NEW SOUTH WALES 604

STATE MARKETING BUREAU

DIVISION OF MARKETING

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

AUGUST, 1941

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MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

A MISCELLANY OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS, AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Released during the Second Week of each Month.

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

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HIGHLIGHTS

A poll under the Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927-1940, will be held on 10th September, 1941, to decide whether egg producers in those parts of New South Wales outside the Counties of Cumberland and Northumberland and the Shires of Nattai and Wollondilly shall be brought under the control of the Egg Marketing Board. At a similar poll taken on 27th August, 1940, 525 votes were in favour and 525 votes were against the proposal; as the Act requires that "more than one-half of the votes polled" shall be in favour before an area can be added to the area already controlled by a Board, the proposal was not adopted.

Minister for Customs announces that the following new classes of frozen meat and edible offal will be accepted for export under contract with British Government between 4th August and 30th September, 1941:- First quality wethers and/or maiden ewes, weight ranges 40 lb. and under and 41 lb. to 72 lb.; first quality cow beef; beef, mutton, lamb, calf and pig livers; beef, mutton and pig kidneys; beef tails. No meats or edible offals placed in store up to 2nd August could be exported under the new arrangement. Porker pigs of the weight range now accepted for export (80 lb. to 110 lb. dressed) are to be prepared as headless sides only.

Minister for Supply and Development expects that Australian 1940 acreage of flax will be tripled in 1941.

New South Wales maize producers have lodged with Minister for Agriculture and Forests a petition seeking a poll to determine whether a Maize Marketing Board shall be constituted under the Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927-1940.

Chairman, Australian Wheat Board, states that in 21 months' operations Board has sold 234 million bushels wheat, of which 209 million bushels have been shipped or disposed of locally. Payments to growers aggregate nearly £46 million. Board has 42¼ million bushels of wheat on hand to sell, of which it expects 18¼ million bushels to be absorbed by Australian flour and produce trade, and 8 million bushels to be utilised by export flour trade, leaving 16 million bushels available for export as wheat or for carry-over.

PHYSICAL FEATURES, PRODUCTION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CENTRAL PLAIN STATISTICAL DIVISION NO. 12 NEW SOUTH WALES.

In previous issues of the "Monthly Marketing Review" have appeared articles dealing with the individual Statistical Divisions of New South Wales as follow:

Statistical Division		Issue
North Coast	(No. 1)	January and February, 1939.
Hunter-Manning	(No. 2)	February and March, 1939.
Metropolitan	(No. 3)	May, June and July, 1939.
South Coast	(No. 4)	August and September, 1939.
Northern Tableland	(No. 5)	November, 1939.
Central Tableland	(No. 6)	February, March and April, 1940.
Southern Tableland	(No. 7)	May and June, 1940.
North Western Slope	(No. 8)	July and August, 1940.
Central Western Slope	(No. 9)	September, 1940.
South Western Slope	(No.10)	October and November, 1940.
North Central Plain	(No.11)	December, 1940, and January, 1941.

Geographical description of the Central Plain.

In continuation of the series, attention is now given to the Central Plain or Statistical Division No. 12, which covers an area of 14,811,297 acres or 23,142 square miles of that portion of the State lying between the Western Slopes and the Western Division or Great Western Plain, of which latter it is substantially part. It is a somewhat elongated strip of country commencing about 30 miles south of the Queensland border and running in a south south-westerly direction for a distance of slightly less than three hundred miles. The widest point is 145 miles in the central section. In the southern portion the average width would be approximately 70 miles. For the benefit of overseas readers this division could be described as lying between latitudes $29\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ and $33\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ South and longitudes 146° and 149° East.

The Central Plain is bounded on the north by the Rivers Barwon and Gwydir, although the portion of the boundary covered by the latter is relatively small. On the east, it adjoins the western boundaries of the North Central Plain (from the Gwydir River to a point near the Naman Mountain) and the Central Western Slope. In the south, the dividing line between the Central Plain and the South Western Slope runs from Lake Cowal westward to a point about 13 miles west of Naradhan; then, for a short distance, the subject division adjoins the Riverina, the boundary going slightly west of north to the Lachlan River. Thence the western boundary between the Central Plain and the Western Division follows the Lachlan River in a north-easterly direction to near Gunebang;

/proceeding ....

proceeding then by a surveyed line running slightly west of north to Canbelego, whence it swings north-easterly to beyond Coolabah, and finally follows Marra Creek to its junction with the Barwon River, the commencement of the northern boundary.

The Central Plain Division some twenty years ago was larger than at present and contained 17½ million acres. At that time divisional boundaries in New South Wales were fixed on a county or land division basis. The boundaries of the Statistical Divisions now conform to those of municipalities or shires, thus facilitating the collection of statistical data relative to agricultural operations and social development.

Climate and rainfall.

Generally in summer the climate of the Central Plain is dry and hot, temperatures in excess of 100° occurring, whilst as high as 120° has been reached in places. In the main, the winters are described as mild, with occasional severe frosts, but south and south-west winds are frequently cold. The elevation - between 500 and 700 feet above sea level - is too low for snow. Despite the extremes mentioned, the climate is exceedingly healthy.

The average rainfall of this division is about 18 inches per annum, precipitation being slightly better in the northern half than in the southern. In parts of the eastern section of the northern portion, the normal yearly total reaches to 22 inches, but the mean rainfall of the extreme south-west sector is between 15 and 16 inches (Cargelligo 15.55 inches).

The Central Plain may be considered to be between that portion of the State where farming operations are clearly indicated and that great western area where profitable agriculture is well nigh impracticable without irrigation. It should also be remembered that the Central Plain borders an area of the continent where evaporation is generally excessive. This factor is sometimes just as important as rainfall from an agricultural or pastoral viewpoint. The dryness of the climate is, fortunately, not wholly a disadvantage, as will be pointed out later.

Rivers.

The Central Plain, particularly in the northern half, is well served by inland rivers, which traverse the country, flowing chiefly in a westerly or north-westerly direction. The fourth longest river in the State, the Lachlan, crosses the southern section and also forms part of the western boundary. The town of Condobolin is situated on this River, which joins the Murrumbidgee to the south-west, eventually emptying into the Murray. The rivers of the northern half are the Macquarie, Castlereagh and Namoi, all flowing into the Barwon, which stream forms the major portion of the northern border. The Gwydir River, a part of which completes the northern boundary, also empties into the Barwon. The Bogan

/River ...

River drains the central portion of the Division and flows to its western border in a northerly direction; after crossing the border, this River takes a north-west course to join the Barwon (also known as the Darling, at this juncture) above Bourke (Western Division). In addition to the rivers, several important creeks are to be found in the northern half of the Division.

Water conservation schemes.

Despite the extensive river system, the division is not necessarily well watered from this source, as in adverse seasons the streams are apt to be relatively unreliable. As a consequence, supplementary supplies of artesian and sub-artesian water (non-flowing bores) and as stored in surface tanks have special value. Part of the Great Artesian Basin underlies the northern portion of the Central Plain, extending to slightly south of Nyngan and Nevertire. In this section water can be obtained by boring to an average depth of 2,000 to 2,500 feet. Sub-artesian water is obtainable in other areas.

