



**AgEcon** SEARCH  
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

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

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

**Help ensure our sustainability.**

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

[aesearch@umn.edu](mailto:aesearch@umn.edu)

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

604  
NEW SOUTH WALES  
STATE MARKETING BUREAU  
DIVISION OF MARKETING  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



MONTHLY  
MARKETING  
REVIEW



MARCH, 1942.

Vol. 8

No. 3

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

# MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

---

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

Released during the Second Week of each Month.

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

---

MARCH, 1942

Vol. 8

No. 3

## Table of Contents.

	Page
Highlights .. .. .	54
Western Statistical Division of New South Wales .. .. .	55
Profits and Prices Control - Evidence of Chief of Division of Marketing before Joint Parliamentary Committee (contd.)	60
Sheep, Cattle and Pig Sales at Homebush	62
Alexandria and Sussex Street Sales	69
Fruit and Vegetable Sales at City Markets	72
Commodity Prices in Sydney .. .. .	76
Fruit and Vegetables - Imports into New South Wales .. .. .	77
Graph - Cattle Yards at Homebush 1940 and 1941	78

-----

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

---



HIGHLIGHTS.

The Minister for Agriculture announced on 24th February, 1942, receipt of advice from the Minister for Commerce that arrangements had been made for gristing 1,000,000 bushels of wheat in New South Wales which, in addition to providing over 20,000 tons of flour, will allow of approximately 8,000 tons of bran and pollard being made available for the poultry and dairying industries. It was subsequently stated by the Minister for Commerce that a further substantial flour order would be placed with New South Wales mills which will permit of emergency flour stocks being built up and additional supplies of mill offals being made available.

The wholesale price of choicest butter was raised from 161/2 to 169/4 per cwt. and retail price from 1/7 to 1/8 per lb., following an announcement made on 5th March, 1942, by the Prices Commissioner of a comprehensive review of increased costs the dairying industry has been involved in since the outbreak of war. An increase of 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d per lb. on wholesale and retail prices of cheese other than cheese sold as proprietary lines was also authorised. Wholesale prices of cheese are now:- Loaf 1/0<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d, large 1/-; special brands 1/1 to 1/2 per lb.

The barley crop recently harvested reported to be an all-time record for Australia, more than 12,000,000 bushels being recorded.

Apple and Pear Marketing Board has opened its own selling floor in the City Municipal Markets, Sydney, and is operating a "docket" system, every buyer being issued with a docket in respect of each purchase made.

Broom millet crops suffer badly from drought. Production of fibre this season forecast at 7,000 cwts. compared with 23,424 cwt. in 1940-41.

Outturn of citrus fruits in New South Wales in 1942 expected to total 2,350,000 bushels or about 500,000 bushels below the average of the past ten years.



PHYSICAL FEATURES, PRODUCTION AND GENERAL  
DESCRIPTION OF THE WESTERN STATISTICAL  
DIVISION NO. 14 - NEW SOUTH WALES.

---

Introductory.

To complete the series of articles on the individual Statistical Divisions of New South Wales, attention is now given to the Western or Division No. 14, which constitutes the Western Plains and covers almost two-fifths of the area of the State.

Boundaries.

The Western Division is bounded on the east by the Plains section, comprising the North Central Plain, Central Plain and Riverina divisions. The boundary is the Barwon River from the Queensland border near Mungindi to where it is joined by Marra Creek, thence this Creek as far as Hermidan; then a surveyed line running mostly south until the Bogan River is met, whence the boundary follows this River northward almost to Tubba. From here, a surveyed line runs mainly south-west via Coolabah to Canboligo, whence it goes slightly east of south to strike the Lachlan River near Gunobang; from here, first the Lachlan then the Murrumbidgee River is the boundary line, until near Balranald, whence a surveyed line goes south and then west to meet the Murray River east of Koolonong (Victoria). The other boundaries of the Western Division are those between this section of New South Wales and the neighbouring States, viz.: Queensland (north), South Australia (west) and Victoria (south). The northern is via Latitude  $29^{\circ}$  south from slightly west of longitude  $149^{\circ}$  east to longitude  $141^{\circ}$  east. The western is longitude  $141^{\circ}$  east from latitude  $29^{\circ}$  south to the River Murray, which forms the southern boundary.

Area and holdings.

The Western Division for convenience of comparison and reference is usually divided into two sections - East of the Darling and West of the Darling. The former includes 22 Counties, 4 Municipalities, part of two other Municipalities (Balranald and Hillston) and the Wentworth Irrigation Area, which cover in all 35,248,757 acres. The West of the Darling portion comprises 25 Counties and 2 Municipalities, with an aggregate of 45,069,951 acres. The total area of the Division is 80,318,708 acres (or approximately 125,518 square miles), compared with 198,027,875 acres (309,427 square miles) for the whole of New South Wales. At 30th June, 1938, holdings of 1 acre and upwards numbered 1,906 and covered 19,585,369 acres of land alienated or virtually alienated and 58,212,934 acres of Crown Lands held under various types of leases. The area under crop amounted to 17,389 acres, new land prepared for ploughing was 4,304 acres, the area fallowed was 5,602 acres and 266 acres were under sown grasses. As these figures indicate this is essentially a pastoral district of

/extensive....



extensive holdings. Cultivation under a system of irrigation for the production of fruit and vegetables is carried on in the Wentworth Irrigation Areas (Curlwaa and Coomealla) and small areas of rich river or creek frontage land, generally in the vicinity of towns or homesteads. Certain mallee lands in the southern portion are said to be adapted for wheat growing without irrigation, but lack of rail facilities deters utilisation for this purpose.

Geographical, climatic, etc.

The country is nearly all flat, chiefly open plains, with red sandy soil, or black-soil plains along the watercourses. In the western portion, however, lie the Barrier Ranges and some undulating country, while some low ranges of hills occur around Wilcannia and some stony ridges are to be found in the north. The plains are not quite level, but rise very gently from the bed of the Darling River eastward towards the Great Dividing Range and westward towards the South Australian border. This is illustrated by the altitudes of the following stations, proceeding westward along that portion of the Sydney-Broken Hill Line railway line within the Western Division.

