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

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

SEPTEMBER, 1941

Vol. 7 No. 5

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

SEPTEMBER, 1941.

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HIGHLIGHTS.

Minister for Commerce announces that this year's £500,000 grant by Commonwealth Government (from the proceeds of the flour tax) for reconstruction of marginal wheat areas will be allocated to various States as follows:- New South Wales £175,000, Victoria £80,000, South Australia £130,000, Western Australia £115,000. Reconstruction scheme aims at transferring some settlers from marginal wheat lands to give those remaining larger holdings devoted mainly to farming operations other than wheat-growing.

At poll under the Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927-1940, 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 should be brought under the control of the Egg Marketing Board, 887 votes were in favour and 528 votes were against the proposal. The proposal was adopted.

Chief Secretary announces that legislation to stabilise or regulate the price of fish will be introduced in New South Wales Parliament at an early date.

Minister for Commerce states that an improvement in shipping position has enabled Commonwealth Government to modify its meat industry re-organisation plan and give producers of export lambs an increase of one half-penny per lb. Government will pay storage on lamb held in store after it has become the property of the Government at the rate of one thirty-second of a penny per lb. weekly. Mutton canning policy will not be put into operation unless price of mutton appears likely to fall below the figure at which it can be purchased for canning under Government contract.

New South Wales Government decides to pay a subsidy of 2d per gallon on milk sold by dairy farmers to the Milk Board for a period of two months, pending completion of plans for re-organising the industry. Subsidy will be paid to each farmer only on a quantity of milk equivalent to that which he had supplied to the Board in the preceding two months.

CALIFORNIAN AGRICULTURAL PRORATE ACT.

(Note:- Proration has been defined "as the arbitrary allocation on a proportionate basis of the available market among the interested producers with a curtailment of marketings to correspond with existing adequate demand".

In the Monthly Marketing Reviews of January 1938, February, 1938, and November, 1938, references were made to the operation of the Agricultural Prorate Act of California (U.S.A.), which was passed in 1933. Mention was also made of the difficulties encountered in the way of satisfactory marketing by the producers of the bulk of the more important agricultural crops for some years prior to 1933, due to seasonal or annual surpluses. These glutted the market at some time or another during the marketing period, with detrimental effects on returns to the producers. Co-operative marketing organisations, especially from 1923 onward, had filled a prominent position in the distribution of Californian crops, but these entailed voluntary support only and this could not hold all production under the control of a marketing programme. Hence, the conclusion was reached that it was necessary to have the means to compel adherence to a statutory marketing scheme.

Description of Act.

Since its enactment in 1933 the Agricultural Prorate Act has been amended on three occasions, namely in 1935, 1938 and 1939, and is now described as:-

"An Act to conserve the agricultural wealth of the State of California, and to prevent economic waste in the marketing of agricultural crops produced in the State of California, creating an Agricultural Prorate Advisory Commission, providing for the appointment of said Commission, fixing the term of office of the members of said Commission; prescribing the powers, duties and authorities of the Director of Agriculture under this Act and of said Commission and of the members thereof; providing for the institution of proration programmes with respect to agricultural products or crops; providing for the enforcement of such programmes; providing penalties for violation of such programmes; providing for the creation of funds for the purposes of said Act and providing for the collection thereof; and making an appropriation therefor."

Agricultural Prorate Advisory Commission.

Some of the chief provisions of the Act are:-

/Creation....

Creation of an Agricultural Prorate Advisory Commission of nine members, eight appointed by the Governor, viz., six at the time of appointment engaged in the production of agricultural commodities as their principal occupation, but no two of these shall be appointed as representing the same commodity; one neither producer nor handler of agricultural commodities to be appointed to represent consumers generally; one an experienced commercial handler of agricultural products; the Director of Agriculture of the State of California shall be ex officio the ninth member.

The terms of office of members, except the Director, to be four years (with special provisions in regard to the first appointees). The members to receive ten dollars per day for each day actually engaged on official business and to be reimbursed actual travelling expenses.

Under the original Act of 1933 the word "Advisory" was omitted from the Commission's title and its constitution was somewhat different from that indicated in the foregoing. One of the principal alterations to the 1933 Act in this regard is the present provision appointing the Director of Agriculture the ninth member of the Commission. A further important amendment is that much of the responsibility for the administration of the provisions of the Act has been transferred from the Commission to the Director. The former is authorised to adopt such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of the Act, but the Director is held responsible for their administration and enforcement and may, himself, adopt any necessary rules and regulations for such purpose.

With the consent of the Commission the Director is to appoint a Secretary and such other personnel as may be necessary, and to prescribe their duties. In addition he is authorised to utilise the facilities and personnel of the State and county Departments of Agriculture. The Director conducts any hearing, inquiry or investigation which he has power to undertake or hold. Any hearing must be attended by at least one member of the Commission. The office of the Commission is to be in the City of Sacramento, but it may meet at such times and in such places as may be expedient and necessary for the performance of its duties, provided, however, that the Commission shall meet at least once every ninety days.

Institution of marketing programme.

An agricultural prorated marketing programme may be instituted for a variety or kind of agricultural commodity and may be based either upon a production zone or upon a market zone, the basis to be specified in the petition therefor.

Ten or more producers of the variety or kind of the commodity proposed to be affected may file with the Commission a petition for the establishment of a proration zone and a prorated marketing programme.

/The ...

The Commission has discretionary powers to decline to initiate or act on any petition if satisfied that it has not been presented sufficiently in advance of harvesting to permit formulation of a sound and effective programme.

The petition shall, among other things, contain:-

(1) A description of the district or districts comprising the proposed zone.

(2) A general statement of facts showing the necessity for the institution of a prorated marketing programme.

Should the Director so require, there shall be filed with the petition a good and sufficient undertaking to cover probable costs of conducting a hearing and instituting the programme.

On account of climatic and other conditions, no proration programme shall be established for:-

Canning figs (any programme in existence at time of 1939 amendment to be terminated).

Grapes in certain specified counties.

Commission to take evidence for and against a proposed programme.

After the advertisement at least 10 days beforehand of its intention to do so, the Commission shall hold a hearing in some central point located within the proposed zone (where the zone covers more than one district, then at points in each of the districts) and take evidence for and against the proposed programme, to ascertain whether:-

(1) the petition has been duly signed by the required number of producers; and

(2) the economic stability of the agricultural industry concerned is being or is about to be imperilled by prevailing market conditions; and

(3) agricultural waste is occurring or is about to occur; and

(4) the institution of a programme of prorated marketing will conserve the agricultural wealth of the State and will prevent economic waste; and

(5) the institution of a proration programme as proposed will advance the public welfare without injustice to any producer; and

(6) the proposed programme may be instituted and conducted without permitting unreasonable profits to the producers

/and ...

and that the commodity named in the petition cannot be marketed otherwise at a reasonable profit; and

(7) the proposed zone includes all of the producing territory within the State of California reasonably necessary to render the programme feasible.

