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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

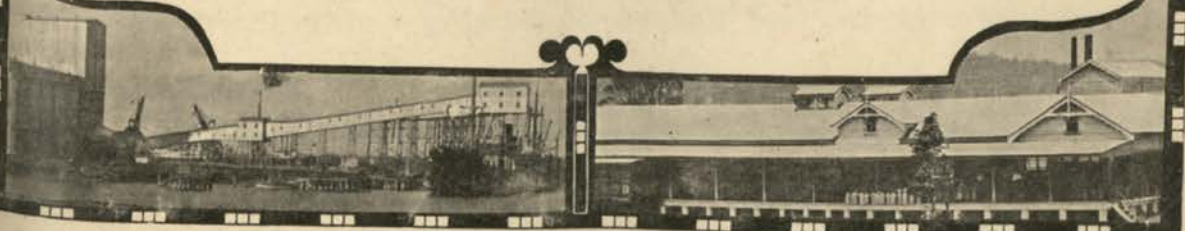
MAY, 1940.

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DEATH OF MR. G.D. ROSS.

Mr. George David Ross, who died on 7th May, 1940, at the age of 59 years, had held the position of Under Secretary for Agriculture, New South Wales, for a period of fourteen years. He retired on 27th March, 1940, owing to serious ill health.

As Permanent Head of the Department, Mr. Ross staunchly and successfully maintained the highest traditions of public service. In him his officers had a chief who was at once 'guide, philosopher and friend' and a leader who brought great gifts to his manifold tasks of organisation and administration. His enduring monument is the Department that he did so much to build.

The new Under Secretary, Dr. R.J. Noble, Ph.D., M.Sc., B.Sc.(Agr.), combines with an intimate knowledge of the State and of the Department, scientific attainments and experience of especial value in its work, together with a personality that has long since entrenched him in the goodwill and respect of the many officers of the Department whose privilege it has been to be associated with him.

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 grant towards cost of transferring wheat-growers from "marginal" lands allocated as follows: New South Wales £195,000, South Australia £190,000 and Western Australia £115,000.

Minister for the Interior announces the extension of bounty on raw cotton produced in Australia for five years from end of 1940. This extension, involving an annual expenditure of £150,000 is dependent on Queensland undertaking to convert industry from dry to irrigation farming and adopting scientific methods of eliminating existing disabilities.

Maximum wholesale prices for "fancy" meats in Sydney, New South Wales, fixed by the Commonwealth Prices Commissioner. "Fancy" meats include sheep heads, livers and hearts, ox livers, tongues, tails and checks, calf hearts and livers. Overseas demand for these is buoyant.

Commonwealth Assistant-Minister for Commerce announces that Great Britain will buy Australia's exportable surplus of sheepskins.

Reports indicate that Japanese interests have purchased 57,000 tons of barley for £400,000 from Australian Barley Board and 100,000 tons of flour for £1,000,000 from Australian Wheat Board. The flour, equivalent to nearly 5 million bushels of wheat will be manufactured in the various States, according to their milling capacity.

Negotiations for sale to United Kingdom of present season's Australian exportable egg surplus expected to be completed shortly.

CHEESE MARKETING PLAN, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

In the "Notes on Marketing Organisation" published in the March, 1938, issue of the "Monthly Marketing Review", the marketing legislation in various provinces of Canada was dealt with, including that of New Brunswick. In reply to an enquiry as to later developments, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Fredericton, New Brunswick, has advised the Director of Marketing that cheese factories are now operating a plan for the marketing of all cheese produced in that province, and has been good enough to supply copy of this plan. Although the annual production of cheese is only slightly over half a million pounds, the Deputy Minister states that the sale through one agency has eliminated the price cutting that occurred under the former method of selling by twelve individual plants, and the quality of the product has been very materially improved.

The following particulars are given as of probable interest to readers:-

Purpose of Plan.

Proclaimed under the New Brunswick Natural Products Control Act, 1937, as amended (which is very similar in its essential provisions to the Natural Products Control Act of Ontario, outlined in the April, 1940, issue of the "Monthly Marketing Review"), and under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Agriculture, the New Brunswick Cheese Marketing Plan was effective from 21st July, 1939. Its purpose is set out as:-

- "(a) To improve the quality, grading and the method of maturing Canadian Cheddar Cheese manufactured in New Brunswick.
- (b) To regulate and control the marketing of regulated product by orderly and uniform regulation.
- (c) To store cheese when necessary in order to provide for market needs during seasons of short production and to prevent demoralization of the market when production is greater than current requirements.
- (d) To market cheese when properly matured and most acceptable to the trade."

Local Board.

The Plan is to be administered by a Local Board consisting of one representative from each of the twelve Cheese Factories, such representatives (or Directors) being elected annually at meetings of the patrons and shareholders of the respective factories held on or before 15th February of each year. (The personnel of the Local Board and the Executive thereof to hold office until the annual election, was designated in the proclaimed Plan).

The Directors of the Local Board at its Annual Meeting held on or before 1st March of each year elect a President, Vice President and three Directors to constitute an Executive.

The Local Board has its Head Office at Sussex, New Brunswick

Delegation of Powers to Local Board.

For the purposes of the Plan, the Natural Products Control Board (known as the Board) authorises the above-mentioned Local Board, as its agent, to exercise various powers essential to the control and marketing of the product, including the designation of the agency through which the marketing shall be carried out. The Local Board is empowered to fix, from time to time, the price at which any of the regulated product of any quantity, quality, grade or class may be sold, offered or transported for sale. It may impose and collect, as agent of the Board, a toll or charge not exceeding one-fifth of a cent. per pound on all the regulated product marketed under the Plan; such tolls are payable into the Consolidated Revenue of the Province, and the Local Board renders monthly accounts for all expenditure to the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer.

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- CATTLE, SHEEP AND PIGS -
BREEDS PREFERRED BY OPERATORS AT HOMEBUSH SALEYARDS,
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

An article on the above subject appeared in the December, 1939, issue of the Monthly Marketing Review. Subsequently the question arose as to whether there is any tendency in Australia for particular breeds of cattle to be preferred and bred for beef in particular localities or States. Consideration is accordingly given to this aspect.

So far as can be ascertained, there are no statistical data or pastoral maps available which convey a picture of the actual distribution of the various beef breeds of cattle in this country. Sufficient evidence exists, however, to throw some light on this interesting phase of the subject.

In the first place, it must be remembered that Herefords and Shorthorns are numerically stronger than any other beef breed; one visit to any Metropolitan saleyard in the Commonwealth is enough to convince anyone of this. Therefore in all beef raising localities one may expect to see numbers of both of these breeds. This numerical superiority is significant for surely it can logically be argued that these breeds were well adapted to the conditions that were met with in earlier days of development and have substantially retained their popularity. In the more remote districts where natural feed alone is the only fodder, Shorthorns are apt to be more numerous than Herefords. This is true of Northern Queensland, Western New South Wales and a great part of the producing /areas....

areas of Western Australia. Towards the more closely settled districts, as instanced in Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales, Herefords become increasingly prominent. To this extent, then, certain breeds are favoured for particular localities.

In closely settled parts, where fodder reserves are available to supplement natural grasses, it is correct to say that all breeds can be brought to earlier maturity. Under these conditions it rests largely with individual owners as to what types of cattle are carried. It is a fact that many such breeders are apt to have a particular fancy which they will indulge in such circumstances. Thus it is that, in almost any of the safe districts of adequate rainfall and opportunity for fodder reserves and enjoying the added advantage of good access to markets, different breeds of beef cattle may be found thriving side by side.

