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NEW SOUTH WALES  
DIVISION OF MARKETING  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



MONTHLY  
MARKETING  
REVIEW



MARCH, 1941.

Vol. 6, No. 7.

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

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.

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MARCH, 1941.

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## HIGHLIGHTS

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Marketing and Distribution Conference.

Sydney - 11th to 14th March, 1941.

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Convened by the Premier of New South Wales (Hon. Alex. Mair, M.L.A.)

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Products covered by Conference (Meat I. (Beef, Mutton, Lamb and Pig Products) Meat II (Table Poultry) Fish, Fruits and Vegetables.

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Purpose: to consider marketing problems bearing upon and occurring in retail distribution, as these arise in Sydney (population, 1,300,000), Newcastle (116,000), Bulli - Wollongong - Port Kembla (45,000) and other urban areas of New South Wales.

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Representation: from State Departments, Statutory Bodies, Producers, Wholesalers, Retailers, Consumers, University of Sydney and British Medical Association, totalling 105.

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Conference was sectionalised on a commodity basis for working purposes. Six Committees, including an Executive and Co-ordination Committee were appointed. Between them, these Committees absorbed the whole of the delegates. Each delegate received a Handbook of relevant reports and other data, including graphs.

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The more important of the many decisions of Conference will appear in the next issue of this publication. It is intended to issue a journal of the transactions of Conference in due course. The Journal will include the matter contained in the Handbook.



MARKETING LEGISLATION, STATE OF CALIFORNIA,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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From time to time notes and articles dealing with Marketing Legislation in Australia, Great Britain and various Empire Countries have appeared in the "Monthly Marketing Review", whilst in the issues of December, 1937, January, February and November, 1938, attention was given to the Agricultural Prorate Act of the State of California, United States of America.

In response to an inquiry as to the progress of proration schemes, Mr. W.J. Kuhrt, Associate Chief, Bureau of Markets, Department of Agriculture, California, recently supplied the Chief of the Division of Marketing with copy each of the Annual Report of the Bureau of Markets for the calendar year 1939, and of the Agricultural Prorate Act as amended. It is intended, at a later date, to review the principal amendments of the Agricultural Prorate Act. In the meantime, the following extracts from the Annual Report of the Bureau of Markets are published as indicative of marketing activities in California during 1939.

"Bureau of Markets, Department of Agriculture, California.

The activities of the Bureau of Markets during 1939 may be divided roughly into two principal groups; namely, programs under the Milk Stabilization Law, secondly, marketing programs under the general marketing laws of this State.

The first part of this report sets forth activities under the Milk Stabilization Law, while the second part deals with the general marketing programs under the California Marketing Act, the California Agricultural Products Marketing Act, The Processed Foodstuff Marketing Act, and the Agricultural Prorate Act, as amended in 1939, the latter having been transferred to the Department of Agriculture on September 19, 1939.

Activities under the Milk Stabilization Law.

Considerable impetus was given to requests for both producer stabilization and marketing plans and resale price orders by reason of a Supreme Court decision issued on June 8, 1939, holding the Milk Stabilization Law to be constitutional. During the year petitions were received from producers in several localities for the establishment of marketing orders and for stabilization and marketing programs. Several of the marketing areas and the stabilization and marketing programs in effect also required amendment during 1939.

With respect to resale price orders, it was necessary for the Department to establish such orders in marketing areas



in which stabilization and marketing plans were already effective, and also to institute such plans in the new marketing areas. In order to carry out the necessary investigations and to prepare required statistical data with respect to costs of production and distribution of fluid milk in various areas, it was necessary for the Bureau to increase substantially its auditing and clerical staff.

Marketing Plans in effect December 31, 1939, with Total Volume (Actual or Estimated) of Fluid Milk produced for Consumption in the Areas and handled under these Plans during the year 1939.

<u>Marketing Area</u>	<u>Volume of Fluid Milk, in milk-fat pounds</u> <u>-X-</u>
Alameda County	6,413,990
San Francisco	7,377,595
Sonoma County	429,505
Ukiah Valley	43,050
Sacramento	1,852,440
San Joaquin County	892,540
Monterey-Watsonville	583,865
Total Marketing Area in Northern California ....	17,592,985
Orange County	1,208,770
San Bernardino-Riverside	1,845,330
Imperial County	327,655
Santa Barbara	464,960
Total Marketing Area in Southern California ....	3,846,715
Total Marketing Area in State of California ....	21,439,700

Note: -X- As reported by processing distributors.

(Other tables published in the Report but omitted herein revealed that:-

Nine Marketing Areas had been established, but without stabilization or marketing plans.

One Application for establishment of a marketing area had not finalised.

In six of the Marketing Plans mentioned above, minimum wholesale and retail prices of fluid milk had been established.)



Programs under General Marketing Laws.

