



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

604

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



MONTHLY
MARKETING
REVIEW



JUNE, 1941.

Vol. 7

No. 2.

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.

JUNE, 1941.

Vol. 7

No. 2

<u>Table of Contents</u>		<u>Page</u>
Highlights		25
Public Marketing Facilities, Tamworth		26
Dried Fruits Industry, New South Wales		31
Sheep, Cattle and Pig Sales at Homebush		37
Fruit and Vegetable Sales at City Markets		43
Alexandria and Sussex Street Sales ..		46
Commodity Prices in Sydney ..		49
Fruit and Vegetables - Imports into New South Wales		50
Graph - Oysters - Cost of Marketing ..		51

Articles or other matter appearing herein
may be reproduced subject to due acknowledgment
being made of the source.

HIGHLIGHTS

New South Wales Minister for Local Government and Housing announces that State Government supports establishment of a chain of municipal markets for direct selling from producer to consumer, in order to reduce disparity between prices paid by consumers and returns to producers.

Assistant Minister for Commerce anticipates that Australian output of dried apples in 1941 will be more than doubled. This increase is to meet requirements of Imperial services contracts.

Minister for Trade and Customs brings Victorian and New South Wales retail rates of lamb, sold over counter for cash, under price control, and requires reduction of $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. from 26th May, 1941.

Establishment, primarily as a war-time measure, of a wool combing plant at Acton, Ontario, is reported. Annual output is expected to exceed 3 million lbs. of crossbred and merino wool tops. Plant will operate on commission basis for various Canadian enterprises. Previously, all Dominion's requirements of wool tops were imported, principally from Bradford and Australia.

According to Assistant Australian Government Trade Commissioner, Government of India have brought wheat under provisions of Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking Act, 1937. Intention is that grading of specialised varieties of wheat be undertaken, but not to grade all varieties, nor to interfere either with existing trade contracts or the All-India standard contract for wheat. Act already applies to fruits, vegetables, eggs, dairy products, tobacco, coffee, hides and skins, fruit products, ata (flour), oilseeds, vegetable oils, cotton, rice and lac.

Reported that recent ballot of wheat growers in 37 States of the United States of America resulted in vote of over 80% in favour of marketing quota restrictions for 1941 crop.

PUBLIC MARKETING FACILITIES
AT TAMWORTH, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Public marketing facilities are to be found in many of the urban centres of New South Wales. The Local Government Act, 1919, empowers Municipalities and Shires to provide such facilities and, whilst the power has not been exercised by all such bodies, it is a fact that quite a number has done so. Private enterprise has also moved in this matter in certain country towns (and in Parramatta and Nowtown in the Metropolitan Area of Sydney).

For the information of delegates to the Marketing and Distribution Conference held in Sydney from 11th to 14th March, 1941, the State Marketing Bureau collected particulars of marketing facilities throughout New South Wales from the Town and Shire Clerks. The following information regarding public marketing facilities at Tamworth are extracted from a report by an Officer of the State Marketing Bureau who personally investigated them.

Situated on the Peel River, in the centre of a fertile district noted for wheat, lucerne, maize, sheep and fat lambs, fat cattle, dairying, tobacco, etc., Tamworth is approximately 283 miles north of Sydney. It is in the southern section of the North Western Slope Statistical Division and is by far the largest town in that Division, having a population of 10,770.

Municipal Livestock Saleyards, Peel Street, Tamworth.

Municipally owned, these saleyards have been established over 50 years. The Council proposes to rebuild the yards over a number of years and has reconstructed a portion, putting in concrete floors; rebuilding work has been suspended owing to the war. It is estimated that the sheep section could accommodate 5,000 fats (yarded in small lots) or 20,000 stores (yarded in larger lots).

Sheep and cattle sales (of fats and stores) take place every Monday, commencing at 10 a.m. Special sheep sales (of stores and/or wool-cutters) are held whenever the auctioneers secure sufficient bookings. Special dairy cattle sales are conducted as offerings warrant, generally about twice a year. Horse sales are held monthly. Selling is by auction, and seven Tamworth firms sell.

The regular sheep and cattle sales are attended by buyers representing local and New England butchers, Riverstone and Aberdeen Meat Works, and Rogers & Co. Up till recently, a large proportion of the sheep offered has consisted of fat lambs, drawn principally from local sources and delivered to the yards

/by

by motor lorry. The uncertainty regarding meat export and the consequent lower prices have affected the numbers of sheep and cattle yarded and on Monday, 19th May, the pennings, particularly of cattle, were limited. By following the sheep auctions for a time, it was gleaned that, while rates for ewes and wethers were still weak, a somewhat firmer demand for fat lambs was apparent, due no doubt to the small yardings; realisations for good to prime fat lambs ranged from 12/- to 17/- per head. It was stated that prices generally were in line with Homebush, allowing for rail and other transport costs, and that operators buying at Tamworth and reselling at Homebush had found this to be the case.

At the special sheep sales, the supplies are principally from the "flat" country and the buyers are mainly New England graziers seeking young "wool-cutting" types. There has been a good demand at satisfactory prices for suitable lines.

The animals offered at the horse sales are largely drawn from the New England and Tamworth districts, and include both draught and light classes. Petrol restrictions are stated to have resulted in a better demand, especially for light horses, with a resultant rise in prices.

It was mentioned that dairy cattle are in good request and that good types submitted at "special" and "clearing" sales are realising very satisfactory rates.

Yard Dues: The following is the schedule of yard dues charged by the Municipal Council, on stock sold:-

Horses	..	1/-	per head
Fat Cattle	..	6d	" "
Store "	..	3d	" "
Fat Sheep	..	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	" "
Store "	..	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	" "
Bobby Calves	..	2d	" "

No charge is made for stock submitted but not sold, that is "passed".

Attached herounder is a schedule, compiled from figures supplied by the Tamworth Municipal Council, giving the numbers of stock "Sold" and "Passed" for the past three years:-

Stock Sold and Passed at Tamworth Municipal Saleyards,
Calendar Years 1938, 1939 and 1940.

	1938		1939		1940	
	Sold	Passed	Sold	Passed	Sold	Passed
Cattle, Fat	5,890	643	6,560	548	5,028	651
" , Store	6,669	2,044	6,480	1,440	1,879	1,032
Calves	2,193	-	435	-	1,687	24
Sheep, Fat	90,045	11,906	111,349	9,719	106,674	11,278
" , Stores	75,826	53,697	171,239	75,502	75,257	36,675
Horses	2,367	299	1,122	423	374	119

The comparatively low figures for 1940 yardings (other than calves) may be attributed to the drought conditions prevailing throughout the surrounding districts (in common with most of New South Wales) until December, 1940. It will be noted that offerings of store sheep and cattle and of horses were most adversely affected.

Pig Sales.

