AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

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

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

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
http://ageconsearch.umn.edu
aesearch@umn.edu

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

STATE MARKETING BUREAU - DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. N.S.W

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

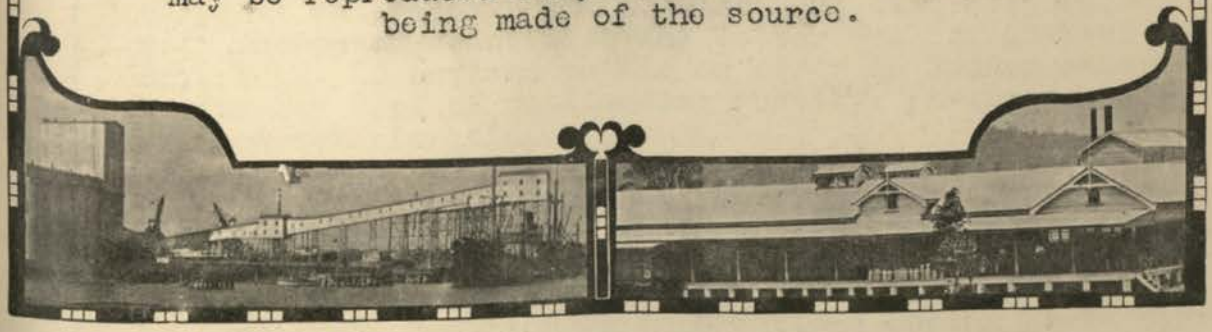
ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, SYDNEY.

Vol. 5 JUNE, 1940. No. 6

Page

Highlights 137
The Poultry Industry of New South Wales 138
Southern Tableland Statistical Division (Concluded) 144
Sheep, Cattle and Pig Sales at Homebush .. 148
Alexandria and Sussex Street Sales .. 154
Fruit and Vegetable Sales at City Markets 157
Commodity Prices in Sydney 161
Fruit and Vegetables - Imports into New South Wales. 162

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



MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW.

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

It is authoritatively reported that Australian sugar production during 1939-40 season reached record figure of approximately 900,000 tons, and that demand for cane-ite, manufactured from sugar cane fibre, had exceeded anticipation.

Chairman, Australian Wheat Board, announces sale of a further 1,750,000 bushels of wheat, bringing total sales from 1939-40 crop to approximately 114,000,000 bushels out of a total yield of 210,934,000 bushels. Average price obtained for all sales has been 3s.8·43d per bushel f.o.b., silo basis.

Australian Wheat Board announces that it will undertake the supply and distribution of all cornsacks to wheatgrowers for the 1940-41 season. Private operators in jute, acting as Board agents, will handle the distribution. Charges for handling will be determined by the Commonwealth Prices Commissioner. Payment by growers will be by deduction from proceeds of wheat sales.

Improvement in New South Wales pastures was reflected in May by a marked increase of quality lambs on offer at saleyards. April rains were also responsible for both increased quantities and better quality in beef cattle offerings. Queensland cattle on offer in Sydney saleyards during May were of outstanding quality. Pastoral conditions are now deteriorating.

British Ministry of Food agrees to modification of embargo recently imposed on imports of Australian rice into the United Kingdom. Entry of about 900 tons Australian rice each month September to December, 1940, inclusive, will now be permitted. Question of importations during early months of 1941 to receive consideration.

THE POULTRY INDUSTRY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

(Address by Director of Marketing, Mr. A.A. Watson, to Conference of Poultry Farmers at Hawkesbury Agricultural College, on 25th May, 1940.)

An important factor in the national economy.

The importance and value of the poultry farming industry in the national economy is not given the wide public recognition to which it is entitled. Not only does the industry provide a product which ranks high in food value, but it gives employment to some thousands of producers, while the export of our surplus production of eggs assists in building up our overseas credits. Perhaps there is no greater illustration of the value of eggs in human diet than the fact that the British Government has regarded them as an essential foodstuff and that it has purchased and provided shipping space for last year's surplus stocks, while it is negotiating for further consignments this year.

Complete statistics of poultry production are not available but a general estimate prepared by the New South Wales and Commonwealth Government Statisticians indicates that the farm value of production during 1937-38 (latest available figures) was approximately £3,896,000 for New South Wales and £10,745,000 for Australia. It is interesting to contrast these figures with those relating to the value of production in the fresh fruit industry. In 1937-38 the value of fruit produced in New South Wales has officially been estimated at £3,210,000 and that for the Commonwealth £9,204,000. Rather surprisingly to most folk, these figures show that the poultry industry of Australia, in estimated value, at least, is of somewhat greater magnitude than the fresh fruit industry.

Production of eggs in New South Wales has increased very considerably during the past ten years. In the pool year 1930-31 the total production in the area controlled by the Egg Marketing Board was approximately 14½ million dozen. Increases of about one million dozen took place in each of the following two years, while in 1936-37 production had been raised to 21 million dozen. Despite the disastrous heat wave and bush fires in January, 1939, nearly 20½ million dozen were handled by the Board and producer agents acting on its behalf during the 1938-39 pool period.

The importance of the export trade is revealed by reference to the value of exports of eggs and poultry. The average annual value of exports of eggs from New South Wales during the five-year period ended 30th June, 1938, was £303,696 and that of frozen poultry £18,592.

/Valuable .....

Valuable egg export trade.

Practically the whole of Australia's exports of eggs in the past has been marketed in the United Kingdom. That market is capable of absorbing a tremendous quantity of eggs. During the calendar year 1938 the total quantity imported into the United Kingdom was 276,974 thousand dozen valued at £12,373,875. Of the quantity stated 34% was supplied by Denmark and 22% by the Netherlands. Australia's consignments to Britain aggregating 10,099 thousand dozen represented only 4% of the total United Kingdom imports. In view, however, of the invasion of Denmark and Holland by Germany, Britain's supplies from those countries will, for some time at least, be cut off.

It has been greatly to the advantage of the poultry farming industry that thanks to the progressive outlook which characterises a majority of poultry farmers it has been well organised. Shortly after the outbreak of the war, negotiations were entered into between the British and Australian Governments for the purchase of considerable quantities of Australian eggs. These negotiations were facilitated by the fact that there was organised marketing in the States of New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria and so an agreement was readily completed for last year's export season. The British and Commonwealth Governments have again conferred regarding an agreement for the purchase by the United Kingdom of the 1940 surplus and it is expected that finality will be reached shortly.

Poultry farmers are more fortunate in regard to export trade than are a number of other primary producers, notably the fruit growers. Before the war, Australia consigned most of her surplus apples and pears to Britain, but the British authorities have been unable to provide shipping space since the war for these products and this has necessitated the establishment of an Apple and Pear Board to market the whole of the Australian production either by increased local consumption, or the location of new export markets. In contradistinction to this, if the negotiations which are now proceeding for the sale of Australian eggs to Britain are satisfactorily completed, the poultry industry of this and other States should have an assured overseas market which should tend to give added stability to the industry.

Poultry food problems.