1. The California Marketing Act of 1937.

The California Marketing Act of 1937 was enacted by Chapter 404, Statutes of 1937, approved June 15, 1937, and was amended by Chapter 665, Statutes of 1939, approved June 27, 1939.

Under the amended Act, marketing programs for six different agricultural products were operated during 1939. Five of such programs were either continuations of programs previously in effect or were amended and modified versions of previous programs, while the sixth, that for fresh Beurre Hardy pears, represented an industry not previously covered by a State marketing program.

In the Table below, there are set forth certain basic details relative to area of application, effective date, and a brief outline of the general nature of each of the six programs which were in effect during 1939 under this Act.

The California Marketing Act of 1937. 6

Industry	Area of application	Date marketing order effective.	Remarks
Fresh Bartlett Pears	State-wide	Aug. 9, 1939	Provides for minimum grades and sizes for intrastate shipments.
Fresh Beurre Hardy Pears	State-wide	Aug. 17, 1939	Provides for minimum grades and sizes for intrastate shipments, and for a nation-wide advertising and sales promotion program.
Canning Cling Peaches	State-wide	Aug. 7, 1939	Provides for grading and inspection, limiting canning to No. 1 Cling peaches.
Dates	State-wide	Oct. 3, 1938 (Amended) Oct. 9, 1939	Establishes standards for dates, prohibits sales of substandard dates as whole dates, and establishes substandard date pool.

/Asparagus .....



Industry	Area of application	Date marketing order effective.	Remarks
Canning Asparagus	State-wide	Apr. 27, 1939	Establishes minimum grading requirements for both white and green asparagus, as well as for strained foods grade, and provides for inspection of all asparagus delivered to canners.
Wine	State-wide	Oct. 24, 1938	Provides for a nationwide advertising and sales promotion program.

✓ This Act superseded The California Marketing Agreement Act of 1935.

## 2. The California Agricultural Products Marketing Act of 1937.

This Act succeeded The California Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1935. The two marketing orders operative under this Act in 1939, namely, those on walnuts and oranges and grapefruit, continued in effect comparable control programs which had been instituted under The California Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1935.

The Table below presents a brief synopsis of certain basic details of each of these two programs.

### The California Agricultural Products Marketing Act \*

Industry	Area of application	Date marketing order effective	Remarks
Walnuts "	State-wide	Sept. 30, 1937	Provides for fixing of seasonal salable and surplus percentages, minimum pack specifications, and credit values.
Oranges and Grapefruit "	State-wide	License effective Jan. 14, 1936	Provides for fixing of weekly quotas of oranges and grapefruit which may be shipped in intrastate commerce by all applicant shippers.



Note: \* The California Agricultural Products Marketing Act virtually supplants the California Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1935. Programs in effect under the California Agricultural Adjustment Act may be continued in effect under the new act if the Director of Agriculture finds they are within the legislative standards of the new act.

" These two orders continue in effect those already existing under the California Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1935.

### 3. The Processed Foodstuff Marketing Act.

This Act was approved June 29, 1937, and as originally drawn was to terminate on September 30, 1939. However, an amendment by the 1939 Legislature removed the termination date, and the Act, as amended, is now on a permanent basis. Only one program has been made effective under this Act, being a Marketing Order for macaroni products, which Order was made effective on January 18, 1938, and continued in effect until September 30, 1939, when it terminated pursuant to its provisions. This Order established minimum quality standards for macaroni products, required the filing of current selling prices by all manufacturers, and prohibited certain specified unfair trade practices, including sales below cost.

### 4. The Agricultural Prorate Act.

The original Act was approved June 5, 1933, and was substantially amended in 1935, 1938 and 1939. Prior to September 19, 1939, this Act was administered by the Agricultural Prorate Commission, a separate State agency not connected with the State Department of Agriculture.

Between January of 1934, when the first proration program was made effective, and September, 1939, a total of 23 proration programs had been instituted under the provisions of this Act.

As of September 19, 1939, the responsibility for the administration of the amended Act was transferred to the Director of Agriculture and to the newly-created Agricultural Prorate Advisory Commission, successor to the former Agricultural Prorate Commission, which had functioned as an independent agency but was abolished by the 1939 amendments to the Act.

The Act provides for the issuance of proration marketing programs regulating marketing by producers in such matters as volume marketed, grading and inspection, surplus pools, and the institution of plans for advertising and trade promotion. Primary and secondary certificates are issued to producers, with the  
/latter ....



latter constituting the authority to producers to market the specific quantities authorised by the Proration Program Committee.

At the time this amended Act came under the jurisdiction of the Department, there were eight proration programs actually operating in 1939, covering dry-pack lettuce, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, market tomatoes, dried figs, prunes, canning Bartlett pears, and canning asparagus. Only the prune and pear proration programs were state-wide in their application, with the remaining six operative 1939 programs covering only certain specified counties, ranging from one county in the case of Irish potatoes to eighteen counties in the dried fig proration program.

