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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

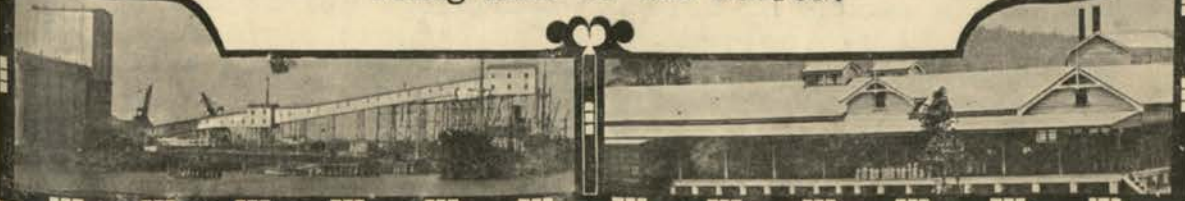
APRIL, 1940.

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MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

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

Released during the second week of each month.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

The Minister for Commerce announces that the United Kingdom will purchase 24,500 tons of the forthcoming Australian dried vine fruits crop, the respective quantities being 8,000 tons of currants, 15,000 tons of sultanas, and 1,500 tons of lexias.

Packing of Australian Salmon taken in New South Wales waters 'progresses apace'. In 1939 approximately 2,000,000 tins (mostly 1 lb.) were canned at Narooma, N.S.W. This year's estimated pack, 10,000,000 tins.

British Food Ministry has agreed to purchase 500,000 tons raw sugar from 1940/41 Queensland crop, to be allocated as follows:- 300,000 tons to United Kingdom, 120,000 tons to Canada and remainder to New Zealand.

Commonwealth Government decides to pay an additional advance of 1/- per bushel on apples and pears delivered to the Apple and Pear Board's agents, making total advances on such fruit 3/- for apples and 4/- for pears.

Reports state that Australian Meat Board has arranged for the supply to the British Government of 180,000 to 200,000 cases of 12 oz. tins (a maximum total of 9,600,000 tins, or 3,214 tons) of corned beef and 200,000 cases of 6 lb. tins (representing 1,200,000 tins or 3,214 tons)

United States woolgrowers decide to impose a voluntary levy on wool to promote sales in America. It is said that the levy will yield £20,000 sterling a year. Growers in Australia, South Africa and New Zealand have co-operated in publicity and research through the International Wool Secretariat since 1st July, 1937.

MARKETING LEGISLATION AND SCHEMES,PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,CANADA.

In the March, 1938, issue of the "Monthly Marketing Review" mention was made of the Ontario Farm Products Control Act and of marketing schemes in operation or proposed thereunder. Since then Mr. G.F. Perkin, Secretary, Ontario Farm Products Control Board, Toronto, has courteously supplied the Director of Marketing with complete particulars of marketing legislation in that Province and informed him of developments up to 1st December, 1939. The following is an outline of the principal features of the Ontario Act and schemes:-

Ontario Farm Products Control Act;

This Act, passed in 1937, was amended in 1938 in order to clarify certain clauses without taking in any new lines of policy. The administrative head is the Minister for Agriculture.

Provision is made for the establishment of a corporate body known as The Farm Products Control Board, consisting of three members, appointed by and holding office during the pleasure of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. Costs of administration are to be paid out of moneys appropriated by the Legislature.

Authority of The Farm Products Control Board:

It is of interest to note that this Board has authority to:-

- (a) Adjust or otherwise settle any dispute between producers, processors, distributors or transporters of farm products or between any two of such classes of persons.
- (b) Investigate the cost of producing, processing, distributing and transporting any farm product, prices, price-spreads, trade practices, methods of financing, management, grading, policies and other matters relating to the marketing of farm products.
- (c) Do such acts and make such orders and directions as are necessary to enforce the due observance and carrying out of the provisions of the Act, the regulations and any scheme or plan declared to be in force under the Act.
- (d) Establish local Boards for the purpose of carrying out any scheme or plan declared to be in force under the Act.
- (e) Establish price negotiating agencies in connection with any scheme and adopt or determine fair or minimum prices for any regulated product.
- (f) Grant exemptions from any scheme, order or direction of /the.....

the Board.

- (g) Require persons engaged in the producing or marketing of a regulated product to register, and to furnish information regarding such products.
- (h) Require any person engaged in the marketing of a regulated product to furnish security or proof of financial responsibility.

Power of Board to make regulations:

Under Section 4 (1) of the Act, the Board is empowered, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, to make regulations for various specified purposes. Sub-Section (a), which reads:- "Regulating and controlling the marketing of farm products, including the agency through which such products may be marketed, within Ontario", is of special importance and the limitation "within Ontario" should be noted, as indicative of the necessity for Provincial Marketing Legislation being restricted to control within the Province.

Establishment of Marketing Schemes or Plans:

The Act provides that any group of persons engaged in the marketing of any farm product may present a petition to the Board asking that a scheme or plan be adopted, and the Board may, if of the opinion that such group of persons is fairly representative of the persons engaged in the phase of marketing represented by such group, recommend the adoption of such scheme or plan to the Minister.

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council, upon the recommendation of the Minister, may approve any such scheme or plan or any part thereof with such variations or alterations as may be deemed necessary, and may by Order-in-Council declare such scheme or plan to be in force in Ontario or in any part thereof.

To finance a declared scheme or plan the Board may impose direct charges or tolls in respect of the marketing of the whole or any part of the farm product concerned, payable by such persons engaged in the production or marketing of the product as the Board may determine.

Marketing Schemes in operation:

At 1st December, 1939, the under-mentioned marketing schemes were operating under the provisions of the Ontario Farm Products Control Act:-

<u>Scheme.</u>	<u>Date put into operation.</u>
The Cheese Producers' Marketing Scheme	1st June, 1937, (Amended 30th June, 1938)
The Ontario Peach Growers' Marketing for Processing Scheme	15th July, 1937. (Amended 13th July, 1938) /The....

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Date put into operation</u>
The Ontario Asparagus Growers' Marketing for Processing Scheme.	26th March, 1938.
The Ontario Pear, Plum and Cherry Growers' Marketing for Processing Scheme.	16th June, 1938.
The Erie-St. Clair Onion Growers' Marketing Scheme.	8th September, 1939.

The Cheese Marketing Scheme requires, subject to certain exemptions, the original sale of all cheddar cheese in Ontario to be made on local cheese boards under uniform rules and regulations. The Peach, Asparagus, and Pear, Plum and Cherry Schemes, as their titles indicate, are collective bargaining arrangements covering the specified products produced in Ontario and sold to processors.

The Erie-St. Clair Onion Growers' Marketing Scheme covers the chief varieties of yellow cooking onions and applies to the Counties of Essex and Kent, where approximately 75% of the Ontario onion crop is produced. The scheme provides for the central sale of onions through only designated dealers and for the fixation of minimum prices from time to time at the point of first sale. Also, it is stipulated that a poll of growers, to determine whether the scheme shall continue or terminate, shall be taken before 20th May, 1940.

Schemes proposed but not put into operation.