On the other side of the ledger we find that prices of poultry foodstuffs have increased since the commencement of the war. In August, 1939, the average price of bran and pollard was £4.5.0 per ton. During the last three months of the year, the average prices declined below the August figure, but by 22nd February last the price had risen to £5.10.0 and has since remained constant at that rate. The shortage of supplies of these important commodities has been engaging the close attention of the Poultry Expert, Mr. E. Hadlington, and myself. In the course of our investigations we speedily learned that the shortage has been mainly due to the abnormal

/demand .....

demand by other stock feeders for bran and pollard. Owing to droughty conditions during the past Summer, dairy farmers in most parts of the Coastal area were compelled to buy considerable quantities of bran and pollard. This greatly increased demand by the dairying industry and other unusual demands, plus the normal demand of the poultry industry could mean only one thing: stocks of bran and pollard available for purchase became alarmingly low. While seasonal conditions, generally, have improved and rain has fallen in many parts, it is doubtful whether there will be early substantial improvement in most pastures owing to the advent of cold weather following immediately upon the rains. Moreover, the general practice is to feed some bran and pollard to dairy herds during the Winter months, these being warming foods. Therefore, despite some growth of natural pastures, it is expected that supplies of bran and pollard needed by dairy farmers will continue to be above normal.

The volume of production of bran and pollard is, to a considerable extent, dependent upon export orders for flour and, from this point of view, the outlook is made more promising by the fact that arrangements were recently made for the sale of 100,000 tons of Australian flour to Japan. This order has been allocated amongst millers in the various States, but the production of flour for the execution of the order - and the incidental outturn of bran and pollard - have not yet commenced, as there are still certain details to be finalised.

Wheat prices also are considerably in excess of those ruling last year. Just prior to the commencement of hostilities the price of f.a.q. wheat was approximately 2/6 per bushel wholesale in Sydney, compared with about 4/4d today. With regard to maize prices the monthly average recorded by the State Marketing Bureau for August last is approximately 4/1d per bushel, but the market became firmer and rose as high as 5/5d in January, 1940. During February values fell to 5/- while the average for April was 4/5d.

Co-operative purchasing organisations.

At this stage, I wish to direct attention to the great advantages of a policy of self-help with respect to feed supplies. Back in 1927, that policy was applied to the marketing of eggs. Today, the industry has reason to be proud of the fact that the producer-created and producer-controlled Egg Marketing Board conducts one of the largest businesses in the Southern Hemisphere, with an annual turnover that hovers round the £1,000,000 mark. Cannot something of comparable scale be done with regard to poultry feeds? In this connection I wish to commence with a reference to the extremely valuable contribution to the welfare of the industry in New South Wales which is already being made by co-operative purchasing of feed supplies. I have in mind, particularly, Producers Co-operative Ltd. of Carlingford, the Miranda Trading Co-operative Society Ltd., and the Eastwood Co-operative Society Ltd. I have had contact with each of those Societies and I think this a fitting opportunity to pay a tribute of admiration to their Boards of Directors and, above all,

/to .....

to their respective Managers for their unspectacular, but highly efficient and most necessary work. These Societies, in particular, give a lead and furnish an example that should inspire the industry as a whole to endeavour to establish industry-wide co-operation in the field of feed supplies. Thus, it may be, the industry could emancipate itself from its present dependence upon non-industry controls for essential poultry foods: by emancipate itself, I mean establish itself in that position where its organised strength as a buyer and manufacturer of poultry foods would not supplicate, but command the best possible terms for a great and essential industry.

"Poultry Producers of Central California" (United States of America).

And now let me quote two outstanding precedents for the industry-wide action I should like to see considered. There are other examples, but these are two with which it has been my privilege to make direct personal contact. Firstly, I would refer you to the organisation entitled Poultry Producers of Central California, with headquarters in San Francisco.

Poultry Producers of Central California is described as a non-profit, co-operative marketing association. It was established in 1917, operated in 1935 six Pool Districts, 42 egg and poultry receiving stations and feed distributing depots and twelve packing plants fully equipped for candling, packing and shipping eggs. This concern established a Feed Department in 1926 because of the desire of many producers to have the manufacture of poultry feeds under their own control. Feed Mills, claimed to be ideally located for economical transportation of feeds, were established at Petaluma and Stockton for the purpose of manufacturing feeds to meet the Association standards. The Association's Feed Department claimed in 1935 that it handled a larger volume of feeds than any other feed organisation in California. The latest figures I have with regard to this organisation are dated 1931, in which year it reported having marketed over 45,000,000 dozens of eggs, 4,000,000 lbs. of table poultry and 135,000 tons of feed. My contact with this organisation occurred in about November, 1935, and I have no later information regarding it than that obtained in San Francisco and Petaluma at that time. Its Feed Department catered for poultry farmers, turkey-growers and dairymen.

"The Poultry Farmers' Co-operative Society Limited" (Brisbane, Queensland).

The Californian instance I have just quoted to you is a case where the purchase, manufacture and distribution of poultry feeds are combined with the marketing of eggs and table poultry. Now let us have a look at an Australian instance of large-scale, producer-controlled poultry feed supply which is not associated with the marketing of eggs or table poultry. I refer to the undertaking carried on by the Poultry Farmers' Co-operative Society Limited in Roma Street, Brisbane. This concern, housed in its own commodious and well-equipped buildings, held its 18th Annual Meeting in Brisbane on 27th February, 1940. But first let us have a look at the history of this stimulating example of Australian enterprise.

/The .....

The Queensland Poultry Farmers Co-operative Society Ltd. was formed in July, 1921, with 85 members and a total share capital of £514. By 31st December, 1939, the membership had grown to 2,581 and its share capital totalled £18,686. In July, 1921, eight tons of bran and pollard were sold. In the year 1939 the Society's sales accounted for 186,000 bags of bran and pollard, 129,000 bags of wheat, 42,000 bags of maize, 183,000 bags of Laying Mash, 29,000 bags of Growing Mash and 18,000 bags of Hypro, to mention main commodities only. The Society manufactures a complete line of prepared foods possessing a very complete equipment, including a gristing plant and laboratory, and is confronted with an ever-growing demand for its output of these and other poultry foods. In addition to poultry feeds, the Society does very large business in other poultry requisites, also in fertilisers and seeds, farm produce, stock foods, hardware (including builders' requisites and agricultural implements), boots and shoes and groceries. When Mr. Hadlington and I visited this Society's premises last year we were deeply impressed by the magnitude and the manifest efficiency of all sections of the business. The range and the volume of sales of poultry feeds and the substantial independence of the business in the matter of manufacturing facilities are alike impressive, while the general trading activities of the Society, apart from poultry feeds, are comparable with those of a modern departmental store. The Society pays a 5% annual dividend on share capital and the year 1939 was the eighth in succession in which the rebate on members' purchases exceeded 7½%.

At the Annual Meeting of this magnificant poultry farmers' enterprise, financial statements were presented showing, among other things, purchases totalling £260,000 and sales totalling £289,000. View them how you will, these are big figures, betokening the faith of Queensland poultry-farmers in their own organisation and the readiness of the public at large to trade with a concern that has put service in the forefront of its programme. Here again the story is one of first-class management, backed by a board of directors whose progressive policy proves that a body of representative poultry farmers with a leavening of business men can direct the faith that 'moves mountains'. A similar organisation in New South Wales, functioning on behalf of a much bigger industry could be expected to be as outstanding in its particular field as the Brisbane organisation is in Southern Queensland and as the other great organisation I have mentioned is in Central California. It remains for me then to commend both these examples to you. Both Mr. Hadlington and I have made direct contact with each of them and I am sure that he will heartily join with me when I exhort you and, through you, your fellow-poultry farmers to "Go and do likewise". As I give you this exhortation, may I add for your greater encouragement the slogan of your Californian confreres - "I can't, You can't, We can".