In order to lessen the effect of the periodical diminution of river flows, the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission has constructed small weirs at certain centres. Cuttings have also been made at several points to allow a flow from the rivers to the creeks, thus providing water for stock purposes. At Lake Cargelligo, in the extreme south-west section of the Division and close to the western boundary, by means of an inlet from and an outlet to the Lachlan River, the lake is turned into a storage reservoir for use in drier times. Portion of Lake Cowal lies across a small section of the extreme south-eastern border; this lake is mostly dry, but adjacent to it is the Jemalong Irrigation Area, a fairly large tract of territory watered from the Lachlan River. The great bulk of this Area is outside the Division under review, but it is mentioned here as indicating an important development, as only with irrigation can the dry plains produce competitively with the more easterly districts.

Timber resources.

Owing to the climatic conditions, timber growth in the plain country is more sparse than in eastern sections of the State. Density of growth varies, also, according to the nature of the soil, and is generally better on the ridges. In parts it may be classed as forest area, but much of the country is open plain. From a commercial point of view the quality of much of the timber is inferior, but a good deal is used for fencing and fire-wood, whilst several species of trees are valuable for fodder purposes or the provision of shade. The Eucalypts found on the Plains include Gums, Ironbarks, Boxes and Bloodwoods, also dwarf species known as Mallees. A number of species of Acacia grow on the Plains, including Mulga, which is suitable for fodder, fencing and charcoal, Yarran and Myall. Other trees include the Cypress Pines, valuable for building purposes, Belah (Casuarina lepidophloia), Rosewood (Geyera parviflora), Wilga (Heterodendron deaefolium) and Kurrajong

/(Brachychiton ....

(Brachychiton populneus), a great fodder tree. A number of areas is under the supervision of the Forestry Commission of New South Wales, which is endeavouring to preserve or improve the existing timber belts. Part of the extensive forestry reserve known as the Pilliga Scrub (Cypress Pine and inland hardwoods) is located in the north east sector of the Division. There is a growing conviction of the importance of timber conservation in Australia, and action towards that end may be especially desirable in the Western Plain areas of this State where soil denudation results from hot dry winds as well as from water erosion.

Mineral resources.

According to the Mineral Map of New South Wales issued by the Department of Mines, the greater portion of the southern section of the Central Plain and part of the western half extending northward to Coolabah (Western Division), are gold bearing country. In these regions are also to be found deposits of copper and silver, whilst tin is mined at Tallebung, a mining centre located near the south west border. The mines in these areas (Tallebung excepted) are mostly old, the ore is of low grade quality, and the amount of metal recovered is not appreciable; such mines must be worked on an extensive scale to be commercial propositions. Metal mined in the Central Plain Division during 1938 was valued at £7,333, of which tin from the Tallebung deposits accounted for £6,359. Most of the balance was obtained from individual fossicking.

In addition to the metals mentioned, a very small output of platinum occurs at Fifield - a centre near the south-east border from mines which are practically worked out. By far the largest proportion of this metal produced in New South Wales has been obtained from the Fifield district; the State's total production from 1894 to 1938 was 20,193 oz. valued at £128,544. Recourse to official figures shows that production has declined steadily, and during 1938 only 7.5 oz. were won, valued at £52; of this amount Fifield contributed 4 oz. whilst 3.5 oz. were recovered by fossickers from the beach sands at Ballina (North Coast).

Whilst the production of minerals is at present relatively unimportant, the Statistical Register of New South Wales shows that nearly one-half of the State's total yield from other mines occurs within the division under review. During 1938, the value of such production in the Central Plain was £21,827. Magnesite (magnesium carbonate), from the Fifield district, where it was first mined in 1909, accounts for this amount.

Population.

Despite its area, the population of the Central Plain at 31st December, 1939, was estimated at only 29,290, the lowest of any of the Statistical Divisions. The following schedule showing the area and population of each Municipality and Shire within the

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division in question, was compiled from figures issued by the New South Wales Government Statistician and gives some idea of the extreme sparseness of settlement, as, apart from the chief towns indicated by the municipalities, there is an average of less than one person per square mile.

		Area acres	Population
Condobolin	Municipality	30,180	2,850
Coonamble	"	15,188	2,920
Nyngan	"	2,969	1,680
Warren	"	14,800	1,710
Bogan	Shire	2,949,120	1,940
Lachlan	"	3,765,120	8,480
Marthaguy	"	2,668,800	2,200
Walgett	"	2,779,520	3,880
Wingadee	"	2,585,600	3,630
		14,811,297	29,290

Holdings.

According to the New South Wales Statistical Register, the number of holdings in the season 1938-1939 of one acre and upwards amounted to 2,487 and the principal purposes for which these were used were as under:-

	No.
Agriculture only ...	98
Dairying only ...	11
Grazing ...	1,556
Agriculture and Dairying ...	1
Agriculture and Grazing ...	763
Dairying and Grazing ...	3
Agriculture, Dairying and Grazing	9
Poultry, Bees, Pigs, etc. ...	3
Unoccupied or used for other purposes	43
	2,487

These holdings included 10,347,000 acres of alienated or virtually alienated land, and leases of various kinds from the Crown aggregating 3,540,000 acres. The area suitable for cultivation was estimated at 3,741,000 acres. The total under crop at that time was 410,000 acres, whilst 8,000 acres had been sown with grasses. Previously cropped land not ploughed, fallow land ploughed, and new land prepared for ploughing accounted for 424,000 acres. Of the area suitable for cultivation only 11% was under crop.

(To be continued)

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NOTES ON THE SELLING OF BEEF CATTLE IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The following notes on the selling of beef cattle in New South Wales have been prepared in the State Marketing Bureau in response to an inquiry, and are published as of general interest.

Methods of Selling.

Co-operative.

There are no producers' organisations in New South Wales selling livestock on a co-operative basis to any abattoirs on behalf of the producer.

Direct Purchases.

Direct purchases of cattle are made at country centres by representatives of the various privately controlled abattoirs operating in New South Wales, the chief of which are:- The Sydney Meat Preserving Co., Auburn; The Riverstone Meat Co., Riverstone; Tancred Bros., Bourke; A.W. Anderson, Byron Bay and Wallangarra. In addition, wholesale butchers who have their stock slaughtered at the Homebush Abattoirs, controlled by the Metropolitan Meat Industry Commissioner, also purchase stock by private treaty direct from the producer. Carcases are consigned by refrigerated cars as chilled beef from Bourke, Byron Bay and Wallangarra for the local and export trade, but other stock is sent by rail to Homebush Abattoirs for slaughter.

Public Auctions.

