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# NEW SOUTH WALES STATE MARKETING BUREAU DIVISION OF MARKETING DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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# MONTHLY MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW



MAY, 1941.

Vol. 7, No. 1.

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CHIEF OF THE 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.

#### MAY, 1941.

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#### HIGHLIGHTS

Acting Prime Minister states that Australian Trade Commissioner for North America has been instructed to approach United States Government re possibility expanding Australian export trade, particularly of foodstuffs, to America.

Wheat Industry Stabilisation Board announces that local committees, each consisting of an officer of the Lands Department (to act as chairman) and two nominees of associations representing wheatgrowers, will be appointed in 124 centres in New South Wales. These committees will investigate and review claims for wheat acreage allotments under Stabilisation Scheme.

Acting Prime Minister anticipates that as a result of curtailment of export trade to Great Britain, Commonwealth Government will be required to subsidise Australian primary producers in 1941/42 to extent of:- Wheat £10,000,000; Sugar £500,000; Meat £1,000,000; Butter £5,000,000; Other commodities £500,000.

Minister for Commerce announces that British meat contract for year ending 30th September, 1941, has been revised to cover 198,000 tons, instead of the reduced quantity of 144,000 tons announced in March.

Press reports state that Federal Fotato Advisory Committee, at a recent meeting in Brisbane, agreed upon a scheme for the orderly marketing of the heavy Australian 1941 potato crop, estimated at between 360,000 and 400,000 tons. Scheme will be referred for Commonwealth Government's consideration.

Conference held in Canberra on 24th/25th March, 1941, agreed on schedule of prices for 1941 Australian tobacco crop representing an increase of 25% over 1939 prices and about 10% over 1940 rates. These prices will be reviewed at end of selling season. Conference formed a Committee to devise an appraisal scheme.

#### CANADIAN MARKETING LEGISLATION

#### MANITOBA NATURAL PRODUCTS MARKETING ACT

The Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Act, which was assented to on 17th April, 1939, has certain of the marketing acts of some of the other Canadian Provinces as its genesis. It provides for the promotion, control and regulation in any or all respects of the transportation, packing, storage and marketing of natural products which are situated within the province, including the prohibition of such transportation, packing, storage and marketing in whole or in part. By 'natural product' is meant any products of agriculture or of the forest, sea, lake or river and any animals including poultry whether alive or killed and any meats, eggs, wool, dairy products, grains, seeds, fruit and fruit products, vegetables and vegetable products, honey, tobacco, lumber and any article of food or drink, wholly or partially manufactured or derived from any such product.

Under Section three of the Act a Manitoba Marketing
Board may be constituted consisting of not more than three members
who shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council and
shall receive such remuneration as the latter may determine. A
board so constituted shall be a corporation. The Lieutenant Governorin-Council may also appoint such officers, clorks and servants as
are necessary for the carrying out of the provisions of the Act
and regulations.

For the purpose of carrying out the intent of the Act schemes may be established and amended from time to time and also revoked, whilst marketing boards may be constituted to administer such schemes. The Lieutenant-Governor may vest in these boards any powers considered necessary or advisable to enable them to control and regulate the handling and marketing of natural products. Any scheme may relate to the whole of the province or to any area within the province and may relate to one or more natural products or to any grade or class thereof. The method by which the members of any marketing board are to be chosen, whether by appointment or election, or partly the one and partly the other, may be set out in the scheme the board is authorised to administer.

General powers which may be vested in any board include that of regulating the time and place at which and to designate the agency by or through which any regulated product shall be packed, stored, or marketed; regulating the manner of distribution, the quantity and quality, grade or class of the regulated product that shall be transported, packed, stored, or marketed by any person at any time; prohibiting in whole or in part the transportation, packing, storage or marketing of any grade, quality or class of any regulated product.

Boards may also be given power to grant exemptions; require persons to register and obtain licenses; fix and collect license fees; cancel or suspend and reinstate any license for violation of any provision of the scheme or of any order of a board or of the regulations, require full information relating to the production, packing, transportation, storing and marketing of the regulated product; fix the maximum or minimum price or prices at which the regulated products, or any grade or class thereof, may be bought or sold in the province and to fix different prices for different parts of the province; require any person to permit any board member or employee to search a vehicle in which the regulated product could be transported; seize, remove and dispose of any of the regulated products kept, transported, packed, stored, or marketed in violation of any order of the board and retain or otherwise dispose of the proceeds thereof; use in carrying out the purposes of the scheme and paying the expenses of the board any moneys received by the board; make such orders, rules and regulations as are deemed necessary or advisable to control and regulate effectively the transportation, packing, storage, or marketing of the regulated product, and to amend or revoke the samo.

The Act provides for full and close co-operation between any board and any Dominion or Provincial Board having similar objects and constituted under an Act of the Parliament of Canada or of any other province. Subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor a board may also exercise any power conferred upon it pursuant to the Dominion or Provincial Act in respect to the marketing of a natural product. With like approval the Dominion or Provincial Board may exercise any of its powers, within provincial jurisdiction, with reference to the marketing of that natural product.

Persons failing to comply with any determination, regulation or order are liable to a fine of not less than twenty-five dellars and not more than five hundred dellars, or to imprisonment not exceeding three menths, or to both fine and imprisonment. If, in respect of any prosecution, the accused pleads or alleges that the natural product was not produced in the area to which the scheme relates the burden of proof thereof shall be upon the accused person.

All moneys necessary to pay Board members and staff and to meet the expenses incurred by the Manitoba Marketing Board in carrying out the provisions of the Act are to be met by the imposition of direct tells or charges in respect of natural products marketed by or through any boards upon persons engaged in their production, transportation, distribution or marketing.

There is a section in the Act which specifically states that the purpose and intent of the Legislature is to confine the provisions of the Act within its competence and the Act shall not be held inoperative or ultra vires by reason of the fact that any provision or section is held or found to be beyond the powers of the province.

/Up ....