It should be mentioned, however, that the polled breeds, particularly Aberdeen Angus, Polled Shorthorns and Polled Herefords, are attracting greater attention. This is particularly noticeable at stud stock sales, where the polled animals are at a premium. As supplies of suitable stud stock are limited, some time must elapse before the effect of this trend becomes fully apparent in our main producing districts.

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MARKETING OF 1939/40 APPLE CROP,
BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA.

According to "Foreign Crops and Markets" of 16th March, 1940, the marketing of the British Columbian 1939/40 apple crop has proceeded in a normal fashion despite the war. Statistics released by the British Columbia Fruit Board show that total shipments to 24th February, 1940, amounted to 86% of the crop compared with 89% for the same period of 1938/39 season. The total crop was estimated at 5,523,000 boxes, a small decrease on the 5,594,000 boxes for 1938/39. Up to 24th February, 1940, "domestic" shipments (that is, to destinations within the Dominion of Canada) aggregated 2,079,000 boxes, exports amounted to 2,506,000 boxes and canneries absorbed 178,000 boxes.

While exports were about 250,000 boxes below those during 1938/39, they were above the average of the three previous seasons. Approximately 87% of the exports went to the United Kingdom (2,179,000 boxes), South American countries took 135,000 boxes, United States 84,000, Egypt 46,000 and the Union of South Africa 41,000 boxes.

The British Columbia Fruit Board was established under the Natural Products Marketing (British Columbia) Act as the body to designate the central selling agency for the marketing of the crop, to publish figures on the movement of fruit, to conduct equalisation pools and to collect tolls for the expense of advertising and administration. The three members of the Board are elected by the members of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association.

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PHYSICAL FEATURES, PRODUCTION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION

OF THE

SOUTHERN TABLELAND OR STATISTICAL DIVISION NO. 7,

NEW SOUTH WALES.

In previous issues of the "Monthly Marketing Review" articles dealing with Statistical Divisions of New South Wales Nos. 1 to 6 have appeared from time to time. In continuation of the series, attention is focussed on the Southern Tableland of the State or Statistical Division No. 7.

Geographical description and climate.

Reference to the Official Year Book of New South Wales discloses that the Southern Tableland Division contains the seven Counties of King, Argyle, Murray, Cowley, Wallace, Beresford and Wellesley, of which three, viz., King, Argyle and Murray appear in Sir Thomas Mitchell's original survey of the "Nineteen Settled Counties" and share, with those of the Central Plateau, in the early history of the State. The Goulburn district was discovered by John Oxley in 1820, and a settlement founded there by Governor Macquarie in the same year.

The Southern Tableland is bounded on the north by the Upper Lachlan River, from Battery Ridge to Mount Sugarloaf, thence running southward to the junction of the Lachlan and Crookwell Rivers, by the latter to its headwaters in the Cullarin Range, thence by the mountain chain leading roughly north-east to Mt. Macalister, thence leaving the range by the Guineacor Creek, by the latter to its junction with the Wollondilly River.

Its southern boundary is the western section (from a point to the east of Mt. Tennyson to the head of the Indi River) of the surveyed straight line running diagonally north-west from Cape Howe to Forest Hill, which forms the eastern part of the surveyed boundary between New South Wales and Victoria.

It is bounded on the east by the Wollondilly River, from its junction with Guineacor Creek to its western deflection at Wamarra Brush, thence by Patrick's River and tributary creeks, by the Shoalhaven River from its southern bend in the latitude of the town of Goulburn to its junction with Jinden Creek, thence westward by a straight line running northward of Mt. Italy to the Oronnear Creek, by the latter to the Gourock section of the Main Dividing Range, the Kybean Range, the north-eastern section of the Monaro Range which forms the watershed of the Umaralla River, and by the South Coast Range, from its point of departure from the Monaro Range, southward to the Victorian border to the east of Mt. Tennyson.

In the west it is bounded by the Burrowa River from its junction with the River Lachlan on the north to its head-waters in
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the neighbourhood of Bowning Hill on the south; by the Yass River to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River, by the latter to its junction with the Goodradigbee River; by the Goodradigbee to its junction with Peppercorn Creek; by the latter to the Upper Murrumbidgee; by the Upper Murrumbidgee to the latitude of the Yarrangobilly Caves; thence southward by the Munyang Range and the Snowy Mountains to Forest Hill on the Victorian border.

The southern extremity of this Division constitutes the alpine region, not merely of the State of New South Wales, but of the Continent of Australia. It contains the highest peak in the Commonwealth, Mount Kosciusko, and other peaks of considerable height, such as Mt. Townsend, Ram's Head, The Pilot, Mt. Twynam, and David and Etheridge Peaks. The average height of the Southern Tableland is in the vicinity of 2,400 feet and it is the coldest part of the State, the mean annual temperature being about 54°. In summer the mean ranges from 55° to 68°, and in winter from 33° to 45°. Near the southern extremity of the tableland snow is generally present throughout the year. While the average annual rainfall varies from approximately 19 inches at Cooma to 64 inches at Kiandra, the bulk of the recording stations lies in the 20 to 30 inch group.

The Southern Tableland is generally well watered, coastal rivers having their headwaters on the eastern and southern watersheds and inland streams rising in the western. Of chief importance are the upper reaches of the Wollondilly and Shoalhaven Rivers, the Upper Murrumbidgee and its tributaries, and the Snowy River.

Area and population.

The total area of the division, which includes 7 Shires and 5 Municipalities, is 7,062,000 acres or approximately 11,034 sq. miles but as extensive tracts are rugged and rock-strewn and therefore unsuitable for agriculture, grazing has remained the main activity, although many farmers combine agriculture with grazing, and large areas are cultivated in suitable localities. As an illustration of the outstanding position held by the pastoral industry the following figures, prepared by the Government Statistician, are illuminating:

<u>Principal purpose for which holdings are used</u>	<u>No. of holdings</u>
Agriculture only	59
Dairying "	53
Grazing "	2,528
Agriculture and Dairying	36
" " Grazing	329
Dairying and Grazing	48
Agriculture, Dairying and Grazing	44
Poultry, Bees, Pigs, etc. . . .	13
Unoccupied or used for other purposes	72
	<hr/>
	3,182

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According to the New South Wales Statistical Register, the area of holdings in the season 1937/38 totalled 5,801,144 acres, 50,527 acres being under crop and 63,200 under sown grasses. Alienated or virtually alienated lands comprised 4,177,740 acres and leases of various kinds from the Crown aggregated 1,623,404 acres. The population at the 31st December, 1938, was estimated at 52,540 and, considering the large area of the division, it may be regarded as sparsely settled. There are few towns of consequence, the largest being Goulburn with a population estimated at the close of the year 1938 of 15,360, followed by Queanbeyan 4,220, Yass 3,020, and Cooma 2,150. It is interesting to note in passing that Canberra, the Federal Capital, which is situated within an area of 912 square miles ceded by the New South Wales Government to the Commonwealth in 1911 to form the Federal Capital Territory, formerly comprised part of this division.

Wool-growing the outstanding primary industry.

As previously indicated, the pastoral industry holds pride of place among the primary producing pursuits, and sheep-raising is pre-eminent, the numbers of sheep carried aggregating just on 3,784,000 head in the season 1937/38. Formerly, practically the whole of the sheep population of the Southern Tableland comprised fine-woolled merinos, climatic and other conditions suiting this type. However, with the devotion of greater attention to improved pastures, there has been a distinct tendency for merino wools to become stronger and many medium woolled sheep are now noticeable throughout this area.

Fat lamb industry may increase substantially.

This statistical division is in its infancy from the point of view of fat lamb raising but pasture improvement and the use of superphosphate has rendered fairly extensive areas suitable for this form of production, many lambs now being raised on the better developed properties. In a recent survey of the lamb raising industry in Australia, the Senior Sheep and Wool Instructor of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture pointed out that, despite the fact that this district comprises a large tract of mountain country and land not suitable for development, many more lambs will be produced in the near future. A number of breeders find that they cannot profitably run merinos any longer and are turning to lamb production. Careful pasture management, supplementary feeding, the growing of fodder crops, and the conservation of fodder, however, are considered essential for success.

