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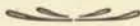
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NEW SOUTH WALES
DIVISION OF MARKETING
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



MONTHLY
MARKETING
REVIEW



APRIL, 1941.

Vol. 6, No. 8.

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.

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HIGHLIGHTS

Marketing and Distribution Conference - Sydney -
11th to 14th March, 1941.

Convened by New South Wales Government to consider the retail distribution of fruit, vegetables, meat and fish in the Metropolitan Area of Sydney and other urban areas of the State, held 11th to 14th March, 1941. Following are a few of the decisions of Conference:-

That the principle of encouraging the establishment of Retail Public Markets in the Metropolitan Area of Sydney, under either private or municipal management, be supported and that the Local Government Association be asked to consider and report to the Government on the question of the feasibility of the opening of such markets by individual Councils, County Councils or Councils working under joint agreement.

That the retailing of fruits and vegetables by Departmental stores, Chain grocery stores, and other types of chain stores (existent or projected) is or would be a useful development in consideration of the interests of both producers and consumers.

That public marketing facilities are insufficient in many urban areas of the State.

That Police and City Council Authorities be requested to administer the regulations governing roving or itinerant barrowmen, with the greatest possible degree of leniency subject to circumstances affecting the traffic problems of the City and subject to strict supervision generally.

That for the purpose of compiling records of receivals of fruits and vegetables, road transport carriers be required to lodge consignment notes at prescribed places for transmission to the State Marketing Bureau, thus bringing records of road transport consignments into being. Consignments by rail and boat are already recorded from rail consignment notes and shipping manifests.

HIGHLIGHTS

(Continued)

That all persons transporting fish whether by rail, road or sea, should be required to furnish information making it possible each morning to display a notice in the Sydney Fish Market containing particulars of all fish to be offered for sale therein that day.

That approximately 7 p.m. be the closing hour for fruit and vegetable shops on ordinary week-days and that no shop trading be permitted on Sundays except in "beach" areas and the King's Cross area of Sydney.

That the closing hour for sale of fish either raw or cooked, other than that served with meals, be Mondays to Thursdays 7 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 9 p.m., with special provision for sea-side resorts and any similar special cases.

That all fresh fish delivered for sale in the Metropolitan Area should be offered for sale in the City Fish Markets in the first instance, subject to such exemptions as may be approved by the Minister from time to time.

That all fish in the Sydney Municipal Fish Markets be sold by weight.

That the Fish Agents be asked to consider and, if practicable, subscribe to a co-operative system of cartage in an endeavour to eliminate the multiplicity of overhead costs now prevailing.

That Suburban Retail Markets similar to those in Melbourne be established at selected centres as an experiment to test this method of distributing fish to the public.

That the State Government appoint immediately a Committee of Inquiry representative of all parties interested to consider a scheme for Licensing Retail Butchers' Shops.

HIGHLIGHTS

(Continued)

That in view of the marked decline in the per capita consumption of beef and mutton during the present century an Educational and Advertising Campaign be undertaken to make known to the community the virtues of meat, the food value of the cheaper cuts and the best means of preparing them for the table.

That the marking of lamb as lamb for local consumption is desirable.

That Compulsory Registration of all premises used for the killing and dressing of Poultry for sale as a means of promoting greater confidence on the part of housewives and other buyers and a corresponding greater demand be provided for by legislation.

That Compulsory Classification and Grading would be in the interests of the Table Poultry trade, both wholesale and retail; the classification and grades to be those recommended by the Table Poultry Council of New South Wales as a starting point.

That live birds intended to be dressed for sale by retail should be systematically inspected by an officer qualified in poultry diseases.

That the State Government be requested to prohibit the issue of Coupons and Gift Tokens in all trading in essential food-stuffs.

(NOTE: THE FOREGOING ARE A SELECTION FROM THE SEVENTY-FIVE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS OPENED BY THE PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES (HON. ALEX. MAIR, M.L.A.) SUPPORTED BY THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (MAJOR THE HON. A.D. REID, M.C., M.L.A.)

PLANNING FOOD SUPPLIES IN WAR TIME AND FARMING
GENERALLY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Information, under date of 22nd October, 1940, to hand from the New South Wales Government Offices in London indicates that the British Government is planning its agricultural policy along lines which, it is thought, will best meet the exceptional war conditions. Price levels have been fixed for the purpose of securing an increase in some types of production and a decline in others. The Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, has stated that in some instances they may impose burdens; in other cases there may even be a call to sacrifice of personal interest. On the whole, however, the price structure is believed to reconcile just treatment for the producer with the wide requirements of the nation.

The plan aims at maintaining and increasing milk production, and contemplates bigger acreages of potatoes, wheat and beans. Dairy farmers should now be receiving 7d and 8d a gallon over 1938-39 prices. Producers of potatoes have been promised, in respect of their 1941 crop, prices 30 per cent. above those obtained in 1939. Prices of potatoes were low towards the close of last year but the Minister of Food has undertaken to take over any sound marketable surplus occurring during 1941. The standard price for wheat under the Wheat Acts will be continued for the 1941 crop at 14/6d per cwt. The standard price for oats will be 12/6d per cwt., whilst 13/6d will be the maximum price for oats and barley sold for feeding. If necessary the Government will take steps to safeguard barley growers against a slump in prices. Barley of the 1941 crop sold for malting purposes should continue to remain free from price restrictions.