Pig sales are held every second Wednesday, portion of the animals being submitted at the West Tamworth railway yards and the balance at pens, owned by Messrs. Marsh, Walters and Scott, situated in Lower Street, Tamworth. The offerings are drawn from local piggeries and farms and from the Gunnedah, Manilla and Armidale districts, etc. A large proportion of the pennings consists of baconers, while porkers and stores are well represented; backfatters are not numerous. Beside local butchers, representatives of Huttons, Riverstone, Playfairs, Ashcroft, Dainty Foods and Silvesters attend these sales. The figures furnished by the Council show that the number of pigs sold increased considerably during 1940, when disposals totalled 13,044 head, compared with 7,977 in 1939 and 6,619 in 1938; a further expansion in 1941 can be expected, as the disposals on Wednesday, 14th May, totalled 728 head. General prices trends are said to follow Homebush levels, after making appropriate allowances for costs of transport. This was confirmed by a statement that rates for baconers had fallen £1 to £1.5.0 per head, but had shown an improvement at the last sale, a similar feature to the Homebush market.

Municipal Abattoir, Forest Road, Tamworth.

Up to a few years back, the Tamworth butchers had individual slaughter houses located outside the town boundaries and thus outside Municipal control. Considering that these were uneconomical, and not sufficiently hygienic, the Municipal Council constructed a modern abattoir to handle all livestock slaughterings for local (that is Tamworth) requirements. The "maximum" capacity of this abattoir is about three times the present "normal" slaughterings, so that the Council has allowed for considerable expansion in local consumption.

Privately owned by-product works operate on a site nearby, manufacturing meat meal, bone meal, protein and mineral blocks, blood meal blocks, and blood, bone and offal fertiliser. Approximately one-half of the output is disposed of locally, and the balance is sold to other inland centres. These works also have been constructed to permit of expansion in keeping with any additional slaughterings at the abattoir.

Fruit and Vegetable Markets (Reg. Swan)

Pool Street, Tamworth.

These markets, privately owned by Reg. Swan (whose head office is at Newcastle), are located in modern brick premises, with corrugated fibre-cement roof, in Pool Street, Tamworth. They have
/been

been operating 10 years and are said to be active and improving. From observation, it is considered that these handle the larger proportion of the Tamworth wholesale fruit trade.

At the back of the markets is a modern cool store, consisting of four rooms, with space for 4,000 cases of fruit. It was filled with apples and pears from the New England fruit growing districts.

All business at these markets is now conducted by private treaty, auctions having been discontinued some little time back. Hours of trading are:-

6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday.
7.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.
7.30 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday.

Most of the buyers are local traders, but some business is done with retailers from nearby centres, such as Quirindi and Werris Creek. It was stated that, in the main, prices are based on Sydney rates, less freight and transport costs. The chief sources of supply are:-

Apples and Pears:	Previously ex Kentucky and Tasmania, now as allotted by the Apple and Pear Board.
Citrus:	Ex Hunter River and Gosford districts.
Stone Fruits:	Surrounding districts.
Cherries:	Kentucky, Uralla, Walcha.
Bananas	From ripening chambers of Reg. Swan, Newcastle.
Pineapples:	Mainly from Port Macquarie by lorry.
Passions (only limited quantities handled):	do.
Potatoes:	Limited quantity local; mostly New England.
Tomatoes:	Local, Port Macquarie and Queensland.
Vegetables:	Local.
Tropical Fruits, such as Papaws, etc.:	These are purchased by retailers direct from Queensland.

Fruit, Vegetable, Produce and Poultry Markets
(Messrs. Marsh, Walters and Scott,
Brisbane and Lower Streets, Tamworth).

These privately owned markets have been operating over 25 years, under various owners, the present proprietors being Messrs. Marsh, Walters and Scott.

Auction sales are held on Tuesdays and Fridays, commencing at 7 a.m., whilst private treaty sales are carried on continuously. As indicative of the volume of business handled, it was stated that sales of fruit and vegetables would approximate £500 per week, about two-thirds of this being for fruit, whilst poultry sales would total between £200 to £250 per month.

The poultry section of the markets contains 156 pens. The offerings are drawn principally from the Tamworth district and comprise mainly fowls (an increasing proportion of which is of the light laying type, as could be expected from the greater attention now given to egg production in this centre), with some ducks and turkeys.

The chief sources of fruit, vegetable and produce supplies are:-

Apples and Pears:	Formerly Kentucky and Sydney; now through the Apple and Pear Board.
Citrus:	Gosford, Narara, Moorland and Kendall.
Bananas:	Green ex Goolmangar. Ripe ex Sydney.
Pines and Passions:	Direct from Queensland growers or by lorry from Port Macquarie.
Stone Fruits:	Local and Kentucky.
Cherries:	Kentucky.
Peas:	Guyra and Uralla districts.
Beans:	Local and Port Macquarie.
Tomatoes:	Local and, in the spring, Taree.
Potatoes:	Nyangla and New England.
Swedes:	Local and New England.
Onions:	Few local, balance through produce merchants.
Other Vegetables:	Local.

C.K.

-----oooOooo-----

ARGENTINE CHEESE REPLACING ITALIAN ON THE UNITED STATES MARKET.

According to a recent issue of "Foreign Crops and Markets", Argentina is taking advantage of the opportunity provided by the war of becoming firmly established as an important source of United States cheese imports. Italy's entrance into the war has caused imports of cheese from that source to taper off since the summer of 1940, and it is stated that Argentina is in a position to export the Italian types to the American market in large quantities. In 1938, Italy supplied 46 percent of all United States cheese imports, or about 25 million pounds.

Statistics for the past 5 years show that the United States has been the most important market for Argentine cheese, but in 1940 exports to this country rose to 10,000,000 pounds, an increase of over 200 percent compared with 1939. Total exports of cheese from Argentina in 1940 were more than double those of 1939, amounting to 12,500,000 pounds. In 1940 Argentine cheese represented 22 percent of total cheese imports into the United States.

-----oooOooo-----

THE DRIED FRUITS INDUSTRY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Valuable Australian Exports of Dried Fruits.

Australian production statistics reveal that Victoria and South Australia are the main producers of Dried Vine Fruits, which are grown chiefly along the River Murray Irrigation Areas, but extensive vineyards are also cultivated in New South Wales and Western Australia. Whilst Tasmania produces the bulk of the Dried Apples, New South Wales and South Australia are the principal sources of the other Dried Tree Fruits.

The Commonwealth production of dried fruits showed a gradual increase from 1901 up to the end of 1918. The high prices ruling during the last years of the World War stimulated plantings, whilst large numbers of returned soldiers were placed on closer settlement areas suitable to vine and fruit tree culture, with consequent expansion in output.

Up to 1921, Australia imported some raisins and currants, but since that year she has become an exporter in increasing quantities, principally to the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand. Dried tree fruits, to a less extent, are also exported, mainly to Great Britain. The total of Dried Fruit Exports for 1938/39 was 1,681,388 centals valued at £A.2,864,819; imports of Dried Fruits, mostly dates and figs, amounted to 110,970 centals worth £A.64,478. Thus exports exceeded imports by £A.2,784,060.

Dried Fruits Acts.