Although the long, cold winter and the lateness of the season are among the disabilities suffered by fat lamb producers in this district, it is stated that the advantages include assured seasons and the ease with which pastures can be improved. Another factor on the credit side is proximity to market. The northern section is the closest lamb producing area to the Sydney market, being only 80 miles away. The lower Monaro (south-eastern portion of the division) is about 320 miles distant and those western

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portions which use the Sydney market are about the same distance. There are definite possibilities of expansion because of the industry's comparative lack of development.

Considerable numbers of cattle depastured.

Cattle rank next to sheep in the grazing activities of this division, and at 31st March, 1938, totalled 132,387 head, consisting of 5,488 cows in registered dairies and 126,899 other cattle. The foregoing total represents a significant increase over that for 1931, when the aggregate was 71,669 head. It is worthy of mention that the more assured seasons of this portion of the State enable graziers there to supply fat stock to the markets at times when such stock is at a premium. Also, the better parts of the undeveloped country throughout the Southern Tablelands, together with what is termed the Snow Belt, are largely availed of for relief pastures for sheep and cattle from inland centres in time of drought.

A limited amount of dairying and pigraising is carried on, particularly in the Goulburn and Taralga centres, and during the year 1937/38 the output of factories within the division amounted to 480,445 lb. butter and 27,378 lb. bacon and hams.

Agriculture of minor importance.

Compared with many other parts of the State, little agriculture is practised. Some wheat and oats are grown, mainly in the north and north-western portions, but elsewhere cultivation of these cereals is negligible; in 1937/38, the total acreage of wheat sown in the Southern Tablelands was 3,974, and of oats 15,110. Plots of lucerne are established on river and creek flats, more particularly in parts of the Monaro and Dalgety Shires, and in 1937/38 aggregated 12,055 acres for hay, from which 11,541 tons of hay were harvested, and 12,654 acres for green fodder.

The important potato-growing areas of the Central Tableland extend into the subject division, the main production taking place in the Goulburn-Taralga districts. To a lesser extent this crop is grown around Cooma and Bombala. For the year 1937/38 the quantity of potatoes dug amounted to 5,575 tons from 2,180 acres. Statistics of the vegetable growing industry reveal that the Southern Tableland accounted for 1,517 acres and 19,865 tons of turnips of the total of 4,366 acres and 29,789 tons for the State during 1937/38; the Bibbenluke Shire was the main producing area.

Apples, pears and cherries are cultivated to a somewhat limited extent, the chief commercial orchards being in the Goulburn and Yass regions. Figures published by the Government Statistician show that in the 1937/38 season there were 1,165 acres of productive fruit trees, and that the yields of the principal varieties were:- 35,677 bushels of Apples, 12,174 bushels of Pears, 3,267 bushels of Apricots, 3,168 bushels of Cherries, 2,349 bushels of Peaches and 1,607 bushels of Plums. Young trees not yet bearing totalled 188 acres.

(To be continued)

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HOME BUSH LIVESTOCK MARKETS, SYDNEY.

SHEEP AND CATTLE DEARER; PIGS SELL AT FIRM LEVELS.

Light supplies of sheep and lambs.

From the beginning of April the numbers of sheep and lambs coming forward were relatively small and little improvement was noticeable until the close of the month when larger consignments came to hand. The smallest yarding on any one sale day was 12,909 and the highest 33,862 head; the aggregate for the month was only 170,289, representing a decrease of 21,117 on the previous month's total. The dry conditions in many parts of the State were relieved by welcome falls of rain which will enable graziers to retain sheep on their holdings for fattening. There was a marked shortage of lambs, the supply for the month being 49,338 head.

Moderate supplies of quality sheep.

Moderate numbers of good to prime sheep were offered but they were mostly of a heavy description, dressing from 48 lb. of mutton upward. Light sheep, which would dress out at from 36 lb. to 44 lb. were somewhat scarce; most of the light sheep offered were of fair to medium trade quality only. One noticeable feature in the sheep section was that although the aggregate penning for April were some 20,000 below the March total, actually the grown sheep yarded totalled 121,591 or 5,226 more than last month's figure.

Strong demand for sheep.

A brisk demand characterised the sheep market for the greater part of April with a generally upward prices movement but values fell away subsequently. Sheep advanced by from 2/6 to 5/- per head over the first three weeks of the period but larger supplies towards the end of April resulted in a decline in prices of from 2/- to 3/- per head, medium quality mutton being most affected. Some of the sales given below illustrate price movements during the period:-

A line of nice light wethers was sold on 1st April at 14/11 each; weighing approximately 40 lb. they were worth 4d per lb.

On 15th, a consignment of good trade wethers dressing approximately 44 lb. of mutton made 21/10 per head or the equivalent of 4½d per lb.

Later in the period some attractive wethers which weighed approximately 46 lb. realised the highly satisfactory price of 27/4 per head, the mutton costing 5d per lb. At the end of the period, a yard of similar quality sheep and the same dressed weight was disposed of at 24/- each or 4½d per lb.

Realisations for grown sheep were very satisfactory for the most part, wethers making as much as 33/- per head while sales

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at 25/- to 30/- frequently occurred. Generally, however, a fairly large proportion of the good trade wethers was disposed of at from 20/- to 27/- according to weight and skin value. Medium to plain descriptions realised relatively lower prices. Ewes, also, sold well, up to 23/- per head being paid for some lines of outstanding quality, but quite a few of the better classes of ewes made from 14/- to 20/-. Plain sorts, of course, sold at lower rates.

During the period of peak values, which occurred about mid-April, some good light 4 tooth wethers cost as much as $5\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. on the hoof, and other light sheep $4\frac{1}{2}$ d to 5d; heavy mutton at the same time made 4d to $4\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. Owing to the sharp rise in prices, the range per lb. for mutton necessarily is fairly wide, heavy wethers costing from $3\frac{1}{4}$ d to $4\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. and light from $3\frac{3}{4}$ d to $5\frac{1}{4}$ d. Mostly, however, it could be said that light sheep were obtained at $3\frac{3}{4}$ d to $4\frac{3}{4}$ d and heavy at $3\frac{1}{4}$ d to $4\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. Allowing for the rise and fall of the market, the cost of mutton would average from $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1d per lb. more than in the previous month. The position with regard to ewes was very similar, light making to $4\frac{3}{4}$ d and heavy to 4d per lb. Mostly, however, ewe mutton cost from 3d to $3\frac{3}{4}$ d for heavy and $3\frac{1}{2}$ d to $4\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. for light.

Acute shortage of lambs.

Lamb supplies showed a decline of 26,243 head in April. The highest daily total was 10,502 head and the lowest 4,400, the supply being far short of requirements. Very few lambs of quality were available but some lots of attractive heavy lambs were received. The greater part of the offerings comprised medium to plain descriptions, many of which were very dry; in this class, weights of from 26 to 32 lb. were the most common.

Sharp rise in lamb values.

The light supplies created the strongest demand for lambs experienced at the Homebush saleyards for many years and prices of all grades reached peak levels. The market opened early in April generally dearer and by the middle of the month values had advanced by from 3/- to 7/- per head. By the end of April prices had receded slightly, a fall of from 1/- to 2/- occurring on good lambs while medium to plain trade descriptions eased by about 3/- per head. Some indication of the marked variations which took place are indicated in the following actual sales:-

A line of good trade lambs weighing 32 lb. sold early in the month at 23/9 per head or approximately $8\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.