With regard to livestock, it is hoped that, with the increased supplies of home grown grain and feeder crops now available, together with more economical feeding and the acceptance of a lower standard of finish, farmers will be able to plan production and marketing in accordance with national requirements. Sheep prices announced earlier in the year are to remain unaltered, but a new scale is to operate in respect of fat cattle. In fixing the latter prices, regard has been paid to the need for securing marketings at a rather lower average level than usual during the autumn and winter, thus reducing the normal autumn glut and the late spring and early ^{summer} trough. For this reason there will be a wider seasonal variation between prices in mid-autumn and in the late spring.

The basic price of pigs was raised last July to 21/- per score to enable producers to reduce their stocks to the extent required by the much shorter supplies of feeding-stuffs. From 1st October, 1940, the price for baconers was reduced to 19/6d per score, and the rates for porkers were fixed at 18/- and for sows at 15/- per score. Some time ago farmers were warned to reduce their pig production and the present policy appears to be that of deliberately suppressing pig breeding and feeding. Not only have the prices of barley and other feeding stuffs risen but severe rationing of supplies for pig feeding is to prevail. It is quite / possible....

possible that this policy has followed the statement made by Sir John Orr in his latest book, "Feeding the People in Wartime", that bacon has no particular food value which cannot be supplied more economically in other ways.

It may be of interest to repeat here Sir John Orr's contention that the most efficient way to feed the nation in war-time would be to produce an increased volume of the bulky protective foods at home on the 4,000,000 acres of grassland which could be brought under cultivation, thus giving a total supply sufficient to provide an average daily diet containing two-thirds of a pint of milk, 6 oz. of vegetables, 2 oz. of oatmeal and 16 oz. of potatoes. This, he said, would be nearly up to the standard needed for good health, and a better diet than the poorest one-third of the people had at present. Certain other foods would be necessary to supplement this basic diet. Meagre reports to hand appear to indicate that even if people of the United Kingdom are dissatisfied with their present diet, such diet is proving advantageous to their health and the anticipated widespread outbreak of epidemics during the winter months did not eventuate.

In fixing prices for the 1940-41 season the Government took cognisance of the substantial rise in agricultural wages which has taken place and the other increases in farming costs. In the event of any substantial changes in costs of production the prices announced will be subject to review. The Government is considering the possibility of stabilising prices of some raw feeding stuffs and fertilizers with a view to avoiding, as far as is practicable, frequent changes in price scales and enabling farmers to plan ahead with greater security. In this connection generally the Agricultural Correspondent of "The Times" said that one difficulty in arriving at a fair price for Agricultural produce is the lack of accurate and reliable costs of production from representative farms to form the basis of price fixing. The ordinary British farmer knows nothing of economists and detailed costs of production. As a producer of food, he may have been inefficient and uneconomical compared with some larger farmers in the same district, but in peace-time, Governments did not worry over much about food production. So long as the farming community was kept reasonably contented oversea trade was the major consideration. Some farmers have made satisfactory profits almost consistently in recent years, but the greater number was making a bare living only, and their level of production was not high. Today, when food production and not mere sustenance is the criterion, many of these farmers are ill-equipped to increase the output from their land. Guaranteed prices, which are obviously profitable, would be the best spur to greater effort and the most certain means of securing a bigger output all round from second class land as well as the best land.

In connection with the foregoing, the Secretary of the New South Wales Government Offices in London writes that there is at one and the same time an apology for inefficient farming methods and a plea for the maintenance of conditions which will breed further inept and unscientific husbandry. In a letter to "The Times",

/ George.....

George Bernard Shaw states that the English farming system is impossible and suggests the adoption of the Russian collective farming method. It is expected of the English farmer that he should be able, single-handed, not only to plough and hoe, to reap and sow, but to be an agricultural chemist, a veterinary biologist, an accountant dealing with complicated costings, a statistician, a man of business skilled in buying materials and selling products, an up-to-date reader of scientific publications and an expert in half-a-dozen other capacities utterly foreign to his antecedents. Mr. Shaw's contention is that he is in need of several partners who are expert in the scientific and commercial departments for which he has no time, being fully occupied working his farm. Several recognised leaders of modern agricultural methods give support to Mr. Shaw's thesis, which apparently is an indictment of present day farming methods in England. In closing, the Secretary states that it seems to be increasingly realised that it may be doubtful whether the agricultural economy of the United Kingdom can best be improved by concentrating, as has been done so far, on the price fixation element, and that what is necessary is a revolutionary approach to the subject paying attention to unsound root causes instead of mitigating their effects. Some correspondents to "The Times" allege that the depression in English agriculture has been caused to some extent by Government neglect over a long period of years, and to the operation of the death duties which result in a feeling of insecurity of tenure. Corporate bodies are recommended with ample working capital and continuity of management. It has also been suggested that the weaknesses in English agriculture might be overcome by the provision of advice and control through agronomes. During the last war and until 1921, County Agricultural Committees exercised control with great effect. By 1924 England was already drifting back to the old conditions of haphazard husbandry. It is pointed out that, although Government control again exists and the State has assumed the functions formerly exercised by enlightened landowners, production would be far greater to-day if a period of neglect had not intervened. Other correspondents point to the general insecurity engendered by fluctuating prices, an extract from one reading "we must, as part of our permanent national policy, give the British farmer a just claim on the home market at a standard scale of prices".

Referring again to the Secretary's communication, we note an interesting comment in connection with the fruit position. The fruit-growers, apparently, allege the existence of an anti-fruit bias in the various Government Departments and complain of harsh treatment in various ways, such as insufficient supplies of petrol policy of diverting fruit transport to the railways, low fixed prices and inconsidered Government pronouncements concerning the place of fruit in the national diet.

Space will not permit of comment on the British Agricultural policy, or on the general statements and suggestions in regard thereto as outlined in the foregoing. These have been mentioned as matters of interest and the question of their applicability to the Australian position has been left for the reader's consideration. It is hardly necessary to add, however, that we in Australia cannot afford to be disinterested in the agricultural policy of the principal customer of our primary products, either during or after the war.