Gunzburg (on western border)	571 feet above sea level.
Booberoi .. .. .	542 " " " "
Matakana .. .. .	496 " " " "
Roto .. .. .	411 " " " "
Trida .. .. .	531 " " " "
Ivanhoe .. .. .	238 " " " "
Menindee (on River Darling)	204 " " " "
Box Tank .. .. .	255 " " " "
Horse Lake .. .. .	381 " " " "
Kinalung .. .. .	429 " " " "
Wahratta .. .. .	533 " " " "
The Gorge .. .. .	678 " " " "
Mt. Gipps .. .. .	773 " " " "
Broken Hill .. .. .	984 " " " "

The climate is very hot and dry. The mean summer temperature in the Bourke section is 80° to 83°, and as high as 120° has been registered. The winters are mild and occasionally cold, with an average temperature of 52° to 54° Fah. The annual average rainfall varies from 18.34 inches at Collarenebri in the extreme north-eastern portion (of which one-third falls in the period January to March) to as low as 7.29 inches at Milparinka in the north-west. One-third of the division receives less than 10 inches of rain per year and most of the remainder less than 15 inches. While the soils are uniformly fertile, the lack of rain and the high rate of evaporation - ranging up to 90 inches per year, greatly impair their productive capacity.

The district is lightly timbered with rather small trees. The principal timbers include Eucalypts such as gums, malloes, boxes and coolabah; acacias as mulga, gidgee and yarran; pine and /miscellaneous .....



miscellaneous species as Wilga (*Geijera parviflora*), Beefwood, (*Grevillea striata*), Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*), Leopard Wood (*Flindersia maculosa*) and Whitewood (*Atalaya hemiglauca*). Mulga and gidgee are considered the best for fencing posts, but belar, box, pine and beefwood are also good. Many of the scrubs are edible for stock purposes.

Population.

For the most part, the Western Division is occupied in large holdings on a long lease tenure and is very sparsely settled. Apart from the municipalities, the population is less than one person to every six square miles. According to the Government Statistician, the estimated population at 31st December, 1940, totalled 54,180, and those of the municipalities were:-

Balranald	..	1,290
Bourke	..	2,000
Brewarrina	..	890
Broken Hill	..	27,770
Cobar	..	1,830
Wentworth	..	860
Wilcannia	..	680

Broken Hill, with its famous silver-lead mines, thus contains one half of the people resident in the Division but its population fluctuates somewhat according to world market demand for its products. In 1911 the population of this city aggregated 30,972.

Rivers and Artesian bores.

As previously mentioned, lengths of various rivers constitute boundaries of the Western Division, notably of the Murray River in the south and of the Lachlan and Murrumbidgee Rivers in the south-east. The longest of all Australian rivers - the Darling, which measures 2,310 miles from its source to the sea - is of chief interest to this division. As the Barwon, it comprises portion of the north-eastern divisional boundary, and then traverses through the centre of it in a generally south-westerly direction to flow into the Murray at Wentworth. Various tributaries of the Darling - the Bogan, Bokhara, Culgoa and Warrego Rivers - run through the north eastern section.

A number of lakes is to be found along the course of the Darling River, viz.: Narran, above Brewarrina; Cawndilla, Menindee and Tandon near Menindee; and Gonyulka in the Wilcannia district. These lakes are natural depressions which are filled during floods by the overflow of the rivers. They vary with the rainfall, but serve a useful purpose in dry seasons by maintaining the flow of the rivers below the lakes for some months after the upper courses become dry.

Lake Victoria on the northern bank of the Murray River,  
/in ....



in the south-west corner of the subject division, is connected with the Murray by the Rufus River, and covers an area of 26,000 acres.

A considerable portion of the northern section of the division comes within the southern dip of the Great Australian Artesian Basin, and numerous artesian bores have been established to supply water for domestic and stock purposes. In the south, part of the Murray River Artesian Basin extends northward under the Western Division almost to Broken Hill.

Irrigation.

The principal irrigation areas within the division under review are those at Wentworth, on the Murray River, viz., the Coomealla and Curlwaa. The latter was commenced as a municipal venture in 1890, but was subsequently taken over by the Government and is now administered by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission. Coomealla has been opened up by the Commission. Water for irrigation is pumped from the Murray River.

The Curlwaa Area comprises 10,550 acres and is made up of:-

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Area (acres)</u>
Irrigated horticultural holdings occupied . . . .	171	2,115
Non-irrigated holdings occupied . . . .	90	7,026
Non-irrigated holdings vacant . . . .	6	124
Temporary occupancies . . . .	12	349
Balance comprising roads, channels, reserves, etc.	-	936
	<u>279</u>	<u>10,550</u>

As some of the holders of irrigated lots are also in possession of non-irrigated blocks, the number of lessees at 30th June, 1940, totalled only 144, whilst purchases held numbered 8.

Figures issued by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission show the approximate distribution of plantings at 30th June, 1940, as:-

	<u>Area Planted</u> acres.	<u>Area Bearing</u> acres
Citrus . . . .	593	525
Vines . . . .	707	678
Deciduous and Mixed . . . .	143	135
Fodder crops . . . .	32	32
	<u>1,475</u>	<u>1,370</u>

/whilst....



whilst the production and estimated net return for the 1939/40 year were given as:-

		<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Estimated Net Return.</u>
Dried vine fruits	....	1,268 tons	£38,680
" tree fruits	....	77½ "	4,978
Fresh fruit (deciduous)	....	16,240 cases	3,300
" " (walnuts and almonds)	....	930 lb.	
" " (citrus)	....	108,120 cases	29,213
Crops, home consumption, etc.		-	3,000
			<u>£89,071</u>

According to the Annual Report of the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission, the Coomealla Irrigation Area comprises about 35,450 acres, of which 4,185 acres have been sub-divided into irrigation farms, etc. The irrigated holdings at 30th June, 1940, numbered 156, of which 146 were purchases and 10 perpetual leases, and aggregated 2,956 acres. Of the undeveloped part, 31,265 acres had been leased for grazing. The approximate planted areas and estimated production of fruits for 1939/40 were:-

	<u>Area Bearing Acres</u>	<u>Non- Bearing Acres</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Estimated Net Value including Exchange.</u>
Sultanas ...	1,894	76	4,361 tons	£143,913
Currants ...	387	1	902 "	21,253
Other Vinos ...	53	2	Dry 98 "	3,136
			Fresh 37 "	222
			" 200 cases	40
Mixed and Deciduous	7	-	Dry 2 tons	176
			Fresh 375 "	90
Citrus ...	211	10	42,903 cases	17,000
	<u>2,552</u>	<u>89</u>		<u>£185,830</u>

The livestock on these irrigation areas aggregated 356 horses; 92 dairy cattle, 178 other cattle, 636 sheep and 22 pigs. The non-irrigated leases at Coomealla were utilised for grazing purposes, principally sheep.