"The Table Poultry Council of New South Wales".

Just a word or two on the subject of table poultry and I am finished. Only this week I received a request from the Director of the Far North Coast Tourist and Development Bureau for information on behalf of a farmer in his district who is planning to enter the

/poultry .....

poultry business in a big way, his idea being to breed for table purposes about 20,000 birds each year. This inquiry, I think, is symptomatic of the keener interest that appears to be manifesting itself in the production of poultry for table purposes. The Table Poultry Council of New South Wales, of which it is my privilege to be President, gave much consideration early in its career to the causes of the comparatively low per capita consumption of poultry meat in this community. It decided that prominent among the causes is that birds purchased by housewives are apt to be other than as represented: for example, fowls sold as 'roasters' have actually been 'boilers'. Misrepresentation of that kind militates against future purchases and has doubtless been the reason why many housewives have refrained from the purchase of poultry, if not altogether, then to an extent that has seriously prejudiced the household consumption of table poultry.

For some time past, the Table Poultry Council has been experimenting with various types of labels, with the object of obtaining one that would be capable of withstanding the conditions incidental to refrigeration, without loss of attractiveness. These experiments were made possible by the co-operation of the Fresh Food and Ice Company and the Crown Poultry Company, both of Sydney. The Council is also indebted to the Australian Trade Commissioner in the United States of America, Mr. L.R. MacGregor, who went to a lot of trouble to obtain catalogues and samples illustrating American practice and costs. At its last meeting, the Council was able to put the finishing touches to a scheme providing that poulterers should attach a standard label to each bird. On the label will be printed the name and address of the poulterer and a certificate as to the grade of the bird and that it has been classified in accordance with the grades approved by the Table Poultry Council. The labels will indicate clearly whether the birds are 'grillers', 'roasters' or 'boilers'. The scheme is a voluntary one, but much thought and care have gone into it and it is hoped that it will succeed and be the means of enhancing public confidence in the article and increased demand. Further consideration is being given to similar action with regard to turkeys, ducks and geese.

Other achievements for which the Council is largely responsible include a reduction in rail freight on table poultry from 20th July, 1938; unfortunately the all-round increase of 10% in railway freight rates which operated from 1st March, 1939, had the effect of almost entirely eliminating this concession. In view of the fact, however, that this increase was made applicable to practically all freights on the rates obtaining at 1st March, 1939, there is little doubt that the poultry freights today would have been higher than they are had not the concession of July, 1938, been secured. Another progressive move which emanated from the Council was the gazettal by the Health Department of a Regulation No. 78A under the Pure Foods Act, specifying the conditions that must be observed in connection with the killing and dressing of poultry in establishments with an outturn of twenty or more birds in one day.

/Self-help ....

Self-help in industry.

The operations of the Table Poultry Council, made possible by the support and co-operation of the Poultry Farmers' Association, the Housewives' Association, the Master Poulterers' Association and other bodies concerned, are further evidence of the value of co-operative action of a kind differing from that which would occur in connection with the provision and distribution of foodstuffs, but both have regard to the value and the need for organised effort. The commercial poultry-farming industry of the Counties of Cumberland and Northumberland and the Shires of Nattai and Wollondilly in New South Wales has already established an enviable record in the matter of self-help. No primary industry in the State has shown a more progressive appreciation of the virtues and possibilities of self-help through industry organisation and, despite all controversies and instances to the contrary, none has been readier to accept the discipline which is so necessary an adjunct to organisation. For this enlightened outlook, many factors are responsible, none more so, I suggest, than the high standard of the press by which the industry is so zealously and faithfully served. Such an industry, I feel sure, will not long delay rounding-off its collective achievements through industry-wide co-operative buying of food supplies.

----oooOooo----

PHYSICAL FEATURES, PRODUCTION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SOUTHERN TABLELAND OR STATISTICAL DIVISION No.7, NEW SOUTH WALES (CONTINUED)

In the May issue of the Monthly Marketing Review, attention was given to the physical features, area, population, and pastoral and agricultural pursuits of the Southern Tableland Statistical Division. This article is now concluded with reviews of mining activity, timber resources, transport facilities and other matters.

Recent mining activity.

Although mining operations on the Southern Tableland are not very extensive now, it is interesting to note that the following minerals, etc., are recorded as occurring within its boundaries:-

Gold - at Adaminaby, Bombala, Goulburn, Gunning and Cooma; at a mine in the last-named district prospective and exploratory work is said to have led to the installation of plant valued at £10,000.

Copper - The Kyloe Copper Mine near Adaminaby, discovered in 1860 and worked intermittently up till 1914, is reported to have yielded 65,000 tons or ore, the mineral content of which was worth £263,000.

Iron at Goulburn, Gunning and Queanbeyan.

Molybdenum at Goulburn.

/Limestone .....

Limestone at Goodradigbee, Mulloon and Marulan (lime is manufactured at this last-named centre).

Wolfram at Delegate.

Bismuth in the Yass Mining Division.

Diatomite at Cooma.

Silica (Quartz and Silicious materials) at Cooma, where over 4,000 tons were raised and used for the making of silica bricks during 1938.

Of the quarries, the more important are:- Granite (for buildings, etc.) at Goulburn and Gunning, and marble at Taralga.

Clays for bricks, tiles, pipes and potterys are dug from pits at Goulburn, and fireclays are being obtained from the Cooma locality.

An important development occurred early in 1937 when the improved outlook for metals led to action being taken to equip the Lake George Mine at Captain's Flat with mining and treatment plant and prepare the underground working for large-scale production of ores. Treatment of the ores will yield lead, copper, zinc and pyrites concentrates. By virtue of the Bungendore-Captain's Flat Railway Agreement Ratification Act, the Government has undertaken the construction of a branch railway line to connect Captain's Flat to the main line system at Bungendore. According to latest reports, production and development have proceeded rapidly and although the initial capacity of the mill of 500 tons daily for a seven day week has not as yet been achieved, it is understood that certain changes are expected to bring it about. From the commencement of milling operations in January, 1939, to the end of June, 1939, approximately 42,000 tons of ore have been treated, 3,410 tons of lead concentrates and 4,810 tons of zinc concentrates being recovered.

Timber resources limited.

The timbers available on the Southern Tableland include such trees as brittle, blue, ribbon and red gum, stringybark, yellow box, messmate, etc. Timber suitable for milling is rather scarce and is obtained chiefly along the coastal ranges on the eastern side of the division and parts of the Snowy Mountains, the main areas being included in State forest reservations. Suitable timber of good lasting quality for fencing purposes, however, is fairly plentiful and is conveniently procurable in most districts.

The Burrinjuck Dam - a great undertaking.

Within the western boundaries of the division is the great artificial lake covering an area of nearly 13,000 acres formed by the water impounded by the Burrinjuck Dam situated a little below

/the .....

the junction of the Murrumbidgee and Goodradigbee Rivers. The retaining wall, a massive structure of concrete, is 240 feet in height while the capacity of the dam is over 33½ billion cubic feet. The outlet is by the Murrumbidgee River and the flow of that stream is regulated to meet the requirements of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area situated 250 miles to the west. The hydro-electric works at Burrinjuck supply electricity for light and power in the Federal Capital and many southern areas.