Up to the close of 1940, no marketing projects had been adopted under the provisions of the Act.

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# POULTRY INDUSTRY - CONTINENTAL ORGANISATION EGG PRODUCERS' COUNCIL.

Instituted in 1930. Purposes: in brief, to discuss and promote the interests of the Poultry Industry of Australia, with particular reference to the marketing of Australian eggs in the United Kingdom and other overseas markets.

#### Composition.

New South Wales Victoria Queensland	2	representatives do. do.	from do.	Egg Marketing Board do. do.
South Australia	2	do,	do.	Red Comb Association
West Australia	1	do.	do:	Commercial Poultry Farmers' Assn. of W.A.
	1	do.	do.	Poultry Section, Primary Producers' Assn. of W.A.
Tasmania	2	do.	do.	Tasmanian Egg Floor
				Co-operative Society.
Total:	12			at the topartee of the

In addition, the Commonwealth Government is represented on the Egg Producers' Council by the Commonwealth Supervisor of Dairy Exports, Department of Commerce, and the State Governments by their respective Poultry Experts. These, together with a representative of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, are co-opted and ex officio members of the Council, entitled to speak, but not to vote.

#### Mothod of Finance.

By virtue of its position as a prescribed organisation under the (Commonwealth) Primary Producers' Export Organisation Act, 1935, the Egg Producers' Council is financed from the proceeds of a levy made by the Commonwealth Government pursuant to the Primary Producers' Export Charges Act, 1935/37. levy is at the rate of 2d per 30-dozen case and 1d in respect of cases containing 15 dozen eggs or loss. Exporters must obtain a permit to export from the Department of Commerce. Permits on account of exports of eggs to the United Kingdom and other destinations, excepting the South Sea Islands, are usually for cases of 30 dozens each. Permits for the South Sea Islands frequently are for 15 dozen or 12 dozen cases. The levy is paid to the Department of Commerce by the exporter in Australia on, or soon after shipment, and the proceeds are transmitted to the Egg Producors' Council. Ships stores are subject to the levy, as well as ordinary exports, but there is a general exemption where the /lovy .. levy would not exceed one shilling. No charge is made by the Department of Commerce for collection.

By arrangement with the Department of Commerce and subject to audit by the Commonwealth Auditor-General, the Egg Producers' Council uses the funds resulting from the levy just described, as follows:- (1) To defray travelling and subsistence costs of members attending meetings of the Council, other than Government officials; (2) to defray portion of costs of advertising Australian eggs in the United Kingdom; (3) to subsidise (to the extent of £600 per annum) egg investigation by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; (4) to meet administrative expenses of the Council, stamps, telegrams, rental, etc. and (5) to defray the costs of meetings and administration of the Egg Supervision Committee.

#### Egg Supervision Committee.

Instituted at outbreak of war in September, 1939, by the Minister for Commerce. Purposes: briefly (1) to act as a consultative body and to furnish advice and recommendations to the Commonwealth Government in reference to negotiations between the British and Australian Governments as to exports of eggs during the war; (2) to supervise in each State the observance of conditions and general requirements of contracts resulting from such negotiations; and (3) to co-operate with the Department of Commerce in shipping arrangements and such special action as may be needed from time to time.

The Committee is composed of the members of the Executive Committee of the Egg Producers' Council, as follow:-

R.C. Blake, Chairman, Egg Marketing Board, Now South Wales.

P.G. Barwell, Member, Egg Marketing Board, Victoria. T Hallick, Chairman, Egg Marketing Board, Queensland.

V.F. Gameau, Chairman, Rod Comb Egg Association, South Australia.

Mr. V.F. Gameau is the Chairman. It is proposed shortly to appoint an additional member to the Committee who will represent West Australia. The Commonwealth Government is represented on the Committee by the Assistant Secretary, Department of Commerce.

#### Method of Financo.

So far, funds to meet the Egg Supervision Committee's expenses are being supplied by the Egg Producors' Council.

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#### CANADIAN WHEAT POLICY FOR 1941-42.

#### Large 1940 wheat crop.

In a report of 7th February, 1941, Mr. R.R. Ellen, Assistant Australian Trade Commissioner, stated that the third official estimate of the 1940 Canadian wheat crop had been placed at 551.39 million bushels, which if realised would supersede the 1939 crop of 520.6 million bushels as the second largest in the Dominion's wheat history. Mr. Ellen mentioned that the problem of storage space was acute, but that the situation would be relieved at the Head of the Lakes (Fort William and Port Arthur) by the construction of temporary accommodation to hold between 100 million and 200 million bushels. Indicative of the pressure on storage facilities was the primary movement of wheat from the Prairie Provinces from 1st August, 1940, to 10th January, 1941, of only 290.8 million bushels compared with 365 millions in 1939.

#### Review of position and prospects.

According to the "Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation" of 22nd March, 1941, issued by the Agricultural Branch of the Canadian Bureau of Statistics, the position was reviewed by Hon. James A. Mackinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce, in the House of Commons on 12th March, 1941. Mr. Mackinnon pointed out that the 1940-41 crop year started with total supplies of 852 million bushels, which will leave a prospective carry-over on 31st July, 1941, of 575 million bushels. If an average sized crop should be harvested in 1941, total supplies would approximate 1,000 million bushels. Prospects for commercial disposal of Canadian wheat did not exceed 50 million bushels in the domestic market and 180 million bushels through export in the 1941-42 season.

