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NEW SOUTH WALES  
DIVISION OF MARKETING  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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MONTHLY  
MARKETING  
REVIEW



JANUARY, 1941

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Vol. 6, No. 5

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE  
PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE  
CHIEF, DIVISION OF MARKETING,  
SYDNEY

## 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.

JANUARY, 1941.

Vol. 6

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HIGHLIGHTS

This, the first issue of our journal in 1941, occurs at a time when the highlights of victories in Libya and Albania obscure those of the marketing sphere. Thus, we enter 1941 with high hearts and with the 'will to win' through all trials, however severe the tests may be that await us.



PHYSICAL FEATURES, PRODUCTION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION  
OF THE NORTH CENTRAL PLAIN STATISTICAL DIVISION NO.11,  
NEW SOUTH WALES (CONCLUDED).

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In the December, 1940, issue appeared a general description of the North Central Plain Statistical Division, together with a review of the sheep and cattle industries. In this concluding part, consideration is given to agricultural pursuits, to forestry, to the rivers and artesian water supplies, to transport facilities and to the average annual production.

Wheat the principal crop.

While wheat is not grown on the North Central Plain to the same extent as in certain other divisions of New South Wales, it is, nevertheless, the most important cereal cultivated on the North Central Plain, and the area sown has expanded considerably over the past decade. In the past, the absence of adequate rainfall during the growing stages of the crop no doubt acted as a deterrent to the sowing of any appreciable acreage but improved varieties, better cultural methods and experience in "dry farming" practices have all played their parts in promoting this steady expansion. In addition, the trend to adopt "mixed farming" (that is, the combination of sheep raising and wheat-growing) has materially tended towards additional acreage being given over to wheat. Reference to the area of wheat sown in the Division over the past ten years indicates the progress made. In 1929/30 the acreage under wheat was 109,342 acres for grain, 9,997 acres for hay and 1,610 acres for green feed, while the figures for 1938/39 were:- 316,463 acres for grain, 17,405 acres for hay and 1,715 acres for green feed. For the year 1938/39 the yield of grain was 5,977,704 bushels, representing an average of 18.9 bushels per acre, which, besides being so substantially above the average of 12.9 bushels for the whole State, was the highest annual average for the division for the past decade; in addition to the grain, 10,616 tons of hay were produced. The largest areas sown to wheat were in the Narrabri and Coonabarabran districts.

The cultivation of other cereals is on a comparatively small scale, figures for 1938/39 being:-

Oats	- for grain - 6,230 acres yielding 84,345 bushels
	" hay - 2,120 " producing 2,502 tons
	" green food - 3,918 acres.
Maize	- for grain - 323 acres yielding 2,487 bushels
	" green food - 280 acres.
Barley	- for grain - 394 acres yielding 6,120 bushels
	" hay - 58 acres yielding 89 tons
	in addition 99 acres for green fodder.
Rye	- for grain - 140 acres yielding 1,710 bushels.

/Other ....



Other crops comparatively small.

With the exception of lucerne, the area devoted to other crops is only small. During the year 1938/39 - 1,558 acres of lucerne were grown for hay, yielding 1,436 tons, and the acreage of this crop utilised for green food was 5,065 acres. Other fodder crops, including millet, rape and sorghum only totalled 187 acres. In addition, 5,265 tons of silage were made.

Fruit and vegetables cultivated on a very small scale.

Only limited quantities of fruit and vegetables are produced, and in most instances these are used solely within the division. Figures for the year 1938/39, as recorded in the New South Wales Statistical Register, are given below:-

Potatoes	-	36 acres	yielded	30 tons.
Pumpkins and Melons	22	"	"	32 "
Tomatoes	-	12	"	" 4,125 half-cases.

Market Gardens - value of production from 90 acres was £3,600.

Fruit - a total area of 113 acres yielded 3,362 bushels of citrus fruit (principally oranges) and 1,690 bushels of other fruit, of which peaches and apples were the most important.

Grapes - 13 acres produced 8 tons of table grapes.

It should be remembered, of course, that the Government Statistician is only concerned with crops grown on areas of one acre upwards.

### Forestry.

The naturally occurring tree flora of the North Central Plain is varied and includes many species capable of use as fodder for stock in times of drought. Some species, principally the cypress pine, supply good timber for building purposes, while others yield a durable timber for fencing and other uses. Many others provide a really good wood for domestic fuel, as well as making good shade and shelter trees, which are so necessary in country where varying climatic conditions are experienced. As it is not possible in an article such as this to give a comprehensive survey, those most widely distributed are indicated as well as those trees most useful as fodder reserves. In the latter category are included Wilga (*Geijora parviflora*), Rosewood (*Heterodendron oleaefolium*), Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*), Belah (*Casuarina lepidophloia*), and Acacias such as Mulga (recognised as one of the best fodder trees) and Myall. Many of the other trees have uses varying from the provision of building or fencing material to the supply of excellent firewood; apart from the cypress pines previously mentioned, these include Eucalypts (such as various

/Gums .....



Gums, several Boxes, Ironbarks, Malleos and Bloodwoods), a number of Acacias (such as River Cooba, Yarran, Currawong, Gidgeo and Ironwood) and miscellaneous species, as Beefwood (*Grevillea striata*), Whitewood (*Atalaya hemiglauc*a) and Budda (*Eremophila Mitchelli*).

From the forestry point of view, it is noteworthy that a substantial part of the Pilliga National Forest lies within this division, viz., that portion located between Narrabri on the North and Coonabarabran on the south and extending from a point near Brigalow Creek in the east to Pilliga on the western boundary. According to the Annual Report of the Forestry Commission, the Pilliga National Forest is the largest single forest area in New South Wales, covering 612,445 acres, and is timbered with cypress pine, ironbark and other hardwoods. The forest provides raw material for 18 saw-mills and employment for practically 400 men in timber cutting and hauling and at the mills. There are extensive supplies of hardwoods suitable for railway sleepers, and the output of sleepers alone is in the vicinity of 4,000 per week. Baradine, situated within the division, is the administrative headquarters of the Pilliga National Forest and also the distributing centre for the output of the mills operating in this locality.