About mid-April, a line of nice quality lambs weighing approximately 31 lb. realised the equivalent of $9\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb., the operator paying 28/2 each.

On the next sale day a draft of suckers made $10\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb; weighing approximately 32 lb., they were disposed of at 31/9 per head. Values at closing sales were on a lower level as good lambs weighing approximately 32 lb. sold at 27/6 each or $8\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.

Actual realisations per head were extremely good, up to 35/- being paid for quality lamb, while many sales were effected at 28/- to 32/-. A fairly large percentage of the offering realised from 22/- to 27/- each according to quality. Medium to plain lambs sold at correspondingly lower rates.

Although up to 10½d per lb. was paid for lambs of outstanding quality and finish this extreme rate was not general. With prices rising as sharply as they did, the range is fairly wide, lambs realising from 8d to 10d per lb. for light and 7½d to 9d for heavy grades, representing an advance of from 1½d to 2d per lb. over the previous month's prices.

Quality cattle in short supply.

The total offering of cattle during April, 1940, (17,877 head) showed an increase on the previous month's consignments but there were only seven sale days in March compared with eight in the month under review. In contrast with the uniform truckings during March the daily totals for April varied considerably. Except on one or two sale days the quality was disappointing and even the comparatively large number auctioned in the store section, 3,546 head, fails to reflect the high percentage of plain and medium cattle yarded. On some occasions the quality of the cattle in a large number of the pens was little better than that to be found in the store section.

Competition from chilled beef.

Seasonal conditions during April showed a considerable improvement and following beneficial rains over a wide area the position is now much more satisfactory. Reports indicate that green feed is coming on and stock are in fair to good condition in many parts of the State. Additional falls are still required, of course, in parts where drought conditions had been severe.

Heavy supplies of chilled beef are reaching Sydney from country killing centres and quality is said to be very good. Some sections of the trade are expressing concern and doubt whether the producer will benefit in the long run.

Heavy bullocks scarce.

On most sale days bullocks were in somewhat light supply with quality chiefly fair to good trade. Medium to heavy weight beasts were particularly scarce on some occasions, nevertheless several very attractive drafts of prime heavy Shorthorns from the Moree district were yarded. They sold to £21 per head; one line which was estimated to average 975 lb. dressed brought £19.11.0 per head, equivalent to 40/- per 100 lb. The steady upward movement in prices which has been noticeable for some considerable time continued during April, values during the latter half of the month reaching particularly high levels when quotations for good to prime bullocks were as follow:- Heavy 37/- to 43/-, Medium 40/- to 44/-, Light 42/- to 45/-. Large supplies of chilled beef towards the close

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of the period had a somewhat steadying influence and on the final sale day values generally were a little easier.

Good trade steers well supplied.

Steers were generally well in evidence and comprised chiefly light to medium weight descriptions. Fair to good trade lots predominated, nevertheless a fairly substantial percentage was of prime grade. Prime light steers were always in keen demand and during the first half of the month average rates showed an improvement. At subsequent sales, there was a fairly substantial rise in prices of all descriptions and on the final sale day quotations for good to prime, covering all weights, ranged from 43/- to 50/- per 100 lb.

Medium grade cows plentiful.

Cows were plentiful but unfortunately the offerings generally contained a high percentage of dairy stock and plain to medium quality beef breeds. Light weight sorts predominated and prime heavy weights were sometimes difficult to secure. As might be expected, good to prime beef breeds brought enhanced prices, both light and heavy grades selling to 39/- per 100 lb. during the first half of the period. Values subsequently advanced still further when heavy cows were quoted at 36/- to 40/6 and light 38/- to 41/-. Following heavy consignments on the final sale day values declined 2/- per 100 lb.

Heifers make a fair showing.

There was generally a fair showing of heifers, all weights being included. Supplies chiefly constituted fair trade quality lines but a number of attractive drafts were noticed which met a ready sale at improved rates. Values were always above those of the previous month and ranged from 39/- to 47/- per 100 lb. during the first half of April whilst as high as 50/- was subsequently recorded. Closing quotations, however, were 40/- to 48/- for good to prime grades.

Quality vealers in limited supply.

The offerings of vealers continued to be variable but quality was more even in that fair to good trade sorts predominated on each sale day; prime beasts, however, were forward in limited numbers only.

Cattle values higher.

As already indicated, the steady advance in values, which has been apparent for several months now, continued during April and prices during the third week reached the highest level for some considerable time. Consignments continued to be light but values showed a small recession during the subsequent sale days owing, it is alleged, to the large supplies of chilled beef from country centres. There is little indication, however, that any marked decline in values of prime cattle is likely in the near future.

Increased supplies of pigs.

In contrast with the previous month, April offerings each week were all more or less substantial, resulting in the much higher aggregate of 6,367 head being sold at auction. This total is also considerably in excess of the number auctioned during the corresponding period of 1939, viz., 3,580 head, and may be an indication that the efforts being put forth to develop the industry in this State are producing results. This is also exemplified by the increased percentage of country pigs offered, 3,206 of the total April penningings being received by rail. In addition to the pigs auctioned, yard dues were paid to the Metropolitan Meat Industry Commissioner in respect of 1,779 head, representing private sales which would include pigs of baconer weight sold "over the scale" at the Homebush Abattoirs.

Variable quality of porkers.

Porkers, as usual, were better represented than the other classes of pigs and for the most part they comprised medium to heavy weight descriptions with light sorts occasionally in limited supply. Quality on the whole could be described as fair only, although quite a noticeable proportion of the offerings was of good to prime grade. A fair percentage of the penningings consisted of well-bred pigs at a stage insufficiently "finished" for marketing but these met a ready inquiry from store buyers. Medium quality porkers were also in demand by feeders for subsequent sale as pigs of heavy baconer type. Prices during the month were variable, nevertheless average rates were about equal to those of March. Heavy porkers maintained values more consistently than other classes; prices of prime animals dressing 90 lb. varied between $53/6$ and $55/6$ only, whilst those of porkers dressing 60 lb. ranged from $39/6$ to $43/6$ per head. The market was best on the final sale day when values of pigs of the above-mentioned weight on a per lb. basis made $7\frac{1}{4}d$ and $8\frac{1}{2}d$, respectively.

Increased supplies of baconers.

Baconers continued to make an improved showing, being much better than earlier in the year. It has already been maintained that the bulk of the local supplies of heavy baconers are being sold direct to operators at a fixed rate per pound ($6\frac{1}{2}d$) on the dressed weight of the carcass. The quality of those auctioned was variable, generally ranging from fair to good trade. A noticeable proportion, nevertheless, was of good to prime quality. This was more apparent amongst the light and medium weight sorts. The fixation of prices for baconers exported to the United Kingdom has had a generally steadying effect on the local market and values during the month disclosed only slight variations, the principal changes being in relation to prime light baconers dressing 100 lb. Prices of prime heavy baconers (150 lb.) were practically stationary at $86/6$ per head, equivalent to $6\frac{3}{4}d$ per lb.

Backfatters continue in firm demand.

Backfatters were well supplied on most sale days but for the most part they were of light to medium weight. Heavy sorts, on occasions, were very scarce. Quality as usual was most variable and ranged from plain to prime. On the whole, quality animals were fairly well represented, although prime pigs were somewhat difficult to secure. The strong market for backfatters, which has been in evidence for some time now was maintained during April. Although small fluctuations occurred, average rates were about on a par with those of March. The market was at its best on the final sale day in April when equivalent carcass values of good to prime pigs ranged from 5³/₄d to 6¹/₂d per lb. for weights 200 lb. to 350 lb. and from 5¹/₂d to 6d for those estimated to dress over 350 lb.

Market values maintained.