It is of interest to mention that small areas are irrigated privately at other points, notably at Menindee (tomatoes and vegetable seed production) and at Pera Bore, outside of Bourke (for citrus), bore water being used in the latter instance.

(To be continued)

-----000000-----



EVIDENCE OF CHIEF OF DIVISION OF MARKETING BEFORE  
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PROFITS AND PRICES  
CONTROL.

---

In the February, 1942, issue of the Monthly Marketing Review extracts were published from evidence given by A.A. Watson, Esq., Chief of Division of Marketing, Department of Agriculture, New South Wales, before the Commonwealth Parliamentary Joint Committee of Inquiry into Control of Profits, on 9th December, 1941. Hereunder are additional extracts from Mr. Watson's evidence having relation to the Marketing and Distribution Conference held in Sydney in March, 1941.

"I also submit copy of report which has just become available of Marketing and Distribution Conference held in Sydney in March last and graph showing sources of prices supplied by the State Marketing Bureau for broadcasting from New South Wales 'A' class and regional stations.

The purpose of the Marketing and Distribution Conference is summarised in the first two paragraphs of the introductory or foreword to its proceedings. These read as follow :-

'Food distribution may conveniently be divided into three stages, where primary products are concerned. First, the producer plays his part in the process of marketing, then the wholesaler and finally the retailer. In overwhelming degree, the task of retail distribution, so far as meats, fish, fruits and vegetables are concerned, is undertaken by and left entirely to the resources, judgment and adaptability of individual retailers.

It was the business of the Conference whose transactions are set forth herein to examine questions of marketing and food distribution arising in New South Wales and referred to it by the Government and relevant matters. Among these were certain questions, or phases of wholesale selling, bearing directly upon the retailing stage. Such questions as the methods of wholesale selling to retailers and the conditions under which retailers make their purchases were regarded as having too close a connection with retailing to be excluded from consideration at a conference of the sort.'

The following extracts from the same foreword may also be of interest:

'It is doubtful, however, if sufficient public attention has yet been directed to the retail stage of marketing. It is not suggested that this has been due to any lack of appreciation of the importance of retail. Nor is it overlooked that the various organisations representing sellers, notably those

/ comprising.....



comprising retailers, have concerned themselves with what occurs after the wholesale stage of selling has been passed. Notwithstanding this concern, there is justification for the view that far more remains to be done in the way of systematic consideration of retail distribution of primary products in this State than has hitherto been attempted.

The convening of this conference, symptomatic of a widening realisation of the need for the utmost efficiency in and a lessening of the costs of distribution of the people's food, may come to be recognised as a significant attempt to substitute planned for haphazard methods of distribution. Thereby, the hope is engendered that we shall be enabled as a community to set about eliminating wasteful or extravagant procedures and to hold in effective check all unnecessary factors in trading which find their reflex in the contribution they make to high costs of living. Reform will not be consummated in a day, or in a year, but we can "press on to the mark" and the sooner we commence doing this effectively the better the nation will be served.'

Certain passages in the address of the then Minister for Agriculture at the opening of the Conference will, I think, be of interest to this Parliamentary Committee as illustrating significant trends of thought in this State. I quote one of them:-

'With the average return to the producer low, the average price paid by the consumer high and the average retailer making only a bare livelihood, we have a position which challenges commonsense. Such a position, so far as it is not unavoidably due to war conditions, should either be mended or ended.'

There are also some very interesting and significant passages in the reports of the Committees of the Marketing and Distribution Conference. The Conference dealt with the following commodities:-

1. Meat (beef, mutton, lamb and pig products).
2. Meat (table poultry)
3. Fish.
4. Fruits and Vegetables.

The personnel of this Marketing and Distribution Conference made it a highly representative body. It comprised representatives of growers', fishermen's, consumers', wholesalers' and retailers' organisations. Growers were represented through well-known and long-established bodies, such as the Graziers' Association, the Farmers' and Settlers' Association, the Primary Producers' Union, the Poultry Farmers' Association, the Vegetable Growers' Association, the Fruitgrowers' Federation, the Agricultural Bureau and others: fishermen by their various organisations. Consumers were represented by the Housewives' Association, Trade Unions, Friendly Societies,

/Local ....



Local Government Association and others. Both wholesalers and retailers of each of the commodities covered by the Conference were fully and ably represented. Each of the seven State Departments concerned had their representatives at the Conference which was further strengthened by delegates from the University of Sydney, the British Medical Association, the Retail Traders' Association, the Bureau of Modern Merchandising and the Table Poultry Council.

Altogether 78 resolutions were carried by the Marketing and Distribution Conference, all of which have had and numbers of which continue to receive requisite attention. The reports of each of the Committees and the decisions of Conference are clearly set forth in the journal, copy of which I have submitted. I also invite attention to the reports, schedules, graphs and diagrams in Part II of the Journal representing matter specially compiled for the information of the delegates and including report by myself and another by Mr. T.C. Roughley and myself, the former dealing with fruits and vegetables and the latter with fish. "

-----oooOooo-----

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

DECREASE IN SHEEP AND CATTLE YARDINGS BUT SUBSTANTIAL PIG PENNINGS.

Reduced cattle consignments.

Fairly substantial consignments of cattle continued to arrive at Homebush during the first half of February, 1942, but later truckings showed a falling-off. This was due principally to the beneficial rain received over a large area in the north-east section of the State and at scattered centres elsewhere. As the result of lighter arrivals towards the close of the period the monthly aggregate, 15,061 head, was some 3,000 head less than that for January, 1942. The number of cattle auctioned in the store section was relatively high and totalled 3,035. Although the number auctioned during February showed a reduction it was considerably larger than that of the corresponding period of 1941. Quality generally continued to be very disappointing and on the final sale day it was the poorest seen for some time. Pastoral conditions are reported to be very good about the northern border but supplies from these centres are generally slaughtered at country abattoirs before consignment to Sydney. Conditions elsewhere were principally very unsatisfactory but some improvement should be expected in parts of the State as the result of the rains which fell about the middle of the month.

