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

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW



NOVEMBER, 1941

Vol. 7 No. 7

ISSUED BY AIITHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING,
SYDNEY

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

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

Released during the Second Week of each Month.

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

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HIGHLIGHTS.

Poll of maize-growers in New South Wales will be held on Friday, 9th January, 1942, to determine whether a Maize Marketing Board shall be constituted under the Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927-1940. Under Regulation 12(7) "Producers of maize shall be deemed to be producers as defined by Section 4 of the Act who are engaged in growing or producing maize for sale as grain and who either during the period 1st September, 1939, to 31st August, 1940, inclusive, or during the period 1st September, 1940, to 31st August, 1941, inclusive, produced not less than two hundred and fifty bushels of maize for sale as grain". Preliminary lists of producers will be exhibited at various centres throughout the maize growing districts of the State from 14th November to 4th December, 1941, and claims for enrolment must reach the Returning Officer (The Chief of the Division of Marketing) not later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, 4th December, 1941.

In conformity with the recent affirmative vote of egg producers, as from 3rd November, 1941, the Egg Marketing Board for the Counties of Cumberland and Northumberland and the Shires of Nattai and Wollondilly became the Egg Marketing Board for New South Wales, with control of egg-marketing throughout the State.

Minister for Commerce announces that during third year of war, British Government can accept delivery of only 57,000 tons of Australian butter (compared with 100,000 tons in each of first two years) but is willing to accept more than 40,000 tons of cheese and to pay an increased price equivalent to $7/2\frac{1}{4}$ d per cwt. for this commodity. Australian dairying industry is being re-organised to meet these requests.

Sydney City Municipal Council approves By-Laws designed to strengthen measures for preventing forestalling or jobbing in Growers' Vegetable Market.

Entry to the Market by unauthorised persons before the

Market is lawfully open for selling is expressly prohibited.

Sellers who are or wish to become stall-holders must furnish complete evidence in the form of a statutory declaration of their status as growers.

All goods placed on a stall must be available for sale at the time they are put there and until actually sold from the stall. Goods sold from the stall but left there temporarily by

the purchaser must be placarded as sold.

Every person occupying a stall shall cause to be displayed in a prominent position to the satisfaction of the Superintendent a notice bearing his name and address legibly written or printed in block letters not less than six inches high.

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

In the October, 1941, issue of the Monthly Marketing Review, we published a general description of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Aroas, portion of the Riverina Statistical Division No. 13 of New South Wales. In the following continuing article, consideration is given to various agricultural pursuits, fat lamb raising and dairying.

Wheat and oats widely cultivated.

According to the Statistical Register, the area under crop on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas in 1939/40 amounted to 87,754 acres, while 12,155 acres were under sown grasses. The cropped land was utilised as under:-

Wheat, oats and other cereals	40.330	acros.
Rico off and a second of the	23,026	Holy
Orchards	14,311	1 Boro
Vineyards	6,120	THE REPORT
Lucerne, rape and other fodder crops	2,879	a a a a a
Market Gardens and various vegetable crops, etc	1,107	11

Considering the limited extent of the Areas, wheat and oats are widely cultivated for grain, hay and green fodder. Only small quantities of other coreals - barley, rye and maize - are produced. The detailed figures for 1939/40 were:-

Wheat for grain hay green food	26,314 1,241 75	- 11	yiolding	417,432 1,569	
Oats for grain " hay " groon food	5,651 4,757 1,777	. n u	yiolding	99,345 6,441	bushols tons
Barley, Grain, Malting Other Other green food	76 112 2 12	11 11 11 11	yiolding	1,707	bushels bushels tons
Ryo for grain green food	278 2	ii ii	yiolding	7,842	bushels
Maize for grain green food	29 4	12	yielding	708	bushels

/The

The development of the rice industry is an outstanding feature and is outlined in the following paragraphs, whilst the activities of the orchardists, vignerons and vegetable-growers will be reviewed later.

Rice production more than sufficient for Australian requirements.

From 1891 onward isolated experiments with the cultivation of rice under "dry-farming" conditions had been carried out in New South Wales, but with poor results. In 1916, trials were conducted under irrigation but were disappointing. In 1922, Mr. John Brady, an officer of the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission, visited America and noticed rice being grown in California under conditions very similar to those existing in the Murrumbidgec Irrigation Areas. On his recommendation, the Department of Agriculture made experimental planting upon suitable land in the vicinity of Lecton, from which the satisfactory yields of 72 to 77 bushels por acro were obtained. Trials were continued, arousing the interest of farmers on the Irrigation Arcas, and in 1924 rice was grown commercially for the first time in Australia. In this year 157 acres wore cropped, and yielded an average of 65 bushels per acre. The success achieved attracted considerable attention, and the number of rice farmers grow rapidly, with a corresponding increase in the acreage devoted to this crop, so that, by 1927-28 an aggregate of 16,843 tons of Faddy Rice was harvested.

The following table, extracted from the New South Wales Year Book, affords an indication of the rapid expansion of this industry:-

Rice Growing on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas

	Market and the second s	AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 2 IS NOT THE PERSON		
Season	Number of Growers	Area harvested	Yield of Paddy Rice	Farm Value of Yield
4		acres	bushols	£
1925/26 1926/27 1927/28 1928/29 1933/34 1938/39 1939/40	30 67 127 221 292 313 314	1,556 3,958 9,891 14,027 20,221 23,533 24,120	61,100 214,740 879,113 1,307,520 2,171,520 2,774,987 1,857,650	12,030 48,320 181,320 201,850 337,600 444,430 333,360
× 1940/41	350	24,634	2,215,040	

XEstimated, as figures not yet finalised.

The Rice Marketing Board of New South Wales, and Export.

The value of co-operation as a mean. of preserving their interests was recognised by the rice growers at an early stage.

