NEW SOUTH WALES

DIVISION OF MARKETING
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

NOVEMBER, 1940.

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MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

A MISCELLANY OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS, AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Released during the Second Week of each month.

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

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HIGHLIGHTS.

Minister for Commerce announces that Commonwealth Government has formulated a long term stabilisation plan for Australian wheat industry. This includes:

A guaranteed minimum price of 3/6 per bushel, f.o.r. ports, for bagged wheat; this to apply to a maximum of 140,000,000 bushels from each season's harvest.

A stabilisation fund, to which growers will contribute when average price exceeds 3/8 per bushel, f.o.r. ports, and which will be utilised to finance scheme when price falls below 3/6.

Licensing of wheatgrowers to facilitate control of production; growers to cut for hay any area directed by the Government.

All grain to be marketed through Australian Wheat Board; scheme to be administered by Department of Commerce with assistance of a board.

Plan to commence with 1941/42 wheat crop, and ultimately to link up with a national fodder conservation scheme.

"Marginal" wheat areas to be progressively eliminated and production to be diversified wherever possible.

Auction selling of fruit in conjunction with prevailing system of sale by private treaty, introduced at City Municipal Markets, Sydney, by private enterprise. It is stated that, should venture prove successful, auctioning of vegetables also is contemplated.

It is announced that the Commonwealth Government will provide £2,770,000 by way of loan to wheat producing States for drought relief. State Governments will distribute the loans in accordance with a formula to be agreed upon and will make their own arrangements for repayments by farmers.

Minister for Commerce announces sale to British Ministry of Food of balance of exportable surplus of Australian 1940 pack of canned apricots, peaches and pears. Sale covers approximately 300,000 cases worth £280,000.

MARKETING OF PERISHABLE FOODSTUFFS.

(Summary of Address by Mr. Willis J. Williams, B.Sc., Superintendent, City Municipal Markets, Sydney - now on loan to the Department of the Navy for the duration of the war).

1. Production, Distribution and Consumption of Foodstuffs.

In nature we find that the fruits of the earth are produced from season to season. Man, however, requires a continuous supply of foodstuffs and thus various methods of preserving foods have been evolved - smoking, salting, canning, and, in our modern days, the superior method of cold storage whereby goods can be kept for a considerable time.

The production of foodstuffs has occupied the activity of man throughout the whole history of the world; nowadays, that activity has become specialised with the object of producing the very best foods. But there would be no production if there were no consumer; thus we have two classes of individuals to consider, the producer and the consumer, and these must be brought together in a common meeting place, known today as the Market, wherein a price (the market price) at which the one will sell and the other will buy can be arranged.

With the congregation of considerable numbers of consumers in large centres, necessitating the supply of foodstuffs from farm lands situated outside such centres, marketing has aroused increased interest, and has attracted the attention of the consuming public. Thus the study of marketing has been developed, not only through the housewife and the family, but is now a subject in the curricula of Technical Schools, Agricultural Colleges and Universities, and the importance of marketing in our general economic system demands the attention of the economist.

A comprehensive survey of marketing entails consideration of three important aspects:-

(1) Production
(2) Distribution
and (3) Consumption.

We could not have a market without production; our present mode of living calls for a central place from which the fruits of the earth may be distributed; the marketing of all produce becomes more difficult with an increased population and the rise of large cities in so many centres.

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2. Standardisation in Production.

The producer must always endeavour to produce the very best article so that his produce will be his best advertisement and create the maximum demand. He must study his market - a point the farmer is becoming increasingly conscious of.

As nature does not produce everything of equal quality or size, the farmer's production must be classified and graded. Standards have been established in regard to fruits, vegetables, poultry, fish, etc., and the question of standardisation is receiving greater attention, with the object of enabling the public to buy on sample, thus saving considerable time.

Standardisation may principally be effected in respect of (a) Grading and (b) Packing.

(a) Grading: This may be described as a means of sorting produce into lots of uniform quality and size. Various Governments have insisted on grading of foodstuffs for quality and/or size, and in many places the Government grade is stamped on the contents or container, and is accepted as a standard. A good system of grading has the advantages of:-

Uniformity - The produce is placed in definite classes, shapes, weights or sizes.

Decreased waste - Well graded produce sells much more readily than the poorly graded and thus is less liable to the waste encountered in all principal markets, especially in the summer months.

Increased value - Produce of guaranteed grade and quality commands a higher price, can be sold by sample, becomes known by its brand and thus is readily accepted by buyers.

(b) Packing: Most market produce should be packed in some form or other, and the right type of package makes for efficient handling, minimisation of loss from injury or bruising, convenience in selling and facility of branding.

3. Organisation of the Market.

The two aspects of marketing may be classified as:-

(i) The services rendered to the farmer.
(ii) The services rendered to the buying public.

The farmer and the buying public are brought together by the agency of the market, but frequently it is not a direct contact, certain other intermediaries - such as broker, agent or merchant - providing the connecting link. The producer may sell

/his ....

his produce in various ways:-

(1) To the public direct.
(2) By means of shops.
(3) Through a local agent.
(4) Through a Co-operative Society.
(5) Through the public markets.

Obviously, it is only practicable for a limited number of farmers to resort to the first method, which necessitates ready personal contact. In the second case, a producer with a well known brand may work up a connection with a number of shops, but this is also restricted by various considerations. Marketing through a local agent or a Co-operative Society has attained greater proportions, and there is also a system of selling to wholesale merchants, particularly in respect of some commodities. Many farmers, however, must dispose of their goods through the public markets, and here it is that the agents have become such important factors, that it is doubtful whether the market, as it is known today, could be carried on without them. Where an intermediary between producer and consumer is employed, something must be added to the cost of production, and this is known as the cost of marketing.

It is important that some measure of control be exercised over the quantity and quality of foodstuffs produced for consumption. The individual farmer is unable to gauge probable production in other localities, and the intelligent man will avail himself of the information and advice available from certain Government Departments. Also, he will follow the market prices broadcast from day to day.

4. Functions of the Market.

The functions of the market can be described as an exchange where the producer and consumer come together. The authorities will make this the basis of the market control and strive:-

(a) To provide a convenient place for the market.
(b) To control the dealings of the agents, merchants and grower-sellers.
(c) To settle such disputes as may arise.
(d) To inaugurate a system of inspection.
(e) To obtain information of value to the community.
(f) To institute a system of By-laws and Regulations for the better control of those things appertaining to marketing.

5. Functions of the Agent or Merchant.

The city merchant or agent establishes a business, often of a personal character, to maintain the connection between

/producer ....

producer and consumer. He provides facilities for receiving, handling and storage of produce, to be taken by customers as required; frequently, re-packing into quantities more suited to individual purchasers is necessary. He must be an expert, able to judge the market and probable supplies from day to day, although naturally he cannot foresee all eventualities and will, on occasions, encounter unexpected scarcities or gluts. He also becomes a financial agent, financing both the producer and the retailer.