Orders-in-Council were issued in regard to two other Schemes, viz.:-

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 15th July, 1937 | - | The Holland Marsh Vegetable Growers' Marketing Scheme, and |
| do. | - | The South Essex Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Marketing Scheme. |

Due to various factors, some of which were not directly connected with the schemes or their aims and objects, these were subsequently rescinded without having functioned.

Tobacco Marketing Schemes.

Tobacco is an important crop of the province of Ontario, the average production of flue-cured tobacco being approximately 70 million pounds annually and for burley tobacco 10 million pounds annually. Marketing Schemes, one for flue-cured and one for burley tobacco, were originally approved under the Natural Products Act of the Dominion of Canada in 1934, but had only operated for one year when that Act was disallowed by the Privy Council. Since 1935, these schemes have operated on a voluntary basis. Mr. Perkin stated

/that

that the success of the voluntary arrangement has been due to the limited number of buyers in the field (not more than six), who have agreed to buy only from members of either the Flue-cured or Burley Tobacco Growers' Marketing Associations. Membership in these Associations is open to all growers subject to certain conditions.

Milk Control Act.

Mr. Perkin intimated that the regulation of milk marketing by statute preceded any other form of agricultural marketing control in Ontario. Under The Milk Control Act, passed in 1934, and amended in 1935, the Ontario Milk Control Board administers fluid milk marketing in upwards of fifty municipal centres and also the marketing of milk to condensories, powdered milk plants, etc.

A further development in 1938 was the enactment by the Ontario Legislature of a statute requiring that, after 1st October, 1938, all whole milk and cream in the Province must be pasteurised before being offered for sale.

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FRUIT PURCHASED BY NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS, 1939.

The following schedule shows the quantities and values of the different kinds of fruit bought by the New South Wales Railway Department during the year 1939.

	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Value</u>
Apples	14,385	£6,799
Apricots	268	87
Bananas	3,707	3,629
Chorries	1,433	479
Grapes	3,015	973
Grape fruit	194	249
Lemons	670	359
Mandarins	934	386
Oranges, Valencia	4,754	2,710
" , Navel	15,291	6,967
Passionfruit	212	104
Peaches	1,146	448
Pears	1,909	988
Pines	661	336
Plums	898	251
Nectarines	329	144
Various	453	250
	50,259	£25,159
Almonds and Raisins		
Large packets	10,008	£188
Small packets	10,184	85
Prune Sweets, cartons	15,889	478
		<u>751</u>
Total Value:		£25,910

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PHYSICAL FEATURES, PRODUCTION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE
CENTRAL TABLELAND STATISTICAL DIVISION NO. 6, NEW SOUTH WALES.

(CONCLUDED)

In continuation of the articles published in the February and March, 1940, issues, dealing with the Central Tableland Statistical Division, consideration is now given to mining activities, to transport facilities and to the average annual production.

Goldmining.

Reference has already been made in this survey to the discovery of payable gold by Edward Hargreaves near Orange in 1851, and to its important bearing on the history of Australia generally and of the Central Tableland in particular. Up to 1874, gold accounted for £30,536,247 of the New South Wales total mineral production of £39,220,473, and in that year £1,041,614 worth was won. Production declined generally until 1888, but from 1889 an upward tendency was apparent until 1894 and output was then maintained at a fairly steady level for a number of years. From 1907 the yield declined persistently, reaching a record low level in 1929.

Assistance to the industry in various forms, coupled with the high price of the metal on the London market, has stimulated production to a certain extent of recent years, so that the output for New South Wales has increased from 7,496 ozs. fine in 1929 to 88,708 ozs. fine in 1938.

The Central Tableland still plays a prominent part in this State's gold-mining activities, being surpassed only by the Western Division, and the value of the gold obtained therefrom was shown in the Mining Department's Annual Report for 1938 as:-

Bathurst Mining District	-	£16,417
Mudgee "	-	131,350
Tambaroora and Turon " s	-	16,077
		<u>£163,844</u>

It was at Hill End, near Tambaroora, that the famous Holtermann nugget weighing 630 lbs. was taken in 1872, and up to the end of 1927 the total value of gold won from the Hill End Mining Division was given as £2,610,755.

Coal and Iron.

What is known as the Western Coalfield of New South Wales extends in a north-westerly direction from Wentworth Falls (on the Blue Mountains) to Lue (near Mudgee) and Talbragar (in the Dubbo district), and thus the bulk of it lies within the Central Tableland
/division

division. The working collieries, about 30 in number, are situated in proximity to the Sydney-Mudgee railway line, and mainly in the Lithgow and Kandos region. Western coal has been described as essentially a steam coal, containing a somewhat higher percentage of ash than the product of the Northern and Southern Coalfields. Figures published by the Department of Mines show that in 1938 the quantity of coal won in the Western District was 1,445,309 tons, valued at £697,515, bringing this section's total production from the inception of mining operations to over 49 million tons.

This division played an important part in the establishment of the iron and steel industry in New South Wales. Ironworks were commenced in 1874 at Eskbank, near Lithgow, but were discontinued after a few years. The works were revived in 1885 and in 1900 a steel furnace was erected, where the first steel manufactured in Australia was made. With a change in ownership in 1908, the output of finished iron, pig-iron and steel from New South Wales ores expanded considerably. The ironworks initially operated on ore from the Lithgow, Newbridge and Blayney localities, but subsequently the principal sources of supply were the Cadia, Carcoar and Tallawang deposits. In 1913 the establishment of large steel works at Newcastle (Hunter-Manning Division) was commenced, and in 1928 a move was made to start iron and steel foundries at Port Kembla (South Coast division); these have resulted in Lithgow losing its pre-eminence in the industry. In addition, the relatively high cost of winning and marketing local iron ore has led to the importation of ore supplies from other States, particularly South Australia, so that mining of the New South Wales deposits has been suspended.

Extensive Oil-Shale fields.

Most of the Oil-Shale deposits of New South Wales, which have been described generally as the richest in the world, occur in the Western Coalfields, some of the more notable being at Hartley Vale (said to be unrivalled in thickness of seam, richness and production combined), Katoomba, Capertee, Newnes, Glenowlan and Barigan. Recovery of crude oil from shale from Hartley Vale was first recorded in 1866 and deposits there and in various other localities in the Central Tableland were worked intermittently to a limited extent from then until the early twenties of the present century, when production practically ceased. In 1937 negotiations for the working of the Newnes-Capertee field were finalised, and an agreement signed between the Commonwealth and State Governments and the National Oil Proprietary Ltd., whereby loan money, concessions and other privileges were granted the company to facilitate the establishment of the oil extraction industry on an extensive scale. Since then considerable preparatory work has been carried out.

Large Portland Cement works.

Owing to the fact that unlimited quantities of suitable clay, shale, slate and claystone are available and are situated

/convenient

convenient to large limestone deposits, the manufacture of Portland cement is an important industry in New South Wales, the production in 1938 amounting to 460,727 tons valued at £1,515,744. A big proportion of this output comes from works at Portland, Kandos and Charbon, situated in the Central Tableland.

Capertee and Mudgee are notable contributors to the lime manufactured in New South Wales, while the whole of this State's output of dolomite in 1938 (25,329 tons valued at £32,715) was obtained from the Buckaroo and Mt. Knowles districts, near Mudgee.

