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

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

OCTOBER, 1941

Vol. 7 No. 6.

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
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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.

Vol. 7 OCTOBER, 1941. No. 6

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HIGHLIGHTS

New Fish Market constructed by the Sydney City Council at cost of £43,000, to replace building erected 31 years ago, opened for business. Market is said to be one of the best equipped of its kind in the world. Opening hour for business fixed 6 a.m. instead of 5 a.m., the commencing time at the old market.

Commonwealth Dairy Produce Equalisation Committee applies to Commonwealth Prices Commissioner for increases in the prices of butter and cheese sold for consumption within Australia.

Chairman of Wheat Industry Stabilisation Board announces that, as the Australian total wheat harvest is expected to be less than normal, no instructions will be issued to growers to cut any portion of their crops for hay this season. This, however, will apply only to growers who have obeyed the spirit of the stabilisation regulations.

First report of Parliamentary Committee on War Time Profits, tabled in Federal Parliament, recommends that price-fixing machinery be retained for some time after the war, to prevent rapid drops in prices, which the Committee considers could become as dangerous as sudden increases now.

In outlining his policy, new Commonwealth Minister for Commerce is reported to have declared that Australian primary industries should be maintained at maximum efficiency. Australia's position, in relation to the export of primary produce, under the Lease-Lend arrangement would be investigated immediately. Existing marketing machinery is to be completely overhauled.

PHYSICAL FEATURES, PRODUCTION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION AREAS (PORTION OF THE RIVERINA STATISTICAL DIVISION NO.13 OF NEW SOUTH WALES).

Although they lie within the northern portion of the Riverina Statistical Division No. 13 of New South Wales, the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas differ so widely from the remainder of the division that they warrant separate description. These Areas comprise a closely settled but comparatively small section where diversified crops, etc., are produced under irrigation, whereas the bulk of the Riverina is devoted chiefly to wheat and oats growing and sheep and cattle raising, relying on natural rainfall.

Historical.

The country now included in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas was formerly mostly pastoral properties, chief of which was North Yanko Station owned by the late Sir Samuel McCaughey. On this station early in the 20th century Sir Samuel demonstrated the wonderful results obtainable from irrigation. Through an extensive system of channels, running from the Murrumbidgee River, he irrigated pastures, particularly lucerne, and supplied water for stock purposes. The North Yanko homestead is now the "McCaughey Memorial School", utilised by the Department of Education as an agricultural high school, mainly for resident students.

In 1906 the New South Wales Public Works Committee approved of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme, and Parliament passed the "Barren Jack Dam and Murrumbidgee Canals Construction Act", providing for the construction of Storage Dam, Diversion Works, Main Canals and Main Branches. During the next two years the Public Works Department carried out certain preliminary work, and early in 1909 a contract for the construction of the dam was let.

The Murrumbidgee Irrigation Act, 1910, provided for the acquisition of land for settlement purposes, the construction of minor works for its development and the construction of other works and buildings. Under this Act a Trust to control the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas was appointed, this Trust consisting of the Ministers for Works (Chairman), Lands and Agriculture. By the middle of 1912 work on the scheme had progressed sufficiently to permit of the supply of water for irrigation purposes, and on 13th July, 1912, the official opening of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas was celebrated, the Hon. Arthur Griffith, Chairman of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Trust, turning the water through the regulator on the main canal alongside the railway line at the Yanko end.

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The Irrigation Act, 1912, provided for the appointment of a Commissioner for Water Conservation and Irrigation, with power of control over all of the Water Conservation and Irrigation works within the State, these powers being subject to Ministerial approval with regard to certain matters of policy. Mr. L.A.B. Wade, M.Inst. C.E., was appointed Commissioner from 1st January, 1913. In 1916 the single Commissioner gave way to a Commission of three members - comprising the Minister for Agriculture as Chairman and two appointed Commissioners - which is the existing form.

Early Settlement.

Reference to the Report for 1912-1913 of the Commissioner for Water Conservation and Irrigation reveals that during July and August, 1912, the first Land Board granted 196 farms to settlers, and that by 30th June, 1913, farms allotted numbered 503 and aggregated 21,000 acres, while 273 houses had been erected, 50 miles of roads had been formed, 6,412 acres were irrigated and about 15,000 acres placed under cultivation. Today about 319,000 acres are occupied.

Land was made available to suitable applicants under a system of perpetual leasehold, involving residence and necessitating the carrying out of specified improvements. The farmer, if so desiring, was to be permitted to transfer his lease after five years' residence. The sizes of the blocks ranged from 1 and 2 acres for small "residential irrigation" blocks adjacent to the towns and villages up to 250 acres. The average agricultural farm was from 15 to 25 acres, but to meet the requirements of dairymen and other stock farmers larger areas were allotted, including non-irrigable or "dry" sections in addition to irrigable portions. Subsequently it was found advisable to increase the size of certain types of farms - such as those for rice-growing, fat lamb raising, etc. - and blocks of 400 to 700 acres and even 1,000 acres are held.

In 1924 the system of tenure was amended. Provision was made for freehold in addition to perpetual leasehold. The first conversions of leaseholds into Irrigation Purchases took place in 1926. By 30th June, 1940, farms alienated or in process of alienation aggregated approximately 119,000 acres.

Originally only the gravitation method of irrigation was employed, but expansions for Soldier Settlement purposes after the World War led to the adoption of a pumping scheme on the higher land to the east of the main canal near Leeton; this, however, is limited to a few thousand acres.

The Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission not only attended to the provisions of water, allotment of land, general administration, etc., but also constructed roads, and established abattoirs, and butter, bacon and fruit canning factories. It also provided accommodation houses and municipal services, such as domestic water services and electricity, and supervised health and

/sanitation...

sanitation matters, besides engaging in trading operations to supply settlers with livestock, stores and nursery stock. At the same time, co-operative enterprise by the settlers received every encouragement and the above-mentioned factories and abattoirs were later sold to Co-operative Societies. Following an Act passed in 1924 for the establishment of Local Government Areas within the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas two Shire Councils were formed in 1929 and took over local government functions, such as road maintenance work, sanitation and water supply services.

Burrinjuck Dam.