In addition to the eight proration programs mentioned there were nine other proration programs which for the one reason or another were not in active operation in 1939. In this inactive group were proration programs for lemons, olives, Southern California Concord grapes, wine grapes, raisins, Southern California sweet potatoes, central coast artichokes, Central California Irish potatoes, and Central California celery. Certain of these inactive proration programs were involved in litigation which prevented their operating, particularly those on lemons and olives. The wine grape and raisin proration programs, while operative in 1938, were involved in both legal and operational complexities during the spring and summer of 1939 and the former Agricultural Prorate Commission deemed it unwise to approve a specific program for either of these crops for 1939. Several others of the inactive proration programs had never been organized to enable their operating, while the celery program had been suspended by the Commission in 1937 due to the fact that the seven counties included in the Zone did not represent enough of the State Celery crop to make the program fully effective.

To complete this brief summation of the total of 23 proration programs which have been instituted under this Act, some reference should be made to the six programs which have been formally terminated to date. One canning Kadota fig program was terminated by court action in August of 1938 and its successor program was automatically terminated by a 1939 amendment to the Act. Two programs were terminated by producer petitions, namely, Imperial County lettuce in August of 1935, and Sonoma and Napa Counties Gravenstein apples in May of 1938. A Southern California milk proration program was terminated by an amendment to the Act in 1935, and in May of 1939 the Agricultural Prorate Commission terminated a Central California market tomato proration program.

A number of the proration programs included in the active (8 programs) and inactive (9 programs) groups are now being given careful study, with particular attention to their limited areas of application and certain basic procedural details. It appears that some of these programs will need reorganization and substantial revision before they can be approved for operation upon the 1940 crops.



5. Organization and Development of New Programs under General Marketing Laws.

In addition to the activities required in the administration of the general marketing programs noted briefly above, the Bureau of Markets has been particularly active during 1939 in assisting various industry groups in developing new programs.

Included in the list of agricultural commodities upon which some progress was made during 1939 in developing proposed new marketing programs were Tokay grapes, sweet wine grapes, canning tomatoes, honey, raisins, oranges, apricots, Gravenstein apples, and Watsonville apples.

Further, some preliminary steps were taken toward developing a broad and roll program for the wholesale bakers in five Southern California counties, under the provisions of the amended Processed Foodstuff Marketing Act, with particular attention to certain unfair trade practices.

The year 1939 has been the most active in the history of the Bureau and already 1940 bids fair to be an even busier year in the field of agricultural marketing programs. "

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LIVESTOCK MARKETS AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

SUPPLIES OF SHEEP INCREASE BUT YARDINGS OF CATTLE  
AND PIGS SHOW REDUCTION.

Larger supplies penned.

There was a marked increase in the numbers of sheep and lambs reaching the Homebush Saleyards during February, a total of 269,018 head being received as against 189,685 head in January and 240,100 in December.

Good quality sheep well in evidence.

Evidence of the splendid recovery made in many country centres following the recent beneficial rains was apparent in the all round improvement in the quality of the sheep marketed. There was a substantial number of attractive heavy wethers and ewes included in the yardings, but prime light descriptions were by no means plentiful. Light sheep comprised chiefly medium to good trade quality lines. Seasonal conditions point to continued large supplies of the heavy class of mutton and considerably smaller numbers of light sheep.

/ Lower....



Lower prices for grown sheep.

Although there was little change in the market for grown sheep during the early part of the month, subsequent heavier yardings were responsible for a decline in rates, realisations being considerably below the average of the previous month. Best light wether mutton cost as much as 5d per lb. early in January, but the highest level reached in February was  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. Allowing for variations, values for good sheep at the close of the month's operations were from 1/6d to 2/6d below those obtaining at the opening sales with medium to plainer grades showing a still further decline. Up to about mid-February, light wethers were worth from  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $3\frac{3}{4}$ d and heavy  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $3\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb., but by the end of the month, operators obtained their supplies at  $2\frac{1}{4}$ d to  $2\frac{3}{4}$ d and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d to 3d per lb. for heavy and light wethers, respectively. Although values for ewes also declined, the actual fall was not quite so much as on wethers owing to lighter supplies being available.

The following actual sales of representative lines of sheep, taken throughout the period, are given to illustrate price movements:

At the opening sales a line of good trade wethers weighing approximately 44 lb. sold at 16/- each, or  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb., while a draft of heavier sheep, dressing approximately 54 lb. cost  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb., or 16/6d per head. Nice quality ewes dressing 40 lb. of mutton made 13/10d each, equivalent to  $3\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. About mid-February good trade wethers made  $3\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb.; weighing 44 lb. they sold at 15/10d each and 45 lb. of good quality ewe was secured for  $2\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. By the end of the period a consignment of 40 lb. wethers was disposed of at 13/10d per head, or 3d per lb., and a pen of 50 lb. sheep sold at 15/9d each, equivalent to  $2\frac{5}{8}$ d per lb.

