and smaller quantities coming forward from other sources, stocks were only light to moderate and vendors had little difficulty in disposing of choice fruit at improved rates.

Satisfactory realisations for quality nectarines.

Supplies of nectarines varied from light at the beginning to fairly heavy towards the end of the month. There was a good demand for choice large fruit throughout and realisations were very satisfactory, up to 12/- per half-case, with extra choice higher, being recorded. Small and inferior descriptions were slow of sale, particularly when stocks were most plentiful.

/Valencia

Valencia oranges scarce.

Only limited quantities of main crop Valencia oranges were available and prices ranging to 24/- per case with odd special quality descriptions higher, were realised. Second crop fruit also was only moderately stocked for the most part and the best lines were disposed of at firmer rates.

Variable market for lemons.

At the beginning of the month, with only light stocks on offer, choice lemons continued to sell at high prices but later, owing to a weaker demand and an increased supply, much of which lacked colour and quality, vendors were obliged to accept lower rates. From the middle of February onwards only light to moderate quantities were available and coloured lines (preferably "cured") were in request so that sales were made at enhanced levels, closing quotations ranging from 8/- to 20/- per case. Towards the end of the month small consignments of very good quality fruit were received from Queensland and realised from 20/- to 24/- per case.

Bananas heavily supplied.

Early in the month exceptionally heavy receivals of bananas from North Coast districts were augmented by consignments from Queensland and quotes for choice lines were reduced to clear stocks, while ripe fruit had to be disposed of at low rates. The extremely hot weather which prevailed in the producing areas caused a considerable amount of damage to crops; consequently arrivals on the Sydney market during the latter half of February were smaller than anticipated and vendors were able to increase the selling price and still maintain a sufficient volume of sales to prevent an accumulation of stocks.

Firmer rates for pineapples at close of month.

There was an improvement in the quotations for pineapples at the beginning of the period but during the following fortnight rather large quantities arrived from Queensland and a downward trend in values was apparent. Towards the close, however, supplies were much lighter and sales were more readily effected at higher levels.

Values of choice passion fruit well maintained.

As only light to moderate stocks of passion-fruit were on offer throughout the month, values of choice quality descriptions were well maintained, realisations up to 15/- per half-case being recorded.

Grapes plentiful.

Grapes were fairly plentiful, both Black and White Muscatels being available as well as other varieties, and

/consignments

consignments were received from inland centres, notably the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, in addition to supplies from nearer districts. Muscatels were popular with buyers and best lines realised very satisfactory prices. Owing to the dry weather, most of the grapes this season have been rather small in size but of excellent flavour.

Consignments of beans from Victoria supplement local offerings.

Moderate stocks of beans were available during the first week and quality lots, which constituted only a small proportion of the offerings, were in request at rates ranging to 12/- per bushel, with odd sales to 14/-. The following week heavy consignments were received from Victoria to supplement local supplies, and this resulted in a sharp fall in prices and had a temporary adverse effect on the values of other green vegetables, such as peas and cabbages. During the remainder of the month, receivals from Victoria were not so large so that a good demand prevailed for choice lots at slightly firmer rates.

Light to medium stocks of peas.

For the most part the supplies of peas, including small quantities from Victoria, were only light to medium. Owing to the hot dry weather experienced over most of the producing areas the general quality was rather poor. Values received a temporary set-back in the second week, when exceptionally heavy arrivals of Victorian beans adversely affected the market for green vegetables, but from then onwards prices showed a steady improvement. At the close of the period choice lots were selling readily, some disposals to 14/- per bushel being reported.

Quality of tomatoes affected by hot weather.

The bulk of the tomatoes on offer showed the effects of the heat and choice lines constituted only a comparatively small proportion of the available stocks, which included receivals from New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. There was a steady inquiry throughout for good quality descriptions but lower grades met a limited demand and were offered at low prices to facilitate clearances. Up to about the end of the third week there was a steady upward trend in the values of choice lots but towards the end of the month local stocks were augmented to such an extent by heavy consignments from both Queensland and Victoria that supplies were in excess of requirements. There was still a steady demand for choice lines but at reduced rates, while poor to medium quality tomatoes were difficult to sell even at low prices.

Steady inquiry for cabbages.