Railways and roads.

Railway communications may be regarded as satisfactory, most areas suitable for grazing or agricultural pursuits being within a reasonable distance of rail facilities. The main southern line from Sydney to Albury, on the Victorian border, traverses the northern portion of the division, passing through Goulburn, Gunning, Yass and Binalong, whilst another line runs in a general southerly direction from Goulburn in the north to Bombala in the lower Monaro. A short branch line connects Queanbeyan, situated on the Goulburn-Bombala section, with Canberra, the Federal Capital. Also, from Goulburn, a branch railway runs generally north to Taralga, and a spur from this line at Roslyn affords rail facilities to Crookwell, situated in the south-eastern corner of the Central Tableland.

As far as roads are concerned, chief interest centres on the Highways, constructed and cared for by the Main Roads Board, viz.: The Hume, which connects Sydney with Albury, passes through a number of the more northerly towns of the Southern Tableland, notably Goulburn, Gunning and Yass, The Federal, branching from the Hume about 8 miles south of Goulburn, goes via Collector to Canberra, The Monaro, which forms a link between the Prince's at Bega (on the South Coast) and the Hume at Lower Tarcutta (South Western Slope), traverses through the southern section of the subject division via Nimmitabel, Cooma, Adaminaby and Kiandra.

In all, approximately 200 miles of highways lie within the Southern Tableland. In addition, secondary roads run from Cooma to Mt. Koscuisko, from Adaminaby to Jindabyne, and from Cooma to Queanbeyan and thence to Bateman's Bay (South Coast); these secondary roads, together with various cross country connecting roads, are maintained by the various local government authorities.

Tourist attractions.

As previously mentioned, the Southern Tableland comprises the coldest portions of New South Wales and near its southern extremity on the Snowy and Muniong Ranges snow is usually present throughout the greater part of the year. Several peaks have an altitude of 7,000 feet or more, the highest being Mt. Koscuisko. The latter constitutes the winter playground of the State, the New South Wales Government having provided facilities for those who wish to indulge in skating, skiing and other snow sports. The most favoured months are July and August, when one is usually assured of the country being covered with a thick mantle of snow.

/The .....

The Southern Tablelands have also a great attraction for the angler with a fly-rod, rivers such as the Yass, Goodradigbee, Snowy, Umeralla and minor streams being plentifully stocked with trout.

Another popular tourist resort within this Division is that at the Wombeyan Caves, situated 50 miles from Goulburn, which, with those at Jenolan (Central Tableland) and Yarrangobilly (South Western Slope), are considered to be amongst the finest limestone caverns in the world.

Production and Livestock Schedules.

The following schedules, compiled from the Statistical Register of New South Wales, show the average annual quantities of the principal primary commodities produced and the average annual number of livestock in the Southern Tableland Division in the five year period ended 30th June, 1938:-

Southern Tableland Statistical Division No. 7
Average Annual Production, Five Years ended 30.6.1938.

Wool	....	29,226,040 lb.
Dairy Products:		
Butter	....	698,702 "
Bacon and Hams	....	45,041 "
Oats:		
Grain	....	35,714 bushels
Hay	....	10,928 tons
Lucerne Hay	....	12,652 "
Apples	....	36,162 bushels
Pears	....	10,658 "
Potatoes	....	5,858 tons
Honey	....	183,407 lb.
Beeswax	....	3,311 "

Based on the 1938 annual average wholesale prices in Sydney of the above-mentioned products, a suggested estimate of their approximate value is £2,150,000

Average Annual Number of Livestock
in Statistical Division No.7
Five Years ended 30.6.1938.

Horses	....	16,443 head
Cattle:		
Cows in registered dairies		3,773 "
All other	....	120,342 "
Pigs	....	3,449 "

S.D.R.

----oooOooo----

LIVESTOCK SALES AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

SHEEP VALUES DECLINE; CATTLE AND PIG MARKETS WEAKER.

Supplies of sheep and lambs improve.

Although supplies of sheep and lambs to the Homebush Saleyards continued to be light, there was a marked improvement in the numbers available, particularly towards the close of the period when a total yarding of 38,341 head was offered on one sale day, representing the heaviest offering since about mid-March. Aggregate pennings for May were 189,052 head or some 18,763 more than during the previous month. This total would have been exceeded somewhat except for the omission of one Thursday sale, owing to the adverse effect of the coal strike on killing operations. It is anticipated that more fat sheep will be available in the near future as a result of improved pastoral conditions and that yardings will be considerably heavier.

Quality sheep more in evidence.

On the average, there was a far better showing of good to prime sheep than during April and, while it could not be said that nice light trade sheep were numerous, the offering of heavy mutton could be regarded as very attractive. In the latter category, wethers dressing from 48 lb. upwards were well supplied, many of nice shape and finish being included. A definite improvement was apparent in the number of ewes consigned to Homebush; several outstanding drafts were noticed and were the subject of very favourable comment by operators.

Lower trend in sheep values.

Although there was a reasonably strong demand for the most part, the extreme prices which on several occasions prevailed during April were not sustained, and by the end of May the ruling rates for mutton were substantially lower than for some time past. On a number of occasions during the month values advanced by from 1/- to 2/- per head, but the increased numbers coming forward at the end of the period resulted in a sharp drop in prices, a fall of as much as 2/- to 4/- per head being apparent on most lines of grown sheep.

Some indication of this trend is given by the following actual sales:-

A line of nice trade wethers dressing approximately 42 lb. of mutton was sold early in May at 22/1 per head, equivalent to 4½d per lb. Heavy wethers disposed of the same day made 26/1 each; weighing approximately 58 lb. they cost 3¾d per lb. About a week later nice quality heavy wethers, which would dress approximately 50 lb. of mutton, cost 3½d per lb. and realised 24/3 per head. Subsequently a better demand prevailed and a draft of 50 lb. wethers costing 26/3 each was worth 4d per lb. Peak prices were reached during the third week of May, when a nice line of heavy wethers weighing approximately 54 lb. brought 27/11 per head or 4¼d per lb. Closing

/auctions.....

auctions revealed a marked decline, as wethers dressing approximately 50 lb. of mutton were obtained for 20/6 each or 3½d per lb., while lighter sheep weighing about 44 lb. made 3¾d per lb. and were purchased for 22/11 per head.

Despite the fall at the end of the period, prices throughout were generally satisfactory, and some of the best rates obtained for wethers were 30/- per head on a number of occasions; mostly, however, realisations ranged from 22/- to 27/- per head, according to weight and skin value, with medium to plain grades at relatively lower levels. Good quality ewes made to 24/- each but probably the greater proportion brought from 15/- to 20/- per head. Fair to medium trade ewes, of which quite a number was offered, sold at from 8/- to 14/- each.

Owing to the fluctuating market and the sharp decline at the end of May, per lb. rates for mutton covered a fairly wide range. The best price obtained for good light trade mutton was 4¾d per lb. and the lowest 3¼d, while the bulk of the good light wethers cost operators from 3½d to 4¼d per lb. Heavy wethers on occasions made 4¼d per lb., but at times similar mutton could be obtained for 2¾d per lb.; however, a reasonable range for the month's operations would be from 3d to 3¾d per lb. The variation in the price of ewe mutton was not quite so pronounced but, nevertheless, there was a fair margin between the top and bottom rates; heavy descriptions made to 3¾d and light to 4d per lb., but a fair range for the period would be 2¾d to 3¼d and 3d to 3¾d per lb. for heavy and light ewes, respectively.