Some of the best sheep made to 21/-, while quite a few realised £1 per head. For the most part, however, sales were made at from 12/- to 18/- per head. On a number of occasions 17/- per head was obtained for ewes, but generally from 10/- to 14/- was a fair average sale. Medium to plain sheep realised from 4/- to 10/- per head, according to quality.

Lambs in plentiful supply - Decline in values.

The supplies of lambs were considerably heavier in February, 129,941 head being received. Although medium to plain lambs were forward in fairly large numbers, there was also a moderate representation of good lambs which were mostly too heavy for trade requirements. Prime light lambs were rather scarce.

Restricted demand for heavy lambs.

Owing to the export restrictions on the heavier class of lamb, values showed a considerable decline, but good light lambs were not affected to such an extent. Generally, average

/ realisations.....



realisations for February were considerably below those of the previous month. The market did not show much appreciable change until about mid-February; but subsequently prices for good light lambs declined by from 1/- to 1/6d per head. Heavy lambs showed a considerable decline varying from 3/- to 5/- per head according to weight and quality.

Early in the month a pen of nice trade suckers weighing approximately 32 lb. sold at 21/7d each, or 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb., while on the same day good quality lambs dressing 36 lb. made 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. On the following sale day, good heavy lambs realised 22/- per head; weighing approximately 44 lb. they were worth 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. Later in the period a consignment of good trade lambs weighing approximately 36 lb. brought 20/- each, or 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. and light suckers selling at 17/10d each and weighing approximately 28 lb. made the equivalent of 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb.

During January as much as 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. was paid for lambs, but the highest realisation in February was 7d. Rates for heavy lambs receded to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, compared with as high as 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. in January. Average realisations, however, in February were from 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d to 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d for light lambs and from 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d for heavy descriptions.

As much as 23/- was obtained for good quality lambs, but from 17/- to 21/6d each was about the most usual prices for the best lots offered.

The skin market was remarkably steady throughout and did not adversely affect the return to the producer.

#### Affects of drought still apparent.

The number of cattle penned during February, 1941, showed a further reduction, the total being 10,399 head, of which 1,051 were auctioned in the store section. Consignments during the corresponding periods of 1939 and 1940 were 25,300 and 19,605, respectively. Quality generally was only fair. As far as truckings to Homebush are concerned there is as yet very little indication that the condition of large stock in New South Wales is returning to normal. However, cattle take a much longer period than sheep to put on condition following prolonged drought.

Only a comparatively small section of the State received good rains during February, but owing to mild conditions and splendid January falls the pastoral position is very satisfactory. Following appreciable down pours during early March, the pastoral outlook is most promising.

#### Supplies of bullocks continue light.

Consignments of bullocks were again variable, but, on the whole, they were very light. The number of quality heavy  
/ bullocks .....



bullocks penned was negligible, whilst medium weights were also few in number. Quality ranged chiefly from fair to good trade, prime beasts being noted in odd drafts only. Price fluctuations during February were relatively small. Values were well below the January averages, but they showed an improvement on the closing rates for that month. The highest prices were obtained during the third week of February, when good to prime medium weight bullocks were worth 44/- to 47/- per 100 lb. and light-weights 44/- to 48/-. Closing quotations for similar cattle were 42/- to 44/- and 43/- to 47/- per 100 lb., respectively.

Steers well supplied.

Steers were generally in fairly good supply; quality was variable and the percentage of prime animals small. On some occasions several drafts of fairly heavy steers of satisfactory quality were noticed. One such was a pen of prime Shorthorns from Bombala, estimated to weigh 670 lb., which sold at £16.9.0 per head, equivalent to 48/6d per 100 lb. Prices during the greater part of the month were very satisfactory and during the third week values ranged from 48/- to 56/- per 100 lb. covering all weights of good to prime quality. Prices subsequently declined sharply, especially those of prime light, quotations on the closing sale day being 46/- to 51/- per 100 lb.

Variable offerings of cows.

As far as numbers were concerned consignments of cows were variable, although at times supplies were comparatively heavy. Quality was chiefly medium, although several drafts and individual beasts of good trade standard were usually to be seen on each sale day. Lightweights greatly predominated, heavy beasts being noticed in odd lots only. Closing rates of the previous month were fairly well maintained and a temporary decline later was followed by a recovery in values when heavy cows were quoted at 40/- to 43/- and light 43/- to 45/- per 100 lb. Towards the close of the period, prices again declined and on the final sale day quotations were:- heavy 35/- to 39/-, light 39/- to 42/- per 100 lb.

Light heifers in moderate supply.