Mention of the Burrinjuck Dam was made in the article dealing with the Southern Tableland Statistical Division, but, in view of its importance to the Murrumbidgee Areas, the following information culled from matter published by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission, is of interest here. Under the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme a storage dam was constructed at Burrinjuck three miles below the confluence of the Murrumbidgee and Goodradigbee Rivers, where the river is confined between two mountains of red granite, which rise 2,000 feet above the river bed. The dam wall has a maximum height of 240 feet, with a base 160 feet thick tapering to 18 feet in width at the top, and impounds the waters in a lake covering 12,780 acres, only some 1,500 acres less than the area of Sydney Harbour (Port Jackson). The reservoir has a capacity of nearly 33,613 million cubic feet or 771,641 acre-feet. The catchment area includes elevations of 5,000 feet, which are snow clad in winter, and contains about 5,000 square miles drained by the Murrumbidgee, Goodradigbee and Yass Rivers. Water is stored principally during the winter and spring months, and released for irrigation purposes from September to April, inclusive.

The Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission states that alterations are now being made to the Burrinjuck Dam which will strengthen it and ultimately increase its storage capacity. Owing to the experiences of the 1937-38 and 1938-39 seasons, the Commission is investigating proposals for supplementary water storage.

While Burrinjuck Dam is sometimes regarded as the storage dam for the irrigation of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas, it has other and wider purposes. It regulates the flow of the river so as to serve the interests of riparian proprietors over 730 miles of river frontage, and assures constant supplies of water for the towns of Gundagai, Wagga, Narrandera, Hay, Balranald and the Hay Irrigation Area, as well as domestic and stock supplies for landholders in the south-west of the State whose holdings aggregate over one million acres. In addition, water carried by the main canal from Berembed Weir provides a surplus over and above requirements of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas. That surplus is used for pastoral holdings of over half a million acres between the Griffith-Hillston Railway and the Lachlan

/River....

River, and of 128,356 acres to the south and west of the Mirrool Irrigation Area. Further, from Jugiong, near the Burrinjuck Dam, an electrically operated pumping station supplies water from the Murrumbidgee to the towns of Harden, Cootamundra, Murrumburrah, Stockinbingal, Temora, Young, Wyalong and Barmedman, in the South-Western Slope Division. At Burrinjuck Dam itself, two hydro-electric power houses, controlled by the Public Works Department, generate electricity for the supply of current to the following towns - Canberra (Australian Capital Territory), Queanbeyan and Yass (Southern Tableland), Gundagai, Tumut, Wagga, Junee, Cootamundra, Temora, Murrumburrah, Harden, Young and Grenfell (South Western Slope), and Cowra and Wyangala (in the Central Tableland).

Berembed Weir, Canal and Channels.

From Burrinjuck the water passes along the channel of the Murrumbidgee River for about 240 miles to Berembed, where a weir across the river diverts it into a main canal, which, at the offtake, has a capacity of 1,600 cubic feet per second. This main canal, running to the north of the river in a north-westerly direction, has been completed to a point beyond Griffith, a distance of 96½ miles from Berembed. The first point of draw-off to supply the Irrigation Areas is approximately 40 miles from the offtake. From this main canal, the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission has provided a complete system of reticulation channels, drainage channels, bridges, regulators, etc. The mileage of channels in use on the Areas is given as:-

Canals and reticulation supply channels and pipe-lines	- -	809 miles
Drainage Channels	- -	745 "

In addition, approximately 377 miles of supply channels run through adjacent irrigation districts and water trusts, really extensions of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas, being fed by the same water supply system, though the land is not under the control of the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission.

The water supply to each farm is given at about its highest point and is measured at its offtake from the supply channel by meter. The construction of head ditches, grading of lands, etc., within the farm boundaries are matters for the holders of the blocks.

Description, Climate and Rainfall.

The Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas lie just north of the Murrumbidgee River (this river forming the southern boundary of the Yanco section) from a point slightly west of Narrandera. The maximum length of the settled land from east to west is about 40 miles and the breadth from south to north varies from 10 to 15 miles. They include the Wade and Willimbong Shires and a portion of the Carrathool Shire, and cover an area of 381,752 acres

(approximately .....

(approximately 596 square miles). With a general elevation of about 470 feet above sea level in the east and 370 feet in the extreme west, the country is for the most part flat, with some undulating to hilly portions. The climate is described as exceedingly healthy, with a mean summer temperature of about 75° Fah. and a mean winter temperature of 49° Fah. Hot dry winds are prevalent in the summer and the south and south-west winds in winter are frequently very cold. The extreme temperatures recorded are about 120° in summer and 28° in winter. The rainfall is comparatively low, the annual average over a period of 50 years at Whitton (just outside the Areas) being 15.68 inches. The soils and climate are admirably suited to the cultivation of cereals, citrus and stone fruits, grapes and other crops, provided sufficient water be available.

Population, Holdings, etc.

The Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas are divided into two sections, the Yanco Irrigation Area, of which Leeton is the centre, and the Mirrool Irrigation Area, the centre of which is Griffith. The estimated populations of these sections at 31st December, 1940, were 8,790 and 10,273, respectively, giving a total of 19,063.

Figures published by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission reveal that at 30th June, 1940, settlers holding farms numbered 1,950, and the area under occupation was approximately 309,400 acres, including 30,327 acres held under short lease for grazing, agriculture and other purposes.

(To be continued)

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Information has been received from the New South Wales Government Offices in London regarding the manufacture of flattened cans by a leading metal container manufacturing firm in England. It is claimed that the flattened can provides the solution to the problem of supplying satisfactory containers to packers of fruit, vegetables, meat or fish, who are situated at lengthy distances from centres of manufacture. Packing and freight charges are important items of cost and it is claimed that under the new arrangement there is a saving of nearly four-fifths. Furthermore, the cans travel more securely. The method adopted is to make the can to cylindrical shape with the side seam properly laid down and soldered. It is then flattened and packed separately from the tops and bottoms which are supplied, stamped and lined with sealing compound ready for use. The user purchases at a small cost a re-forming machine, which re-shapes the flattened bodies into cylinders, and a flanging machine, which flanges the ends of the cylinders ready for double seaming. Advice from another source indicates that an Australian firm imported a number of these cans and the re-forming machinery, but the results were not very satisfactory. On the other hand, it is understood that they have been used extensively by the Jam and Canning Industry in South Africa for some time.

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MARKETING OF DAIRY PRODUCTS, SOUTH AFRICA.