/In

In the latter part of 1928 they decided to take advantage of the provisions of the Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927, in order to vest the control of the marketing of their crop in a Marketing Board. The Rice Marketing Board of New South Wales was proclaimed in November, 1928. From that time all rice grown within New South Wales has been vested in the Board, which has functioned continuously since that date. The Board, which comprises five elected representatives of the producers and two Government nominoes, has provided storage accommodation and railway sidings and connections for the handling of the rice, which, as 'paddy rico', is sold to millers operating in the capital cities at the scaboard, principally Sydney and Melbourne. The millers attend to the processing and further disposal of the rice, both within Australia and overseas. The millers speak highly of the locally grown product, and claim that they are able to turn out a finished article superior to anything previously imported from Eastern countries.

The rapid expansion of the industry soon resulted in the production of not only sufficient rice to meet the consumption needs of the whole of Australia, but to provide an exportable surplus. With the co-operation of the millers and in the face of fierce competition from Eastern-grown rice of low production costs, Australian rice was successfully exported to New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, Canada and Great Britain, the last named becoming the largest purchaser. The growth of the export trade is illustrated by the following figures published in the New South Wales Year Book:-

Rice exported Overseas, 1929 to 1939.

Year ended	Local Rice Exported Overseas from Australia						
30th June		Total					
	Cleaned	Value					
1928/29 1931/32 1934/35 1937/38 1938/39 1939/40	cwt. 2,334 73,111 194,986 244,336 236,640 281,201	cwt. 385 36,559 25,551 2,522 3,023 2,280	cwt. 16,682 7,005 3,529 8,248 16,708 8,068	£ 12,855 64,561 149,502 215,353 185,250 268,032			

Note: X Stated to be after removal of husks, involving loss of from 16 to 20 per cent. of weight of paddy rice.

While the major portion of the rice is exported from New South Wales, considerable quantities are shipped through Victorian ports.

A protective tariff (3/4d per cental on uncleaned rice and 6/- per cental on cleaned rice, imposed in 1926, and conditioned by provision which contemplates the protection of the Australian consumer should exploitation occur) has done much to foster the industry, whilst the Rice Marketing Board has enjoyed the close co-operation of both the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission and the Department of Agriculture. The latter Department maintains a Rice Research Station near Leeton, where experiments in the brooding and selection of varieties, preparation of soils, rotation of crops, etc., have provided valuable data for the guidance of growers.

Rice cultivation methods.

In evidence before the Tariff Board in 1926, it was estimated that approximately 53,000 acres of land on the Murrum-bidgee Irrigation Areas were suitable for rice growing. Each year, however, the maximum area which each grower may irrigate is determined at a conference between representatives of the Rice Marketing Board, the rice growers, the Department of Agriculture, and the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission. Recently this maximum has been 80 acres (in 1932/33 it reached 110 acres). Although 80 acres represents only a small area for an Australian wheat farmer, where rice growing is concerned it is a different matter, especially when the small plots cultivated by individual growers in Eastern countries are considered. Implements utilised for wheat farming have been adapted to meet the needs of the new industry.

The rice seed is planted in a similar manner to that of wheat, after which the land is flooded with water and kept in that condition throughout the growing season. Sowing usually takes place in October, the crop grows through the summer and early autumn, and is ready for harvesting about the end of April. Harvesting continues until about mid-June, the period depending upon varieties and seasonal conditions.

It is of interest to mention that ever 300 farmers are now growing rice on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas, that some 500 men are permanently employed and that upwards of 2,000 persons find employment on the rice lands during the harvesting period. To this number must be added the employees of the rice mills at the seaboard, whilst the increased freight afforded the railways of New South Wales and Victoria is also an important item.

Lucerne and other fodder crops.

Lucerne and other fodder crops do sell under irrigation and in 1939/40 the acroages cultivated on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas were:

Lucerno, for Hay - 523 acros, yielding 996 tons Hay
Rape, sorghum, millet,

(Eme:

1 div

cowpeas, Indian Cano, etc., for Green Food - 356

Those fodder crops were utilised mostly for the maintenance of dairy herds and the depasturing of sheep and lambs.

Fat lamb raising.

In his "Survey of the Lamb Raising Industry of Australia", Mr. J.M. Coleman, Senior Sheep and Wool Instructor of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture, estimated that, when fully developed, the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas would be capable of producing half a million lambs annually. The fact that abundant food can be produced under irrigation during the summer months, which normally are the driest menths of the year in this portion of the State, makes the Areas very suitable, not only for fattlamb production, but also for the raising of cross-brod ewes for this purpose. So far, the industry has only been partially developed, but, at the same time, it is quite an important one. In 1938/39 there were 147,071 head of sheep on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas, but in 1939/40 flocks had risen to 203,044 head; the fact that in 1924/25 only 16,000 sheep were departured illustrates the expansion that has taken place.

Drirying and pig raising.

were important features of the earlier days of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas. A good local market in nearby centres was assured while the ability to manufacture excellent quality butter and bacon was proved. Thus in 1924/25 there were 6,687 cows in registered dairies and 8,512 other cattle, while pigs numbered 3,843 head. The production of butter amounted to over 12 million pounds, and that of ham and bacon exceeded 4 million pounds.

The advent of the rice growing industry led many dairyfarmers to transfer their activities to that field of production
and so paved the way for a marked decline in dairying on the
Mirrumbidgee Irrigation Areas. Although this decline has been
arrested, it is thought that any future expansion of dairying
on the M.T.A. will depend on a proportion of the rice-farmers
also milking a number of cows as a sideline.

Figures issued by the N.S.W. Government Statistician show that in 1939/40 cows in registered dairies on the Murrum-bidgee Irrigation Areas totalled 1,301 and other cattle numbered 3,846, whilst there were 1,939 pigs. The production of butter amounted to 352,134 lb. and the output of bacon and hams was 1,140 lb. A butter factory established by the Government in 1913 and subsequently taken over co-operatively by the settlers, is in operation at Lecton.