#### Rivers.

The principal waterways traversing the North Central Plain belong to the inland or Western River System of the State, as they flow westward from the dividing range and empty into the Darling River; in fact, some, although known by different names, actually comprise the head waters of this large inland river. It cannot be said that the division as a whole is well-watered as the flow of these rivers and their tributaries is by no means constant, much of their length only carrying appreciable quantities of water during the wet seasons of the year.

In the extreme north there is the McIntyre River constituting most of the dividing line between New South Wales and Queensland in this sector; subsequently this stream joins the Barwon from a point near Mungindi to become part of the western boundary of this statistical division until joined by the Gwydir. The Gwydir River flows west from the dividing ranges and passes by Moree. Proceeding further south, the Namoi is met with, also flowing westward - via Narrabri and Wee Waa - to eventually, as with the Gwydir, join up with the Barwon. Owing to the level nature of the country through which they pass, these rivers do not possess the rapidity of flow of many of the coastal streams.

#### Artesian water supplies.

The whole of the North Central Plain overlies part of the Great Australian Artesian basin, the area of which exceeds 500,000 square miles, of which 69,900 square miles lie within

/New South Wales....



New South Wales. As far back as 1851 unsuccessful attempts were made to bore for artesian water; in 1880 the first actual discoveries were made at Wee Wattah and Mullie, between the Darling and Paroo Rivers. About the same time two bores were sunk on Kirribree Station between the Warrego and Paroo Rivers west of Bourke; the first, at a depth of 1,073 feet, yielded 350,000 gallons per day, while the second, at a depth of 1,340 feet, yielded 1,750,000 gallons per day. Many other good flows were obtained in other parts, especially in the dry areas, and in 1884 the Government undertook the provision of water along roads and stock routes in the North Western district, inviting tenders for the sinking of artesian wells in specified localities. Many fine flows were secured, and roads formerly little used owing to scarcity of water were opened to traffic, a notable instance being that from Wanaaring to Milparinka.

Turning to the North Central Plain, in particular, it can be said that much of the lack of permanent surface water is balanced by the existence of good flowing bores, such as the Collymongle, Tullona, Dolgelly, Gil Gal, Moroe, Goonal, Tyreel and Moroe bores. The Moroe Artesian Bore is of particular interest owing to the health giving qualities of the water it supplies to the hot baths, which are amongst the chief attractions of the town.

### Secondary Industries.

Most of the wealth of this division is derived from pastoral and agricultural pursuits. Secondary industries are not developed to any notable extent. Figures published by the Government Statistician show that for 1938/39 there were 102 Factories and Works employing 658 persons. The total value of materials used was £190,000 and the value of goods manufactured or work done was £373,000. The largest group was the "Industrial Metals" (i.e., Shops for the repair of Motor and Other Vehicles, Agricultural Implements and the like), with 34 establishments, followed by the "Foods, Drinks, etc." section with 25.

### Transport Facilities - Rail.

The division is fairly well provided with rail services, possessing 342 miles of lines. The Sydney-Newcastle-Werris Creek-Moroe-Inverell railway serves a large area of the North and North West, running within the Division from a point near Boggabri via Narrabri to Moroe and thence to Yagobie en route to Inverell (North Western Slope). A line going north from Moroe branches at Camurra, one section extending north-west to Mungindi and the other proceeding north to Boggabilla. Although the greater part of the latter is outside the division, it is so close to the eastern boundary that people living in that part have ready access to it. At Narrabri West a branch line runs via Burren Junction to Walgett (Western Division). The southern sector is served by the Sydney-Wallerawang-Gwabegar railway which traverses it from near

/Binnaway ....



Binnaway to Gwabegar, while in addition the Binnaway-Worris Creek link cuts through the south-eastern corner.

### Highways and Roads.

Two highways traverse portions of this division, namely the Gwydir and Oxley. The Gwydir highway, which runs from Collarenebri (Central Plain) through Moree to South Grafton (North Coast) has a total length of 337 miles, of which approximately 87 lie within the boundaries of the North Central Plain. About 100 miles of the Oxley highway are within the subject division; commencing at Trangie (Central Western Slope) the Oxley passes through Coonabarabran and proceeds via Tamworth (North Western Slope) and Walcha (Northern Tableland) to terminate at Port Macquarie (Hunter-Manning), a total distance of 404 miles. The importance of these two roads, as providing direct access to the nearest sections of the coast, is manifest. Secondary or connecting roads between the principal towns of the North Central Plain total some 500 miles and mostly have fair to good gravel surfaces, though stretches of black soil are met, which are difficult to traverse after heavy rain. Some of the chief connecting or secondary roads in this division or which pass through and serve the North Central Plain are:- From Gunnedah to Narrabri, Narrabri to Moree, Narrabri to Walgett, Moree to Boggabilla, Moree to Mungindi and Mungindi to Boggabilla.

### 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 North Central Plain Division for the five year period ended 30th June, 1939:-

#### North Central Plain Statistical Division No.11 Average Annual Production Five Years ended 30.6.1939.

Wool	34,642,776 lb.
Wheat - Grain	2,884,080 bushels.
Hay	9,104 tons.
Oats - Grain	44,258 bushels.
Hay	1,206 tons.
Lucerne Hay	1,652 tons.
Maize	3,320 bushels.
Barley	2,043 bushels.
Oranges	4,260 bushels.
Peaches	1,317 bushels.
Tomatoes	2,686 half-cases.
Market Gardens - Value	£3,972.
Honey	33,840 lbs.

/Applying .....



Applying the 1939 annual average wholesale prices in Sydney to the foregoing products, a suggested estimate of their approximate value, with timber added, is £2,925,000. In addition, for the five years ended 30th June, 1939, the average annual value of the goods manufactured or work done by factories in this division was £361,619.

Average Annual Number of Livestock in North Central Plain  
Statistical Division No. 11 - Five Years ended 30.6.1939.

	Head
Horses	19,798
Cattle - Cows in Registered Dairies	1,107
" - All Other	101,829
Sheep	4,340,901
Pigs	2,553

G.C.