#### Government marketing proposals for 1941 crop.

Mr. MacKinnon then outlined plans the Dominion Government, feeling that the limit of wheat reserves which should be carried had been reached, proposed to make effective in connection with the 1941 wheat crop. These were:

- (1) To take such action as will ensure as nearly as possible that the visible supply of Canadian wheat on 31st July, 1942, shall be no larger than on 31st March, 1941.
- (2) To limit to 230 million bushels for the whole of Canada the amount of wheat which it will be possible to deliver either to the Board, on the open market or otherwise.
- (3) The deliveries of the 230 million bushels will be distributed among the wheat producers on a quota system. The quotas will be based on the production from 65 per cent.

of the 1940 acreage. The first quota will be a general one, allowing the delivery of the same amount of wheat per acre from every farmer. The second and following quotas will be certain proportions of the 1941 yield for the farmers' shipping point; that is, a high yield point in 1941 will have a higher quota per acre than a low yield point. Whilst unable at the time to give further details of the delivery plan, Mr. MacKinnon said that it will be equitable as between farmers and as between areas in the Prairie Provinces. He further mentioned that this plan of quotas will operate only if the marketable surplus of wheat exceeds 230 million bushels, and that if the surplus be less the plan will be varied.

- (4) The Dominion Government, through the Canadian Wheat Board, will continue to guarantee an initial payment of 70 cents (approximately 3/11 in Australian currency at present rate of exchange) a bushel, basis No.1 Northern, on wheat delivered during the 1941-42 crop year.
- (5) The Canadian Wheat Board will continue to pay storage to the producers on the same basis as in 1940-41, but only on the undelivered portion of the 230 million bushels.
- (6) The amount and incidence of the existing processing levy will be unaltered.

#### Production policy.

The Minister for Agriculture, Hon. James G. Gardiner, then outlined the Government's production policy. In limiting the delivery of wheat to 230 million bushels and keeping the advance on deliveries unchanged, the Government had in mind the desirability of decreasing the wheat production. At the same time, it had been pointed out that a certain farm income, which should be not less than 325 million dellars, was necessary to maintain western economy. In view of the proposed reduction of wheat acreage to not more than 65% of that of the previous year, utilisation of the remainder of the farm lands for other remunerative purposes was essential to ensure the certain farm income.

Accordingly, the Dominion Government intends to make payments of certain sums per acre on all reductions made in wheat sowings in the Prairie Provinces in 1941 as compared with 1940, provided the farmer does certain specified things with the land, viz.:-

(1) If he summer-fallows the reduced wheat acreage or part of it, the Government will pay him 4 dollars an acre for the reduced wheat acreage which is black on July 1, 1941; payments to be made as soon as possible after July 1, 1941.

- (2) If he sows the reduced wheat acreage or part of it to coarse grains in the spring or, in the case of rye, in the fall of 1941 on lands not summer-fallowed, the Government will pay him 2 dollars an acre in 1941 as soon as possible after proof of sowing is established.
- (3) If he sows the reduced wheat acreage or part of it to grass or clover during 1941 provided the land has not also been sown to coarse grain or summer-fallowed, the Government will pay him 2 dollars an acre as soon as possible after proof of sowing has been established and an additional 2 dollars an acre if the same land is still seeded down to grass on July 1, 1942.
- (4) If he sows reduced wheat acreage or part of it which is also sown to coarse grain, or which is summer-fallowed in 1941, to grass or/and clover or to rye in 1941, the Government will pay 2 dollars an acre as soon as possible after July 1, 1942, provided the same land is in grass or/and clover, or rye, on that date.

Mr. Gardiner stated that the payments enumerated were considered liberal allowances for the work involved. The alternative methods were intended to be varied enough to permit of the farmer adopting the one most suited to his conditions and to ensure that he should obtain the additional revenue required to compensate for the reduced income from wheat.

The total amounts to be distributed under the abovementioned plans were estimated at between 30 and 36 million dollars.

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#### ENCOURAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC WHEAT PRODUCTION IN BRAZIL.

According to "Foreign Crops and Markets" of 24th
February, the Government of Brazil on 18th January, 1941, passed
a decree law providing for the distribution of domestic grown
wheat to the various mills of the country on a quota basis and
establishing prices to producers for a period of 12 years. This
law, said to be largely a continuation of legislation passed in
December, 1938, provides that the highest price will prevail
during the first four years of the period and the lowest in the
last year. Prices will vary according to the specific weight of
the wheat and apply to loading stations in the respective producing regions.

The report states that for some years the Brazilian Government has distributed free seed to wheat farmers, has loaned them threshing, reaping and other agricultural machinery, and has given advice on cultural methods, varieties, pest control, etc. In addition, the Government is constructing flour mills at various points; two were recently completed in the State of Sao Paulo.

#### FRUIT PURCHASED BY NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS, 1940.

The following schedule shows the quantities and values of the different kinds of fruit bought by the New South Wales Railway Department during the year 1940:-

Items	Quantity		Value	
	Cases		£	
Apples Apricots Bananas Cherries Grapes Grape Fruit Lemons Mandarins Oranges - Valencia Oranges - Navel Passion Fruit Peaches Pears Pines Plums Nectarines Various	14,304 169 3,758 3,224 3,140 115 592 821 7,244 11,082 189 1,868 1,642 735 701 229		6,380 59 3,843 699 1,155 64 345 435 3,470 6,245 113 753 961 377 263 109	
Val 2.045	515	marking a second	275	
	49,328			£25,546
Almonds and Raisins: Large packets Small packets	10,845		203	
Prune Sweets, cartons	16,359		545	859
		Total Value:		£26,405

As the values of the total purchases during the preceding three years were:-

1937	 £23,323
1938	 £25,962
1939	 £25.910

it will be seen that the Department has been a large and consistent purchaser of fruit.

#### HOMEBUSH LIVESTOCK MARKETS.

SMALLER AGGREGATES OF SHEEP AND CATTLE, BUT RECORD NUMBER OF PIGS OFFERED.

#### Smaller aggregate penning of sheep and lambs.

The number of sale days during April was curtailed by the Easter Holidays, only seven sales taking place compared with nine during March, so that the aggregate pennings were some 30,000 below those of the previous month. Sheep and lambs consigned to Homebush during April totalled 290,528, giving an average for each auction of approximately 41,500 head, which was substantially higher than the daily average for March. The smallest number available on any one sale was 30,507 and the largest 61,126 head.