MARKETING LEGISLATION -- PROVINCE OF
QUEBEC, CANADA.

Advice from the Department of Agriculture for the Province of Quebec, Canada, indicates that Marketing Legislation has been enacted in respect of Dairy Products, Sale of Leaf Tobacco and Sale of Agricultural Products generally. In connection with the latter, two Acts have been passed viz., an Act to Aid in the Sale of Agricultural Products and the Agricultural Products Act.

Act to Aid in the Sale of Agricultural Products.

The Act to Aid in the Sale of Agricultural Products was passed in April 1939 and provides that the Lieutenant Governor may, upon the recommendation of the Minister of Agriculture, take such measures as he may deem appropriate, within the limits of the constitutional rights of the Province, to promote the improvement of the growing, distribution and marketing of agricultural or natural products.

For the above purposes, action may be taken to collaborate and enter into agreement with any person, partnership, corporation, institution, government or governmental body and to secure the advantages of a marketing organisation for farm or natural products by every means deemed suitable. A provincial council may be formed under the direction of the Minister of Agriculture to organise the natural products' market. This council is charged to co-operate and generally collaborate with any similar body of the Federal authority in carrying out the purposes of the Act.

Expenditure incurred in carrying out the provisions of the Act is payable out of consolidated revenue.

Agricultural Products Act.

The Agricultural Products Act covers any produce of animal or vegetable origin, with the exception of aquatic animals or canned foods governed by the Canned Foods Act. The Act aims to regulate the sale of agricultural products and the regulations thereunder have as objects the indication to the consumer of the quality of the products delivered for consumption, as well as the prevention of fraudulent sale of these products.

For the aforementioned purposes, the Act provides that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may designate the agricultural products which shall come within its application and regulate the sale, the placing on sale, the exposing, holding and transportation for the sale of such products within the limits of the Province or within such area as he may indicate.

Regulations are to prescribe particulars of grading, also quality, shape, size and capacity of any container. In addition,

/ they.....

they will govern the inscriptions or marks indicating the nature, kind or variety, or the quality, quantity or grade, or the particular or regional names, or the source of such products, which the purchasers may exact on the invoices, labels, packages, or on the products themselves, as a warranty on the part of the vendors, and the external or apparent indications necessary to assure the honesty of the sale or putting up for sale. The Lieutenant-Governor may also adopt generally all measures to be taken to secure the carrying out or application of the Act and issue regulations regarding the formalities required to effect sample taking, seizure or confiscation and gather such informative data as he may deem useful or necessary.

The Minister of Agriculture who is charged with carrying out the Act, may appoint inspectors or other agents who have the right, in the accomplishment of their duties, to penetrate within the Premises in use for the trade of agricultural products; to stop and examine any shipment of agricultural products and to operate seizures and confiscations, in case of infraction. It is a breach of the Act to keep or convey in view of the sale, to place for sale or to sell products in violation of its provisions or of the provisions of the regulations made thereunder. It is also a violation of the Act to hinder the work of inspectors directly or indirectly, or to try to deceive the purchasers in any possible manner.

Monies required for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of the Act shall be paid out of the sums voted for horticulture, by the Legislature, each year, but they must not exceed annually the sum of fifteen thousand dollars.

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SALES OF SHEEP, CATTLE AND PIGS
AT
HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY

Further increase in sheep and lamb consignments.

Graziers throughout New South Wales marketed fairly substantial numbers of sheep and lambs during March, 1941, when the penning reached the very satisfactory aggregate of 320,948 or 51,930 head more than in the previous month. Included in the total were 159,634 head of grown sheep.

Medium trade sheep numerous.

Although there was a good showing of nice quality light to heavy trade wethers, the market was by no means oversupplied and operators could have absorbed even larger quantities had they been available. Increased numbers of ewes were yarded: some very attractive lines were noticed early in the month, but towards the close of the period many consignments of only medium quality were offered. The general standard of the wethers available towards the end of March also showed a falling off, as light to medium / weight.....

weight sheep of mostly fair to good trade quality formed a large proportion of the supplies.

Irregular market for sheep.

The market varied a good deal. Over the earlier part of the period, prices for most lines of good quality wethers rose by from 1/- to 2/- per head and ewes were from 1/- to 1/6d per head dearer, but medium quality lines met a somewhat restricted demand and values for these mostly were easier. Subsequently rates for ewes and the plainer grades of wethers fell and by the close were somewhat below those ruling earlier in the month. Good quality light to heavy wethers sold fairly consistently throughout but, in common with other grades, did not meet with such an active request towards the end of the month, when values eased.

Some actual sales are given below as indicative of price trends:

At the opening auctions, a line of good trade wethers, weighing approximately 45 lb., sold at 14/11d each or 3d per lb. and a consignment of heavy ewes, about 58 lb. in weight, realised 15/3d per head, equivalent to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. Subsequent to an advance in prices, a pen of 44 lb. wethers made 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb., being disposed of at 15/11d each, while a draft of ewes weighing approximately 48 lb., brought 15/8d per head, costing 3d per lb.; heavy wethers, dressing approximately 56 lb., also made 3d per lb. and were worth 18/10d per head. The lower rates ruling towards the end are illustrated by the following realisations:- A line of good heavy wethers of 52 lb. dressed weight was obtained for 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ d per lb., selling at 16/11d per head, and a draft of nice trade ewes, weighing approximately 42 lb., made 10/11d each or 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb., while good trade wethers weighing 42 lb. brought the equivalent of 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ d per lb., being worth 13/10d per head.