(To be continued)

POTATO MARKETING SCHEME, VICTORIA.

Regulations under the National Security (Emergency Powers) Acts.

Under the National Security (Emergency Powers) Acts, on 29th July, 1941, the Government of Victoria gazetted regulations relating to the sale of potatoes in that State. Effective to 31st December, 1941, these regulations provide for the appointment by Order of the Governor in Council, of the Victorian Potato Committee, consisting of six members, viz., one (the Chairman) an officer of the Department of Agriculture, two representing potato growers, two representing potato merchants and one representing consumers of potatoes.

The Committee may from time to time by notice in writing determine the maximum quantity of potatoes:-

- (a) which any grower may sell for human consumption or for stock food or for seed in Victoria during any specified period;
- (b) which any wholesaler may -
 - (i) sell for human consumption or for stock food or for seed in Victoria during any specified poriod, or
 - (ii) have in his possession at any one time for sale for stock food or for seed in Victoria;
- (c) which any retailer may -
 - (i) sell for stock food or for seed in Victoria during any specified period, or
 - (ii) have in his possession at any one time for sale for stock food or for seed in Victoria.

Further, the Committee may from time to time by notice in writing:-

(d) prohibit the sale for human consumption in Victoria during any specified period of potatoes which are below a grade specified in the notice

As from 2nd August, 1941, potatoes for human consumption shall only be submitted for sale in Victoria in containers scaled with a seal authorised by the Director of Agriculture, or from a container which has been scaled as aforesaid. Certain restrictions on the possession of potatoes for sale in Victoria are specified, whilst it is provided that no person shall sell potatoes by whelesale otherwise than in sacks except with the approval of and subject to conditions imposed by the Committee.

Every grower who sells potatoes shall deliver such potatoes for inspection at the railway station nearest or most convenient to his farm or at such other place as the Committee directs.

The Committee is empowered to require growers to furnish returns relating to the planting, growing, digging or marketing by them of any potatoes. In addition, wholesale and retail sellers may be required to submit returns relating to the sale or possossion of potatoes.

Price fixation.

The Commonwealth Prices Commissioner has fixed a maximum price of £6 per ton, f.o.r. Melbourne, for No. 1 Grade potatoes for human consumption in Victoria, which are approved for sale by the Victorian Potato Committee. A maximum price of 10/- per ton, plus 5 per cent, has been fixed for all other potatoes for human consumption in that State. Provision is made for the disposal of Seed potatoes at a maximum price of £9.0.0 per ton, and for Stock Food potatoes at £1.5.0 per ton, point of production.

Reports state that only No. 1 Grade potatoes are those specified for sale for human consumption, and that so far the maximum quantity each grower may market for sale for human consumption has been determined at 40% of his production.

Necessity for controlled marketing.

Reviews of the scheme indicate that the 1941 Australian potato crop is considerably in excess of requirements. This is said to be particularly so in Victoria, where production is estimated at 257,000 tons, whereas average consumption in that State is 120,000 tons while interstate consignments and seed requirements normally absorb 50,000 tons.

The prospects of an excess production were brought before the meeting of the Federal Potate Advisory Council held in April, 1941, and marketing control suggestions were considered, but no agreement was reached. Later in the year, the question was debated at a meeting of the Australian Agricultural Council, but again representatives of the individual States failed to agree on common action. Consequently, Victorian growers felt that limitation of marketings within that State was essential to prevent prices falling to uneconomical levels. The scheme formulated was implemented by the Victorian Government in co-operation with the Commonwealth Prices Commissioner.

Press reports indicate that the stabilisation plan has so far been successful.

HOMEBUSH LIVESTOCK SALES.

LITTLE ALTERATION IN VALUES OF CATTLE AND PIGS;
SHEEP MARKET WEAKER.

Cattle supplies maintained.

Average daily cattle truckings during October, 1941, showed an increase when compared with those of the previous month, but, owing to the fact that there were only 8 sale days as against 9 in September, the aggregate of 15,340 head was slightly lower. Auctions in the store section accounted for 1,183 head. Although, for the most part, the quality of the yardings was only fair, at times a decided improvement on the general average was apparent. The position is much more satisfactory than it was twelve months ago, when the percentage of prime cattle offering was considerably smaller and prices were at peak levels. Rainfall during the month under review was again mainly light, although some fairly good falls occurred in parts of the Northern Tablelands and Slopes. In the more western districts, the pastoral position is very unsatisfactory.

Irregular truckings of bullocks.

Consignments of bullocks again fluctuated to a cortain extent, but the standard of the offerings was fairly constant. Although good trade lightweight descriptions predominated, heavier types made a good showing on several occasions, while at times the quality of some of the drafts was all that could be desired. Values were well maintained early in the period, when good to prime lightweight bullocks were quoted at from 43/- to 46/- per 100 lb. Subsequently prices fell progressively, and by the third week 42/- per 100 lb. was the highest realisation for prime lightweights. At the close of the month, however, the market recovered and quotations were:- Heavy 38/- to 41/-, Medium 41/- to 43/-, Light 42/- to 45/- per 100 lb. On the concluding sale day, a line of prime Shorthorns, weighing approximately 700 lb. dressed, sold at £15.0.0 per head, equivalent to 43/- per 100 lb.

Prime steers in strong demand.

Steers continued to be well represented throughout October, but quality was variable, as at times the standard was fairly satisfactory, whereas on other occasions only a small percentage of prime descriptions was available. Demand for good quality steers was always strong, and values were steady for most of the month, quotations for good to prime grade mostly ranging from 44/- to 50/- per 100 lb. During the third week, values of prime lightweight animals fell temporarily, in common with those of other classes of beef.

Variable yardings of cows.