Heavier yardings of lambs.

Operators at the Homebush Saleyards were much better provided for in respect of lamb supplies during May than during April, and this was particularly so towards the close of the period under review, when the pennings rose from 7,511 on one sale day to 15,241 on the next. Total offerings of lambs for May were 66,628, an increase of 17,290 head over the previous month's aggregate. While the shortage of good quality animals continued (no great improvement is expected until the main body of the new season's sucker lambs commences to arrive later in the year), still the general standard of the lambs submitted was somewhat better than that of April. Some very nice lots of medium to heavy weight lambs were available but only limited numbers of quality light descriptions were to be seen.

High rates for lambs not maintained.

The extreme rates which ruled for practically all grades of lamb during April were not maintained and a fairly substantial decline was apparent. The market showed some variation, several rises and falls approximating 1/- per head taking place, but towards the end of the period a fall of from 2/- to 4/- per head was generally evident, heavy weight lambs being most affected.

/Representative .....

Representative sales are quoted below to illustrate the variable prices obtained during May:-

Nice quality lambs, weighing approximately 36 lb., sold early in the period at 28/2 per head, equivalent to 8d per lb. A week later, following a lower market, 35 lb. lambs realised 25/5 each, or approximately 7¼d per lb. Towards mid-May, improved request resulted in 36 lb. lambs being worth 7¾d per lb., this draft making 27/1 per head. In the closing stages of the month's operations, increased numbers restricted competition and much lower values ruled, so that a draft of very nice quality heavy lambs, estimated to dress approximately 40 lb., realised 24/10 each or 5¾d per lb., while a pen of nice quality light lambs, weighing about 26 lb., sold at 19/- per head and was worth 7¼d per lb.

Prices obtained were, for the most part, good and, while the highest levels of last month were not reached, up to 32/- per head was secured for some lines of good quality heavyweight lambs. Realisations for the better classes of lambs were generally from 22/- to 28/- per head, according to weight, quality and skin value, while the plainer grades sold at the correspondingly lower prices of from 15/- to 21/- each. There was at all times a good request for light weight lambs of quality, up to 8¾d per lb. being paid. The downward trend in prices may be visualised from the fact that in April the rate for lamb reached the high level of 10¼d per lb. For the greater part of May light lambs cost from 7¾d to 8½d per lb. and heavy brought 7d to 7¾d per lb; following on the increased supplies towards the end of the month and the resultant downward price movement, operators secured lambs at the much lower figures of 5¾d to 7¼d for heavy and 6½d to 7¾d per lb. for light descriptions.

Present indications point to a continuation of heavier yardings at the Homebush Saleyards, so that there is every possibility of a still lower price level than that ruling at the close of May.

Limited cattle supplies but quality better.

Consignments of cattle during May, 1940, were rather light, even allowing for the fact that no sales were held on Thursday, 23rd May, and aggregated only 13,642 head. The percentage auctioned in the store section was again high, the number disposed of being 2,865 head. Yardings during the corresponding month of 1939 were considerably heavier and totalled 20,267 head. Although supplies during May were lighter than those for April, the quality of the offerings showed a distinct improvement, especially during the latter half of the period. This evidently reflected the improved seasonal conditions, and the proportion of really poor stock sold in the beef section was very small compared with that of the previous month. Pastoral conditions generally, although still fairly satisfactory, are not quite as good as some weeks back, owing to continued dry weather and the appearance of frosts. Further heavy arrivals of

/chilled .....

chilled beef at the Homebush Abattoirs doubtless explain the paucity of truckings to the Saleyards.

Chilled beef trade affects offering of bullocks.

While supplies of bullocks were variable, on the whole they were somewhat limited and would have been more so but for consignments from Queensland. Quality was chiefly good trade, although a noticeable proportion of prime descriptions was offered, the cattle from the Northern State usually being of this class. Comparatively few of the arrivals were of medium or heavy weight and it is understood that the chilled beef trade is catering for the demand for this type of meat. Although values fluctuated throughout the month and were not quite as high as the peak level reached during April, nevertheless they were very satisfactory. Light bullocks sold to 44/- per 100 lb. dressed weight and on the final sale day quotations for good to prime quality were:- Heavy 38/- to 40/-, medium weight 40/- to 43/-, light 41/- to 43/- per 100 lb. One of the best sales during the period was that of a pen of prime Shorthorn bullocks from Queensland which realised £13.13.0 per head; the estimated dressed weight being 625 lb., this price was equivalent to 44/- per 100 lb.

More prime steers available in later yardings.

Light and medium weight steers were rather well represented. While these were chiefly of good trade standard, prime sorts became increasingly evident as the month progressed. Although the market remained firm for the greater part of the period, an easier tendency was noticeable towards the end of May. Prices of good to prime grade mostly ranged from 42/- to 48/- per 100 lb., and thus were not quite as high as those obtained at the close of April.

Dairy cows again plentiful.

Consignments of cows again included a large proportion of dairy stock and medium quality beef breeds. Despite this a considerable improvement in the general standard was noticeable and several attractive drafts each of light and heavy descriptions met a very firm demand. Although values were inclined to be somewhat irregular and did not reach the peak for April, they were equal to the average rates of that month. On the final sale day in May, good to prime heavy cows were quoted at 36/- to 39/- and light realised 37/- to 40/- per 100 lb.

Variable consignments of heifers.

Truckings of heifers were variable; nevertheless this class was generally well supplied and mostly was of fairly good quality. On several occasions heavy animals were included in the offering. Except during early sales, when quotations were 40/- to 47/- per 100 lb., prices were not quite as high as those ruling throughout the previous month and most disposals were effected at from 39/- to 45/- for good to prime grade heifers of light to heavy weight.

/Prime .....

Prime vealers scarce.

Vealers were available in limited numbers only, especially prime descriptions, which sometimes were rather difficult to secure. Accordingly, the market was a buoyant one and, commencing at 46/- to 50/-, rates rose progressively until good to prime sorts were quoted at 50/- to 58/- per 100 lb. An easier tendency was noted, however, at the two sales during the final week of May.

Upward trend in cattle values arrested.

The steady upward trend in cattle values mentioned in previous issues was not maintained during May and, unless unforeseen circumstances arise, it is unlikely that the peak levels of April will be reached again in the near future. On the whole, however, prices during May were extremely satisfactory from the producer's viewpoint. Continued heavy arrivals of chilled beef and increased consignments of live animals to Homebush during early June have resulted in a further fall in prices.

Heavy yardings of pigs.

The increased yardings of pigs noted in April were well maintained during May, 1940, and the number auctioned amounted to 6,192 head, of which 3,009 were received by rail from country centres. This total substantially exceeded the aggregate of 4,980 for the corresponding period of 1939. The contrast is even greater than the foregoing figures indicate as there were only four sale days during the month under review as against five in May, 1939, and during May, 1939, there were no "over the scale" sales of heavy baconer pigs, whereas private sales within the Metropolitan Area, which would include "over the scale" purchases at the Homebush Abattoirs, totalled at least 1,420 head during May, 1940.