#### Good heavy mutton scarce.

Although consignments of wethers and ewes totalled 133,094 head, only a relatively small proportion of good quality heavy sheep was included and operators handling this class of mutton at times experienced difficulty in securing sufficient for their needs. There was a good showing of light to medium weight sheep and, while many lines were not sufficiently well finished to be classed as good, quite a few attractive drafts were offered. Fair to plain trade sheep, particularly ewes, were also fairly well represented.

#### Realisations for sheep mostly satisfactory.

Although the average rates per pound for mutton during April were not quite as high as in March, the realisations for sheep mostly were satisfactory. Early in the period values fell. most lines of sheep being about 1/- per head cheaper. Subsequently a much stronger request was apparent and towards the end of the second week prices of well finished wethers and ewes suitable for trade requirements rose 1/- per head. A fairly steady demand prevailed during the next two sale days but, owing to a shortage of supplies, rates for the better grades of sheep again advanced about 1/- per head. By the end of April, however, substantially increased numbers of sheep were available and at times the market was inclined to weaken. Nevertheless, at the close of the month's operations, allowing for fluctuations, quality lots of sheep were about 1/- per head dearer, on an average, than those sold early in the period. There was a good deal of irregularity in the rates paid for the medium to plainer grades, as on some occasions scarcity of quality descriptions stimulated the demand for the plainer sorts.

Some sales illustrating the trend in prices are shown hereunder:-

At the first auction conducted in April a draft of good /heavy ....

heavy wethers dressing about 50 lb. of mutton was secured for 2½d per lb., the cost to the operator being 14/1 per head. Following the improved market, similar quality sheep made up to 2½d per lb., a line of good wethers weighing approximately 50 lb., selling for 18/11 each, while lighter sheep, about 46 lb. in weight, were disposed of at 16/1 per head, equivalent to 3d per lb. At this stage, ewes cost operators 2½d per lb., an increase of about ½d per lb. over the opening auctions. A typical lot of ewes weighing 42 lb. made 12/2 each, and was worth 2½d per lb. Towards the end of April, with lighter supplies available, a pen of good trade wethers, weighing approximately 44 lb., made the equivalent of 3½d per lb. and realised 16/5 per head, while ewes dressing approximately 44 lb. sold at 15/4 each or 2½d per lb.

#### Closing rates for mutton higher.

Referring briefly to the actual realisations for sheep, the top prices paid in April compared very favourably with those of the previous month. Some of the better grades of heavy wethers brought 22/- each, while many others realised from 19/- to 21/-, but, for the most part, wethers were bought at prices ranging from 12/- to 18/- per head, according to weight, skin value and quality. Odd drafts of extra heavy big framed ewes sold to 17/- each, with other small consignments realising from 15/- to 16/- per head. Mostly, however, suitable trade ewes were disposed of at from 9/- to 14/- each.

At the beginning of April, when rates for sheep fell, butchers paid 2d to 2½d and 2½d to 2¾d per lb. for heavy and light wethers, respectively, exclusive of killing and other incidental expenses, while ewes cost from 1¾d to 2d per lb. for heavy and 2d to 2¼d per lb. for light. Although some fluctuation occurred before the end of the period, closing prices for mutton were about ¼d to ½d per lb. higher than those ruling earlier, light wethers selling at 2¾d to 3¼d and light ewes at 2½d to 2¾d per lb.; heavy wethers made 2½d to 3d and heavy ewes 2d to 2¼d per lb.

#### Lambs well represented.

Although the aggregate penning of 157,434 head of lambs was a little below that of March, supplies were maintained at fairly high levels, the actual daily average being higher. On one particular day 40,126 head were offered, perhaps the heaviest day's supply for some considerable time. Many of the lambs lacked the condition and finish so desired by the trade, and a fairly large proportion comprised medium to plain trade sorts. Heavy lambs, of which there was a fair representation on a number of sale days, included some rather attractive drafts, but their weight detracted from the ultimate realisations, as many operators find it difficult to handle heavy carcases. Although light to medium weight lambs were numerous, many of those submitted lacked finish, so that buyers socking extra prime lamb at times experienced difficulty in securing their requirements.

On the other hand, there were some outstanding lots of light lambs, mainly of the Downs type, which commanded very faw urable attention.

#### Strong recovery in lamb prices.

The lamb market exhibited a number of unusual features. chief of which was the remarkable recovery in prices at the end of the month. During the first two weeks, request for good to prime lambs showed a firmer tendency and a slight increase in values was apparent, but medium to plain sorts were dull of sale and most lines were a little cheaper. When it was announced that the slaughtering of mutton and lamb for export would be prohibited after the 21st April, 1941, unusually large numbers of lambs reached Homebush and over 40,000 head were consigned for sale on the 17th April. While the carcase butchers extended their buying to the utmost in order to handle as much as possible before the prohibition came into effect, values naturally were not maintained at their previous levels and fell from 1/- to 2/- per head. On the next sale day over 24,000 lambs were yarded and competition was limited, so that prices of all grades of lambs dropped sharply. At the succeeding auction rates for good quality lambs did not show any material alteration, but inquiry for other descriptions again was dull. By the end of April, however, supplies were smaller, approximately 7,000 lambs being offered, and the market made a remarkable recovery, increased realisations of from 2/6 to 4/- per head being most general, while in some instances an even greater improvement was noticeable.

Some actual realisations are quoted below to illustrate the wide variation in prices throughout the period:-

At the beginning of April, good trade lambs, weighing approximately 34 lb., were disposed of at 19/5 each, equivalent to 5½d per lb., and heavy sorts, dressing about 40 lb., sold at 20/8 per head, being worth 4¾d per lb. Subsequently a line of 33 lb. lambs made 19/7 each or 5¾d per lb. When prices began to fall during the third week, a pen of 34 lb. lambs was secured for 19/8 per head or 5¼d per lb. At the period of lowest values, lambs weighing approximately 36 lb. sold at 18/1 each, the cost of the carcase being 4½d per lb., while heavier lambs, dressing about 38 lb., cost only 3¼d per lb. and realised 15/5 each. At the end of April, rates practically reached the level ruling at the early sales and a consignment of good trade lambs, weighing approximately 30 lb., was disposed of at 17/11 each or 5½d per lb., while heavy lambs of 38 lb. dressed weight brought 19/9 per lb., while heavy lambs of 38 lb. dressed weight brought 19/9 per lb.d or 4¾d per lb.