If it is considered that further territory should be included a similar hearing must be held in such additional territory before reaching a finding, and the petition may be amended accordingly.

Appointment of programme committees.

Unless the foregoing points are determined in the affirmative the petition must be denied. If the Commission approves the petition, the Director divides the proposed zone into convenient districts, not in excess of seven, and allots to each district the number of producers who may serve upon a programme committee. He then calls a meeting of producers in each district at which the producers, by secret ballot, elect persons (who must be producers) eligible to serve upon the programme committee. From the persons so elected, the Director, with the approval of the Commission, selects and appoints seven members to serve on the programme committee; each district shall be entitled to at least one member. Also, if requested so to do by the producer members, the Director, with the approval of the Commission, may appoint to the committee two handlers of the commodity. This programme committee formulates a proration marketing programme for submission to the Commission, which then holds a hearing or hearings within the zone. The Commission makes written findings as to whether the programme is reasonably calculated to carry out the objectives of the Act, and, in accordance with such findings, approves, modifies or disapproves the programme. If the producing factor is to be determined by the Commission, such shall be determined and be part of the programme. The Commission fixes a date prior to which the programme must be approved by the producers.

Producers to vote on programmes.

If the programme be approved by the Commission, the Director submits a full copy of the programme, together with an explanation of its provisions and the reasons therefor, to each producer (or his duly authorised agent). A form (in effect a voting form) upon which the producer can record written assent to the programme, and a notice that the said form should be completed and returned to the Director by a specified date, are also enclosed.

If he finds that 65 per cent. or more of the producers, being the owners of 51 per cent. or more of the producing factors, have signified their approval of the programme, the Director shall

/declare .....

declare the programme instituted. In any order instituting a proration programme, the zone affected shall be given some title indicative of the commodity affected. Any order issued by the Director or Commission substantially affecting the rights of any interested party may be reviewed by any court of competent jurisdiction provided action is commenced within thirty days after the effective date of the order complained of.

Administration of proration programme.

The programme committee already mentioned shall be the proration programme committee. The members shall serve for two years from date of institution of the programme unless such is sooner terminated and shall be entitled to certain remuneration. Vacancies on the committee are to be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made.

Subject to the approval of the Director, the Committee shall appoint an agent to administer the proration programme under its direction. Deputy agents and other assistants as may be necessary shall be appointed by the agent subject to the approval of the programme committee.

The Act states that the marketing programme to operate in any proration zone shall be so formulated as to rectify as far as possible adverse marketing conditions and to maintain market stability. A programme may be altered or modified in minor particulars from time to time by the Committee with the approval of the Commission provided that the Commission may require the Director to hold a hearing prior to such approval. Under certain conditions the approval of the producers must also be obtained.

The method, manner and extent of proration and the movement of the prorated commodity from harvest into a primary channel of distribution shall be determined by a programme Committee. Proration may be periodic or seasonal in character and may be based upon actual or estimated production, whether in storage or otherwise.

The programme Committee appoint and empower sub-committees in the separated producing areas within the zone to facilitate the carrying out of the purposes of the Act. It may also collaborate and co-operate with agencies or organisations with similar purposes in other parts of the United States in the formulation and execution of a common marketing programme. It is empowered to minimise an existing surplus by co-operating with the proper agencies in the enforcement of applicable existing standardisation or other laws of the State of California and of the United States, enacted to protect the consuming public from fraud and deception. The programme Committee may also make contracts and agreements in the name of the zone in the furtherance of any of the powers of the programme Committee.

/Powers .....

Powers for purpose of minimising effect of surpluses, etc.

For the purpose of minimising the effect of surpluses or other adverse market conditions the programme committee may be empowered in any one or more of the following particulars:-

(a) To establish and maintain either surplus or stabilising pools, or both, which pools shall be authorised to receive from each producer from time to time his uncertificated portions of the prorated commodity and market the same by grades for the account of the producer when it can be advantageously disposed of either in its original or converted state.

(b) To create, establish or otherwise obtain and operate facilities for the financing, grading, packing, servicing, procuring, preparing for market and disposal of such surplus in such manner as to maintain stability in the market and to dispose of such surplus or the contents of established pools and/or any of their derived products.

(c) To create, maintain and disburse an equalisation fund to be used for the removal of any inequalities between producers as to the total volume marketed through prorated channels resulting from errors in estimating production or surplus or for indemnifying producers whose production, in whole or in part, is diverted from its normal marketing outlets to relief, by-products, or other non-competitive purposes pursuant to a marketing programme.

(d) To establish and apply methods of equating the marketable supply of any grade, quality or size of any commodity to the reasonable market demands therefor.

(e) To broaden distribution and increase consuming outlets by appropriate educational and trade stimulation efforts of a general industry nature and not unfairly depreciative of the quality of any other food product.

Termination of a proration programme.

A proration programme shall continue to operate until there shall be filed with the Commission an application for its termination signed by not less than 40% of the producers owning 40% of the producing factors of the industry within the zone in which the programme is effective.

Upon the receipt of the petition a hearing must be held to determine the sufficiency of the signatures thereto. If the signatures are in order and it is established that the purposes of the Act and the objectives thereof are no longer effectuated by the programme the Commission shall thereupon terminate the programme provided that any programme on a seasonal crop shall not be terminated except at the end of its marketing season.

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

In the August, 1941, issue of the Monthly Marketing Review we dealt with the geographical features, climate, rivers, water conservation schemes, timber and mineral resources of the Central Plain Statistical Division No. 12, and gave particulars of the population and holdings. In conclusion, attention is now given to the principal rural industries and to transport facilities, while schedules of production and livestock are included:-

Sheep-raising the principal industry.

As the table showing the purposes for which the holdings are utilised indicates, grazing is by far the most important activity of this Division, the rainfall over a large portion of the territory being too low and uncertain for successful agricultural operations. Sheep raising for wool production is the most outstanding primary pursuit and, owing chiefly to the dryness of the climate, merino wool of high quality is produced. The Eastern boundary of the Central Plain is adjacent to the "marginal" fat-lamb raising areas of New South Wales, and it is only during good seasons that cross-breeding operations for this purpose are conducted within the Division itself. According to the Statistical Register, the number of sheep in the subject Division during the past ten years has varied between four and a half and five and a half million. At 31st March, 1939, the number was 4,979,864, or more than one-tenth the total for the State. The production of wool during the 1938-39 season amounted to approximately 41,145,000 lb. valued at about £1,765,304. A number of merino stud flocks is located within the section under review. Sheep consigned to market for killing purposes comprise aged or culled ewes and grown wethers; truckings of the latter depend upon seasonal conditions and marketing requirements. The Central Plain is a source of supply of young Merino wethers, for transfer to New England (Northern Tableland) properties for wool-raising purposes, but this practice is not so prevalent as formerly owing to the fact that improved pastures now facilitate the breeding of merinos on the Tablelands. Sheep may also be consigned to Queensland or to the Riverina in time of drought.