Apart from direct purchases of stock at country centres, in the paddock all classes of cattle are offered for sale by public auction at Municipally controlled saleyards in country districts and at the Homebush saleyards within the Sydney Metropolitan Area. Homebush saleyards are the largest in the State and are under the direct control of the Metropolitan Meat Industry Commissioner. Homebush saleyards are rightly classed as the most important fat stock market in New South Wales; they have a penning capacity for some 4,000 head of cattle and over 60,000 head of sheep on any one sale day. These saleyards are situated about nine miles from the centre of the City of Sydney, in close proximity to a railway station where extensive facilities are provided for unloading and loading stock. Stock consigned from the more distant country districts arrive by rail while motor trucks are used for shorter distances. By far the greatest proportion of stock offered reaches Homebush by rail transport. All stock received is handled by representatives of the various auctioneers, being unloaded, watered, paddocked, fed and subsequently drafted to best advantage by employees of the auctioneers and penned up for sale. Cattle pens are numbered and have a capacity of from 10 to 12 head of large cattle and a greater number of vealers and yearlings. Covered ramps run between the pens which are laid out in rows. From the ramps

/buyers ...

buyers inspect stock prior to sale, and it is also from these ramps that operators make their bids - facing the ramps directly opposite on the far side of the pen is a raised board walk, some 10 to 12 feet above the ground level, from which the auctioneer operates and takes all bids. Sales of cattle and sheep are held each Monday and Thursday, the former commencing at 8.30 a.m. when bulls and store cattle are sold, while fats are offered from 10 a.m. onwards, sales proceeding, except for a break of 45 minutes for lunch, until all cattle are disposed of. Sheep auctions commence at 9 a.m. and proceed concurrently with cattle. Each agent ballots or draws for order of sale and is allotted so much selling time in accordance with the numbers to be auctioned and must complete selling within the time allowed. After cattle are sold they are branded with the carcase butchers distinguishing number, in blue paint, specially prepared for the purpose and approved by the Meat Industry Commissioner. This branding with numbers applies only to stock which is to be slaughtered at the Homebush Abattoirs. Cattle for slaughter elsewhere usually have some other mark or number in paint, so that they may be readily distinguished by the various drovers.

Apart from sale by Public Auction and Private Treaty as described, no other methods of selling cattle are employed.

Charges at Homebush Saleyards.

In the sale of livestock by public auction at the Homebush Saleyards, various charges are incurred which are a debit against realisations for the animals concerned. Firstly, there is the cost of unloading, yarding and drafting of the stock which is 6/- for one truck and 3/6 for each additional truck (stock trucks in use usually carry from 10 to 12 head of bullocks, etc., according to size of animals). Paddocking, watering and resting absorbs 3d per head and yard dues 6d per head, while agents selling commission is 2½%. Freight charges are also incurred and vary according to the distance over which stock are transported. Some indication of freight costs is given by the acceptance of a mean forwarding distance of 275 miles for which the actual freight charge on a (650 lb. dressed weight) bullock is £1.0.7.

Inspection.

All cattle offered for auction are inspected by an officer of the Meat Industry Commissioner prior to being offered for sale and any showing signs of disease are branded as "suspects", the brand being in the form of an arrow followed by a distinguishing number - yellow paint being employed for the purpose. All cattle so branded are sold as suspects and are the subject of further special inspection at the time of slaughter. In addition to the charges made above, a deduction of 1% from the selling price is made, for the condemned cattle insurance fund, out of which the purchaser is reimbursed for any totally condemned carcases. A representative of the Chief Veterinary Officer of the State Department of Agriculture is also in attendance for general veterinary purposes.

/Methods .....

Methods of Price Determination.

Homebush Realisations form Basis.

There are many factors which influence the prices paid at the auction sales for cattle. Homebush is the largest stock selling centre in New South Wales and the prices ruling there form the basis of appraising livestock values, not only at auction in other parts of the State, but also for direct paddock purchases or sales by private treaty; let us then refer to the methods employed by buyers at this centre. All stock offered is sold by auction and becomes the property at so much per head, of the highest bidder at the fall of the hammer. Buyers at the Homebush saleyards are specially trained for their particular job and in appraising values of stock; they possess the ability to estimate the dressed carcase weight of the live animal and bid accordingly, basing such bids on the ruling rate per 100 lb. for carcases of the respective classes offering according to supply and demand, as well as having in mind value of edible offals and hide. Many factors are taken into consideration in appraising values, some of which are:- Suitability of stock offering for individual trade needs, weight of carcase, condition, appearance, age of animal and whether bullocks, steers, cows, heifers or vealers. Bullocks are usually graded by buyers as heavy, medium or light, steers (all weights) but preference is given to light steers, heavy and light cows, heifers (all weights), vealers (all weights) in that order; there are no fixed standards of weight for any particular grade but trade usage has brought into existence certain weights which are applicable to the several types: Heavy bullocks are classed from 775 lb. upwards, medium from 675 to 775 lb. and light to 675 lb.; Steers from 450 to 750 lb.; Cows, heavy 575 lb. upwards, light to 575 lb.; Heifers from 400 lb. upwards and vealers 200 to 450 lb. dressed. Some indication of the actual ranges of prices and the differences between the various types offering is indicated in the following market quotations of a recent actual auction at Homebush.

Class of Animal		Price per head		Price per 100 lb. (estimated)	
		From	To	From	To
Bullocks	- Heavy	£14.17.0	£16. 4.0	37/-	40/-
	Medium	14. 0.0	15. 3.0	39/-	42/-
	Light	11.10.0	13.18.0	40/-	43/-
Steers		9.17.0	13. 8.0	42/-	48/-
Cows	- Heavy	12. 7.0	12.13.0	35/-	38/-
	Light	6.10.0	9.12.0	36/-	41/-
Heifers		8. 6.0	13. 5.0	38/-	46/6
Vealers		5.18.0	11.15.0	50/-	54/-

Grading.

To date in New South Wales no official grades have been determined for cattle carcases. All stock submitted for slaughter is subject to inspection by the Meat Industry Commissioner after slaughter, and is branded (if passed) as fit for human consumption.

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This is the only official branding of carcases at present in force. As at Homebush Yards with the live animal, so it is at the Homebush Abattoirs, where the carcase is sold, trade needs are catered for by a recognised or voluntary method of carcase grading, carried out by wholesale butchers, meat being sold off the hook in the meat hall according to the following recognised standards of quality: Beef, plain and medium - good to prime trade, prime light, yearling and heavy. Recent prices which show the margin between the respective grades are indicated as follow:-

Beef,	Plain and Medium	3½d to 3¾d per lb.
	Good to Prime trade	4¾d " 5d " "
	Prime Light	5½d " 5¾d " "
	Yearling	5¾d " 6d " "
	Heavy	4¼d " 4½d " "

It will be seen, therefore, that the actual prices paid are strongly determined by the weight and quality of the carcase, although no official or compulsory grades are provided.

Effect of Overseas Prices.

The question is asked - "Is the price regulated by the price of beef prevailing on export markets on which the product is sold?" While it has to be recognised that the price received for beef exported has a bearing on stock values on the open market, this can only be regarded as one of the factors affecting price trends as a whole. In all markets, no matter what the commodity, supply and demand are, of course, the chief things to be considered when speaking of price trends and supply and demand are affected by a variety of causes. In a commodity such as beef, seasonal conditions as affecting feed and water supplies largely determine the quantity and quality of the livestock to be marketed. A scarcity of the better class of animals will result in higher market realisations, as well as promoting an improved demand for the medium grades. On the other hand, should there be a good supply of prime cattle demand is likely to ease and medium stock prove difficult to dispose of, even at reduced rates. Then, again, the buying power of the public, which is governed by economic conditions and living standards, must necessarily affect prices of the actual stock sold. Operators naturally aim to confine their buying to such limits as will nett at least a reasonable profit. At the same time, prices should not sink to levels that would tend to put the producer out of business. Another vital consideration is that meat at a price to the public tending to maintain consumption will keep a reasonable number of cattle coming forward each sale-day.

Factors likely to affect Price Levels.