On occasions extra prime heavy crossbred wethers realised as much as 22/- per head and some lines of prime heavy merino wethers sold at 20/- each. Average realisations for the better class of wether, however, were from 14/- to 18/- each. About the highest price paid for ewes was 17/- per head, while quite a few made the satisfactory figure of 16/- each, but, for the most part, average values were from 10/- to 14/- per head. Medium to plain lines of sheep sold at relatively lower levels.

In early March, operators paid from 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. for best light wether mutton and from 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d to 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d for heavy. Light ewes were worth from 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ d to 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d and heavy 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ d per lb., equal to the best rates of the previous month. From 15th March onward demand was not so good and rates for mutton fell by from $\frac{1}{4}$ d to $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb., according to quality, the plainer classes being most affected. Closing values were from 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d to 3d per lb. for light wethers and 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d to 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ d for heavy, while heavy ewes cost from 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d and light from 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ d to 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ d per lb.

/ Heavier...

Heavier pennings of lambs.

Supplies of lambs were considerably heavier than those of the previous month, the aggregate for March being 161,314 or about 34,000 more than for February. The quality of the offering as a whole was not the best, as by far the greater proportion was only of medium quality. At times, however, there was a fair representation of nice quality heavy lambs, as well as some pens of good light trade sorts and drafts of good quality fresh suckers.

Closing rates for lambs lower.

Although during early March values for good quality lambs showed some improvement - mostly about 1/- per head - the consistent demand evident then was not maintained and closing rates were from 1/- to 2/- per head under the earlier realisations and considerably below the average for the previous month. Although in February some of the better class of lamb could not be secured under 6½d to 7d per lb., in March similar types of carcasses were obtained at from 5¾d to 6¼d per lb., while the average rates for quality lambs ranged from 5¾d to 6d for light and from 4d to 4½d per lb. for heavy. Some indication of the various phases of the month's operations, may be gathered from the following actual sales.

Early in March a line of good trade lambs, weighing approximately 31 lb. was disposed of at 18/9d each, costing 6d per lb. and heavier lambs, of approximately 46 lb. sold at 22/10d each, equivalent to 4¾d per lb. About mid-March a draft of good trade lambs dressing about 56 lb. brought 21/7d per head and made 5¾d per lb., while extra heavy lambs, weighing approximately 46 lb., realised 23/- each or 4¾d per lb. At the final sale, good light lambs were much cheaper, and a pen of nice quality, weighing approximately 33lb. was disposed of at 18/6d each or 5½d per lb. Some lines of prime heavy lambs sold to 23/- per head, and best light descriptions realised to 21/-. Mostly, however, heavy sorts made from 18/- to 21/- and light brought from 16/- to 19/- per head, according to weight, quality and skin value. Medium to plain lambs sold from about 7/- per head upwards, but, for the most part, these were only suitable for restocking purposes.

Although the lamb market did not show the irregularity evident in grown sheep, the restricted demand at the closing auctions was responsible for mainly lower prices, which may be expected to continue until such time as the export position is stabilised and normal overseas trade resumed.

Fat cattle continue scarce

The aggregate number of cattle offered at Homebush at the nine sales conducted during the month was 15,525 head, including 1,358 bulls and stores. This was a small increase on the previous month's supplies and there are indications that truckings will continue to be somewhat heavier though no substantial change should be apparent

for some weeks. Quality for the most part was very fair, but usually the proportion of plain and inferior grades was considerable and operators often found difficulty in procuring suitable beasts to meet their needs.

Fair numbers of light bullocks -
heavier sorts difficult to secure.

As was the case during February, the showing of bullocks was not particularly impressive. They comprised mainly lightweight descriptions of fair trade quality only, although occasionally some exceptionally good lots were available. As might be expected in the circumstances, competition for the latter type was very brisk and some high prices were paid. Values remained fairly constant for the greater part of the month, but declined considerably on the last two sale days.

Steers make very good showing.

Throughout the period the proportion of steers on offer was fairly large and at the majority of sales good to prime lots were well in evidence. On one particular sale day, the offering of steers was of outstanding quality and was the subject of favourable comment by all sections of the trade. Realisations on the day in question were as high as any recorded for the period. Among the best of the sales was a pen of prime Hereford steers of fresh appearance and carrying good hides. They were estimated to weigh 525 lb. and sold at £13.8.0 per head, equivalent to 51/- per 100 lb. on the hoof.

Towards the end of the month, a comparable line of steers of the same breed but not quite so good made £12.6.0 per head. They weighed 550 lb. and were worth approximately 45/- per 100 lb. It must be remembered, however, that the sales quoted represent a selection made from the really good steers offering; other grades, although selling at satisfactory rates, were relatively much cheaper.

Dairy breeds included in large numbers

Local dairy cows and heifers were always to be seen in substantial numbers and these detracted considerably from the otherwise satisfactory showing of beef breeds. There was no doubt, however, that these cattle filled a very definite need in view of the existing shortage in supplies. Values of good to prime descriptions were in keeping with the high rates paid for bullocks and steers. Prime light cows reached as high as 43/- per 100 lb., whilst from 38/- to 39/- was obtained towards the close of March. Medium and plain cows and heifers were probably more affected by the fall in the market at the end of the month than other classes, the decline in rates ranging from 30/- to 40/- per head.

Vealers in strong demand.