Generally speaking, the auctions conducted during April may be considered satisfactory from the viewpoint of the producer in that the average rates of the previous month were fairly well maintained despite the increased numbers available. Prices, except for those of light porkers, were higher than during the corresponding period of 1939 when supplies were also light.

G.C. & J.W.

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TOMATO AND APPLE JUICES - CANADA.

The following extract from a recent report by the Assistant Australian Trade Commissioner in Canada indicates that the fruit and vegetable juice industry is firmly established in that Dominion:-

"It appears that these products have reached a stage when they are being sold entirely on their own merits. As an example of the development it may be mentioned that 25,000 acres in two counties of Ontario were devoted last year entirely to tomato crops, practically the whole of which were processed into juice. It is said that the public in Great Britain are commencing to use tomato juice extensively.

The increasing utilisation of apple juice fulfills a twofold purpose, firstly to reduce the surplus of Canadian fresh apples which formerly went to the United Kingdom and secondly decreasing importations of fresh fruit and fruit juices from the United States. The development is, therefore, specially useful under wartime conditions as a measure of protection of the Canadian economy. It is stated that processors of apple juice this year underestimated the demand which has arisen for this product, particularly as a breakfast drink."

Figures published in "Agricultural and Industrial Progress in Canada" show that for the first seven months of 1939 Canadian exports of tomato juice in containers amounted to 2,758,000 lbs.

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

Since the breaking of the drought early in April there have been intermittent periods of cool, showery weather which had the effect of retarding sales of fruit to some extent and business lacked the brisk tone which was apparent during the previous month. On the whole, however, clearance of quality fruit was satisfactory and values were fairly well maintained.

Steady demand for recognised commercial varieties of apples.

Only relatively small quantities of apples came to hand from New South Wales districts but heavy shipments were received from Tasmania. A considerable proportion of the Tasmanian consignments, however, was placed in cool storage and the market was not overstocked.

There was a steady inquiry for the larger sizes of the recognised commercial varieties, such as Jonathan, Granny Smith and Delicious, but most other sorts, together with small fruit of all kinds, were slow of sale, even at low prices. Local Granny Smiths, Delicious and Jonathans were rather scarce and met a ready sale at very satisfactory prices. Up to 18/- per case was realised for choice, large Delicious while sales of Granny Smith and Jonathan were recorded to 12/- for the best sizes. Tasmanian Jonathans, also, sold well at rates ranging to 10/-. Owing to the shortage of Granny Smiths, buyers were forced to substitute other varieties such as Cleopatra and Alfriston for "cookers" and better prices than usual were realised for these sorts.

Quality pears in request.

Choice local Packham's Triumph and Winter Cole pears were in request throughout the month at very satisfactory prices which ranged to 14/- per case with odd sales of the first named at higher rates. Some of the less popular varieties, such as Beurre Bosc and Beurre de Capiaumont, also sold well. Fairly large quantities were received from Tasmania and moderate consignments also came to hand from Victoria; these supplies were disposed of to good advantage, particularly Tasmanian Winter Coles.

New Season Navel oranges available - values of Valencias decline.

Small consignments of new season Navel oranges were received from Queensland early in the month and met a ready sale at prices ranging to 24/- per case.

With steadily increasing supplies coming forward, vendors were obliged to accept lower rates but stocks continued to sell freely and values of the best packs were maintained at rates ranging to 20/- per case. About the middle of the month, Queensland

/Joppas

Joppas were also available and cleared readily at from 12/- to 16/- per case.

Only limited quantities of local Valencias were available early in the month and the high prices ruling at the end of March continued until supplies of Queensland Navels and Joppas, for which buyers showed a preference owing to their superior quality, were sufficient to meet the requirements of the trade. Values then fell sharply and the larger sizes of quality fruit were the only lines that could be cleared at all satisfactorily. Small fruit became increasingly difficult to sell and was offered for as low as 2/- per case in an endeavour to obviate an accumulation of stocks.

Towards the end of the month, small quantities of Navel oranges from local sources made their appearance on the market but were mostly too green in appearance for ready sale.

Values of lemons case.

At first, only very limited supplies of lemons were received from local growers and although consignments continued to come to hand from Queensland, aggregate stocks were not large. Sales were readily effected and prices rose to relatively high levels, up to 20/- and 25/- being realised for the best quality local and Queensland lots, respectively. These conditions existed until about the middle of the month. From then onwards a steady downward trend in values was apparent, which may be attributed to two main causes. Firstly, the high prices ruling earlier in the month induced local growers to forward considerable quantities of green fruit which became increasingly difficult to sell and, secondly, the colder weather had a retarding effect on sales.

Fluctuating market for passion-fruit.

A weaker demand and more plentiful supplies of passion-fruit were responsible for a decline in values at the beginning of the month. Within a week, however, there was an improved inquiry for choice lots and the market had fully recovered, up to 20/- per half-case being realised. Subsequently a weaker demand was again experienced and values declined by about 5/- per half-case but as stocks were only moderate prices were maintained at these levels throughout the remainder of the month.

Grapes cheaper.

Only small quantities of both Black and White Muscatel grapes were available and choice lots continued to command relatively high prices. Plentiful supplies of Purple Cornichon and some white varieties were forthcoming from inland districts, principally the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. As sales were somewhat retarded by the cool weather vendors were obliged to accept lower prices to facilitate clearances.

Increased supplies and the repercussions of the high prices ruling at the end of March were responsible for a decline
/in

in the values of bananas early in April, the quotation for the period being from 14/- to 20/- per tropical case, with some specials higher. Towards the middle of the month, however, shorter supplies came to hand and prices rose again to former levels (14/- to 23/-) and these rates were fairly evenly maintained throughout the balance of the period, although an easier tendency was apparent at closing.

Sharp rise in prices of pineapples followed by downward trend.

Only relatively light supplies of pineapples were available at the beginning of April and stocks cleared readily at enhanced prices, up to 14/- per tropical case being obtained, with odd sales at higher rates. This induced growers to forward larger quantities and by the end of the first week the market had declined by at least 3/- per case. Following is an extract from a report by the Sydney representative of the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, dated 6th April, which aptly describes the first week's trading:

"The shortened quantities over three trains had a tendency to harden values and by the 31st March all stocks were cleared by shopkeepers, due mainly to weather conditions which were admirable for pineapple eating. Again on Monday morning only moderate quantities came forward and, in consequence of an unusual demand, values rose to 15/- and perhaps more for those extra special brands which are not usually quoted. In the afternoon of Monday the first rains in Sydney for a considerable time set in and Tuesday morning sales lagged badly and the market was definitely 3/- lower. In some cases where agents had held out for still better values as much as a 5/- fall in values was noticed. Here again we have the repercussions of high rates to the consumer and a tendency to induce heavy quantities to come forward, some of which were too green for immediate consumption and as a result there is a considerable carry-over stock. Values for the week opened at 8/- to 11/- and on Saturday morning were 6/- to 9/-. 6333 cases of pines came forward."

Again during the third week supplies were relatively small and the market improved but later more plentiful supplies were forthcoming. Sales were retarded to some extent by the cold weather and prices receded to former levels.

Cooler weather conditions favour sales of vegetables.

The cooler weather which prevailed throughout the month was more favourable to the sale of vegetables and trading was fairly brisk.

Prices of peas fluctuate.

Peas were in relatively light supply during the early part of April and a steady rise in prices was apparent. The peak was reached on Monday, 8th April, when choice lots realised to 18/- per bushel, with odd sales at still higher rates. These high prices had a retarding effect on disposals, however, as retailers were forced to limit their purchases owing to unsatisfactory clearances in their

/shops

shops and by the end of the second week values had receded considerably. Realisations, however, were still very satisfactory, the range being from 8/- to 12/- per bushel with odd sales higher. Prices again rose to 18/- for choice lines on Monday, 22nd April, but during the next few days the market became steady at from 10/- to 16/- per bushel.