In so far as the cattle industry is concerned in New South Wales there is no State subsidy to graziers nor is there any such fund subsidised by contributions from producers.

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The ultimate price realisations of cattle, whether sold by private treaty or at public auction are determined by the quality and finish of the animals and suitability for local trade requirements and export markets. The producer, who has good, well-bred foundation stock and pays attention to the breeding of quality animals, as well as having in mind just what class of animal is required by the meat trade and markets accordingly, with due recognition of weights required, will always secure enhanced returns as against stock which have not the same amount of breeding. The tendency on local markets is a preference for the lighter types of animals, prime and well finished, but not overfat, but there are, of course, sections of the trade which can utilise the heavy fat class of animal in their particular businesses, but the demand is not nearly so good as for the smaller beasts.

Equalisation of Yardings.

No attempt has yet been made to equalise the weekly yardings of cattle to the Homebush saleyards as, so far, the natural increases and decreases in the industry have exercised a certain amount of control. Seasonal conditions are perhaps the greatest contributing factor which would affect continuity of supplies, but further aspects to be considered in viewing probable yardings or numbers which might be expected to be marketed are ruling prices, as well as export and local trade requirements. In more recent years a number of abattoirs has commenced operations at country centres, where the animals are slaughtered, chilled and railed to Sydney, and enter the trade as "country killed" meat. This, too, is another phase of the meat industry which must not be overlooked, as cattle so treated are not available for sale as live animals on any of the markets and yet must necessarily influence supplies.

G.C.

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RATIONING OF CHEESE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

A communication recently received from the Official Secretary, New South Wales Government Offices, London, intimates that an official scheme for rationing cheese to the public in the United Kingdom came into operation on 5th May, 1941. During the previous two months or so, the equitable distribution of available supplies had been left to the retailers' discretion, and retailers had restricted their sales to regular customers who received about 2 ozs. per head per month. It was felt that the public should benefit from the compulsory rationing, under which they would be entitled to 1 oz. per head per week, with the possibility of an increase later owing to the expectation of greater home production and larger imports. A special ration of 8 ozs. per head per week was provided for underground miners, agricultural workers and vegetarians, whilst seamen would be entitled to 4 ozs.

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SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

HEAVY PENNINGS OF SHEEP AND PIGS; SLIGHT DECREASE IN YARDINGS OF CATTLE.

Lighter supplies of cattle.

Supplies of cattle during July, 1941, were slightly lower than those of June and totalled 13,131 head for the nine sale days. Auctions in the store section accounted for 1,407 head. Quality was variable and was best early in the period; later, it could be described as only fair. On most occasions lightweight cattle predominated.

Rainfall during July was mainly light and did little to relieve the unsatisfactory pastoral position, which is becoming more pronounced.

Prime bullocks scarce.

Bullocks were lightly supplied throughout the month and on some sale days were available in odd lots only. Prime descriptions generally were scarce, as also were good quality medium weight sorts. While values fluctuated somewhat, the variations were not material and the following range of prices of good to prime beasts could be taken as representing the monthly average: Heavy 37/- to 40/-, medium weight 39/- to 42/-, light 40/- to 43/- per 100 lb. On some sale days quotations were available for lightweight only. The market generally was about equal to that of June.

Good trade steers well in evidence.

In contrast with bullocks, steers were well represented, although on occasions the percentage of prime description was rather small. Nevertheless, the proportion of good trade beasts was fairly satisfactory. Demand for quality steers was strong, particularly towards the close of the period, when values had reached a rather high level. The market was weakest during the second week, when rates ranged from 39/- to 45/- per 100 lb. for good to prime quality, covering all grades of weight. The corresponding figures at the final sale day were 45/- to 50/-.

Moderate yardings of cows.

A moderate number of cows was available on most sale days but usually a substantial percentage of dairy strains was included. The percentage of good trade beef breeds varied somewhat, but generally it was rather small. The proportion of heavy cows was also variable; lightweights, however, mostly predominated. Values showed little variation and, for the most part, quotations ranged to 38/- per 100 lb. for heavy descriptions and to 39/- for light sorts. Average realisations were much about the same as those obtained in June.

/Strong ....

Strong demand for prime light heifers.

Heifers were in rather short supply early in the period, but subsequently increased numbers were submitted. All grades of weight were represented and quality was chiefly good trade. On most sale days there was a scarcity of prime light descriptions. Prime heavy sorts also were obtainable chiefly in odd lots only, but the demand for these is not nearly as strong as that prevailing for lighter types. Values were fairly constant and average rates for good to prime heifers, covering all grades of weight, were approximately from 38/- to 45/- per 100 lb. On the final sale day prime light heifers realised to 47/- per 100 lb.

Good showing of medium weight vealers.

Except on one or two occasions, when consignments were rather limited, moderate pennings of vealers were available. While all grades were represented, the medium weight class predominated, and included most of the prime animals offered, quality on the whole being mostly fair to good trade. For three weeks prices were mostly steady at from 45/- to 51/- per 100 lb. Competition for quality descriptions then became much stronger, and at the closing auctions rates for good to prime grade vealers ranged from 52/- to 57/- per 100 lb.

Cattle values maintained.

The recovery in cattle values recorded in June was maintained during the month under review and prices at present are at very satisfactory levels from the producers' viewpoint.

Consistently heavy consignments of pigs.

Consignments of pigs for auction were consistently heavy during July, 1941, and the total of 11,611 head was only slightly below the record figure established the previous month. It should be mentioned, however, that there were five sale days in July in lieu of the usual four. Country pigs were well represented and aggregate receivals by rail were 6,101 head. Many of the truckings comprised store pigs but arrivals by rail also included a satisfactory percentage of animals in prime condition. Private sales in the Metropolitan Area accounted for 2,479 head.

Variable quality porkers.

Porkers were fairly numerous but the quality of the offerings was variable. At times the standard was quite satisfactory but on other occasions a large proportion of the pennings was of medium to fair trade grade only, prime porkers being relatively scarce. While all weight classes were available, medium to heavy weight were best represented and also made the best showing from a quality standpoint, as the lighter porkers included a substantial percentage of store pigs. Values fluctuated somewhat during the

/period ....

period and good to prime porkers dressing 60 lb. ranged in price from 35/6 to 38/6, while those dressing 90 lb. brought from 46/6 to 50/6 per head. Compared with June quotations, the realisations for light porkers were a little higher but those for heavy porkers were slightly lower.

Good trade baconers well represented.

Baconers were again well supplied throughout the month and lightweight animals continued to predominate, although an increase in the percentage of heavy descriptions was noticed towards the close. The quality was variable; nevertheless, many good trade baconers were submitted, while a noticeable proportion of prime grade animals was offered. Early in July, the market was somewhat weak, and prices fell to 48/6 for good trade baconers dressing 100 lb. and to 58/6 for prime heavy sorts dressing 150 lb. Subsequently, values rose appreciably and on the final sale day quotations ranged to 72/6 per head. The principal request was for the lighter pigs suitable for the local trade. Heavy baconers have been slow of sale since the cessation of export, but now that they are being utilised for canning, the demand is increasing.

Light offerings of backfatters.