High level of values for bullocks.

Truckings of bullocks were mainly light, although on several days this class of beast made a very fair showing. On /these ....



these occasions medium and heavy weight descriptions were well represented; generally, however, the pennings comprised arrivals which would dress less than 700 lb. Quality ranged chiefly from fair to good trade, although prime drafts were not infrequently noticed. Values showed a further improvement and high rates were maintained throughout the month. On the average prime light bullocks were worth to 51/- per 100 lb. dressed weight. At the close, quotations generally for good to prime were:- Heavy 44/- to 47/-, Medium 47/- to 50/-, Light 48/- to 52/- per 100 lb. These values were the highest since the peak levels of recent years which were reached during January, 1941.

#### Steers, chiefly of fair trade quality.

Steers as usual were well represented throughout the month and many of the drafts were of attractive appearance. For the most part, however, they were only of fair trade quality and on some occasions the percentage of prime beasts was small. A very keen request was in evidence, especially for prime lightweights, and values were higher than those prevailing in January. On the first sale day prime lightweights were worth the equivalent of 55/- per 100 lb., while at the close realisations had risen to 59/- per 100 lb.

#### Poor quality of cows.

Except on odd sale days cows made a very poor showing from a quality standpoint. Supplies were moderate but plain descriptions greatly predominated. Good trade lines were obtainable chiefly in odd lots. On the second sale day, there was a very fair showing of prime heavy drafts. Values were steady and in common with other classes of beef showed a fairly substantial increase. For the most part both light and heavy descriptions were worth to 45/- per 100 lb., while on the final sale day prime lightweights were quoted at 46/- per 100 lb.

#### Limited supplies of heifers.

Heifers were mostly in short supply, especially prime light descriptions which met a very keen demand. For the greater part of the period quotations for good to prime covering all grades of weight ranged from 45/- to 54/- per 100 lb., while closing rates for prime lightweights were 57/- per 100 lb.

#### Very high prices for vealers.

Consignments of vealers were variable, being very light at times but moderate on other occasions. All grades of weight were represented and on some sale days many prime lines were submitted. For the most part, however, fair trade sorts predominated. High rates were maintained during the first half of the period while on the last three sale days values advanced progressively until they had reached the highest level for a considerable /period....



period, probably since the last war. On this occasion quotations for good to prime ranged from 59/- to 70/- per 100 lb.

Cattle values at high level.

Cattle values during February reached very high levels, probably too high for the industry generally. Some producers, of course, were fortunate but it should be remembered that the bulk of the stock submitted was of inferior quality and was sold at prices well below those obtaining for quality beasts. The abnormally high rates were not maintained during early March owing probably to such factors as hot weather, heavy supplies of chilled beef and the export position.

Sharp drop in sheep and lamb numbers.

There was a marked falling-off in the number of sheep and lambs marketed during February when the aggregate penning amounted to 238,701 head or about 159,000 head less than was offered during the previous month. Some relief from the prevailing dry conditions was afforded in a number of centres by beneficial falls of rain but in others the protracted dry spell continues. In the more favoured centres graziers will now be able to hold stock for fattening while in other districts there appears to be a shortage of good fat stock. It is evident from the small numbers offering that rain as well as food and water shortages largely contributed to the falling off in supplies.

Quality sheep fairly scarce.

The number of wethers and ewes available was 140,371 head, representing a decline of about 60,000 on last month's total. Medium to fair trade sheep were again numerous, with plain aged descriptions also fairly well supplied. Good light trade sheep were in comparatively short supply and although sheep of suitable trade weight, from 36 to 44 lb. dressed, were numerous, they lacked the necessary quality to be regarded as prime. Heavy wethers of from 50 lb. dressed upwards were also in limited supply, nevertheless some very attractive lots of this class of mutton was offered. Ewes were not so numerous as in the past but the offerings included quite a few prime heavy sorts.

Strong market for grown sheep.

For the most part the market for good to prime wethers and ewes was consistently good and average realisations were substantially higher than those obtaining during January. Some improvement was also evident in the returns for medium to plain descriptions, but not to such an extent as that for the better classes. Opening auctions in February saw good wethers and ewes from 1/- to 2/- per head dearer but for the three following auctions values did not vary appreciably. Subsequently, demand improved due principally to the reduced numbers of good quality /offering....



offering and values advanced still further, most good quality sheep showing an improvement of from 3/- to 4/- per head. Medium to plain sheep showed a downward trend in prices early in the month but subsequently prices improved and although some decline was noticeable towards the end of February the average realisations throughout were better for this class of mutton than in January. Some of the actual sales recorded are given hereunder:-

At opening sales.

Good Trade	44 lb.	wethers	(skin 2/-)	made	13/7	each	or	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	per lb.
" Heavy	62 lb.	"	( " 3/6)	"	20/1	"	"	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	" "
" Trade	44 lb.	ewes	( " 2/-)	"	11/11	"	"	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	" "

During second week.

Good Heavy	52 lb.	wethers	(skin 2/6)	made	15/6	each	or	3d	per lb.
" Trade	38 lb.	ewes	( " 1/3)	"	9/1	"	"	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	" "
" Heavy	54 lb.	"	( " 5/-)	"	15/6	"	"	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d	" "

During third week.

Good Trade	42 lb.	wethers	(skin 3/6)	made	17/-	each	or	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d	per lb.
" Heavy	54 lb.	"	( " 4/-)	"	18/7	"	"	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	" "
" Trade	44 lb.	ewes	( " 3/3)	"	14/11	"	"	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	" "
" Heavy	56 lb.	"	( " 4/6)	"	17/7	"	"	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d	" "

During fourth week.

Good Trade	46 lb.	wethers	(skin 3/-)	made	20/-	each	or	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	per lb.
" Heavy	50 lb.	"	( " 5/-)	"	22/2	"	"	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d	" "
" Trade	40 lb.	ewes	( " 3/6)	"	15/4	"	"	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	" "

Sharp rise in mutton prices.