#### Wide range of lamb carcase rates.

The actual cost of the carcase showed a wide variation throughout, ranging from 34d to 5d per 1b. for heavy and 4d to 54d per 1b. for light lamb, but perhaps the greater proportion /was ....

was sold at from 4d to  $4\frac{5}{4}$ d for the heavier classes and 5d to  $5\frac{1}{8}$ d for the light.

Several lines of good quality lambs brought the satisfactory price of 22/- per head and 19/- to 21/- each was obtained on occasions. However, a fairly substantial part of the month's supply was disposed of at rates ranging from 15/- to 18/- each for the better grades, while other descriptions realised relatively lower prices.

#### Firmer inquiry expected.

It is expected that in the near future conditions in the meat industry will show some improvement. The recent announcement that the Imperial Government meat contract for the year ending 30th September, 1941, will cover 198,000 tons, as against the reduced quantity of 144,000 tons announced early in March last, should promote a firmer inquiry for sheep and lambs.

#### Steady consignments of cattle.

While consignments of cattle to Homebush during April, 1941, totalling 12,777 head, were somewhat below those for March, 1941, the daily average was slightly higher, owing to the smaller number of sale days. Auctions in the store section accounted for 1,359 head. Quality on the whole was very fair, although the percentage of really prime cattle forward was disappointing; in the majority of cases, the standard could be described as fair to good trade. The pastoral position is not altogether satisfactory, rain again being required in many parts of New South Wales, particularly in the Southern half. Feed is still abundant in some districts but, for the most part, it is drying off.

#### Bullocks make poor showing.

Bullocks were in limited supply and the pennings comprised chiefly lightweights of fair to good trade standard. Prime descriptions and medium weights were scarce. Values, although below those for March, were very steady during the greater portion of the month, and good to prime lightweights were quoted, mainly at 40/- to 43/- per 100 lb., while medium weights brought from 39/- to 42/-. During the final week prices fell £1 per head.

#### Stoors well represented.

Stoers were much more numerous than bullocks and quality was fairly satisfactory, although at times there was a scarcity of prime descriptions. A feature of the month was that values of steers generally showed little material difference from those of bullocks. Even quotations for prime lightweight steers exceeded those for bullocks by only 2/- to 3/- per 100 lb.

/Highost ....

Highest rates during April were 43/- to 47/- per 100 lb. and lowest 39/- to 44/-, covering all weights of good to prime grade.

#### Moderate consignments of cows.

There was a moderate offering of cows, mostly of plain grade. The proportion of fair to good trade sorts was variable and only on some occasions could it be described as satisfactory. Heavy animals generally were very scarce. Compared with March, prices were lower but they were fairly steady throughout, values of lightweights ranging from 32/- to 37/- per 100 lb., except on one sale day when this class was quoted at 36/- to 39/-.

#### Few prime heifers available.

Heifers made a fair showing, but the consignments comprised chiefly small descriptions of fair trade quality, only odd drafts or single lots of prime grade beasts being noticed. Prices fluctuated according to the quality available as well as in sympathy with the cattle market generally. Rates were lowest at the commencement and close of the month, when they ranged from 34/- to 40/- per 100 lb. During the third week, prime light heifers realised as high as 46/- per 100 lb.

#### Vealers plentiful.

Vealers were well supplied throughout the period, and at times were plentiful. Quality was chiefly fair to good trade and the percentage of prime sorts was variable, being insufficient for buyers' requirements on some sale days. Values were lowest early in April when quotations were from 44/- to 51/- per 100 lb. Subsequently prices rose and by the third week ranged from 51/- to 56/-. At closing, rates were 2/- per 100 lb. lower.

#### Lower cattle values.

Due principally to the uncertainty regarding meat export, values of cattle were substantially below those ruling in March. The position is still somewhat obscure and it would be difficult to forecast future trends, especially as unfavourable weather tends to complicate matters.

#### Record offerings of pigs.

The aggregate of pigs offered at the five auctions held in April was abnormally large, amounting to 11,574 head, of which 7,187 were received by rail. Private treaty sales in the Metropolitan area accounted for 3,895 and the total of 15,469 head is said to be an all time monthly record. The previous record was in respect of consignments coming forward in 1919. Unfortunately these heavy supplies were not due to any expansion of the industry, although this has occurred, but to the position which has arisen following the restrictions on the export of

/baconer .....

baconer carcases in excess of 120 lb. dressed weight. Pig raisers in other States, as well as in New South Wales, have rushed to market pigs which normally would have been held until they reached the heavy baconer weights. The general effect on the market was disastrous from the producer's viewpoint.

#### Porkers plentiful but lightweights scarce.

The porker class was heavily supplied with medium to heavyweights of chiefly good trade standard. Lightweight animals were comparatively scarce and most of those submitted were in store condition. Prime lightweights were always in keen demand. Prices were highest at the beginning of April, when prime pigs dressing 60 lb. sold to 35/6 per head and heavy porkers (90 lb.) brought to 44/6. Subsequently values fell progressively, and on the final sale day the respective quotations were 28/6 and 37/6. The markets, however, were very irregular and the figures quoted represent top prices, as frequently realisations for good trade porkers of similar weight were considerably lower. Also, it was not uncommon to see some lines of porkers bring more per head than much heavier pigs of equal quality. Towards the close of the month most of the porkers (other than prime extra light) sold were worth only about 5d per lb. dressed weight.