The following report on the marketing of dairy products in the Union of South Africa during the year ended 31st August, 1940, appeared in the "Dairy News Letter" issued by the Canadian Department of Agriculture, and is reproduced here as of probable interest to Australian readers:

Comprehensive control scheme under Marketing Act.

"The past season is the first in which the marketing of dairy products was completely controlled by the Dairy Board. The old Dairy Board had limited powers under the Dairy Industry Control Act, 1930, but on August 1, 1939, a comprehensive control scheme, embracing the entire industry, came into operation under the Marketing Act. In addition to conferring increased powers on the Board in respect to butter and cheese, the new scheme also embraces condensed milk and fresh milk, and these two branches of the industry have also been granted representation on the new Dairy Board.

One of the most important provisions of the Dairy Scheme relates to the sale of butter and cheese through the channel of the Board, and in connection with that, the conducting of a pool in respect of all butter and cheese produced in the Union, South-West Africa and the Protectorates. Owing to the fact that the scheme came into operation at the beginning of the season, the Board felt that sale through one channel and the pool should temporarily be deferred, so that the necessary organisation could first be established. However, the Board took immediate control over butter and cheese, by fixing butterfat and cheese-milk prices for producers, and for manufacturers and consumers; in other words, the Board instituted control from the producer to the consumer.

It was only with the introduction of the pool of February 1, 1940, that the Board assumed full control over the marketing of butter and cheese. In accordance with the provisions of the pool, all butter and cheese manufacturers are prohibited from selling butter or cheese through any channel other than the Board, which in its turn has appointed agents in the principal centres of the Union to undertake the wholesale distribution of butter and cheese for the local market, on a commission basis. Such agents are directly responsible to the Board, and in appointing them, the Board has confined itself to those firms which were bona fide distributors in the past.

Scheme amended to exempt farm cheese.

In terms of the scheme, farm cheese was initially also included in the pool and had, therefore, to be sold through the Board. Since grading constitutes an essential part of any pooling

/system ....

system and in view of the difficulties experienced by the Board in economically grading the small quantities from the numerous farm cheesemakers, it was subsequently decided to exempt farm cheese from the prohibition, and the scheme was amended accordingly. Another reason for this step was the fact that the small farm cheesemakers became involved in financial difficulties, because they did not receive their money until such time as payments were made out of the pool, and even then their monthly share of the total sales was calculated on a pro rata basis in respect to the respective quantities produced by them during any month.

Record production of factory butter.

During the 12 months ended August 31, 1940, a new record was created in regard to the production of factory butter. Creameries in the Union produced 44,472,711 pounds, while South-West Africa, Bechuanaland and Swaziland were jointly responsible for 12,396,660 pounds. Excluding 858,576 lb. of process cheese, cheese production in the Union amounted to 13,794,615 lb. and that of South-West Africa to 428,792 lb. While there is an appreciable increase in the quantity of factory butter produced as compared with that of last year, the production of cheese reveals no material change.

Although the Union's consumption of butter is still on the increase, a large quantity of the combined production of the Union and South-West Africa remains over for export. A total of about 18,000,000 lb. of butter was exported from both territories. Cheese exports amounted to approximately 3,200,000 lb. a decline of approximately 1,000,000 lb. Export presented no difficulty. A fixed contract at satisfactory prices was entered into with the British Government by the Board for the purchase of our surplus cheese and butter, and, with due regard to the country's own requirements, the Board, which assumed responsibility for the carrying out of the contract, was able to make suitable arrangements for the removal of the surplus.

Validity of fresh-milk control challenged.

As regards the fresh-milk part of the dairy industry, the experience of the first year of control has not been particularly encouraging. After the scheme had come into operation, the Board took steps for the appointment of Milk Committees in the different milk areas, and these Committees immediately started to make arrangements for the registration of producers and distributors and for the allocation of quotas to producers, both steps being essential forerunners to the institution of full control under the scheme. The first milk area where the scheme was fully applied, was Johannesburg; in that centre, prices were fixed for the producer, maximum prices were fixed for the consumer, and the milk-sales fund was put into operation. However, immediately thereafter difficulties arose with a section of the distributors

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of the Johannesburg milk area who were not prepared to accept the prices as fixed. The Board, supported by the Marketing Council and the Department, felt, however, that a maximum retail price should not be exceeded, and was therefore not prepared to consider further amendments. Supported by a few distributors from other milk areas, the Witwatersrand Dairymen's Association presented a petition to the Supreme Court to test the legal validity of the scheme, and the case appeared before the Transvaal Division on August 1. The Court has not given judgment to date. Although many cases have already been heard in our courts in connection with the application of schemes, this is the first time that the legal validity of a scheme as such has been disputed, and the interpretation which the Court will place on the application of the Marketing Act is being awaited with great interest.

Owing to the pending lawsuit, the application of the milk scheme in the other milk areas has necessarily to be suspended until such time as the decision of the Court becomes known. Although the scheme therefore did not operate in any of the milk areas and was only accepted by some of the distributors in Johannesburg, it nevertheless had a stabilising effect on the fresh-milk industry, particularly in regard to the prices paid to the producers.

Further progress in dairying industry anticipated.

The dairy industry is one of those branches of farming which has made remarkable progress during the past number of years, and now that it has been brought under full control, there is no reason why the rate of progress should not be accelerated still further. Fortunately, it is one of the industries which is not so strongly affected by the war in so far as the question of costs of production is concerned, since it is based almost exclusively on foodstuffs which are produced in the country. There is a good demand for butter and cheese as export products, and no insuperable difficulties are expected in connection with the export of our surplus butter and cheese.

One branch of our dairy industry, viz., the production of condensed milk and milk powder, has been keenly affected by the war. Even before the war, there were possibilities for the expansion of this branch in order to supply the requirements of the Union and adjoining territories, and during the past few years there has actually been a big increase in the production of condensed milk and milk powder. The cutting off of supplies from Europe and the increased utilisation of these products for military purposes, have created a very much larger demand in the Union and steps are being taken by the interests concerned for the establishment of additional new factories. Next to fresh milk, milk for condensing purposes is the form in which the producer can obtain the highest price for his product. Increased manufacturing of condensed milk and milk powder is therefore to the advantage of the entire dairy industry."

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LIVESTOCK SALES AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

INCREASED SUPPLIES OF SHEEP AND CATTLE; RECORD PENNINGS OF PIGS.