Moderate supplies of heifers were available on most sale days, although on some occasions consignments were limited. Heavy sorts were very scarce and the pennings, for the most part, comprised lightweights of fair to good trade quality. Prime sorts were noticed in odd lots only. Opening quotations were 45/- to 53/- per 100 lb. for good to prime beasts. A little later in the period values declined sharply. Subsequently prices showed a fair recovery only to fall again on the final sale day when quotations were 43/- to 47/- per 100 lb.

/ Satisfactory....



Satisfactory demand for vealers.

Consignments of vealers fluctuated both as to numbers and quality. For the most part, however, they were in moderate supply and comprised chiefly medium weights of fair to good trade quality. A good demand was in evidence and values were maintained at a fairly high level, average quotations being 58/- to 62/6d covering good to prime quality. The highest level reached was 65/- per 100 lb.

Lower values rule.

Although some of the yardings were very light, cattle values did not reach peak January levels when supplies of both live beasts and chilled beef reaching the Sydney market were restricted. Rates were maintained, however, on a fairly high basis and, although some degree of weakening was noticed, it would appear that supplies must show a substantial increase before prices return to a more normal level.

Smaller consignments received.

Numbers of pigs submitted at auction during February, 1941, showed a further small reduction, supplies aggregating 6,020 head, of which largely increased consignments (3,013 head) were received by rail. During the corresponding period of 1940 a total of 4,869 was auctioned. Slightly increased numbers of pigs were sold by private treaty in the Metropolitan Area during the period.

Prices of porkers lower:

Store pigs in demand.

Except on one sale day, porkers were well supplied and generally all weights were represented. Quality was very fair with good trade porkers predominating, although, on occasions, a substantial proportion of the pennings was only of medium quality or consisted of pigs in store condition. The percentage of really prime pigs was small. Values during the month showed only small variations, but rates were considerably lower than those of January. Prime light porkers dressing 60 lb. ranged in value from 37/6d to 39/6d, whilst those dressing 90 lb. and of similar quality were worth from 53/6d to 54/6d. Owing to the active competition of store buyers, prices of store pigs were, on occasions, higher than those for prime well-finished porkers of similar weight.

Values of heavy baconers show  
marked fluctuations.

Baconers, which were fairly well supplied throughout the period, comprised chiefly light and medium weights of good trade quality. A fair percentage of medium quality descriptions,

/ however.....



however, was usually available. Competition during the first fortnight was very dull and values declined substantially, especially heavy weights; baconers of prime quality dressing 150 lb. were quoted at 72/6d or 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d per lb. Lightweights ranged in value from 58/6d per head. Prices subsequently showed a marked recovery, heavy selling to 83/6d (6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d per lb.) and light from 63/6 (7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d per lb.).

Backfatter values decline.

Average pennings of backfatters were offered, but very few heavy pigs were noticed. Quality generally was only fair, prime descriptions being scarce. Values generally were lower than those ruling in January, although they were fairly steady at 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d to 4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d for good to prime animals dressing 200/350 lb. and 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d to 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d per lb. for heavier descriptions. On the second sale day in February prices were <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d per lb. lower than the rates quoted.

Values generally lower.

Values of all lines showed a decline on January levels and they were also below the realisations of the corresponding period of 1940. Prices of porkers especially were unsatisfactory from the viewpoint of the producer and there appears little chance of any marked recovery, whilst the present volume of consignments is maintained. Whilst average returns for baconers were fairly low, satisfactory prices were obtained during the second half of the month.

G.C. & J.W.

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SALES OF FARM PRODUCE IN

SUSSEX STREET

and at the

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD.

Larger supplies of onions cause prices to ease.

Victorian growers forwarded 307 tons and about 1,000 bags of onions to Sussex Street during the month. These included White and Brown and Pickling lines. Values were firm at the beginning of the period when White were quoted at £18, and Brown at £16 per ton. With the arrival of large supplies, the market eased and quotations at the end of the month were £10 to £12 for Brown and White and £7 to £10 per ton for Picklers. About 1,000 bags of New Zealand Globes, which arrived during the first week of February cleared at £11 to £12 per ton.

Receivals at Alexandria from Victoria totalled 4,632 bags of Brown Globes and Picklers. Prices eased after the first

/ week .....



week, the range throughout being £8 to £17 for Table and £10 per ton for picklers.

About 920 bags were consigned by South Australian growers. Demand for these was keen at £18 to £20 for White and £18 per ton for Pickling lines.

Arrivals from local centres amounted to 162 bags of White. Clearances were effected at £16.

Slow demand for pumpkins - values show gradual decline.

Total supplies of pumpkins available during February were lighter than those of January. Although 30 trucks came to hand from local growers and 17 from Queensland were yarded, only 120 bags were received in Sussex Street compared with consignments in January amounting to 44 trucks at Alexandria and over 2,000 bags in Sussex Street. Demand, however, was slow and the market showed a gradual decline from £5 to £6 early to £2 and £3 at the close of the period.