#### Heavy consignments of baconers.

Heavy consignments of baconers were forward, especially towards the end of April. The bulk of the pennings was of light to medium weight description and quality on the whole was satisfactory. At the opening auctions quotations ranged from 46/6 (100 lb.) to 67/6 (150 lb.) per head. Later, prices fell and at the final sales 55/6 was the highest rate obtainable for baconers. In a period of one month values declined £1 per head. Most of the good trade baconers of light to medium weight were worth about 5d per lb. at the close of operations.

#### Improved demand for backfatters.

On most sale days the supply of backfatters, especially heavy sorts, was somewhat limited. Fair trade types predominated and comparatively few animals were of prime grade. Values continued on the low side, although a distinct improvement was noticed towards the end of the month, when quotations for good to prime grade ranged from 3½d to 4d per lb. for light sorts and from 3¼d to 3¾d for heavy descriptions.

G.C. & J.W.

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

### Larger arrivals of local potatoes and prices weaken.

Supplies of potatoes forwarded to Alexandria from New South Wales centres during April showed a substantial increase. More than half of the total receivals were from the Crookwell district, 26,026 bags being yarded. This constitutes the largest supply of local potatoes for many months. Quality showed considerable variation and, although a fair proportion comprised good to choice lines, many lots were withheld from sale owing to grub infestation and for regrading because of mechanical injury, etc. The market was a little firmer at the commencement of the period but, with the arrival of large local supplies, in addition to steady Tasmanian shipments, enquiry was inclined to ease. Towards the end of the month, realisations were very unsatisfactory in many cases, No. 1 grade selling at as low as £4.0.0 per ton. The range of prices recorded at auction was as follows: - No. 1 £4.0.0 to £8.11.8, No. 2 £2.0.0 to £7.15.0, No. 3 £2.0.0 to £7.15.0, Seed £2.10.0 to £7.10.0, Stock food £6.10.0 per ton; No. 1 5/- to 8/6, No. 2 2/9 to 6/3, No. 3 3/-, to 7/3, Seed 2/6 to 4/8, Stock food 1/- to 7/8, Chats 1/6 to 3/3 por bag. About 300 bags of new grade were offered, but demand was quiet at £4.5.0 to £7.11.8 per ton.

Victorian growers forwarded 1,793 bags. Similar market conditions ruled, prices ranging from £4.15.0 to £8.11.8 per ton.

In Sussex Street, shipments of Tasmanian potatoes amounting to 95,724 bags were received. Request generally was steady, choice Brownells in particular clearing quickly. Towards the close of the month, inquiry for Whiteskins weakened and large stocks were carried over. Fixed rates during the period were:-Brownells £7.0.0 to £8.10.0; Bismarcks £6.0.0 to £8.0.0; Snowflakes £5.0.0 to £8.0.0; Arranchiof £4.10.0 to £8.0.0 per ton.

#### Onions sell steadily.

About 410 tons and 6,295 bags of Victorian onions, including White, Brown and Pickling lines, were forwarded to Sussex Street. Demand for White Table onions was firm, and clearances were effected at £17.0.0 per ton. Picklers sold steadily at £9.0.0. Rates for Brown Table were determined by the Prices Commissioner on costs, including price in Victoria, shipment, handling, etc. Quotations generally ranged from £10.0.0 to £11.10.0 per ton. Receivals of Brown Globes from Victoria at Alexandria approximated 5,150 bags. The market was very steady at £10.10.0 to £11.0.0 per ton, auction sales being effected at £10.10.0.

#### Decline in pumpkin prices.

The market for pumpkins was vory weak, only odd trucks /selling....

selling satisfactorily. A total of 43 trucks, including 5 from Queensland, was yarded, and although quality was fairly good no sales were effected at rates exceeding £4.0.0 per ton. As low as £2.5.0 per ton was accepted in many instances in an endeavour to clear stocks.

#### Other vegetables clear readily.

Tasmanian growers forwarded other root vegetables to the Sydney market during the month: - viz., 1,594 bags of swedes, 336 of carrots and 104 bags of parsnips. Ready sales were effected and stocks were practically cleared upon arrival in every case. The range of prices during April was: - Swedes £6.0.0 to £8.0.0, Carrots £9.0.0 to £14.0.0 and Parsnips £6.0.0 to £20.0.0 per ton. Local growers railed 132 bags of swedes, 120 bags of carrots and a few odd bags of parsnips to Alexandria. Quality varied. Disposals by auction were as follow: - Swedes £3.0.0 to £5.10.0, Carrots £4.15.0 to £9.10.0 per ton and Parsnips 10/- per bag.

#### Improved demand for choice chaff.

Lighter supplies of oaten chaff were in position at Alexandria, only 116 trucks being offered. Choice lines sold steadily at practically unchanged rates, but inferior and medium lots were slow to clear. The general range of prices was from £5.10.0 to £7.15.0 with inferior as low as £4.0.0. Sales by auction were effected at £5.13.4 to £6.13.4 per ton. The market for wheaten chaff, supplies of which totalled 53 trucks, showed a little improvement, choice being firmer at £5.10.0 to £6.0.0 per ton. Medium sold quietly at from £4.0.0. New South Wales growers consigned 62 trucks of lucerne chaff to Alexandria. Demand showed a general improvement and prime leafy lines were firmer at £7.0.0 to £7.10.0 per ton. Medium and good quality lots realised from £5.0.0 to £6.0.0 per ton.

#### Firmer market for lucerne hay.

Arrivals of lucerne hay at Alexandria consisted of 41 trucks from Maitland and 109 trucks from other New South Wales centres. Values were firmer, the Maitland offering clearing at £4.0.0 to £6.10.0 according to size and quality. Stocks from other centres showed considerable variation in quality; prime lines were very firm at £7.10.0 to £8.0.0 per ton, whilst other grades were available at from £5.0.0 with inferior at as low as £4.5.0. Sales by auction ranged from £4.6.8 to £6.0.0, with odd specials to £8.1.8 per ton. In Sussex Street, 170 bales of Hunter River New green hay were offered. Clearances were effected at from £5.0.0 to £6.0.0 per ton.