The following notes have been extracted from the interesting and informative "Report of the New South Wales Dried Fruits Board for 1940". Each of the principal producing States (Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Western Australia) has a Dried Fruits Act and a Dried Fruits Board constituted under such Act.

While dried fruits are not produced in Queensland, the consumption of these commodities in that State is considerable. The possibility of illegal sales of inferior quality dried fruits produced in the Southern States to buyers in Queensland has received the attention of the various Dried Fruits Boards during past years. The Queensland Parliament has now passed an Act covering Dried Fruits, and gazetted regulations thereunder; this legislation gives full powers of inspection of dried fruits in Queensland and an Inspector of the New South Wales Dried Fruits Board has been authorised to act as a Dried Fruits Inspector in the Northern State.

New South Wales Dried Fruits Board.

In terms of the Dried Fruits Act of New South Wales, as amended in 1939, the Dried Fruits Board of this State is composed of five members, viz.:-

- (1) The Chairman, appointed by the Governor.
- (2) One member elected by growers of dried vine fruits whose holdings are situated within the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas.
- (3) One member elected by growers of dried vine fruits whose holdings are situated within the State of New South Wales, elsewhere than within the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas.
- (4) One member elected by growers of dried tree fruits whose holdings are situated within the Young district.
- (5) One member elected by growers of dried tree fruits whose holdings are situated within the State of New South Wales elsewhere than within the Young district.

The elected members hold office for a term of three years.

The Board is a corporate body with perpetual succession and a common seal.

The main duties of the Board consist of:-

Recommendations on the basis of production and consumption in Australia of quotas for the purposes of intra-State trade.

The check of the State pack of dried fruits to ensure that the determined quotas (promulgated by the Minister for Agriculture) are complied with.

The inspection of dried fruits to ensure the hygienic treatment thereof.

The regulation of the packing and grading of dried fruits and of the branding of boxes containing dried fruits to ensure that the high standard of the Australian pack is maintained.

The prevention of the sale or purchase of dried fruits which have not been treated, packed and graded in registered packing houses under the Board's supervision.

The Board was first constituted in 1928 for the purpose of regulating and controlling in New South Wales dried vine fruits, viz., currants, sultanas and loxias. In 1932 its jurisdiction was extended to include dried tree fruits, viz., prunes, apricots, peaches, noctarinos and pears.

The Dried Fruit Industry in New South Wales

The chief producing centres in New South Wales are:-

Dried Vine Fruits: The Murrumbidgee, Coomealla, Curlwaa, Goodnight Kornleigh and Pomona Irrigation Areas, with small quantities also from the Junee, Albury and Euston districts.

Dried Prunes: The Young district and the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas, together with a little from the Albury, Junee and Wentworth localities.

Dried Apricots, Peaches, Pears and Nectarines: The Murrumbidgee and Curlwaa Irrigation Areas.

The State production of dried vine fruits during the 1940 season was the highest on record, whilst the quality of the fruit from the Murray Valley portions was well above average. Exceptionally dry weather conditions during the cultural period was mainly responsible for a low yield of prunes in the Young district. The report states that, due to the low production during the 1939 and 1940 seasons, the quantity of dried prunes available has proved barely sufficient to cover Australian consumption.

Production of dried apricots, peaches, nectarines and pears in 1940 was normal elsewhere than on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas where, for the second season in succession, the tonnage of dried apricots was well below average. The tonnage produced on those areas is affected by the financial returns available from sales to the canneries, and on the fresh fruit market, and is, therefore, subject to heavy fluctuations from season to season. In addition, the quantity of fresh apricots produced was below normal.

The total production for New South Wales of Dried Fruits for the 1940 season was 11,283 tons, comprised of:-

<u>Dried Vine Fruits</u>		<u>Dried Tree Fruits</u>	
Currants	- 1,509 tons	Prunes	- 1,604 tons
Sultanas	- 7,389 "	Peaches	- 87 "
Loxias	- 501 "	Apricots	- 188 "
		Nectarines	2 "
		Pears	- 3 "
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	9,399 "		1,884 "

/Total

Total production of Dried Fruits in main producing States of Australia, Seasons 1938 to 1940:-

<u>State</u>	<u>1938</u> tons	<u>1939</u> tons	<u>1940</u> * tons
Victoria	57,189	49,042	57,385
South Australia	28,112	23,280	28,089
New South Wales	9,866	7,151	11,283
Western Australia	2,696	4,025	3,670
<u>Total:</u>	<u>97,863</u>	<u>76,498</u>	<u>100,427</u>

* To 31st December, 1940.

(Extracted from Appendix 'D' to Report).

The 1940 production of Dried Fruits was a record both in New South Wales and Australia.

Packing Houses and Inspection.

Section 19(7) of the Dried Fruits Act, 1939, provides that the granting, renewal or transfer of the registration of any packing house shall be in the sole discretion of the Governor.

Twenty-four packing houses were registered in 1940. Of these, eight were located on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas, six in Sydney and suburbs, five on the Lower Murray River, two in the Young district, and one in each of the Goodnight, Albury and Junee districts.

It has been the policy to limit as far as possible the number of packing houses in New South Wales consistent with efficient and economical packing. A similar policy has been adopted by the Dried Fruits Boards of the other States.

The inspection service at the various packing houses is carried out by Inspectors of the Commonwealth Department of Commerce. The Commonwealth Customs Act, 1901-1936, and the Commonwealth Commerce (Trade Description) Act, 1905-1933, and regulations thereunder, provide for grading and packing of dried fruits intended for export under somewhat similar conditions to those required by the State legislation. The cost of this inspection service is shared by the Department of Commerce and the Board.

Quotas and Export.

For the purpose of intra-State trade, the New South Wales Minister for Agriculture, on the recommendation of the Board, determined as final quotas the maximum proportions of each /variety

variety of dried fruits produced in New South Wales during the 1940 season which may be marketed within the State as under:-

Currants	17%	Peaches	98%
Sultanas	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	Apricots	90%
Lexias	49%	Nectarines	100%
Prunes	100%	Pears	85%

The quotas are, in the first instance, fixed early each season on estimates of production and consumption in Australia, and are liable to variation as the actual production and consumption become apparent.

By co-ordination between the Dried Fruits Boards of the producing States, the quotas are made uniform throughout the Commonwealth, except in Western Australia, where a special arrangement operates in respect of sultanas only.

The marketing of the exportable surplus of dried fruits is handled by the Commonwealth Exports Control Board, which, in its 1939-40 report, stated:-

"But for the special circumstances of the War, the difficulty of disposing of the 1940 season's exportable surplus would have been exceedingly great and without doubt there would have been a large carry-over to the 1941 season"

"The total quantity of 1940 season's Australian dried vine fruits purchased by the Government of the United Kingdom was 49,700 tons or about 52% of the total production. In addition to purchasing this large quantity of dried fruit, the British Government made available the necessary shipping space for its transport to various ports in the United Kingdom."

The problem of disposing of the exportable surplus even in years of normal production has now reached serious proportions. In order that this problem may not be aggravated, the various Dried Fruits Boards, assisted by the Governments of the producing State and by the Commonwealth Government, discourage further plantings for the production of dried fruits. Thus, "orderly production" as well as "orderly marketing" is kept in view.