Other minerals, clays, building materials, etc.

The foregoing cover the major mining activities of the Central Tableland but deposits of many other minerals, etc., such as copper, silver, lead, zinc, molybdenum, felspar, diamonds, phosphates, barytes, asbestos, cinnabar, manganese and diatomite, have been proved, some of which are being worked at present. Building stones, road materials, clays and limestones occur at various centres, a number of quarries and claypits being in operation; of these, mention may be made of marble, red granite, trachyte, sandstone, fireclays, brick clays, etc., white clays, ceramic clays, quartzite and red quartz.

The Annual Report of the Mines Department for 1938 includes the following notable examples of the production of the subject division:-

Barytes: Of the State's production of 317 tons, 236 tons were recovered in the Mudgee district, 26 tons were obtained at Rockley and 40 tons were mined at Trunkley.

White Clays: Gulgong accounted for 14,540 tons and Mudgee for 319 tons of the total production of 16,161 tons.

Marble: The output of 515 tons was obtained from 5 mining divisions, four of which (Orange, Mudgee, Rockley and Rylstone) are in the Central Tableland.

Clay-Shale: Of the four mining divisions supplying the 84,099 tons of clay-shale, two (Capertee and Rylstone) are in the Central Tableland.

Limestone: Mudgee and Rockley were two of the three mining divisions supplying limestone, amounting to 2,670 tons, mainly for terrazzo work.

Rail Facilities.

The Central Tableland has comparatively good railway facilities. The main western line from Sydney to Bourke runs practically through the centre of the division, passing through Katoomba, Lithgow, Wallerawang, Blayney, Orange and Wellington. A branch line from Wallerawang traverses the Western Coalfield to Mudgee and Gulgong en route to Gwabegar (in the North Western Slope).

/From

From Tarana, on the western line, a short branch goes south to Oberon. The Blayney-Harden railway, connecting the western and southern systems, serves the south-western section of the division, while an extension from Cowra to Canowindra and thence to Eugowra (in the Central Western Slope) caters for an important agricultural area. The projected strategic link between the western and northern systems, which will run from Maryvale to Sandy Hollow and pass through Gulgong, will be of great value to the northern portion of the Central Tableland. The Merriwa district, in the north-east corner of the subject division, is connected to the northern line by a branch therefrom at Muswellbrook, while in the far north-west an off-shoot from the Wallerawang-Gwabegar line at Craboon runs to Coolah. In the extreme south, Crookwell is provided with rail facilities by a branch off the southern line at Goulburn. The Kurrajong district, near the central eastern border, is linked to the western line by the Blacktown-Kurrajong branch.

Highways and Roads.

Of chief importance to the road vehicular traffic is the Great Western Highway which runs from Sydney via the Blue Mountains and Lithgow to Bathurst, there branching into the North-Western and Mid-Western Highways. The North-Western goes through Orange and Wellington and thence north-westward via Bourke on to Barrington on the Queensland border; the Mid-Western proceeds in a south-westerly direction through Cowra to join the Sturt Highway at Hay (in the Riverina division).

These highways, of which about 250 miles lie within the Central Tableland, are maintained by the Main Roads Board of New South Wales, and have excellent concrete or bitumen surfaces. Approximately 900 miles of other important roads, as well as a large network of minor cross-country connections, are cared for by the various local government authorities throughout the division.

Schedules of Production and Livestock.

The following schedules compiled from figures published in the New South Wales Statistical Register give the average annual quantities of the principal primary products produced and the average annual number of livestock in the Central Tableland Division for the five-year period ended 30th June, 1938:-

Central Tableland Statistical Division No. 6 Average Annual Production Five Years ended 30.6.1938.

Wool	....	41,790,589 lb.
Dairy Products -		
Butter	....	2,577,224 "
Bacon and Hams		119,575 "
Wheat - Grain	....	3,033,628 bushels
Hay	....	25,767 tons
Maize	....	105,313 bushels
Barley - Grain	....	12,569 "

/Oats

Oats - Grain	....	227,905 bushels.
Hay	....	51,054 tons
Lucerne Hay	....	40,678 "
Oranges	....	224,677 bushels
Lemons	....	14,359 "
Mandarins	....	105,566 "
Apples	....	367,675 "
Pears	....	141,974 "
Peaches	....	25,492 "
Plums	....	51,384 "
Cherries	....	72,597 "
Grapes - Wine	....	13,170 gallons
Table Fruit		555 tons
Peas and Beans (value)		£54,061
Potatoes	....	19,903 tons
Tomatoes	....	67,558 half-cases
Pumpkins and Melons		2,111 tons
Honey	....	1,473,397 lb.
Beeswax	....	17,918 lb.

Applying the 1938 annual average wholesale prices in Sydney to the foregoing products, a suggested estimate of their approximate value is £4,479,000. However, in order to obtain a total figure of all primary production, to this sum should be added the value of coal and minerals, etc., won, which for the five-year period ended 31st December, 1938, averaged £740,000 per annum. In addition, it is of interest to note that, over the five years ended 30th June, 1938, the average annual value of the goods manufactured or work done by factories in this division was £2,189,000.

Average Annual Number of Livestock in Central Tableland
Statistical Division No. 6 - Five Years ended 30.6.1938.

		<u>Head</u>
Horses	....	44,659
Cattle - Cows in registered dairies		25,656
do. - All other		159,934
Sheep	5,250,074
Pigs	13,917

C.P. & C.K.

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In the February, 1940, issue of "Agricultural and Industrial Progress in Canada" it is stated that production of factory cheese for the year 1938 amounted to 121,315,000 lb., while for the same period in 1939 the output of cheese factories was 120,976,000 lb. The Canadian production of factory cheese has declined considerably since 1900, when it totalled 220,833,000 lb.

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LIVESTOCK SALES AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

ACTIVE DEMAND FOR SHEEP, CATTLE AND PIGS.

Further shortage of sheep and lambs.

There was a continued shortage of sheep and lambs at the Homebush Saleyards during March, the intervention of the Easter Holidays tending materially to reduce the numbers marketed, as the actual selling days were only seven compared with nine in February. The period reviewed saw a total of 191,946 head of sheep and lambs pass through the saleyards as against 213,525 for the preceding month. The figure for March, 1939, was 198,831. Dry conditions prevailed for the most part although in some centres beneficial rains were received, so that the movement of stock to market was somewhat below normal. Further, only relatively small supplies of lamb were offered, the aggregate being 75,581 head.

Shortage of quality mutton.

In all, 116,365 head of wethers and ewes were disposed of, quite a large proportion being of fair to medium grade. Light weight trade sheep of quality dressing from 36 to 42 lb. of mutton were particularly scarce but there was a better representation of heavy weight sheep, some very nice consignments being forward. Ewes were somewhat more numerous than was the case during February.

Improved realisations for sheep.

There was a further improvement in rates for grown sheep and, while at times the market was irregular, average realisations were better than those of the previous month. Briefly, the values of light trade sheep were firm for the greater part of the period but rose from 1/- to 2/- per head towards the end of March. Prices of heavy sheep, particularly wethers, showed considerable irregularity, but, in common with light descriptions, were higher at the close.

