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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.

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

At meeting in Sydney, Australian Agricultural Council considers policy to meet wartime needs, and decides that:- (a) Production of eggs, butter, dried milk, condensed milk, cheese and, probably, pork should be intensified; and (b) Production of tobacco, cotton, vegetable and other seeds, flax and certain fibres should be stimulated, partly for local requirements and partly for export.

Reports indicate that, provided the Commonwealth authorities grant permission to form a company, cool storage facilities at present available in Sydney will be supplemented by the creation of modern cool stores near the City Municipal Markets, Sydney. The projected cool stores are to accommodate up to 120,000 cases fruit, with an ultimate maximum capacity of 400,000 cases. The project is a private venture.

A poll, under the Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927-1938, will be held on 27th August, 1940, to decide whether egg producers in those parts of New South Wales outside the Counties of Cumberland and Northumberland and the Shires of Nattai and Wollondilly shall be brought under the control of the Egg Marketing Board. As matters stand, the Board is constituted for the said Counties and Shires, within which the bulk of the State's commercial egg production occurs. Poultry farming outside the Board's existing area is increasing.

Australian Minister for Commerce announces the sale to the British Ministry for Food of 750,000 cases of canned fruit, valued at approximately £700,000. This fruit comprises part of the surplus of the Australian pack for the 1940 season of apricots, peaches and pears.

DISPOSAL OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES WHEAT CROP
IN THE 1938/39 SEASON.

(Address by Director of Marketing, Mr. A.A. Watson,
to the Eighteenth Annual Conference of the Agricultural Bureau
of New South Wales, on 18th July, 1940.)

Introductory.

The subject of my talk this morning, which of necessity must be short, is the "Disposal of the New South Wales Wheat Crop of Season 1938/39". At the outset I feel it incumbent upon me to say that an endeavour to trace the distribution of a wheat crop of the size of that in New South Wales is fraught with difficulty. Particulars of the State's wheat harvest in season 1938/39 have been compiled by the Government Statistician in relation to a period extending from 1st December, 1938 (which date approximately ushered in the new wheat) to the 30th November, 1939. It is the number and variety of the channels through which wheat passes which make the task of tracing the quantities which flow through each, one of some difficulty. In point of fact, estimates only are possible as to a number of the channels. Carryovers from year to year and other factors add their quotas to the problems involved. However, the job has been attempted. By making independent inquiries and applying various checks it has been possible to account for the greater part of the wheat crop of 1938/39.

Forecasting the State's harvest.

It is fairly widely known that the State Marketing Bureau, of which I happen to be the Director, makes a forecast of each year's wheat crop. Just for a moment or two, let me speak of the meaning of that word 'forecast'. The word is good Anglo-Saxon and should not permit of any misunderstanding. The fact remains that far too many people use the words 'forecast' and 'estimate' as though they were completely interchangeable. They are not. Every Mayor is an Alderman, but every Alderman is not a Mayor. Similarly, every forecast is an estimate, but every estimate is not a forecast. A forecast is an estimate before the event. An estimate after the event, e.g., the official estimate in February of the State's wheat production in the season then just ended, is not a forecast. Let me conclude this little homily by pointing out that a forecast is a vastly more difficult thing than an estimate of the size of the crop after it has been harvested. It is not my intention to outline the difficulties which beset the path of the forecaster nor to remind you that the role of prophet has ever been a trying one. So many of you are helping me in this job of forecasting the wheat crop of New South Wales that you know as much as I could tell you of the vagaries of our glorious Australian climate as it affects wheat-growing in New South Wales. More wheat, be it said, is grown here than in any other Australian State and the growing is scattered over a larger and more variable stretch of territory than characterises it in other States. However, as in duty bound and as the Marketing of Primary Products

Act requires, the task is tackled with the aid of 360 wheat farmers and 15 Agricultural Instructors and, latterly, with the added assistance of the Grain Trade, and a useful figure results. So much by the way.

Phenomenal yields in North-West of New South Wales.

Our forecast of production in the season under review, i.e., 1938/39, and issued in November, 1938, was $47\frac{1}{4}$ million bushels. It may be recalled that there was a long spell of particularly dry weather during the greater part of the growing period in that year, especially in the western and southern portions of the State and the consensus of opinion was that large areas were likely to produce much less grain than usual or to fail entirely. However, the occurrence of rain at the last moment, as it were, changed the outlook very substantially and the crop finished much better than was anticipated. It thus resulted that the forecast of 47,250,000 bushels was exceeded by over 12 million bushels, the actual yield according to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics, after harvesting was completed, being no less than 59,898,000 bushels. This aggregate, it must not be forgotten, was largely influenced by absolutely phenomenal yields in the North West of the State.

Let us have a look at the North Western yields in 1938/39. In that season the total production in the North Western Slope Division was $12\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels, equivalent to a most exceptional average yield per acre of 21.6 bushels. On no occasion during the previous ten years did the recorded outturn in that section of the State exceed seven and a third million bushels. Experience was similar in the North Central Plain Division where production almost doubled itself. Prior to 1938/39, when approximately 6,000,000 bushels of grain were garnered, the highest yield obtained in ten years in that Division was about $3\frac{1}{4}$ million bushels.

How the crop was disposed of.

When the crop was stripped in 1938/39, therefore, over 64 million bushels of grain were ready for disposal, including a carry-over exceeding 4,000,000 bushels from the previous season. The total of 64,000,000 bushels is reached as follows:-

Deliveries to silos and railways amounted to almost 49,000,000 bushels or nearly four-fifths of the total. Of the balance, 4,500,000 was retained by farmers as seed for the next season's crop, whilst a further $1\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels were fed to stock or held on farms for various purposes. Deliveries to flour mills in New South Wales aggregated slightly over 4,000,000 bushels, whilst deliveries to Victoria by road transport and by Victorian-owned railways in this State are estimated to have totalled 1,000,000 bushels. The carry-over of 4,000,000 bushels previously referred to completes the total.

Home consumption requirements absorbed almost $22\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels, that figure being made up of 12,000,000 bushels of flour (expressed in terms of wheat), 4,500,000 bushels for seed and 7,000,000 for poultry and stock food. Exports of grain and flour (the latter also expressed in terms of wheat) overseas amounted to 30 million bushels. As usual, the greater proportion of the wheat (as grain) was shipped to the United Kingdom, but consignments to China, India, New Zealand and the Irish Free State, or Eire as it is now known, were by no means negligible. So far as flour is concerned, our chief oversea exports were to China, which has been outstanding as a customer for Australian flour for some years past. Unfortunately, the Sino-Japanese conflict has been responsible for dislocation of the trade in recent times. Trade with other States is relatively small, exports of grain being little more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels in season 1938/39. This is probably accounted for by the fact that other States of the Commonwealth are largely self-supporting so far as wheat and flour production are concerned in normal years. The carry-over of grain to season 1939/40 was nearly $6\frac{3}{4}$ million bushels.