Cabbages were only moderately stocked and choice quality "heads" met a steady inquiry. Prices fluctuated slightly but nevertheless were very satisfactory and generally showed an upward movement.

AND AT

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD.

Local potatoes in lighter supply.

During February, only 3,511 bags of potatoes were railed to Alexandria Railway Goods Yard from New South Wales centres, mainly the Dorrigo and Raleigh districts. It was found that a large proportion of the New Grade lines required reconditioning. A noticeable feature was the firm inquiry for Seed and No.2 Grade lots which, as a general rule, brought higher prices than the New Grade. Realisations mostly were slightly below the previous month's levels, although some sales were recorded at higher rates than those ruling during the closing period of January. Prices obtained by auction were:- New Grade £6.10.0 to £11.0.0, No.2 Grade £5.15.0 to £10.3.4, Seed Grade £7.0.0 to £11.6.8, Second Growth Grade £4.0.0, Stock Food £4.0.0 to £4.5.0 per ton, No.2 Grade 5/- to 7/3, Stock Food 2/9, Chat Grade 7/3 to 8/9 per bag. The majority of the 165 bags of Northern Rivers new tubers shipped to Sussex Street was of fairly satisfactory quality, although a portion had to be regraded and reconditioned, and deliveries were taken at from £7.0.0 to £7.10.0 per ton. It is of interest to note that reports from the main producing areas of New South Wales indicate that unfavourable seasonal conditions are adversely affecting the development of the potato crops, particularly the early plantings.

Arrivals of potatoes in Sussex Street from other States comprised the larger offering of 83,233 bags from Tasmania and only 200 bags from Western Australia. The Western Australian stock of Delawares was mainly of only fair quality and for the most part sold quietly at from £6.0.0 to £7.0.0 per ton. The Tasmanian shipments included both the Brownell and Bismarck varieties. In the initial trading period rates remained the same as those prevailing at the close of January. On the receipt of lighter consignments in the second week of February the market price for both Brownells and Bismarcks rose £1.10.0 per ton. Approximately 24,500 bags were available in the third week and sales were effected at from £1.10.0 to £2.0.0 per ton under the previous quotations. The market closed firmer and final rates were £1.0.0 per ton higher than those of the preceding week. For the month prices ranged as follow:- Brownells £8.0.0 to £10.0.0, Bismarcks £8.0.0 to £9.10.0 per ton.

Steady request for good to prime onions.

Shipments of onions to Sussex Street during February comprised the following quantities:- From Victoria - 210 tons and 11,670 bags of brown and white lines; from South Australia - 1,025 bags and 349 cases of white. The South Australian white supply was in good demand throughout owing to the moderate size and the good quality of the onions, and cleared steadily at the mostly unaltered rates of from £8.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton. The general quality and size of the Victorian offerings were mixed and consequently some lines, especially those of larger size, were difficult to sell even
/at

at reduced rates; the principal request was for medium-sized good to prime lots. Private sales of good lines were made at the following prices:- Brown - Table £4.0.0 to £5.10.0, Pickling £11.0.0 to £14.0.0; White - Table £6.0.0 to £7.0.0, Pickling £11.0.0 per ton.

At Alexandria Railway Goods Yard the offering consisted of 809 bags from New South Wales districts and 374 bags railed from Victoria. The local stock met a fairly satisfactory inquiry at the following prices:- Brown - Table £3.0.0 to £5.10.0, Pickling £6.15.0; White - Table £8.0.0 to £9.0.0, Pickling £10.0.0 per ton. Victorian brown onions were in steady demand at £4.11.8 to £5.0.0 per ton.

Smaller stocks of pumpkins.

Arrivals of Queensland pumpkins on the Sydney market during February were lighter than those of the previous month. A fair inquiry prevailed for the 6,570 bags to hand in Sussex Street and reports indicated satisfactory disposals at prices ranging from £7.10.0 to £10.0.0 per ton. Only 14 trucks were railed to Alexandria and, after a fairly quiet market early in the month, when realisations were from £7.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton, deliveries improved and the price rose to £10.0.0, later declining to £8.0.0 per ton. Although prices fluctuated, the demand as a whole was good and ready sales were effected.