Whilst most wholesale agents operate on a fixed commission, some buy produce outright and incur the speculative risks consequent to such direct purchase. Occasional agents combine both methods.

In some of the large Australian markets produce is disposed of by private treaty; in others, sale by public auction is the prevalent method of disposal; in others, one class of produce is sold by private treaty whilst another class is auctioned. In the City Municipal Markets, Sydney, poultry alone is sold by auction.

6. Advantages of the Market.

The City Market developed from the open square or from the side street market, still to be seen in Eastern countries where progress has been extremely slow. In modern cities the market is confined within four walls, organised into spaces and stalls of definite size and duly numbered and allotted to individual growers or to agents. As a City Council has a definite duty to provide a suitable market, it will charge fees, dues or rents to cover costs of administration and inspection.

A City Market is of public interest, catering not only for the city itself but for the many suburbs thereof. The ideal market would be one wherein the producer could sell his produce, freshly gathered, to the consumer. As the city expands and the producing areas spread to distant parts, the agent or merchant must of necessity come more into vogue, and consumers in suburban centres must buy their foodstuffs from retailers. Thus, costs of marketing become higher and foodstuffs become dearer. The competitive aspect, however, is an important factor, and tends to protect both buyer and seller.

7. Cost of Marketing.

Many factors affect the cost of marketing and some of the principal ones are:-

Whether the article is perishable: Some foodstuffs must be sold the day received, otherwise they will deteriorate to such an extent as to necessitate cartage to the tip.

/Waste ....

Waste in transit, in storage and in the market: Often a vast amount of repacking is entailed. Delay in transport may cause congestion and added wastage.

Regulation of supplies: An ideal system envisages Cold Stores in all producing centres, but in Australia this is only practicable in areas of intensive cultivation.

Sale by sample and by appearance: To facilitate selling, foodstuffs must be graded according to size and quality, and packages should be of standard sizes.

Freight: Where advantage can be taken of "bulk" transport, freight will be kept down to a minimum.

8. Co-operation.

The co-operative system of marketing - that is, through a society owned and controlled by those who do business through its agency - is rather widely practised throughout Australia. This system aims at obtaining the highest possible prices for the produce sold, at purchasing as cheaply as possible articles required by the members and, at regular intervals, dividing amongst members any profits earned.

9. Supply and Demand.

Marketing is largely dependent on supply and demand, and thus wide price fluctuations occur. Regulation of supply should ensure a more even price, and stabilise the return to the seller at a fair average level. Frequently the law of supply and demand is influenced by other factors, such as the consumers' buying power, climate, quality and dissemination of information.

The consumers' buying power will vary, being greater in times of prosperity and curtailed in a depression. Demand for certain foodstuffs fluctuates in sympathy with weather changes; for instance, some fruits sell much more readily in warm weather than during a cold spell. As buyers often purchase on the appearance of the goods, the producer should offer the public an article of the very best quality, attractively packed or presented. For the guidance of buyer and seller, a well regulated community should provide for the daily circulation of information concerning the quantities of the various commodities coming on the market.

10. Transportation.

All large cities depend on the surrounding country for their foodstuffs, and the larger the city the greater distance foodstuffs to adequately feed the population must be carried. The means of transport thus enter very definitely into any question of

/marketing ....

marketing. Produce may be brought to a central market by (a) Rail, (b) Motor, or (c) Water transport. As much of the produce is of a perishable nature, haulage for long distances by rail or water necessitates the use of cold storage facilities; the extra expense involved is small compared with the value of produce saved.

Facilities for rapid transportation of produce tend to provide a better market for both buyer and seller, to have a steadying effect on prices and to equalise supplies as between the main marketing centres.

Besides being quick, the transportation should be efficient, as so much of the produce is perishable and, in many cases, packages are frail. This efficiency envisages careful handling, maintenance of even temperatures in refrigerated space, and provision of regular and adequate facilities.

11. Defects in Marketing.

To determine the best methods of handling produce for the markets, defects at different stages must be considered. Some of such defects are:-

At the producer's end: Disregard of varieties, quality, and requirements of the market; careless packing, and/or faulty transport to rail or boat; failure to prepare the produce in an honest manner and to recognise that the seller owes a duty to the purchaser.

In transport: Delay, careless handling, out-of-date means of transport, and lack of refrigerated space.

Agents and Merchants' Defects: A weakness between agent and grower as to price; insufficient inspection; congestion in the market; insufficient market information; and lack of uniformity in methods, grades and packages.

Retail: Misrepresentation as to quality; overstocking; irregularity of deliveries; unsanitary premises; and the granting of excessive credit.

12. Suggested Remedies.

While there is no universal remedy, most of the defects or difficulties of marketing may be overcome by:-

More intimate co-operation between producer and consumer;
Better understanding amongst the middlemen themselves;
Efficient means of education; and
By Government and Municipal Regulations.

/In ....

In addition, however, there must be honesty of purpose between buyer and seller, the farmer must control production, the transport authorities must co-operate to the utmost, the agent must disseminate the fullest information, and the consumers' criticism must be constructive.

Also, a close study of such problems as arise from time to time must be made by those striving for the efficient marketing of foodstuffs, as a means to the better health, and greater happiness and prosperity of the people.

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PHYSICAL FEATURES, PRODUCTION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SOUTH WESTERN SLOPE STATISTICAL DIVISION NO.10 OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

In the October, 1940, issue of the "Monthly Marketing Review" information was published concerning the boundaries, physical features, soil, climate, area and population of the South Western Slope, Statistical Division No. 10 of New South Wales, and some of the primary industries of the division were dealt with. In conclusion, consideration is now given to other rural activities and resources, to transport facilities, to the annual average production and other matters.

Orcharding and Wine Making

The South Western Slope contains some of the best known fruit growing regions of New South Wales. Pome fruits do well, particularly in the high country at and in the vicinity of Batlow, whilst production of apples and pears in districts in the vicinity of Young and Albury is fairly substantial. Peaches and other stone fruits are also grown, notably around Albury and Young. The latter is also one of the State's main cherry growing centres and early fruit from this district is the first to reach the Sydney market in appreciable quantities each season. Localities such as Kingsvale, Maimuru and Waterview in the vicinity of Young are outstanding so far as prunes are concerned, accounting for more than half the New South Wales production. Minor crops, including table grapes and various kinds of berry fruits, are also grown around Young.

Moderate quantities of wine are made from the grapes produced around Junee and to a lesser extent from vineyards at Young and in the comparatively small section of the Murray Valley within this division.

According to the New South Wales Statistical Register for 1938-39, orchards and vineyards in this division aggregated 7,961 acres of productive and 1,415 acres not yet bearing, and the main items of officially recorded production were:-

/Apples .....