Although 53 trucks of oaten hay were in position at Alexandria during April only a small proportion was offered for Sale, the bulk of supplies being consigned direct to private firms. From £6.0.0 to £6.3.4 per ton was obtained at auctions.

#### Satisfactory inquiry for straw.

Consignments of straw to Alexandria comprised 54 trucks from local centres and 37 from Victoria. The former varied considerably, rates ranging from £2.10.0 to £5.10.0 per ton. Victorian straw was mainly of choice quality and demand was very active at £4.10.0 to £5.10.0 per ton. Only 350 bales of Tasmanian straw were forwarded to Sussex Street and these were disposed of at £6.0.0 per ton.

#### Little change in grain market.

The bulk of the 37 trucks of wheat yarded was offered at auction. Generally speaking, the market was steady, especially for choice lots. Prices ranged from 3/10d to 4/4gd, whilst odd lines sold privately realised 4/5d to 4/6d per bushel.

Receivals of maize at Alexandria amounted to 2,127 bags from local growers. Demand was somewhat dull at the beginning of the month, but subsequently a firmer tendency was noticeable. Values ranged from 4/3d to 4/9d per bushel.

The 2,150 bags of Northern Rivers maize shipped to Sussex Street included white and yellow varieties. Quality was mixed and early in April a large proportion of the consignments was soft and heated. Yellow maize ranged from 4/- to 4/9d per bushel, and odd lines of white maize cleared at 4/6d. Inferior lots could be secured at lower rates.

There was practically no change in the market for oats. Sales from the 28 trucks available were effected by auction at from 2/4d to 3/5d per bushel, according to quality.

C.S.

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SALES OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES AT THE CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

# Apples in plentiful supply - prices generally steady.

Fairly large consignments of apples were received throughout the month, local and Tasmanian Jonathans predominating. There were also plentiful supplies of Delicious, while Tasmanian Cleopatras were well represented. Stocks of Granny Smiths were somewhat short towards the close of the month and the market for this variety firmed. Small quantities of Winesap and Rome Beauty were also on offer.

Prices of Jonathans were maintained at steady levels, although "sleepy", or over-mature lines had to be disposed of at concession rates.

Local Delicious met good inquiry and higher values were obtained than for Tasmanian packs of the same variety.

# Satisfactory request for pears - locally grown fruit dearer.

There was good inquiry for pears, principally Packhams from local sources and Victoria and the fruit from this State realised slightly better prices. Winter Coles were well supplied. Many Tasmanian lines arrived in an overripe condition and had to be sold cheaply. Victorian Josephine and Beurre Bosc, as well as Glou Morceau from Tasmania, were also available.

#### Large Valencias plentiful and cheaper

Considerable quantities of Valencia oranges continued to come forward. These included many packs of large sized fruit which were reduced in price to enable clearances to be effected. Demand for larger counts, i.e., the smaller fruit, was satisfactory and rates were fairly well maintained. Coastal Navels were available but owing principally to the lack of colour of most lots request was limited. Another factor adversely affecting sales was the plentiful supply of Valencias which were more attractive from the buyers' viewpoint.

#### Restricted demand for grapefruit.

Grapefruit from Queensland and coastal groves of New South Wales were on offer but considerable breakdown became apparent after the fruit was on the floors for a few days. Inquiry was restricted and although "locals" were offered at very low rates disposals were slow. Repacking of the Queensland fruit had to be carried out in many instances and values were reduced.

#### Trading in other citrus fruits quiet.

The market for lemons generally was quiet, although small supplies on occasions resulted in rates advancing slightly. At the close of the month green lots were fairly plentiful.

Imperial mandarins showed a gradual increase in the quantity coming forward. Except for selected lines, however, trading was dull.

# Supplies of bananas show substantial reduction - Sharp advance in values.

With a marked decline in consignments of bananas from the North Coast and Queensland the market was very firm and price levels rose sharply. At times there was a shortage of "sixes" and rates for this size rose appreciably on such occasions. Values at closing were comparatively high at 12/- to 22/- per case, with "specials" of each grade in advance of these rates.

With the curtailment of purchases of passionfruit by factory buyers there was a weakening in values. Stocks, although not heavy, were well distributed throughout the market, choice lines during the latter part of the month realising to 9/- per half-case.

#### Choice muscats sell well but other grapes hard to clear.

Supplies of muscatel grapes showed a marked decline, nevertheless inland lots were always available. Except for choice packs, which realised satisfactory prices, demand was restricted and clearances of many lots were made at rates unremunerative to growers. Cornichons were plentiful, but, generally, inquiry was slow and for the greater part of the month price levels were low. Of the white varieties other than muscats the principal business was transacted in Chanez but here again most packs sold cheaply.

Bi-weekly supplies of custard apples arrived on the market from Queensland and met brisk demand, choice realising to 7/• per half-case.

#### Smaller supplies of pineapples on offer.

Consignments of pineapples, although lighter than those of the previous month, were ample for trade requirements. A sudden cold change lasting for several days adversely affected trading, nevertheless stocks were cleared. The bulk of the fruit opened up satisfactorily but there were still some packs showing water blister which had to be sold at low rates.

#### Supplies of peas and beans vary and prices fluctuate.

During the first half of April, light supplies of beans reached the market. Choice lots comprised only a small percentage and generally values were firm. Medium and inferior descriptions were difficult to sell and a wide range of prices ruled. During the remainder of the month the quantities available varied. A heavy consignment from Queensland on the 17th April occasioned a sharp fall in rates and it was not until some days later that price levels improved.

While locally grown supplies are gradually becoming lighter, increasing quantities are expected to arrive from Far North Coast areas and from Queensland.

Consignments of peas showed considerable variations with consequent fluctuations in prices. At times, the quantity on hand exceeded buyers! requirements and surplus stocks were disposed of to canneries at low rates. On other occasions, the limited supplies on offer met brisk demand and at times up to 12/- per bushel was obtained for extra choice lines.