Some of the actual sales are listed below as representative of the market trend throughout:-

Heavy wethers weighing approximately 50 lb. sold early in March at 20/3 per head or 3d per lb.

Good trade wethers, disposed of on the same day, weighing 44 lb., realised 17/6 each or 3½d per lb.

About mid-March, 44 lb. wethers brought 18/5 per head or 3¾d per lb.

Later, a line of good heavy wethers weighing 52 lb. made 19/10 each or 3½d per lb., and

Light trade wethers dressing approximately 40 lb. of mutton realised 16/6 each or 4d per lb.

/Realisations

Realisations generally were satisfactory from the producer's viewpoint, wethers ranging in price from 16/- to 25/- each, while in some instances up to 27/- was obtained. Ewes sold at from 11/- to 19/- per head, with odd pens making as much as 21/-. Medium to plain sheep were obtainable at relatively lower rates.

Owing to the enhanced values of sheep, rates per pound for mutton also were high and would average out approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ d to $\frac{1}{2}$ d more than those of February. Heavy wethers ranged in price from $2\frac{3}{4}$ d to $3\frac{3}{4}$ d and light from $3\frac{1}{2}$ d to $4\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. Perhaps the greatest volume of sales was at 3d to $3\frac{1}{2}$ d for heavy and $3\frac{1}{2}$ d to 4d per lb. for light. Ewes, for the most part, cost $2\frac{3}{4}$ d to $3\frac{1}{4}$ d for heavy and 3d to $3\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. for light. Comparative prices for the previous month were as follow:- Heavy wethers $2\frac{1}{2}$ d to $3\frac{1}{2}$ d, light wethers 3d to 4d. Heavy ewes $2\frac{1}{4}$ d to 3d and light ewes $2\frac{3}{4}$ d to $3\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.

Light supplies of lambs.

Consignments of lambs to the Homebush Saleyards continued to be light, the largest yarding on any one day being 15,526 head and the smallest 5,002, while the total penning for the month was 75,581 head. The shortage of really good quality lambs was even more pronounced than during February and many of those offered were only of medium quality, lacking the condition and finish so much desired by the trade. Nevertheless, on a number of occasions, drafts of lambs were offered which were of nice appearance and in good condition. Light weight descriptions comprised by far the greater part of the pennings.

Strong market for lambs.

The light yardings of quality lambs and the active interest displayed by the carcass butchers resulted generally in better realisations for the medium lambs and a very strong demand for the better grade. Although the market was irregular and prices varied towards mid-March, showing a slight downward trend, this was mainly due to a falling away in the quality of the pennings. Later in the period there was a rise of from 1/- to 3/- per head on lambs, and it could be said that, quality for quality, the market for March on an average was dearer per pound than in February. An instance of this is that lamb which cost $7\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. during the previous month could not be obtained for less than 8d per lb. in March. Some of the realisations are given below and will serve to illustrate the trend in prices.

Early in March nice quality lambs weighing approximately 32 lb. brought 23/6 each and cost $7\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb., while on the same day heavy lambs weighing 42 lb. sold at 26/1 per head or $6\frac{3}{8}$ d per lb. About mid-March, medium quality lambs weighing 35 lb. cost $6\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. Shortly afterwards, at the sale preceding the Easter Holidays, nice quality lambs, approximating 34 lb. in weight, made the equivalent of 8d per lb.

/For

For the month, average realisations for better quality lambs ranged from 20/- to 26/- per head, while on occasions sales were made to 29/-; plain descriptions brought relatively lower rates.

Good returns for medium lambs.

The shortage of quality lambs benefited the medium grades in that carcase butchers, in order to satisfy their requirements, bid much more freely for this class. Although the better description of lamb showed little appreciable increase in price generally from that of the previous month, the other grades, as the result of a stronger inquiry, manifested an all-round improvement, particularly towards the end of March. The average advance spread over the period ranged from $\frac{1}{2}d$ to $\frac{3}{4}d$ per lb., according to the weight and quality of the offering. During the month heavy lambs realised from $5\frac{3}{4}d$ to $7\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb. and light $6\frac{3}{4}d$ to $8d$ per lb. The market closed particularly strong, quotations being:- Heavy Lambs $6\frac{3}{4}d$ to $7\frac{3}{4}d$ and light $7\frac{1}{2}d$ to $8d$ per lb. as against $6\frac{1}{4}d$ to $7d$ and $7d$ to $7\frac{3}{4}d$ per lb., respectively, at the first sale held in March.

High prices for both mutton and lamb are expected to continue as there is no present indication of heavier supplies coming forward. Should relief be afforded country centres by good falls of rain, even higher values may be obtained at the Homebush Saleyards.

Quality cattle difficult to secure.

Consignments of cattle during March, 1940, were remarkably uniform insofar as numbers were concerned. The aggregate of 16,150 head, which included 2,428 in the store section, was smaller than that of February but the daily average was a little higher, there being nine sale days in February compared with seven in the month under review. In March, 1939, arrivals totalled 19,268 head but in that instance there were more sale days. Despite the higher daily offerings, buyers generally found it just as difficult as in February to secure quality beef, the high percentage of medium grade cattle giving a fairly clear indication of the unsatisfactory position in the pastoral districts of New South Wales. The Easter market, however, was marked by a much improved offering, and the enhanced returns obtained demonstrated the wisdom of endeavouring to hold quality stock for a special occasion.

Seasonal conditions during March continued to be adverse over the greater portion of the State; a number of centres in the north-eastern quarter, however, received very beneficial rains about the middle of the month. Dry feed is still available in ample quantities in parts of the south-western districts but elsewhere pastures mostly are very unsatisfactory.

Bullocks in light supply.

Except on one or two occasions the offerings of bullocks could hardly be described as satisfactory, heavy descriptions being
/very

very scarce, whilst only odd lots of prime beasts were noticed. During the first half of the period the market was very firm and values showed no material alteration from those prevailing at the end of February, when prime heavy bullocks realised to 38/- per 100 lb. dressed weight and prime light to 41/6. Subsequently a more buoyant tone was apparent and closing quotations were 36/- to 40/- per 100 lb. for heavy, 38/- to 41/6 for medium and 40/- to 43/6 for light. A typical disposal on the final sale day was that of a pen of prime Durham-Devon cross bullocks from Gloucester, estimated to weigh approximately 775 lb. dressed, which sold at £15.19.0 per head, equivalent to 41/- per 100 lb.

Good showing of steers.

Steers, perhaps, made the best showing of any class of cattle, generally being well supplied and, for the most part, ranging from good trade to prime. They were always in keen demand, especially the lighter weight descriptions, the prices of which remained at a high level. During most of the month prime light steers realised 45/- to 46/- per 100 lb. dressed weight, whilst closing values reached 47/6. Good heavy descriptions at this period sold from 39/6 per 100 lb.

Cows plentiful - plain to medium grades predominate.

While cows were rather plentiful, the majority was only of plain to medium standard, and dairy breeds frequently comprised a substantial proportion of the offerings. Nevertheless, at times, quite a noticeable percentage of the supply was of very satisfactory grade. Quality animals met a good demand and, although prices fluctuated a little, values generally were about equal to those of the previous month. The market was best on the final sale day, when good to prime heavy cows were quoted at 34/- to 36/6 and light at 35/- to 38/- per 100 lb.