Marked improvement in numbers of sheep and lambs offering.

Supplies of sheep and lambs showed a substantial increase during September, 1941, when a total of 312,190 head was offered, representing a gain of 44,000 head on the previous month's aggregate. These heavier yardings, however, were still considerably below the pennings of the corresponding month of 1940, when 394,075 head passed through the yards. There was a decided improvement in the numbers of grown sheep marketed, particularly towards the close of September. Consignments of suckers and lambs also were more numerous; in addition, offerings were more evenly distributed than were those of sheep.

Better representation of sheep.

With the completion of shearing operations in many districts, the representation of sheep was much better, and pennings for September aggregated 148,881, an increase of about 25,000 head. The variation in the daily offering ranged from 8,170 head - the smallest - to 25,460, the largest.

Shorn sheep predominated, only occasional consignments of full woolled being received, the latter lacked the condition of the sheep off shears. A feature of the market was the increased quantity of ewe mutton available; while both light and heavy ewes were well in evidence, heavy sorts were somewhat more plentiful. Wethers also were fairly well supplied, some particularly attractive lots of prime 4-tooth crossbred wethers being included. Heavy descriptions were much more numerous than light. Although a fair number of light weight sheep was penned, this class was generally only of medium quality, while many plain aged sorts were noticed, particularly amongst the ewes.

Strong opening request.

The strong demand noticeable at the close of the previous month's operations, continued during the opening auctions and sales for good quality sheep advanced a further 1/- per head. On the following sale day a relatively small offering stimulated competition, and values of practically all grades rose sharply, the increase varying from 2/- to 3/- per head, according to weight and quality. At the beginning of the second week, however, more sheep were available and buyers did not operate so freely, with the result that prices fell progressively throughout the day, rates for wethers declining from 1/- to 1/6 and those of ewes 1/- to 2/- per head. There was little further change in the

/general ....

general position until the 22nd of September, when a fairly substantial yarding caused quotations to drop by 1/- per head for wethers and 1/- to 2/- for ewes. From then until the close of the month values of most classes of sheep showed little alteration but heavy ewes proved difficult to sell and realisations for these were lower.

The following sales are indicative of price trends throughout September. At the beginning of the month, a draft of good trade 46-lb. wethers was worth 3½d per lb., selling at 22/11 each, while heavy wethers, dressing approximately 52 lb., realised 24/9 each, costing 3¼d per lb. Shorn 40 lb. ewes of good trade grade made the equivalent of 3d per lb., bringing 11/3 per head. On the next sale day, a pen of 46 lb. ewes cost 4d per lb., realising 23/10 per head, and good trade wethers, approximately 44 lb. in weight, made 24/1 each or 4¼d per lb. Later on, when values were not so high, good trade wether mutton was obtained for 3¾d per lb., 44 lb. sheep costing 21/10 per head, and a consignment of heavy shorn wethers, weighing 60 lb., sold at 15/10 each, equivalent to 3d per lb. Nice light trade shorn ewes, weighing 40 lb., made 11/- each or 3¼d per lb., while a line of heavy 48 lb. ewes cost 3d per lb., bringing the satisfactory figure of 22/- per head. Subsequent to the downward price trend, a draft of good trade shorn wethers, about 44 lb. in weight, was disposed of at 14/5 each, being worth 3½d per lb., and 46 lb. of good trade shorn ewes realised 2½d per lb., selling at 10/5 per head. On the same day, heavy ewes were worth 2d per lb., a pen of approximately 54 lb. weight making 10/9 per head.

Market closes weaker.

On one occasion during September, supplies of mutton were somewhat limited and prices reached the highest levels since early in January last. The best realisations throughout the period were 3¾d and 4¼d per lb. for heavy and light wethers, respectively, and 3½d per lb. for heavy ewes and 4d per lb. for light. For the most part, however, light wether mutton was worth from 3¼d to 3¾d and heavy from 2¾d to 3¼d per lb. Light ewes mostly were sold at 2½d to 3d and heavy at 2d to 2½d per lb., but some lines of extra heavy ewes were secured for 1¾d per lb. Generally, operators paid more for mutton in September than in August, and realisations were consistently good. At times prime heavy full-woolled wethers made up to 27/- and ewes brought to 24/-, while for the most part values ranged from 20/- to 25/- per head for wethers and from 18/- to 22/- for ewes. Shorn wethers realised from 13/- to 17/- and shorn ewes from 9/- to 14/- each for the better grades; plain to medium classes were disposed of at relatively lower prices.

Supplies of lambs continue to improve.

Lambs and suckers were again well supplied and pennings aggregated 163,309 head, approximately 18,000 more than the total for August. Suckers comprised by far the greater proportion of

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the consignments, only a moderate number of summer lambs being on offer. While some exceptionally good quality lots of suckers were submitted, there was a fairly large representation of medium to plain suckers from the less favoured parts of the State, where dry conditions have prevailed for some considerable time. Heavy summer lambs were somewhat scarce but some splendid conditioned mixed lines of lambs and hoggets were available.

Lower realisations for suckers.

The heavier consignments of suckers received throughout September were not conducive to continued high values and average realisations were somewhat below those of the previous month. The announcement of an increase of ½d per lb. on the price of export lamb, however, had a steadying effect on the market and prevented rates of quality suckers falling too low. Some of the very plain light sorts, dressing approximately from 16 lb. to 24 lb., were rather difficult to dispose of. Some fluctuation was noticeable throughout the month. At the opening sales, quotations for the better grades rose 1/- per head but rates for the plainer sorts were somewhat weaker. On the following sale day however, due mainly to reduced supplies, summer lambs were from 2/- to 3/- dearer; while prices for prime suckers opened 1/- better, these weakened later and the rise was practically lost before the close of the auction. Subsequently a much easier tone was evident in the sale of practically all classes of lambs and suckers, but values of nice quality light weights did not vary appreciably. About mid-September, rates for some lots of good quality light suckers rose 1/- per head, but prices of other classes continued fairly steady. From then until the close, some irregularity was apparent but rates for suckers and lambs were about ¼d to ½d per lb. below those ruling at the commencement of the month's operations. Some sales are given below to illustrate market movements throughout the period. At the early sales prime 38 lb. suckers realised 23/- per head, equivalent to 6d per lb., and light suckers, weighing approximately 27 lb., made 16/7 each or 6½d per lb. Later on, nice quality 32 lb. suckers brought 20/6 each or 6¾d per lb., while heavy summer lambs, dressing approximately 40 lb., realised 25/4 per head or 5½d per lb. Following the lower realisations, a draft of good heavy suckers, weighing 38 lbs., cost 5¾d per lb., selling at 22/- per head, and 34 lb. good trade suckers were disposed of at 19/11 each, equal to 6d per lb.