For the most part, backfatters were lightly supplied and consisted of only fair trade types. However, some improvement in quality was apparent on the final sale day, when there was also an increased penning of heavy sorts. Realisations generally were not quite as high as those of June, although a sharp rise occurred at the closing auction, when rates obtained were from 4¼d to 4¾d for good to prime backfatters, dressing 200 to 350 lb., and from 4d to 4½d per lb. for pigs exceeding 350 lb. On other occasions prices mostly were about ½d per lb. lower than the foregoing.

Considering that heavy supplies of pigs are being marketed and taking into account the drastic curtailment of export, price levels must be regarded as fairly satisfactory to the producer. Demand for heavy pigs is improving and realisations at the opening sale day in August showed an all-round increase.

Heavier aggregate pennings of sheep and lambs.

With the main sucker lamb season approaching, it is usual during July to see some of the very early suckers on the Homebush market and this year proved no exception, as quite a few consignments were received, increasing the total pennings of the month. Old or summer lambs were also forward in larger numbers, so that the aggregate supplies for July, amounting in all to 269,040 head of sheep and lambs, exceeded the previous month's total by 21,037 head.

/Sheep ....

Sheep numbers again decline.

Due, no doubt, to the approach of shearing, as well as to the adverse seasonal conditions, grown sheep marketed again showed a decline, although the falling-off was not nearly so substantial as that between May and June, when a drop of some 44,000 head took place. Aggregate pennings for the period were 129,822 head or 5,687 less than in June. Numerous drafts of plain to medium grade sheep were included but in many instances a good quality skin materially assisted the disposal. Ewes made a much better showing, both as regards quality and numbers, and, although aged, quite a few of excellent condition and finish were available. Plain sheep were fairly well in evidence amongst the wethers but there was also a fair representation of good to prime grade. Mostly the best quality merino wethers ranged from 46 lb. to 56 lb. dressed weight, and at times the offering included some lots of exceptionally heavy crossbred sheep, mainly wethers. Light trade sheep of weights ranging from 38 lb. to 44 lb. were in somewhat short supply, but nevertheless some very attractive consignments were submitted. Some nice quality shorn wethers were noticed also.

Sheep values mainly at previous month's average.

Although there was some variation in the prices paid for grown sheep throughout July, average realisations would approximate closely those obtained in June. The opening sale was marked by an advance of 6d to 1/- per head, followed on the next sale day by a further gain of from 1/- to 1/6 per head, confined chiefly, however, to heavy wethers and ewes. Then, for a time, prices did not vary materially, but about mid July rates again rose, reaching the highest level for the period. From then until the close of the month's operations, values fell until they were approximately the same as those ruling at the end of June. An interesting feature of the closing sales was the improved demand for plain to medium sheep, due to a scarcity of the better grades. The following sales illustrate the trend of the market throughout July:- At the early auctions buyers paid 3¼d per lb. for good heavy trade sheep, draft of 48 lb. wethers selling at 21/7 per head, while good trade ewes, weighing approximately 42 lb., realised the equivalent of 2¾d per lb. and made 17/- each. Later on, a line of similar weight ewes cost 18/6 per head or 3d per lb., and light wethers, weighing approximately 43 lb., brought 20/- each or 3⅝d per lb. About mid July, wethers cost operators more, and a good trade pen, approximating 44 lb. dressed, sold at 22/7 each or 3¾d per lb. Towards the close, 44 lb. wethers realising 19/7 per head were worth 3⅛d per lb., while heavy sheep, weighing approximately 56 lb., cost 26/1 each, or 2¾d per lb.

Lower values at the end of July.

Prices throughout July and market trends generally were very similar to those of June, and average rates per pound for wether mutton would compare very favourably, while those for ewes were slightly higher. Light wethers cost as much as 3¾d per lb.,

/but ...

but for the most part good light trade mutton brought from 3d to 3½d per lb. Heavy sheep reached 3½d per lb. but mostly cost from 2¾d to 3¼d per lb. Light ewes ranged from 2¼d to 3d per lb., with by far the greater proportion realising from 2¾d to 3d per lb. Heavy ewes were secured at as low as 2d per lb. and at times reached as high as 2¾d per lb., but generally averaged from 2¼d to 2½d. Medium to plain sheep were purchased at relatively lower rates. The general improvement in the quality of the ewes was reflected in better realisations, as on several occasions more than £1 per head was obtained, while some lines sold to 21/- each. Mostly, however, the better class of ewe made from 16/- to 19/- per head. Realisations for wethers also were satisfactory, some drafts bringing up to 29/- each, while frequently values ranging from 26/- to 28/- were secured, although general prices for the better type were from 18/- to 25/-. Many lots of full-woolled sheep, carrying exceptionally good skins, were noticed, and these were partly responsible for the higher rates recorded.

Increased numbers of lambs.

During July, 139,218 lambs were received, an increase of 26,724 head on the June figure. New season's sucker lambs contributed fairly substantially to the increased offering, but more summer lambs were available as well. The suckers so far marketed have been excellent samples, in regard to condition, quality and finish. While light trade lambs of good to prime quality were again scarce, heavy types made a very fair showing, but owing to export restrictions and the demand by the consumers for lighter joints, the latter did not sell quite as well as they would have under normal circumstances.

Good realisations for suckers.

The available supplies of new season's sucker lambs met active and spirited competition, commanding high prices, and a number of pens made as much as 23/- per head, while frequently from 18/- to 21/6 each was secured.

Values for lambs improve.

At the opening sales heavy lambs were cheaper but light descriptions mostly were firm. Subsequently some improvement was apparent, but later again the market became very irregular, particularly for heavy lambs and for medium to plain sorts. Some variation in realisations for light lambs and suckers occurred also, but generally at the end of July values of all grades were better than those ruling at the early sales. An indication of the variable market is afforded by the following sales:- At the first sale held in July, prime 40 lb. lambs cost 4½d per lb., being disposed of at 21/9 per head, while light trade lambs, weighing approximately 29 lb., sold at 18/1 each, or 6d per lb., and heavy 36 lb. suckers realised 23/1 per head or 6½d per lb. A week later, a draft of heavy lambs, weighing 44 lb., brought 23/- each, and

/was ...

was worth 4d per lb. About the same time, good trade suckers of 32 lb. weight sold at 22/11 per head, equivalent to 7¼d per lb. Light trade lambs were then costing 6⅜d per lb., a draft dressing approximately 32 lb. bringing 18/7 per head. Towards the close, a line of good heavy lambs, weighing approximately 46 lb., realised 24/- each or 4¼d per lb. Nice quality suckers, 32 lb. in weight, were disposed of at 22/10 per head or 7½d per lb. and good trade lambs, weighing approximately 36 lb., brought 22/7 per head or 6¼d per lb.

High prices for lambs.

On the average, prices of lambs and suckers were higher during July than in June. As much as 8d per lb. was paid for prime light suckers and 7½d per lb. was secured on a number of occasions; mostly, however, suckers were worth from 6½d to 7¼d per lb., according to weight. Prime light lambs made to 6¾d per lb., but mainly from 5¾d to 6¼d was obtained, while good light trade lambs sold at from 5d to 5½d per lb. The heavy class of lamb, dressing from 38 lb. upwards, at times made to 5d per lb., but average realisations were from 4d to 4½d per lb. Some extra heavy lambs, ranging from 46 to 50 lb. dressed weight, made from 3½d to 4d per lb.