Apples	204,700	bushels	(over one-fifth of State's total)
Pears	101,492	"	(almost one-third " " ")
Prunes	83,936	"	(over one-half " " ")
Cherries	33,788	"	(over one-quarter " " ")
Peaches	5,799	"	
Plums	2,331	"	
Apricots	1,252	"	
Citrus	1,451	"	
Wine made	6,475	gallons	
Table Grapes	81	tons.	

Dairying Industry well-established.

A feature of the development of the dairying industry of New South Wales has been its extension from coastal to inland areas in more recent years. This industry is now well established in parts of the South Western Slope where, in 1938-39, the cows in registered dairies totalled 37,096, a much greater number than in any other inland division. These herds are more than sufficient to supply the fresh milk requirements of the urban and other population of the division. Five butter factories are operating, these being located at Tumut, Wagga, Cootamundra, Albury and Harden. For the season mentioned the Government Statistician's records reveal that butter production in factories amounted to 4,495,166 lb. and on farms to 830,450 lb., a total of 5,325,616 lb.

Fairly large numbers of beef cattle are depastured. Cattle, other than cows in registered dairies, in the year specified, totalled 148,090 head.

Pig raising, usually a sideline to dairying, is of moderate dimensions. In 1938-39 pigs in the division totalled 17,118, and the two bacon factories cured 848,152 lbs. of bacon and ham, while 105,639 lbs. were cured on farms.

Mining.

Commencing with the discovery of the Adelong field in 1857 much gold was won from reef and alluvial deposits in various parts of the South Western Slopes, such as Grenfell, Wyalong, Barmedman, Adelong, Gundagai and Young, but recent production has been small. Other minerals occur at various places. The most important deposits of manganese so far discovered in the State are situated near Grenfell, whilst others are known to exist at Cootamundra, Muttama, Temora and Tumut. According to a recent report by the Department of Mines the increasing demand for chrome and magnesite has led to the formation of a syndicate to explore, open up and develop the various deposits of these minerals in the Gundagai district. Chrome, it is said, has been despatched from Coolac, Goobarralong, Adjungbilly and other centres. Prospects have disclosed that the deposits of magnesite around Jackalass cover a considerable area. Molybdenum is known to be present at Holbrook, tungsten at Pulletop, fluorspar at Caboona, and tin at Jingellic.

/Forestry ....

Forestry.

At one time this division was fairly well timbered but, with the progress of settlement, particularly in the wheat-growing centres, much of the timber has been cut out and, although many parts of this area still have fair supplies, there is a definite shortage for fencing and building purposes in the more closely settled places and in the vicinity of large towns. Nevertheless, valuable stands remain in areas set apart for forestry purposes; these include tracts of highland species of timber in the higher altitudes, mainly in the Tumut and Tumbarumba districts, and scattered sections of species native to the lower altitudes are to be found throughout the northern portion of the division, as well as around Mangoplah and to the south of Holbrook.

The extensive variety of trees in the division includes the following eucalypts:- grey, red and yellow box, ironbark, stringybark, various mallees (in the north-western section), apple, red gum (prominent on the flats), messmate, mountain ash and mountain gum (notably in the Tumbarumba sector) and eurabbie. Chief of the other species are the white and black cypress pines, kurrajong (Brachychiton populneus), certain acacias, and apples (Angophora spp.) such as peppermint.

Rivers and Irrigation.

The principal rivers of the South Western Slope are the Indi and Murray, which form the southern boundary, and the Murrumbidgee, which flows westward through Gundagai and Wagga Wagga and tributaries of these. The upper reaches of the Lachlan River skirt portion of the north-eastern corner of the division. The remainder of the area, however, has little natural permanent water.

Pumping plants on the Murrumbidgee River in the Wagga Wagga district irrigate fodder crops on the river flats.

On the Murray River above Albury has been constructed the Hume Reservoir, which at present has a capacity of $1\frac{1}{4}$ million acre feet and is intended to regulate the flow of the Murray River. Control of the waters of the Murray is vested in the Murray River Commission in terms of the Murray Waters Agreement between the Governments of the Commonwealth and the States of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, with a view to ensuring an equitable sharing of the Murray waters amongst the States concerned. The Curlwaa and Coomealla Irrigation Areas, which are situated on the Murray near its junction with the Darling River, have come into being largely because of the fact that the Hume Reservoir ensures adequate supplies of water throughout the year. Work in connection with the Berriquin, Wakool and Demiloota water conservation projects is in progress and the areas to be served by these schemes will in due course utilise their proportion of the New South Wales share of the waters conserved in the Hume Reservoir.

/Tourist .....

Tourist Attractions.

Within the South Western Slope are the Yarrangobilly Caves situated about 46 miles to the south-east of Tumut. These are extensive limestone caves of great beauty and compare very favourably with the better known Jenolan Caves.

On the south-eastern fringe of the district are some of the finest snow-clad belts and scenery in Australia. Many of the streams in this portion are stocked with trout and afford the angler an opportunity of testing his skill with the rod.

Road and Rail Communications.

The division has many roads. The Hume Highway, the chief land route between Sydney and Melbourne, traverses it from near Jugiong in the north-eastern part to Albury on the Murray River. The Sturt Highway, which branches from the Hume just north of the village of Tarcutta, proceeds in a generally westerly direction through Wagga Wagga en route for South Australia. The Mid-Western Highway, running from Bathurst (Central Tableland) to join the Sturt Highway at Hay (Riverina) passes through Grenfell and Wyalong in the north-west of the South Western Slope. Main roads link up with the highways and connect the principal towns, whilst there are many subsidiary roads; the work of 15 Shires and 9 Municipalities in the division in providing and maintaining roads is valuably supplemented by the Main Roads Board of the State.

The division is also particularly well served by rail. The main Sydney-Melbourne (or Southern) line is the chief permanent way, passing through Galong, Murrumburrah, Cootamundra, Junee, Wagga Wagga and Albury. A number of spur lines therefrom tap the various districts; such spurs include the Galong-Boorowa, Cootamundra-Batlow, Wagga Wagga-Tumbarumba, Uranquinty-Kywong, Westby-The Rock, Holbrook-Culcairn, and Culcairn-Corowa (these two towns are situated in the Riverina, but the connecting line passes through portion of the South Western Slope). A link from the southern line to the main western runs from Harden via Young to Blayney (Central Tableland).

Cootamundra and Junee are important junctions, through which trains for the more westerly sections of the division and parts of the Riverina must pass. Chief of the network of railways spreading west and north of Cootamundra are the Cootamundra-Temora-Griffith, Stockinbingal-Forbes, Temora-Lake Cargelligo, Barmedman-Rankin Springs, West Wyalong-Burcher, and Ungarie-Naradhan. The South Western line branches from the Southern at Junee.

Schedules of Production and Livestock.

The following schedules, compiled from figures published in the New South Wales Statistical Register, give the average annual quantities of the principal primary products produced and the average annual number of livestock in the South Western Slope

/division ....

division for the five-year period ended 30th June, 1939:-

South Western Slope Statistical Division No. 10
Average Annual Production, Five Years ended 30/6/1939.