The strong demand which prevailed throughout February for good to prime sheep resulted in a sharp rise in mutton prices, the increase on wether mutton approximating 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. and that on ewe mutton 1d per lb. Good light wether mutton sold at from 3d to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb., according to weight and finish, while heavy wethers cost from 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. Most of the light wethers, however, sold at from 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and heavy from 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d to 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. Good light trade ewes made up to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. and heavy to 3d per lb., but mostly cost operators from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 2d to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb., respectively. Medium to plain mutton was secured at relatively lower levels.

Good quality wethers sold to 22/- per head, while in some cases prime heavy crossbreds made as much as 27/- each. Mostly, however, good wethers ranged in price from 13/- to 20/- each, according to weight. At times, prime heavy ewes sold at from 20/- to 23/- per head but the general run of good quality realised from 10/- to 18/- each. Plain sheep were mostly disposed

/of ....



of at from 5/- to 9/- per head.

Light supplies of lambs

The number of lambs available showed a considerable decline when compared with January's offering of 191,977 head. During February the total number available was only 98,330 or a little better than half of the previous month's supply. The smallest daily penning was 8,954 head, while the largest number received was 15,912.

Good quality lambs scarce.

The number of good to prime lambs available was relatively small, while suckers were also in comparatively light supply. Medium to plain descriptions represented a fairly large proportion of the available supplies; these dressed from 24 lb. to 32 lb. The size of the lambs marketed were such that if in prime condition weights would have been considerably higher. Hoggets continued to be scarce but some nice quality lots were noticed. Several drafts of good medium to heavy weight lambs ranging from 34 lb. upward were offered but the prime light lamb from 26 lb. to 32 lb. was often very difficult to secure.

Strong market for lambs.

The appreciable decline in the numbers of lambs available had a stimulating effect on values, the demand at most times being exceptionally strong, although towards the end of the month buyers secured lambs at a much lower figure than previously obtaining. At the opening sales values rose sharply, most classes being from 2/- to 3/- per head dearer. Over the next few sales, however, rates did not vary materially for good quality but the medium to plain sorts were a little cheaper. About the middle of the month a fairly small yarding was responsible for a further increase in values of about 2/- per head and in some instances the increase was as much as 3/- per head. A further improvement was manifest on the following sale day, rates for good suckers and lambs again advancing by 1/- per head. The peak of the period was reached on the second last sale of the month when prices rose another 1/- so that the total advances experienced were from 6/- to 8/- per head. On the last sale in February supplies of lambs materially increased and the prevailing demand was not so strong as during the period of lighter supplies. In consequence the market for lambs was considerably cheaper, rates declining by from 2/- to 3/- per head. Allowing for the previous fluctuations in prices throughout closing values for lamb were from 2/- to 5/- per head higher than those ruling at the end of January.

Some of the actual sales which occurred are recorded below:-

/At ....



At opening sales.

Good Trade	34 lb.	suckers (skin 3/9)	made	23/10	each	or	7d	per lb.
"	"	30 lb.	" ( " 3/6)	"	21/10	"	7½d	" "
"	"	33 lb.	lambs ( " 4/-)	"	20/11	"	6d	" "

During second week.

Good Heavy	44 lb.	lambs (skin 4/6)	made	23/10	each	or	5½d	per lb.
" Trade	32 lb.	suckers ( " 3/9)	"	22/11	"	"	7d	" "

During third week.

Good Trade	32 lb.	suckers (skin 3/9)	made	24/10	each	or	8d	per lb.
" Heavy	38 lb.	" ( " 4/6)	"	27/10	"	"	7¾d	" "
" Trade	30 lb.	" ( " 3/-)	"	23/6	"	"	8½d	" "

At closing auctions.

Good Trade	30 lb.	suckers (shorn) (skin 1/-)	made	22/4	each	or	8d	per lb.
Good Trade	36 lb.	lambs (skin 4/6)	made	24/10	each	or	6¾d	per lb.

High prices for good lambs.

The strong demand which characterised the lamb market for the greater part of February resulted in some very satisfactory realisations, peak prices being substantially higher than those obtaining in January. In some instances lines of prime heavy crossbred lambs made as much as 30/- per head and suckers to 27/- but generally prices for good lambs and suckers ranged from 20/- to 26/- with medium to plain lines ranging from 10/- to 18/- per head.

Some indication of the strong request for prime light suckers of the Downs type is gained when it is noted that this class of lamb cost as much as 8½d per lb., while frequently prices ranged from 8d to 8½d per lb. For the most part, however, good trade suckers were bought from 6d to 7½d per lb., depending on condition and finish. Heavy old lambs cost from 5½d to 6½d and light 5½d to 7½d with perhaps the largest percentage making from 5½d to 5¾d and 5¾d to 6½d per lb., respectively.

With the prospect of increased numbers being marketed prices in the near future may be expected to be substantially lower.

Increased arrivals of pigs.

Consignments of pigs to Homebush during February, 1942, although most irregular, were very substantial and showed an increase on January receipts. The number submitted for auction was 10,330 head, including 6,184 received by rail, while 3,793 were disposed of by private treaty.

/Higher ....



Higher prices for porkers.

Porkers, as usual, comprised the bulk of the offerings and the pinnings included all weights, although medium and heavy weights predominated. Quality was variable and while a noticeable proportion of the supplies was in store condition or of medium grade, good trade pigs made a satisfactory showing. A steady market prevailed early in the period, notwithstanding the heavy supplies, and prices were not materially altered. Light porkers dressing 60 lb. sold to 37/6 per head, while 54/6 was obtained for prime heavyweights. On the second sale day of the month a very substantial rise in values occurred, light porkers realising to 42/6 and heavy to 61/6, the highest rates recorded for some time. These enhanced prices were maintained during the remainder of the period. In odd instances, prime porkers sold at prices in excess of those quoted while the afternoon market was not always maintained at the morning's level.

Improved prices for baconers.

Baconers were well represented, especially during the first half of the period. All weights were supplied and quality ranged chiefly from fair to good trade. The number of prime baconers forward on one or two occasions was limited. The high rates prevailing at the close of January were not quite maintained during early February and heavy baconers sold to 96/6 per head. At the following auctions, however, the market rose considerably and prices exceeded the peak level of January. Heavy baconers brought as high as 110/6 per head, while prime light descriptions dressing from 100 to 130 lb. were worth the equivalent of 9d per lb. On the final sale day values declined by from 5/- to 10/- per head.

Fluctuating market for backfatters.