Only small quantities of other root vegetables arrived on the Sydney market during the month. These comprised 532 bags of swedes and 94 bags of carrots forwarded by Tasmanian growers to Sussex Street. There was little change in the market, swedes clearing at £5 to £6 and carrots at £10 per ton.

Smaller supplies of chaff.

Receivals of Oaten and Wheaten Chaff at the Alexandria Railway Goods Yard totalled 145 and 36 trucks, respectively. Although these quantities constituted a smaller offering than the previous month, the market was inclined to ease and rates generally were slightly lower. Choice Oaten Chaff was only lightly supplied and realised £7.10.0 and £7.15.0 with odd to £8 per ton. Medium grade sold at £4.10.0 to £6 and good at £6.5.0 to £7.5.0.

Stocks submitted at auction were of medium quality only and brought from £4.10.0 to £6.1.8 per ton.

There was little demand for wheaten chaff and all but choice lots were difficult to clear. Rates realised at auction ranged from £4.1.8 to £4.10.0; from £4 to £5 was obtained for medium by private treaty, with choice to £5.15.0 per ton.

Lucerne Chaff of variable quality.

New South Wales growers consigned 74 trucks of lucerne chaff to Alexandria. Quality varied and prices ranged accordingly. Choice lots realised to £6.10.0 but the bulk of sales were effected at £4.5.0 to £5.10.0, with medium quality as low as £3.10.0 per ton. £3.15.0 to £5.10.0 per ton was obtained at auction.

/ Arrivals.....



Arrivals of lucerne hay at Alexandria consisted of 24 trucks from the Maitland district and 83 from other country centres in New South Wales.

The Maitland offering included some choice lines which sold well, but other qualities were not in demand. Disposals took place at £3 to £4.10.0 per ton. Stocks from other districts sold according to quality, auction sales being effected at £3 to £4.11.8 and private sales at £3.5.0 to £5.10.0 per ton.

At Sussex Street 118 bales were received from Hunter River districts. Quality was fairly good and £4 to £4.10.0 was realised.

Oaten hay forwarded totalled 53 trucks, but few of these were available for sale, the bulk being consigned direct to private firms. Prices realised privately were - Derrick Pressed £4.5.0, Other to £8.15.0 per ton.

Only choice straw in demand.

Stocks of straw available at Alexandria amounted to 87 trucks from local centres and 15 from Victoria. The local supply was of very mixed quality, and only choice lines were in request. Rates at auction ranged from £2.15.0 to £3 and privately from £2.10.0 for inferior to £4.0.0 and £4.10.0 for good and £5.10.0 for extra choice.

The Victorian produce was practically all choice and sold steadily at £5.10.0.

Smaller supplies of wheat and prices improve.

Only 40 trucks of wheat were in position at Alexandria. The bulk of most sales were by auction, and inquiry was a little better at slightly higher rates, 3/6d to 4/3d per bushel being obtained. Odd choice lines sold privately at 4/6d per bushel.

Maize in steady demand.

Heavier supplies of maize were available. About 1,750 bags were offered, 80 of which were received from Queensland. Demand generally was good, although values were easier. Sales were effected privately at 6/- to 6/3d per bushel, whilst 5/5d to 6/6d was realised at auction. North Coast growers consigned about 150 bags of yellow maize to Sussex Street. Inquiry was steady at 6/- to 6/6d per bushel.

The bulk of the 39 trucks of oats in position at Alexandria was only of medium quality and values were much lower. Nearly all sales were by auction at 2/3d to 3/- for poor quality lines and to 3/9d for prime lots.

/ Marked.....



Marked fall in prices of potatoes.

The total quantity of Interstate potatoes received on the Sydney market during February totalled 78,042 bags, including 5,500 bags from Western Australia and 364 from Victoria; the balance of 72,178 arrived from Tasmania. During the period values fell sharply and at the end of the second week all prices were down £8 on those of the previous month.

Receivals in Sussex Street comprised 72,178 bags from Tasmania and 5,500 from Western Australia. Arrivals during early February were particularly heavy, 25,520 bags coming to hand from Tasmania and 5,500 from Western Australia. These consignments, combined with a large carryover of 5,076 bags, resulted in substantial reductions in price to facilitate clearances. Auction sales were held on the Sussex Street wharves during the second week in an attempt to clear supplies and values received at these were - Brownells £5.6.8 to £8.5.0, Bismarcks £5 to £7.5.0, Up-to-dates £5.16.8 per ton.

Agents then fixed prices as follow:- Brownells £7.10.0, Bismarcks £7, Whiteskins £6.10.0. Sales were steady at these rates.

The arrivals in the following week were lighter and all varieties advanced by 30/-, Brownells to £9.0.0, Bismarcks to £8.10.0 and Snowflakes to £7.10.0. Inquiry, however, was inclined to ease. Consignments during the last week of the month were again light and rates were increased to:- Brownells £10, Bismarcks £9.10.0, Whiteskins £8.10.0. Demand was very firm and all choice lots were quickly disposed of.