Wool	50,851,160	lb.
Dairy Products -		
Butter	7,513,614	"
Bacon and Ham	754,264	"
Wheat -		
Grain	14,297,705	bushels.
Hay	114,482	tons
Maize	112,867	bushels
Barley (Grain)	47,724	"
Oats -		
Grain	1,410,858	"
Hay	128,923	tons
Rye (Grain)	33,404	bushels
Broom Millet -		
Fibre	5,018	cwt.
Grain	3,734	bushels
Lucerne Hay	18,753	tons
Apples	253,393	bushels
Pears	111,522	"
Peaches	12,005	"
Prunes	138,559	"
Cherries	42,064	"
Grapes - Wine Trade	19,104	gallons
" - Table Fruit	166	tons
Potatoes	2,522	"
Tobacco	244	cwt.
Market Gardens (Value)	£12,316	
Honey	202,307	lb.
Beeswax	2,856	"

Applying the 1939 annual average wholesale prices in Sydney to the foregoing products, a suggested estimate of their approximate value is £6,700,000. However, in order to obtain a total figure of all primary production, to this sum there should be added the value of minerals won, which for the five-year period ended 31st December, 1938, averaged £57,567 per annum. Further, it is interesting to note that, over the five years ended 30th June, 1939, the average annual value of goods manufactured or work done by factories in this division was £2,084,833.

Average Annual Number of Livestock in
South Western Slope Division No.10 - Five Years ended 30/6/1939.

Horses	76,081	head
Cattle -		
Cows in Registered Dairies	48,037	"
All Other	200,444	"
Sheep	6,356,395	"
Pigs	25,603	"

HOMEBUSH LIVESTOCK MARKETS

SMALLER TOTALS OF SHEEP AND CATTLE, BUT MORE PIGS AVAILABLE.

Smaller aggregate pennings of sheep and lambs.

Owing to the Eight Hour Day Public Holiday, the number of selling days during October was eight, compared with nine for the previous month, and the total pennings were a little smaller. During the period consignments received for sale aggregated 385,259 (some 9,000 head less than for the previous month) and represented a daily average of 48,157 head. It will be seen that, without the intervention of the holiday, supplies probably would have been higher and, although gross pennings were lower, the daily average was substantially larger than in September.

Early in October yardings were fairly light, approximately 29,000 head being offered each day. Subsequently, however, there was a considerable increase in the numbers coming forward and the final sale held in the period was marked by a particularly heavy yarding, 61,548 head of sheep and lambs being auctioned. This was the heaviest daily total for about 12 months.

Although in some centres rain has partially relieved the acute position in respect of feed and water, drought conditions still prevail over much of the State. Many graziers are hand-feeding stock and the general condition of the sheep is not good. The hot weather recently experienced would burn off some of the new growth of herbage, and, until substantial falls of rain are received, continued heavy supplies to Homebush may be expected.

Light supply of good sheep.

There was a preponderance of medium to plain wethers and ewes yarded during October. Shorn sheep were forward in large numbers but odd consignments of full woolled wethers were noticed. Operators who handle the heavier classes experienced difficulty in securing sufficient sheep of the weight and finish suited to their needs. Nevertheless, on occasions some lines of exceptionally good quality heavy sheep were offered. Light weight animals were numerous but by far the larger percentage ranged from medium to very plain quality and quite a few lots would only dress in the vicinity of 30 lb. of mutton. A much heavier offering of ewes than during the previous month was available; aged plain descriptions formed a fairly large proportion of the supply. More grown sheep were yarded in October than during September, respective figures being 136,044 and 119,493 head, but despite this increase - brought about by the adverse season - quality lots were scarce, many sheep being offered, which, normally, would be held on the farms or stations for fattening.

/Weaker ....

Weaker market for sheep.

Although the strong tone noticeable at the close of September was maintained at the opening sale of October, when values further advanced by 1/- to 2/- per head, subsequent auctions were marked by a sharp decline, rates falling from 4/- to 6/- per head, according to weight and quality; this continued to about mid-October. The market for quality sheep then showed an improvement of between 1/- and 2/- per head, but closing values were from 2/- to 4/- cheaper than those obtained at the beginning of the month. Medium to plain sheep were more adversely affected than the good to prime grades and towards the end of October were difficult to sell at fairly low rates. Some indication of the market variations is given by the following actual sales:-

A draft of good trade wethers, which would dress approximately 44 lb. of mutton, realised 19/6 each, equivalent to 5d per lb., while 58 lb. shorn wethers sold at 23/1 each or 4½d per lb. Subsequent to the sharp decline in prices, good heavy wethers weighing 54 lb. made 14/10 per head or the equivalent of 3d per lb., and good trade shorn wethers of approximately 44 lb. dressed weight cost 3½d per lb., realising 13/7 each. Following the improved realisations about mid-October, a draft of good heavy shorn wethers, which weighed approximately 48 lb., sold at 14/11 per head or 3½d per lb. Later in the period, mutton was a little cheaper and a line of nice quality heavy wethers, dressing approximately 50 lb., made 15/11 each or 3¼d per lb.

Variations in prices of ewes were equally as great. At the opening sales, nice trade shorn ewes weighing 38 lb. brought 15/2 each, equivalent to 4¾d per lb., while at the end of the period, good trade shorn ewes, weighing approximately 44 lb., sold at 13/1 per head, costing 3¼d per lb.

Very few full woolled sheep were available during October, but those offered brought satisfactory prices, one consignment realising 32/- per head and some others, not quite so good, selling at from 25/- to 28/- per head. Shorn sheep which comprised the bulk of the supplies, sold to 23/- each but by far the larger proportion made from 12/- to 18/- each. While some of the best lots of ewes realised to 19/- per head, the greater part of the good trade descriptions brought from 10/- to 15/-. Owing to the inclusion of so many plain ewes, average realisations were not high, many of the very plain sorts selling from 3/- each upwards.

During the early part of October, operators paid from 4¼d to 4¾d for heavy and 4½d to 5d per lb. for light wether mutton and 3¾d to 4d and 4¼d to 4¾d for heavy and light ewes, respectively; these high rates, however, were not maintained and before the close of the month values were considerably lower, wethers costing from 2¾d to 3½d and ewes 2d to 3d per lb; the decline generally aggregated 1½d per lb.

Lambs not so heavily supplied.

Although the supplies of lambs and suckers must be regarded as substantial, the total for the month was not as large as that for September, the figure being 249,215 for October and 274,582 head in September. The general quality of the lambs was not good, many lines showing the effect of the drought conditions. Medium to plain lambs were forward in large numbers, the abnormal season compelling graziers to market such lines. Despite the preponderance of plain types, there was quite a nice showing of good quality lambs, well finished and in prime condition. In this category, heavy lambs were most numerous but some drafts of medium to light trade weights were submitted.