Flour manufactured within New South Wales for all purposes during 1938/39 aggregated just on 600,000 tons. Domestic needs accounted for one quarter of a million tons, the balance, with the exception of 10,000 tons sent to other States, going overseas. The value of such exports approached £2,000,000. The chief export markets, after China, were the United Kingdom, Netherlands East Indies and British Malaya.

Factors influencing manufacture of flour.

Perhaps I may be permitted to digress at this stage in order to make a few observations with regard to flour manufacturing in Australia. The quantities disposed of locally remain more or less constant, no great variation being observable from year to year. The home market thus causes little appreciable change in flour production. The overseas market, however, presents a far different story. Here it is necessary for Australian exporters to compete with overseas millers and orders for flour cannot be obtained unless the price at which supplies are offered compares favourably with that quoted by overseas competitors. In other words, Australian parity begins and ends in Australia. It thus happens that the Australian manufacturers' ability to quote a competitive price has a great bearing on the actual amount of flour produced, increases or decreases in exports resulting in increases or decreases, respectively, in production. From an examination of statistics over a period of years it appears that the ability of the Australian millers to compete in overseas markets is more or less governed by wheat prices. That is to say, production locally is greater and exports overseas expand when the Australian price of wheat is on a low level. Conversely, higher prices for wheat spell a diminution in flour production. It has been noticed on occasions when local millers' costs are increased, for some reason or another, overseas countries find it more advantageous to purchase Australian (or other) wheat grain

/and

and mill it in factories in their own countries rather than purchase supplies of Australian milled flour.

The production of mill offals.

The production of bran, pollard and sharps is ancillary to the manufacture of flour. An increase in the quantity of flour produced means that greater quantities of mill offals are available and vice versa. During 1938/39 exports overseas totalled 45,000 tons valued at approximately £250,000. As is the case with most of our primary products, the chief market for exports was the United Kingdom but New Zealand also figured prominently. The quantities of bran and pollard milled in New South Wales during 1938/39 comprised 108,000 and 121,000 tons, respectively. Most parts of the State have been subjected to long dry spells during recent years and no difficulty in disposing of stocks has been encountered because of the demand for bran and pollard for poultry feed and for supplementary rations for sheep and cattle. The position lately has become acute, supplies at various periods being particularly hard to secure, this being the cumulative effect of abnormal demand and a reduction in stocks due to a falling away in the milling of flour for export as a result of war conditions.

An argument that is familiar enough to poultry farmers and which may interest wheat-growers and, at the same time, fall within the framework of this discussion, is that when exports of flour are buoyant and flour-mills are working three shifts, outturn of bran and pollard is high and prices of these offals may be expected to correspond with the abundance of the supplies. Conversely, it is argued that when exports of flour are low in volume, mills may be working one shift per day only, or less, outturn of mill offals is reduced accordingly and the whole-time poultry farmer may expect higher charges for the bran and pollard which he must have for his flocks. Like so many other generalisations, the truth of this formula is subject to many qualifications. Other factors intervene to add complexity to an otherwise simple situation. Drought in dairying or other stock-raising areas may so increase demand for mill-offals that the heavy outturn is met by a relatively heavier demand and so there may be no fall in bran and pollard prices, despite increased production. An export trade in bran and pollard has also to be reckoned with: a dry time in New Zealand, for example, may augment the demand from that quarter. The interest of these matters to wheat growers is that the price of their product is affected by its value in both its raw state and in its various manufactured forms. Another element of interest from the wheatgrower's point of view is the emphasis it places upon the importance of poultry-farming as an outlet for wheat. Poultry farmers, as such, rank high among the wheat growers' best customers. Hence it is that a movement among poultry-farmers in this State, aimed at greater consolidation of their purchasing of wheat and mill offals may be a development of the future. The major purpose of such a buying organisation would be, of course, some flattening-out of fluctuations in both supplies and prices, particularly as to mill-offals, more favourable to poultry-farmers than existing variations. It should not be assumed that such an organisation need be prejudicial to wheat-growers.

Period of low values.

Now as to the all-important question of prices. Unfortunately the relatively high yield of season 1938/39 was offset by low values ruling in the markets of the world which acted detrimentally upon local values. At the beginning of 1939 new bulk wheat sold at 2/5¹/₂d per bushel ex trucks Sydney and the highest price recorded by the State Marketing Bureau for Sydney millers' quotations for bulk wheat up to the time the Australian Wheat Board was established following the outbreak of war early in September, 1939, was 2/7¹/₂d per bushel, which price was recorded on two occasions during May. However, as low as 2/0¹/₂d was reached in July. Apart from storage fees, the return to growers at country sidings was approximately 7d per bushel less than the figures quoted and the outlook for the marketing of the 1938/39 wheat crop was not at all encouraging to the producer. The outlook was brightened, of course, by the operation of the "Home Consumption Price" scheme which had for its object the payment of 5/2d per bushel at ports for that portion of the crop used for flour for local consumption. That scheme functioned per medium of a flour tax which varied inversely to the rise and fall of the price of wheat. The moneys collected under the flour tax legislation were made available to the various States for distribution amongst growers on condition that it was paid at a rate per bushel on all wheat sold. Notwithstanding efforts to aid producers, the position of the industry became so acute in July, 1939, that the Prime Minister convened a conference of Commonwealth and State Governments in an endeavour to evolve a satisfactory wheat stabilisation scheme. Various suggestions were under discussion when war was declared and the Commonwealth Government decided by virtue of the provisions of the National Security Act to acquire all wheat.

Values have risen very substantially since the outbreak of hostilities but the disposal of our surplus wheat presents a difficult problem, what with the cutting off of markets and the limitations with regard to shipping space.

The average wholesale price of flour was as low as £7.9.3 in September, 1938, but in the following December a Federal Tax was instituted. Under this scheme the price of flour was determined on the value ruling for wheat on the open market. Details have already been given with regard to its effects on wheat prices. During the period under review the ruling rate for flour was mostly in the vicinity of £12.15.0 per ton (including tax).

Prices of mill offals sold in this State during 1938/39 varied according to availability of supplies and the demand. Both bran and pollard sold at as high as £7.0.0 per ton, whilst the lowest rate was £4.5.0.

The war and marketing organisation.