Locally grown supplies forwarded to Alexandria amounted to 5,305 bags, the bulk of which (over 3,500 bags) came from Dorrigo. Arrivals decreased towards the end of February, only 862 bags being available in the last two weeks of the month. Practically all sales were by auction, but demand was slow throughout, due partly to the choice Tasmanian stocks available in Sussex Street. The range of values were:- New grade £4.10.0 to £12.10.0, No. 2 grade £2.10.0 to £8.15.0, No. 3 grade £3.13.4 to £6.10.0 per ton, Chats 2/- to 7/6d, Stock 1/- to 4/3d per bag.

C.S.

---ooOoo---

According to a report appearing in "Ice and Refrigeration" of November 1940, a fruit-grower of Lockport, New York, U.S.A., has hermetically-sealed two thousand bushels of choice McIntosh apples in a steel-lined room in his home-made cold storage plant. This method of storage is based on the principle that carbon dioxide is given off by the fruit and acts as a preservative. In addition the oxygen content of the air-tight room is reduced and the temperature kept at 40° F. A high degree of humidity also is maintained in order to avoid shrinkage. It is reported that apples kept in this fashion not only keep better than in ordinary storage, but leave storage possessing all the qualities of the fresh product. The fruit in question will be stored until the Summer.



SYDNEY MUNICIPAL MARKETS

ACTIVE TRADING IN FRUIT: MOST KINDS OF  
VEGETABLES SELL SATISFACTORILY.

A satisfactory volume of business was transacted, demand being brisk for pears and well colored dessert apples throughout the month.

Supplies of peaches fall off.

Consignments of peaches gradually diminished, and at the close of February the bulk of available supplies was of Victorian origin and comprised mainly Yellow Clingstones. Some local Hales sold well and realised to 9/- per half-case.

Fairly large quantities of nectarines were available early in February, but a large proportion of the fruit showed breakdown; any choice lots, however, found ready sale at remunerative prices.

Apart from large sizes of choice quality, plums were only in moderate request. Supplies late in the month comprised principally Grand Dukes and Presidents from the Orange district.

Grapes plentiful, but choice lines clear well.

Generally the market was well supplied with grapes. The principal source of supply of muscats was vineyards within the County of Cumberland. Choice packs sold well at all times, but medium to lower quality lines were slow to clear. Consignments from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area comprised White Muscats and Waltham Cross, but demand for these lines was quiet and values weak. A few Cornichons appeared late in the month and heavy supplies were expected to follow during March. Regular supplies, comprising principally Gros Coleman and Muscat, arrived from Queensland; the former sold well as the fruit was of large size and mostly of good quality.

Coastal Valencia lack keeping quality.

Sales of coastal Valencia oranges were somewhat unsatisfactory owing to the poor keeping quality of a large proportion of the fruit. The effect was to depress values, especially if disposals were at all delayed.

There was a good inquiry for Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area lots and the market improved.

Queensland lemons realise high prices.

Choice locally grown colored lemons were in steady request,  
/ but.....



but, apart from this class, clearances were slow. The first Queensland consignments of the season realised fairly high prices, up to 20/- per case, and, in a few instances, a higher rate was obtained. Later, values were easier at from 14/- to 18/-.

Bananas plentiful early in period.

Early in February supplies of large-sized bananas were heavy, the percentage of "sixes" and "sevens" being relatively small. To add to the difficulties of disposal, some very hot weather was experienced which resulted in large quantities reaching maturity very quickly. This adversely affected values; low prices were accepted for most lines, while ripe lots were cleared at concession rates. The position improved towards the close of the month and the market was inclined to firm.

Large consignments of pineapples arrived from Queensland. The quality of some packs was inferior and this class of fruit sold at as low as 3/- per case. Choice lines were disposed of at from 8/- to 10/- per case, although some selected brands realised higher prices.

Prices of pears improve.

Large quantities of Williams pears arrived from Victoria to supplement consignments from within New South Wales. Demand was keen for green lines and prices advanced towards the close of the month.

Larger supplies of apples on offer.

A wider range of varieties of apples was on offer, including Delicious from Queensland and Worcester Pearmain from Tasmania. There was good demand for colored dessert lines, particularly Jonathans and Delicious, while Fanny and McIntosh Red sold steadily. The Tasmanian Worcester Pearmain was not favoured by buyers and values of this variety dropped to low levels. There were fairly large quantities of Granny Smiths available, and large sizes cleared reasonably well, but inquiry for the smaller fruit was limited.

Plentiful supplies of peas -  
Cannery buyers active.