Interstate Co-operation.

A Consultative Committee, consisting of the Chairmen of the various State Dried Fruits Boards, meets from time to time to ensure, as far as possible, uniformity in administration by each Board. The functions of this Committee are advisory and cover such matters as recommendations of uniform quotas, contributions by packers and general matters of policy.

The Dried Fruits Publicity Committee, comprising a similar personnel to the Consultative Committee with the addition of a representative of the Australian Dried Fruits Association (A.D.F.A.), is responsible for the organisation of dried fruits publicity throughout Australia. This publicity includes exhibits at the Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane Royal Shows and at various country shows, shop window displays, lectures at schools, newspaper and radio advertising, etc. The cost of this publicity is contributed by the industry through the Dried Fruits Boards and the A.D.F.A. The value of the work has been reflected in a considerable increase in consumption of dried fruits in Australia in recent years.

Prune Juice - By-products.

The various Dried Fruits Boards are co-operating in an endeavour to establish a Prune Juice Industry in Australia, for the utilisation of waste prunes and, in years of plenty, of surplus prunes. In the processing of prunes, a small percentage of the fruit is found to be damaged, mainly through the skins splitting, and, although perfectly wholesome, this is now discarded.

Prune juice, which has mild laxative qualities, is a very popular beverage in America and in some European countries, and is also extensively used in baby clinics.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, at its Homebush Laboratory, New South Wales, has been conducting experiments in the manufacture of juice from six different grades of prunes. Tests indicate that a juice equal to the American product can be made in Australia. Further investigation into costs and methods of manufacture are proceeding.

The New South Wales Dried Fruits Board is also interested in other by-products of prunes, including the manufacture of prune bread.

Contributions.

For the season 1940 contribution by packers towards the cost of defraying the expenditure involved in the administration of the Dried Fruits Act and carrying out the duties and functions of the Board thereunder, remained at the rate of 4s.3d. per ton in common with the other States. These contributions are not sufficient to cover the expenditure necessary to enable the New South Wales Board to carry out the duties and functions expected of it, including inspections in relation to illegal traffic in New South Wales and Queensland of dried fruits produced in any part of Australia. Accordingly, subsidies are received from the Boards of other States in which the production is greater.

LIVESTOCK MARKETS AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

LAMB AND CATTLE VALUES LOWER; SHARP RISE IN PIG PRICES.

Aggregate penning of sheep and lambs increase.

The aggregate penning of sheep and lambs during May showed an increase of 16,000 head over the April total as, although there was a fairly substantial decline in the number of lambs marketed, this was offset by considerably larger consignments of grown sheep. During the period 306,021 head of sheep and lambs were offered; spread over 9 selling days, this represented an average of about 34,000 per day.

Sharp rise in sheep numbers.

Grown sheep, particularly wethers, were well represented, a total of 179,723 head being penned as against 133,094 head in the previous month. Apparently the fact that food is becoming scarce in certain centres has led graziers to market all reasonably conditioned sheep in order to reduce flocks during the winter. Despite the increased offerings, there was a fair representation of good to prime sheep; some exceptionally good lots of heavy wethers and ewes were included but nice quality light trade descriptions were only lightly supplied. This did not mean a shortage of light mutton, however, as a fair proportion of medium to good trade sheep was submitted. Quite a few aged and broken mouthed culled ewes were noticed throughout the yards.

Variable sheep market.

The market for grown sheep showed a rather irregular tendency during the month but, when due allowance was made for the variations which occurred, the average rates per pound for mutton did not materially differ from those ruling in April. The early part of May was marked by a downward trend in prices; at the beginning of the second week some improvement was apparent, and subsequently sheep sold at somewhat higher rates for about a fortnight. During the final week a weaker tendency again developed, rates for the heavy class showing the most decline. At the close, the average cost of mutton was about the same as at the commencement of the period, but it was possible to buy extra heavy mutton a little cheaper, while some choice light wethers were a little dearer. Prices of medium to plain sheep did not vary appreciably, as operators had brought this class down to fairly low levels in April. Some indication of the trend of the market is given by the following sales:-

Early in May, good trade wethers, weighing approximately 44 lb., sold at 16/- each, equivalent to 3d per lb., and a draft of 36 lb. ewes cost 2²/₂d per lb., realising 11/4d per head. At the end of the first week, a line of 45 lb. wethers, of nice quality /and

and good shape, was disposed of at 15/7 per head or 2½d per lb, while a pen of good trade ewes, weighing approximately 40 lb., brought 11/3 each or 2d per lb. Subsequently, request improved somewhat and values firmed to about the levels prevailing at the opening auction, so that at the end of May a pen of 46 lb. wethers realised 20/3 each, being worth 3d per lb.

Average rates at about April levels.

Despite a good deal of irregularity, the market could be regarded as comparing favourably with that of the previous month, the average cost of mutton per lb. being approximately the same as that for April. At the commencement of May butchers were paying up to 3d per lb. for wether and 2½d per lb. for ewe mutton, but at the period of lowest prices they secured similar meat for 2½d and 2d per lb., respectively. By the end of the month, however, the cost of wether mutton had advanced to 3½d, while ewes were worth 2½d per lb. Having due regard for the various phases, average rates were from 2d to 2½d for heavy wethers and 2½d to 3d per lb. for light; heavy ewes cost from 1½d to 2d and light brought from 1½d to 2½d per lb., according to quality.

Some of the best quality heavy wethers disposed of during May realised the very satisfactory price of 24/- per head and quite a few lots sold at 22/- each, but by far the largest percentage of the better class of wether was secured at rates ranging from 14/- to 20/- per head. Although the general standard of the ewes was not conducive to high values, some of the nicest quality penned made to 17/-, with a few odd sheep slightly higher; most realisations were from 10/- to 16/- each, according to weight, finish and skin value. Values of the plainer sheep ranged from as low as 4/- per head. For the most part, however, sales could be regarded as good and a steady demand was evident throughout.

Smaller yarding of lambs.

Due, no doubt, to the export position and the low prices obtained on occasions in April, graziers did not maintain consignments of lambs to the Homebush Saleyards at anywhere near the same level as that of the previous month, when 157,434 head were auctioned. During May, operators had a total of 126,298 lambs, from which to fill requirements; this supply, however, appeared more than ample to meet local trade needs. The general quality of the yarding was not the best; this was particularly noticeable in respect of light trade lambs, dressing from 26 lb. to 32 lb., many of which were on the plain side. Nevertheless, some very attractive lots of light trade Southdown type lambs were offered, but these were by no means numerous. Heavy lambs and mixed lots of lambs and hoggets were fairly well represented, and some exceptionally nice consignments were auctioned, many of which would dress out over 50 lb. of carcass. Such weights, however, are regarded as too heavy for general local trade needs, and the principal demand was from near country butchers and some others who can cut and place this class of meat in their businesses.

/Lamb

Lamb prices decline substantially.