My time is nearly up, but I think there is sufficient left for a look at the marketing organisation of the wheat

/industry

industry as represented by the Australian Wheat Board. It required a war and the compulsory powers vested in the Commonwealth Government by the National Security Act, 1939, to bring about a Commonwealth-wide organisation for the handling of the Australian wheat crop. The Australian Wheat Board was constituted by regulations under that Act and Committees of an advisory character were established in each State. In effect, the machinery has been provided for the conduct of a compulsory wheat pool during the currency of the war.

The regulations provide for expropriation of wheat by the Commonwealth "for securing the public safety and defence of the Commonwealth and Territories for the efficient prosecution of the war and for maintaining supplies and services essential to the life of the community".

It is also provided that the Minister may from time to time declare that any wheat is acquired by the Commonwealth and shall thereupon become the absolute property of the Commonwealth. The Australian Wheat Board is empowered to purchase any wheat, sell or dispose of any wheat acquired or purchased by the Commonwealth; grist or arrange for the gristing of any wheat into flour and sell or otherwise dispose of that flour; manage and control all matters connected with the handling, storage, protection, treatment, transfer or shipment of any wheat acquired by the Commonwealth or any wheat or flour sold or disposed of by the Commonwealth on behalf of the Commonwealth.

What of the future?

No more need be said of the wide powers vested in the Australian Wheat Board for the handling and disposal of our wheat. The question I wish to raise is whether an organisation of the kind is destined, like B.A.W.R.A., to be thrown into the discard when peace returns. The marketing of the crop is apt to present as great problems in times of peace as in war. Surely it would be a pity if wheat marketing organisation that had proved itself in an emergency were allowed to pass without leaving behind it a permanent contribution to the welfare of the industry. When the War is over - and even before the War is over - study the constitutional position of the States in relation to marketing control. Don't rashly assume that because the Commonwealth may not, the States cannot.

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Under the Dairy Produce Export Prices Order, 1939 (N.Z.) provision is made for additions to or deductions from the basic purchase prices for butter and cheese according to quality as disclosed by the grading points awarded. It is evident that the system has stimulated the production of dairy produce of higher quality as the percentages of butter and cheese which gained the basic guaranteed price or over in 1938/39 were higher than in the two previous seasons. The improvement in quality was particularly marked in the case of cheese.

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PHYSICAL FEATURES, PRODUCTION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE NORTH WESTERN SLOPE STATISTICAL DIVISION NO.8,
NEW SOUTH WALES.

In the previous issue of this publication, a description was given of the North Western Slope Division, the population, climate, timbers and pastoral industry. Some account now follows of the various crops, water conservation schemes etc. in this section of the State, concluding with schedules of production.

Wheat - the main crop.

The principal wheat-producing divisions of the State in order of importance are the Riverina, the South Western Slope, the Central Western Slope and the North Western Slope. The total yields, of course, vary according to the season, but on the average the northern districts, of which the subject division forms the major part, accounts for approximately 12 per cent. of the State's total production. Differences of soil, climatic conditions, cultural methods and other factors play their part in determining yields; an important factor operating in northern areas is that, normally, the greatest rainfall is experienced during the summer months.

A survey of official figures shows that in recent years the best yields per acre usually have been secured in the northern sections of the State, as may be seen in the increase in the average yield from 9.6 bushels per acre in the decade ended 1923-24 to 13.9 bushels per acre over the ten-year period ended 1937-38. It does not mean, however, that the southern sections are losing their place as the portion of the wheat belt in which the cereal is most successfully grown. It must be remembered that the North-West has been favored by a sequence of good seasons and that post-war development in the south has meant that substantial areas with rather uncertain rainfall were brought into cultivation in the western Riverina. The generally poor results in these new southern areas have had an appreciable effect in reducing the average yield in the southern districts.

In order to gain some idea of the extent of wheat growing in the North Western Slope recourse has been had to statistics of acreage and production. These show that during 1937-38 the area sown to wheat for grain was 512,381 acres, while that cultivated for hay and green feed amounted to 26,300 acres. The production from these lands totalled 6,834,615 bushels, an average of 13.3 bushels per acre, while 18,868 tons of hay were made. The crop was grown in practically all sections of the division but the greater proportion (about 46%) was harvested in the Peel River country with Tamworth as the centre and the Liverpool Plains section with Gunnedah as the central point. Other notable portions of the division were the Shires of Bannockburn, Yalla-roi and Mandowa.

In the ten years 1928-29 to 1937-38 the yields have varied fairly considerably each season. The best year was 1933-34 when 7,383,933 bushels were harvested as against the 1935-36 season when

/the outturn....

the outturn was only 3,477,060 bushels. The average annual production, however, was somewhat more than five and half million bushels over the ten year period, while the average yield per acre was 14.7 bushels.

Other Cereals, Lucerne, etc.

After wheat, the principal cereals grown are maize, oats and barley, but compared with wheat the area devoted to these crops is very small. Latest figures (1937-38) show that approximately 10,000 acres were sown to maize for grain, while about 2,000 acres were cultivated for green feed. The combined acreage given over to oats and barley for all purposes amounted to 23,803 in the same period. Yields totalled 134,000 bushels of maize, 104,000 of oats and approximately 30,000 of barley, about half of the latter being produced for malting. Oaten hay made was in the vicinity of 3,000 tons. In addition, a small quantity of rye and broom millet was produced, these crops being chiefly cultivated in the Liverpool Plains and Peel River sections of the division.

Lucerne is also successfully grown. Comparatively large tracts are under this valuable crop. It is grown both for hay and green feed and considerable quantities of the hay, which is generally of a high standard, are railed to the Sydney market. Lucerne hay grown in this section of the State also provides a valuable safeguard against dry seasons in adjacent districts and in the more remote parts of the State. During 1937-38 over 38,000 acres were used for green feed, while from 16,362 acres over 21,000 tons of hay were made, which constituted about 12 per cent. of the State's total.

Root and Miscellaneous Crops.

As previously stated, the North Western Slope is predominantly pastoral and its agriculture, broadly speaking, is limited to wheat. Although other activities are generally carried on in conjunction with wheat growing, they have attained more than local significance. Areas are found within the Division where fruit and vegetables are successfully grown and while the quantity is not large the variety and quality are impressive. Market gardening is carried on to a limited extent, principally in the southern portion in the neighbourhood of Tamworth and Gunnedah.

At Ashford in the north eastern portion of the Division, near to the Queensland border, the Department of Agriculture conducts an experiment farm where research in relation to tobacco growing is carried out and valuable results have been achieved. A small quantity of leaf is produced annually in certain areas that have proved suitable, notably in the Shires of Ashford and Cockburn, the latter of which borders on Tamworth. About 3,300 cwt. was produced in 1937-38.

Grapes for wine making are also cultivated in the Ashford locality, but production is very limited.

Water Conservation Schemes.