Medium quality porkers well supplied.

The heavy supplies of porkers included a considerable number of pigs in store condition and quality generally, although variable, could at best be described as only fair. The offerings also contained a noticeable percentage of small pigs below the porker weight class, which usually commences at about 35 lb. dressed weight. Despite the medium grade animals on offer, many of the porkers were of a very satisfactory quality and these usually met a ready sale. While all weight classes were fairly well represented, medium to heavy descriptions predominated. Values showed a tendency to fluctuate from sale day to sale day but, taken as a whole, were about equal to the average ruling rates of the previous month. Prices of prime heavy animals dressing 90 lb. ranged from 53/6 to 56/6 and light quality porkers of 60 lb. dressed weight made from 39/6 to 42/6. The extreme range of rates on a per lb. basis, covering all weights (35-90 lb.) of good to prime quality, was 6¾d to 10¼d.

/Variable ....

Variable consignments of baconers.

Baconers continued to arrive in increasing numbers during the first half of the period but on the next two sale days consignments were very light. Most of the animals yarded were of light to medium weights and there was a fairly satisfactory representation of good trade sorts. A fair percentage of the aggregate penning consisted of pigs far too heavy for local trade requirements but these sold readily for export purposes. For the first two sale days values were maintained at the April level, prime heavy (dressing 150 lb.) bringing 86/6 and prime light (100 lb.) realising from 62/6 per head. Despite reduced yardings, subsequent values showed a small decline, ranging from 60/6 to 82/6 per head or 7¼d and 6½d per lb., respectively.

Steady demand for backfatters.

Backfatters were generally well supplied and the offerings showed the usual variation in quality. On one or two occasions, quite a number of heavy descriptions was available but on the whole lightweight sorts comprised the bulk of the pennings. Values, although fairly steady, were not quite as good as those obtained in April, and good to prime pigs dressing 200/350 lb. realised from 5¼d to 6d per lb., whilst heavier sorts sold at from 4¾d to 5½d per lb. Medium grade pigs mostly brought from 4¼d to 5¼d per lb. On a per head basis, rates ranged up to £10.10.0.

Realisations still satisfactory.

Despite the heavy supplies, prices could again be regarded as satisfactory, although the market for baconers and backfatters was slightly weaker. Compared with the corresponding period of 1939, when the yardings were much smaller, all classes of pigs, except light porkers, were dearer.

G.C. & J.W.

----oooOooo----

A recent review by the Assistant Australian Government Commissioner at Batavia states that the provisional figures of trade between Australia and Netherlands India for the calendar year 1939 disclose that goods imported from Australia during that period reached the high figure of 179,908 metric tons valued 15,383,000 guilders or approximately £2,564,000 Australian. Exports to Australia were 902,812 metric tons valued at 34,311,000 guilders (£A5,718,500); these figures are, however, subject to the caution that large exports of petrol, etc., do not go through Customs ports and are thus not shown in the statistics.

The Assistant Commissioner states that the year 1939 was important for the development of a large import into Netherlands India from Australia of iron and steel and manufactures thereof, and of appreciable amounts of several other commodities, such as linseed oil, wines, brandy, yeast, red lead, and waterglass (sodium silicate). In all these items, imports, if any, in former years were so small as not to justify reference to their country of origin in the official publications.

----oooOooo----

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Very firm market for potatoes.

The total quantity of Tasmanian potatoes shipped to Sussex Street during May was 79,180 bags. This represented a considerably lighter supply than that of the previous month, but there was a large carryover on the 1st May amounting to some 36,000 bags, so that the aggregate available for sale during May approximated 115,000 bags. Although demand was particularly keen, rates did not fluctuate to any great extent. Prices for Brownell Table tubers were fixed at £12.10.0 at the beginning of the month and remained at that level during the first two weeks; on receipt of a large consignment of 40,000 bags in the third week rates fell £1.10.0 to £11.0.0, which quotation was maintained until the close of the period under review. The following are the ranges of prices throughout the month:- Table - Brownells £11.0.0 to £12.10.0, Bismarcks £10.0.0 to £12.10.0, Arranchiefs £9.10.0 to £11.0.0, Snowflakes £9.0.0 to £10.10.0; Seed - Arranchiefs £11.0.0 to £15.0.0, Other £7.10.0 to £10.10.0 per ton.

Receivals in Sussex Street of potatoes from other sources consisted of 300 bags from Western Australia and 225 bags of new autumn crop tubers from the North Coast district of New South Wales. The West Australian supply was of seed description and no price was disclosed. Quotations for the North Coast offering ranged from £9.10.0 to £10.10.0 per ton.

Arrivals at the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard included 668 bags from the Guyra and Ben Lomond districts (Northern Tablelands) and 419 bags from Coastal areas (Lowanna, Grafton and Raleigh). There was a good demand for all lines and especially for seed grade, which brought very high prices. Realisations at auction were as follow:- Tableland - No.1 £8.10.0 to £10.10.0, Seed £15.15.0 to £19.5.0, Stock Food £5.10.0 to £7.0.0; Coastal - New £9.6.8 to £12.10.0, No.2 £6.0.0, Seed £15.0.0 to £15.15.0 per ton. In addition, 1,083 bags of seed potatoes were received from Victoria and cleared readily; some sales were reported at £15.0.0 per ton.

Steady demand for Victorian onions.

Shipments of Victorian onions were again fairly heavy, the total being 12,319 bags. Prices for Brown Spanish table lines were well maintained throughout the month at £12.0.0 per ton. Picklers and white table lots, however, were of variable quality, especially towards the end of the period, and, as a result, rates declined. This "falling-off" in quality was more noticeable in the case of white onions and quotes, which were as high as £12 per ton at the beginning of the month, fell to £10 at the close, while it was stated that even lower rates were accepted to facilitate clearances. Quantities of the Brown Globe variety were included in consignments to hand during the first week only. A steady inquiry prevailed throughout and price ranges were:- Brown Spanish - Table £12.0.0,

/Picklers .....

Picklers £8.0.0 to £10.0.0; Brown Globes - Table £10.0.0 to £11.0.0; White - Table £10.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton. Arrivals at Alexandria of Victorian onions totalled 662 bags and some sales of Brown Spanish types were reported at £12.0.0 per ton.

Heavy supplies of pumpkins.

The feature of the trading in pumpkins at Alexandria was the large receivals from Queensland, the total for the month amounting to 108 trucks. Request generally was good but on those occasions when the yarding was large vendors found it necessary either to reduce prices or to carry portion of the supply over until subsequent selling days. Most sales recorded were in the vicinity of £5.0.0 to £5.10.0 per ton, with extra choice quality bringing to £6.0.0, whilst as low as £4.10.0 was paid for medium grade lines. Inferior and damaged lots were disposed of at lower rates. Queensland growers shipped only 200 bags to Sussex Street during May and reports indicated that deliveries were taken at £6.10.0 per ton. In addition, 27 bags received from local ports sold at £4.0.0 per ton.

Swedes, carrots and parsnips.