Truckings of cows were most variable, in regard both to quality and numbers. The proportion of heavyweights penned was also very inconsistent, but generally this class made the best showing from a quality viewpoint, as usually the percentage of good trade lightweights was very small. The market was dearest on the first sale day, when quotations for good to prime quality were from 36/- to 41/- per 100 lb. for heavy and from 38/- to 43/- for light. Later, prices eased and then remained fairly constant for the remainder of the month. On the final sale day good quality light cows were worth up to 39/- per 100 lb.

Prime light heifers scarce.

The numbers of heifers coming forward were rather limited during most of the period, and frequently prime lightweights were difficult to secure. The position improved at the close, when good trade descriptions were well represented. Prime light heifers met very keen inquiry and values showed very little alteration throughout the month. Quotations for good to prime quality, covering all grades of weight, ranged from 42/- to 48/- per 100 lb., except on one sale day when prime lightweights were worth 52/- per 100 lb., a higher rate than that ruling for prime light steers.

Enhanced values of vealers.

Pennings of vealers were most variable, this class being plentiful at times and somewhat scarce on other occasions. The standard of the offerings also fluctuated and on some sale days was disappointing. On the whole, however, prime animals were fairly well represented, more especially among the medium to heavyweight types. As the number of good quality vealers on offer was insufficient to meet buyers' requirements, the enhanced prices ruling recently were well maintained, and quotations mostly ranged from 52/- to 58/- per 100 lb. On one sale day prime lightweights realised up to 60/- per 100 lb.

Cattle values fairly well maintained.

For the most part, values of cattle were fairly well maintained during October, but the average quotations for some lines were a little below those of the previous month. In instances where prices did fall during the period, however, the market recovered towards the close.

Record average weekly consignments of pigs.

Large numbers of pigs were again submitted by auction at Homebush during October, 1941, and, although the aggregate of 10,067 head was less than the record established the previous month, the average daily yarding was slightly higher, due to the

/fact ...

fact that the period under review contained only four sale days as against five in September. Rail receivals for auction aggregated 5,821, while 2,902 head were sold by private treaty in the Metropolitan Area. The bulk of these private transactions take place at the Saleyards on the Monday preceding the auctions.

Porkers of better quality.

Porkers were heavily supplied throughout, but many of the pigs were of medium quality or in store condition. Also a fair percentage of small stores was submitted. Despite the inclusion of these inferior grade consignments, the general standard of the offering could be regarded as fairly good and on one sale day it was the best for some time. On the whole, the quality of the pennings was better than that of the previous month. Medium weight porkers again predominated. Compared with September prices, the market was much stronger. On the second sale day, prime light porkers dressing 60 lb. sold to 44/6 per head, but by the close of the month values of these had fallen to 42/6. Demand for heavy porkers was steadier, prime animals dressing 90 lb., realising to 55/- per head during the first fortnight and to 56/- for the remainder of the period.

Steady bacon market.

Due to "selling over the scale" operations, supplies of baconers were rather light on the second sale day; on other occasions, moderate numbers, comprising all grades of weight, were available. Generally the pennings were of fair to good trade standard, although many prime lots from country districts were noticed. A fairly steady request provailed and prices showed little material alteration from those ruling during September. Values ranged from 57/6 to 89/6 per head. On a carcase equivalent basis prime light baconers realised to 74d per lb., while good trade heavy descriptions were worth 62d.

Light supplies of backfatters: values lower.

On most sale days pennings of backfatters were comparatively light and prime sorts were fairly scarce. The majority of those submitted was of lightweight description. Despite the light yardings the market was weaker.

On the first sale day quotations were from $4\frac{1}{2}$ d to $5\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. for good to prime backfatters dressing 200/350 lb., and from $3\frac{3}{4}$ d to $4\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. for animals dressing 350 lb. and over. Prices declined progressively and closing rates were one penny per lb. below the abevementioned.

Generally favourable realisations for pags.

Generally, price levels during October compare more than favourably with those for September, despite the fact that /backfatters....

backfatters were cheaper. The extra heavy baconers or pigs under 200 lb., which are now utilised for canning purposes, also sold well. Values generally, however, were not as high as those ruling during the corresponding period of 1940, when the market was particularly strong. Of course, in 1940 the numbers of pigs submitted were not so large as at present.

Substantial increase in pennings of sheep and lambs.

Large numbers of both sheep and lambs were marketed at the Homebush saleyards during October, 1941, the aggregate pennings showing a steep increase over the total for the previous month. Spread over eight selling days, 442,432 head of sheep and lambs were auctioned, representing an average supply of 55,304 on each sale day, while the highest yarding for any one sale was 60,677 head. The total available was larger than that for the corresponding period in 1940, and exceeded that for September, 1941, by 130, 242 head.

Further improvement in sheep supplies.

The increased consignments of grown sheep continued throughout October, offerings aggregating 169,202 or about 20,000 head more than in the previous month. Very few full woolled sheep were included but there was a heavy representation of shorn descriptions; in this latter category some improvement was noticeable in the length of the wool on the skins, resulting in better values for pelts. Ewes again formed a fairly large percentage of the supply and, although quite a number of good light to heavy trade sorts was submitted, plain aged descriptions and medium quality lots comprised a fairly large proportion of the pennings. While some plain wethers were on offer, there was a much better representation of good to prime light grade than amongst the ewes. In the heavy class of sheep, however, ewes were as much in evidence as wethers, some exceptionally good quality lines being disposed of.

Markot closes cheaper.