Except on one or two sale days, when there was a noticeable scarcity, vealers of good quality were fairly well represented. For the most part, supplies comprised light to medium weights of good appearance, reflecting improved pasture conditions in the main

/ producing...

producing centres of the State. The younger and lighter stock had a tendency to sell strongly throughout the period despite the weakness of the market for all other lines at the closing stages. There were irregularities in price which were difficult to understand but which must be considered a condition to be met from time to time in any fat stock market. Values on the hoof for good to prime ranged from 49/- to 51/- per 100 lb. with the majority of sales from about 49/- to 55/-. Plain and medium lots sold at relatively lower figures.

Decline in values towards end of March.

A review of the market generally discloses that for the greater part of the month values for practically all stock were high largely due to the light supplies. With increased numbers available towards the latter end of March a fairly pronounced decline became evident. Rates, however, still remain high and much will depend on pastoral conditions and availability of supplies as to future prices levels.

Increased supplies available.

Pigs offered at auction at the Homebush Abattoir Saleyards during March were approximately 2,000 in excess of the previous month; in all, 7,902 head were yarded. Of this total, 4,457 were received by rail compared with 3,015 from similar sources during February. In addition to auction sales quite a considerable number was sold by private treaty.

Light porkers scarce:
Most prices lower.

Porkers were well supplied. Medium and heavy weight descriptions comprised the bulk of the offerings, light grades being comparatively scarce. Quality varied, but generally fair to good porkers predominated. Many stores were included, but prime pigs were rather scarce. Little alteration in prices occurred during the first three weeks, but on the last sale day in March there was a substantial fall in values of medium and heavy porkers; the market for light descriptions, however, remained practically unchanged.

Baconers also cheaper.

The supply of baconers varied considerably; at times they were plentiful on other occasions this class of pig was scarce. Light and medium grades of fair to good trade quality comprised the bulk of the offerings. As with porkers, prices remained fairly firm until the last sale day in March, when a fall of up to 8/- per head was apparent.

Further fall in prices of backfatters.

The number of backfatters penned varied substantially, but in the aggregate, supplies for the month were well up to the average. Fair to good quality pigs of light and medium weight were mainly on / offer....

offer. On the last sale day, however, many good to prime pigs were yarded and heavy sorts were numerous. Prices showed a marked decline, values at the close of the month being approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ per lb. lower than at the beginning.

G.C., A.T. & H.M.

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ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD
and
SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Increased offerings of potatoes.

Stocks of Tasmanian potatoes forwarded to Sussex Street during March totalled approximately 95,000 bags, a substantial increase on receipts for recent months. The rates in effect at the beginning of the month, viz:- Brownells £9, Bismarcks £8.10.0, Arranchiefs £7.10.0 and Snowflakes £7, were reduced during the 2nd and 3rd trading periods to:- Brownells £8.10.0, Bismarcks £8, Whiteskins £6.10.0 per ton. With the arrival of large supplies on 24th March a further decrease in price took place and quotations became:- Brownells £6.10.0, Bismarcks £6, Whiteskins £5.10.0.

Arrivals at Alexandria Railway Goods Yard from New South Wales centres amounted to 11,883 bags, more than double the yarding of the previous month. Quality throughout was fairly good, although some lines were withheld on account of mechanical injury, etc. Sales were effected by auction and competition generally was keen. Inquiry was very satisfactory for seed or lines suitable for use as seed. Prices realised were:- No. 1 grade £5.5.0 to £9.5.0, No. 2 £3 to £8.1.8, No. 3 £2.10.0 to £7.5.0, Seed £4.5.0 to £8.3.4, per ton, No. 2 7/-, No. 3 5/-, Seed 6/- to 9/6d, Chats 1/- to 7/-, Stock food 2/- to 9/- per bag.

Rates for onions maintained.

About 715 tons of Victorian onions, comprising White and Brown Table and Pickling varieties, were consigned to Sussex Street during March. The bulk of the supplies was Brown Globes and demand for these was steady at £10 to £11.10.0 per ton. Other quotations were:- Table - White £12 to £16; Picklers, White and Brown £7 to £8. Large stocks of Brown Globes were forwarded to Alexandria Railway Goods Yard by Victorian growers. Approximately 6,000 bags were offered and, although clearances were rather slow at times, rates were maintained at £10 to £11.10.0 per ton.

Low prices for pumpkins.

Quality of the 30 trucks of local pumpkins was chiefly only medium and values showed little improvement, ranging from £2 to £4.10.0 per ton. Towards the end of the month clearances were not always effected, even at these prices. The 7 trucks of Queensland / pumpkins....

pumpkins met a similar market and brought from £2 to £4 per ton.

About 1,130 bags of swedes, 515 bags of carrots and 290 bags of parsnips from Tasmania were forwarded to Sussex Street. Demand for Swedes and carrots was firm, but parsnips were not cleared as readily. Price ranges were:- Swedes £5 to £6, Carrots £9 to £12, and Parsnips £12 per ton. Local producers consigned 191 bags of carrots, 1,205 of swedes and 10 of parsnips to Alexandria. Odd lines sold well, but rates generally were easier, realisations at auction being:- Swedes £2.10.0 to £10, Carrots £8.0.0 to £11, Parsnips £8.10.0 per ton.

Larger supplies of chaff available.

Heavier yardings of chaff were available at Alexandria Railway Goods Yard. Receipts of Oaten Chaff totalled 178 trucks. Considerable variation of quality was apparent and the chief inquiry was for choice lines, which realised to £8 per ton; other grades sold from £5. Disposals by auction ranged from £4.6.8 to £7.10.0 per ton.

Much larger supplies of wheaten chaff were on offer, 84 trucks being yarded. Demand was slow and rates were easier at £5.15.0 to £5.10.0 per ton by private treaty and from £3.8.4 to £4.15.0 at auction. New South Wales producers forwarded 94 trucks of lucerne chaff during the month. Under a generally steady request, the market was slightly firmer. Private disposals were effected at from £4 for medium quality to £6.10.0 for prime lines, while at auction from £4.5.0 to £6 per ton was obtained.