Satisfactory yarding of heifers.

A very fair yarding of heifers was noticeable throughout and on several occasions the offering included a substantial proportion of heavy animals. Small medium grade sorts were seen frequently, but on the whole the standard was very satisfactory. Although mostly the demand was keen for the greater part of March values were slightly below the closing rates for February and ranged from 34/- to 43/- per 100 lb. for good to prime quality. By the end of the month, however, the market had more than recovered and corresponding quotations were from 37/- to 45/6 per 100 lb. The wide range of prices for this class is due to the fact that some of the animals exceed 700 lb. dressed weight, a size not so much in demand as the lighter sorts.

Limited supplies of vealers.

Supplies of vealers mostly were limited but on one or two occasions consignments reached moderate proportions. The offerings were variable, both as to quality and size of the animals, and for the most part consisted of fair to good trade descriptions,

/with

with attractive drafts scattered throughout the yards. On the first sale day of the period good to prime vealers were quoted at 47/- to 52/- per 100 lb. Values subsequently showed a progressive decline until 48/- was the top of the range. An upward trend was then noticed and by the close rates had recovered to the earlier levels.

Further rise in prices.

During March the market generally was an extremely satisfactory one for the producer and values, on the whole, even showed an advance on February's high level. Prices have risen progressively for some considerable time now and sales in the near future will be keenly watched by interested sections of the community, to ascertain whether the peak has been reached. There are no present indications of any substantial fall, in fact during early April some sales of light cattle revealed a slight advance in values.

Smaller number of pigs yarded.

Weekly consignments of pigs for auction during March, 1940, were somewhat irregular, the yardings varying from light to heavy. The total for the month, 4,270 head, was some six hundred less than that for February, 1940, but showed a substantial increase when compared with the corresponding period of 1939. Arrivals by rail accounted for 1,797 head whilst, in addition to those auctioned, yard dues were paid on 621 head disposed of privately. As indicated in the previous issue the private disposals would include pigs of baconer weights, mostly heavy, sold to operators at a fixed rate per lb. on the dressed weight of the carcass.

Medium porkers plentiful.

The greater percentage of the pennings comprised pigs of the porker weight class, in which medium to heavy descriptions predominated, although lighter sorts were well represented. The quality of the porkers was variable and, whilst generally the percentage of satisfactory grade was fairly high, on one or two occasions it was somewhat disappointing. Many of the pigs were only in store condition and even these were not of the standard of the stores offered the previous month. Local store buyers apparently were well stocked as they did not attend in the usual numbers and competition for this class was dull. Realisations for porkers fluctuated considerably during the period but, on the whole, the average rates were higher than those ruling in February. On the first sale day the progressive decline noticeable during the preceding month continued and values of prime light porkers dropped to 37/6 for animals of 60 lb. dressed weight whilst prime heavy realised to 53/6 for 90 lb. Although the following yarding was a large one, prices were more satisfactory to the producer, advancing 2/- per head. The market continued to improve, especially for the lighter weights and on the final sale day light porkers made to 44/6 and heavy to 56/6.

/Increased....

Increased consignments of baconers.

. Baconers were lightly supplied, although consignments were larger than those of the previous month. Light to medium weights predominated and heavy sorts were noticed in odd pens only. Quality for the most part was of fair trade standard and prime animals were to be seen chiefly amongst the lighter descriptions which met a ready demand at dearer rates per lb. than those prevailing for the heavy lines. Values showed little alteration until the final sale day, when the prices of heavy baconers rose about 2/- per head. Rates for good to prime grades dressing from 100 lb. to 150 lb. ranged from 62/6 to 86/6 per head, equivalent to 7½d and 6¾d per lb., respectively. Prices paid for pigs sold over the scale were unchanged at 6½d per lb. for animals dressing up to 170 lb. The carcasses of the latter are being exported to England for use, it is understood, as heavy pork.

Firm demand for backfatters.

Backfatters were well in evidence throughout the month and, although mostly the greater proportion was of plain to medium grade, on occasions there was a good representation of quality lots. Most of the pigs were of light to medium weight (200-350 lb.), and on one sale day practically no heavy animals were available. The market continued very firm and, for the most of March, values showed little material variation from those ruling at the close of the previous month. However, a particularly strong request prevailed at the final sale day and some of the prices were slightly higher. For the period under review, rates ranged from 5½d to 6½d per lb. for weights 200 lb. to 350 lb. and 5¼d to 6d for animals estimated to dress over 350 lb.

Market values improve.

On the whole the market for pigs was a very satisfactory one in which values either were very firmly maintained or rose fairly substantially. Store pigs, however, should be excluded from the foregoing, as these met a weaker demand; moreover, sales of this class are really in a different category, being, in effect, transactions between producers.

On the first sale day in April prices of porkers were somewhat disappointing, falling by 3/- to 5/- per head. It was held that supplies were in excess of the demand.

G.C. & J.W.

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ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS. YARD

AND

SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Higher prices for Tasmanian potatoes.

Arrivals of Tasmanian potatoes in Sussex Street during March totalled 98,051 bags, an increase of approximately 15,000 bags over the previous month's aggregate, and also much larger than the receivals in March, 1939, which amounted to 85,754 bags. Although in the first trading period of this month rates declined £1.0.0 per ton, from then onward values showed a firmer tendency and, generally, prices ruling during March were much higher than those of February. It will be remembered that during March, 1939, rates for all varieties of potatoes were exceptionally high, Brownells selling at from £16.0.0 to £24.0.0 per ton and others bringing from £15.0.0 to £23.0.0. Even though the present position in New South Wales is far from satisfactory so far as stocks of local potatoes are concerned, the Sussex Street prices during March, 1940, were considerably below those of last year, and ranged as follow:- Brownells - No.1 Grade £9.0.0 to £11.0.0, Seed £7.0.0; Bismarcks No.1 Grade £9.0.0 to £11.0.0; Snowflakes, Arranchiefs and Albas £8.10.0 to £10.10.0 per ton. South Australian growers forwarded 51 bags of Delawares, which sold satisfactorily at £9.0.0 per ton. Only 100 bags of Northern Rivers potatoes were received in Sussex Street and these were disposed of by private treaty at £8.0.0 per ton.

Supplies of local potatoes to Alexandria have declined progressively since last December and only 1,062 bags came to hand during March, compared with 3,511 bags the previous month. No improvement is expected until the beginning of the Tableland potato season. A good demand prevailed throughout and, at the auctions, ready clearances were effected at the following rates:- No.1 Grade £8.0.0 to £11.11.8, No.2 Grade £6.15.0 to £9.16.8, Seed Grade £5.10.0 to £10.5.0 per ton, Stock Food 4/6 per bag.

Improved request for table onions.