Frost injury was in evidence in many of the peas from Western districts towards the close of the month and values suffered in consequence. The principal source of supply was the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area; some lots arrived from coastal districts and generally the quality of these was very satisfactory.

#### Cauliflowers sell at improved rates.

Growers around Bathurst continued to be the principal suppliers of cauliflowers, although a marked decline in consignments was evident towards the close of April. The few lots from areas within the County of Cumberland for the most part comprised medium to small "heads". Demand was well maintained and values advanced steadily, up to 18/- per dozen being paid for choice descriptions.

#### Downward trend in values of cabbages.

High rates ruled for cabbages early in the period, as much as 14/- per dozen being obtained, but there was a slackening in request subsequently and the general movement of prices was downward. Nevertheless, realisations for good quality heads were satisfactory throughout.

# Good quality local tomatoes meet satisfactory demand - Many Victorian consignments show rain damage.

Fairly large consignments of Victorian tomatoes continued to arrive on the market until about mid-April but many lines were rain damaged and had to be cleared at low prices to factory buyers.

Local supplies were well maintained, the principal sources being coastal districts and the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. Demand for most descriptions was satisfactory and choice packs sold up to 12/- per half-case at times. A few cases were forward from Queensland but no considerable quantity is expected from this State until about mid-May.

R.M.

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Following the article "Planning Food Supplies in War Time and Farming generally in the United Kingdom", published in our April issue, it is interesting to note that a U.S.A. report anticipates a marked expansion in the 1941 potato acreage in Great Britain in response to the appeal for greater food production. The increase is said to be about 186,000 acres, bringing the total to approximately 1 million acres, compared with an average of 732,000 acres during the period 1934-1938.

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

Commodity	April, 1941 From To	31st August, 1939
Wheat - Home Consumption Bulk - per bushel Bagged	3/112d) unchanged	2/4d 2/5d
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2 (plus £2.8.10 tax)	£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)
Bran - per ton Pollard "	£6.0.0) unchanged	£4.5.0 £4.5.0
Eggs (hen) per dozon	1/9d unchanged	1/-
Buttor: Choice per cwt. First Quality " " Second " " "	161/2d ) 156/6d ) unchanged 151/10d)	161/2d 156/6d 151/10d
Cheese: Loaf per 1b. Large " " Special Brands per 1b.	lld ) unchanged llad 1/2d	11d 102d 1/2d
	April, 1941	29th August, 1939
Pigs (Abattoir Sales)	From To	From To
Good to prime: per head Porkers - extra light " - light " - modium weigh " - heavy Baconers- Backfatters	17/6 35/6 23/6 36/6 t 25/6 39/6 32/6 44/6 39/6 67/6 £3.0.0 £7.17.6	31/6 40/6 39/6 44/6 43/6 57/6 50/6 54/6 60/6 75/6 £4.5.0 £8.10.0

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

#### FRUIT

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	Melons	TOTALS packages
Queensland Victoria Tasmania Sth. Aust. West Aust.	30,936 35 -	7,098 344 - -	28,360 <sup>X</sup> 124,009 93,822 8,183	13,944 33,510 938 6	1 -	80,338 157,899 94,760 8,189
TOTALS:	30,971	7,442	254,374	48,398	1	341,186

x Also 144 bags Passion Fruit.

#### VEGETABLES

STATE	Petatees bags	Onions bags	Swedes	Pumpkins bags	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegetables pkges.	TOTALS packages
Queensland Victoria Tasmania Sth. Aust. West Aust.	48 23,037 102,245 725	6 36,379 - 546 -	60 1,549	1,329	244 20 - -	3,372 1,969 1,065 7,560	4,999 61,465 104,859 8,831
TOTALS	126,055	36,931	1,609	1,329	264	13,966	180,154

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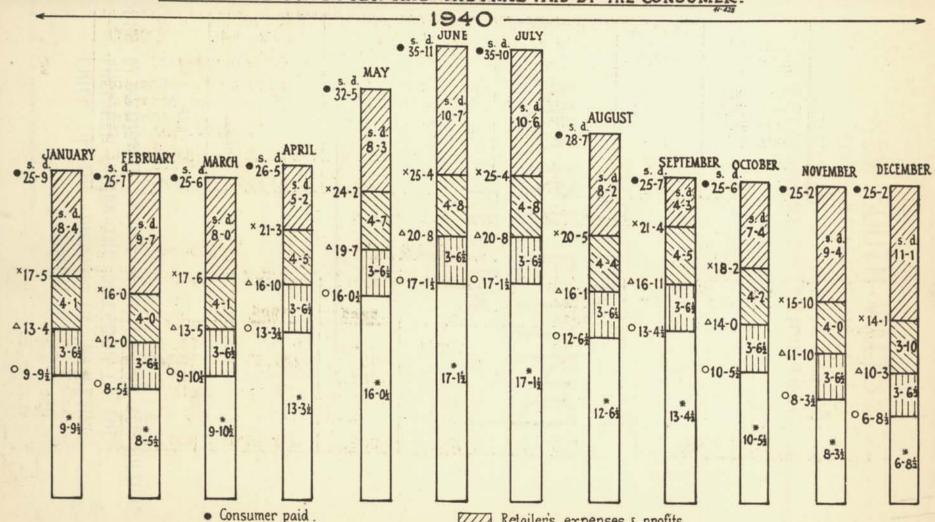
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

B41.4

Eights

Per Tropical Case.

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



x Retailer paid.

A Agent returned to grower.

O Net Sales return to grower.

\* Note\_ Costs of production should be deducted from this return.

Retailer's expenses & profits.

Agents commission, freight, cartage, ripening charge, &c.

Picking, cases, grading, packing, cartage to Rail, &c.

Net Sales return to grower.

A. A. WATSON ,

Chief of Division of Marketing.

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