The sharp rise in lamb prices evident at the close of April was followed by a further advance of up to 1/- per head at the opening sale day in May. At the next auctions, however, request was rather restricted, and values fell by from 2/- to 5/- per head, rates for the heavy type showing the greatest decline. On the succeeding sale day, a further weakening of prices of practically all classes was apparent, except in respect of odd pens of prime light sorts. Subsequently a much better demand prevailed and heavy lambs were from 6d to 1/- dearer and light types 1/- to 2/- higher. Buyers continued to operate with much more freedom at the following sale and a further improvement of from 1/- to 1/6 per head was recorded. Towards the close, prices of the heavy class again fell by from 1/- to 2/- per head, but rates for good light trade lambs remained fairly steady. Taking into consideration the various fluctuations, average cost of carcasses generally was not as high as in April, this being specially so with the heavy lambs, but on one sale day values of light suckers exceeded the best prices paid for similar lamb in the previous month.

The variations in prices during May are illustrated by the following realisations:-

At the commencement, a draft of good trade lambs, weighing approximately 33 lb., sold at 21/- each, equivalent to 6d per lb., while good heavy lambs, dressing approximately 38 lb., cost 5½d per lb. and brought 21/3 each. A sharp drop then took place and operators paid 5d per lb. for lambs weighing approximately 33 lb., the consignment making 17/11 per head; on the same day, heavy 50 lb. lambs made 19/7 each or 3½d per lb. Subsequently values improved and, towards the end of the month, a pen of good trade lambs, weighing approximately 31 lb., was disposed of at 17/8 each or 5¼d per lb., while good heavy lambs, weighing approximately 44 lb., cost 3½d per lb., realising 18/6 per head.

Rates for lamb carcasses vary considerably.

The lamb market during May possessed many features similar to that for April, the most notable being the wide range in the cost of the carcass per pound. On several occasions the extra heavy lambs made little better than good light wether mutton, selling as low as 3d per lb., but, when prices were at their best, this class made up to 5d per lb. For the most part, however, rates for heavy lamb ranged from 3½d to 4½d per lb. On occasions operators who specialise in extra good quality light lambs paid as much as 6½d per lb.; on the other hand, for a time good quality light trade lambs cost only from 3½d to 4d per lb. Generally, however, good quality light trade lambs brought from 4½d to 5½d per lb., the light Down type of lamb commanding the highest prices. Fair to good trade light lambs, of which a fair quantity was offered, were worth on an average from 3½d to 4½d per lb., according to quality and finish.

Some of the best drafts of lambs available made 22/- per head, while quite a number sold at from 18/- to 21/- each; generally, however, from 14/- to 17/- per head was paid for the better class of lamb, according to weight and skin value. Other grades were often hard to sell at relatively lower rates.

Heavier truckings of cattle.

Truckings of cattle during May were fairly even as regards numbers and average daily consignments were a little above those of April, 1941. There were nine sale days and receipts totalled 16,334, including 1,815 auctioned in the Store section. The aggregate for the previous month was 12,777 head, while for May, 1940, cattle yardings amounted to 13,642. The bulk of the consignments during the month under review consisted of lightweight stock and quality generally showed considerable fluctuation. At times the standard was disappointing, while on other occasions good trade beasts predominated. On the whole, the percentage of prime descriptions penned was insufficient for trade requirements and animals of this grade generally met keen inquiry.

The pastoral position became even more unsatisfactory during May, owing to the continued absence of appreciable rains. During early June, however, beneficial falls were recorded over a fairly wide area, but, owing to the advent of colder weather, they may have been too late to be of material benefit to pastures.

Light but improved supplies of bullocks.

Bullocks continued in limited supply during the greater part of the month but a distinct improvement in numbers arriving was noticed towards the close. The great bulk of the penning was of lightweight description and of good trade standard. Occasionally prime medium weights made a fair showing but heavy sorts were very scarce. During early May values were maintained at the steady levels of the previous month, viz.:- 40/- to 43/- per 100 lb. for good to prime lightweights. Subsequent quotations were slightly lower and some fluctuation was noticeable. Carcase equivalents at the close were:- Heavy 35/- to 39/-, Medium 38/- to 41/-, Light 39/- to 42/-.

Prime steers scarce.

Generally steers were fairly numerous, but quality was variable and only a relatively small proportion was of prime grade. There was, however, a moderate representation of good trade sorts. Prices on the whole were not quite as high as those of April, although they were fairly steady. Quotations for prime lightweight steers ranged to 45/- for some time but average rates, covering all weights of good to prime quality, were approximately 39/- to 44/- per 100 lb.

/Quality

Quality of cows only fair.

Moderate offerings of cows were again submitted, but the standard was only fair. Lightweights of medium grade predominated although, on some occasions, a noticeable percentage was of fair to good trade quality. Prices generally were well maintained for most of the month and during the third week good heavy sorts were quoted at 33/- to 36/- and lightweights at 35/- to 38/- per 100 lb. Values fell somewhat at the final sale, when corresponding rates were 28/- to 33/- and 31/- to 35/-. Demand for medium grade stock was weak throughout May.

Variable consignments of heifers.

Consignments of heifers were variable, but on some occasions this class made a very fair showing. The pennings comprised chiefly small and medium weight animals of fair to good trade quality, with odd drafts of prime grade. Rates were fairly steady during the greater part of the month, ranging chiefly from 35/- to 42/- per 100 lb. The highest quotation for prime light was 44/-, while lowest prices ruled on the final sale day, when realisations were from 34/- to 39/-.

Vealers plentiful.

For the most part vealers were in plentiful supply but quality fluctuated, being very satisfactory on some days and unsatisfactory on others, when prime descriptions were difficult to secure. Values were lowest at the beginning of the period, when carcass equivalents were from 40/- to 47/- per 100 lb. Subsequently rates rose progressively until they ranged from 47/- to 51/-. A weaker tendency was in evidence at the close of the month. Realisations generally were below those for April.

On the whole, cattle values during May were below those of the previous month, but, in most instances, the decrease was small. Returns to the producer are still very satisfactory and there are no present indications of any pronounced weakness in the market.

Substantial pennings of pigs.

Offerings of pigs by auction during May, 1941, although not as large as the abnormal pennings of the previous month, were very substantial and aggregated 8,762 head, of which 4,684 arrived by rail. Private sales in the Metropolitan Area accounted for 3,979 head, or slightly more than those for April, 1941. Total auctions during May, 1940, were 6,192.

Good trade porkers well supplied.

Porkers were well supplied throughout the period under review and, for the most part, the quality was fairly good, while
/many

many consignments were of prime description. The percentage of pigs in store condition varied but only on one occasion did this class represent a substantial proportion of the offering. Generally medium to heavy weight porkers predominated, while prime lightweights were difficult to secure. Values of porkers showed a remarkable improvement, completely recovering from the disastrous fall of the previous month. On the opening sale day, the top prices for pigs dressing 60 lb. were round about 27/6 per head, while 37/6 was the highest realisation recorded for pigs dressing 90 lb. By the close of the month rates had risen 12/- per head, and corresponding values of pigs of the above weights were 39/6 and 49/6, respectively. The market as a whole became more stable and the irregularities mentioned in the previous review were less pronounced.