Lambs generally cheaper.

The market for lambs opened particularly strong, and values advanced by 1/- per head. Subsequently, however, there was a fall of from 1/- to 1/6 per head; from then until the close of the month little appreciable change in realisations for good to prime lambs and suckers was noticeable, although some irregularity was apparent at times. If the high prices ruling towards the end of September and early in October be excluded, the average realisations for these months did not differ very materially, but, if anything, the average rates for October were a little lower.

To illustrate the price trends during October, the following disposals are quoted:- At the opening sales, good trade suckers, weighing approximately 33 lb., sold at 23/10 per head or 7¼d per lb., while a line of good heavy lambs weighing 46 lb. realised 26/6 each and made 6d per lb. On the succeeding sale day, a draft of good quality suckers, dressing approximately 33 lb., brought 21/4 per head and cost 6½d per lb., while 42 lb. lambs sold at 25/2 each and were worth 5¾d per lb. Some improvement occurred about mid-October, when a line of prime suckers of 33 lb. dressed weight realised 21/10 per head, equivalent to 6¾d per lb. At the end of October a yard of good trade suckers, estimated to dress approximately 32 lb., sold at 20/9 each or 6½d per lb., and heavy lambs of 44 lb. dressed weight brought 26/- each or 5¾d per lb.

On occasions, outstanding lines of lambs realised up to 27/- each, with a few at 26/-, but for the most part the best lots sold at from 18/- to 25/-, according to size. Medium to plain lambs did not meet with a very good demand and realisations were from 5/- to 17/- per head; at times agents experienced difficulty in effecting sales even at those low prices.

Early in the month, when the market was so strong, operators paid as much as 7½d per lb. for light suckers and 6½d per lb. for heavy lambs. These extreme rates, however, were not maintained and, in the main, suckers of light to medium trade

/weights ......

weights cost from 6d to 6¾d and heavy sorts from 5½d to 6d per lb. Medium to plain lambs sold at relatively lower prices, making on an average from 5¼d to 5½d per lb., with exceptionally plain descriptions at even lower rates.

Limited supplies of quality cattle.

Numbers of cattle yarded during October, 1940, were slightly less than September consignments, and aggregated 13,724 head, of which 1,137 were auctioned in the store section. During the corresponding month of 1939 a total of 23,677 was received; the pastoral position at that time, however, was very much better than it is at present. The outlook at the end of October was anything but promising, and the dryness of the month generally tended to offset any advantage accruing from the September rains.

As was to be expected under the very unfavourable seasonal conditions, the quality of the consignments was disappointing, and the bulk of the pennings comprised cattle of plain to medium description. The percentage of prime beasts varied from sale day to sale day, but, on the average, was only small.

Prime bullocks difficult to secure.

Except on one or two occasions, the truckings of bullocks were very light and only for the receival of approximately 1,200 head from Queensland supplies would have been extremely limited. Fair trade light weight descriptions predominated and usually prime sorts were difficult to secure. In contrast to the average pennings, several drafts of prime heavy weight animals were noticed throughout the month.

The high price levels reached in September were even exceeded during the early October sales, when values were the highest for many years, quotations for good to prime bullocks being:- heavy 44/- to 47/-, medium weight 46/- to 49/6, light 49/- to 52/- per 100 lb. With the advent of fairly hot weather, prices fell and by the middle of the month were £1.10.0 to £2.0.0 per head lower. For the remainder of the period, some fluctuations were noticed but generally the alterations were not very material. On the final sale day light bullocks were quoted at 42/- to 46/- per 100 lb.

A typical sale when values were at their peak was that of a pen of prime Shorthorn bullocks estimated to weigh 700 lb. dressed, which sold at £17.7.0 per head, equivalent to 49/6 per 100 lb.

Prime steers sell at enhanced values.

Steers were much more numerous than bullocks, but the truckings comprised chiefly light weight animals of medium quality.

/As ......

As was the case with bullocks, prime sorts were difficult to secure and usually commanded enhanced prices. On the first sale day, a draft of prime Shorthorn steers, estimated to weigh 600 lb., realised £16.12.0. each, being worth 55/6 per 100 lb. At this period prime light steers were quoted to 57/- per 100 lb. Prices then declined progressively until the third week of October, when rates for good to prime descriptions ranged from 45/- to 48/- per 100 lb. An improvement followed, and values of lightweight sorts advanced to 52/- per 100 lb.

Cows plentiful.

Cows were plentiful throughout the month and, on occasions, constituted the bulk of the yarding. Both light and heavy weights were well represented, but plain and medium grades predominated. Despite the inferior quality generally, a noticeable percentage of the total yarding was of satisfactory standard. When values were at their peak, good to prime heavy cows were quoted at 42/- to 46/6 per 100 lb. and light at 43/- to 47/-. Prices of cows declined progressively during the remainder of the month, thus differing from the rates for other lines of cattle, which recovered somewhat towards the close of the period. On the final sale day quotations for cows were:- heavy 37/- to 41/-, light 39/- to 42/- per 100 lb.

Moderate truckings of medium grade heifers.

Heifers were moderately supplied throughout. Although all grades of weight and quality were represented, most of the offerings were of light weight description and of plain to medium grade. Nevertheless, several attractive drafts were noticed. Values followed a similar trend to those of most other lines, the peak being reached early in the month, when prices of good to prime heifers of all weights ranged from 47/- to 53/- per 100 lb. Rates were lowest during the third week, when from 40/- to 46/- per 100 lb. was obtained. The market improved slightly on the concluding sale days.

Prime vealers scarce.

Consignments of vealers were variable, but generally this class was fairly well represented. Medium to fair trade sorts predominated, however, and prime animals were available in odd pens or in odd lots only. During October values reached extreme levels and on the first sale day good to prime grade brought from 56/- to 63/- per 100 lb. Later, prices declined considerably, and ranged from 50/- to 54/-, but on the final sale day rates rose and from 54/- to 58/- per 100 lb. was obtained.

Cattle values reach peak.

The trend towards high prices for cattle, noticeable since the outbreak of war and more particularly during the present

/adverse ....

adverse season, reached its peak early in October when values were the highest recorded for a number of years. Rates declined sharply, however, with the advent of warmer weather and are now at a lower but apparently steadier level. Prices for quality cattle are still very high but the outlook generally from the viewpoint of both producer and consumer is far from promising.

Supplies of pigs show small increase.

Compared with the previous month, the number of pigs auctioned during October, 1940, showed a small increase, and totalled 7,703 head, of which 3,541 were received by rail. The average weekly arrivals, however, were slightly less, as there were five sale days during the month under review as against four in September. Private sales in the Metropolitan Area, which would include baconers sold "over the scale" and pigs disposed of privately at the Saleyards, aggregated 3,161.

Variable offerings of porkers.