Prices not equal to previous month's.

While it could be said that, considering the heavier pennings of suckers, realisations were satisfactory, on an average rates were below those of the previous month. Best quality light weight suckers made up to 7d per lb., as against 7½d in August, but for the most part values of good suckers ranged from 5¾d to 6½d per lb., with odd sales to 6¾d, and heavy suckers brought from 5¼d to 5¾d per lb., with some to 6d. Heavy summer lambs realised to 5½d but, for the most part, were worth from 3¾d to 4½d

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and light descriptions cost from 4½d to 5¼d per lb.

Amongst the best prices recorded were up to 27/- per head for a consignment of prime heavy summer lambs and to 24/- for prime heavy suckers. Generally, however, summer lambs made from 18/- to 24/- and good quality suckers realised from 17/- to 23/- per head. Medium to plain lambs sold at comparatively lower levels and at times plain light suckers were disposed of from 9/- per head upwards.

Increased supplies of cattle.

Consignments of cattle showed a progressive increase during the latter half of September and the aggregate for the nine sale days was 15,600 head, or about three thousand in excess of the August yardings. Auctions in the store section accounted for 1,082 head. Quality generally did not fluctuate from sale day to sale day to the same degree as during the previous month; nevertheless it was usually variable, all grades being represented. On the whole, good trade to prime stock made the best showing during the earlier half of the period. Rainfall in September was again mainly light and only in some districts would any appreciable benefit result.

Improved yarding of medium and heavy bullocks.

Although numbers of bullocks coming forward fluctuated considerably, generally they were very fair. Light bullocks predominated but the proportion of medium and heavy weights was the highest for some time. While quality was chiefly good trade, on some occasions many attractive drafts of prime beasts were noticed. A steady market prevailed during the early part of the period when quotations for good to prime lightweights ranged from 41/- to 44/- per 100 lb. and rates for medium weights were from 40/- to 42/- per 100 lb. By the middle of the month, however, values had risen sharply, reaching the highest level recorded since January last. Peak quotations were - Heavy 42/- to 45/-, medium weight 43/- to 45/-, lightweight 44/- to 48/-, with even higher values in odd instances. Prices eased towards the close, and on the final sale day light bullocks realised up to the equivalent of 46/- per 100 lb. A typical sale of medium weight bullocks was that of a line of prime Shorthorns, estimated to weigh 750 lb., which sold at £16.16.0 per head, equal to 45/- per 100 lb.

Steers well represented.

Steers were well represented throughout and in the main were of very fair standard, although at times a larger proportion of prime beasts would have proved more satisfactory to buyers. Demand was strong and lowest values of prime descriptions were 48/- per 100 lb. During the peak period rates ranged to 52/- per 100 lb., while from 22nd September the market was steady at up to 50/-.

/Satisfactory .....

Satisfactory showing of heavy cows.

There was a moderate representation of cows, and, although the standard was variable, good trade beasts were fairly well supplied. The proportion of heavy descriptions was generally satisfactory and, from a quality viewpoint, this grade made the best showing. Prices fluctuated in common with those of most other classes of cattle. During the third week quotes for good to prime grade cows were:- Heavy 36/- to 42/-, light 37/- to 44/- per 100 lb. Values were lowest on the first sale day, when top quotations were about 4/- per 100 lb. below the above-mentioned rates.

Prime heifers in keen request.

Pennings of prime heifers mostly were insufficient for requirements, but fair supplies of other grades were submitted. Early in the month quotations for good to prime heifers ranged from 40/- to 45/- per 100 lb. Later, however, a keener request prevailed and values were more comparable with those of steers, prime light animals realising the equivalent of up to 50/- per 100 lb. for four consecutive sale days.

Enhanced values of vealers.

Vealers were well supplied, but good trade types predominated, and at times it was difficult to secure prime sorts. Generally speaking, the medium to heavy grades provided the greater percentage of the good quality stock. Vealers met a strong demand throughout so that in contrast with the values of other classes of cattle, rates were remarkably steady at 52/- to 58/- per 100 lb. for good to prime grade; occasionally, the equivalent of 59/- per 100 lb. was obtained. These prices were a little higher than those obtained during the previous month.

Cattle prices higher.

Values of cattle continued to improve during September and, on the whole, were the highest prevailing for some months. However, they were not quite as high as those ruling during the corresponding period of 1940.

Record consignments of pigs.

A record number of pigs was submitted at auction during September, 1941, the total for the five sale days being 12,453 head, eclipsing the previous record figure of 11,574 established in April last. Rail receivals were very heavy, totalling 7,178 head; private sales in Metropolitan Area accounted for 3,254.

/Porkers ....

Porkers numerous but quality unsatisfactory.

Although all grades of weight were represented in the numerous consignments of porkers, medium weight animals predominated. A fair proportion of the pennings comprised medium grade descriptions or pigs in store condition, and the general quality was only fair. However, a distinct improvement was noticed on the 23rd and 30th September, when good trade to prime porkers made a satisfactory showing. Values of light porkers fluctuated but, on the average, were about equal to those of the previous month, when prices of prime animals dressing 60 lb. ranged to 39/- per head. The market was highest on the final sale day, when 42/6 was the best price obtained for prime lightweights. Rates for good to prime heavy porkers dressing 90 lb. ranged from 51/6 to 55/6 per head.

Moderate pennings of good trade baconers.

Supplies of baconers were somewhat limited early in the month, but increased numbers were submitted at later sales. Both light and heavy descriptions were available, and, for the most part, the pennings comprised pigs of good trade standard. Values continued to improve and at the close good to prime baconers dressing between 100 lb. and 150 lb. realised from 59/6 to 89/6 per head, representing an increase of from 2/- to 5/- per head on earlier quotes. On a carcase equivalent basis prime light baconers were worth from 7¼d to 7½d per lb.

Backfatters make only fair showing.