Beans moderately stocked.

Consignments of beans were received from Queensland and the North Coast to supplement local supplies but aggregate stocks were only just sufficient to meet the requirements of the trade. A steady advance in prices was apparent up to and including Monday, 8th April, after which lower rates were accepted owing to a weaker demand. Values again rose to high levels during the week ended 24th April, up to 18/- per bushel being realised. These prices were not maintained but the closing quotations of 8/- to 12/- per bushel were nevertheless very satisfactory.

Values of cabbages fairly well maintained.

Cabbages for the most part were moderately supplied. There was a steady demand for quality lines and values were fairly steady at 2/- to 12/- per dozen, with sales of small quantities of extra choice at higher rates.

Choice cauliflowers in request.

Generally speaking, cauliflowers were fairly plentiful but only a relatively small proportion was of choice quality. Medium to inferior descriptions were at times difficult to sell but there was a sustained demand for quality 'heads' and realisations on the whole were very satisfactory.

Salad lines slow of sale.

The cool weather was not conducive to the sale of salad vegetables and prices of beetroot fell to relatively low levels. Supplies of lettuce, however, were only light and values were fairly well maintained in consequence.

Most kinds of bunched vegetables realise good prices.

There was a good demand for most kinds of bunched vegetables, particularly carrots, parsnips, spinach and rhubarb and comparatively high prices ruled.

Supplies of tomatoes diminish.

Fairly heavy consignments of tomatoes were received from Queensland and Victoria to supplement local supplies early in the month but by the close of April stocks had fallen off considerably. During the first three weeks arrivals from Queensland had fallen from 18,668 half-cases to 5,080 while in the following week only 1,626 boxes were received. Local supplies also diminished.

Sales were retarded to some extent by the weather conditions and green descriptions were particularly slow of sale. There was a fairly good inquiry for choice, coloured lines, however, especially towards the end of the month when supplies were short, and an upward trend in values was apparent. Closing quotations were as follow:- Local green 4/- to 7/-, coloured 6/- to 10/- per half-case; Victorian green 8/- to 12/-, coloured 10/- to 18/- (few higher) per bushel case.

E.J.C.

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

Increased consignments of Tasmanian potatoes.

Tasmanian growers shipped substantially heavier quantities of potatoes to the Sydney market during April, 1940, compared with the previous month. Consignments amounted to 146,397 bags and included both Table and Seed lines, At the beginning of April, rates for Brownells and Bismarcks were fixed at £14.0.0 but, following the receipt of a small shipment during the second week, prices advanced to £20.0.0 per ton. However, on the arrival of the season's heaviest consignment in the third week, quotations for Brownells and Bismarcks declined to £12.0.0. The range of prices throughout the month was:- Brownells and Bismarcks £12.0.0 to £20.0.0, Snowflakes and Arranchiefs £10.10.0 to £19.0.0, Seed £8.0.0 to £14.0.0 per ton. Demand was steady throughout for all lines.

A small quantity of Tasmanian potatoes, totalling 449 bags, was received at Alexandria. These tubers were originally shipped to Melbourne but were then forwarded by rail to Sydney. Realisations at auction ranged from £9.11.8 to £12.0.0 per ton. A consignment of 225 bags of Victorian potatoes also came to hand and brought £11.11.8 per ton at auction.

Arrivals of locally-produced potatoes at Alexandria were again fairly light, the total being 1,175 bags. The main centres represented were Guyra and Lowanna. Competition at auction was very keen and disposals were effected at the following rates:- No.1 grade, £7.15.0 to £12.15.0, No.2 grade, £9.15.0 to £13.0.0, Seed, £9.10.0 to £13.11.8, Stock food, £5.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton. Towards the end of the month, approximately 100 bags of autumn-crop new potatoes came to hand in Sussex Street from the Northern Rivers. These were offered at auction and brought £9.15.0 per ton.

Higher prices for onions.

Receivals of onions in Sussex Street totalled 14,718 bags from Victoria. Request was firm throughout the period and prices /advanced.....

advanced. At the beginning of April, rates for Brown Spanish ranged from £9.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton, but subsequently £12.0.0 was obtained. White onions comprised only a small proportion of the supplies and sold well at £6.0.0 to £12.0.0 for Table and £7.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton for "picklers". Brown picklers sold at £9.0.0 to £10.0.0 while brown Globe Table lines met a ready demand at £8.0.0 to £11.0.0 per ton.

Large supplies of pumpkins.

Heavy supplies of pumpkins were received at Alexandria, 92 trucks coming from Queensland and 9 from centres within New South Wales. At the beginning of the month up to £8.0.0 per ton was obtained but values declined towards the close of the period. Prices obtained for Queensland offerings ranged from £3.0.0 to **£10.0.0** per ton, whilst sales of local produce were effected at £3.0.0 to £8.0.0 by private treaty and £4.5.0 to £5.10.0 per ton by auction for small bag lots. The market for the 4,100 bags received in Sussex Street from Queensland showed a gradual decline from £8.0.0 early in the month to £6.0.0 per ton at the end. The 972 bags shipped from local ports ranged in price from £3.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton.

Good inquiry for other vegetables.

Arrivals of swedes, carrots and parsnips from Tasmania totalled 6,968, 2,363 and 1,605 bags, respectively. Inquiry was keen, especially for good to prime lots which cleared readily. Swedes were disposed of at £10.0.0 per ton until late in April, when a keener demand and lighter stocks resulted in prices advancing to £12.0.0 per ton. Quotations for carrots ranged from £8.0.0 to £12.0.0. Parsnips were in light supply early and sold at £15.0.0, but as stocks increased rates fell to £11.0.0 per ton. Victorian growers shipped 74 bags of parsnips to Sussex Street on 8th April and sales were reported at £18.0.0 per ton. At Alexandria, arrivals of locally-grown swedes totalled 232 bags. The quality varied very considerably and clearances were effected by auction at prices ranging from £4.10.0 to £13.5.0 per ton (and 5/- per bag). In addition, 81 bags of carrots were received and deliveries were taken at £4.10.0 to £10.0.0 per ton.

Quiet demand for white chaff.

Receivals of white chaff at the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard comprised 230 trucks of oaten and 39 of wheaten, a total of 269 trucks. The supply of oaten chaff was in excess of buyers' requirements and sales generally were slow in consequence. Any choice lines cleared well but the offering consisted mainly of lots other than choice. The major portion of the selling was carried out by private treaty at prices ranging from £4.0.0 to £6.0.0 per ton. Three trucks of medium oaten chaff realised £4.10.0 to £5.0.0 per ton at auction. Although wheaten chaff was in light supply, demand was limited and prices which were as high as £6.0.0 for choice at the beginning of the month eased to £5.5.0 per ton at closing. The

/range

range of prices for all grades during the period under review was as follows:- By private treaty - Inferior, £3.15.0 to £4.0.0, Medium, £4.5.0 to £4.15.0, Good, £5.0.0 to £5.5.0, Choice and extra choice, £5.10.0 to £6.0.0; By auction - Inferior, £3.5.0 per ton.

Good inquiry for lucerne chaff and hay.