From New South Wales centres, 1,160 bags were shipped to Sussex Street and 18 trucks were forwarded to Alexandria. Although this stock was larger than the previous month's, it did not quite offset the smaller supplies from Queensland. The request for local produce was similar to that for Queensland pumpkins and disposals took place at the following levels:- At Alexandria - £5.5.0 to £10.0.0; In Sussex Street - £6.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton.

Increased arrivals of Tasmanian vegetables.

Heavier consignments of Tasmanian swedes, carrots and parsnips were received in Sussex Street during February. The 3,236 bags of swedes were slightly in excess of the previous month's stocks and deliveries were good at from £5.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton. Rates for the 576 bags of Tasmanian carrots ranged from £14.0.0 to £15.0.0 per ton. As only 107 bags of Tasmanian parsnips were available, a fixed market price was not set and disposals were effected by private treaty at £13.0.0 per ton.

The first of the new season's crop of Tasmanian blue peas came to hand in Sussex Street this month. The rate for the opening period was fixed at 17/- but subsequently heavier supplies necessitated a reduction to 14/6 per bushel, at which level good clearances took place. The grey variety met only a steady request at from 9/6 to 11/- per bushel.

/Firmer

Firmer inquiry for local chaff.

Consignments of chaff to the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard aggregated 275 trucks of oaten, 35 trucks of wheaten and 100 trucks of lucerne. Although these quantities of oaten and wheaten chaff represented increased supplies, market rates were slightly higher than those ruling during January. The oaten included some extra prime lots, which cleared early at from £5.5.0 to £5.10.0, whilst the remainder sold fairly steadily at from £3.15.0 for medium to £5.0.0 per ton for good quality lines. Wheaten chaff brought from £3.10.0 for medium to £5.10.0 per ton for prime green. The demand for lucerne chaff was principally for good to prime green leafy lines which sold exceptionally well at late rates, ruling values being:- Medium £4.10.0 to £5.5.0, with odd sales to £5.10.0, Good £6.0.0 to £6.10.0, and Prime £6.15.0 to £7.0.0, with some lots of extra prime chaff bringing to £7.5.0 per ton.

Prime lucerne hay in demand.

No prices were disclosed for the 108 bales of Hunter River dry lucerne hay shipped to Sussex Street and cleared by private treaty. Consignments of lucerne hay to Alexandria comprised 36 trucks from Maitland and 99 trucks from other centres. The Maitland stocks were mainly of the dry description, which sold well at from £4.10.0 to £6.0.0 per ton; the limited offering of new green met an excellent inquiry at from £6.0.0 to £6.10.0 per ton. Supplies from other districts were of very mixed quality and, for the most part, were in only fairly steady request, except in the case of prime leafy lots, which cleared readily at slightly higher rates than those obtained during January. Sales were effected at the following prices:- Derrick pressed £5.0.0 to £5.15.0, Other - Medium £4.5.0 to £5.5.0, some lots to £5.10.0, Good £5.15.0 to £6.10.0, Prime £6.15.0 to £7.0.0, Extra Prime £7.5.0 to £7.10.0 per ton.

Only 48 bales of Victorian special oaten hay came to hand in Sussex Street and these were quoted at the unaltered rate of £8.0.0 per ton. Of the 49 trucks of local oaten hay received at Alexandria only limited quantities were submitted for sale, realisations being:- Derrick-pressed £3.17.6, Other £3.10.0 to £5.5.0 per ton.

The 1,489 bales of Tasmanian straw shipped to Sussex Street constituted a heavier stock than that during January but, nevertheless, prices were maintained, being from £5.0.0 to £5.10.0 per ton. Quiet private disposals were reported in respect of the 89 trucks of local straw railed to Alexandria, rates ranging from £2.10.0 for medium short lots to £4.5.0 per ton for prime long lines.

/Marked....

Marked decline in wheat supplies.

Only 19 trucks of wheat came to hand at Alexandria this month, compared with January's offering of 96 trucks. Sales for this stock at rail were reported at the following rates:- By auction $2/9$ to $3/11\frac{1}{2}$, by private treaty $4/2$ to $4/3$ per bushel.