Too dry for large cattle population.

Although some of the best stock-raising districts of the State are located in the Central Plain, they are not heavy carrying. The heavy soils are extremely fertile and generally support a good growth of herbage in autumn and winter and in favourable seasons are also heavily grassed with types of good fattening qualities. In summer, however, these areas may be semi-arid. The number of cattle depastured at 31st March, 1939, was

/60,761 ....

60,761 head and only exceeded that in two other divisions - the Metropolitan and the Central Western Slope. Of this total only 529 were dairy stock, so that, for all practical purposes, only beef breed cattle are grazed. Numbers existing during 1939 show a slight increase over those for 1938 but a considerable falling off when compared with the five years 1933 to 1937; in 1936 the aggregate was 100,971 head. Adverse seasonal conditions would account for this decline.

Few pigs held.

The production of pigs in the Central Plain is relatively unimportant, the figures during 1938 and 1939 being particularly low. The total number on 31st March, 1939, was 1,605 head. In the drier areas of the State, pigs are usually bred for marketing as stores and their numbers frequently vary according to the price of grain, in this instance wheat. Steps are being taken at present to encourage increased pig breeding throughout New South Wales, it being pointed out that this may profitably be combined with wheat farming.

Wheat growing principal agricultural pursuit.

Wheat growing is the principal agricultural activity of the Central Plain, but operations are confined to the southern section and the eastern fringe of the Division. Production is mainly centred in the Lachlan Shire, yields from other areas being relatively small. Statistics show that the Central Plain is low in importance amongst the wheat producing divisions, although its relative position varies slightly with seasonal conditions. The average yield per acre is usually the lowest in the State (other than the Western Division), and in 1937-38 was only 3.5 bushels. Insufficiency of rainfall, of course, is the explanation of the poor yields, and it is very interesting to note the response to the more adequate precipitation received during the 1939-40 season. At Tullibigeal and Cargelligo, two important wheat growing centres, the respective yields per acre during 1938-39 and 1939-40 were as follow:- Tullibigeal 3.2, 17.8; Cargelligo 3.9, 16.2: Figures published by the New South Wales Government Statistician in respect of wheat for grain in the Central Plain during the past three years are as under:-

Year	Area under Crop acres	Total Yield bushels	Average Yield per acre
1937-38	316,167	1,116,249	3.5 bushels
1938-39	336,158	1,687,056	5 "
1939-40	278,233	4,622,562	16.6 "

Bulk handling facilities are provided by the Government Grain Elevators at Burcher, Burgooney, Condobolin, Derriwong, Lake Cargelligo, Tullamore, Tullibigeal and Weja.

/Other ....

Other cereals and fodder crops.

Apart from oats, the yields of which during the 1937-38 and 1938-39 seasons were 48,474 and 117,456 bushels, respectively, the cultivation of other cereals (maize, barley and rye, etc.) is only limited. There was no recorded production of rye during 1937-38, but the yield for 1938-39 was 5,760 bushels and for 1939-40 it was 5,745 bushels. Oaten and wheaten hay are produced as an adjunct to cultivation for grain, whilst lucerne also is grown. The quantity of these fodders harvested, however, is relatively small when compared with that of other divisions. The figures for 1938-39 were:- Wheaten Hay, 22,456 tons, Oaten Hay 9,314 tons, Lucerne Hay 1,290 tons, while in 1939-40 - an exceptionally good season - the yields of hay were:- Wheaten 32,039 tons, Oaten 30,027 tons and Lucerne 1,357 tons.

Production of miscellaneous crops negligible.

This division is generally unsuited to the commercial cultivation of root and miscellaneous crops. Most of the principal fruits are grown, but the highest yield during the 1938-39 season in respect of any one kind was that of oranges, amounting to 1,125 bushels only. Fourteen tons of potatoes were dug during that year and market garden production was valued at £4,628, mainly in the Condobolin and Coonamble Municipalities. During the previous year, 4,270 half-cases of tomatoes were grown, to which total Condobolin contributed 2,000, but only 120 half-cases were obtained in 1938-39.

Migratory beekeeping.

From a honey production point of view, official figures indicate that the Central Plain is of minor importance, as the yield in 1937-38 totalled 10,610 lb. and in 1938-39 amounted to 2,690 lb. only. However, these figures do not give credit to the Plains for their usefulness for migratory beekeeping. Apiarists from the Slopes and Tablelands move their hives from place to place through the Central Plains, particularly along the river banks, and especially when rainfall has been sufficient to stimulate ground and tree flora. Certain species of Mallee, noted for honey production, thrive in this Division, but are not found in any quantity elsewhere. The output from these migratory hives is to a large extent dependent on the honey flow of the subject division, but is recorded with that of the apiarists' permanent locations on the Slopes or Highlands. The quality of honey from the Plains flora is said to be generally very good, and, owing to the dry climate, density is a very prominent feature.

Rail facilities.

Considering the sparseness of the population, the Central Plain is well provided with rail facilities, and each important centre is either on a main line or is connected thereto by a branch link. The main Western Line from Sydney (Metropolitan Division) to Bourke (Western Division) traverses the centre of the Division in

/a .....

a north-westerly direction, passing through Nevertire and Nyngan. From Nyngan, there is a branch line travelling in a westerly direction to Cobar, situated some 82 miles distant in the Western Division. From Nevertire, a short spur runs to Warren. The Coonamble district is served by a branch of the main Western Line, which leaves the latter at Dubbo (Central Western Slope). From the Northern Line, a branch runs from Werris Creek (North Western Slope) via Boggabri, Narrabri and Wee Waa, in the North Central Plain, to Burren Junction in the Central Plain, where it again divides, one section going to Pokataroo, the division's most northerly township, and the other proceeding in a westerly direction to Walgett, on the Barwon River. In the south, the main line to Broken Hill (near the South Australian border) crosses the Central Plain, passing through Condobolin. Tottenham, a centre some 54 miles north of Condobolin, is connected to the Broken Hill line by a branch leaving it at Bogan Gate (Central Western Slope). The extreme south-west sector is served by a branch line (terminating at Lake Cargelligo) from the network of feeders which eventually join up with the main Southern Line at Cootamundra (South Western Slope). Another spur from this network links Burcher, on the South Eastern border of the Central Plain, with Wyalong (South Western Slope).

Highways and roads.