Stronger request for lucerne hay towards end of month.

Approximately 140 trucks of local lucerne hay, including 60 trucks from the Maitland district, were in position. During the earlier half of the month, trading was quiet, but towards the end of the period, a decided improvement was apparent and values rose 20/- to 30/- per ton. The Maitland offering cleared privately at from £2.10.0 per ton for medium to £6 for extra choice. Private treaty realisations for stocks from other centres were:- Medium £3.15.0 to £5, Good £5.10.0 to £6 and Choice to £7, with odd lots to £7.15.0 per ton; by auction disposals were effected at £3.15.0 for derrick pressed and from £4 to £4.15.0 for other. Approximately 280 bales of Hunter River lucerne hay were received in Sussex Street and met a firm inquiry at £3.10.0 to £5.10.0 per ton.

The bulk of the 53 trucks of oaten hay was consigned direct to private firms and prices for this were not disclosed. Of the balance, portion was sold privately at £3.0.0 per ton for derrick pressed and from £4.5.0 to £4.10.0 for other descriptions, while the remainder brought from £3.10.0 to £5.10.0 at auction.

Consignments of straw to Alexandria amounted to 46 trucks from New South Wales districts and 41 trucks from Victoria. The market for choice straw was firm at £5.10.0 per ton, with odd lines higher. Medium quality lots sold from £2.10.0 per ton for local / and.....

and £3 for Victorian. A truck of inferior local straw realised £2.3.4 per ton at auction.

Wheat slightly dearer, but maize and oats cheaper.

Practically all of the 34 trucks of wheat available at Alexandria were sold by auction. Values ranged according to quality, realisation being 3/6d to 4/4½d per bushel. One truck of weevil damaged wheat cleared at 3/-. Small choice lines sold privately at 4/6d to 4/7d per bushel.

Receivals of maize at Alexandria aggregated 3,626 bags from New South Wales centres. Disposals were effected by auction at from 3/4d per bushel for soft and 4/4d to 5/8½d for other. Private sales ranged from 4/- to 5/7d per bushel.

A large proportion of the 4,323 bags of Northern Rivers maize forwarded to Sussex Street was of soft and heated quality, bringing from 3/- per bushel. Prime lines were firm at up to 5/6d per bushel.

The 51 trucks of oats at rail included little choice quality and most sales were effected by auction at from 2/6d to 5/- per bushel; prime lines brought from 3/2d to 3/4½d per bushel.

C.S.

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PRICES FOR WINE GRAPES, 1941 VINTAGE.

The Wine Grapes Marketing Board for the Shires of Willimbong, Wade and Carrathool, New South Wales, advises that the prices for Wine Grapes for the 1941 vintage are the same as for 1940 and are as follow:-

<u>Variety.</u>	<u>Beaume.</u>	<u>Price per ton.</u>
Frontignac	15	£ 7.10. 0
H.R. Reislng	13	6.10. 0
Black Shiraz	15	7.15. 0
White Shiraz	14	6. 0. 0
Gordo Blanco	14	6.10. 0
Grenache	14	7. 0. 0
Pedro	13	6.10. 0
Oulliade	15	6. 5. 0
Doradillo	12	4.15. 0

For every half degree Beaume more than the standard given above, 5/- more to be paid with a maximum of 18 degrees, and for every half degree Beaume less than the standard 5/- less to be paid.

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CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY

HEAVIER CONSIGNMENTS OF POME FRUITS: DECREASE IN SUPPLIES OF VEGETABLES

Apples plentiful and prices are reduced.

A considerable volume of business was transacted in apples. Consignments from local sources, Tasmania and Victoria were available and comprised principally Jonathan, Delicious, Granny Smith, Alfriston and Worcester Pearmain. Some Cox's Orange Pippin were included in Tasmanian shipments, but these were placed in cool stores. Demand for Jonathan and Delicious was brisk and large quantities were disposed of. Values firmed early in the month owing to limited stocks. Supplies subsequently increased rapidly and there was a general lowering of prices. Both Granny Smith and Alfriston were in request as cookers, but Worcester Pearmain was slow to clear. The latter variety, although attractive in appearance, lacks the edible qualities of such apples as Jonathan or Delicious and is not favoured by retailers.

Pears cheaper as supplies increase.

There was keen demand for Williams pears early in March and there was a sharp rise in prices, choice local packs realising to 12/- per bushel. The season for this variety finished about the middle of the month. In addition to local Packham's Triumphs, large consignments arrived from Victoria to be followed later by Tasmanian lots. Sales were satisfactory, but owing to the large quantities available prices were reduced to further stimulate clearances. Shipments of Winter Coles and Doyenne du Comice arrived from Tasmania; request for the firstmentioned was brisk, but Comice met only moderate inquiry.

Queensland navels available - local Valencias vary in quality.

The quality of coastal Valencia oranges varied considerably. Many lines lacked keeping quality and breakdown was apparent soon after arrival on the market and often repacking was necessary. Some fruit from the Camden and Kurrajong districts was very satisfactory and realised above ruling market rates. Request for Irrigation Area packs was well maintained although large sizes were proving somewhat difficult to clear towards the close of the month. Navel oranges from Queensland arrived on the market as well as small quantities of second crop fruit from coastal districts of this State. Demand was restricted and opening prices were not maintained.

Lemons in satisfactory request.

There was good inquiry for lemons, both local and Queensland lots selling well, particularly colored fruit.