During the month, the market was heavily supplied with peas; at one period the daily aggregate exceeded 3,000 bags and, in a few instances, over 4,000 bags were available. A dry, hot spell affected demand, and during this period, normal clearances could not be effected with the result that larger quantities than usual were disposed of to canneries. The general quality was only medium; this factor largely influenced sales as well as prices which were mainly 2/- to 4/- per bushel. Choice descriptions,

/ however.....



however, realised higher rates and as much as 7/- was paid at times.

Consignments of beans diminish as result of dry spell.

Consignments of beans exceeded trade requirements early in February; values slumped badly and it was difficult to clear any but choice lines. Stocks continued heavy until about the second week of the month, when the effects of dry conditions resulted in a rapid decline in the quantity and also in the quality of lots coming forward. A general firming of values followed and any choice descriptions met ready sale at considerably increased rates. The market closed very firm as dry weather persisted and any immediate increase in supplies, particularly from within the County of Cumberland, appears unlikely.

Tomatoes well supplied, but prices satisfactory.

The market was well stocked with local, Queensland and Victorian supplies. Owing to heavy rains in the growing areas, the quality of many Queensland packs was below standard and, on some occasions, prices fell to low levels. Some of the Victorian consignments were damaged by heat in transit and these lots had to be cleared cheaply. The bulk, however, opened up more satisfactorily, particularly those from the Portland and Dimboola districts. Forwardings from many local sources were moderately heavy. With fairly high temperatures prevailing throughout the greater part of the month, inquiry was fairly brisk and returns, apart from rain and heat damaged lots, could be said to be satisfactory.

Demand for cabbages restricted.

Despite the somewhat small quantities of cabbages available daily, request was of a restricted nature, largely owing to the plentiful supplies of peas obtainable at low rates. Hot weather was another limiting factor in the sale of this vegetable. Nevertheless, values were maintained at reasonable levels.

Generally speaking, a good demand ruled for bunched vegetables and rates showed little fluctuations.

R.M.

-----oooOooo-----

It is reported in an American Journal that a company operating in pure fruit juices has installed a plant at Los Angeles, California, for the purpose of quick freezing various kinds of fruit juices and other foods in enamel-lined cans. In connection with orange juice the company claims that a patent process has enabled the production of a stabilised condition in the juice by the use of a tasteless inert gas such that, when opened, it does not begin to absorb air for some time, with the result that its initial freshness and flavour are retained much longer than in the case of juice squeezed in the home.



WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES  
IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING FEBRUARY, 1941,  
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>February, 1941.</u>		<u>31st August, 1939.</u>	
	From	To	From	To
Wheat - Home Consumption:				
Bulk - per bushel	3/11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d	) unchanged	2/4d	
Bagged " "	4/0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d		2/5d	
Flour - per ton	£10. 4. 2		£6.12.3	
	(plus £2.8.10 tax)		(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	1/6d	unchanged	1/-	
Butter:				
Choice per cwt.	161/2d	) Unchanged	161/2d	
First Quality " "	156/6d		156/6d	
Second " "	151/10d		151/10d	
Cheese:				
Loaf per lb.	11d	) unchanged	11d	
Large " "	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d		10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	
Special brands	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	1/2d	1/2d	
Pigs (Abattoir Sales):	<u>February, 1941</u>		<u>29th August, 1939.</u>	
Good to prime -	From	To	From	To
per head:				
Porkers - extra light	21/6d	35/6d	31/6d	40/6d
" - light	31/6d	39/6d	39/6d	44/6d
" - medium weight	35/6d	49/6d	43/6d	51/6d
" - heavy	46/6d	54/6d	50/6d	54/6d
Baconers	58/6d	83/6d	60/6d	75/6d
Backfatters	£3.3.0	£7.0 .0	£4.5.0	£3.10.0

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 - JANUARY, 1941.

FRUIT

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	Melons crates	TOTALS packages
Queensland	20,051	11,185	25,484 <sup>x</sup>	93,542	1,507 <sup>o</sup>	151,769
Victoria	6	310	58,670	35,209	-	94,195
Tasmania	-	-	1,509	-	-	1,509
Sth. Aust.	-	-	5,407	-	-	5,407
West. Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	20,057	11,495	91,070	128,751	1,507	252,880

x Also 24 bags fruit.

o Also 22 $\frac{1}{4}$  tons Melons.

VEGETABLES.

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins bags tons	Cuc. & Chillies cases	Other Vegetables packages.	TOTALS pkges tons	
Queensland	83	87	-	11,846 49	177	3,222	15,415	49
Victoria	26,134	15,798	-	- -	2	1,070	43,004	-
Tasmania	67,924	-	2,659	- -	-	16	70,599	-
Sth. Aust.	1,259	2,780	-	- -	-	2,591	6,630	-
West. Aust.	7,789	146	-	- -	-	-	7,935	-
TOTALS	103,189	18,811	2,659	11,846 49	179	6,899	143,583	49



## PEAS, BEANS, CABBAGES &amp; CAULIFLOWERS

## Main Channels of Distribution.