Consignments of porkers showed a fair degree of variation, both as to number available and as to quality. On the whole, however, medium grade descriptions predominated and on some occasions pigs in store condition comprised a substantial percentage of the offering. All grades of weight were fairly well represented, although light weights, especially quality lines, were somewhat scarce towards the close of the month. A brighter market prevailed for porkers and average values were better than those of September. Prices were highest on the final sale day, when prime heavy porkers dressing 90 lb. realised to 61/6 per head and light porkers of 60 lb. weight brought 45/6. Well bred store pigs were usually in keen request and sold particularly well.

Improved representation of baconers.

The representation of baconers was the best for some time. All grades of weight were submitted for auction and good trade sorts made a very fair showing. The percentage of really prime animals penned, however, was small. The high price levels reached during September were exceeded early in October and by the middle of the month prime heavy baconers of 150 lb. dressed weight were selling at 94/6 per head or 7½d per lb., while prime light baconers dressing to 120 lb. were worth the equivalent of 8¼d per lb. The rate paid for baconers sold "over the scale" remains at 6½d per lb., although it is understood that, by way of some concession in view of the higher prices in the open market, the operators either fully or partially compensate the producer for any animals condemned.

Increased consignments of backfatters.

The supply of backfatters was somewhat limited during the early part of October, but subsequent consignments were of

/normal ......

normal proportions. All grades of quality were submitted and the pennings included a fair proportion of prime heavy weight animals. Although prices failed to reach the peak recorded during September, average realisations were slightly higher. Early in the month quotations for good to prime pigs dressing 200/350 lb. ranged from 5¼d to 6d and animals over 350 lb. brought from 4½d to 5½d per lb. Demand for prime heavy backfatters remained firm throughout, but values of the lighter weights fell ½d per lb. by the close of the period. Heavy backfatters sold to £11 per head.

Pig values improve.

The market generally was a satisfactory one and all classes of pigs were slightly dearer, while prices of heavy baconers were the highest recorded for some considerable time. Compared with October, 1939, when the numbers yarded were considerably less, the rates for baconers and backfatters were higher but values of porkers were lower.

G.C. & J.W.

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

Keen inquiry for Tasmanian potatoes.

A further heavy decline in receivals in Sussex Street of Tasmanian potatoes took place during October, when only 47,360 bags were shipped, representing a decrease of approximately 57,000 bags. The demand for No.1 Grade lines, and especially Brownells, was very keen, but inquiry for No. 3 and Seed grade lots was only fair, as these stocks were the last of the season's crop and were of comparatively poor quality. Prices for Tasmanian No. 1 grade potatoes remained unaltered throughout the month at £15.0.0 for Brownells and £13.10.0 per ton for "Whiteskin" varieties.

Late in October Western Australian growers forwarded the first of the season's new tubers to Sussex Street, 1,245 bags being received. The offering was of good quality and sold readily at £16.0.0 per ton. A consignment of "Old" potatoes from that State realised from £14.0.0 to £15.0.0 per ton.

On the whole, the 40,399 bags of New Zealand potatoes received in Sussex Street were in limited request, due to the inferior quality of some lines. Early in October, quotations were £13.10.0 for Whiteskins and £12.0.0 for Dakota Reds, but as the month progressed, the demand eased and rates declined to £12.0.0 and £10.0.0 per ton, respectively. At one period, a total of 5,050 bags of very inferior Dakota Reds was offered by auction, and realised the exceptionally low prices of from £2.0.0 to £2.15.0 per ton.

/Growers .....

Growers in the North Coast district of New South Wales shipped 10,500 bags of new potatoes to Sussex Street. Early in the month, the Commonwealth Prices Commissioner made enquiries into this section and decided that a maximum wholesale market rate for the Coastal "new" tubers would be declared periodically in a similar manner to the fixation of the maximum prices for Tasmanian supplies. Under a firm demand, ready disposals of the local potatoes were reported at the following prices:- New Grade £11.0.0 to £16.10.0; No. 2 Grade £3.10.0 to £16.0.0 per ton; No. 2 Grade 5/3, Chat Grade 1/- to 11/- per bag.

Arrivals of local potatoes at Alexandria comprised the following quantities:- Raleigh 4,420 bags, Grafton 2,476 bags, Bonville 527 bags and Kempsey 390 bags; Old - Ben Lomond 359 bags, Guyra 55 bags. A somewhat restricted inquiry prevailed for "Old" lines at £13.10.0 to £14.11.8 per ton for No. 1 and £5.11.8 for No. 3 Grade. "New" lots, however, met a strong request throughout at the following rates:- New £10.0.0 to £17.5.0, No. 2 Grade £4.0.0 to £15.0.0 per ton, Chats 2/- to 9/- per bag. Towards the end of October, Queensland producers railed 634 bags of new potatoes to Alexandria and satisfactory clearances were effected at £16.0.0 per ton. In addition to the above-mentioned arrivals at this centre, 220 bags of New Zealand Dakota Reds were received from Darling Harbour, but information regarding sales of these was not disclosed. (In the above "New" refers to potatoes from Raleigh to Kempsey, inclusive).

Local White onions available at Alexandria.

The first consignments - for the 1940 season - of New South Wales white onions were forwarded to Alexandria during October, when 2,848 bags were received. The demand for all offerings was good, although late sales were made at much lower rates than those obtained in the initial trading period. Disposals by auction were effected at the following levels:- Table £10.0.0 to £24.10.0, Pickling £15.5.0 to £17.0.0 per ton.

Arrivals of onions in Sussex Street during the month under review comprised:- Victorian 26 tons and 10,013 bags; Queensland - White 390 bags. Request for Victorian Brown Spanish onions was firm although early sales were made at lower prices than those ruling in September, and steady disposals of the white variety were reported. Realisations were as follow:- Victorian - Brown Spanish - Inferior £5.0.0 to £6.0.0, Prime £7.0.0 to £8.10.0; White £12.0.0 to £15.0.0; Queensland - White £18.0.0 per ton.

Increased prices for Queensland pumpkins.

At both Alexandria and Sussex Street, rates for Queensland pumpkins were much higher than those ruling in September, despite the fact that stocks in Sussex Street were heavier. Consignments totalled 2,486 bags by sea and 15 trucks by rail. Under a firm demand, supplies were cleared at the

/increased ......

increased rates of £15.0.0 to £20.0.0 per ton at Sussex Street, and £10.10.0 to £20.0.0 at Alexandria. Offerings of pumpkins from New South Wales centres included 2 trucks to Alexandria and 24 bags to Sussex Street. The earlier rail receivals were disposed of by private treaty at £6.10.0 per ton, but the later arrivals brought £16.0.0 at auction. The Sussex Street consignment was auctioned, realising from £14.0.0 to £15.5.0 per ton.

Further decline in Tasmanian vegetable shipments.