Offerings of backfatters were again light and were of only fair standard. Only a small proportion of the consignments was of heavy description and prime backfatters were scarce. At the opening sale day, prices were steady and quotations for good to prime sorts ranged from 4¾d to 5½d per lb. for pigs dressing 200 to 350 lb., and from 4¼d to 5d for those over 350 lb. in weight. Notwithstanding the light supplies, values subsequently fell by about ½d per lb.

Rates for pigs maintained.

The more satisfactory price levels, from the producer's viewpoint, reached in August were well maintained during September, except in the case of backfatters. Any decline in the values of this last-mentioned class, however, was offset by improved returns for baconers.

G.C. & J.W.

----oooOooo----

CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

SALES OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

Limited stocks of apples and pears.

Generally speaking, the market was lightly supplied with apples. Although early in September Granny Smiths from local and interstate sources were fairly plentiful, a particularly good demand prevailed and stocks were reduced to very low levels. There was a scarcity of this variety towards the close and values rose. Only small consignments of locally grown Delicious were available and choice quality lines realised up to 20/- per bushel. Small lots of Democrat, Dougherty and Yates from New South Wales cool stores were on offer at times and realised comparatively high prices. Rome Beauty, Sturmer, Democrat, Yates and a few other varieties were received from other States at regular intervals. Values fluctuated to some extent; prices were very firm during the earlier half of September but subsequently rates for most varieties were easier.

Buyers of pears were limited to Packham's Triumph and Josephine from Victoria, and choice lines realised to 17/- per bushel, while occasionally even more was paid. However, rates were lower prior to the end of the month.

Good inquiry for Valencia oranges.

Consignments of Navel oranges showed a marked decline and only small quantities were on offer at the close of September. Values improved with the reduced supplies and up to 12/- per bushel was obtained for choice packs from inland areas, while as much as 20/- was paid for crated lots.

Marketing of Valencia oranges from coastal and inland areas commenced, and owing to the dwindling stocks of Navel oranges, this fruit met very good inquiry. Opening sales were effected at up to 8/- per bushel and later quotes rose by about 1/-.

Choice mandarins sold very well at prices which should be remunerative to growers. Quantities of small fruit, together with lots showing puffiness, were in evidence at all times and proved very difficult to sell.

Growers of lemons have experienced a poor market for some considerable time. Demand was again restricted and values remained low.

Steady request for bananas.

Generally there was a steady request for bananas. Choice, well-filled fruit was in light supply, as the major

/proportion .....

proportion of receivals was of only medium quality, many lines being very thin. Prices varied, but mainly ranged up to 18/- per tropical case, with specially selected lines dearer.

Good clearances of pineapples and papaws.

In the tropical fruit section, both pineapples and papaws were well supplied. Early in September the condition of many lines of both fruits was unsatisfactory, but subsequently there was considerable improvement and most packs opened up satisfactorily. Generally good clearances were effected and only relatively small lots were carried over from the bi-weekly consignments. Values were fairly steady until late in the month, when prices of pineapples rose by from 1/- to 2/- per tropical case and generally higher rates ruled for papaws.

For the most part, passionfruit were lightly stocked, and price levels of choice packs improved from 13/- at opening to 18/- per half-case at closing.

Green vegetables sell at generally high levels.

Supplies of green vegetables were relatively light on most days and values generally were maintained at comparatively high levels.

Heavier consignments of peas towards close of month.

For the greater part of the month, daily consignments of peas were below the 1,000 bag mark, with the result that firm rates ruled for the most part. For the first fortnight choice quality lines realised from 14/- to 17/- per bushel, with occasional specials to 18/-. It was not until the closing week that prices showed any appreciable decline; a sharp fall occurred on Thursday, 25th September but values recovered on 29th September. It was noticeable that deliveries from the South Coast were increasing and it was expected that, with the quantities coming forward from other areas, supplies would reach or exceed normal consumption levels early in October, with a consequent easing of values.

Values of beans fluctuate.

The market for beans showed marked fluctuations, largely in accordance with the volume of the offerings. The principal sources of supplies were the North Coast districts of New South Wales and Queensland centres, but during the latter part of the month quantities from the Gosford district were increasing rapidly. The quality of both the North Coast and Queensland consignments varied to a great extent, ranging from choice to inferior; some very good lots were forwarded from the Coff's Harbour and Nambucca localities.

/Values....

Values covered a wide range, choice descriptions at times selling to 24/- per bushel, while as low as 4/- was accepted for low grade lines. It was expected that Queensland and far North Coast supplies would practically cease early in October but that fair quantities should still come forward from the Lower North Coast. Beans from the Gosford district met a good inquiry on most days, but, as consignments increased, values weakened.

Early in September the bulk of the tomatoes available was from Queensland, but as the month progressed the bi-weekly supplies from this source decreased fairly rapidly. This decline was offset to some extent by larger offerings of glass-house grown packs and small consignments from the North Coast, as well as some Western Australian and South Australian lines, mostly ex the Melbourne Market. With increasing temperatures, the demand improved rapidly and values moved upward sharply. The market during the latter part of the month was very firm, choice coloured lines realising to 20/- per half-case.

Satisfactory realisations for cauliflowers and cabbages.

Cauliflowers continued to come forward from metropolitan gardens and mostly met good inquiry. In the aggregate very satisfactory prices were realised, choice heads selling up to 20/- per dozen, while as much as 24/- was paid for specially selected lots.

Moderate supplies of cabbages were available. Demand was ruled to a large extent by the quantities of other green vegetables on offer. Nevertheless generally good clearances were effected at values which should give a satisfactory return to the grower.

----oooOooo----

R.M.

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Heavy receivals of local potatoes.

During September, consignments of potatoes from New South Wales districts to Alexandria Railway Goods Yard were very heavy and totalled 29,074 bags, which number was 2,140 bags greater than the aggregate for any previous month of this year. Potatoes from the Crookwell district were in good supply, 13,185 bags being on offer. Although the end of the season is approaching, and some lines were withheld, mostly the quality ranged from medium to good. Up to 19th September, sales generally were well attended, but subsequently demand eased. Heavy supplies continued to arrive, a total of 10,317 bags being received over the final seven sale days. As this quantity was considerably in excess of buyers' immediate requirements, prices fell, but even at the

/lower ....

lower rates disposals were difficult to effect owing to lack of storage space. Realisations at auction were:- Satisfaction £5.10.0 to £9.0.0 (final week £3.10.0 to £7.0.0); No. 1 grade £4.15.0 to £6.15.0, specials £8.5.0 (final week £3.5.0 to £5.13.4, specials £6.5.0); No. 2 £3.5.0 to £4.13.4 (final week £2.0.0 to £3.10.0); No. 3, £3.0.0 to £4.10.0 (final week £2.0.0 to £3.10.0); Seed £2.16.8 to £4.16.8 (final week £1.6.8 to £2.10.0 per ton).