There are two main highways passing through the Central Plain, the chief being the North Western Highway, which joins Sydney (Metropolitan Division) and Bourke (Western Division). This highway follows the course of the main Western Railway Line and approximately 100 miles of it lies within the division under review. The Barrier Highway branches from the Western Highway at Nyngan, and runs in a westerly direction to Broken Hill; from Nyngan to the Central Plain's western border is about 60 miles. In addition, the Gwydir Highway traverses a small section of the extreme north east portion, terminating at Collarenebri. These highways are maintained by the Main Roads Board of New South Wales. There is a number of other important roads within the Division, with a total mileage of about 330; these, together with a network of minor cross-country connections, are under the control of the various local government authorities.

Schedules of Production and Livestock.

The following schedules, compiled from figures published in the New South Wales Statistical Register, show the average annual quantities of the principal primary products and the average annual number of livestock in the Central Plain Division for the five years ended 30th June, 1939.

/Central ....

Central Plain Statistical Division No. 12.

Average Annual Production - Five Years ended 30th June, 1939.

Wool	41,914,136	lb.
Wheat - Grain	1,935,565	bushels.
Hay	16,250	tons.
Oats - Grain	92,357	bushels.
Hay	7,555	tons.
Maize	129	bushels.
Lucerne Hay	936	tons.
Barley	140	bushels.
Rye	1,586	bushels.
Market Gardens (Value of Production)	£3,748	
Oranges	1,249	bushels.
Honey	(a) 5,504	lb.

(a) See remarks re migratory bee-keeping.

Applying the 1939 annual average wholesale prices in Sydney to the foregoing products a suggested estimate of their approximate value is £2,750,000. The average annual value of the mining output for the five years 1934-1938 was £22,649.

Average Annual Number of Livestock in Central Plain Statistical Division No. 12. Five Years ended 30th June, 1939.

	Head
Sheep	5,239,267
Cattle	83,611
Horses	23,760
Pigs	3,127

----oooOooo---- J.W.

Notes on the voluntary stabilisation scheme for the marketing of eggs in Western Australia appeared in the July, 1941, issue of the Monthly Marketing Review. We are indebted to Mr. John Wade, Secretary of the Voluntary Egg Stabilisation Committee, Perth, for the following additional information:-

The Voluntary Egg Stabilisation Committee is still in operation and is now comprised of four producer representatives and four representatives of agents and merchants, with Dr. G.L. Sutton as independent Chairman, chosen by the two interests - viz., producers and agents. The Committee has been in operation since February, 1940, and has succeeded in its main purpose, viz., stabilising the market by preventing sudden and wide fluctuations in prices. Furthermore, prices have been maintained at a higher level during the export season than could otherwise have been the case. The Committee has received numerous expressions of confidence from producers, and there are indications that producers may endeavour to obtain legislation to support the Committee in its work.

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HOMEBUSH LIVESTOCK MARKETS.

SHEEP SLIGHTLY CHEAPER; UPWARD TREND IN CATTLE AND PIG PRICES.

Aggregate pennings of sheep and lambs slightly smaller.

Yardings of sheep and lambs during August, when eight sales were held, aggregated 268,238 head, only 802 head less than the total for July. Fairly substantial supplies were available until about the middle of the month, but subsequent auctions were marked by a steady decrease in the offerings, due no doubt to shearing operations and to adverse seasonal conditions in many country centres. A feature of the market, however, was the fairly good representation of new season's sucker lambs, consignments of which progressively increased.

Lighter yardings of sheep.

Supplies of sheep again declined, falling from 129,822 head in July to 123,079 in August, the decrease being most noticeable towards the end of the month. The heaviest offering on any one sale day was 21,500 and the lightest 10,057 head. Although full woolled sheep comprised a good proportion of the penning, there was a pronounced increase in the percentage of shorn descriptions submitted. Heavy weight wethers and ewes made by far the best showing and many consignments of exceptionally good quality were available. On occasions ewes were rather scarce but simultaneous to heavier marketings of suckers, more ewes were received and relieved the shortage of this class of mutton. Light trade sheep, both wethers and ewes, were mostly of medium quality but at times nicely furnished animals were yarded. At times, drafts of plain aged and very low conditioned sheep were submitted and proved difficult to sell, but mostly the quality could be classed as very fair.

Improved realisations for sheep at closing auctions.

Over the five sales held between 1st and 18th August, values progressively declined, the fall approximating 1/- to 2/- per head. Later, lighter yardings of sheep considerably stimulated demand and buyers operated with greater freedom, resulting in prices returning to the earlier levels. Despite this general improvement over the latter part of the month, the average returns for sheep were not so good as those for the preceding month.

The following sales illustrate the price fluctuations during August:- Early in the month, operators bought good quality 44 lb wethers for 3¼d per lb., the draft realising 22/4 each. Heavy 60 lb. wethers sold on the same day at 25/10 each or 2¾d per lb., while ewes, weighing approximately 38 lb., cost 3d per lb., being disposed of at 17/9 per head, and a line of heavy ewes,

/dressing...

dressing 56 lb., brought 20/9 each or 2½d per lb. Later on, supplies were secured at relatively lower rates, comparable sales being:- A draft of heavy ewes, weighing approximately 48 lb., made 17/7 each or 2d per lb., and lighter ewes, dressing about 44 lb. of mutton, were purchased at 15/9 per head, equivalent to 2¼d per lb. Wethers of about 40 lb. weight were disposed of at 17/9 each, costing 2¾d per lb., while heavier wethers, weighing approximately 60 lb., made 24/6 per head, being worth 2½d per lb. Towards the end of August, lighter yardings created a much dearer market; a pen of nice light trade 38 lb. wethers sold at 20/4 each, realising 3½d per lb., while heavier sheep, weighing 50 lb., made 22/5 each, equivalent to 3d per lb.

Sheep market closes strong.

Although average realisations for sheep were lower than those for July, the market was much stronger towards the close, when all grades sold at enhanced levels and values fully recovered from the decline manifest earlier. In August, the highest price per pound paid for light wethers was 3½d per lb. as against 3¾d in July, while heavy sheep reached 3¼d per lb., compared with 3½d in the previous month. For the most part, however, light wethers were worth from 2¾d to 3¼d per lb. and on one occasion were purchased at from 2½d to 2¾d. Heavy wether mutton mostly cost from 2½d to 3d per lb. Ewes made as much as 2¾d and 3d per lb. for heavy and light respectively, equal to the best of the July returns, but generally light trade ewes brought from 2¼d to 2¾d and heavy descriptions realised 2d to 2½d per lb. At times, prime weighty wethers sold at as high as 26/- per head and some of the better class of ewes 21/-, but by far the greater portion of the wethers was disposed of at from 19/- to 24/- per head, according to weight and skin value, while ewes mostly realised the satisfactory prices of from 14/- to 20/- each. It could be said that, on the whole, the market for ewes did not vary to such an extent as that for wethers. Shorn sheep sold at prices ranging from 9/- to 16/- per head, which, owing to the low returns for pelts, practically represented the cost of the carcase to operators. Medium to plain sheep brought from 7/- to 16/- per head, rates depending largely on the finish of the animal and skin value.