Following the dearer market for backfatters on the last sale day of January, the supply at the opening auctions of the period was the largest for some time and medium weights of good trade quality were well represented. Values, however, were not maintained, especially during the afternoon auctions. Best lightweights on this occasion were worth 5½d per lb. At the two subsequent auctions, when consignments were lighter, prices rose very considerably, prime lightweights selling at the higher rate of 6½d per lb., while good to prime heavy backfatters dressing more than 350 lb. were quoted at 5½d to 6d per lb. As in the case of baconers, the market was lower at closing, values declining by from 15/- to 20/- per head.

General.

Prices during February for the most part reached very satisfactory levels from the producers' viewpoint. They were also much in advance of those ruling during February, 1941.



SALES IN SUSSEX STREET  
AND AT  
ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD.

Exceptionally light stocks of local potatoes.

Arrivals of local potatoes at Alexandria were particularly small and amounted to only 677 bags, representing a decline of almost 6,000 bags on the previous month's light yarding. All receipts comprised "new" tubers which cleared on arrival at the maximum rate of £17.0.0 per ton.

In addition to local supplies, 800 bags of Victorian Snowflakes, which had been held in cold storage at Batlow, were received. Quality was only moderate and a large proportion was withheld on account of second growth. Sales were effected by private treaty at £15.0.0 per ton, with a few inferior lines from £8.0.0.

Tasmanian potatoes were fairly heavily stocked, 66,519 bags being received. However, a large proportion was requisitioned by the Federal authorities and thus was not available for the wholesale trade. During the first three weeks, sales of both Brownells and Bismarcks were made at £17 per ton but with the rise in maximum rates, sales were made at £17.5.0 per ton. This rise of 5/- per ton was sanctioned as freight rates had been increased.

Small supply of carrots and swedes.

Only small stocks of root vegetables from New South Wales sources were railed to Alexandria, receipts consisting of 75 bags of swedes which were disposed of at undisclosed rates.

Shipments of Tasmanian swedes to Sussex Street totalled 2,339 bags compared with 617 during the previous week. All clearances were made by private treaty at £20.0.0 per ton. Carrots were very scarce, arrivals aggregating 296 bags, which were insufficient for buyers' needs. Private treaty quotations were unchanged throughout the month at £24.0.0 per ton.

Heavy arrivals of onions.

A total of 17,962 bags of onions was received at Alexandria during February; this yarding consisted of 17,739 bags from Victoria and 223 from New South Wales centres. The bulk of the Victorian offering was of brown table lots which sold mainly at £14.10.0 with a few sales at £14.5.0 and £14.15.0 per ton. The white table variety realised £20.0.0 per ton. No price was recorded for the local consignments.

In Sussex Street, 9,000 bags were received by sea from Victoria. Trading was brisk and clearances were effected at £14.10.0 per ton for brown, with white lots £18.0.0.

/High....



High rates for pumpkins.

Arrivals of pumpkins at Alexandria declined sharply. No supplies were received from Queensland as against 18 trucks during the previous month. Local growers forwarded 3 trucks and small consignments amounting to 243 bags. Demand was keen and disposals were made at £42 per ton with occasional special lines to £43.

Receivals in Sussex Street from North Coast growing centres totalled 190 bags which cleared readily at £41 to £42 per ton.

Weaker market for oaten chaff.

An average yarding of 137 trucks of oaten chaff was received and for the first half of the period rates were maintained at £7.10.0 to £8.0.0 per ton. Subsequently, few buyers operated and the market had an easier tendency, sales being effected mainly at £7.0.0 to £7.10.0 per ton. Disposals by auction were made at £7.10.0 to £7.15.0 per ton.

The 44 trucks of wheaten chaff which came to hand represented an increase of 9 trucks on the previous month's yarding. Quality was chiefly good and demand was keen, no difficulty being experienced in effecting clearances at the generally unaltered rates of £7.0.0 to £7.5.0 for medium to good with choice to £7.15.0. A few special lots from the Wagga district sold at higher rates.

Only one truck of mixed oaten and wheaten chaff was railed to Alexandria and this realised £8.0.0 per ton.

Lucerne chaff heavily stocked.

Consignments of lucerne chaff railed to Alexandria during the first half of the period were of normal proportions and totalled 35 trucks. Quality generally was good but a few medium and lower grade lots were received. Request was brisk and clearances were effected at £7.0.0 to £8.10.0 for medium to good with prime to £10.0.0 and choice to £11.0.0; few special lines realised to £11.5.0 per ton. Subsequent truckings amounted to 77 trucks. This large quantity contained many inferior lines and portion of the arrivals was carried over from day to day. The carryover stocks and the poor quality of some of the offerings caused rates to decline sharply and quotations varied from £5.10.0 to £8.10.0 with a few choice lines to £9.10.0. Some lines were disposed of by auction at £7.10.0 to £8.0.0 per ton.

/Lucerne....



Lucerne hay market firm.

Maitland lucerne hay railed to Alexandria totalled 35 trucks. A large percentage of these supplies was not offered for sale but was consigned direct to private firms. The lines submitted for general trading cleared well at £7.0.0 to £7.15.0 per ton. Hay from other centres was slightly stocked, only a small yarding of 67 trucks being on offer. For the first week sales were made at firm rates but as stocks became smaller buyers were forced to pay higher prices to secure supplies. Disposals were made throughout the period at £6.0.0 for inferior lots, with medium to good £7.0.0 to £8.10.0, choice £9.5.0 to £10.0.0, and special lots from the Mudgee district £11.0.0 per ton.

Straw sells steadily.

Receivals of straw amounted to 71 trucks, 64 coming from New South Wales sources and 7 from Victoria. All the Victorian straw comprised choice oaten, which sold at £6.10.0 per ton. The standard of the local offering varied; wheaten realised £4.10.0 to £5.10.0, while oaten sold to £6.10.0 per ton.

A small proportion of the 51 trucks of oaten chaff received was sold at £6.0.0 to £8.10.0 per ton but the remainder was consigned direct to private firms and rates were not disclosed.

Lower rates for maize.

New South Wales growers forwarded 2,318 bags of yellow maize to Alexandria, while arrivals from Queensland totalled 135 bags of yellow. The Queensland consignment was not offered for sale but the local maize was in request at 5/4 to 5/7 per bushel, with sales by auction at 5/6 to 5/6½. In Sussex Street, small supplies of yellow maize from the Northern Rivers sold at 5/4 per bushel.