In the inland parts of New South Wales rainfall decreases more or less regularly with distance from the coast and although water from artesian bores is available over a wide area the necessity for water conservation is recognised. The largest schemes of this nature, in operation or in course of construction, are in the central and southern parts of the State. Dams and weirs regulating the flow of certain inland rivers so that the best use possible is made of the water occur in the drier districts.

On the North Western Slope, work in this direction is only in its infancy. Nevertheless the need is recognised and constructional operations are contemplated on the Namoi and Gwydir rivers, so that their waters may be stored and utilised to offset the threatened decrease in the flow of artesian bores. The most important of these enterprises is the Keepit Dam which is to conserve the waters of the Namoi at a point in the vicinity of Gunnedah. The estimated cost of this dam is £1,340,000.

Factories and Mines.

It is mainly in the coastal areas that output from factories and mines is important, the only exception being at Broken Hill in the Western Division. However, limited activity occurs in practically all divisions, and the North Western Slope is no exception. Mineral deposits occurring in this area include coal, tin, gold and copper. Statistics for the year 1937-38 show that the twenty-three mines working paid out £38,000 in wages and salaries. The value of the output for the same year was £70,000.

The number of factories and works was 127 in year ended March, 1938, employing an average of slightly over 800 persons. The value of goods manufactured or work done was stated to be £704,486, while the value of production was £296,307.

Transport.

Except for the northern portion, the subject division is well served with rail transport. The main northern line from Sydney to Brisbane passes through the south eastern corner before entering the New England portion of the adjoining Division. From this main line a branch serves Manilla and Barraba, whilst the railway linking Moree and Inverell traverses the more northern section of the division. Werris Creek is an important junction from which rail communication is possible with the west and north western parts of New South Wales.

The roads in the northern section, which would include the Bingara and Warialda areas, are, in the flat country, fairly hard and good when dry, but bad and sometimes impassable in wet weather, owing to the sticky nature of the black soil. Towards the tablelands, the roads are better and on the ridges are often hard and stony. The main roads in the hilly country are metalled.

/Around the

Around the Tamworth, Manilla, Barraba, Nundle, Quirindi and Gunnedah districts road transport facilities are fairly satisfactory. The main roads are good and transportation is easy except in the mountainous sectors and in wet weather on the black soil. The gradients are not steep and the roads are for the most part fairly hard.

Schedule of Production and Livestock.

The following schedules compiled from figures published in the New South Wales Statistical Register, show the average annual production of the principal primary products together with the annual average number of livestock grazed for the five year period ended 31st March, 1938.

North Western Slope Division - Average Annual Production, Five Years Ended 31st March, 1938.

Wool	..	..	..	..	49,260,000 lb.
Wheat (Grain)	..	..	..	..	5,623,999 bushels.
" (Hay)	..	..	..	..	17,706 tons.
Lucerne	..	..	..	..	29,541 "
Maize	..	..	..	..	138,418 bushels.
Oats (Grain)	..	..	..	..	86,995 "
" (Hay)	..	..	..	..	3,390 tons.
Barley (Malting)	..	..	..	..	24,049 bushels.
" (Other)	..	..	..	..	10,853 "
Tobacco	..	..	..	..	3,459 cwt.
Dairy Products - Butter	..	..	..	..	2,465,458 lb.
- Bacon & Hams	..	..	..	..	52,831 "

A suggested estimate, based on average realisations on the Sydney market for 1938, of the approximate value of those products is placed at £4,460,655. To this might be added the average value of minerals won and goods manufactured over the same five year period £67,800 and £257,200 respectively.

Average Annual Number of Livestock Carried on the North Western Slope Division - Five Years ended 31st March, 1938.

Horses	..	40,177 head
Cattle	..	260,973 "
Sheep	..	5,825,305 "
Pigs	..	10,583 "

THE MARKETS FOR LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH
NUMBERS OF SHEEP, CATTLE AND PIGS AGAIN SHOW INCREASE.

Heavy yardings continue.

The sharp rise in the number of sheep and lambs coming forward to the Homobush Saleyards which was so apparent during the previous month was even more pronounced during July. Consignments on each sale day were consistently heavy, average penningings being in the vicinity of 49,000 head. During the period the sheep and lambs available totalled 440,925 head which exceeded the previous month's large total by 109,659. In the corresponding month of 1939 the aggregate receipts of sheep and lambs was 299,568. Graziers generally are passing through a very trying time and, with natural feed scarce in many localities, are compelled to consign heavily to Homobush while stock are in reasonably good condition.

Light trade sheep scarce.

There was a scarcity for the greater part of the period of good light wethers but on occasions nice lines of this class of sheep were forward. Heavy wethers were particularly well supplied and, while merinos predominated, some exceptionally heavy cross-breds were offered. Ewes were not so numerous and comprised chiefly fair to good trade sorts. Quite a few aged cull ewes were included but, although of a suitable weight for trade purposes, they were of somewhat plain grade. At times, attractive lots of the heavier class of ewe were forward. One very noticeable feature of the grown sheep market was the falling-off in numbers, particularly towards the close of the period. Although a total of 181,501 head was received for sale (or about 20,000 above the previous month's total) the latter part of July was marked by a shortage of sheep; at the last sale held in the period only 13,100 head of grown sheep were penned or approximately 26% of the total offering. Sheep may be somewhat lightly supplied in the near future, as shearing operations, which are now proceeding, will curtail supplies.

Strong demand for sheep at closing sales.

Average realisations for quality sheep for the greater part of July compared favourably with those of the previous month, although at times some variation was apparent. Following the falling away in numbers late in the period and the resultant strong demand, values for good wethers and ewes rose sharply, an improvement of from 1/6 to 2/6 per head being noticeable by the close of July. Prices of medium to plain sheep, however, did not improve so materially, but an advance of from 6d to 1/- per head was apparent. Demand for this class of sheep was better owing to reduced yardings.

Early in the period a consignment of wethers which would dress approximately 46 lb. of mutton sold at 21/2 each, equivalent to 3½d per lb. Heavier wethers sold on the same day at 3d per lb.; this draft of sheep weighed approximately 52 lb. and were disposed

of

of at 23/10 per head. Shorn ewes of good shape and appearance and weighing about 42 lb. cost $2\frac{3}{4}d$ per lb. and realised 11/4 each. Following a downward trend in values about the second week in July heavy sheep were obtained for $2\frac{3}{4}d$ per lb. of a line of 54 lb. wethers selling for 21/10 each. A strong demand stimulated by lighter supplies was responsible subsequently for improved realisations, good trade wethers costing $3\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb; in this instance a draft of sheep dressing approximately 46 lb. sold at 21/- per head. A steady improvement over the closing sales of the period was manifested and realisations at the end of July were considerably better than at the opening sales. A pen of good trade wethers weighing approximately 44 lb. sold at 22/4 each or $3\frac{3}{4}d$ per lb. and heavy wethers dressing about 50 lb. sold at 24/6 each or $3\frac{1}{4}d$ per lb. Nice quality light ewes estimated to weigh 40 lb. sold at 19/4 per head or $3\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb.