Prime country baconers well represented.

Consignments of baconers fluctuated much more than those of porkers, but on the whole this class was well represented. The bulk of the pennings comprised light and medium weight animals and quality generally was fairly satisfactory, prime country baconers being well in evidence. On the first sale day in May prices rose 3/- to 5/- per head and quotations ranged from 42/6 (100 lb.) to 60/6 (150 lb.). The market remained fairly steady at those levels until the close, when a firmer tendency became evident, especially for prime lightweights, which were quoted from 50/6 per head and were worth up to 6½d per lb. Light and medium weight pigs suitable for the local trade met the best inquiry and buyers were not prepared to pay much more per head for heavy baconers than they did for medium weights.

Backfatters in demand.

Pennings of backfatters were, for the most part, comparatively light and quality was variable. Nevertheless, good trade sorts were well represented, although heavy descriptions were difficult to secure. At the beginning of the month backfatters of good to prime quality were worth 3½d to 4d per lb. for pigs dressing 200 to 350 lb. and 3½d to 3¾d for those exceeding 350 lb. A firmer request prevailed during the two following sales, while values at the final auction advanced remarkably, the increases varying from £2 to £3 per head or nearly 2d per lb. It is understood that food contracts for war purposes were responsible for these higher prices. Quotations on the day in question ranged from 4½d to 6½d per lb.

Position generally more satisfactory.

The grave uncertainty facing the industry during April seems to have passed, and the position is much more satisfactory, although not as good as the producers could wish. Except in the case of backfatters, values continued to show an improvement during early June sales.

CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

POME AND CITRUS FRUIT PLENTIFUL; GREEN VEGETABLES
IN LIGHTER SUPPLY.

Improved trading in apples towards end of May.

Generally, the market was well supplied with apples, particularly in the early part of May, when stocks included many over-mature Tasmanian Jonathans, which were difficult to dispose of, even at concession rates. Business was somewhat depressed during this early period but, with the clearance of all "sleepy" lines, trading improved.

The season for local Jonathans finished but fairly good consignments of Victorian and Tasmanian fruit continued to arrive and met satisfactory inquiry. Tasmanian Cleopatras were plentiful and were in request.

Supplies of local Delicious were mainly of sizes 3 inch and over and realised from 9/- to 12/- per bushel.

Many large sized Rome Beauty apples were on offer and well-coloured lines sold steadily. Stocks of Granny Smiths were light at times but mostly were sufficient to meet demand.

Both Croftons and Democrats were included in Tasmanian shipments but, apart from a few forward lines and large sizes of the latter variety, the arrivals were placed in cool stores.

Good range of pears available.

Buyers had a good range of pears to choose from, the varieties available comprising Packhams, Winter Cole, Josephines, Beurre Bosc and Glou. Morceau. The two first-mentioned were the most popular and were disposed of at firm rates. Choice firm lines of the other kinds also sold satisfactorily but ripe lots were difficult to clear, particularly some Tasmanian Winter Cole and Glou. Morceau, which were delayed in transit early in the month.

Heavier offerings of Navel oranges.

The position with regard to citrus fruits was not very satisfactory from the producer's point of view, as, generally speaking, the market was listless. The plentiful supplies of Valencia oranges from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area available until mid-May restricted demand for early arrivals of Navels from coastal districts. The former oranges were of better colour and sugar content and were preferred by buyers.

Inquiry for Navels improved later and values firmed, but towards the close of the month the receipt of heavy supplies, which
/for

for the most part were counts of from 64 to 100 per case, caused rates to fall sharply.

Large quantities of coastal lemons were forward but request was restricted and, except for choice coloured lots, this fruit was obtainable at low prices.

Steady clearance for choice mandarins.

While choice Imperial mandarins were in steady demand, small fruit sold slowly. The Emperor variety was more plentiful towards the end of May and realised to 7/- per bushel, with occasional specials dearer.

The outstanding colour and general quality of Glen Retreat mandarins from Queensland attracted buyers, and each consignment from the Gayndah district cleared quickly, up to 18/- per bushel being received.

Request for grapefruit was only moderate; nevertheless stocks were reduced considerably and values improved slightly, Coastal selling to 8/- per bushel and up to 10/- being obtained for Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. Some very good quality fruit arrived from the Narromine district and realised to 16/- per case.

Sharp fall in prices of bananas.

The fairly high prices ruling for bananas during the earlier half of the month restricted demand and, as a result, values fell sharply. The market was dull during the last week of May, despite fairly light consignments, and values ranged from 10/- to 17/- per tropical case, with a few specials higher.

Pineapples generally dearer.

Compared with the previous month, lighter supplies of pineapples were forward. A considerable proportion of the fruit was of large size and at times difficulty was experienced in clearing stocks. Prices generally were higher, choice lines realising 12/- to 14/- per tropical case.

Good request for custard apples; values of papaws and grapes lower.

Custard apples were received at bi-weekly intervals and met good request, stocks clearing prior to the arrival of fresh consignments.

Increased quantities of papaws were available towards the end of May and values were from about 2/- to 3/- per case lower.

Demand for grapes was mostly for Waltham Cross and Ohanez varieties but prices were fairly low. Cornichons met a poor inquiry and at times were practically unsaleable.

Marked decline in consignments of peas.

The main features in the green vegetable market were the rapid falling-off in supplies of most kinds and the resultant upward trend in values. On the first two days of the month consignments of peas exceeded 2,000 bags but then a marked decline in the daily supply occurred. Towards the end of May arrivals on some occasions were less than 500 bags, the smallest quantity for many months. Taking into consideration that about 1,500 bags per day can be disposed of when values are at reasonable levels, it can readily be understood that high prices were realised, as much as 18/- per bushel being paid for choice lines. The effect of the inflated values was reduced buying by retailers and at times clearances were slow. The market is now dependent on supplies from coastal districts, as western and Irrigation crops have finished.

Cauliflowers realise high rates.

Compared with last season, consignments of cauliflowers were lighter and rates were maintained at high levels, selected heads realising up to 20/- per dozen. The Bathurst district continued to forward a fair proportion of the supplies, the balance coming from within the County of Cumberland. Demand generally was very satisfactory and only on rare occasions was it necessary to carry over any lines.

Supplies of North Coast and Queensland beans supplement local stocks.

The position with regard to beans was somewhat brighter and although local offerings showed a marked reduction, arrivals of fairly heavy North Coast and Queensland consignments on Monday and Thursday of each week kept values at reasonable levels for most of the month. A good deal of anthracnose was apparent in North Coast and Queensland lots; this disease was responsible for considerable monetary loss to growers, as affected lines had to be sold at lower prices.

Moderate quantities of cabbages available.

There was good inquiry for cabbages, particularly medium sized heads, on practically all occasions. Supplies were received from as far afield as Coffs Harbour on the North Coast but the quantities from all sources on offer daily were for the most part only moderate and rarely was it necessary to carry over any lines. Choice lots realised to 12/- per dozen, but the general range for best lines was from 8/- to 10/-.