Victorian growers forwarded 19,118 bags of onions to Sussex Street and 1,024 bags to Alexandria. In both selling centres table varieties met a stronger request and accordingly rates were higher. In Sussex Street, prime Brown Spanish lots cleared well at £8.0.0, whilst Brown Globe lines sold steadily at from £6.10.0 to £7.0.0 per ton. White onions comprised only a small portion of the shipments and sales were satisfactory at from £6.0.0 to £7.0.0 per ton. Only limited quantities of picklers were available at from £9.0.0 to £10.0.0 for brown and from £7.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton for white. Arrivals at Alexandria were all of the brown variety and steady deliveries were reported at from £6.10.0 to £7.0.0 for Globes and £8.0.0 to £8.10.0 per ton for Spanish. Only 180 bags of choice white onions were shipped from South Australia to Sussex Street, and these were disposed of readily at from £8.10.0 to £9.0.0 per ton.

/Prices

Prices of pumpkins fluctuate.

The outstanding feature in the pumpkin section was the fluctuation in prices. Queensland producers consigned 6,790 bags to Sussex Street and 15 trucks to Alexandria. Early in the month, demand was very firm and up to £12.0.0 per ton was obtained in both markets. Later, however, the general quality was not so good and increased stocks came to hand, so that rates were reduced to facilitate clearances. Quotations for the month ranged from £7.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton. Offerings from New South Wales centres comprised 612 bags in Sussex Street and 14 trucks at Alexandria, and met a similar request to that for the Queensland lines, deliveries being taken at the following prices:- In Sussex Street £5.0.0 to £10.10.0; At Alexandria:- By private treaty £5.0.0 to £12.0.0, By auction £3.13.4 to £5.15.0 per ton.

Strong inquiry for other vegetables.

An excellent inquiry for all other vegetables of good to prime quality was noticeable, rapid clearances being effected. Arrivals from Tasmania consisted of 6,501 bags of swedes, 3,125 of carrots and 388 of parsnips, all these quantities being in excess of receipts during February. Although generally the demand for swedes was good, the presence of under-quality lines retarded disposals at times. The carrots and parsnips were practically all of good to prime quality and deliveries were rapid. Sales were effected at the following rates:- Swedes £5.0.0 to £10.0.0, Carrots £5.0.0 to £12.0.0, Parsnips £12.0.0 to £16.0.0 per ton. Local growers forwarded 5 bags of swedes and 18 of carrots to Alexandria, these realising £7.13.4 per ton for swedes and from £4.15.0 to £6.15.0 for carrots.

Stocks of Tasmanian blue peas received in Sussex Street were insufficient to meet the demand and were exhausted towards the end of the month; the commencing rate of 14/6 per bushel was later increased to 15/-. Grey peas were not in request, and sold quietly at the unaltered price of 9/- per bushel.

Lighter stocks of white chaff.

Receipts of white chaff at the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard comprised 178 trucks of oaten and 52 of wheaten, a total of 230 trucks. Although supplies of wheaten chaff were heavier than those of February, the increase was more than offset by the lighter offerings of oaten. The principal inquiry was for good to prime and extra prime descriptions, sales for these qualities being exceptionally firm and, at times, being effected at higher rates than those obtained the previous month. Although the quantities available during March were smaller than those submitted during the corresponding month of last year, prices generally were lower than those ruling in 1939. Realisations were as follow:- Oaten Chaff - Medium £4.0.0 to £4.10.0, Good £4.15.0 to £5.0.0, Prime £5.5.0 to £5.10.0; Wheaten Chaff - Medium £3.10.0 to £4.0.0, Good £4.5.0 to £4.15.0, Prime £5.0.0 to £5.10.0 and Extra Prime Green to £6.0.0 per ton.

/Increased.....

Increased rates for lucerne commodities.

Probably the most outstanding feature in trading at Alexandria during March was the strong inquiry for lucerne commodities. Arrivals consisted of the following quantities:- Lucerne Chaff - Local 85, Queensland 7 trucks; Lucerne Hay - Local - Maitland 29 and other centres 99, Queensland 7 trucks. An excellent demand prevailed and rates were substantially above the previous month's levels. In the chaff section, quotations were:- Local - Medium £6.0.0 to £7.0.0, some sales to £7.5.0; Good £7.10.0 to £8.10.0, Prime £8.15.0 to £9.5.0, and Extra Prime green leafy £9.10.0 to £9.15.0 per ton. Prices for prime and extra prime lots were £2.0.0 to £2.10.0 per ton higher than those ruling in February. The Queensland lucerne chaff, the first to be received from that State this year, was of mixed quality but good disposals were reported at from £7.0.0 to £9.5.0 per ton. In the lucerne hay section, a similar increase in price was evident, request, no doubt, being stimulated by the drought conditions prevailing in mid-coastal areas. Realisations were as follow:- Queensland £7.0.0 to £7.10.0; Local - Maitland - New Green £5.15.0 to £6.0.0, Dry £5.10.0 to £6.0.0, Other Centres - Derrick Pressed £4.0.0 to £6.15.0, Baled £5.15.0 for under-quality to £9.5.0 for prime, extra prime loads to £9.15.0 per ton.

In addition to stocks available at Alexandria, 110 bales of dry lucerne hay from the Hunter River district were shipped to Sussex Street and, on the whole, sold well at from £5.15.0 to £7.10.0 per ton.

The 170 bales of Victorian special oaten hay in position on the Sussex Street wharves met a steady inquiry at from £7.10.0 to £8.0.0 per ton. Only a small portion of the 41 trucks railed to Alexandria from New South Wales districts was available to buyers at from £3.10.0 to £5.0.0 per ton.

Values of Tasmanian straw generally unaltered.

Shipments of Tasmanian straw to Sussex Street totalled 1,600 bales, all received during the first two weeks of March, owing to the fact that subsequently fairly heavy consignments of potatoes limited the space available. A good request prevailed as fairly substantial stocks were needed for the Royal Sydney Show. Sales of oaten straw were effected at £5.0.0, whilst wheaten lots cleared readily at from £5.5.0 to £5.10.0 per ton. At Alexandria the 87 trucks of straw submitted by New South Wales growers met a fairly steady market at from £2.15.0 to £4.0.0 per ton, with odd sales higher.

Heavier supplies of grain.

Receivals of grain on the Sydney market were heavier than those of the previous month. Supplies railed to Alexandria comprised the following quantities:- Wheat 35 trucks; Maize - Queensland 180 bags, Local 3,012 bags; Oats - 56 trucks; Barley - 4 trucks; whilst 2,290 bags of Northern River maize were available

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in Sussex Street. A fairly strong inquiry for maize was apparent early in March, but towards the close of the period disposals were quiet. In the wheat and oat section steady deliveries were recorded at about the same rates as those ruling in February. Price ranges were:- At Alexandria - Wheat - By auction 2/6 to 4/1, By private treaty 4/- to 4/3; Maize - Local yellow 4/9 to 5/3; Oats - By auction 1/11 to 2/7, By private treaty 2/4 to 2/6; Barley - By private treaty 3/- to 3/1; In Sussex Street - Maize, Northern Rivers - new season 4/- to 5/-, old season 4/- per bushel.

E.A.G.

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CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

GOOD DEMAND FOR FRUIT - GREEN VEGETABLES
MODERATELY STOCKED.

With hot, dry weather conditions prevailing throughout the month of March, there was a good demand for most kinds of fruit and realisations were for the most part very satisfactory.