Perhaps the highest price paid per head was in the vicinity of 26/-, but generally the better class of heavy lamb cleared at from 20/- to 24/-, with good light descriptions making from 16/- to 21/- per head, according to weight and finish. Plainer grades of lambs, of which quite a number was available, sold at relatively lower rates.

J.W. & G.C

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SALES IN SUSSEX STREET
AND AT ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD.

Large stocks of local potatoes.

Local growers forwarded 26,934 bags of potatoes to Alexandria Railway Goods Yard during July, the largest monthly supply of the year. Arrivals were again evenly distributed, about 3,000 bags being received each Monday. Although some lines were withheld for picking over, good quality predominated. A large proportion of the consignments consisted of choice table varieties and the percentage of No. 3 grade and stock food was noticeably smaller. The sales were well attended throughout and competition, particularly towards the close of the period, was keen. Buyers concentrated mainly on table lines and odd lots of Satisfactions and Katahdin type met a particular inquiry, realising above normal rates. Request for seed was inclined to ease, and quotations fell below the previous month's levels. Prices obtained at auction were: No. 1 Grade £4.3.4 to £7.3.4, No. 2 £3.3.4 to £5.10.0, No. 3 £2.0.0 to £4.11.8, Seed £3.0.0 to £5.5.0 per ton, stock food 1/9 to 3/1 per bag.

/About ...

About 11,400 bags of Victorian tubers were submitted. Transit damage was evident in some cases but quality was mainly good. Clearances were somewhat slow at unaltered rates. Some lines brought £4.15.0 but most sales were effected at £4.0.0 to £4.10.0, with a few lots from £3.15.0 per ton.

Shipments of Tasmanian potatoes amounting to 76,766 bags were received in Sussex Street. Brownells constituted the bulk of these, the proportion of Whiteskins declining towards the end of the month. Quality varied and the principal request was for prime lines which, in all cases, cleared rapidly after arrival. Other grades, however, were rather slow of sale and a substantial carry-over from week to week, amounting at times to over 5,000 bags, resulted. Fixed prices of Brownells rose from £6.10.0 per ton, ruling during the first trading period, to £8.10.0 and then fell 10/- per ton in the final week. Quotations for Snowflakes and Arranchiefs showed little variation at £4.10.0 to £5.0.0 per ton.

Shortage of onions.

Despite the fact that the bulk of Victorian onions is now being railed to Alexandria, only about 2,100 bags were received during July. Only odd shipments, totalling about 700 bags, were available in Sussex Street. This represented less than half the usual monthly requirements.

During the first week supplies were submitted in Sussex Street at £14.0.0 to £16.0.0 for table lines and £9.0.0 to £9.10.0 per ton for picklers. Later, however, the fixed rate in Victoria rose sharply and practically no stocks were offered on the wholesale market, receivals being taken direct to store and retailed out in small lots at prices in accord with the Price Commissioner's Gazette.

Pumpkin market fluctuates.

Arrivals of pumpkins were slightly larger than during June and amounted to 76 trucks. This included 27 trucks from Queensland, the remainder coming from New South Wales centres. During the first part of the month, values were steady, at £4.0.0 to £4.10.0 per ton. During the second and third trading periods stocks were rather slow to clear and prices eased, some lines being offered at as low as £2.10.0 per ton. Late in the month an improved request resulted in a firmer tendency, deliveries being taken at £4.0.0 to £5.0.0 per ton.

Ready sale for other vegetables.

Tasmanian growers forwarded the following quantities of other root vegetables to the Sydney market during July:- Swedes 8,394 bags, carrots 992 bags and parsnips 1,090 bags. Demand continued to be firm and ready clearances were effected. Fixed prices ranged from:- Swedes £6.0.0 to £7.0.0, Carrots £12.0.0 to

/£16.0.0 ......

£16.0.0, Parsnips £10.0.0 to £13.0.0 per ton.

New South Wales producers railed 1,123 bags of swedes, 176 bags of carrots and 381 bags of parsnips to Alexandria. The quality of the swedes varied considerably and realisations by auction ranged from £4.5.0 to £5.15.0, with inferior from £2.0.0 per ton, while private disposals took place at £4.0.0 to £7.0.0 per ton. Only a small line of carrots was offered, bringing £16.5.0 per ton; parsnips cleared privately at £14.0.0 per ton.

Choice oaten and wheaten chaff sell well.

During July, a considerable reduction in the stocks of oaten chaff was noticeable, 115 trucks being forwarded to Alexandria Railway Goods Yard compared with 153 trucks during the previous month. However, a large proportion of the consignments was of choice quality and the market showed only a slight change. Demand throughout was fairly good; although the principal request was for choice lines, other grades cleared satisfactorily. Private treaty realisations ranged from £4.10.0 to £6.0.0 for medium, up to £7.0.0 for good and from £8.0.0 to £8.10.0, with odd lots to £8.15.0 per ton for choice. Trucks offered at auction brought from £5.8.4 to £7.8.4 per ton.

Much heavier supplies of wheaten chaff came to hand, the total, 92 trucks, being practically double that received during June. Request was firm, particularly for choice descriptions and despite the large increase in stocks the market was steady, values showing practically no variation. Quotations were from £4.10.0 to £6.15.0 per ton, according to quality. A large offering of mixed oaten and wheaten chaff was also available, 33 trucks in all being in position. This compensated to an extent for the reduced truckings of oaten chaff, and demand generally was firm. Most sales were effected privately at from £6.0.0 to £8.0.0, but odd lines were disposed of by auction at £7.0.0 to £7.3.4 per ton.

Slight fall in lucerne chaff market.

Consignments to Alexandria Railway Goods Yard of lucerne chaff (122 trucks) were the heaviest for some considerable time and appeared to be in excess of buyers' requirements. In addition only a small percentage of the yardings was of choice quality, medium varieties predominating. Clearances were difficult and a carryover from day to day was unavoidable. Taking everything into consideration, values were fairly well maintained, as, towards the close of the period, choice lines realised to £6.10.0, while special lots brought up to £7.5.0 per ton. Most sales, however, were effected at from £4.0.0 to £6.0.0 per ton. A few trucks were disposed of by auction at £5.0.0 to £6.0.0 per ton. Odd lines of threshings were forthcoming, and sold at £4.0.0 per ton.

/Only...

Only 4 trucks of Maitland lucerne hay were forwarded; these were in limited request at from £3.10.0 to £4.15.0 per ton.

Offerings from other centres amounted to 178 trucks, representing a large increase on the stocks usually absorbed, and disposals were difficult. Rates for medium grades were lowered in an endeavour to stimulate business and many sales were effected at £3.10.0 to £5.0.0 per ton. Good quality lines brought up to £6.0.0, and prime made to £7.0.0, while the small proportion of special description realised £8.0.0 per ton. A few trucks of derrick pressed hay were auctioned at £3.15.0 to £4.0.0 per ton.

About 50 bales of Hunter River lucerne hay were shipped to Sussex Street. These included dry and green varieties but quality was only medium and values ranged from £4.0.0 to £4.10.0 per ton.

Many of the 48 trucks of oaten hay received at Alexandria were derrick-pressed lines which were submitted for sale; inquiry was restricted and realisations ranged from £2.15.0 to £5.0.0 per ton. The bulk of the baled hay was consigned direct to private firms, but odd lots were offered and cleared readily at £6.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton.