Weaker closing market for tomatoes.

Locally grown tomatoes comprised the bulk of the offerings early in May and satisfactory prices were obtained,

/up

up to 12/- per half-case being paid for choice coloured descriptions. Towards the close, however, the colder weather caused demand to slacken and lower rates had to be accepted. Consignments from both northern and southern Queensland arrived at bi-weekly intervals. The quality was variable and a number of blighty lines had to be cleared cheaply. Some of the northern packs were choice and some partly coloured lots sold to 10/- per half-case, but the general range of prices was lower, the market closing at 5/- to 7/-, with specials to 8/- per half-case.

-----0000000-----

R.M.

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD
AND
SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Lighter supplies of potatoes.

Supplies of local potatoes forwarded to Alexandria Railway Goods Yard during May showed a considerable reduction on the previous month's total. Receipts during the earlier half of the period were considerably lighter, but towards the close larger yardings were again available. Crookwell and Taralga were the chief districts represented; between them they supplied more than half of the 13,277 bags submitted. Quality was noticeably better and the percentage of lines withheld owing to moth infestation or for regrading was small. Sales were well attended and demand was steady, clearances in most cases being satisfactory. Seed lines were in particular request throughout and choice lots realised up to £8.0.0 per ton. Prices generally showed little variation from week to week but, with the exception of those for seed, values were lower than those ruling in April. Realisations by auction were:- No. 1 Grade £4.0.0 to £6.11.8, No. 2 £2.10.0 to £5.15.0, No. 3 £2.0.0 to £4.10.0, Seed £2.10.0 to £8.0.0 per ton, stock food 2/- to 5/- per bag.

Consignments of Victorian potatoes were considerably heavier, amounting to 2,717 bags; most of these were No. 1 grade lines, which cleared readily at £4.6.8 to £5.5.0 per ton.

Slightly reduced stocks of Tasmanian potatoes, aggregating 85,099 bags, were received in Sussex Street. Quality of all varieties was good. During the first two trading periods rates were unchanged at:- Brownells £7.0.0, Bismarcks £6.0.0, Snowflakes £5.0.0, Arranchiefs £4.10.0 per ton. Towards the close of the month, however, quotations were lowered by 10/- to £1 per ton and became:- Brownells £6.10.0, Bismarcks £5.10.0, Snowflakes and Arranchiefs £4.10.0 per ton. The market was steady, although Brownells cleared somewhat slowly at times. The cheaper potatoes, Whiteskins, met a particularly firm inquiry towards the close of the month.

/Firmer

Firmer rates for table onions, but picklers cheaper.

Considerably lighter consignments of Victorian onions were received in Sussex Street during the month, only about 180 tons in all being available. While a small proportion of white table was included, the bulk comprised brown table and pickling lines.

Despite a large reduction in stocks, prices of picklers were easier at £7.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton, steady sales being reported. White and Brown Table lines cleared well at the rates of £16 to £18 and £11.10.0 to £13.0.0, respectively, according to a scale of costs determined by the Prices Commissioner.

Victorian Brown Globes railed to Alexandria totalled 5,578 bags, a slight increase on receipts for April. Quality was good and values were firmer at £11.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton.

Further decline in pumpkin prices.

A total of 62 trucks of local pumpkins was yarded at Alexandria, compared with 43 trucks during April. Early in the period, sales were effected to £4.0.0 per ton, but with the heavier arrivals the market eased and the bulk of disposals took place at £2.10.0 to £3.10.0 per ton. At times rates were lowered to £2.0.0 per ton, to facilitate clearances.

Good demand for other root vegetables.

Other Tasmanian root vegetables to hand were as follow:- 4,291 bags of swedes, 973 of carrots and 583 of parsnips. Cool weather conditions resulted in a good request and the consignments were cleared practically upon arrival. For the most part, prices, which were fixed at the commencement of each week, were easier at: Swedes £5.0.0 to £7.0.0, Carrots £10.0.0 to £12.0.0, Parsnips £6.0.0 to £14.0.0 per ton. Supplies from New South Wales centres amounted to 415 bags of swedes and 54 of carrots. Quality varied and auction sales were effected at £3.10.0 to £7.15.0 for swedes and £7.0.0 per ton for carrots.

Choice chaff in firm request.

Oaten chaff yarded at Alexandria totalled 146 trucks, as against 116 trucks the previous month. The principal inquiry again was for choice varieties but clearances were generally satisfactory. The market during the period covering the first three trading weeks showed little variation but towards the close values advanced, odd lines realising up to £8.10.0 per ton. Quotations throughout were:- Medium £5.0.0 to £6.0.0, Good to £7.0.0, Choice to £8.0.0, with a few lots to £8.10.0 per ton. A number of auction sales was made at prices ranging from £5.5.0 to £6.15.0 per ton.

The 64 trucks of wheaton chaff were in steady demand and, although sometimes medium lots were slow to clear, choice lines
/realised

realised firmer values. Quotations ranged from £4.10.0 to £6.10.0 per ton, according to quality.

Larger supplies of lucerne chaff were forwarded from New South Wales districts, 88 trucks being available. The market was practically unchanged, prime varieties selling at £7.0.0 to £7.10.0 per ton, while medium to good lots brought £5.0.0 to £6.0.0 per ton. About six trucks were offered at auction, realising £5.18.4 to £6.16.8 per ton.

Steady inquiry for choice lucerne hay.

Lucerne hay railed from the Maitland district to Alexandria totalled 38 trucks. Early in the month prime lines sold well at £4.0.0 to £5.5.0 per ton. About mid-May quality showed a considerable falling-off, wet and heated conditions being evident; clearances of this hay were difficult to effect and values fell to as low as £2.0.0 per ton.

Consignments from other centres aggregated 112 trucks. Quality varied considerably and inferior grades were in limited request at from £4.10.0 to £5.0.0 per ton. Medium lots brought to £6.0.0, good realised from £6.10.0 to £7.0.0 and choice lines were in demand at up to £8.0.0 per ton. Only one truck of poor standard hay was auctioned, £4.10.0 per ton being obtained. About 300 bales of Hunter River lucerne hay were consigned to Sussex Street. Dry lines sold well at £4.10.0 to £5.10.0, but soft green descriptions cleared slowly at £3.10.0 to £3.15.0 per ton.

Only a small proportion of the 40 trucks of oaten hay was offered, choice varieties realising to £9.0.0 per ton. One truck submitted by auction brought £4.10.0 per ton.

Straw sells well.

Supplies of straw received at Alexandria consisted of 41 trucks from New South Wales centres and 24 trucks from Victoria. The Victorian consignments were chiefly of choice quality and values were higher at £5.0.0 to £5.15.0 per ton. The local offerings sold well at from £4.0.0 to £5.10.0 per ton, according to quality. Two trucks were disposed of by auction, one at £5.0.0, and the other, of inferior quality, at £2.10.0 per ton.