-----oooOooo-----

MARKETING OF CITRUS FRUIT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

In a letter of 17th October, 1940, the Official Secretary, New South Wales Government Offices, London, reported that it had been announced by the Ministry of Food there that a Maximum Prices Order in respect of lemons was to be issued. Importers with established businesses in specified Ports who wished to be considered for inclusion in the panel of agents appointed to sell shipments of this fruit consigned to the Ministry of Food, were invited to apply to Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Branch, Ministry of Food, not later than 15th October, 1940, and to submit particulars of their lemon imports in cwts. during each of the three years ended 31st August, 1939, stating countries of origin.

The Official Secretary commented as follows:-

"The entry of Italy into the war had an immediate effect on the lemon trade in the United Kingdom. In the meantime lemon supplies have been scarce and prices unusually high. The proposed maximum prices order for the fruit is the natural outcome of these conditions and was therefore expected. Lemon supplies on this market have lately been limited to small quantities from Spain (Murcia). These, although reported to be in a wasty condition, have realised from 75/- to 85/- per box of 300/360, wholesale at Covent Garden.

In view of the greatly diminished imports of all citrus fruit, oranges, lemons and grapefruit, it may be anticipated that so long as present conditions continue, there will be a firm market here for such fruit from New South Wales at the controlled maximum prices".

-----oooOooo-----



RETAIL SELLING OF CITRUS FRUIT IN NEW ZEALAND.

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It is of interest to note that the general conditions governing the retail selling of citrus fruit in New Zealand are determined by the Government, regulations prescribing the details having been promulgated by order of the Governor-General and the Minister of Marketing, pursuant to the provisions of the New Zealand Primary Products Marketing Act, 1936-1939.

According to a notice issued by the Minister of Marketing and published in the New Zealand Government Gazette of 26th October, 1939, it is not permissible to sell citrus fruit by retail or for any retailer to offer such for sale otherwise than at an appropriate price. The term citrus fruit refers to oranges, mandarins, lemons and grapefruit.

The notice states, in effect, that the retail price per dozen must not exceed the buying price per dozen of the appropriate kind of fruit by more than forty per centum except that there may be added the per dozen cost of all freight and transport charges on such fruit to the place of delivery to the retailer. Sales of fruit effected by a retailer in any quantity less than one dozen must be made at a price, computed to the nearest halfpenny, which shall bear the same proportion to the appropriate retail price per dozen for such fruit as the number of fruit comprised in such sale bears to one dozen.

Regulations which came into force on 27th March, 1940, prohibit the offering or exposure for sale of citrus fruit in any shop unless on every tray, box, counter, shelf, or other place in or on which any such fruit is displayed, there is kept in a prominent position in such proximity to the fruit to which it relates as to be obviously descriptive thereof a ticket, placard, or label on which shall be stated in legible and prominent characters the appropriate retail price per dozen. In addition, such ticket, placard, or label shall bear, in the case of oranges, particulars of the count, and in the case of lemons, particulars of the grade and count, as marked on the case or other container in which the oranges or lemons, as the case may be, were delivered to the retailer. Penalties are provided for any breach of the regulations.

It should be noted that the bulk of the citrus fruit consumed in New Zealand (with the exception of lemons) is imported from Australia, Cook Islands, Jamaica and California.



HOME BUSH LIVESTOCK MARKETSSHEEP AND CATTLE DEALER: PRICES OF PIGS  
MOSTLY SATISFACTORY.Beneficial rains in eastern half  
of New South Wales.

Rains, which fell in early December and at intervals throughout the month, improved considerably the pastoral outlook in many sections of the eastern half of New South Wales; in coastal areas particularly the situation was altered very materially, while in many inland centres water supplies were replenished and a rapid growth of pastures was promoted. In the western districts, however, the precipitation was patchy and much lighter, so that at the close of 1940 the general position there remained very unsatisfactory.

Sharp decline in numbers of sheep  
and lambs marketed.

During December, sheep and lambs forwarded to the Homebush Saleyards totalled only 240,100 head, or little more than half the aggregate for November, when 412,215 passed through the yards. While the intervention of the Christmas holidays caused some reduction in truckings, for the most part the lighter yardings could be attributed to the effects of the rains.

Quality improves.

The percentage of plain and low conditioned sheep and lambs offered was much smaller than that of the previous month, although a fair number was received from the less favoured centres. Medium to good trade wethers and ewes made a much better showing than in November, but, while some improvement in supplies was noticed, extra heavy wethers were again rather scarce, and, on occasions, were insufficient to meet the requirements of operators handling this class of sheep. Some very nice drafts of wethers and ewes ranging from 50 to 60 lb. dressed weight were included in the offerings. The total of grown sheep penned was 132,800, some 37,000 below the November aggregate, and, while some lines of woolly wethers and ewes were submitted, by far the larger percentage consisted of shorn descriptions.

Active demand for practically all classes.

With the exception of aged and broken mouthed wethers and ewes, demand for which was restricted, there was a much better inquiry throughout than during November. Restockers operated freely whenever suitable lines were offering and sheep in good to forward store condition were in good request. Good quality wethers and ewes sold well and, although some fluctuation was apparent, average realisations were above those of the

/previous .....



previous month. At the opening sale in December, prices rose by from 1/- to 2/- per head, but most of this advance was lost on the following sale day. Subsequently a good deal of irregularity was noticeable and several rises and falls of from 1/- to 1/6 per head occurred, the numbers of grown sheep available on each day influencing prices. The closing auctions of the period were marked by a very firm demand and a further increase in prices, due principally to the fact that one day's yarding had to supply the full week's trade. At the close of December prices for mutton were from 2d to 3d per lb. higher than those ruling at the end of November. Some indication of the fluctuating market is given by the following disposals:-

At the first sale held in December a draft of good trade shorn wethers, weighing approximately 46 lb., sold at 14/5 each, equivalent to 3½d per lb. At the succeeding auctions 44 lb. of good trade wether was obtained for 3d per lb. About mid-December a line of 44 lb. good trade shorn wethers made 13/8 per head or 3½d per lb. At the concluding sale of the month a consignment of nice light trade shorn wethers, weighing approximately 38 lb., realised 3½d per lb., being disposed of at 12/10 each. The differences in realisations for ewes were equally as great, as at the early sale 42 lb. ewes cost 3½d per lb., while at the close operators paid 3½d per lb. for ewes of similar weight.