The quantity of Tasmanian swedes available totalled 8,441 bags, as a shipment of 3,153 bags due on 29th April was delayed and was not received until Wednesday, 1st May. Other arrivals of Tasmanian vegetables included 2,957 bags of carrots and 1,774 bags of parsnips. All these commodities met a good demand at the following prices:- Swedes £6.0.0 to £12.0.0, Carrots £6.0.0 to £14.0.0, Parsnips £10.0.0 to £14.0.0 per ton.

Supplies from New South Wales districts consisted of 678 bags of swedes, and these realised £7 per ton by auction and from £6.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton by private treaty.

Weaker request for white chaff.

New South Wales growers consigned 251 trucks of oaten chaff and 43 of wheaten to Alexandria during the month. It was noticed that only a small percentage was of prime quality, for which there was always a good demand. Medium and lower grades were difficult to clear, especially towards the end of May when trading was practically at a standstill. Only a small amount of white chaff was disposed of each day and large quantities were carried over and stored in the Yard. During the final week of the month, agents decided to auction medium and inferior grade produce in order to effect clearances. Quotations for oaten chaff were:- By auction - Medium £3.11.8 to £4.5.0; By private treaty - Inferior £3.10.0, Medium £3.15.0 to £4.5.0, Good £4.10.0 to £5.0.0, Choice £5.5.0 to £5.10.0, few Extra Choice to £5.15.0 per ton. Wheaten chaff, although lightly supplied, was in limited request and lower prices had to be accepted. Realisations were as follow:- By auction - Inferior £3.8.4; By private treaty - Inferior and medium £3.15.0 to £4.0.0, Good £4.0.0 to £4.10.0, Choice to £5.0.0, with

/a.....

a few extra choice lots as high as £6.0.0 per ton at the beginning of the period, when the market was fairly firm.

Rain affects demand for lucerne chaff and hay.

The supply of lucerne hay and chaff at Alexandria during May comprised the following:- Hay - Queensland 6, Maitland 32, Other local centres 113 trucks; Chaff - Queensland 4, Local districts 68 trucks. At the beginning of the month a fair inquiry prevailed for all grades of lucerne commodities but rains during the third week brought about an easier demand, although any choice chaff or hay continued to sell readily. Lower quality lines were difficult to clear and towards the end of May these were practically unsaleable. The four trucks of lucerne chaff from Queensland on offer were mainly prime descriptions and sold well at £8.5.0 to £9.10.0 per ton. Local stocks were disposed of at the following rates:- Damaged £5.0.0 to £5.10.0, Medium £6.0.0 to £7.0.0, Good to Prime £7.5.0 to £8.15.0, Choice to £9.10.0 per ton. Quotations for the 6 trucks of Queensland hay to hand were not disclosed but new green lots from the Maitland district brought from £3.10.0 to £5.5.0 per ton. Portion of the offering from other centres was submitted by auction in order to facilitate clearances, realisations being:- Derrick-pressed £3.1.8 to £5.15.0; Baled (inferior) £4.0.0 to £4.15.0 per ton. Deliveries by private treaty were taken at the following rates:- Derrick-pressed £5.0.0 to £6.5.0; Baled - £6.0.0 to £9.5.0 per ton. The 29 bales of Hunter River lucerne hay received in Sussex Street cleared at £4.0.0 to £4.5.0 per ton.

Only a portion of the 53 trucks of oaten hay in position at Alexandria was offered on the open market, the major part being consigned direct to private firms. Prices of available stocks ranged from £4.0.0 to £5.0.0 per ton. No Victorian oaten hay was received in Sussex Street during the month. Wheaten hay to hand at Alexandria amounted to 3 trucks and some sales at £3.7.6 per ton were recorded.

Tasmanian growers shipped only 700 bales of straw to Sussex Street during May. Owing to the coal strike, restrictions were placed on shipping space and no straw was carried until late in May (Thursday, 30th). Steady sales at £5.0.0 to £5.10.0 per ton for both wheaten and oaten lots were reported. Local producers railed a total of 49 trucks of straw to Alexandria, and, owing to the scarcity of Tasmanian stocks, these met a firm market at £3.0.0 to £4.10.0 per ton.

Moderate consignments of grain.

Consignments of grain to Alexandria were smaller than those of the previous month. The decision, inter alia, to accept wheat for carriage by rail only in specially authorised cases, which became effective in April, continued in force. Consequently, there were only 8 trucks of wheat to hand, most of which was disposed of at auction, bringing from 4/2 to 4/4 per bushel. Some private sales of choice wheat were reported at 4/6 per bushel. Oats at rail

/totalled .....

totalled 52 trucks but the quality generally was only medium and inferior. Most lines were cleared by auction, realisations ranging from 1/8 for inferior to 2/2½d for good oats, with two extra choice lots selling at 2/6 and 2/7½d per bushel. Owing to the "falling-off" in quality of the oats on offer values declined towards the end of the month. Receivals of maize at Alexandria included 1,486 bags from Queensland and 3,501 from local sources. Sales by private treaty were made at 4/9 for the local supply and 4/10 per bushel for prime yellow maize from Queensland. Portion of the Queensland offering was slightly below prime standard and was cleared by auction at 4/9 per bushel. A steady inquiry prevailed throughout for the 4,175 bags of Northern Rivers maize to hand in Sussex Street, and prices for yellow lines, which were quoted at 4/7 in the first week, firmed to 4/9 per bushel in the second week. Rates for white maize also advanced from 4/9 at the beginning of the period to 5/- per bushel on 20th May.

R.E.J.

----oooOooo----

- CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY -

STEADY SALES OF FRUIT; HIGH PRICES FOR GREEN VEGETABLES.

Business in the fruit section generally was of a steady character throughout the month. Clearances of pome fruits continued to be satisfactory, although the volume of sales was affected to some extent by the European situation, Italian shopkeepers in many instances limiting their purchases to daily requirements.

Clearances of apples mostly satisfactory.

Choice Jonathan apples from local sources and Tasmania were always in request but any lines that were going off in quality were somewhat difficult to sell. Higher prices were obtained, values appreciating by about 1/- per bushel. Stocks of local Delicious were scarce and high rates were paid for "extra fancy" packs. There was also a fairly good inquiry for Tasmanian supplies of this variety at slightly advanced prices. Apart from large sizes, trading in Granny Smiths was slow at unchanged values. Fair quantities of Scarlet Pearmains were available at from 4/- to 7/- per bushel and large Democrats were also on offer. Other varieties on sale were chiefly Geeveston Fanny, Cleopatra, Rome Beauty and French Crab.

Pears sell well.

Supplies of pears were light during the greater part of the month but heavier withdrawals from cool stores were noticeable towards the close. Demand for both Winter Cole and Packham's Triumph varieties was keen and values were at high levels. Josephine and Glou Morceau pears also realised very satisfactory prices.

/Heavier....

Heavier consignments of Navel and Siletta oranges.

There was a marked increase in consignments of Navel and Siletta Oranges from coastal and inland areas. In addition, supplies from Queensland continued to come forward. Business generally was slow the principal inquiry being for lines suitable for retailing at 1/- per dozen. Values tended downward throughout the month.

Second-crop Valencias were not in request; a few packs realised to 5/- but the bulk of the disposals was effected at from 3/- to 4/- per bushel. Small fruit was practically unsaleable.

Good request for mandarins.