At the opening sale in October a stronger demand was evident for good to prime sheep and rates advanced by 1/- per head. On the next sale day, little change in values of wethers was apparent, the market being mainly steady, but ewes generally were up to 1/- per head cheaper, while realisations for the medium to plainer grades of sheep also were lower. At the beginning of the second week good quality wethers sold better and operators paid about 1/- per head more. From then until the end of the period, values were not fully maintained at opening levels, and the improvement in rates for good sheep was practically lost, while the medium to plainer grades proved difficult to sell at prices ranging from 2/- to 3/- below those ruling early in the month. Generally, average realisations for all classes of sheep were considerably below those of the previous month.

madas at

Prices trends throughout October are illustrated by the following sales: At the commencement of the month's operations, 42 lb. shorn wethers, with pelts valued at 1/- sold at 13/4 each, equivalent to 32d per 1b., and 42 lb. shorn ewes, with pelts worth 6d, brought 10/2 per head, making 23d per 1b. On the same day, heavy wethers weighing approximately 48 lb. (skin 1/-) realised 13/11 each, or 32d per 1b., while 48 lb. ewes cost 10/9 per head, or 22d per 1b. Following the decline in rates about mid-October, good trade shorn wethers, weighing approximately 44 lb., sold at 12/11 each, or 32d per 1b., and 58 lb. shorn wethers realised 14/3 each, or 23d per 1b. Ewes dressing approximately 44 lb. were disposed of on the same day for 9/10 per head, equivalent to 23d per 1b. Towards the end of the month wethers weighing approximately 44 lb. made 12/9 each, or 3d per 1b., and 54 lb. shoep brought 13/10 per head, or 23d per 1b. Ewes weighing approximately 38 lb. realised 7/10 each or 2d per 1b., while a pen of heavy ewes, about 50 lb. in weight, was disposed of at 9/8 per head, costing 12d per 1b.

Mutton generally cheaper.

The heavier supplies of sheep were responsible for generally lower rates than those obtained during September, when heavy and light nutton sold as high as 32d and 42d per 1b., respectively. The best prices secured in October were up to 32d por 1b. for heavy and to 3gd per 1b. for light, but for the most part heavy wethers made from 2gd to 3d and light brought from 2gd to 3dd per 1b. Ewes mostly cost from 1gd to 2d per 1b. for heavy and 1gd to 2gd for light, though the peak prices for this class of mutten were 22d and 23d per 1b. for heavy and light, respectively. Medium and plain mutton on occasions proved difficult to sell at rates ranging from 3d to 22d per 1b. Very few full-woolled sheep were offered, the odd lines noticed making up to 22/- per head. Shorn wethers and ewes constituted the bulk of the supplies. Prime heavy shorn wethers sold to 19/por head, but mostly ranged from 15/- to 17/- por head, while light weight sorts cost from 11/- to 14/-. Shorn ewes realised to 15/- each but for the most part values were from 8/- to 10/-. with odd sales to 12/-. On occasions, modium to plain shoop, particularly ewos, were disposed of at very low levels, sales being effected from 2/6 per head upwards, according to condition and skin value.

Heavy yardings of lambs.

Lamb and sucker consignments throughout October were particularly heavy, totalling 273,230 head or about 110,000 more than were available in September, and representing 62% of the aggregate pennings for the month. Suckers again constituted the bulk of the supplies, only odd drafts of summer lambs being included. Although the yarding of good quality lambs was by no means heavy, some very attractive lots were submitted. Owing to the continued dry weather plain and medium light weight suckers,

of weights ranging from 14 lb. to 20 lb. drossed, were numerous. Only odd drafts of good quality heavy summer lambs were noticed but several lines of extra good quality mixed lambs and hoggets were disposed of.

Suckers realise lower prices.

As operators at Homebush were confronted with substantially increased supplies of suckers, the average penning on each sale day being 34,150 head, lower values ruled for all grades of lambs and suckers. Considerable price variation occurred throughout the period and on one sale day values reached very low levels, agents finding it very difficult to effect clearances of the stock submitted for sale; the medium to plain suckers in particular proved very hard to sell, even at substantially reduced prices. During the earlier part of the month's operations, rates for suckers were about 1/- below the opening levels but later on this fall was recovered. Subsequently, however, the market again, weakened and closing prices for good quality lambs were about 1/per head lower than those ruling at the beginning of October. Towards the end of the month medium to plain lambs were most adversely affected and values of these dropped by from 2/- to 3/- per head, only to recover somewhat on the following sale day. Some sales recorded during the period are given below to indicate the variable market:- At early auctions good trade suckers, weighing 33 lb., made 20/8 per head or 64d per lb., and good 38 lb. suckers sold at 22/3 each or 6d por 1b. Later on, good trade suckers, weighing 34 lb., brought 20/7 each or 6d per 1b. and a pen of good heavy suckers, dressing approximately 37 lb., was disposed of at 21/4 each or 5dd por 1b. Subsequently, however, suckers were secured at lower prices, and good trade suckers of approximately 33 lb. weight, realised 19/4 each or 50d per lb., whilst heavy 44 lb. suckers cost 21/10 per head or 45d per lb.

Modium and plain suckers at low levels.

During Octobor large numbers of medium to plain suckers were disposed of and on one occasion agents experienced difficulty in effecting sales, values reaching the very low level of 3/6 per head, with quite a few sales at prices ranging from 6/- to 12/- each, according to quality. Most of these low priced lambs, however, were under export weight. Considering the heavy supplies forward, good to prime lambs and suckers sold fairly well, although realisations were below the provious month's levels. While operators paid up to 23/- each for suckers, mostly prices ranged from 16/- to 22/-, according to weight and skin value. During September prime light suckers made up to 7d per 1b., but the highest price paid in October was 6gd. Generall, however, during the month under review best light trade suckers realised from 5gd to 6gd per 1b. and medium to good grades brought from 42d to 51d per 1b. The heavy class of sucker cost as much as 6d per 1b. but the greater proportion was disposed of at from 4ad to 51d per 1b. When available, heavy weight summer lambs made from 35d to 45d and light from 45d to 5d per 1b. Plain and inferior quality lambs and suckers realised relatively lower prices.

J. W. & G.C.

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

Granny Smith and Dolicious apples realise high prices.