Wheat sells well.

Although the 37 trucks of wheat on offer represented an increase of 10 on the previous month's yarding, prices showed an improvement as both demand and quality were better. Clearances were effected privately at 4/2 to 4/3 per bushel, with auction sales at 3/6 to 3/11.

Oats were lightly stocked, 33 trucks being received. Quality generally was high, but, as few buyers were present, rates were lower at 2/8 to 3/4 per bushel by auction, with a few private treaty sales at 3/1.

B. O'C.



FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IN LIGHT SUPPLY  
AT THE  
CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Dessert apples again scarce.

There was a comparative scarcity of red dessert apples during the month but cooking varieties were fairly plentiful. Of the dessert apples McIntosh Red and Gravenstein comprised the bulk of supplies and both kinds realised high prices. Small quantities of Jonathans were available towards the close of February and buyers paid up to 28/- per bushel.

A small shipment, comprising mainly Worcester Pearmain, Alfriston and Alexander, arrived from Tasmania about the 24th February. Most of the Worcester Pearmains were purchased for army requirements and stocks on the market were sold at prices considerably above those obtained for this variety in previous years.

Of the cookers, Granny Smiths predominated and owing to the accumulation of supplies rates declined by 6/- per case to 12/- per bushel for selected sizes.

Moderate supplies of pears - firm demand.

Trading in pears was confined principally to Williams, local and Victorian packs being on offer. The quantities available were only moderate and firm, green fruit was in request at all times at prices which varied only slightly.

The few Clapp's Favourite available sold at from 12/- to 13/- per bushel.

Orange prices at high levels.

Only small quantities of coastal Valencia oranges were received and it would appear that the season for main crop fruit is ending much earlier than usual. Probably the extremely adverse weather experienced over a long period forced growers to harvest their crops. Another contributing factor would be the very satisfactory prices ruling obviating any necessity for allowing the fruit to remain on the trees until late in the season. Some second-crop oranges were received and although this class of fruit ordinarily sells cheaply the reverse was the case during the month when high prices were paid.

Consignments from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas also were light and all lines met ready sale at rates above those paid for coastal packs.

/Steady....



Steady market for peaches.

Marketing of the coastal peach crop was completed but fairly heavy supplies were received from inland areas and also from Victoria. Generally satisfactory demand ruled, the J.H.Hale variety from the Bathurst district being a very good seller. Prices were fairly steady.

Victorian white-flesh peaches sold well but in a number of instances yellow varieties opened up in a wasty condition and low prices had to be accepted to enable clearances to be effected.

Some very attractive packs of nectarines from inland centres were on offer and there was a demand for them. Fairly large quantities of medium to small fruit were also forward but in many instances breakdown occurred soon after receipt with the result that disposals had to be made at low prices.

Heavier supplies of grapes - Values decline.

Supplies of grapes showed a gradual increase during the month with a consequent decline in values. Little difficulty was experienced in selling choice lines but small fruit and wet packs proved hard to clear, even at very low prices.

Reduced quantities of bananas were received following the occurrence of heavy rains in growing areas and high prices ruled during the greater part of the month. The market weakened subsequently, values receding by about 1/- per case.

Heavy pineapple stocks.

Consignments of pineapples were very heavy, the bi-weekly total on one occasion exceeding 11,000 cases. Demand was only moderate, as much "blister" was apparent, while small sizes, which comprised a large percentage of supplies, militated against demand. Prices generally ranged from 6/- to 10/- per case, although up to 12/- was obtained for special packs. At closing, however, rates weakened to range from 5/- to 9/-.

The market for passionfruit was steady throughout at prices ranging to 13/- per half-case. With supplies showing a falling-off it is expected that values will improve at an early date.

Lemons realise high prices.

There was a scarcity of lemons during the first fortnight and values advanced sharply, up to 30/- per bushel being paid for choice, locally-grown fruit. The attractive prices offering induced some growers to harvest crops earlier than usual and supplies increased; nevertheless, the quantities forwarded were not sufficient to bring about any marked fall in values. /Small....



Small consignments of Queensland lemons came to hand late in February. This fruit was of pleasing appearance and sold from 26/- to 33/- per bushel. A small parcel of American lemons was also available and crates containing one and a third bushels sold up to 60/-.

Choice peas realise abnormally high prices.

During the first two weeks of February consignments of peas showed a marked falling off and less than 300 bags were forward on one occasion. Values reached high levels, choice lines selling to 30/- per bushel. Some increase in the quantities received was apparent subsequently and rates were easier. During the closing week, however, the volume of consignments again declined with a resultant return to high prices for choice descriptions. Northern Tableland supplies, which were mostly of good to choice quality during the early part of the month later suffered considerable damage from rain and many lots were sold at as low as 12/- per bushel.

Bean market irregular.

The opening market for beans was very firm, as much as 25/- per bushel being paid for choice locals. The receipt, however, of large quantities of up to 2,000 bags per day from Victoria and the South Coast of this State brought about a sharp decline in rates, low grade lines selling from 3/- per bushel. Supplies continued to be heavy until towards the close of the month when reduced consignments were received from Victoria; this had the effect of bringing about a firmer tone and values generally showed an upward trend.

Maximum prices fixed for tomatoes.

Supplies of locally grown tomatoes gradually declined but fairly large quantities were received from Victoria until about the 14th February when the ban on disposals other than to canneries in that State prevented further consignments to the Sydney market. The fixing of a maximum rate of 10/- per half-case for all tomatoes offered for sale resulted in prompt clearances of the small quantities available and retailers experienced difficulty in securing sufficient for requirements. Consignments from Queensland were heavier towards the close of February and although these comprised mainly green lots, demand was keen and stocks cleared quickly.

Cabbages in light supply.

Rates for cabbages were well maintained, choice selling to 24/- per dozen while up to 28/- and even more was paid at times /for .....



for selected "heads". The bulk of the supplies on offer was purchased by contractors for army and shipping needs, thereby leaving only relatively small quantities to be disposed of to the retail trade. While satisfactory demand ruled for good quality lines at firm prices low grade descriptions were difficult to clear at times at prices ranging from 1/6d per dozen.

Dry conditions affect lettuce stocks.