Further increase in consignments of lambs.

There was a further increase in pennings of lambs, receivals totalling 145,159 head, approximately 6,000 above the July aggregate. Summer lambs were not so numerous as in previous months, but quite a few consignments of mixed lambs and hoggets were offered. The most noticeable improvement was in respect of suckers, which were rather well represented. Although light trade summer lambs continued in short supply, heavy weight descriptions were fairly plentiful and included many lots being in splendid condition, but a little too fat and weighty to suit local trade needs generally. Those buyers able to utilise this grade of lamb were very well catered for. Suckers made a very attractive showing and the pennings included some exceptionally fine lots.

/Suckers .....

Suckers sell well but rates lower.

Although the extreme values of the previous month were not fully maintained, practically all grades of suckers sold at satisfactory rates, and at all times met with a keen demand. It was expected that the heavier consignments would result in somewhat lower realisations. By mid-August prices had fallen by from 1/- to 2/- per head but values partially recovered before the end of the period, when suckers mostly were about 1/- per head cheaper than at the opening sales.

Lambs generally cheaper.

Some fluctuation was apparent in the lamb market during August, but prices generally were lower than during July. At the opening sales, rates mostly showed little appreciable change, but from then until the final week values steadily declined, the total fall ranging from 2/- to 2/6 per head. Over the concluding stages, realisations were better, an improvement of from 1/- to 1/6 per head taking place. The undermentioned sales of suckers and lambs indicate the price trends during August:- At the opening auctions, good trade lambs, weighing 32 lb., sold at 20/1 each or 5¾d per lb., and nice quality light trade suckers, dressing approximately 28 lb., were disposed of at 19/2 per head, equivalent to 7½d per lb., while a pen of heavy lambs, 46 lb. in weight, cost 4d per lb., realising 22/10 each. In mid-August, good light trade suckers were obtained for 6½d per lb., a line weighing approximately 27 lb. bringing 16/11 per head, and good trade lambs, dressing 36 lb., sold at 19/1 each, making 4¾d per lb. On the same day, prime heavy lambs, of 48 lb. weight, realised 22/1 per head or 3½d per lb. Towards the end of the month, nice trade suckers cost 6¾d per lb., a yard, dressing approximately 28 lb., being obtained for 17/11 each, while good heavy lambs weighing 46 lb., brought 23/3 each, equivalent to 4½d per lb.

Lambs and suckers sell at reduced prices.

All grades of lambs and suckers were affected by the lower realisations, but the greatest decline was noticeable in the rates for suckers. In the previous month, up to 8d per lb. was paid for suckers, but the highest price in August was 7½d per lb. Best light suckers, ranging from 26 to 33 lb. in weight, mostly averaged from 6½d to 7d per lb., while suckers weighing 34 lb. and upwards made from 5½d to 6d per lb. Light lambs cost as much as 6½d per lb. but generally realised from 4¾d to 5¾d, while heavier lambs, weighing 38 lb. and over, sold at from 3½d to 4½d per lb., according to weight, with odd sales at 4¾d per lb. During the previous month, heavy lambs made up to 5d per lb. and light lambs cost as much as 6¾d per lb.

At times during August suckers reached 23/- per head, and summer lambs made 24/-; mostly, however, rates for the better grades were from 17/- to 21/- for suckers and from 18/- to 22/-

/each .....

each for lambs, with plainer descriptions at relatively lower levels.

Variable consignments of cattle.

Consignments of cattle during August, 1941, aggregated 12,538 head, which total was slightly below that for July. There were, however, nine sale days in July as against eight in August, and thus, on an average basis, daily truckings during the month under review showed an improvement. Auctions in the store section were very light, amounting to 947 head only. Numbers submitted from day to day revealed a fair degree of fluctuation, while quality was most variable, being comparatively good at times and disappointing on other occasions. The proportion of grown cattle offered each sale day also showed a wide variation. On the whole, a large percentage of the consignments was marketed in an unsatisfactory condition, thus reflecting the pastoral position, which deteriorated further during the month. While some rain was received in August, generally it was insufficient for requirements.

Improved supplies of bullocks.

Supplies of bullocks were variable; nevertheless, this class of stock made the best showing for some time. Good trade lightweights predominated but medium to heavy weight animals were well represented. Good quality grown cattle have been very scarce at Homebush during most of this winter, and the greatly improved consignments during the month under review afforded a welcome change. While not quite as high as those ruling on the final sale day in July, average quotations for August exceeded those of the previous month. Prices were highest during the earlier half of the month, when rates for good to prime lightweight bullocks ranged from 41/- to 45/- per 100 lb. and quotes for medium weights were from 40/- to 43/-. Values fell by as much as £1 per head during the final week, but recovered somewhat on the closing sale day, when quotations were:- Heavy, 37/- to 40/-, Medium 40/- to 42/-, Light 41/- to 43/- per 100 lb. A typical sale of heavy bullocks was that of a pen of prime Shorthorns, estimated to weigh 850 lb., which realised £16.18.0 per head, equivalent to 40/- per 100 lb.

Steers in good demand.

Steers were generally well supplied throughout and for the most part comprised good trade descriptions. The percentage of prime animals varied and on some occasions was rather small. Values on the whole were a little above the July levels. The market was fairly steady and, excepting the final week, rates ranged from 43/- to 49/- per 100 lb. for good to prime quality.

Moderate truckings of cows.

For the most part, cows were moderately supplied. A fair percentage of the beef breeds was of good trade quality and the

/pennings .....

pennings included a noticeable proportion of heavy descriptions. A firm request prevailed and prices were well maintained. During the greater part of the period, quotations ranged to 39/- per 100 lb. for good to prime heavy sorts and 40/- for lighter weights. In common with other lines, values declined a little during the final week.

Heifers make fair showing.

Consignments of heifers were variable, both as to numbers and quality. Generally, they made a fair showing, and all grades of weight were represented. At times, however, prime sorts were available chiefly in odd lots. A very firm market ruled for most of the month and realisations mainly were from 39/- to 46/- per 100 lb., covering good to prime beasts of all grades of weight.

Keen request for prime vealers.

The fluctuations in numbers and standard of various classes of cattle were particularly noticeable with vealers. On one occasion, quality was the poorest seen for some time; on the next sale day a very satisfactory yarding was submitted. On the whole, good trade sorts predominated, while prime beasts were somewhat difficult to secure. Prices fluctuated but mostly showed an improvement on the July levels. During the earlier half of the period, quotations ranged from 51/- to 56/- per 100 lb. for good to prime quality. Later, values went as high as 59/- but on the final sale day vealers were worth 53/- to 57/- per 100 lb.

Cattle values harden.

A further slight improvement in the satisfactory values of cattle ruling in July was noticeable during August, and, on the whole, prices were only a little below those for the corresponding period of 1940.

Heavy supplies of pigs continue.