Choice straw in demand.

Consignments of New South Wales and Victorian straw railed to Alexandria amounted to 29 and 30 trucks, respectively. The local offering varied in quality. Medium grades sold at £4.0.0 per ton, with a few inferior lots lower, while choice types met a good demand at up to £5.15.0. Victorian lines were mainly of choice description and were in firm request at £6.0.0 to £6.5.0 per ton.

Owing to restrictions in shipping space, no further shipments of Tasmanian straw were forwarded to Sussex Street.

Decline in maize market.

Large supplies of maize were available at Alexandria during July. Local growers railed 7,028 bags and Queensland centres 6,268 bags. The bulk was yellow maize; practically all white lines received were consigned direct to private firms. With the continued heavy arrivals, clearances were slow and values, which early in the period were steady at 3/8 per bushel for both local and Queensland yellow, gradually declined until on the final trading day prime yellow lots were offered at 3/- per bushel. Sales by auction ranged accordingly from 3/- to 3/7 per bushel.

About 2,500 bags of Northern Rivers maize were forwarded to Sussex Street. The market here followed a similar trend, prices

/of ......

of prime yellow falling from 3/7 to 3/- per bushel. White maize, which was available during the earlier half of the month, sold steadily at 3/9 per bushel.

Most of the 26 trucks of wheat in position at Alexandria were disposed of by auction. Request was satisfactory and odd F.A.Q. lines realised up to 4/5 per bushel. Most sales, however, were effected at 4/- to 4/2, while inferior or weevilly lots were cleared at from 3/6 per bushel. Small parcels were quoted privately at 4/5 to 4/6 per bushel.

Oats sold steadily throughout the period, but the chief request was for good to choice quality. Most of the 34 trucks were disposed of by auction at 2/8 to 3/5 per bushel.

C.S.

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CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

SATISFACTORY REQUEST FOR MOST FRUITS; GREEN VEGETABLES SCARCE AND DEAR.

Limited stocks of apples.

Good inquiry ruled for apples, but buyers had limited stocks to select from, particularly towards the end of July.

Arrivals of Jonathans from Victoria and South Australia were mainly of 2¼ to 2½ inch sizes. In addition, consignments of Rome Beauty and Delicious were received from these States, while Tasmania contributed Democrats, Croftons and Granny Smiths. Early in July, it was possible to purchase small coloured apples at prices which enabled retailers to sell at 6d per dozen, but towards the close values advanced to levels which precluded sale of similar fruit at less than 8d or 9d per dozen. Generally speaking, all varieties were in request and, owing to the relatively light supplies on offer, rates showed a marked upward trend.

Smaller supplies of pears.

There was also a considerable falling-off in supplies of pears, Winter Coles being very scarce. Josephine and Packham's Triumph were received from Victoria, while limited lots of both varieties, together with some Winter Nelis, came to hand from New South Wales sources. The market was firm and values rose about 2/- per bushel case.

Improved demand for Navel oranges.

Large quantities of Navel oranges were available from coastal groves, the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and South Australia. Demand was much brighter than during the previous month;

/apparently ....

apparently rising prices and short stocks of apples and pears induced retailers to bring this fruit more prominently before the public. Rates generally were slightly higher than those ruling in June.

Firm values for choice mandarins; restricted inquiry for lemons.

Choice mandarins were in request, and values were firm, selected lines realising to 9/- per bushel and higher prices being paid for a few specially selected packs. Lower grade fruit cleared slowly but stocks at the close of the month were relatively light.

Trading in lemons was dull, as there were very few purchases by factories owing to the export juice trade being practically at a standstill.

Relatively light consignments of pineapples.

Consignments of pineapples ranged from 1,500 to about 2,000 cases at bi-weekly intervals. Despite the relatively light supplies, there was only limited demand and rates generally were from 7/- to 9/- per tropical case, with a few selected brands dearer.

Satisfactory request for choice strawberries.

Strawberries in trays and packets from Queensland were received on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week. Choice berries met a satisfactory request, but those lacking colour and size were neglected by buyers and were disposed of to jam factories. Some locally grown lots (from the Mona Vale locality) were available at from 12/- to 15/- per dozen punnets.

Higher prices for smaller grades of bananas.

Consignments of North Coast and Queensland bananas were somewhat light during the month and values were firm. At times there was a scarcity of "sixes" and "sevens" and both these grades realised high prices. Towards the close, a slightly easier tendency in the market was apparent.

Trading in passionfruit was steady and rates were unchanged.

Upward trend in values of vegetables.

The continued dry conditions prevailing throughout the County of Cumberland and other vegetable producing areas of the State resulted in a marked reduction in supplies and an upward trend in values.

/Compared ....

Compared with July, 1940, cauliflower supplies were much lighter and little difficulty was experienced in effecting daily clearances at rates remunerative to growers. Values for choice heads were firm at all times and as high as 20/- per dozen was obtained.

Shortage of choice, large cabbages.

The position with regard to stocks of cabbages was similar to that for cauliflowers, and towards the close of the month there was a definite shortage of choice, large heads. In quite a big proportion of the offerings, the quality was only moderate, many of the hearts being poorly filled or, to use a trade description, "windy". Nevertheless, all lines were disposed of and exceptionally good prices were obtained. So far no inter-state consignments have reached the Sydney market but some lots arrived from the Far North Coast of New South Wales. Under the prevailing droughty conditions, growers find it difficult to raise this vegetable and, in some instances, large areas of plantings have been turned under owing to lack of soil moisture.

Choice peas sell well.

Consignments of peas continued to be light on most days, and the total quantity available on any one occasion rarely approximated 1,000 bags, while at times there were less than 500 bags. Choice lots sold well at prices ranging from 14/- to 16/- per bushel during the greater part of the month. Supplies from the North Coast opened up in variable condition.

Frost injury was fairly prevalent towards the close of July and was responsible for slightly lower values.

High closing rates for beans.

Except for heavy receivals from the North Coast and Queensland during the third week of the month, the market was only moderately supplied with beans. Prior and subsequent to the period mentioned, prices were at fairly high levels, this being particularly so at closing, when rates ranged from 12/- to 16/- per bushel.

Queensland principal source of tomatoes available.

Trading in tomatoes was mainly confined to Queensland offerings, consignments of which on Monday of each week totalled from fifteen to twenty thousand half-cases. The quality of the greater proportion was very satisfactory and some coloured trellis-grown lines from southern areas realised up to 14/- per half-case. Green lines constituted the bulk of supplies and large quantities were sold to operators who specialise in ripening for repacking. Only small lots of locally grown tomatoes were forward and choice packs sold at satisfactory prices. A few hot-house grown lines were available at times and up to 17/- per half-case was paid for the best of these.