The following quantities of maize were received on the Sydney market:- At Alexandria, Queensland 806 bags, Local 1,068 bags; In Sussex Street, Northern Rivers 390 bags, Illawarra 550 bags. Although a fairly steady inquiry prevailed for the Queensland offering, rates declined sharply as the month progressed, earlier disposals taking place at $5/3$ per bushel, while later realisations were at $4/6$. Similarly, the local stocks at rail brought from $4/9$ to $5/8$ per bushel. In Sussex Street, deliveries were taken at from $4/6$ to $5/6$ for Northern River yellow, from $5/-$ to $5/6$ for Illawarra yellow and at $5/-$ per bushel for the limited supply of Illawarra white grain on hand.

Portion only of the 55 trucks of oats railed to Alexandria was available to the trade and this sold at $1/7$ to $2/1$ per bushel by auction, and $2/6$ to $2/7$ by private treaty.

E.A.G.

-----oooOooo-----

SOUTH AFRICAN DECIDUOUS FRUIT REGULATORY SCHEME.

According to a report published in "Foreign Crops and Markets" of December 16th, 1939, the South African Government is to assist the deciduous fruit industry during the 1939/40 season (November to June) under the abovementioned scheme, which represents an attempt to relieve the serious position expected to result from the loss of the major portion of the export market owing to the war.

The aims of the scheme are said to be:-

- (a) Provision of financial assistance for the harvesting of the crop.
- (b) Diversion of as much as possible of the normal export crop into processing such as drying, canning, jam making and wine making.

Under the legislation, a total of £450,000 will be available for loans to the industry. About £300,000 will be used to finance the 1939 harvest and to prevent deterioration of commercial orchards.

The diversion of export fruit is beset with a number of difficult problems. Accordingly, £150,000 is to be made available to enable the central organisation of the industry, the Deciduous Fruit Board, to undertake the actual diversion, processing and handling of the products.

-----oooOooo-----

WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN
SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING FEBRUARY, 1940.

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 February, 1940:-

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Wheat:		
Bulk 3/9 ¹ / ₂ d per bushel) no variation.	
Bagged 4/0 ¹ / ₂ d " ")		
Flour	£10.2.1 (plus £2.5.5 tax)	£10.17.9 per ton (plus £1.12.3 tax)
(Note: The highest aggregate of £12.12.6 per ton occurred when flour was £10.15.11 and tax £1.16.7 on 13th and 14th February)		
Bran	£4.5.0	£5.10.0 per ton
Pollard	£4.5.0	£5.10.0 " "
Eggs (Hen)	1/4	1/7 per dozen
Butter:		
Choice 161/2 per cwt.)) No variation.	
First Quality 156/6 " ")		
Second Quality 151/10 " ")		
Cheese:		
Loaf 11d per lb.)) no variation	
Large 10 ¹ / ₂ d " ")		
Special brands 1/- to 1/1 " ")		
Pigs (Abattoir sales):		
Prime extra light porkers	27/6	37/6 per head
" light porkers	33/6	42/6 " "
" med.wgt. "	38/6	53/6 " "
" heavy "	49/6	59/6 " "
" baconers	62/6	84/6 " "
Backfatters	£4.15.0	£9.0.0 " "

-----oooOooo-----

RETURN OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IMPORTED INTO NEW SOUTH WALES
BY LAND AND SEA - JANUARY, 1940.

F R U I T.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases.	Bananas tropical cases.	Other Fruit cases	Melons crates	Tomatoes half-bushel cases.	TOTALS packages.
Queensland	22,517	9,975	30,390	3,202 ^x	11,783	77,867
Victoria	4	119	40,514	-	1,245	41,882
Tasmania	-	-	3,463	-	-	3,463
Sth. Aust.	-	-	4,179	-	-	4,179
West Aust.	-	-	266	-	-	266
TOTALS	22,521	10,094	78,812	3,202	13,028	127,657

x Also 8 tons loose melons by rail.

V E G E T A B L E S.

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins		Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkges.	TOTALS	
				bags	tons			pkges.	tons
Queensland	134	1,344	-	26,061	397 $\frac{1}{4}$	449	4,778	32,766	397 $\frac{1}{4}$
Victoria	6,412	21,894	-	-	-	-	1,209	29,515	-
Tasmania	56,023	-	3,271	-	-	-	214	59,508	-
Sth. Aust.	1,445	2,992	-	-	-	-	3,599	8,036	-
West Aust.	4,895	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,895	-
TOTALS	68,909	26,230	3,271	26,061	397 $\frac{1}{4}$	449	9,800	134,720	397 $\frac{1}{4}$

NEW SOUTH WALES - RAINFALL - 1939

AND A COMPARISON WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF PREVIOUS YEARS.