Consignments of pigs for auction were again consistently heavy and the August aggregate was 9,929 head, of which 5,706 arrived by rail. The total was lower than that of the previous month, but the average weekly pennings were slightly higher, as there were only four sale days as against five in July. Recent rail arrivals have been particularly heavy, petrol rationing having compelled many producers, who formerly delivered by motor lorry, to utilise the railways; where possible pigs are being forwarded by rail from suburban centres, such as Botany. Private sales in the Metropolitan Area accounted for 2,609 head.

Quality porkers sell well.

Porkers were well supplied throughout the period but quality was variable. While good trade sorts were well represented,

/prime.....

prime descriptions were occasionally relatively scarce. Medium to heavy weights again made the best showing, as many of the lighter animals were in store condition only. As is generally the case with porkers, values fluctuated during the progress of the auctions but mostly they were better than those obtained in July. Apart from the fluctuations mentioned, the market during August was fairly steady, prices of prime porkers, dressing 60 lb., ranging on the average to 39/- per head. Prime heavy porkers (90 lb.) brought to 51/6 per head. Frequently the demand for small store pigs was dull.

Improved request for baconers.

The market continued to be well stocked with baconers of chiefly light and medium weight classes. Although fair to good trade types predominated, a noticeable percentage was of prime grade. Request showed a distinct and progressive improvement and returns to producers were more remunerative than for some time past. On the opening sale day realisations were from 52/6 to 78/6 for good to prime baconers dressing 100 lb. and 150 lb., respectively, while closing quotes were 57/6 and 82/6 per head. On a per pound basis, very little difference in rates was noticed for pigs dressing between 100 lb. and 130 lb. A substantial number of baconers was sold privately at the sale yards, the basis of settlement being a fixed price per pound for the carcase.

Comparatively light pennings of backfatters.

Pennings of backfatters were comparatively light and quality was somewhat variable. On the whole, however, the standard was very fair, considering the number of plain to medium descriptions forward. While heavy backfatters were moderately represented, really prime animals were rather scarce. As was the case with baconers, prices of backfatters improved during August, although the increase was only small. Quotations for good to prime sorts dressing 200 to 350 lb. ranged from 4½d to 5½d per lb. and rates for those dressing over 350 lb. were from 4¼d to 5d.

Pig prices reach more satisfactory levels.

Prices generally showed a further upward trend during August and the pig-raising industry now is in a much more hopeful position than it has been for some time past. Values are not as high as those ruling during the corresponding period of 1940, but numbers coming forward then were not so large and the export situation was different.

G.C. & J.W.

----oooOooo----

According to a recent issue of the Canadian "Dairy News Letter", reports reaching Great Britain from New Zealand outline experiments with the object of preserving butter without the use of refrigeration. The preservative used is a fruit obtained from a tropical tree known as guaiac.

----oooOooo----

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKET, SYDNEY.

Light stocks of coloured dessert apples.

Throughout August supplies of coloured dessert apples were very light and at times the market was practically bare of small sizes. While Interstate Jonathan, Crofton, Statesman, Rome Beauty and Democrat were obtainable early in the month, subsequently this range of varieties was not available, and buyers found it difficult to secure other than Democrat and occasional lines of Rome Beauty - none of which was procurable at rates which would allow retailing at less than 1/- per dozen. Ample stocks of Granny Smiths, comprising local and West Australian lots, were on offer. Owing to the dearth of coloured lines, demand was satisfactory and values were firm. Some attractive packs of local Delicious were forward and sold at up to 20/- per bushel. Tasmanian shipments of apples were mostly small.

Prices of pears advance.

There was a rapid decline in supplies of pears, with a consequent advance in values. Packham's Triumph, Winter Cole, Winter Nelis, and Josephine varieties were obtainable during the early part of the month but towards the close buyers had only Packham's Triumph and a few Josephines to select from.

Satisfactory inquiry for Navel oranges.

Satisfactory inquiry was experienced for navel oranges from coastal and inland areas. Generally speaking, values showed little change, choice lines selling to 8/-, with occasional selected packs to 9/- per bushel. Towards the end of the month consignments reaching the selling floors fell away and prices tended to firm.

Choice mandarins found ready sale at all times and rates advanced about 2/- per bushel, up to 12/- being paid. On the other hand, lower grade fruit cleared slowly.

The market for lemons was dull and stocks were difficult to dispose of, even at the very low prices ruling.

Choice passionfruit dearer, but values of bananas at rather low levels.

Supplies of passionfruit were much lighter than during the previous month and, as a result, values for the better class packs rose, the increase in some instances being about 3/- per half-case.

For the most part, request for bananas was comparatively weak owing to the bulk of the supplies on offer being of medium quality only. Rates mainly were at fairly low levels, while at times ripe lots sold very cheaply.

/Moderate .....

Moderate consignments of pineapples; papaws plentiful.

Consignments of pineapples were only moderate but, owing to the prevalence of "Black Heart" in many packs, sales generally were slow and values were weak.

Although papaws were plentifully supplied, the variable quality of many lots was responsible for a very wide range of prices.

Queensland strawberries were received at tri-weekly intervals. The offerings included some attractive lines, for which very satisfactory prices were obtained, but, owing to dry weather, a fairly large percentage of the berries was of small size and, in many instances, stocks had to be disposed of to jam manufacturers.

Vegetable market very firm.

The limited quantities of vegetables on offer from day to day during August resulted in a very firm market. Compared with the corresponding month of 1940, values, in a number of instances, were over one hundred per cent. higher. The shortage of supplies was attributed mainly to dry weather and, in the case of metropolitan growers, to water restrictions. The rains received during the month were beneficial but some time must elapse before production will improve. The main volume of business was transacted on Monday, Thursday and Friday of each week; the attendance of buyers on the other days was small, due to transport difficulties arising from petrol rationing.

Marked decrease in quantity of beans available.

Consignments from the North Coast and Queensland constituted the only beans available but arrivals showed a marked falling-off, and on the 18th August the receivals were about two-thirds of the quantity submitted four weeks earlier. The limited supplies caused a sharp advance in values and as much as 22/- per bushel was realised. Dry weather in the growing areas was responsible for the generally mediocre standard of most lots forwarded.

Prices of peas well maintained.

Offerings of peas varied from day to day and rarely exceeded the 1,000 bag mark; on many occasions, only about 500 bags were available. The bulk was of good quality and price levels were well maintained, choice descriptions selling at from 14/- to 17/- per bushel.

Very satisfactory returns for cauliflowers.

This season growers of cauliflowers have been receiving

/very .....

very satisfactory returns and these continued during August. Supplies for the most part were only moderate and were disposed of without difficulty. Towards the close, there was a falling-off in the quantities arriving, many areas having "cut out", and the market was firmer.

Increase in consignments of cabbages towards close of month.