Local Imperial and Emperor mandarins of quality cleared well, the former at from 3/- to 6/- per half-case and Emperors at 4/- to 9/- per bushel during the latter half of May. Glen's Retreat mandarins from Queensland were attractive in appearance and brought comparatively high rates. Consignments of Scarlets and Emperor varieties also were available from the State mentioned.

Towards the close of the month stocks of grapefruit were plentiful and included lots from coastal and Irrigation Areas. Apart from choice quality lines, demand was limited and medium to inferior fruit was offered at low prices.

Choice coloured lemons sold satisfactorily but semi-coloured and green fruit were somewhat slow to clear.

Bananas realise high prices.

Owing to the limited arrivals of bananas from the North Coast and Queensland, values were maintained at high levels, choice lines selling to 28/- per tropical case and specials clearing at higher rates.

Lower values for passion-fruit follow increased offerings.

There was a scarcity of passion-fruit early in the month and choice fruit realised to 21/- per half-case. Subsequently supplies, including consignments from Queensland, improved and rates fell.

Rates for choice Cornichon grapes maintained.

Cool store stocks of Cornichon grapes were fairly plentiful early; values of dry packs were well maintained and with the clearance of medium quality lots, prices improved.

Limited request for pineapples.

Trading in pineapples was somewhat slow and carry-overs

/from....

from consignment to consignment were in evidence. For the most part sales were effected at from 8/- to 12/- per tropical case, although some specials were sold in advance of the top of this range, while odd lots of inferior quality were disposed of at very low values.

Custard apples plentiful but papaws scarce.

Custard apples were plentiful throughout. Rates fluctuated and on some occasions the quote was from 3/- to 4/-, while at times up to 7/- per half-case was secured for best lines.

Only small quantities of papaws were available at from 8/- to 12/-, with some specials realising to 15/- per tropical case.

Green vegetables lightly stocked.

The principal feature of business in the vegetable section was the paucity of supplies of "greens" and the high values ruling for same.

Strong request for choice peas.

During May, stocks of peas were considerably below normal and at times less than 500 bags were on offer; on most days, however, the quantity available approximated between 700 and 800 bags. Owing to frosts occurring on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, the peas from that locality suffered considerable injury; many lots opened up unsatisfactorily and sales were difficult to effect. Choice lines were in strong demand throughout and on occasions 18/- per bushel was obtained.

North Coast and Queensland beans supplement local offerings.

Apart from Mondays and Thursdays, when consignments arrived from the North Coast and Queensland, the market was lightly supplied with beans. Towards the close of the month, however, the quantities coming forward from the areas mentioned were increasing and the carry-over on each occasion supplemented the light arrivals on intervening days. Here again choice descriptions found ready sale at prices which must be considered satisfactory to the grower.

Small receivals of cauliflowers.

There was a noticeable decline in receivals of cauliflowers, apparently due to the fact that marketing of the early crop in the Bathurst district had been completed. Only a few lots from gardens within the Metropolitan Area were on offer but increased supplies were in prospect for early June. Selected heads realised high prices and up to 20/- per dozen was obtained; in fact, values for all qualities were particularly good.

/Irregular.....

Irregular market for cabbages.

The market for cabbages was variable, apparently being affected to a large extent by purchases for the Defence Department, and prices fluctuated. Stocks were not heavy on any occasion and rates for choice heads could be said to be satisfactory at all times. Top quotations ranged to 14/- per dozen, but the bulk of sales was made in the vicinity of 8/-.

Local tomatoes in demand.

Supplies of tomatoes continued to decrease. Victorian consignments, for the most part, opened up in an unsatisfactory condition and were sold at low prices. Two small shipments arrived from Western Australia; the tomatoes were of good quality and were disposed of readily at rates ranging up to 13/- per half-case. Local lots, particularly coloured, were in strong request at higher values, and towards the close of the month the price of selected lines rose about 4/- per half-case. The first of the season's glasshouse tomatoes were received from the Toongabbie locality and opened up very satisfactorily.

Bunched vegetables clear steadily.

There was only limited inquiry for lettuce and, apart from week-end sales, realisations were comparatively low.

Beetroot was plentiful and sold at relatively low rates. Steady clearances of most other kinds of bunched vegetables were reported and values were fairly evenly maintained, except in the case of spinach, prices of which showed marked fluctuations on occasions.

R.M.

----oooOooo----

Under a Customs Proclamation dated 11th May, 1938, the Internal Marketing Division, Primary Products Marketing Department, New Zealand, became the sole importer of citrus fruits and bananas into New Zealand. The following extract from the Division's report for the year ended 31st March, 1939, is of special interest to Australian citrus growers:-

"The first shipment of oranges imported by the Internal Marketing Division landed early in May, 1938, and during the eleven-month period ended 31st March, 1939, approximately 85,000,000 oranges were imported. These were drawn from various sources, and in the following proportions:-

	Per Cent.
Australia	64.3
Cook Islands	21.0
Jamaica	12.5
California	2.2
	100.0

Results generally have been most satisfactory, while many of the difficulties experienced during the past year have now been overcome."

----oooOooo----

WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING MAY, 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	May, 1940 From	May, 1940 To	31st August, 1939
Wheat -			
Bulk per bushel 4/-	unchanged		2/10½d
Bagged " " 4/3	unchanged		2/11½d
Flour - per ton £10.14.7 (plus £1.15.5 tax)	unchanged		£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)
Bran - per ton £5.10.0	unchanged		£4.5.0
Pollard - " " £5.10.0	unchanged		£4.5.0
Eggs (hen) per dozen	1/10d	2/-	1/-
Butter -			
Choice per cwt. 161/2	unchanged		161/2
First Quality " " 156/6	unchanged		156/6
Second " " " 151/10	unchanged		151/10
Cheese -			
Loaf per lb. 11d	unchanged		11d
Large " " 10½d	unchanged		10½d
Special brands per lb.	1/-	1/2	1/2

Pigs (Abattoir Sales) -			29th August, 1939 From	29th August, 1939 To
Prime extra light porkers	26/6	37/6	31/6	40/6
" light porkers	33/6	42/6	39/6	44/6
" med.wgt. "	38/6	51/6	43/6	51/6
" heavy "	47/6	56/6	50/6	54/6
" baconers	60/6	86/6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£4.15.0	£9.0.0 (few to £10.10.0)	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

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

----oooOooo----

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

FRUIT.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases.	Bananas tropical cases.	Other Fruit cases.	Melons crates	Tomatoes half-bushel cases.	TOTALS packages.
Queensland	24,456	7,090	27,336	x 13	76,386	135,281
Victoria	24	51	10,268	-	52,725	63,068
Tasmania	-	-	339,047	-	637	339,684
Sth. Aust.	-	-	5,238	-	-	5,238
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	24,480	7,141	381,889	13	129,748	543,271

x Also 8¾ tons loose melons by rail.

VEGETABLES.

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins bags	Pumpkins tons	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkges.	TOTALS pkges.	TOTALS tons
Queensland	79	34	-	6,574	1,402½	532	17,387	24,606	1,402½
Victoria	19,739	32,603	446	-	-	-	2,516	55,304	-
Tasmania	163,296	-	7,176	-	-	-	5,893	176,365	-
Sth. Aust.	2,253	1,278	-	-	-	-	9,013	12,544	-
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	-
TOTALS	185,367	33,915	7,622	6,574	1,402½	532	34,819	268,829	1,402½