Shorn wethers realised as much as 23/- each, and a number brought from 19/- to 22/- per head; generally, however, the better class was disposed of at prices ranging from 13/- to 18/-. Ewes made to 18/- but mostly sold at from 9/- to 16/- each for quality lines, while medium to plain sheep realised relatively lower prices.

Wethers cost as much as 3½d per lb. and ewes 3½d, but fair average realisations were:- 2½d to 3½d for heavy wethers, 3d to 3½d per lb. for light wethers, 2½d to 3d for heavy ewes and 2½d to 3½d per lb. for light ewes.

#### Shortage of lambs.

There was a pronounced falling-off in the number of lambs and suckers available during December when 107,300 were offered as against 242,800 in November. The pennings of medium to plain lambs declined substantially, graziers being in a far better position to hold these for fattening. Generally the quality of the yardings showed an improvement, quite a number of attractive lambs and suckers, mostly light to medium trade weights, being submitted. Heavy lambs were not numerous but some exceptionally nice yards were included.

#### Improved realisations for lambs.

The light yarding of lambs was responsible for a very active demand and values of practically all classes were from 2/- to 4/- per head higher than the average realisations for November.

/The .....



The closing auction of December was the strongest for some time and all descriptions of lambs were in strong request.

Some actual sales are quoted below to illustrate the generally strong market:- Early in December good quality suckers, weighing approximately 36 lb., realised the equivalent of 6½d per lb. and sold at 24/3 per head. Subsequently nice quality 33 lb. suckers cost 7d per lb., bringing 23/- each. About mid-December suckers, dressing approximately 35 lb. were disposed of at 25/2 each and made the very satisfactory price of 7½d per lb. At the closing auction a line of shorn suckers of about 34 lb. weight, sold for 22/1 per head, being worth 7½d per lb. Many other grades and weights of lambs also returned good prices.

Lambs sold to as high as 29/- each and many lines brought from 25/- to 27/-, but, for the most part, realisations ranged from 20/- to 24/- per head for quality lots, with other grades at relatively lower rates.

Carcase prices must also be considered good, as best light suckers made to 7½d per lb., although by far the larger proportion cost operators from 6d to 7d per lb., while the heavier descriptions realised 5½d to 6½d per lb., according to weight and finish. Medium trade lambs were worth from 5½d to 6d per lb. and plainer grades were obtained at even lower rates. Generally, the market was a good one and closing values of lambs and suckers were from ½d to 1d per lb. higher than those ruling at the end of November.

#### Slight improvement in cattle offerings.

Consignments of cattle during December, 1940, continued to show a small increase, and aggregated 15,031 head, of which 1,134 were auctioned in the store section. However, this total was considerably below that for the corresponding period of 1939, when 20,459 head were offered.

Most of the cattle arriving at Homebush were again of inferior grade, although some improvement in the yardings generally was noticeable. On odd occasions there was a marked increase in the percentage of good trade and prime beasts available, probably due to the enhanced values of this class rather than to any improvement in quality as the result of the rain. As indicated in the previous issue of the Monthly Marketing Review, favoured holdings apparently were still capable of marketing cattle in a very satisfactory condition despite the drought.

#### Limited consignments of bullocks.

The number of bullocks on offer, although still only limited, was higher than that submitted during the previous month. On some occasions the yardings included drafts of prime heavy description but mostly the pennings comprised chiefly lightweights of fair trade quality only. A very strong demand was in evidence

/throughout ....



throughout, and, as the result of a widespread shortage of quality cattle, values exceeded the peak level of early October, 1940, when the highest prices for many years had been recorded. On the first sale day good to prime lightweight bullocks were quoted at 50/- to 54/- per 100 lb., whilst medium weights sold at 47/- to 51/-. Except on one sale day, these rates were fairly well maintained, and the market was very firm at closing. The best quotation for heavy bullocks was 45/- to 49/- per 100 lb. A typical sale of this last class was that of a pen of prime Shorthorn bullocks from Tumut, which realised £19.13.0 per head; as the estimated dressed weight was 800 lb. this was equivalent to 49/- per 100 lb.

Steers well supplied.

Steers were well represented throughout the period but, on the whole, quality was only fair. The percentage of prime grade beasts varied considerably, being fairly satisfactory at times but small on other occasions. Values generally were higher than those ruling during November and by the third week of the month they had reached the peak October level, good to prime grade being quoted at 52/- to 57/- per 100 lb.

Enhanced prices for cows.

Cows were fairly plentiful but plain and medium quality descriptions predominated. On some sale days, however, there was a noticeable increase in the proportion of better grade animals, including prime heavy sorts, available. Prices continued to rise and, by the second week of December, rates were considerably above the October levels, good to prime heavy cows bringing 42/- to 48/- and lightweights making 46/- to 50/- per 100 lb. Exceptionally good prices were obtained for practically all grades. Subsequently values fell slightly, the respective closing quotations being 44/- to 47/- and 46/- to 48/-.

Light supplies of heifers.

Pennings of heifers were again light, and prime descriptions were difficult to secure. Usually only odd pens of prime heavy sorts were submitted and, for the most part, consignments consisted of small animals of medium to fair trade standard. Although they fluctuated somewhat, values were higher than those of November and towards the end of the month they exceeded the peak levels recorded in October. Closing quotations, covering all grades of good to prime quality, were as high as 48/- to 56/- per 100 lb. The average rate was approximately 45/- to 52/-.

Prime vealers scarce.

Offerings of vealers were variable, both as to numbers available and to quality. Generally, however, vealers were

/moderately .....



moderately supplied and comprised chiefly fair trade sorts, prime animals being scarce. Prices mostly were exceptionally high, especially at the end of the period. Opening quotations were 57/- to 63/- per 100 lb. At one stage rates fell and ranged from 55/- to 61/-, but subsequently they rose rapidly and reached the level of 63/- to 67/- per 100 lb. The highest price recorded during October was 63/- per 100 lb.

Cattle values reach highest level for years.

With the advent of the warmer weather in October, cattle prices began to fall and it was not expected that they would again reach peak levels in the near future. Towards the close of November, however, an upward trend became apparent, and during December the highest rates recorded in October were, in most instances, exceeded.

Larger aggregate sales of pigs.