Intermediate crop grapefruit from coastal groves was fairly plentiful, but only moderate demand ruled. Queensland packs were more attractive in appearance and fairly high prices were realised.
/ Pineapples....

Pineapples plentiful - many lines inferior and sell cheaply.

Large consignments of pineapples continued to reach the market, but owing to the presence of yeasty rot and water blister, many lines were disposed of at low rates. Some improvement in the general quality was noticeable towards the end of the month and values were firmer.

The first of the new season's crop of custard apples arrived and met good inquiry at satisfactory prices.

Only very light supplies of papaws were available each week and these were disposed of promptly at rates ranging to 16/- per case.

Bananas dearer as supplies diminish.

With the clearance of ripe lines and lighter consignments, the market for bananas was buoyant and prices advanced sharply.

Passionfruit in demand for processing.

Fairly plentiful supplies of passionfruit were forward and quantities were purchased by factories for processing for juice and other purposes. Choice lots were in steady request for the retail trade and values were maintained.

Season for stone fruits about finished.

The stone fruit season was drawing to a close; plums and peaches on offer were ex-cool store, the latter mostly yellow clings from Victoria.

Grapes well supplied and generally cheaper.

Large quantities of Cornichon grapes arrived mainly from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, but prices were at low levels owing to restricted inquiry. Waltham Cross and White Sherry were also slow of sale. Supplies of Muscatels for the most part were drawn from the Orange and Molong districts; choice packs sold well, but agents found difficulty in clearing medium and lower grade stocks.

Dry weather causes decline in supplies of vegetables.

With the continuance of dry conditions supplies of green vegetables showed a marked falling off, noticeably as regards cabbages and beans. The heavy consignments of peas, which aggregated up to 4,000 bags early in March, dropped to about half that quantity later. A general firming in values was a result of the reduced supplies.

Cauliflowers lack quality.

Cauliflowers from the Bathurst district came forward more freely, but the quality was variable, many lots lacking satisfactory color, while others were small and of poor appearance. Any choice heads, met ready sale on most days at values which should be remunerative to growers.

/ Cabbages.....

Cabbages dearer.

Supplies of cabbages, which were mainly from Moss Vale and surrounding districts, gradually decreased. Offerings towards the close of the month were light and as good demand ruled, prices advanced. It was expected that some Interstate consignments would be available early in April, but unless the supplies are regular and fairly large, the market should be maintained at fairly high levels, until such time as increased quantities are available from local sources.

Supplies of peas diminish and values firm.

Consignments of peas generally were heavy until about mid-March and values remained at low levels, cannery lots being purchased at 2/- per bushel. During the latter half of the month reduced quantities were on offer and the market firmed quickly at times up to 10/- per bushel was obtained for choice descriptions and occasional "specials" realised still higher prices.

It would appear that the market can absorb up to 2,000 bags per day at fairly satisfactory prices, but when supplies exceed this quantity values generally weaken, particularly at mid-week sales.

Choice beans scarce and dear.

Beans from within the County of Cumberland were only lightly supplied; stocks for the most part were from inland districts and from Victoria, but they were not heavy at any time. Choice lines were scarce, and commanded very satisfactory prices, as much as 14/- per bushel being realised. Generally, about 12/- per bushel ruled for the best samples. A few lots arrived from the North Coast and Queensland but the quality was only fair. Nevertheless, larger quantities may be expected in the near future as the market is dependent on supplies from these areas during the winter months.

Market for tomatoes firmer at closing.

Early in March inquiry for tomatoes was dull. This was attributed partly to the plentiful supplies available in many inland centres which obviated the necessity for purchases on the Sydney market. Some very good quality lots were forward from Batlow and from some localities within the County of Cumberland; these lines were in request at rates above the general market level.

Consignments from Portland (Victoria) and Queensland were on offer, the first mentioned providing the greater quantities. Supplies from Queensland ceased about the middle of the month. The closing market was firmer for all lines owing to reduced stocks, "locals" selling to 8/- per half-case, while Portland were realising to 14/- per bushel.

R.M.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES
IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING MARCH, 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>March, 1941.</u>		<u>31st August, 1939.</u>	
	From	To	From	To
Wheat - Home Consumption:				
Bulk - per bushel	3/11 ¹ / ₄ d) Unchanged	2/4d	
Bagged - " "	4/0 ³ / ₄ 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	1/6d	1/9d	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 ¹ / ₂ d		10 ¹ / ₂ d	
Special brands per lb.	11 ¹ / ₂ d	1/2d	1/2d	
Pigs (Abattoir Sales)				
	<u>March, 1941</u>		<u>29th August, 1939.</u>	
	From	To	From	To
Good to prime - per head:				
Porkers - extra light	21/6d	36/6d	31/6d	40/6d
" - light	31/6d	39/6d	39/6d	44/6d
" - medium weight	36/6d	49/6d	43/6d	51/6d
" - heavy	40/6d	53/6d	50/6d	54/6d
Baconers	53/6d	81/6d	60/6d	75/6d
Backfatters	£2.10.0	£6.13.6d	£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 - FEBRUARY, 1941.

F R U I T.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	Melons crates	TOTALS packages
Queensland	26,889	11,626	x 41,229	57,350	16 ϕ	137,110
Victoria	27	306	105,875	30,867	2	137,077
Tasmania	-	-	14,987	321	-	15,308
Sth.Aust.	-	-	7,595	-	-	7,595
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	26,916	11,932	169,686	88,538	18	297,090

x - 17 bags passionfruit ϕ - 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons melons

V E G E T A B L E S.