Realisations for grown sheep must still be regarded as satisfactory. Although substantially the same as in June, the lower trend in skin values was partly responsible for increased costs of the carcasses. Good quality wethers generally sold at prices ranging from 19/- to 27/- per head, but on some occasions odd lots of sheep were disposed of at higher prices. Medium lines were obtained at prices ranging from 10/- to 18/- each. Ewes of quality were mostly secured at prices ranging from 11/- to 18/- but some drafts of very nice quality and carrying particularly good skins changed hands at 19/- to 22/- per head. Medium to plain ewes sold at relatively lower prices. Some of the very plain sorts were at times difficult to quit.

On a few occasions about the end of July, drafts of nice quality 4 tooth wethers made up to 4d per lb. and other lines not quite so well finished brought to $3\frac{3}{4}d$ per lb.; for the most part, however, good light trade sheep ranged in price from $2\frac{3}{4}d$ to $3\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb. Although heavy wethers cost as much as $3\frac{3}{4}d$ per lb., some lots of exceptionally heavy sheep of splendid quality, were obtained at $2\frac{1}{4}d$ per lb.; generally, however, heavy wethers were worth from $2\frac{1}{2}d$ to $3\frac{1}{4}d$ per lb., with perhaps the largest proportion at $2\frac{3}{4}d$ to 3d per lb. Best light ewes cost $3\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb., and heavy $2\frac{3}{4}d$ but average realisations were from $2\frac{1}{2}d$ to $3\frac{1}{4}d$ and 2d to $2\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb. for heavy and light descriptions, respectively.

Heavy yardings of lambs.

Suckers and lambs were very well represented throughout and on one occasion comprised about 76% of the total yardings. The aggregate pinnings for the period reached 259,424 or some 89,000 more than the previous month's supply. Despite the increasingly heavy supplies of lambs quality generally was reasonably good. New season's suckers were fairly well in evidence and many lines of very nice quality were included but lambs ranging from medium to good trade quality were by far the most numerous. The old or Summer lambs were mostly of a heavy type. Some consignments which were of excellent shape and finish were received but fair numbers were offered which were showing the effects of the dry conditions prevailing.

/Average

Average realisations below those of previous month.

Generally speaking, average realisations for lambs were not so good as those ruling during June and the market throughout July showed some variation. Opening sales were mostly firm but at the following auctions values declined by from 1/- to 2/- per head, the medium grades being most adversely affected. Later, however, despite increased supplies, the better grades of lambs met with a stronger demand and prices hardened. By the end of the period the market had fully recovered the fall sustained earlier and in many instances rates for choice light suckers were from 6d to 1/- per head above those ruling earlier in July.

Sales which give a good indication of the variation in prices are as follow: At the auction held on the 1st July a draft of suckers, weighing approximately 32 lb. sold at 21/11 each or 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. Heavy lambs on the same day made 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.; they weighed 42 lb. and were disposed of at 26/8 each. Following the downward trend in prices, light suckers were bought for 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb., a yard weighing 30 lb. being purchased for 18/6 each. The improvement in the position towards the end of July is evidenced by buyers paying 20/1 per head for 30 lb. suckers, equivalent to 7d per lb., while heavy lamb dressing approximately 38 lb. made 6d per lb. or 23/1 each.

A large proportion of the better grades of lambs was sold at prices ranging from 18/- to 25/- each, according to weight and skin value. Some of the heavier lambs realised from 26/- to 29/- each and medium to plain descriptions were offered at from 8/- to 18/-. Plain and inferior types, of which some were noticed throughout the yard, were sold in the vicinity of 5/- each. Light suckers and lambs cost as much as 7d per lb. but for the most part sold at from 6d to 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d for the better grades with medium to plain sorts at from 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. Heavy lambs made up to 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb., but average realisations were chiefly 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 6d.

Quality cattle in light supply.

Cattle supplies fluctuated during July, 1940, with the heaviest consignments coming forward during the early part of the month. The total yarding of 18,594 head, covering nine sale days, showed an increase compared with the June aggregate. A greater percentage of cattle was auctioned in the fat stock section, bulls and stores accounting for 2,056 of the total. The quality of the offerings generally was on a par with that of stock auctioned during the latter part of the previous month and could only be described as fair. Cattle in better condition, of course, were always available in a varying degree and many odd consignments of prime beasts were noticed. On most occasions, however, the latter were all too few for buyers' requirements. Since the previous month's Review was issued, the pastoral position has deteriorated further. Practically no rain of any consequence fell during July and the outlook at the close of the month was the worst for many years in some districts, particularly in the north west and Upper Hunter sections of the State. Hand feeding has become widespread.

/Except

Except for frosty nights, the present winter has been very mild and to some extent this has resulted in stock remaining in better condition than would otherwise have been the case in view of the dry season.

Limited consignments of bullocks.

Bullocks were well supplied on one sale day only, consignments for the most part being rather small. Lightweight beasts greatly predominated and generally were of fair to good trade quality with odd lots prime. Heavy bullocks were particularly scarce during the period and Queensland cattle were relatively few in number. Compared with the previous month, average prices showed a moderate improvement. The market was best at the commencement and at the close of the period when prime light beasts realised to 43/- per 100 lb. dressed weight. This rate was also attained by medium weight descriptions on the first sale day of the month. Prices showed a regular downward trend until the middle of July when they were about 3/- per 100 lb. lower. An upward movement then began. On the final sale day a pen of prime Shorthorn bullocks, estimated to weigh 720 lb. dressed, sold at £15.2.0 per head, equivalent to 42/- per 100 lb.

Fair supplies of steers.

Steers were generally fairly well supplied and there was a better showing of quality descriptions, although fair to good trade sorts predominated. Prices followed the same trend noticed in relation to bullocks and generally showed an improvement on the previous month's values. Top quotations for prime light steers, for which a keen demand prevailed, ranged from 45/- to 48/- per 100 lb.

Variable offerings of cows.

Consignments of cows fluctuated markedly from sale day to sale day, both as to numbers arriving and quality. The percentage of heavy cows also showed a fair amount of variation. Although a noticeable proportion of the penning was of good quality, medium to fair trade sorts constituted the bulk of the offerings. Good to prime cows sold at very satisfactory rates despite fluctuations. Quotations for heavy grades ranged from 33/- to 36/- and from 37/- to 39/- and light from 35/- to 38/- and from 38/- to 40/- per 100 lb. dressed weight.