Dry conditions affected the quality of lettuce; only light supplies of choice heads were included in the daily offerings and the market showed an upward tendency prior to closing.

Firm market for bunched vegetables.

Good request was experienced for all bunched lines. Spinach, in particular, was well supported and at times realised very high prices. Rates for beetroot, carrots and parsnips were very firm.

R.M.

-----00000000-----

CONTRACT PRICES FOR VEGETABLES  
PRODUCED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY AND DEVELOPMENT.

It has been announced that the following are the prices in force at 12th March, 1942, in respect of contracts made by producers for the growing of vegetables for the Department of Supply and Development:-

Swedes	.....	£5.10. 0	per ton
Silver Beet	...	£10. 0. 0	" "
Beetroot	.....	£9.10. 0	" "
Parsnips	.....	£11. 0. 0	" "
Cabbage	.....	£10. 0. 0	" "
White Turnips		£7. 0. 0	" "
Carrots	.....	£11. 0. 0	" "

Prices are free on rail or boat at country centres.

-----00000000-----







RETURN OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IMPORTED INTO NEW SOUTH WALES  
BY LAND AND SEA - JANUARY, 1942.

F R U I T.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	Melons crates	TOTALS packages
Queensland	29,456	4,132	30,541	2,888	991	68,008
Victoria	14	107	29,954	40,542	-	70,617
Tasmania	-	-	454	-	-	454
Sth. Aust.	-	-	1,974	-	-	1,974
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	29,470	4,239	62,923	43,430	991	141,053

V E G E T A B L E S.

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins bags	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkgs.	TOTALS packages
Queensland	184	153	-	17,408	209	1,121	19,075
Victoria	35,702	35,500	-	155	-	1,780	73,137
Tasmania	80,460	-	3,145	-	-	49	83,654
Sth. Aust.	897	3,047	-	-	-	1,556	5,500
West Aust.	4,246 X	40	-	-	-	200	4,486
TOTALS:	121,489	38,740	3,145	17,563	209	4,706	185,852

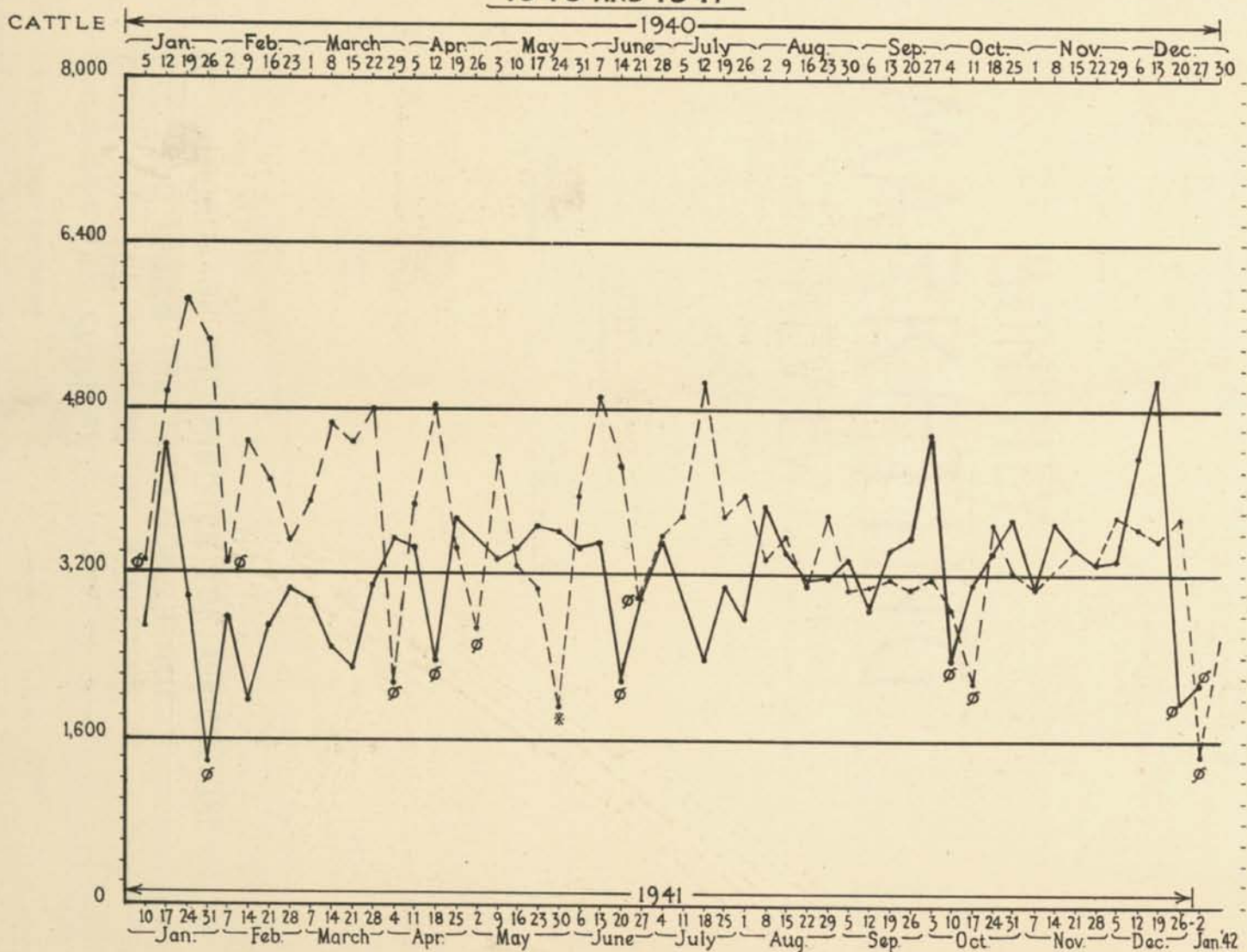
X Also 100 cases potatoes.



S. 42-1

# CATTLE

## COMPARISON OF WEEKLY YARDINGS AT HOMEBUSH SALEYARDS 1940 AND 1941



NOTES:- Φ indicates week in which only one sale day was held (due to the intervention of a public holiday)  
\* " coal strike.

A. A. WATSON,  
Chief, Division of Marketing

Compiled ..... G.C.  
Compl'n. Checked A.O.C.  
Drawn ..... E.H.S. 18-2-42  
Graph Checked G.C.

78