STATE	Potatoes	Onions	Swedes	Pumpkins		Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegetables packages	TOTALS	
	bags	pkges.	bags	bags	tons			pkges.	tons
Queensland	55	13	-	1,177	168 $\frac{3}{4}$	156	2,557	3,958	168 $\frac{3}{4}$
Victoria	17,138	30,624	-	-	-	-	1,149	48,911	-
Tasmania	82,184	-	678	-	-	-	140	83,002	-
Sth.Aust.	1,062	1,141	-	-	-	-	4,428	6,631	-
West Aust.	5,309	160	-	-	-	-	-	5,469	-
TOTALS	105,748	31,938	678	1,177	168 $\frac{3}{4}$	156	8,274	147,971	168 $\frac{3}{4}$

TASMANIAN BROWNELLS
(Sold on the Sydney Market)

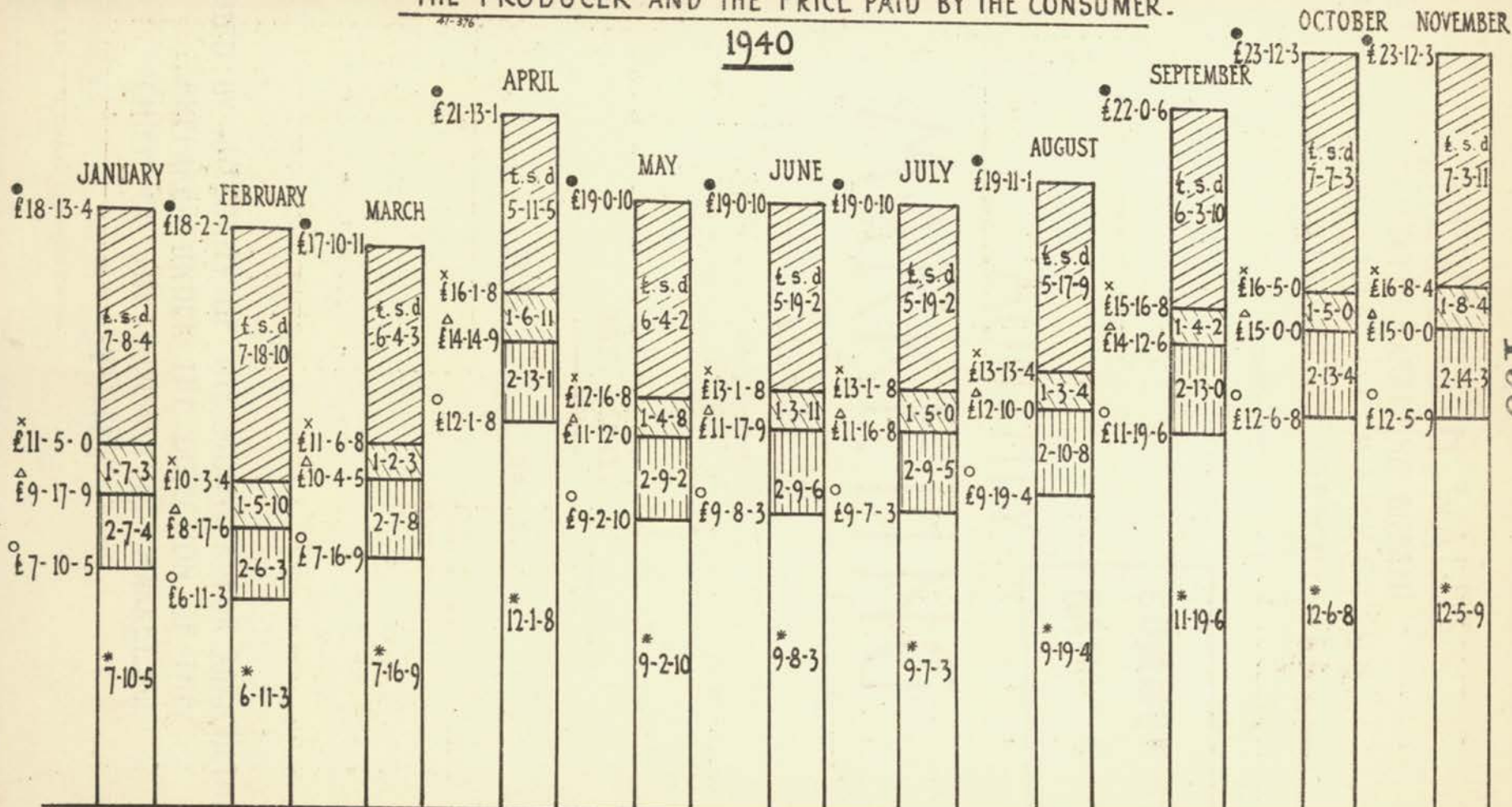
POTATOES

Per Ton

GRAPHS SHEWING AVERAGE "SPREAD" BETWEEN THE RETURN TO THE PRODUCER AND THE PRICE PAID BY THE CONSUMER.

41-376

1940



- Consumer paid: Based on "per lb." retail prices.
- × Retailer paid at City Municipal Markets.
- △ Potato Merchant paid at Sussex St.
- Net Sales return to Grower.

**NOTE: Costs of Production should be deducted from this return, also costs of transport to the Tasmanian port of shipment, & costs of digging, bagging, handling, bags & twine, & other costs on the farm.*

- Retailer's expenses & profits.
- Potato Merchant's expenses & profits.
- Grower's Marketing costs, commission, freight & miscellaneous charges.
- Net Sales return to Grower.

Compiled. J.W., 11-2-41.
Compilation checked. C.K., 11-2-41
Graphed. E.H.S., 17-2-41
Graph checked. C.K., 18-2-41

A. A. WATSON,
CHIEF OF DIVISION OF MARKETING.
18-2-41.

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