The yarding of lucerne commodities at Alexandria was a moderate one and comprised the following:- Lucerne chaff - Local 71, Queensland 9; Lucerne hay - Local - Maitland 16, other centres 127, Queensland 23 trucks. A good demand prevailed for all lines, especially at the beginning of the month. In the chaff section, the local offering cleared at £5.0.0 to £10.0.0 by private treaty and £4.15.0 to £7.0.0 per ton by auction. Queensland chaff sold well at prices ranging from £7.0.0 to £9.10.0 per ton. Hay prices were approximately the same as those ruling during the previous month. Quotations for Queensland hay varied according to quality, values ranging from £8.10.0 to £9.0.0 for choice baled lots, and from £7.0.0 to £7.15.0 per ton for derrick-pressed. Maitland dry hay was quoted at £6.0.0 per ton, but most of the offering was consigned "sold to arrive" and no quotations were received. Produce from other centres was of very mixed quality and sales were recorded as follow:- By private treaty - Derrick-pressed £4.0.0 to £5.0.0, Baled £5.10.0 to £10.0.0; By auction - Derrick-pressed £5.0.0 to £6.15.0, Baled £5.8.4 to £8.11.8 per ton. No Hunter River lucerne hay was received in Sussex Street during the month.

Only 100 bales of Victorian special oaten hay were received in Sussex Street throughout the month; clearances were effected readily at £8.0.0 per ton. The larger part of the 57 trucks consigned to Alexandria from local districts was forwarded direct to a private firm and was not available for sale. The balance, however, sold fairly well at £3.0.0 for derrick-pressed and at £4.0.0 to £5.10.0 per ton for baled lots.

Light supplies of Tasmanian straw.

Only limited quantities of Tasmanian straw were shipped to Sussex Street. This was due to restrictions placed on shipping space and the carriage of large quantities of potatoes and fruit from that State. The total amount received was 345 bales, which met a steady inquiry at prices ranging from £4.15.0 to £5.0.0 per ton. At Alexandria, the 55 trucks railed from local sources cleared satisfactorily at £3.0.0 to £4.0.0, with odd sales higher.

Heavier consignments of grain.

Receivals of grain on the Sydney market were heavier than during the previous month, with the exception of wheat which was in light supply. In order to conserve supplies of coal for the maintenance of essential services, the Department of Railways decided, among other things, not to accept wheat for transport by rail except in specially authorised cases. Up to the present time,
/wheat

wheat is the only grain so restricted. The yardings of grain at Alexandria comprised the following:- Wheat 11 trucks; Maize - Local 5,144 bags, Queensland 672 bags; Oats 88 trucks. In Sussex Street, 4,543 bags of maize were received from the Northern Rivers. A steady inquiry was reported for maize, whilst a good demand prevailed for wheat and oats. Yellow maize at both selling centres cleared at 4/6 at the beginning of the month but firmed subsequently to 4/9 per bushel. White maize, which was not so heavily supplied as the yellow variety, sold well at 4/9 per bushel. Portion of the supply of wheat sold by auction at prices ranging from 3/8¹/₂d to 4/0³/₄d whilst sales by private treaty were made at 4/- to 4/6 per bushel. The quality of the oats was mixed and, as a consequence, prices varied. Disposals by auction were effected at 2/- to 2/6 and by private treaty 2/2 to 2/8 per bushel.

R.E.J.

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THE RICE INDUSTRY - EGYPT.

The Australian Trade Commissioner in Egypt recently supplied the Director of Marketing with some interesting information relative to the Egyptian production and export of rice.

Rice is grown in the salty zone of the Delta and in the low-lying district of Fayoum the first crops are usually planted to assist in the reclaiming of the land by the repeated floodings. The area available for rice crops is dependent on the volume of Summer water available each year. The Egyptian Government has given considerable attention to the general improvement of water conservation and supply, and this will probably result in an extension of the rice area. Special investigations are also being carried out with a view to the improvement of the rice crop and its further exploitation.

The harvesting of rice, generally completed by the end of October, results in increased exports in October and November and reaches the peak in December. Several mills exist in Egypt for the production of rice flour which, in times of shortage of wheat, is mixed with wheaten flour. The mixing of rice flour is said to be successful only in cold weather, i.e., from November to March, and this corresponds with the period of wheat shortage.

In 1938, the area under rice in Egypt was 494,560 acres from which 1,598,759,516 lb. rice were harvested. Exports of rice for the year 1938 totalled 144,202,218 lb. Roumania, The Netherlands, Greece, Belgium, Syria and France have been the outstanding purchasers of Egyptian rice.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN
 SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING APRIL, 1940, AND
 CORRESPONDING FIGURES AT 31st AUGUST, 1939.

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 for the periods indicated:-

Commodity	April, 1940		31st August, 1939		
	From	To	From	To	
Wheat -					
Bulk	per bushel	3/9 ¹ / ₂ d		2/4d	
Bagged	" "	4/0 ¹ / ₂ d		2/5d	
Flour -	" ton	£10.4.7	£10.14.7	£6.12.3	
		(plus	(plus	(plus	
		£2.5.5	£1.15.5	£6.2.9	
		tax)	tax)	tax)	
Bran -	£5.10.0 per ton	} unchanged.	} unchanged.	£4.5.0	
Pollard -	£5.10.0 " "			£4.5.0	
Eggs (hen)	per dozen	1/9d	1/10d	1/-	
Butter -					
Choice	161/2d per cwt.)	} unchanged.	} unchanged.	161/2d	
First Quality	156/6d " "			156/6d	
Second	151/10d " "			151/10d	
Cheese -					
Loaf	11d per lb.)	} unchanged.	} unchanged.	11d	
Large	10 ¹ / ₂ d " "			10 ¹ / ₂ d	
Special brands	1/-			1/2d	1/2d
				29th August, 1939	
				From	To
Pigs (Abattoir Sales) -					
Prime extra light	per head			per head	
porkers	26/6	39/6	31/6	40/6	
" light porkers	33/6	43/6	39/6	44/6	
" med.wgt. "	38/6	51/6	43/6	51/6	
" heavy "	48/6	55/6	50/6	54/6	
" baconers	62/6	86/6	60/6	75/6	
Backfatters	£5.0.0	£9.0.0	£4.5.0	£8.10.0	

Note: The pig sales nearest to 31st August, 1939, were those held on 29th August, 1939.

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

F R U I T.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	Melons crates	TOTAL packages
Queensland	32,467	7,786 ^x	28,225	176,893	34	245,405
Victoria	-	55	26,109	75,014	-	101,178
Tasmania	-	-	140,879	1,836	-	142,715
Sth. Australia	-	-	9,399	-	-	9,399
West. Australia	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	32,467	7,841	204,612	253,743	34	498,697

x Also 6 bunches bananas.

V E G E T A B L E S.