Approximately 1,000 bales of Tasmanian straw were shipped to Sussex Street; these were in firm demand at the unchanged rate of £6.0.0 per ton.

Maize market easier.

Much heavier supplies of maize, viz., 6,514 bags, were available at Alexandria, while 4,600 bags from North Coast districts were shipped to Sussex Street. Values eased considerably, yellow lots realising from 3/7 to 4/2, with crushed to 4/5 per bushel, while white brought 3/10 to 4/- . Soft and heated lines and inferior qualities were quoted at lower rates than the foregoing.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES
IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING MAY, 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	May, 1941		31st August, 1939	
	From	To	From	To
Wheat - Home Consumption:				
Bulk - per bushel	3/11½d (unchanged)		2/4d	
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2		£6.12.3	
	(plus £2.8.10		(plus £6.2.9	
	tax)		tax)	
Bran - per ton	£6.0.0	} unchanged	£4.5.0	
Pollard " "	£6.0.0		£4.5.0	
Eggs (hen) per dozen	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 " "	10½d		10½d	
Special Brands " "	11½d 1/2d		1/2d	
Pigs (Abattoir Saleyards)				
	May, 1941		29th August, 1939	
	From	To	From	To
Good to prime - per head				
Porkers - Extra light	17/6	35/6	31/6	40/6
" - light	23/6	39/6	39/6	44/6
" - medium weight	25/6	46/6	43/6	57/6
" - heavy	31/6	49/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	42/6	62/6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£3.5.0	£10.18.6	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

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

-----oooOooo-----

RETURN OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IMPORTED INTO NEW SOUTH WALES
BY LAND AND SEA - APRIL, 1941.

FRUIT.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	Melons crates	TOTALS
Queensland	22,836	6,990	14,607	9,500	x	53,933
Victoria	45	96	43,298	21,472	-	64,911
Tasmania	-	-	346,215	243	-	346,458
Sth. Aust.	-	-	6,023	-	-	6,023
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	22,881	7,086	410,143	31,215	-	471,325

Also - 3 bunches Bananas. x 8 tons loose Melons

VEGETABLES

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins bags tons	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegetables pkges.	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland	82	-	-	79	16 $\frac{1}{4}$	49	9,291 ^x
Victoria	25,955	41,256	315	-	-	2,364	69,890
Tasmania	109,071	-	4,301	-	-	2,254	115,626
Sth. Aust.	1,016	736	-	-	-	9,435	11,187
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	136,124	41,992	4,616	79	16 $\frac{1}{4}$	49	205,994 ^x

^x and 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons.

O. 41.6

51

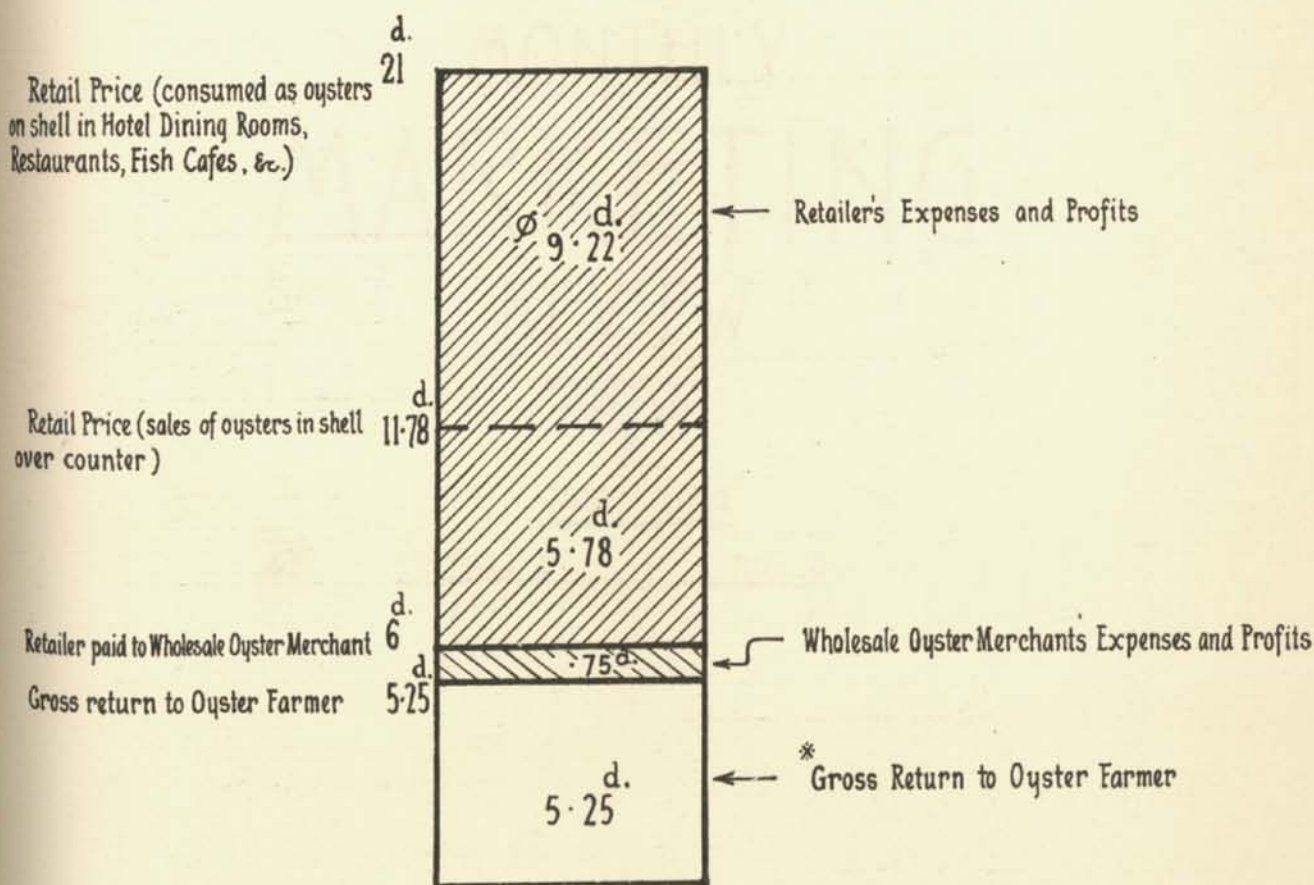
OYSTERS

GRAPH SHEWING AVERAGE "SPREAD" BETWEEN THE
RETURN TO THE OYSTER FARMER AND THE PRICE
PAID BY THE CONSUMER

41-619

YEAR 1940

Per Dozen



NOTES:

∅ Deductions from this return would include cartage, rent, wages, wastage, &c. Where oysters on shell are consumed as a meal or part of a meal in cafes & similar establishments, the costs of service and such items as bread and butter, lemon and condiments must be considered as further deductions.

* From this return must be deducted the Oyster Farmers' production and marketing costs.

Compiled. D.R.
Drawn. E.H.S.
Checked. D.R.

A.A. WATSON,
CHIEF, DIVISION OF MARKETING.