Although the number of pigs auctioned during December, 1940, namely, 7,175 head, was slightly less than that for November, when 7,774 were disposed of, the average weekly sales were much higher, as there were only three sale days during the month under review compared with a normal four. Pigs received by rail and auctioned amounted to 2,767 head.

Sales by private treaty accounted for 5,426 head, which figure is possibly a record and indicates a definite upward trend in this method of selling pigs in the Metropolitan Area. Most of the selling by private treaty takes place at the Saleyards on the Monday (the auctions are held on the Tuesday). It is a comparatively new venture, adopted following the heavy increase in arrivals of pigs at Homebush, and it has had the effect of relieving pressure on regular sale days. It is open to question whether the new policy is beneficial or detrimental to the industry generally.

Improved market for porkers.

Porkers were heavily supplied and the pennings included pigs of all grades of weight and quality. While fair to good trade sorts predominated, there was a better representation of prime animals, and the general standard was above that of the November consignments. Compared with the previous month, the market showed a very considerable improvement, although it fluctuated to a remarkable degree. On the first sale, values of porkers rose as much as 7/- per head in places, lightweights being mostly affected. (Extra light pigs, dressing 35 lb., are not included in the preceding reference to lightweights, as the demand for the small porker has been comparatively poor for some time now, although previously this was the most valuable class of pig on a per pound basis). On the day referred to, quotations for prime light porkers dressing 60 lb. ranged to 44/6 per head, while heavy porkers dressing 90 lb. realised to 57/6. On the following sale .....



sale day prices fell by 2/- to 4/- per head, only to rise by up to 8/- per head on the final Christmas auction, when, despite the heaviest yarding for many years, the demand was particularly keen. At this last mentioned sale prices for light and heavy porkers ranged to 48/6 and 60/6 per head, respectively, the former rate being the highest for the class concerned since October, 1939, when consignments were much smaller.

Moderate supplies  
of fair trade baconers.

On the first sale day in December the supply of baconers was somewhat limited but subsequent offerings were much heavier. While quality generally was very fair, the number of really prime pigs submitted was limited. The market during the month was fairly steady, although not quite as good as that of November for heavy descriptions dressing 150 lb., prices of which ranged from 87/6 to 89/6 per head. No alteration in values of lightweight porkers was apparent, while pigs dressing 100 lb. were quoted from 64/6 per head.

Increased consignments  
of backfatters.

On the first sale day, the offering of backfatters was only light, but later yardings were much larger. The quality was very variable, a noticeable percentage being of plain grade. Nevertheless, many medium to heavy weight animals of satisfactory appearance were available. Values of good to prime pigs dressing 200 to 350 lb. were from 5d to 5½d per lb., a slight increase on the quotations of the previous month. Heavier weights, dressing 350 lb. and over, sold at the equivalent of 4½d to 5d per lb.; in this instance, the market was not quite so good. The highest rates were recorded at the close of the month.

Pig values more satisfactory.

Considering the number of pigs available, the market generally was very satisfactory from the producer's viewpoint. It was pleasing to note that rates for porkers recovered from the low and probably not very remunerative levels of November. The small fall in the prices of baconers was due to a seasonal falling-off in requirements; in normal years this probably would have been greater.

G.C. & J.W.

-----oooOooo-----

At a recent poll of producers, the question of the continuance of the Northern Pig Marketing Board, Queensland, until 31st December, 1946, was carried by 148 votes to 35.

-----oooOooo-----



CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

STONE FRUITS IN REQUEST: VEGETABLES MOSTLY CHEAPER.

Retailers turn to stone fruits.

With only limited stocks of apples available, retailers turned their attention to the many lines of stone fruits offering and considerable trading eventuated. Citrus fruits, pineapples, papaws and passionfruit also sold well.

High quality cherries available.

The cherries on offer were principally from the Orange district and generally were of choice quality, particularly the St. Margarets; in fact, traders expressed the view that they were the best that had been available for many years. Demand was very satisfactory on most days, and realisations were above average.

Market for peaches weakens as consignments increase.

Coastal peaches continued to come forward freely; in addition some inland and Victorian lots were to hand. Many of the local peaches were of large size, apparently as a result of the beneficial rains early in the month. Medium and smaller sizes suitable for retailing at 1/- and 6d per dozen were scarce at times. The market was very firm early but towards the close stocks were heavier and values were easier.

Good prices for Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area apricots.

Apart from those received from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, supplies of apricots were light and generally of variable quality. Little difficulty was experienced in disposing of Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area fruit and good prices were obtained. There were some Victorian lines on the market just prior to the end of the month.

Choice plums sell well.

While choice large plums of selected varieties were in request small sizes sold slowly and many lots were disposed of to jam manufacturers. A few cases of Angelinas were submitted and it was expected that considerable quantities of this variety would be available early in January.

Firm demand for citrus.

Valencia oranges generally were lightly stocked and the market was firm. Selected counts of good quality fruit realised to 14/- per bushel on some occasions, but top rates mainly were in the vicinity of 12/- to 13/-. Supplies of lemons gradually declined and prices rose, choice packs selling to 16/- per bushel. There was

/little .....



little or no grape fruit from Coastal districts but consignments from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area were on offer and brought up to 15/- per bushel.

Heavy supplies of pineapples.

The bulk of the pineapples received was from Northern Queensland. Although consignments generally were heavy, for the most part clearances were effected at steady prices. Fruit from Southern districts did not open up satisfactorily, many packs showing breakdown, and values were much lower than those ruling for Northern stocks.

Considerable quantities of common mangoes were on offer but sales were restricted. There was little difficulty, however, in disposing of the apple variety. The first consignment was limited to a few cases and as much as 24/- was paid for choice fruit. This position was not maintained, as supplies increased rapidly and values fell sharply.

Humid weather affects sales of bananas.

Receivals of bananas were heavy. Much humid weather was experienced; as a result demand was restricted and stocks accumulated. Prices were reduced to fairly low levels and large quantities of mature bananas were sold to barrowmen at very cheap rates in an endeavour to clear the surplus.

Passionfruit cheaper.

There was a marked improvement in consignments of passionfruit, both North Coast and Queensland fruit being available. Prices eased and at closing choice packs were available at 8/- per half-case.

Early varieties of apples from Coastal districts on offer.