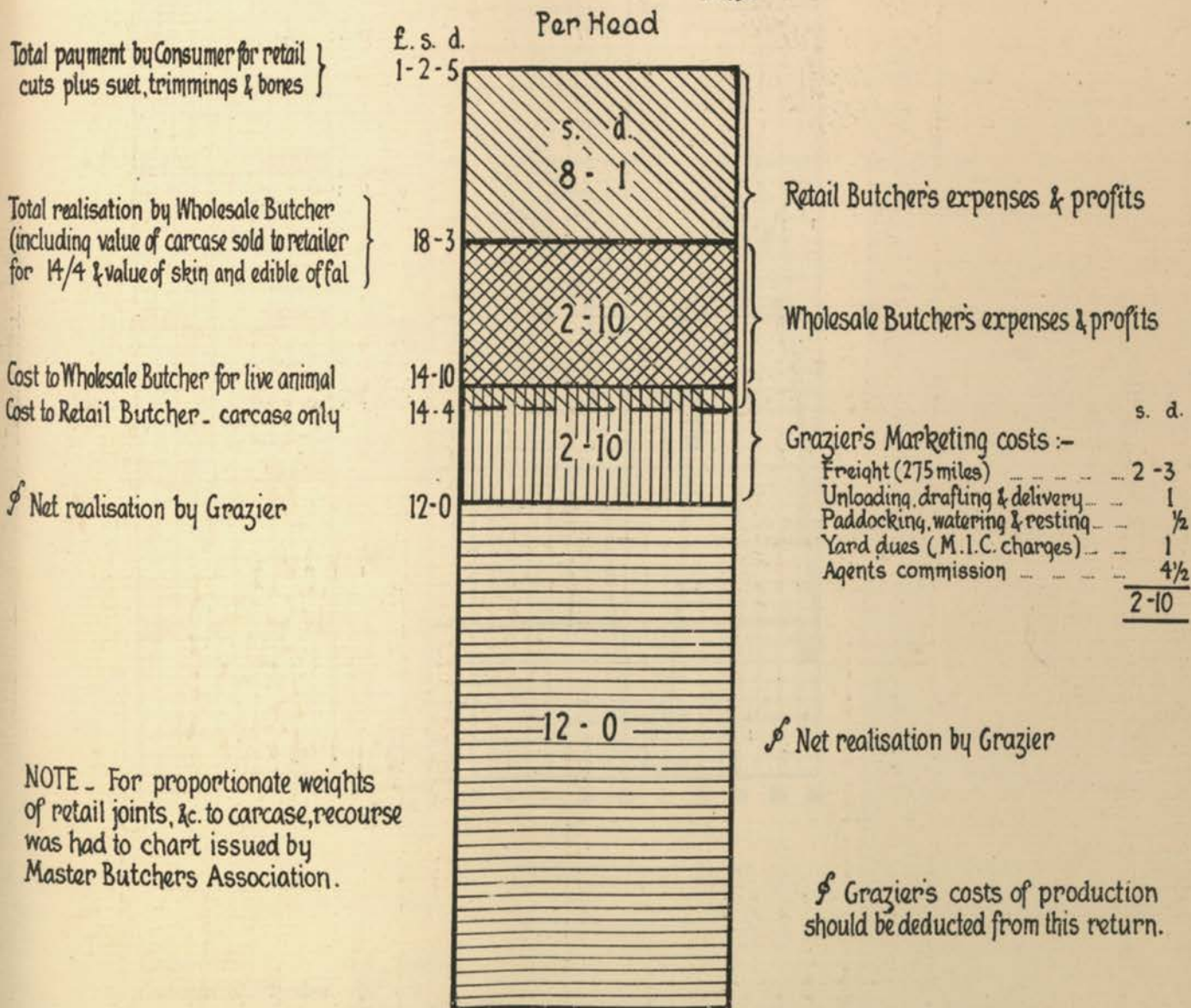
STATE	Potatoes	Onions	Swedes	Pumpkins		Cucs. & Chillies	Other Veggies.		TOTALS	
	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Tons	Cases	Pkgs.	Tons	Pkgs.	Tons
Queensland	195	26	-	10,012	413 $\frac{3}{4}$	703	14,644	-	25,580	413 $\frac{3}{4}$
Victoria	12,434	35,557	-	-	-	1	4,273	76 $\frac{1}{4}$	52,265	76 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tasmania	115,775	-	6,747	-	-	-	5,620	-	128,142	-
Sth. Aust.	1,420	1,432	-	-	-	-	6,982	-	9,834	-
West. Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	129,824	37,015	6,747	10,012	413 $\frac{3}{4}$	704	31,519	76 $\frac{1}{4}$	215,821	490

SHEEP (Good Trade Wether)

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

JANUARY, 1940

40-335



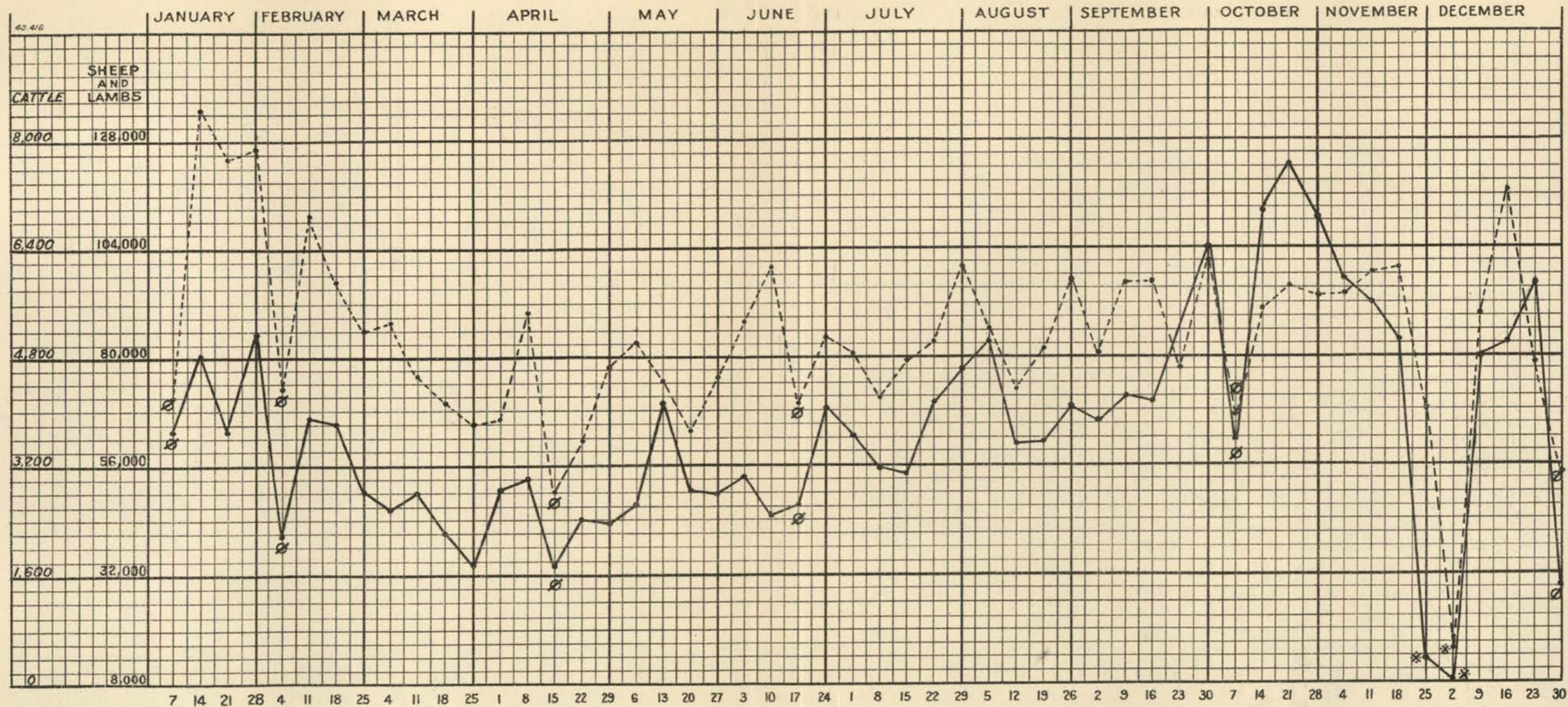
BASIS OF GRAPH :- Wether, 46 lb. dressed weight, sold on the hoof at 14/10.

Compiled. J.H.,
Drawn. J.H., } 14.2.40.
Checked. C.M.P.

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

STOCK YARDED - HOMEBUSH 1939

CATTLE SHEWN THUS  : SHEEP SHEWN THUS 



NOTES:- ø Week in which only one sale held due to the intervention of a Public Holiday.
 * Operations at Homebush saleyards temporarily suspended owing to Industrial trouble at the Homebush Abattoirs.

Compiled:- G.C. 2.4.40
 Compilation Checked:- J.H. 2.4.40
 Graph Drawn:- E.H.S. 3.4.40
 Graph Checked:- G.J. 18.4.40

A. A. WATSON
 DIRECTOR OF MARKETING. 22.4.40.