An exceptionally good demand ruled for cabbages at relatively high prices until late in the month. Then increased consignments were received and caused values to weaken slightly.

Good request for tomatoes.

Receivals of Queensland tomatoes ranged from about 17,000 to 23,000 half-cases per week. Both green and coloured lines were in very good request. Some coloured packs from Southern Queensland were of exceptionally good quality and realised up to 14/- per half-case. Small lots of local Glasshouse tomatoes were available and cleared readily; considerably increased supplies are expected to come forward during September. The hot-house tomatoes on offer were choice samples and sold at rates in advance of those ruling for Glasshouse and field grown lots.

Loose carrots and swede turnips dearer.

There was an extremely keen inquiry for loose carrots and prices rose to high levels. Swede turnips also met a very satisfactory demand at higher rates.

Although pumpkins sold somewhat slowly early in the month, subsequently they were in better request and the market firmed appreciably.

R.M.

----oooOooo----

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Heavy consignments of local potatoes.

During August arrivals of local potatoes at Alexandria Railway Goods Yard totalled 26,764 bags, only 170 bags less than the number submitted in July, when the largest monthly supply for the year was available. Potatoes from Crookwell constituted almost half of the total yarding. Despite the fact that some lines were withheld for regrading, quality generally was good. Although the percentage of No. 3 grade on offer was slightly higher, the proportion of stock food was negligible and consignments consisted mainly of choice table lines. Generally the sales were well attended but a somewhat easier tendency was apparent towards the end of the period. Choice table lines were in good request throughout and

/consequently .....

consequently prices rose. Values of No. 3 Grade and seed were also a little firmer, but No. 2 Grade showed a decline in quality, and rates were lower. Realisations at auction were:- No. 1 Grade £4.3.4 to £7.10.0, with one special line at £8.6.8 to £8.13.4; No. 2 £3.0.0 to £5.0.0; No. 3 £2.11.8 to £4.16.8; Seed £3.0.0 to £5.16.8 per ton; Stock Food 3/- to 3/9 per bag.

Reduced consignments of Victorian tubers were on offer, only 3,388 bags being railed to Alexandria compared with 11,400 in the previous month. Quality generally was better and higher prices were obtained, most sales being effected at £4.10.0 to £5.5.0 per ton, while occasional lots brought as much as £6.0.0.

Shipments of Tasmanian potatoes to Sussex Street amounted to 74,892 bags, the bulk of which was comprised of Brownells. The general standard of the offerings was good, and prime lots were disposed of soon after arrival. Fixed prices of Brownells were increased from £7.0.0 per ton during the first trading period to £8.10.0 and then were lowered by 10/- per ton during the final week. Rates for Snowflakes were steady at £5.0.0 per ton till the closing week, when they were risen to £5.10.0.

Acute onion shortage.

During August, only 369 bags of Victorian onions were railed to Alexandria. These were not submitted on the wholesale market but were sent direct to stores in Sussex Street, whence they were rationed out to buyers at rates in accordance with the Prices Commissioner's schedule.

The 110 tons of New Zealand brown onions received during the period did little to alleviate the position, and were soon disposed of at the high price of £25.0.0 per ton.

Pumpkin prices fluctuate.

Arrivals of pumpkins were heavier than during July, and totalled 83 trucks, of which 45 were from New South Wales centres and 38 from Queensland. At the commencement of the month, prices were steady at £4.0.0 to £5.0.0 per ton. Throughout the second and third trading periods, rates gradually rose, till from £8.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton was being paid. As a result of these higher values, consignments increased and quotes were forced down to £8.0.0. Heavy stocks continued to arrive and prices dropped to £6.0.0. In the closing stages, however, the market firmed to £7.10.0 per ton.

Other vegetables sell well.

Rail receivals of local carrots were confined to one bag, which realised 16/9 at auction. A similar position arose in the case of local parsnips, where the bag to hand brought 6/6. Victorian parsnips were only moderately stocked, 601 bags being

/submitted .....

submitted; these were in keen demand at from £10.0.0 to £11.10.0 per ton. Swedes also were lightly supplied, only 990 bags being on offer. The majority of these arrived early in the month and sold at £6.0.0 to £7.0.0 per ton. As the shortage became more pronounced, prices rose to £11.10.0, and were practically constant at this figure, although one truck realised £13.10.0 per ton by auction.

Shipments of swedes from Tasmania totalled 8,187 bags; during the earlier half of the month, quotations were £8.0.0 per ton, but later were increased to £10.0.0. The offering of Tasmanian carrots aggregated 939 bags and realised from £14.0.0 to £15.0.0 per ton, while the 1,042 bags of Tasmanian parsnips brought from £11.0.0 to £13.0.0 per ton, the latter being the closing quote.

Tasmanian dry peas were in light supply throughout the month and sold at the unaltered rates of 28/- per bushel for blue "A" grade, and 11/- per bushel for grey descriptions.

Heavy supplies of oaten chaff.

During August arrivals of oaten chaff at Alexandria Railway Goods Yard rose to 158 trucks, compared with 115 for the previous month. The quality of the consignments was variable, but choice lots met a firm request. Sales by private treaty ranged from £5.0.0 to £5.10.0 for medium, up to £7.0.0 for good and from £8.0.0 to £8.10.0 per ton for choice.

Small stocks of wheaten chaff.

The heavy offering of oaten chaff was offset by reduced consignments of wheaten chaff, only 62 trucks, or about two-thirds of the previous month's yarding, being available. Private treaty prices were practically unchanged at £4.10.0 to £6.10.0 per ton, while by auction from £5.0.0 to £5.8.4 was recorded. A small quantity of mixed oaten and wheaten chaff was submitted; quality generally was good and values ranged to £8.0.0 per ton.

Small rise in lucerne chaff market.

Supplies of lucerne chaff returned to normal proportions, after the heavy truckings for July. The 84 trucks on offer during August were mostly of medium descriptions, but good, and sometimes choice lines were available. On the whole, values showed a slight improvement, and sales were effected at £4.0.0 to £6.10.0 for medium to good lots and from £7.0.0 to £7.5.0 per ton for choice.

Increased stocks of Maitland lucerne hay were forwarded and amounted to 19 trucks against 4 during July. The hay was of much better standard and realised from £5.0.0 to £6.10.0 per ton. On the other hand, lucerne hay from other centres aggregated 129 trucks or 49 trucks less than during the previous month. Rates

/were ....

were generally unchanged at £3.5.0 to £5.0.0 per ton for medium with good descriptions quoted at £6.0.0 and prime bringing £7.0.0 to £8.0.0. Approximately 40 bales of Hunter River lucerne hay arrived in Sussex Street during August. Most lines were of choice description and the consignments sold well at from £5.10.0 to £6.10.0 per ton.

Improved inquiry for straw.