Arrivals of Victorian tubers assumed normal proportions, and 9,363 bags were railed to Alexandria, compared with 3,388 bags during the previous month. At the commencement of the period, Satisfactions brought £6.6.8 per ton and No. 1 grade sold at from £4.15.0 to £5.5.0. Trading, however, followed a similar trend to the market for local descriptions and at the end of the month clearances were restricted at the reduced rates of from £3.18.4 to £4.0.0 per ton for No. 1 grade.

Tasmanian potatoes shipped to Sussex Street amounted to 73,557 bags, most of which were Brownells. From £7.10.0 per ton, the price for Brownells was increased to £9.0.0, then to £10.0.0 and later to £11.0.0, but in the final week the quote fell to £10.0.0. During the first week Snowflakes sold at £5.10.0; then rates were steady at £6.0.0 until the final trading period when they were reduced to £4.10.0 per ton in order to compete with the heavy stocks of local tubers. A small quantity of grey soil Arranchiefs was on offer during the concluding week at £3.10.0 per ton.

Limited arrivals of onions.

During September, arrivals of Victorian onions were very limited and any received were sent direct to stores in Sussex Street, whence they were rationed out to buyers at from £23.10.0 to £24.0.0 per ton, the rates determined by the Commonwealth Price Commissioner's schedule.

In an endeavour to alleviate the shortage, 4,090 bags of onions were shipped from New Zealand to Sussex Street. These sold rapidly at £30.0.0 per ton, which was £5.0.0 per ton more than the price obtained for the previous shipment.

Improved pumpkin prices.

Consignments of pumpkins were heavier than during the previous month, a total of 86 trucks being available. Of these, 50 trucks were from Queensland centres and the remainder from New South Wales districts. At the beginning of the month sales were effected at £5.10.0 to £7.0.0 per ton. Later, heavier arrivals were offset by a strong demand and prices ranged from £6.0.0 to £7.10.0. In the final week, smaller quantities were available and the higher rates of from £7.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton were obtained.

/Small ....

Small stocks of root vegetables.

Only small stocks of root vegetables from New South Wales sources were railed to Alexandria, receivals consisting of 309 bags of swedes and 5 bags of carrots. These were submitted at auction, realisations being as follow:- Swedes, medium £2.11.8 to £5.5.0, good £8.0.0 to £11.5.0, Carrots £19.0.0 per ton.

Shipments of Tasmanian swedes to Sussex Street totalled 3,587 bags, compared with 8;187 during the previous month. From £8.0.0 per ton during the first week, private treaty quotations rose to £10.10.0 and subsequently to £13.0.0 at the close. Auction prices followed a similar trend and ranged from £7.10.0 to £12.5.0 per ton. Carrots were very scarce, arrivals aggregating 572 bags, which were insufficient for buyers' needs. Earlier rates were not disclosed, but during the final fortnight, £20.0.0 per ton was obtained by private treaty and £15.15.0 at auction. There was little alteration in the market for parsnips, and the 998 bags brought from £12.0.0 to £13.0.0 per ton.

Only limited supplies of Tasmanian dry peas were received and prices were unaltered at 28/- per bushel for blue "A" grade and 11/- for grey.

Heavy yarding of Wheaten Chaff.

The heaviest monthly yarding of wheaten chaff for this year was on offer during September, when 117 trucks were railed to Alexandria. This quantity was 60 trucks above that submitted during the previous month and 26 trucks in excess of the total for any previous month in 1941. As the offerings were in excess of buyers' immediate requirements, the principal request was for choice descriptions, which sold at £6.15.0 to £7.10.0 per ton. Medium to good grades were somewhat difficult to dispose of privately at from £5.0.0 to £6.5.0; lots submitted by auction brought from £4.0.0 to £6.6.8 per ton.

Oaten chaff railed to Alexandria totalled 145 trucks or 12 trucks less than during August. A large proportion was of prime standard and realised up to £9.0.0 per ton. Medium to good quality lines sold somewhat slowly and, in order to facilitate clearances, several lots were auctioned, realising from £4.10.0 to £7.16.8 per ton. Sales by private treaty were:- Medium to good, £5.5.0 to £7.10.0; choice £8.5.0 to £9.0.0 per ton.

Market for lucerne chaff a little firmer.

The yarding of lucerne chaff - 89 trucks - was an average one. The majority of the trucks was of a standard slightly better than medium, but good to prime description lines were available on only a few occasions. Generally rates showed a slight improvement, ranging from £4.15.0 to £6.5.0 for medium to good lots, and from £7.0.0 to £7.10.0, with a few lines £8.0.0

/per .....

per ton, for choice.

Supplies of lucerne hay from the Maitland district aggregated 42 trucks compared with 19 during August. For the most part the hay was consigned direct to private firms but some sales were reported at from £4.5.0 to £6.0.0 per ton. The heavy stocks from Maitland were offset by reduced consignments from other centres, which totalled 100 trucks against 129 during the previous month. Steady clearances were reported at improved values. Sales by private treaty ranged from £4.0.0 to £6.0.0, with choice at £7.0.0 to £8.5.0, and disposals by auctions brought from £4.5.0 to £6.10.0 per ton.

Approximately 176 bales of Hunter River lucerne hay arrived in Sussex Street during September. Consignments appeared to be in excess of trade needs and from £5.10.0 at the beginning of the month prices dropped to between £3.0.0 and £4.10.0 at the close.

Straw sells well.

Early in September local straw was in limited request at £6.0.0 per ton. Then, for almost a fortnight, no stocks were available at Alexandria. When supplies commenced to arrive again, the price firmed to £6.5.0 and, during the final few days, the quote rose to £6.10.0 per ton. Victorian straw was in demand throughout at from £6.5.0 to £6.10.0 per ton. Altogether New South Wales producers forwarded 19 trucks of straw, while 15 trucks arrived from Victorian centres.