Early trading in apples was confined to very light stocks from cool stores, principally Democrats and Sturmers; any lots of reasonable quality were quickly disposed of at firm rates. Increasing quantities of coastal fruit, chiefly cooking varieties, arrived on the market and any packs of good size were cleared, but small apples were neglected.

Vegetables well supplied.

Generally the market was well supplied with vegetables; at times the quantities of beans and lettuce available were in excess of buyers' requirements and values declined to low levels. During the period just prior to the Christmas and New Year holidays, consignments of peas were exceptionally heavy and far beyond the needs of the retail trade; fortunately, buyers for canneries operated and the market was cleared daily.

/Variable .....



Variable rates for beans.

As is usual at this time of the year, considerable quantities of beans reached the market and on a number of occasions during December the supply exceeded the demand. To a large extent this position was brought about by the marketing of poor quality lots, which constituted the main proportion of unsold or carry-over stocks. Generally little difficulty was experienced in selling choice beans. Realisations varied considerably, price levels being governed largely by the supply available each morning; at times up to 12/- per bushel was obtained for best lines, while as low as 2/- was accepted on other occasions.

Heavy consignments of peas at end of December.

The peas submitted during the first three weeks of December were for the most part purchased by greengrocers and only on a few days were surplus supplies sold to canneries. Quality mainly was only moderate, choice "greens" being comparatively lightly stocked and being readily disposed of at prices at least 2/- per bushel above those obtained for other grades. Over 7,000 bags of peas were forward on the 23rd and 24th December and, apart from best quality lines, stocks could not be cleared, so that a considerable proportion was sold each day to canneries at 3/- per bushel. On New Year's Eve over 3,000 bags arrived and met a weak demand, with the result that values slumped; a few choice lots realised to 5/- but large quantities, including purchases for canning, were disposed of at 2/- per bushel.

Rains affect North Coast tomatoes.

Heavy rains over the tomato growing areas of the North Coast of New South Wales adversely affected much of the crop. Nevertheless, consignments were cleared, although values suffered owing to the variable condition of many packs.

Moderate supplies from metropolitan and adjacent centres were on offer, but many lines showed evidence of the prevalence of virus disease; any choice lots sold readily and at times high rates were obtained.

The market also received consignments of Balranald and Menindie tomatoes. Stocks from the first-mentioned district generally were of poor standard and some of the fruit arrived in an unsatisfactory state owing to the excessive heat experienced on the long train journey. In the main, the Menindie lots were of fair quality but, for the most part, the packing left much to be desired.

Values of cabbages mostly low.

While opening sales for cabbages were pleasing, the market gradually weakened and for the greater part of the month values were  
/low .....



low. Some improvement occurred on the 23rd and 24th December, but this was not maintained after the Christmas holidays.

Beetroot scarce and dear.

Bunched beetroot was scarce towards the close of December and high prices were obtained. Values of spinach fluctuated more or less in accordance with the rates ruling for cabbages, being at high levels early but subsequently falling. Heavy supplies of lettuce were on offer during the first two weeks of the month and rates were low. With reduced stocks available later, the price position improved.

Considerable quantities of apple and green cucumbers were marketed; supplies overtook demand and just prior to the close of the month prices slumped badly.

R.M.

-----oooOooo-----

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

Increased receipts of potatoes.

During December, 1940, larger supplies of potatoes were available on the Sydney market than during the previous month. The greater portion of the stocks received in Sussex Street consisted of Delawares from Western Australia; these totalled 51,187 bags and mostly were of good quality. Potatoes of good quality cleared readily at the fixed maximum rate of £16 per ton, but lots which had to be reconditioned were disposed of at lower rates.

Tasmanian potatoes were in light supply, the aggregate for the month being 17 971 bags. A small quantity of new season's Bismarcks was included in the first shipment in December and this variety was available in increasing quantities during the succeeding weeks; rates were fixed at £16 per ton. Demand was very good throughout and early clearances were effected each week. Brownells sold at £15 and Whiteskins at £13.10.0 per ton.

Only small consignments of tubers were shipped to Sussex Street from ports on the North Coast of New South Wales during the period, the total being 127 bags. In the early part of December, £16 per ton was obtained for both New grade and No. 2 grade lines.

At the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard, however, arrivals of potatoes were lighter than during November, a total of 7,167 bags being received from local centres, mainly Raleigh (3,869 bags) and Dorrigo (2,779 bags). A very strong inquiry prevailed for New Grade lines at £16 per ton, the fixed maximum rate. Although other grades were comparatively heavily supplied, they realised high prices during the first three weeks of December, but later the

/larger .....



larger stocks of first grade available resulted in an easier demand for No. 2 Grade and Chat potatoes at lower rates. Realisations for grades other than Now were as follow:- No. 2 £5 to £16; No. 3 £3.10.0 to £14, Stock Food £3.10.0 to £12.15.0 per ton, No. 2 7/9 to 16/3, No. 3 12/9, Chats 3/- to 19/-, Stock Food 4/6 to 12/- per bag.

Small stocks of onions available.

Receivals of onions during December were light and were insufficient to meet the demand, especially towards the end of the month. Consequently, request was keen and prices were maintained at high levels. At the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard, 2,373 bags were received from Victoria and South Australia, while 2,650 bags were submitted by local (New South Wales) growers. The local offering was disposed of by auction at the following rates:- White Table £21.0.0 to £31.10.0 (inferior £15.0.0 to £18.5.0), Pickling £15.10.0 to £21.10.0 (15/- to 25/- per bag); Brown - Table £17.10.0 to £25.15.0, Pickling £14.0.0 to £21.10.0 per ton and 15/9 per bag. The highest realisation for onions for some considerable time was obtained for a quantity from Victoria auctioned on 19th December, £36.0.0 per ton being recorded. The ranges of other sales effected were:- Victorian - Globes £22.10.0 to £30.0.0; South Australian - Whites - Table £28.0.0 to £30.0.0, Small Table £24.0.0 per ton.

In Sussex Street, about 2,500 bags of onions arrived from Victoria and a firm inquiry prevailed. At the beginning of the month, prime new season's Globe onions were selling at £23.0.0 to £24.0.0 per ton, but prices rose and in the final week £30.0.0 per ton was obtained. Some old season's Brown lines were disposed of at £20.0.0 per ton.