Uneven truckings of heifers.

The numbers of heifers forward early in the period were rather small but supplies subsequently increased fairly considerably. Medium to good trade sorts predominated but occasional pens of prime grade were to be seen. Prices covering good to prime heavy and light descriptions ranged from 36/- to 43/- and from 39/- to 47/- per 100 lb., respectively.

/Prime

Prime vealers scarce.

Although vealers were mostly moderately supplied, at the close of the period they were fairly plentiful. Small calves of medium quality formed the bulk of the offering on some sale days but on other occasions heavier descriptions were more in evidence. Prime grade was generally difficult to secure. Prices for vealers were the highest on the first sale day when good to prime were quoted at 48/- to 55/- per 100 lb. The market declined sharply during the second week but quickly recovered and for the remainder of the period prices mostly ranged from 48/- to 53/- per 100 lb.

The recovery in cattle values during June was generally well sustained throughout the period under review and prices for quality descriptions again reached high levels, despite a 25% reduction in hide values. A comparison of prices ruling on the final sale day of July, 1939, and the corresponding sale day of July this year shows the latter to be the higher by at least 12/- per head.

Since the close of the month rain has fallen over a wide area but most of the falls were not sufficiently heavy to be of any appreciable benefit. In any case, any immediate results therefrom could only be expected in the warmer portions of the State.

Increased supplies of country pigs.

The number of pigs sold by auction during July, viz., 7,080 head, showed an increase when compared with that of the previous month and it was considerably in excess of the aggregate for the corresponding period of 1939. Arrivals by rail from country centres, which are usually in the minority, aggregated 3,740 head or nearly 53% of the total. Reference to the figures issued by Metropolitan Meat Industry Commissioner disclose that 9,633 pigs were sold in the Metropolitan Area during July, indicating an increase in private selling including the sale of heavy baconer pigs "over the scale".

Quality of porkers improves.

Porkers were well supplied throughout the period and all weights were represented. During the early part of the month quality generally was disappointing and only a relatively small percentage was of prime grade. At subsequent sales, however, quality showed an improvement, whilst at the final auctions of the period, when country pigs were in the majority, it was the best seen for some considerable time. Pigs in store condition were well in evidence and met a ready demand from suburban feeders. Prices of porkers fluctuated but, on the average, returns to producers were better than during June, 1940. Values were highest during the latter half of the period when prime light porkers dressing 60 lb. sold to 45/6 per head and heavy (90 lb.) to 58/6. On a per lb. basis, the extreme range of rates covering good to prime porkers of all weights (35 to 90 lb.) was 6³/₄d to 11d.

/Values

Values of baconers advance.

Baconers were moderately supplied and the consignments comprised chiefly light weight descriptions of fair to good trade standard. A small percentage of heavy to extra-heavy baconers was available on most sale days. The lower values noted in June continued to rule during the early part of July but subsequent sale days saw more active competition amongst the buyers. Prices soon recovered and by the close of July quotations for prime heavy baconers dressing 150 lb. reached 87/6 per head (7d per lb.). Prime light pigs always sold readily and were worth up to 7³/₄d per lb. on a dressed weight basis. It is understood that sales "over the scale" at the Homebush Abattoirs were effected at rates ranging from 6¹/₂d to 6³/₄d per lb. The utilisation of heavy baconers for local requirements as well as export purposes is held to be partly responsible for the increased values.

Variable consignments of backfatters.

Consignments of backfatters were variable both as to quality and the percentage of weighty sorts available. For the most part, however, the pennings consisted of light descriptions of medium to good trade quality. Prime quality pigs were the most plentiful on the final sale day. Rates for this class of pig were fairly steady throughout but they were slightly lower than during the previous month. Pigs of good to prime quality dressing 200 to 350 lb. ranged in value from 5d to 5³/₄d per lb., whilst those exceeding 350 lb., but of similar quality, were worth from 4¹/₄d to 5¹/₄d. The highest prices paid per head were in the vicinity of £8.15.0.

Market values mostly higher.

The market generally may be considered very satisfactory from the producer's standpoint in view of the increased values of porkers and baconers. This is especially the case when it is remembered that prices were good when consignments were heavy and the percentage of quality animals the best for some time.

G.C. & J.W.

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A review issued by the Victorian Department of Agriculture on 9th August, 1940, states that the area under potatoes in Victoria for the current season is estimated by the Government Statist at 32,500 acres, compared with 34,396 acres planted last season. Reports indicate that harvesting of the late crop is practically completed and that, with the exception of isolated minor potato areas the yields have been the lightest on record. The aggregate yield for the State is estimated at 65,000 tons, compared with 81,415 tons harvested in the previous season.

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TRADING IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES AT THE
SYDNEY MUNICIPAL MARKETS

Although the weather was fine and temperatures particularly mild for this period of the year, trading in fruit generally was rather quiet.

Navel oranges well supplied.

Plentiful supplies of Navel oranges came to hand from Coastal districts and the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. Sales were quiet during the first fortnight and a downward trend in values was apparent. Subsequently there was a better inquiry for the popular sizes and rates improved by about 1/- per case. Up to that time few sales were effected at prices in excess of 7/- per case, except for a few extra choice lots from inland areas, such as Narromine.

Lemons sold to factories.

Lemons were only moderately stocked but demand as far as the retail trade was concerned was limited. Considerable quantities were required by factories for processing, however, and this had a stabilising effect on the market and values were well maintained throughout.

Choice mandarins in request.

There was a good inquiry for choice large mandarins and realisations were very satisfactory. Small or "puffy" fruit, however, was difficult to dispose of and at times was practically unsaleable.

Supplies of apples sufficient for requirements.

Regular consignments of apples were received from other States to supplement limited supplies from New South Wales districts and sufficient stocks were available for trade needs.

A steady demand was maintained for quality fruit, particularly coloured dessert varieties and values of Jonathan and Crofton showed a slight improvement. Large Granny Smiths of quality were also in request while vendors had little difficulty in disposing of the limited stocks of New South Wales grown Delicious at high prices.

Some choice Granny Smiths were received from Western Australia and sold well at rates ranging to 13/- per case, which compared favourably with prices for local packs.

Choice pears sell well.

Pears for the most part were only in light to moderate supply and quality lines were in request at higher prices.

Bananas moderately stocked.

Only moderate quantities of bananas were on offer and, while demand was quiet, values of quality fruit were maintained at relatively high levels throughout the greater part of the period. Towards the end of the month the high prices ruling had a retarding effect on sales and lower rates were accepted to facilitate clearances.