Apples in short supply.

Up to and including Monday, 18th March, there was a shortage of apples on the Sydney market and consequently prices were relatively high, up to 16/- per case, with odd sales higher, being obtained for Jonathan and Delicious.

The shortage, as far as New South Wales was concerned, was partly due to light crops which were later than usual in coming to maturity and partly to the withholding of supplies by growers in some districts. During the period 1st to 18th March only approximately 17,400 cases came to hand from Tasmania. Consignments also were received from South Australia but were too small to alleviate the shortage. During the third week, however, a shipment of 30,971 cases was received from Tasmania to supplement supplies from New South Wales and South Australia and most varieties were about 2/- per case cheaper. A further decline in prices was evident during the next and concluding week of the month, when approximately 58,000 cases came to hand from Tasmania, in addition to increased arrivals from local sources. A steady demand was maintained for selected sizes of fancy and extra fancy grades but small fruit, which constituted a large percentage of the available stocks, became increasingly difficult to sell.

Quality pears in request.

Pears also were in light supply, particularly during the first half of the month, and quality lines were in request at very satisfactory prices, Williams and Packhams Triumph realising up to 15/- per case. Williams were not available after about mid-March, the season having ended and Packhams Triumph became the first choice of buyers. Although approximately 15,000 cases were

/received

received from Tasmania during the latter half of the month to augment local offerings, choice lots continued to sell freely and values were well maintained.

Valencia oranges scarce.

Main crop Valencia oranges were scarce throughout the month and again commanded high prices, up to 30/- per case being obtained for the top lines. Small consignments arrived from the Murray Valley, Southern New South Wales, while limited quantities were received from isolated coastal areas.

Second crop Valencias also were lightly stocked and selected sizes of the best quality fruit were readily disposed of, some sales to 20/- per case being recorded.

Choice lemons sell well.

Consignments of good quality lemons were received from Queensland and found favour with buyers at prices ranging to 24/- per bushel. Local supplies, which, in most instances, were not up to the high standard of those from the Northern State, did not sell as freely and during the early part of the month vendors were obliged to reduce prices. Realisations were, nevertheless, very satisfactory, choice coloured lines bringing as high as 18/- per case. Towards the end of March considerable quantities of small fruit (counts per case of 270 and upwards) were on offer and sellers experienced some difficulty in effecting clearances. Larger descriptions of quality, however, continued to sell well.

Peach season almost at an end.

The end of the month practically saw the close of the peach season, small quantities of the later clingstone varieties, such as Pullars Cling, being the only ones available; these met with a good request. The limited supplies of Slipstones, particularly J.H. Hales, submitted during the early part of the period sold readily at up to 10/- per half-case.

Upward trend in values of passion-fruit.

Moderate stocks of passion-fruit were on offer during the first fortnight but towards the end of March choice lots were scarce. Early realisations ranged to 15/- per half-case but as supplies decreased a steady upward trend in prices was apparent and closing quotations indicated to 20/- for choice lots.

Banana prices improve as supplies decrease.

Bananas were heavily supplied at the beginning of the month, arrivals for the first week totalling 19,083 tropical cases of which New South Wales districts produced 16,190 and Queensland 2,893. Large quantities of fully ripe fruit were offered at attractive prices, and barrowmen operated freely, so that stocks were not permitted to accumulate. The following week receipts were
/much

much smaller, the total from all sources being 13,210 cases, and a hardening of values was apparent. During the latter half of March supplies were much lighter still and just prior to the Easter Holidays prices rose sharply, up to 24/- per case being obtained; these higher values were well maintained throughout the remainder of the period.

Closing quotations for pineapples firmer.

During the first fortnight heavy consignments of pineapples were received from Queensland, a very large proportion of which arrived in a wasty condition. Buyers therefore operated with caution and vendors were obliged to accept lower prices to facilitate clearance. Lighter arrivals during the week preceding Easter assisted agents to clear residues of unattractive pines and new stocks sold at slightly higher rates. Only relatively small quantities were carried over the holiday week-end and values of choice lines were fairly evenly maintained. Closing quotations ranged from 6/- to 9/- per tropical case with a few sales at higher rates.

Dry weather retards New South Wales vegetable production.

Owing to the protracted hot dry weather conditions experienced in most of the main producing areas of this State, accompanied by a shortage of water in many centres, supplies of vegetables, particularly greens, from these sources were relatively small. The position was relieved to some extent early in the month by the receipt of consignments of peas, beans and cabbages from Victoria and beans from Queensland but generally stocks were only light to moderate.

Cauliflower season opens.

The first cauliflowers for the 1940 season arrived on the market from the Bathurst district on Wednesday, 6th March. Considering the dry conditions prevailing, the quality generally was very good indeed and up to 14/- per dozen was realised. Moderate consignments came to hand throughout the remainder of the month and realisations for choice lines were very satisfactory.

Cabbages moderately stocked.

Although supplies of cabbages were received from Victoria to supplement local offerings aggregate stocks were not large. Prices fluctuated within a small margin but on the whole were well maintained. The general quotations ranged from 2/- to 12/- per dozen, with some sales of extra choice "heads" at higher levels.

Fluctuating market for peas and beans.

With consignments of peas and beans from interstate sources augmenting supplies from New South Wales districts, there was a steady downward trend in values during the first two weeks.

/Prices

Prices were then fairly steady over the Easter period, after which only light to moderate supplies were available and clearances were readily effected at higher rates, peas realising to 15/- and the quotation for beans ranging from 4/- to 10/- per bushel. Owing to the drought the bulk of the peas and beans was of only medium quality.

Tomatoes mostly cheaper at end of March.

Supplies of tomatoes from New South Wales centres were supplemented by fairly heavy consignments from Queensland and Victoria, while moderate quantities also came to hand from Tasmania. A considerable proportion of those from Queensland showed the effect of the heavy rains experienced in that State, while stocks from Victoria and New South Wales were affected by the hot weather and were rather on the soft side; choice lines, therefore, were relatively scarce. There was a steady demand for choice lots but lower grades sold slowly. Much of the local and Victorian supplies, particularly the latter, was in a rather forward condition; up to the Easter holidays the general trend of prices was downwards. The bulk of the Queensland shipments consisted of green tomatoes which seemed to meet the requirements of the majority of buyers better than those from other sources and values were more evenly maintained. After the holiday period much smaller quantities came to hand, demand improved and sales were effected at firmer rates. Nevertheless closing quotations, except in the case of Queensland consignments, were lower than those ruling at the beginning of the month.

E.J.C.

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MARKETING OF AUSTRALIAN CANNED APPLES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The necessity of finding a market, during 1940, for part of the surplus Australian apple production usually sold to the United Kingdom has caused the Agent-General to report on the prospects of selling "solid", or "pie" pack canned apples in Great Britain. Inquiries made suggest that, although the present and future requirements of the market for this product are probably well provided for, there might be a limited opening for increased trade in the Australian article. Successful marketing will depend, of course, on the quality and suitability of the pack for the requirements of this particular market and also on the price. A representative of the largest English fruit and vegetable canners said that prospects are fairly good in Great Britain at present for a reliable Australian brand of "solid" pack apples which could be offered at not more than 21/- per dozen. In view of this opinion, and of restrictions on exports of culinary apples from Australia to the United Kingdom this year, the attention of canneries in New South Wales particularly, and Australia generally, might be directed to the possibilities of disposing of portion of this season's surplus supplies of culinary apples in this manner, provided, of course, that facilities for shipment can be assured.