There was a further decline in the shipments of Tasmanian vegetables to Sussex Street, arrivals only amounting to:- Swedes 57 bags, Carrots 991 bags, Parsnips 40 bags. The swedes, which were available during the first fortnight only, were priced at £6.0.0 per ton. As the quality of most lines was only medium, rates for carrots were, on the whole, lower than those ruling during September, and ranged from £5.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton. Parsnips sold at £20.0.0 per ton.

The 26 bags of local swedes shipped to Sussex Street were cleared at £5.0.0 per ton by private treaty and at £4.5.0 at auction. New South Wales growers forwarded 685 bags of swedes to Alexandria; reports indicated steady deliveries at £3.10.0 to £6.0.0 per ton by auction and £5.0.0 by private treaty.

Rates for Tasmanian Dry Peas remained unaltered, Blue lines selling well at 22/6, and Grey meeting a steadier request at from 9/- to 9/6 per bushel.

Chaff in lighter supply.

Arrivals of chaff at Alexandria were lighter than during September, the following quantities being available:- Oaten Chaff - Victorian 16 trucks, Local 172 trucks; Wheaten Chaff 39 trucks and Lucerne Chaff 53 trucks. Early in October, a steady request was noticeable, but the receipt of some rain in certain country districts caused an easier tendency; later, however, stocks became lighter and a firmer inquiry was apparent. The following sales were reported:- Oaten Chaff - Victorian £6.0.0 to £7.0.0; Local - By auction £3.0.0 to £6.10.0, By private treaty £5.10.0 to £7.10.0; Wheaten - By auction £3.15.0 to £6.1.8, By private treaty £5.0.0 to £7.5.0; Lucerne - By auction £4.18.4 to £12.0.0, By private treaty £8.0.0 to £11.10.0 per ton.

Weaker demand for lucerne hay.

Arrivals of lucerne hay at Alexandria aggregated 118 trucks from Maitland and 86 from other districts. The demand was slightly weaker than that ruling during September and, on the average, prices were lower, ranging as follow:- Maitland - New Green, Large bales £4.0.0 to £7.0.0, Small bales £5.15.0 to £8.0.0; Other Districts - By auction, Derrick pressed £3.0.0. to £5.5.0, Other £8.0.0; By private treaty - Derrick pressed £5.15.0 to £6.10.0, Other £7.10.0 to £11.0.0 per ton.

/The :...

The 377 bales of Hunter River new green lucerne hay shipped to Sussex Street met a satisfactory inquiry at from £4.0.0 to £6.10.0 per ton.

Prices for the 36 trucks of local oaten hay received at Alexandria were not revealed.

Stocks of straw well maintained.

There was little alteration in the quantity of straw available on the Sydney market during October. The 49 trucks of Victorian straw were in good demand and prices were well maintained at £5.0.0 per ton for prime lines, with medium and inferior lots selling at relatively lower rates. Request for the 73 trucks of straw from New South Wales districts was at times easy, due to the large stocks on offer, and sales were recorded at £4.0.0 per ton by auction and from £3.15.0 for medium to £5.0.0 for choice by private treaty.

Rates for the 2,119 bales of Tasmanian straw were unchanged at £5.0.0 to £5.10.0 per ton.

Yellow maize in firm request.

Receivals of yellow maize at Alexandria during the month consisted of 3,686 bags from Queensland and 2,742 bags from New South Wales centres. A firm request prevailed throughout and prices rose sharply, realisations being:- Queensland 5/1 to 6/2, Local - By private treaty 5/- to 6/3, By auction 5/5 per bushel. The 1,623 bags of Northern Rivers yellow maize shipped to Sussex Street cleared well at from 5/- to 6/- per bushel.

The 43 trucks of wheat railed to Alexandria met a firm request and values were well maintained at 3/3 to 4/4 per bushel at auction and 4/5 to 4/6 by private treaty.

Of the 21 trucks of oats in position, portion was disposed of by auction at from 2/4½ to 3/2½ per bushel, but the price of the balance was not disclosed.

E.A.G.

----oooOooo----

The Secretary, Department of Commerce, Canberra, advises that, as a result of negotiations, the British Ministry of Food has agreed to extend the contract for the purchase of Australian eggs to cover shipments for a further two months up to the end of February, 1941.

It is estimated that 43,500 cases (each of 30 dozen) will be available for shipment in January and 24,500 cases in February.

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CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY

NORMAL SALES OF FRUIT; MOST VEGETABLES CLEAR WELL.

Normal trading in the fruit section.

Generally speaking, in the fruit section of the City Markets a normal volume of trade for the period of the year was transacted. The number of varieties of apples available was limited and the pears on offer were, for the most part, Josephines from Victoria. New season's cherries, apricots and isolated lots of plums and peaches made their appearance on the market.

Navel oranges dearer; Valencias sell well.

Business in the citrus section was principally centred around oranges, and good sales of Navels were effected at advanced prices. Towards the close of the month supplies of local Navels were light, but fair quantities of Victorian fruit were still arriving.

Owing to the practical completion of the New South Wales crop of Navels, buyers turned their attention to Valencias. The quality of these oranges proved pleasing; business in selected counts was very satisfactory and up to 11/- per bushel was paid, while at closing 10/- was obtainable for best lines. Small fruit was neglected and stocks were beginning to accumulate.

Apart from choice quality lots, there was a very limited demand for lemons, small and inferior fruit being almost unsaleable.

The mandarins on offer were small for the most part and such fruit was difficult to dispose of; on the other hand, any quality lots forward sold readily. There was steady inquiry at higher prices for grapefruit throughout the month.

Bananas heavily supplied.

Heavier supplies of bananas were forward from this State and Queensland. Demand generally was not very keen and values receded.

Good clearances of pineapples.

Consignments of pineapples from Queensland approximated 26,000 cases. Prices mostly ranged from 7/- to 10/- per tropical case but on Friday, 18th October, they rose sharply, best lines realising 14/- to 15/-. This rate, however, was only maintained for a few days. Despite the large quantities available each week, disposals were good and stocks carried over between consignments were not heavy.

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There was good inquiry for papaws of quality and best packs realised to 12/- per tropical case; medium to inferior descriptions were available at much lower rates.

Passionfruit realise high prices.

With only light supplies on offer, passionfruit prices advanced, 22/- per half-case being paid for specials.

Cherry season begins.

As usual, the first of the new season's cherries to reach the market were from the Turramurra district; these were closely followed by small consignments from Young and Lakesland. The quality of the first lots was only fair and small fruit predominated. Unfaced packs proved difficult to sell and had to be cleared at low rates. There was some improvement in size and general quality towards the close of the month and the major proportion realised from 4/- to 5/- per quarter-case.

Apricots reflect adverse conditions.

The effects of the dry conditions experienced in coastal orchards were reflected in the size of the apricots submitted. Generally, development was poor and many lines showed wind damage, while the keeping qualities of some were very limited.

Limited selection of apples.