During October local Granny Smith and Delicious apples were lightly supplied and values of both varieties were firm. About the middle of the month only small quantities of Granny Smiths were available and prices rose sharply, as much as 20/- per bushel being obtained. Subsequently the market reverted to rates of 13/- to 16/- per bushel ruling earlier. Special lines of Delicious sold to 20/- per case but lots which had reached an over-mature stage were disposed of in some instances at low levels. Interstate consignments of apples comprised principally Democrats, Croftons, Yates and Sturmers. The condition of a number of packs, particularly Sturmers, was unsatisfactory and low prices were accepted to clear this class of fruit. Generally, values of practically all these varieties were easier.

Supplies of pears were limited and were confined mainly to Victorian Josephines. Quotations for fruit of good quality were firm.

Restricted inquiry for lemons; good request for choice lines of other citrus.

Apart from isolated consignments from late districts and Victoria, the Navel orange season was practically finished. Rates obtained for most packs were higher than those ruling during the previous month, up to 17/- per bushel being paid for special lines.

Demand for the larger sizes of Valencia oranges was well maintained, and counts of 100 to 163 sold very well. Vendors were able to increase their quotes for these packs and up to 10/- per bushel was secured. Small fruit was slow of sale and disposals were effected at the best prices offering.

Trading in lemons was again restricted, although towards the close the market for choice medium sized lots firmed about 1/-per bushel. Considerable breakdown was apparent in large fruit and much loss was occasioned.

Supplies of mandarins gradually fell away and at the end of October only relatively few lots, mostly Ellendales, were available. Generally very satisfactory prices were obtained for good quality fruit.

Grape fruit was somewhat scarce at times and rates for both coastal and inland offerings advanced.

Light stocks of passionfruit; limited supplies of choice large bananas.

With only light supplies coming forward from New South . Wales producing areas, prices of passionfruit rose to high levels, choice lines selling at up to 24/- per half-case. Small consignments were received from Queensland and were disposed of promptly at rates comparable to those obtained for local fruit. Considerable quantities of small poorly filled bananas were submitted and sold cheaply. Good quality "eights" and "nines" were lightly stocked and were in request throughout at prices mostly above those ruling for the general range of bananas available.

The bi-weekly consignments of pineapples varied from about 2,000 to over 3,000 tropical cases. Stocks carried over from each supply were relatively light on most occasions. During the latter half of the month values were at higher levels owing to a better demand, occasioned mainly by an improvement in the condition of most packs.

Stone fruit season commences.

The first stone fruit of the season reached the market on 14th October when a few punnets of cherries were received from the Turramurra locality. These were followed a few days later by a box from the Young district. Towards the end of the month, offerings from both Lakesland and Young were available, supplies increasing daily. High prices were obtained for the first lots but values eased quickly as larger quantities came to hand. Apricots and Early Gom plums also were on offer towards the close of the period.

Prices of peas fall as consignments increase.

Owing to limited supplies, a very firm market ruled for peas during the first few days of the month and up to 16/- per bushel was obtained for choice lots. Following the holiday on Monday, 6th October, consignments increased considerably and aggregated no less than 2,600 bags; in addition, fairly heavy stocks were on offer in the growers' section. These large offerings caused a slump in values. Agents were unable to clear stocks to retailers and buyers operating on behalf of canneries were able to purchase many lines. During the remainder of the month, daily receivals mostly were well over the 1,000 bag mark and rates generally ranged from 4/6 to 7/- per bushel, with extra choice lots higher. Better prices were obtained on Fridays, when retailers operated freely for the week-end trade.

Wellington Wonder beans attract attention.

Consignments of beans from Queensland and the North Coast of New South Wales were small and the general quality, apart from lots from the Nambucca district, was medium to poor.

/Receivals

Receivals from the Gosford growing areas showed a marked increase and comprised the bulk of the supplies. The standard of the Gosford offerings mainly was good, particularly as regards the new variety Wellington Wonder, which commanded rates in advance of the general range. Realisations were satisfactory throughout, although the closing prices were much below those ruling earlier.

Some small lots from gardens within the Metropolitan district were forward but in a number of instances the beans were poorly developed, apparently owing to lack of moisture.

High rates for tomatoes.

Demand for tomatoes was very good and relatively high prices ruled, as much as 24/- per half-case being paid for glass-house and up to 20/- for outdoor grown lines. Field-grown supplies were received from Queensland, Western Australia and the North Coast of New South Wales, while local and South Australian glass-house packs were forward. The stocks held, however, were only moderate and, despite the high rates, satisfactory clearances were effected.

Weaker demand for cabbages; cauliflowers "cut out".

Request for cabbages was to a large extent affected by the plentiful supplies of peas, and, although satisfactory prices were obtained for most selected lines, sometimes difficulty was experienced in disposing of medium to lower grade heads, noticeably when the temperature was inclined to rise.

Cauliflowers from gardens within the Metropolitan area were available. The supplies, however, were light and had practically cut out at the end of the month. Choice heads sold very well and up to 20/- per dozen was realised.

Bunched carrots scarce.

Very few bunched carrots were obtainable and retailers had to turn their attention to loose lots for which high prices were paid. Choice quality lines sold to 40/- per cwt., while the equivalent of 48/- per cwt. ruled for smaller quantities.

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Advice has been received that a Marketing of Primary Products (Tomatoes) Bill is under consideration by the Victorian Parliament. The Bill is intended to amend the Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1935, of Victoria to permit of tomatoes being declared a product under the provisions of that Act, so that effect may be given to the wishes of a number of growers that a poll be taken to determine whether a Tomato Marketing Board should be established.

SALES IN SUSSEX STREET AND AT ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD.

Local potatoes in light supply.

After a heavy yarding of 29,074 bags in September, arrivals at Alexandria Railway Goods Yard of potatoes from New South Wales centres during October fell to 19,379 bags, comprised of 17,742 bags of "old" and 1,637 bags of "new" tubers. The quality of the old potatoes varied considerably and on the average was not up to the standard of the previous month's offerings. Nevertheless, higher prices were obtained as the stocks coming to hand were insufficient for buyers' requirements. Realisations at auction were:- Satisfactions - No. 1 Grado £4.11.8 to £13.11.8, No. 2 £6.10.0 to £8.5.0, Seed £4.10.0 to £5.10.0; Factors:- No. 1 Grade £3.16.8 to £10.0.0, No. 2 £2.16.8 to £5.6.8, No. 3 £2.0.0 to £5.15.0, Seed £1.16.8 to £4.10.0 per ton.