Steady demand for pumpkins.

The only supplies of pumpkins to hand were from Queensland and consisted of 24 trucks at Alexandria and 700 bags shipped to Sussex Street. At the commencement, rates were as high as £28 per ton, but quotes fell to as low as £10 at the end of the period. There was a steady demand throughout.

Other vegetable receivals at Alexandria comprised 378 bags swedes, 143 bags carrots and 11 bags parsnips. All sales recorded were by auction and all lines met a steady inquiry at the following prices:- Swedes £7.5.0 to £13.0.0, Carrots £6.0.0 to £20.5.0 and Parsnips £13.15.0 to £17.10.0 per ton and 9/- to 18/6 per bag. Moderate quantities of new season's swedes from Tasmania were shipped to Sussex Street, and were disposed of at up to £14.0.0 per ton.

The light stocks of Tasmanian dry peas were in very firm demand at 21/6 to 22/6 for Blue (under-grade) and 9/6 to 10/- per bushel for Grey lines.

/Heavy .....



Heavy supplies of white chaff.

Arrivals of white chaff at Alexandria Railway Goods Yard were fairly large and totalled 178 trucks of oat and 111 trucks of wheat. The rains received in many districts in the eastern half of the State early in the month resulted in a "falling off" in demand and prices were easier. For instance, prime oat chaff was selling at £8.10.0 at the beginning of December but dropped to £8.0.0 per ton after the rains. Similarly, values for choice wheat chaff fell from £7.0.0 to £6.0.0 per ton. The full range of prices obtained was as follows:- Oat Chaff - By auction £4.15.0 to £7.8.4; By private treaty £6.0.0 to £8.10.0; Wheat Chaff - By auction - £4.0.0 to £6.0.0, By private treaty £4.10.0 to £7.0.0, with odd lots to £7.5.0 per ton.

Lucerne commodities cheaper.

Consignments of lucerne chaff and hay to the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard comprised the following:- Lucerne chaff 73 trucks; Lucerne hay - Maitland 52 trucks and other centres 76 trucks. Subsequent to the rains, request was limited and realisations were considerably lower than those ruling earlier. At auction, lucerne chaff brought from £4.10.0 for inferior to £8.13.4 for choice lines, whilst private treaty sales were effected at from £6.0.0 for medium to £8.15.0 per ton for choice lots. Lucerne hay from Maitland realised from £3.0.0 to £8.10.0 per ton, and rates for the offering from other districts were as follows:- By auction - derrick pressed £3.6.8 to £5.5.0, other baled £4.15.0 to £8.3.4; By private treaty - £5.10.0 to £8.10.0 per ton. Quotations for the 78 bales of lucerne hay shipped to Sussex Street from the Hunter River district were not disclosed.

Only portion of the 60 trucks of oat hay railed to Alexandria during December from New South Wales centres was available for sale; deliveries were taken at the following prices:- By auction - inferior £5.6.8, good £6.10.0; By private treaty - medium to good £6.0.0 to £6.15.0, good to prime £7.0.0 to £7.10.0 and extra choice (small lots) to £8.10.0 per ton. No Victorian oat hay was shipped to Sussex Street during the period.

The truck of wheat hay to hand from the Gundagai district brought £4.10.0 per ton at auction.

Firm demand for straw.

Straw was lightly supplied and was in firm request. Only 9 trucks from New South Wales districts were consigned to Alexandria and 340 bales from Tasmania were received in Sussex Street. Choice lots from Tasmania were disposed of at £6.0.0 per ton, whilst the local offering brought from £5.10.0 to £6.0.0 per ton.

/Sales ....



Sales of grain.

Moderate quantities of wheat were railed to Alexandria Railway Goods Yard in December, 49 trucks being available. Most sales were effected by auction, bidding for the most part being brisk, and realisations ranged from 3/5d to 4/1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d per bushel. Private disposals of good quality wheat were recorded at 4/4d to 4/6d per bushel.

The only maize received at Alexandria was a supply of 142 bags of the yellow variety from Queensland, which came to hand on 2nd December. Inquiry was good at 6/6d, with odd small lots to 6/7d per bushel. Growers in the North Coast district of New South Wales shipped a total of 491 bags of maize to Sussex Street. The market for prime yellow lines was good at 6/6d per bushel; inferior lots sold at 6/2d to 6/3d per bushel.

The greater portion of the 71 trucks of oats received at Alexandria during the period under review was taken direct to stores. The balance was offered by auction and bidding was brisk; realisations ranged from 3/3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d for poor quality lines to 4/- per bushel for extra prime oats.

E.J.

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WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILISATION, AUSTRALIA.

All owners of wheat farms, and growers of wheat, are required to make application for Registration and Licence, respectively, by 25th January, 1941. The Australian Wheat Board has supplied the following particulars of the procedure to be adopted:-

"The owner of any property on which wheat is grown for grain must fill in Application Form for Registration (Form "A") and lodge same with the Country Agent of a Licensed Receiver of the Wheat Board (in wheat areas) at the station or siding at which the grower usually delivers his wheat, by the 25th January, 1941.

Those who grow wheat for grain on any farm, whether owned by them or not, must similarly fill in an Application for Licence to Grow Wheat (Form "B") and lodge same, as mentioned above, by the 25th January, 1941.

Supplies of the necessary forms have been sent to all the Country Agents at wheat receiving stations and sidings. Where any wheat is sown for grain (even one acre) in areas outside the regular wheat growing and marketing districts, and ordinarily is not delivered to an Agent for marketing and irrespective of whether such wheat is intended to be sold or is for the grower's own use, application for Registration and Licence is still obligatory and the forms may be secured on application by letter to the Australian Wheat Board, 16-18 O'Connell Street, Sydney. When completed, the forms must be posted to the same address. This, however, must only apply to those farm owners or growers who do not deliver in the ordinary way to a Wheat Agent".