The bulk of the 32 trucks of oaten hay on offer was not available to the wholesale trade, being consigned direct to private firms.

Maize prices steady.

In contrast with the previous month, private treaty prices of maize at Alexandria remained fairly steady at from 3/8 to 3/10 per bushel, while realisations at auction varied from 3/5 to 3/8. No white maize was on offer, any receivals being taken into stores.

In Sussex Street the market for white varieties of maize was steady at from 3/8 to 3/9 per bushel. Rates for yellow maize, however, rose gradually from 3/6 to 3/9, and then fell first to 3/8 and subsequently to 3/7 per bushel.

Only 12 trucks of wheat were on offer. Request was good and private treaty sales were effected at the unaltered rate of 4/6 per bushel. One truck was submitted at auction and brought 4/1 per bushel. The 6 trucks of oats were disposed of mainly by auction at the improved rates of from 2/10 to 3/7 per bushel.

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B.O'C.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING SEPTEMBER, 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	September, 1941. From	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	1/2d		1/-
Butter:			
Choice - per cwt.	161/2d)		161/2d
First Quality - per cwt.	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)	September, 1941 From	To	29th August, 1939. From	To
Good to prime: per head				
Porkers - extra light	19/6	36/6	31/6	40/6
" - light	29/6	42/6	39/6	44/6
" - medium wgt.	35/6	51/6	43/6	57/6
" - heavy	45/6	55/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	57/6	89/6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£4.0.0	£8.0.0	£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 - JULY, 1941.

F R U I T.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS packages
Queensland	17,144	8,650	11,916[x]	89,438	127,148
Victoria	-	127	76,431	4	76,562
Tasmania	-	-	79,383	-	79,383
Sth. Aust.	-	-	15,258	-	15,258
West Aust.	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
TOTALS:	17,144	8,777	184,988	89,442	300,351

x Also 13,369 trays Strawberries.

V E G E T A B L E S.

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins bags	Pumpkins tons	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkges	TOTALS pkges.	TOTALS tons
Queensland	11	64	7	369	655¼	967	9,713	11,131	655¼
Victoria	55,853	20,434	398	141	-	-	25,204	102,030	-
Tasmania	89,793	-	9,621	-	-	-	2,901	102,315	-
Sth. Aust.	540	598	-	-	-	-	13,164	14,302	-
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	146,197	21,096	10,026	510	655¼	967	50,982	229,778	655¼

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

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Channels of Distribution from Typical Sources of Supply

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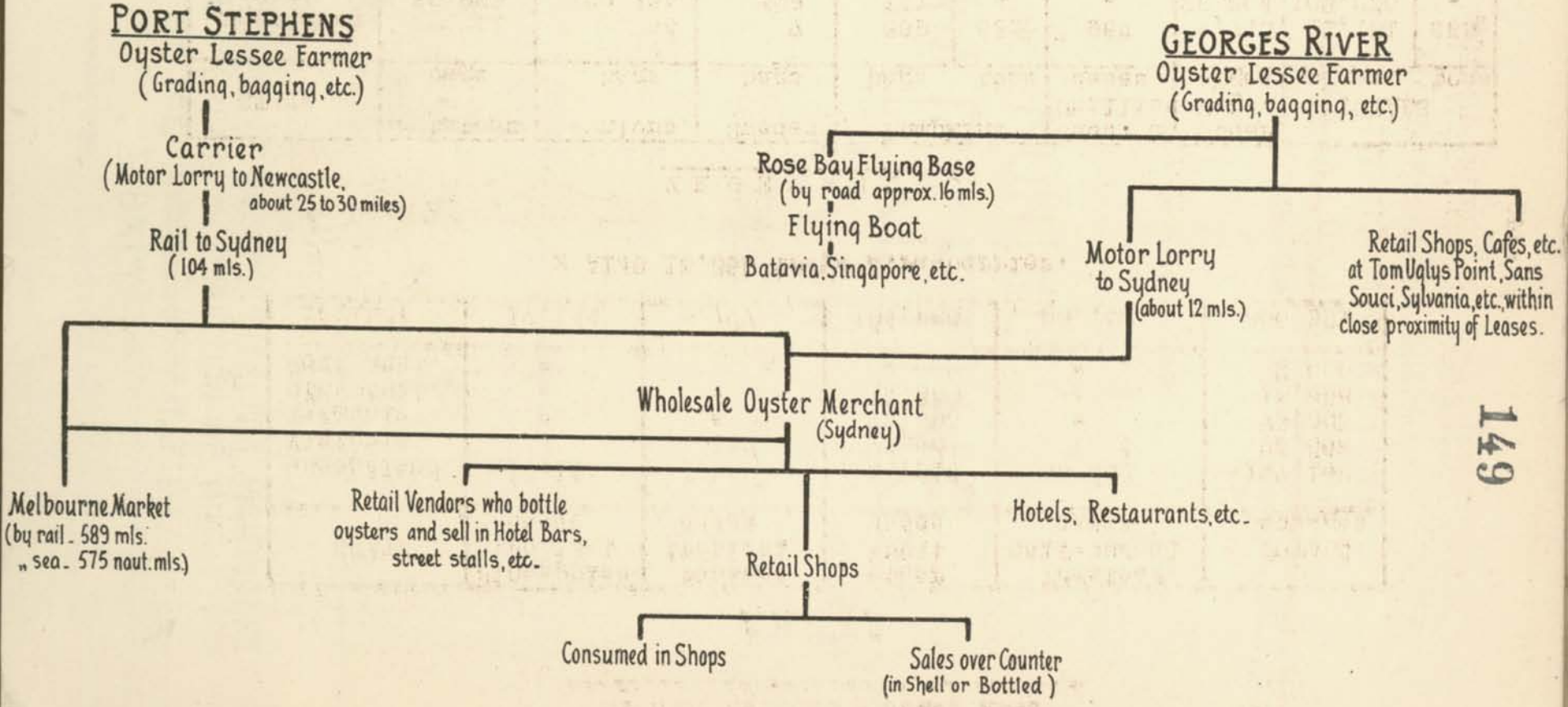

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Compiled..... S.D.R.
Drawn..... E.H.S.
Checked..... C.K.

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Chief, Division of Marketing.