The new potatoes did not commence to arrive until the middle of the month. The first consignments were in very good domand and sold at high prices. As receivals increased, the rates showed a decline but a good request prevailed throughout. Realisations by auction were: New - No. 1 Grade £8.0.0 to £15.8.4, No. 2 £2.5.0 to £12.5.0 per ton, Chats 1/9 to 8/9 per bag.

Shipments of North Coast new potatoes, aggregating 3,810 bags, were also received in Sussex Street, where they were submitted by auction. The market followed a similar trend to that at Alexandria, the price ranges being:- New - No. 1 Grade £8.5.0 to £16.10.0, No. 2 £5.0.0 to £10.5.0 per ton, Chats 2/- to 7/- per bag.

Consignments of Victorian potatoes to Alexandria were unusually small, amounting to only 1,861 bags compared with 9,363 during the previous month. At the commencement of the period, No. 1 Grade brought £3.10.0 per ton but as the month progressed quotations rose to £6.5.0 and finally to £8.5.0.

Tasmanian potatocs also were only lightly supplied and aggregated 55,720 bags, or 17,837 less than the total for September. From £11.0.0 per ten during the first week, the fixed rate for Brownells was increased to £13.0.0, but towards the end of the month, as the standard of the offerings showed a falling-off and warmer weather prevailed, quotations reverted to £11.0.0.

Onion position slightly easier.

Although supplies were still insufficient for requirements, the shortage of onions was alleviated somewhat by the arrival at Alexandria of 13 trucks from New South Wales producing /centres....

centres and 2 trucks from Victoria. While most of the receivals were disposed of by auction, a few lines were taken direct to stores in Sussex Street. Rates for local varieties ranged from £33.5.0 to £48.10.0 per ton, with inferior lots quoted from £25.0.0 to £29.0.0, and picklers realised £18.0.0. The Victorian consignments were not up to the standard of the local offerings and realised from £20.0.0 to £30.0.0 per ton.

Pumpkin prices rise.

Early in October pumpkins were well stocked and prices were firm at £9.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton. Subsequently, lighter receivals caused prices to rise progressively to £16.0.0 per ton by the close of the period. Supplies totalled 37 trucks only, one of which was from local centres, whereas in September 50 trucks from Queensland and 36 from New South Wales districts were available.

Small stocks of other root vegetables.

No Tasmanian root vogetables (other than potatoes) were received on the Sydney market during October and arrivals at Alexandria were restricted to 80 bags of swedes, 9 of carrots and one of parsnips. All sales were conducted by auction and realisations were: Swedes £13.10.0 to £15.0.0, inferior £2.10.0 to £4.15.0, Carrots £20.0.0 and Parsnips £17.0.0 per ton.

Forago arrivals generally smaller.

Arrivals of oaten chaff assumed more normal proportions and totalled 129 trucks, as against the 145 submitted during the previous month. Although stocks were smaller, prices generally were unaltered at the following levels:- Medium £4.15.0 to £5.10.0, Good to £7.10.0 and Choice to £8.15.0 per ton. A few lots were disposed of by auction, realising from £4.5.0 to £7.5.0.

Wheaten chaff also was lightly supplied, 88 trucks coming forward compared with 117 during September. This quantity was sufficient to meet buyers' requirements, but rates showed an improvement. Private treaty sales were reported at £4.0.0 to £6.15.0 per ton, while disposals by auction ranged from £4.10.0 to £5.15.0 per ton.

Lucerne chaff firmer.

The yarding of 56 trucks of lucerno chaff was 33 below that of the previous month. The standard of the offerings was better and a good demand, particularly for choice lots, prevailed throughout. Clearances were offected at the following improved rates:- Medium to Good £5.0.0 to £6.10.0, Choice £7.0.0 to £8.0.0, with a few lines at £8.10.0 per ton.

Receivals of lucorno hay from the Maitland district wore

a little heavier and aggregated 50 trucks; generally these were consigned direct to private firms at undisclosed rates. An average yarding - 102 trucks - of lucerne hay from other centres was on offer, but rates for the most part were lower, ranging from £4.0.0 to £7.15.0 per ton.

As the 34 bales of Hunter River lucorne hay shipped to Sussex Street were insufficient to meet the demand, prices rose from £3.10.0 at the commencement of the month to £5.10.0 at the conclusion.

Straw well stocked.

Although supplies of both Victorian and New South Wales straw were heavier, prices were firmly maintained at from £6.0.0 to £6.10.0 por ton.

The oaten hay received was not available for trading purposes, being consigned direct to private firms.

Grain in good request.

At Alexandria the quotation for yellow maize was steady at 4/- per bushel. In Sussex Street, however, the market showed an improvement and rates for yellow maize rose from 3/7 to 3/10 per bushel. No white maize was available for general trading at Alexandria, but a small quantity submitted in Sussex Street realised 3/10 per bushel.

Only 12 trucks of wheat were on offer. A satisfactory inquiry prevailed and private treaty sales were recorded at the unaltered quote of 4/6 per bushel. Inferior lines were disposed of by auction, bringing from 3/12d to 3/22d per bushel.

The yarding of oats aggregated 7 trucks; the price obtained by private treaty was not disclosed, but a few lines disposed of by auction brought 3/4 per bushel.