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES  
IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING DECEMBER, 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:-

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>December, 1940</u>		<u>31st August, 1939</u>
	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	
Wheat - Home Consumption:			
Bulk - per bushel	3/11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d	} unchanged	2/4d
Bagged " "	4/0 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d		2/5d
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2 (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	1/3	unchanged	1/-
Butter:			
Choice	per cwt. 161/2d )		161/2d
First Quality	" " 156/6d )	} unchanged	156/6d
Second	" " 151/10d)		151/10d
Cheese:			
Loaf per lb.	11d )	} unchanged	11d
Large " "	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d)		10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d
Special brands	11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	1/2d	1/2d
Pigs (Abattoir Sales):			
	<u>December, 1940</u>		<u>29th August, 1939</u>
	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u> <u>To</u>
Good to prime - per head:			
Porkers - extra light	23/6	42/6	31/6 40/6
" - light	35/6	48/6	39/6 44/6
" - medium weight	40/6	56/6	43/6 51/6
" - heavy	51/6	60/6	50/6 54/6
Baconers	64/6	89/6	60/6 75/6
Backfatters	£4.5.0	£9.13.0	£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 - NOVEMBER, 1940.

F R U I T.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases.	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	Melons crates	TOTALS packages
Queensland	29,598	12,878	11,894 <sup>x</sup>	29,262	747	84,379
Victoria	12	153	124,458	13,642	-	138,265
Tasmania	-	-	12,314	-	-	12,314
Sth. Aust.	-	-	4,396	-	-	4,396
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	29,610	13,031	153,062	42,904	747	239,354

x Also 13 bags Passionfruit.

V E G E T A B L E S.

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Pumpkins bags	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegetables pkges. tons	TOTALS pkges. tons
Queensland	11,953	2,809	15,951	5,743	5,873 <sup>ø</sup> 3	42,329 3
Victoria	7,888	7,836	-	-	1,741 <sup>ø</sup> -	17,465 -
Tasmania	12,049	-	-	-	113 -	12,162 -
Sth. Aust.	1,935	463	-	-	4,771 -	7,169 -
West Aust.	26,128	-	-	-	- -	26,128 -
TOTALS	59,953	11,108	15,951	5,743	12,498 3	105,253 3

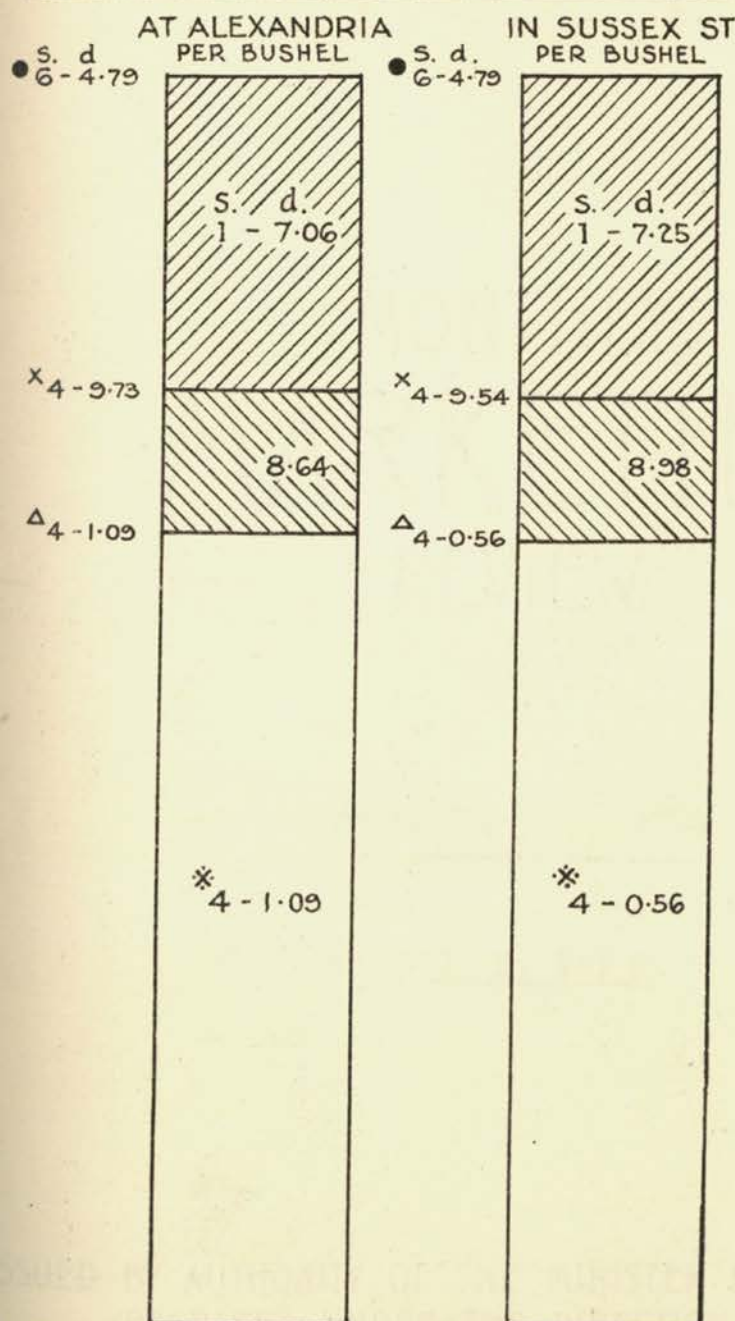
ø Also 235 bags Peas by road.



**MAIZE**

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GRAPH SHOWING "SPREAD" BETWEEN THE RETURN  
TO THE PRODUCER AND PRICE PAID BY THE CONSUMER  
DURING THE PERIOD 1-10-39 TO 30-9-40.

**NOTE:-**

\* COSTS OF HUSKING, SHELLING, BAGGING, HANDLING, CARTING, BAGS & TWINE, AND OTHER COSTS ON THE FARM INCLUDING COSTS OF PRODUCTION WOULD BE CHARGES AGAINST THIS RETURN.

- Average Retail Price (Consumer Paid.)
- x Average Wholesale Price (Retailer Paid.)
- Δ Net Sales return to Grower.

- Retailers' Expenses & Profits.
- Marketing Costs.
- Net sales return to Grower.

Compiled, J.W. 7. 11. 40  
Compilation Checked, A.M.T. 7. 11. 40. Graph Checked, C.K. 27. 11. 40.

Drawn, E.H.S. 27. 11. 40

A. A. WATSON  
Chief of Division of Marketing.