Arrivals of local straw at Alexandria were unchanged at 29 trucks but Victorian supplies fell from 30 to 13 trucks. The price for choice local lots rose from £4.10.0 at the commencement of the period to £5.15.0 per ton at the conclusion. Victorian lines sold mainly at £6.0.0 to £6.5.0 but at one stage reached £6.10.0 per ton.

The bulk of the 49 trucks of oaten hay railed to Alexandria was consigned direct to private firms. A few lots disposed of by private treaty cleared readily at £8.0.0 to £8.10.0 per ton, while some submitted by auction realised £5.0.0 to £6.1.8.

Firmer rates for maize.

After an unsteady start at 3/1 per bushel, yellow maize gradually rose in price to 3/4 in the middle of the period. From then onwards business was much brisker and quotes firmed to 3/8, with occasional sales at 3/9 per bushel. No white maize was on offer, any receivals being consigned direct to private firms.

The market in Sussex Street followed a similar trend, yellow maize selling at 3/- per bushel early in the period and subsequently rising to 3/6. No white maize was available till the third week of the month, when it realised 3/9 per bushel.

Reduced stocks of wheat were submitted, the 13 trucks received representing half the number offered during the previous month. A satisfactory request prevailed, and f.a.q. lines brought 4/6 per bushel by private treaty. Auction realisations ranged from 2/9, for inferior, to 4/2 per bushel.

Only limited supplies of oats, aggregating 8¼ trucks, were available. Disposals were chiefly by auction at 2/8 to 3/5½ per bushel.

B.O'C.

----oooOooo----

"Foreign Crops and Markets" reports the completion of a factory at Taubate, Brazil, for the manufacture of orange products, including concentrated juice, cattle fodder and a pulp to be used in the local manufacture of paper.

----oooOooo----

WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING AUGUST, 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	August, 1941		31st August, 1939.
	From	To	
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	1/2d (unchanged)		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 per lb.	11½d	1/2d	1/2d

Pigs (Abattoir Sales):

Good to prime: per head -	August, 1941 From	August, 1941 To	29th August, 1939 From	29th August, 1939 To
Porkers - extra light	22/6	35/6	31/6	40/6
" - light	32/6	40/6	39/6	44/6
" - medium weight	37/6	47/6	43/6	57/6
" - heavy	46/6	51/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	52/6	82/6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£4.0.0	£9.8.6	£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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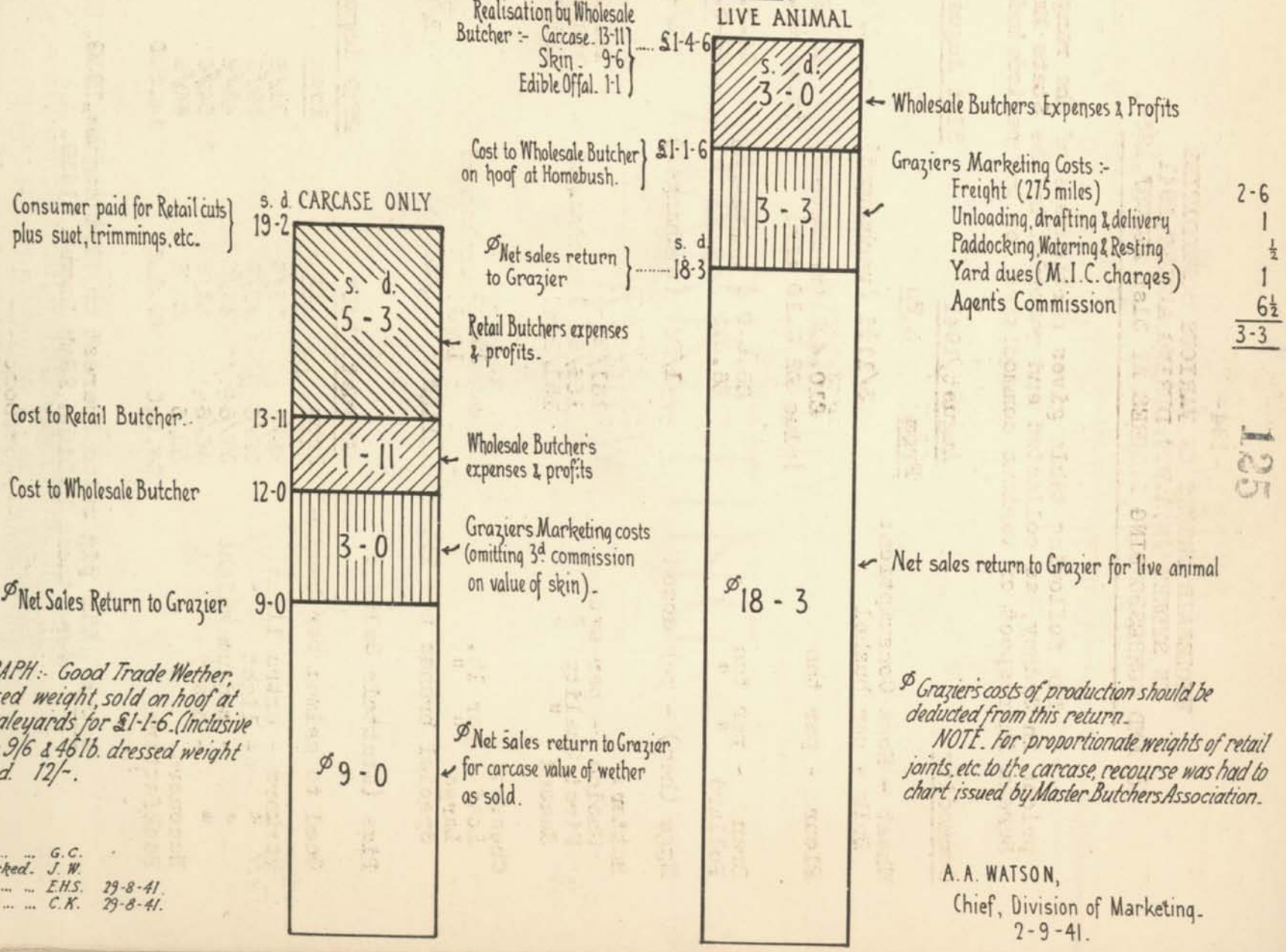
SHEEP

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



BASIS OF GRAPH :- Good Trade Wether, 46 lb. dressed weight, sold on hoof at Homebush Saleyards for £1-1-6. (Inclusive of skin value 9/6 & 46 lb. dressed weight value at 3⅛ d. 12/-.

Graziers costs of production should be deducted from this return.

NOTE. For proportionate weights of retail joints, etc. to the carcase, recourse was had to chart issued by Master Butchers Association.

Compiled. ... ... G.C.
Compilation Checked. J.W.
Graph Drawn. ... ... E.H.S. 29-8-41.
Do. Checked. ... ... C.K. 29-8-41.

A. A. WATSON,
Chief, Division of Marketing.
2-9-41.