Buyers found difficulty in procuring their requirements of apples, as there was only a limited selection, while choice descriptions were scarce. Local Granny Smiths sold readily and up to 20/- per bushel was obtained. Democrats also were in favour, and some Yates from Victoria met a keen inquiry.

Most vegetables clear well.

Apart from the heavy supplies of peas and cabbages available until towards the close of the month, trading in vegetables generally was satisfactory and clearances were good.

Smaller stocks of peas on completion of Coastal crop.

The market continued to receive heavy consignments of peas until about the final week of October, when arrivals showed a marked decline, brought about by the practical completion of the Coastal crop. For the most part, supplies were only of medium to inferior grade and it was necessary to dispose of many lots to canners. Stocks coming forward late in the month were from inland districts, including the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area; the

/general ....

general quality was much better and sales were readily effected at firmer prices.

Gosford district supplies bulk of beans on offer.

The beans on offer comprised mainly lots from the Gosford district but a few small consignments were received from the North Coast, whilst isolated lines from local gardens were available. Values fluctuated but mostly returns for choice lines were satisfactory; medium quality beans were plentiful late in the period, owing to the lack of moisture in growing areas. The outlook for the metropolitan crop is not promising, except where growers have access to water other than through the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board's mains.

Cauliflower season ends.

The cauliflower season ended abruptly as the few growers in the County of Cumberland who had late crops were forced to market hurriedly to prevent loss, the late September rains having hastened maturity.

Low prices for cabbages but firmer closing tendency.

Growers of cabbages continued to accept low prices for this vegetable, but with reduced supplies available late in October the market had a firmer tendency. It was expected that values would rise during the ensuing month, as the bulk of coastal crops was almost cut out.

Progressive decline in quantities of Queensland tomatoes available.

Prices of tomatoes were at comparatively low levels early in October, owing to heavy stocks and unsettled weather conditions. Later, however, the request improved, values rose appreciably and, at closing, high rates ruled for all lines. Supplies were forward from Northern and Southern Queensland but the quantities were becoming progressively lighter, and it was expected that very few lots would be available in November. Some particularly attractive packs were received from the North Coast of New South Wales and these sold readily. Considerable quantities from this area were arriving and heavier consignments were in prospect. Glasshouse-grown lots were plentiful and growers of these tomatoes received generally good returns for the greater part of the period.

R.M.

----oooOooo----

WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING OCTOBER, 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	October, 1940. From	October, 1940. To	31st August, 1939.
Wheat - Home Consumption			
Bulk - per bushel 3/11¼d)	unchanged		2/4
Bagged " " 4/2¼d)			2/5
Flour - per ton	£10.7.2 (plus £2.2.10 tax)	£10.1.2 (plus £2.8.10 tax)	£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)
Bran - per ton £6.0.0)	unchanged		£4.5.0
Pollard " " £6.0.0)			£4.5.0
Eggs (hen) per dozen 1/2	unchanged		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 " " 10½d)			10½d
Special Brands per lb.	1/-	1/2	1/2

Pigs (Abattoir Sales) -	October, 1940 per head From	To	29th August, 1939 per head From	To
Good to prime:				
Porkers - Extra light	25/6	40/-	31/6	40/6
" - Light	34/6	45/6	39/6	44/6
" - Medium weight	40/6	56/6	43/6	51/6
" - Heavy	52/6	61/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	67/6	94/6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£4.5.0	£11.0.0	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

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

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

F R U I T.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases.	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS packages
Queensland	23,478	8,010	8,789 x	161,791	202,068
Victoria	1	12	33,614	1,476	35,103
Tasmania	-	-	108,792	-	108,792
Sth. Aust.	-	-	2,831	-	2,831
West Aust.	-	-	3,950	1,604	5,554
TOTALS	23,479	8,022	157,976	164,871	354,348

Note: x Also 7,449 trays Strawberries.

V E G E T A B L E S.

STATE	Potatoes	Onions	Swedes	Pumpkins		Cucs. & Chillies	Other Vegs.	TOTALS	
	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Tons	Cases	Pkges.	Pkges.	Tons
Queensland	255	214	-	5,468	1,163	6,121	12,432	24,490	1,163
Victoria	3,198	16,830	163	-	-	-	4,549	24,740	-
Tasmania	117,324	-	2,527	-	-	-	3,049	122,900	-
Sth. Aust.	1,085	258	-	-	-	-	13,817	15,160	-
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	121,862	17,302	2,690	5,468	1,163	6,121	33,847	187,290	1,163

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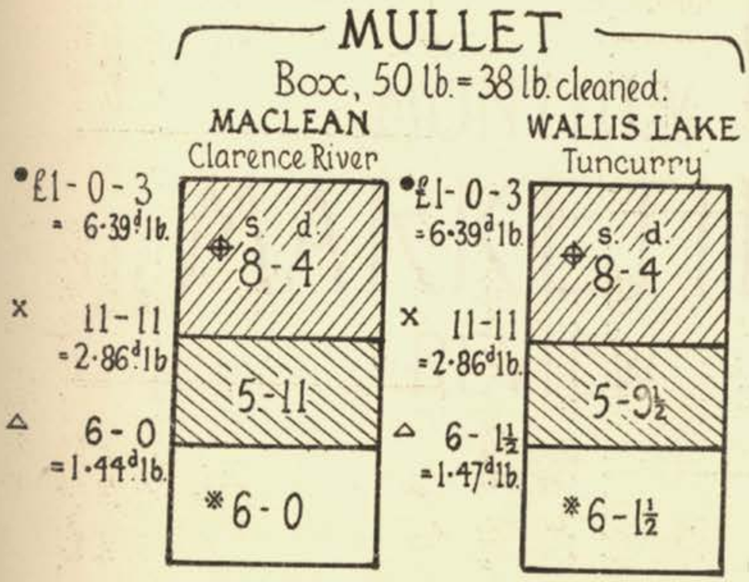
FISH

GRAPH SHOWING ESTIMATED AVERAGE "SPREAD" BETWEEN THE RETURN TO THE FISHERMAN AND THE PRICE PAID BY THE CONSUMER.

DURING THE PERIOD 1ST. JANUARY, 1940 - 30TH. JUNE, 1940.

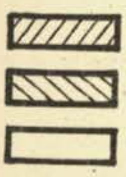
40-1177-



• - Retail Price (Consumer paid for cleaned whole fish)

× - Retailer paid (at City Municipal Markets)

△ - Net sales return to fisherman -



- Retailer's Expenses and Profits.
- Fisherman's Marketing Costs.
- Net sales return to fisherman.

⊕ Retailers costs of cleaning, cartage, rent of shop, wages, wastage, etc. to be deducted from this return.

* Fisherman's costs of catching and other local costs to be deducted from this return.

Compiled - G.C., 6-11-40.
Compilation checked - C.K., 6-11-40.
Graph drawn - E.H.S., 6-11-40.
Graph checked - C.K., 6-11-40.

A. A. WATSON,
Chief of Division of Marketing.