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

The following table gives particulars of the range of prices in Sydney as collected and recorded by the State Marketing Bureau in respect of various commodities during the month of March, 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 - £10.4.7 per ton	" "	
(plus £2.5.5 tax)		
Bran - £5.10.0 per ton)	No variation	
Pollard - £5.10.0 " ")		
Eggs (Hen)	1/7d	1/9d per dozen
Butter:		
Choice 161/2d per cwt.)	No variation.	
First Quality 156/6d " ")		
Second " 151/10d " ")		
Cheese:		
Loaf - 11d per lb.)	No variation	
Large - 10 ¹ / ₂ d " ")		
Special Brands - 1/- to 1/1 per lb.)		
Pigs (Abattoir Sales):		
Prime extra light porkers	25/6	40/6 per head
" light porkers	31/6	44/6 " "
" med.wgt. "	36/6	53/6 " "
" heavy "	47/6	56/6 " "
" baconers	63/6	86/6 " "
Backfatters	£5.0.0	£10.8.6 " "

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RETURN OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IMPORTED INTO NEW SOUTH WALES
BY LAND AND SEA - FEBRUARY, 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	28,558	11,409	20,045 ^x	44	56,381	116,437
Victoria	29	199	91,665	38	37,899	129,830
Tasmania	-	-	37,305	-	117	37,422
Sth. Aust.	-	-	6,647	-	-	6,647
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	28,587	11,608	155,662	82	94,397	290,336

x Also 1,203 bags fruit.

V E G E T A B L E S

STATE	Potatoes Bags	Onions Bags	Swedes Bags	Pumpkins bags tons		Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegetables Pkges. Tons		TOTALS Pkges. Tons	
Queensland	172	105	-	9,381	192 $\frac{1}{4}$	633	4,372	-	14,663	192 $\frac{1}{4}$
Victoria	13,129	29,299	471	50	-	-	3,175	19 $\frac{1}{4}$	46,124	19 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tasmania	95,251	-	2,288	-	-	-	1,712	-	99,251	-
Sth. Aust.	1,525	2,452	-	-	-	-	4,850	-	8,827	-
West Aust.	217	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	217	-
TOTALS	110,294	31,856	2,759	9,431	192 $\frac{1}{4}$	633	14,109	19 $\frac{1}{4}$	169,082	211 $\frac{1}{2}$

C.40-1

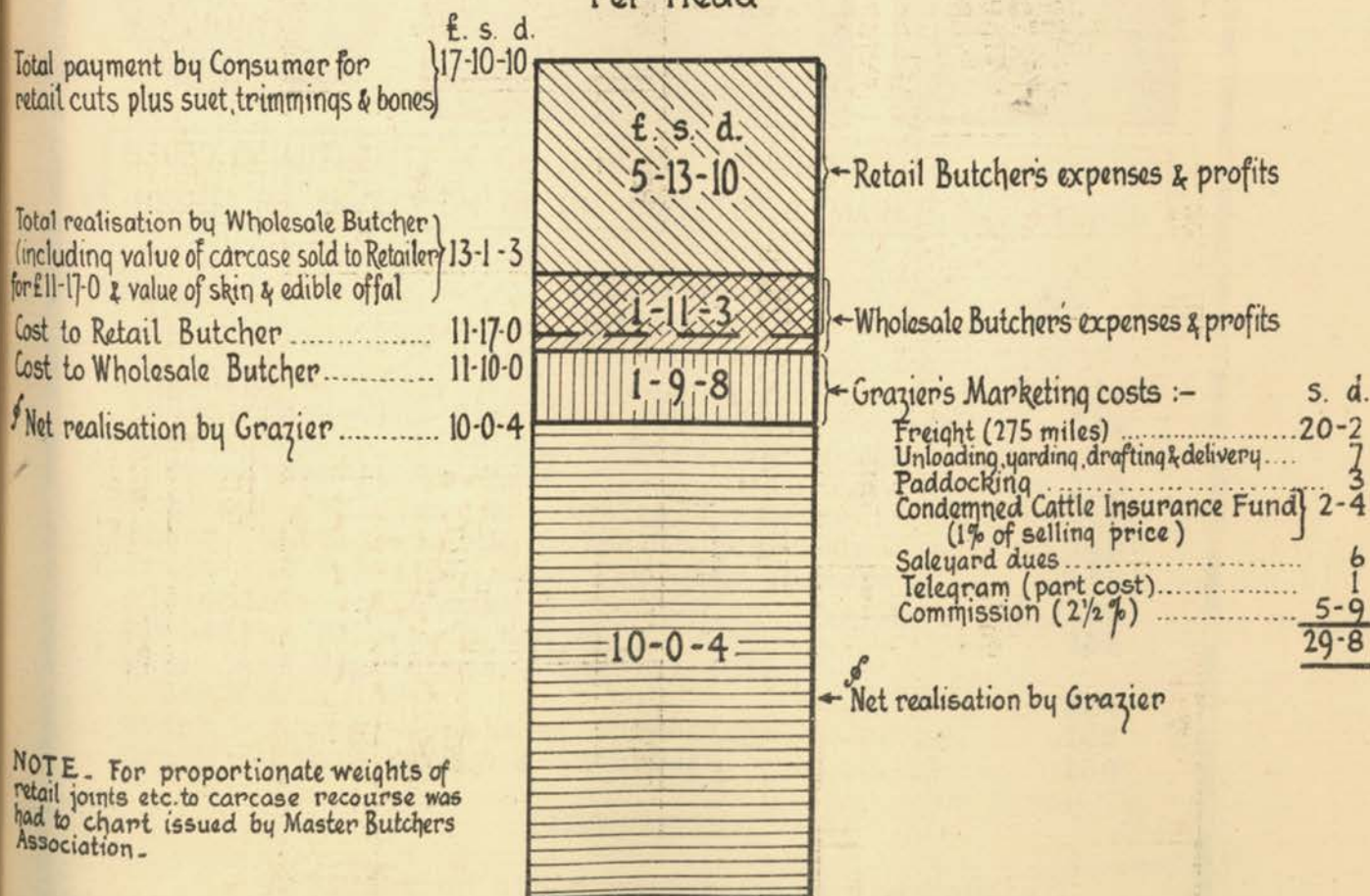
CATTLE (Good Trade Bullock)

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

JANUARY, 1940

40-267

Per Head



NOTE - For proportionate weights of retail joints etc. to carcase recourse was had to chart issued by Master Butchers Association.

Basis of graph: Bullock, 650 lb. dressed weight, sold on hoof for £11-10-0

Grazier's costs of production should be deducted from this return.

A.A. WATSON,
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
15th February, 1940.

Compiled. J.H., 14-2-40.
Drawn - J.H., 14-2-40.
Checked. C.M.P., 14-2-40.