Passionfruit prices advance.

Sales of passionfruit for the month opened with prices showing an increase of about 1/-, with best quality packs realising to 10/- per half-case. Supplies were only light to moderate and up to the end of the third week of July there was a steady upward movement in values. Later there was a fall in prices but choice lines realised to 12/- per half-case.

Downward trend in prices of pineapples.

Sales were effected at slightly firmer rates at the beginning of the month. Subsequently more plentiful supplies were available and as request generally was quiet prices receded by about 2/-, quotations ranging from 6/- to 10/- per tropical case. These prices were fairly well maintained throughout the remainder of the period.

Queensland strawberries plentiful.

Fairly large quantities of strawberries were received from Queensland but clearances for the most part were satisfactory. There was a good inquiry for the week-end trade but mid-week sales were rather slow and mostly lower prices were accepted. When supplies were heaviest about the middle of the month considerable quantities were secured by factories.

Limited quantities were received from local growers and very satisfactory prices were realised.

Trading in vegetables was generally of a steady nature throughout July and clearances of most lines were satisfactory.

Cauliflowers heavily stocked.

Cauliflowers for the most part were heavily stocked. Sales during the first week opened with prices showing a downward trend but subsequently a temporary lessening of supplies resulted in improved prices. Towards the close of the period, however, exceptionally large quantities were on offer. Stocks were considerably in excess of normal requirements and relatively low prices were accepted to facilitate clearances. During the period of glut supplies, large quantities were purchased on behalf of canning factories.

/Prices

Prices of cabbages fluctuate.

Cabbages were also plentiful and demand varied from moderate to quiet. Prices fluctuated within narrow margins but for the most part ranged from 1/- to 4/- per dozen.

Rates for peas vary.

Prices of peas also fluctuated somewhat but in the main they were very satisfactory. There was a decline in values early but later the market improved and at the end of the month up to 8/- per bushel was realised for quality lines.

Beans plentiful.

Large consignments of beans came to hand twice weekly from Queensland and the North Coast of New South Wales but the proportion of choice was not large, the bulk of the supplies showing the effects of the droughty conditions. A good demand prevailed for quality lots but other descriptions were difficult to sell. A decline in values was apparent at the beginning of the month, few sales being made at prices exceeding 5/- per bushel. During the week ended 24th July, agents were able to dispose of stocks at higher values, up to 8/- per bushel being realised. By the end of the month, however, prices had again declined by about 2/-.

Glasshouse tomatoes appear on market.

Limited quantities of tomatoes from local sources were supplemented by regular consignments from Queensland. Green tomatoes were slow of sale but a steady demand was maintained for choice coloured descriptions and realisations were very satisfactory. Small quantities from local glasshouses were also available and odd sales were effected at prices ranging to 20/- but most of the disposals were effected at between 10/- and 16/- per half-case.

E.J.C.

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FRUIT BY THE POUND.

The following is an extract from "The California Citrograph" of May, 1940:-

"How much does a bunch of spinach weigh? A cluster of radishes? A dozen oranges? A head of lettuce?"

Answers to these questions and for all fruits and vegetables will be forthcoming. For the Safeway Stores organisation has embarked on a plan of selling all fruits and vegetables by the pound instead of by count or bunch. Similar plans have been tried in other parts of the country with indifferent success. But this is the first time such a venture has been attempted on a widespread scale so close to home. The results will be watched with interest."

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ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD
AND
SUSSEX STREET SALES

Firm demand for potatoes.

Tasmanian growers forwarded 124,050 bags of potatoes to the Sydney market during July, 1940; this total was slightly above that of the previous month. Stocks comprised table grade tubers of the Brownell, Snowflake and Arran Chief varieties. At the beginning of July, the rate for Brownells was fixed at £11 per ton; during the third week the price was advanced to £12.10.0, and for the remainder of the month the quote was maintained at £12.0.0. The fixed rates for the Whiteskin varieties were mainly 20/- per ton lower in each case. A firm inquiry for all lines prevailed and the range of prices throughout the month was:- Brownells £11.0.0 to £12.10.0; Snowflakes £10.0.0 to £11.10.0; Arran Chiefs £9.10.0 to £11.10.0 per ton.

Following on the decision of the Commonwealth Government to partially lift the embargo on the importation into Australia of New Zealand potatoes, a shipment of 12,500 bags was received in Sydney on Monday, 29th July. The general quality of these tubers was good, and the market rate was fixed at £11.0.0 per ton, the same as that then ruling for Tasmanian "whiteskin" varieties. Owing to the large quantities of potatoes available from other sources, it was decided to offer only 5,200 bags of the New Zealand consignment during the final week in July, withholding the remainder until the beginning of August.

Other arrivals in Sussex Street consisted of 150 bags of seed from Western Australia and 513 bags of new potatoes shipped from North Coast ports of New South Wales. Sales of the latter were reported at £10.10.0 to £11.15.0 for No.1 grade and £8.10.0 per ton for No.2 grade tubers.

At Alexandria Railway Goods Yard, receipts of local potatoes totalled 2,884 bags, the main forwarding districts being Guyra (499 bags), Raleigh (452), Ben Lomond (344), Grafton (340) and Llangothlin (324). Under keen competition, auction disposals were effected at the following rates:- No.1 grade £9.13.4 to £14.5.0; No.2 £5.10.0 to £13.0.0; Seed £3.10.0 to £15.5.0 per ton. No.3 grade 5/- to 9/-; Chats 3/9 to 8/-; Stock food 3/- to 9/- per bag. Rail consignments from Victoria amounted to 498 bags of seed tubers but sales of only portion of this supply were disclosed, these realisations being £13.8.4 per ton.

Lower prices for onions.

Shipments of Victorian onions to Sussex Street totalled 17,396 bags. Although, for the most part, a firm request prevailed, prices eased. At the beginning of July, rates for Brown Spanish lots were firm at £13.0.0 per ton, but subsequently they dropped to £11.0.0 ex wharf. Sales of "screened" lots (i.e., picked over stocks) were effected ex store at £13.0.0 to £13.10.0 per ton.

/Arrivals

Arrivals at Alexandria of Brown Spanish onions from Victoria totalled 765 bags and deliveries were taken at £12.0.0 to £13.0.0 per ton. A small quantity (183 bags) of locally-produced onions also came to hand and portion was cleared by auction at £10.10.0 per ton.

Large supplies of pumpkins.

Heavy supplies of pumpkins were received at Alexandria, 98 trucks being forwarded from Queensland and 14 from New South Wales districts. At the beginning of the month, inquiry was good and ready clearances were effected. During the third week, when supplies were heavy, there was a poor demand and prices were low. Realisations throughout July ranged from £3.5.0 to £6.0.0 for the Queensland stocks and £4.0.0 to £6.0.0 for the local offering, while green lots sold as low as £2.0.0 per ton. No Queensland pumpkins were received in Sussex Street.