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"In peacetime the canning of herring was hardly more than a sideline in British Columbia's huge fishing industry. Since the beginning of the current conflict, however, there has been a phenomenal jump. In the 1939-40 canning season, roughly from October to March, the production was 415,466 cases. For the 1940-41 season it was 643,725 cases, the pack being valued at approximately 2,500,000 dollars. Previous to the war the annual average production was only around 30,000 cases. Due to war conditions, Great Britain had need for a new source of canned herring. Knowledge of the necessity set British Columbia herring producers working at top speed, and this explains the tremendous increase in the last couple of years". - Agricultural and Industrial Progress in Canada, July, 1941.

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IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING OCTOBER, 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	October, 1941 31s	t August, 1939
riter E	From To	
Wheat - Home Consumpt: Bulk - per bushel	ion: 3/11 (unchanged)	2/4
Flour - por ton	£10.4.2 (unchanged) (plus £2.8.10 tax)	£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax
Bran - per ton Pollard " "	£6.0.0 } unchanged	£4.5.0 £4.5.0
Eggs (hen) per dozen	1/2d 1/1d	1/-
Butter: Choice per cy First Quality "	vt. 161/2d) 156/6d) unchanged 151/10d)	161/2d 156/6d 151/10d
Loaf - per lb.	$11d$) unchanged to. $11\frac{5}{2}d$ 1/2d "	11d 10gd 1/2d
Pigs (Abattoir Sales)	October, 1941 29t	h August, 1939

Pigs (Abattoir Sales)	Octobe	r, 1941	29th Aug	just,	1939
Good to prime: per he	From	To	From	150-3	To
		10			
Porkers - extra light		- 36/6	31/6	-	40/6
- light	33/6	- 44/6	39/6	-	44/6
- meatum wgo.		- 52/6	43/6	-	57/6
- 116avy	50/6	- 56/6	50/6	-	54/6
Baconers	57/6	- 89/6	60/6	-	75/6
Backfatters	£3.10.0	- £7.15.0	£4.5.0	-	£8.10,

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

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

FRUIT.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	T(TALS packages
Queensland Victoria Tasmania Sth. Aust. West Aust.	15,484 16 - -	8,222 157 - -	11,408 ^x 75,745 73,677 17,174	96,387 243 - -	131,501 76,161 73,677 17,174
TOTALS:	15,500	8,379	178,004	96,630	298,513

x Also 10,827 trays Strawberries.

VEGETABLES.

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpl bags	kins tons	Cucs. & Chillies cases			LS tons
Queensland Victoria Tasmania Sth. Aust. West Aust.	55,876 76,788 958	233 18,350 - 1,049	5 187 9,164 -	2,980	1,152	434 - -	6,698 20,338 2,306 9,176	10,352 94,911 88,258	1,152
TOTALS:	133,624	19,632	9,356	3,140	1,152	434	38,518	204,704	1,152

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

FRUIT.

COLUMN TO THE REAL PROPERTY.	A TANK OF THE REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY AND ADDRESS OF THE	The same of the sa	and the second second	and the same of the same	The second second second	
STATE	Pincapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Fruit	Melons crates	Tomstoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland Victoria Tasmania Sth. Aust. West Aust.	34	9,005 152	10,030 ^x 64,773 51,437 12,128	- - - 21	68,073 7,191 - 402 545	113,495 72,150 51,437 12,530 545
TOTALS:	26,400	9,157	138,368	21	76,211	250,157

Also - x 3,119 trays Strawberries. 6 1,858 bags Apples.

VEGETABLES.

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pump		Cucs. & Chillies cases	Vegs	11	TOTAL pkges.	
Queensland Victoria Tasmania Sth. Aust. West Aust.	61,040 86,753 1,497	1,052 4,602 1,114	1 305 4,875	5,018	931 3 - - -	2,089	13,168 9,642 1,996 10,385 640	20	21,409 75,589 93,624 12,996 640	20
TOTALS:	149,371	6,768	5,181	5,018	9313	2,089	35,831	20	204,258	951%

B.41.10 STATE MARKETING BUREAU - DIVISION OF MARKETING - DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - NEW SOUTH WALES AVERAGE "SPREAD" BETWEEN COUNTRY RAILWAY SIDING PRICE FOR BULK WHEAT AND CASH PRICE FOR BREAD SOLD IN SHOPS WITHIN METROPOLITAN AREA OF SYDNEY. 41.1271 NOTE: - THE BULK WHEAT PRICE ADOPTED IS THAT CHARGED BY AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD FROM 1.9.40 TO 31.8.41 FOR MILLING WHEAT NOT EXPORTED EITHER PER 2LB. LOAF d AS GRAIN OR FLOUR . RETAIL CASH PRICE OVER COUNTER (PAID BY CONSUMER) 5 . 2 - RETAILER'S EXPENSES & PROFIT WHOLESALE PRICE DELIVERED AT SHOP 4.7 (PAID BY RETAILER.) BAKERS EXPENSES (INCLUDING COST OF OTHER INGREDIENTS) & PROFIT. COST OF FLOUR TO BAKER (INCLUSIVE OF TAX) 2 . 28 . 43 -FLOUR TAX SELLING PRICE OF FLOUR 1 . 85 COST OF BULK WHEAT TO MILLER (SYDNEY BASIS) 1 - 67 .18 MILLER'S EXPENSES & PROFIT. (BRAN & POLLARD EXTRA) . 3 - FREIGHT, SILO CHARGES, STORAGE & BROKERAGE PRICE OF BULK WHEAT AT COUNTRY SIDING 1 . 37 GROSS RETURN FOR BULK WHEAT AT COUNTRY SIDING 1 . 37 A. A. WATSON CHIEF, DIVISION OF MARKETING . Compiled J. W. 28.10.41. BASIC FORMULA ADOPTED :- 47 BUS. WHEAT = I TON FLOUR Compilation Checked C.K. Drawn E.H.S = 1330 2LB LOAVES OF BREAD. Graph Checked C.K. " + IRRESPECTIVE OF PREMIUM" WHEAT USED, WHICH, HOWEVER, WOULD ONLY SLIGHTLY AFFECT THE FIGURE SHOWN (-18.).