R.M.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING JULY, 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	July, 1941 From	July, 1941 To	31st August, 1939.
Wheat - Home Consumption:			
Bulk - per bushel	3/11¼d (unchanged)		2/4d
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2 (unchanged) (plus £2.8.10 tax)		£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)
Bran - per ton	£6.0.0) unchanged		£4.5.0
Pollard " "	£6.0.0)		£4.5.0
Eggs (hen) per dozen	1/4d	1/2d	1/-
Butter:			
Choice per cwt.	161/2d)		161/2d
First Quality " "	156/6d) unchanged		156/6d
Second " "	151/10d)		151/10d
Cheese:			
Loaf per lb.	11d) unchanged		11d
Large " "	10½d)		10½d
Special brands " "	11½d	1/2d	1/2d

Pigs (Abattoir Sales)

Good to prime: per head -	July, 1941 From	July, 1941 To	29th August, 1939 From	29th August, 1939 To
Porkers - Extra light	19/6	34/6	31/6	40/6
" - light	30/6	38/6	39/6	44/6
" - medium weight	34/6	47/6	43/6	57/6
" - heavy	42/6	50/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	48/6	72/6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£3.0.0	£7.5.0	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

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

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

F R U I T.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS packages
Queensland	18,958	10,808	16,062 x	45,915	91,743
Victoria	12	86	43,917	1,064	45,079
Tasmania	-	-	129,911	-	129,911
Sth. Aust.	-	-	8,109	-	8,109
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	18,970	10,894	197,999	46,979	274,842

x Also 42 trays Strawberries.

V E G E T A B L E S

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins bags	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkges.	TOTALS packages
Queensland	62	16	-	103	976	10,868	12,025
Victoria	39,691	26,942	280	1	-	7,591	74,505
Tasmania	106,999	-	6,068	-	-	2,189	115,256
Sth. Aust.	2,237	456	-	-	-	11,206	13,899
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	148,989	27,414	6,348	104	976	31,854	215,685

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

FRUIT

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS packages
Queensland	18,566	8,914	11,808x	55,102	94,390
Victoria	6	67	95,238	-	95,311
Tasmania	-	-	117,295	-	117,295
Sth. Aust.	-	-	4,534	-	4,534
West Aust.	-	-	1,999	-	1,999
TOTALS	18,572	8,981	230,874	55,102	313,529

x Also 1,726 trays Strawberries.

VEGETABLES

STATE	Potatoes	Onions	Swedes	Pumpkins		Cucs. & Chillies	Other Vegs.	TOTALS	
	bags	bags	bags	bags	tons	cases	pkges.	pkges.	tons
Queensland	13	18	-	1,187	$81\frac{3}{4}$	972	11,687	13,877	$81\frac{3}{4}$
Victoria	56,837	31,476	455	-	-	-	13,344	102,112	-
Tasmania	95,349	-	11,047	-	-	-	3,175	109,571	--
Sth. Aust.	1,131	606	-	-	-	-	11,571	13,308	-
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	153,330	32,100	11,502	1,187	$81\frac{3}{4}$	972	39,777	238,868	$81\frac{3}{4}$

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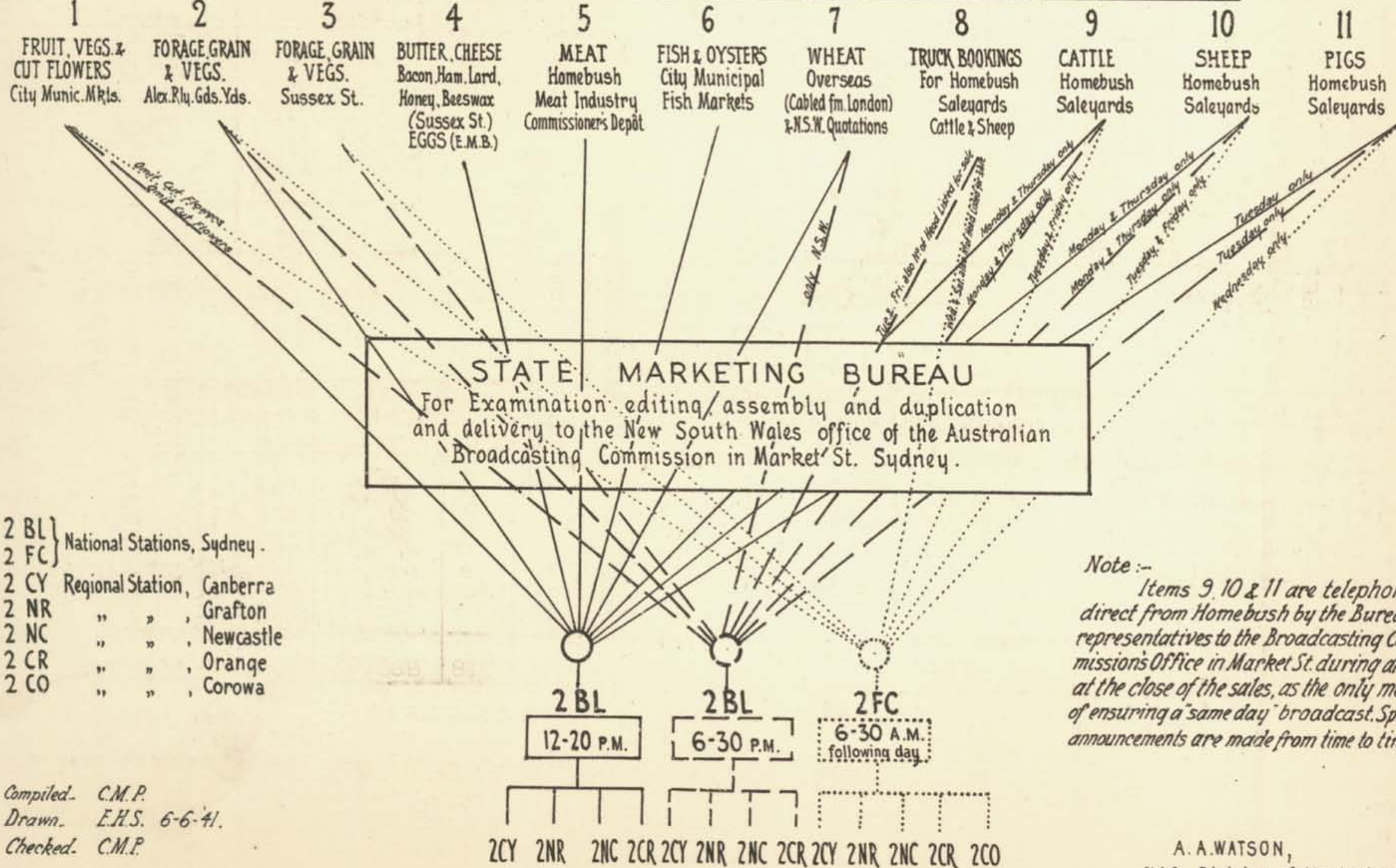
B.41-8

GRAPH SHOWING SOURCES OF PRICES SUPPLIED BY STATE MARKETING BUREAU FOR BROADCASTING FROM NEW SOUTH WALES "A" CLASS AND REGIONAL STATIONS



2 BL } National Stations, Sydney.
2 FC }
2 CY Regional Station, Canberra
2 NR " " , Grafton
2 NC " " , Newcastle
2 CR " " , Orange
2 CO " " , Corowa

Note :-
Items 9, 10 & 11 are telephoned direct from Homebush by the Bureau's representatives to the Broadcasting Commission's Office in Market St. during and at the close of the sales, as the only means of ensuring a "same day" broadcast. Special announcements are made from time to time.

Compiled. *C.M.P.*
Drawn. *E.H.S. 6-6-41.*
Checked. *C.M.P.*

A. A. WATSON,
Chief, Division of Marketing.