Good inquiry for other vegetables.

Arrivals of swedes, carrots and parsnips from Tasmania totalled 7712, 3282 and 914 bags, respectively. Inquiry was keen, especially for good to prime lines, which cleared readily. Until the middle of July, swedes were disposed of at £4.10.0 to £5.0.0; during the remainder of the month the higher rates of £7.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton were obtained. Quotations for carrots ranged from £5.0.0 to £7.0.0 per ton. Parsnips were in light supply early and sold at £14.0.0 to £15.0.0 per ton, but, as stocks increased, prices fell to £12.0.0. At Alexandria, consignments of locally-grown swedes totalled 266 bags; sales were effected at £5.0.0 by auction and at £7.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton by private treaty. In addition, 185 bags of swedes were received from Victoria and realised £8.0.0 per ton.

Higher rates for white chaff.

Receivals of white chaff at the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard included 166 trucks of oaten and 44 of wheaten, a total of 210 trucks. Notwithstanding the light supply, inquiry was fairly quiet throughout the month and especially so during the first two weeks. Any choice lines cleared well but the offering consisted mainly of lower quality lots. The major part of the trading was carried out by private treaty and sales were reported at the following rates:- Oaten £4.0.0 to £6.0.0, Wheaten £4.0.0 to £6.0.0 per ton. Two trucks of medium quality wheaten chaff brought £4.10.0 and £4.13.4 per ton at auction.

Heavier offerings of lucerne chaff.

The yarding of lucerne commodities at Alexandria comprised the following:- Lucerne chaff - Local 81, Queensland 4; Lucerne hay - Maitland 62, other centres 68 trucks. A fairly good demand prevailed throughout the period, especially for the Maitland hay. In the chaff section, the local offering cleared at prices

/ranging

ranging from £5.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton; rates for the Queensland chaff were not obtained. Quotations for the Maitland green hay varied, according to quality, from £6.10.0 to £9.5.0 per ton. The produce from other districts was of very mixed quality and the following sales were recorded:- By private treaty - £6.0.0 to £10.10.0; By auction - (inferior) £2.11.8 to £4.0.0 per ton. No Hunter River lucerne hay was received in Sussex Street during the month.

The major portion of the 40 trucks of oaten hay from local centres to hand at Alexandria was consigned direct to a private firm. The balance, however, sold well at from £3.10.0 for derrick-pressed hay to £5.5.0 per ton for good, baled lots. Two trucks were disposed of by auction at £3.6.8 per ton. No oaten hay was shipped from Victoria to Sussex Street during July.

Light stocks of Tasmanian straw.

The total amount of Tasmanian straw forwarded to Sussex Street was only 530 bales, which met a steady inquiry at £5.10.0 per ton. A firm market ruled for the 92 trucks to hand at the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard and deliveries were taken at from £3.15.0 for damaged lots to £4.15.0 for choice oaten straw.

Heavy consignments of wheat.

Receivals of wheat at Alexandria during July, 1940, were the heaviest for quite a considerable time, amounting to 173 trucks. The larger portion consisted of inferior quality grain, although some f.a.q. lines came to hand from country stations. All sales recorded were by auction at prices ranging from 1/10d for very inferior wheat to 4/4d per bushel for f.a.q.

Other grain to hand on the Sydney market included the following:- At Alexandria - Queensland maize 2,334; local maize 2,650; Sussex Street - North Coast maize 2,631 bags; Alexandria - Oats, 22 trucks. The maize sold firmly at the following rates:- Alexandria - Queensland yellow 4/3d to 4/10d, local yellow 4/7d to 4/9d; Sussex Street - Northern Rivers - yellow 4/6d to 4/8d, white 4/9d to 5/- per bushel. Those sales of oats recorded were by auction at 2/1d to 2/6d per bushel.

R.E.J.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY
(N.S.W.) DURING JULY, 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	July, 1940		31st August, 1939	
	From	To	From	To
Wheat - Home Consumption:				
Bulk - per bushel	4/-	} unchanged		2/4
Bagged - " "	4/3			2/5
Flour - per ton	£10.14.7	"	£6.12.3	
	(plus £1.15.5 tax)		(plus £6.2.9 tax)	
Bran - per ton	£5.10.0	"	£4.5.0	
Pollard " "	£5.10.0	"	£4.5.0	
Eggs (hen) per dozen	1/3	1/6	1/-	
Butter -				
Choice per cwt.	161/2	} unchanged	161/2	
First Quality " "	156/6		156/6	
Second " "	151/10		151/10	
Cheese -				
Loaf per lb.	11d	} unchanged	11d	
Large " "	10 ³ / ₄ d		10 ³ / ₄ d	
Special brands	1/-		1/2	1/2
			29th August, 1939	
			From	To
Pigs (Abattoir Sales):	per head		per head	
Prime extra light porkers	25/6	40/6	31/6	40/6
" light porkers	34/6	45/6	39/6	44/6
" med.wgt. "	38/6	54/6	43/6	51/6
" heavy "	47/6	58/6	50/6	54/6
" baconers	62/6	87/6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£4.5.0	£8.15.0	£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 - JUNE, 1940.

F R U I T

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases.	Other Fruit cases	Melons crates	Tomatoes half-bushel cases.	TOTALS packages
Queensland	11,571	5,952	17,388 ^x	-	36,879	71,790
Victoria	42	243	66,242	-	3,295	69,822
Tasmania	-	-	168,170	-	-	168,170
Sth. Aust.	-	-	3,970	-	-	3,970
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	2,611	2,611
TOTALS:	11,613	6,195	255,770	-	42,785	316,363

x Also 2,561 trays strawberries, 155 bags Fruit
/ 118 tons loose melons.

V E G E T A B L E S

STATE	Potatoes	Onions	Swedes	Pumpkins		Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs.		TOTALS	
	bags	bags	bags	bags	tons		pkges.	tons	pkges.	tons
Queensland	970	29	-	15,013	681 $\frac{1}{4}$	557	11,558	-	28,127	681 $\frac{1}{4}$
Victoria	10,015	13,646	1,677	-	-	-	21,324	13	46,662	13
Tasmania	141,155	-	11,908	-	-	-	7,739	-	160,802	-
Sth. Aust.	1,315	309	-	-	-	-	12,557	-	14,181	-
West Aust.	741	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	741	-
TOTALS:	154,196	13,984	13,585	15,013	681$\frac{1}{4}$	557	53,178	13	250,513	694$\frac{1}{4}$