84

STATISTICAL DIVISIONS	JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		YEAR 1939	
	NORMAL MEAN	ACTUAL MEAN	NORMAL MEAN	ACTUAL MEAN	NORMAL MEAN	ACTUAL MEAN	NORMAL MEAN	ACTUAL MEAN	NORMAL MEAN	ACTUAL MEAN	NORMAL MEAN	ACTUAL MEAN	NORMAL MEAN	ACTUAL MEAN	NORMAL MEAN	ACTUAL MEAN	NORMAL MEAN	ACTUAL MEAN	NORMAL MEAN	ACTUAL MEAN	NORMAL MEAN	ACTUAL MEAN	NORMAL MEAN	ACTUAL MEAN	NORMAL MEAN	ACTUAL MEAN
NORTH COAST	657	541	689	82	732	1853	608	548	533	295	373	158	380	176	243	223	296	202	309	750	388	320	487	306	5722	5565
HUNTER MANNING	377	396	413	4	425	1108	421	337	356	172	342	65	361	153	242	218	281	293	254	365	282	180	387	96	4143	3362
METROPOLITAN	342	290	321	11	372	969	404	424	340	184	291	48	353	79	207	203	227	165	237	215	249	229	315	41	3656	2726
SOUTH COAST	402	335	371	61	415	779	383	522	363	153	368	75	365	132	240	394	257	186	268	265	255	274	344	67	4030	3237
NORTHERN TABLELAND	416	474	330	67	314	581	205	252	182	41	246	285	219	149	183	212	212	62	274	211	315	287	378	412	3273	3038
CENTRAL TABLELAND	309	283	276	82	293	449	248	387	224	118	291	187	273	112	246	408	232	140	249	343	254	344	300	98	3188	2926
SOUTHERN TABLELAND	353	189	210	186	226	511	187	436	205	92	264	243	230	99	218	531	229	101	250	285	212	250	251	86	2734	2955
NORTH WESTERN SLOPE	295	298	241	42	235	394	168	199	160	35	214	196	194	126	169	219	176	31	220	173	245	163	291	140	2609	2019
CENTRAL WESTERN SLOPE	220	165	187	117	196	291	176	356	167	69	223	175	198	98	182	350	172	32	183	219	188	294	229	63	2320	2223
SOUTH WESTERN SLOPE	192	30	153	361	197	552	191	381	208	98	316	441	260	141	255	615	222	123	186	281	181	416	204	62	2613	3564
NORTH CENTRAL PLAIN	241	321	216	32	200	499	135	209	154	109	188	168	158	166	120	281	125	41	150	107	194	80	231	94	2113	2126
CENTRAL PLAIN	171	126	152	291	150	387	146	236	135	58	179	161	146	94	134	325	122	27	133	145	141	212	179	41	1788	2005
RIVERINA	121	13	109	350	123	497	123	457	146	88	205	286	157	106	163	377	143	107	156	248	117	271	128	12	1690	2847
WESTERN (UPPER)	135	179	132	202	114	332	83	196	99	95	118	155	83	126	72	182	73	12	92	86	110	138	140	17	1251	1728
WESTERN (LOWER)	94	21	92	331	87	328	81	197	112	146	132	156	95	66	106	172	97	58	105	135	91	223	110	1	1203	1857

NOTES. - Data extracted from monthly and yearly reports of Sydney Weather Bureau.

Figures under heading "Normal Mean" (thus 657) show the Weather Bureau's latest available announcements of averages, at date of posting the above schedule, of monthly averages of rainfall registrations recorded in the Weather Bureau. These averages (i.e. those posted above under "Normal Mean") represent the Weather Bureau's recorded average rainfall experience in each division over varying, but lengthy periods of years.

Figures under heading "Actual Mean" (thus 541) show the mean of total recorded rainfall at selected centres in the particular division and in the specified month of 1939.

Compiled. J.W., 28-2-40

Checked. C.K., 28-2-40

R.40-1.

A. A. WATSON,
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING,
28th Feb. 1940.