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NEW SOUTH WALES

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STATE MARKETING BUREAU  
DIVISION OF MARKETING  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

MAY, 1942

Vol. 8

No. 5

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE  
PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE  
CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING,  
S Y D N E Y.

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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MAY, 1942.

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H I G H L I G H T S.

The Minister for Commerce has announced that as from 20th April, 1942, the price of wheat used for feeding live stock would be reduced by 6d per bushel. This concession will be of considerable benefit to a number of industries including the pig, dairying and poultry farming industries.

The Commonwealth Prices Commissioner has announced that the maximum price of tomatoes payable to growers has been increased to 6d per lb. at the grower's gate. There will be no variation in the present wholesale margin of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. or retail margin of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. The maximum retail price has now been increased to 10d per lb.

The Director General of Man Power has announced that there will be a temporary deferment in the calling-up of rural workers for the militia. It is understood that this action has been taken to arrest the decline in the production of foodstuffs and that the decision applies to those engaged in the full time production of meat, wool, wheat, dairy produce, vegetables, pig meat, sugar, fruit, rice, tobacco and cotton.

On 7th May the Minister for Agriculture and Forests advised Parliament that he had received a statement from the City Municipal Council containing information regarding the nationality of grower-sellers in the City Municipal Vegetable Market. The following percentages were given as regards occupancy of stands among grower-sellers:-

British	-	53%
Chinese	-	21%
Maltose	-	10.5%
Yugoslavians	-	7%
Others	-	1.5%
Italians	-	7%



EFFECTS OF THE WAR ON THE MARKETING  
OF AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY PRODUCTS.

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(Extracts from evidence of A.A. Watson, Esq., Chief of Division of Marketing, Department of Agriculture, New South Wales, before Commonwealth Parliamentary Joint Committee on Rural Industries on 11th March, 1942.)

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E G G S.

The commercial poultry farming industry of New South Wales has, in my opinion, cause to congratulate itself upon the fact that it had taken practical steps towards effective industry organisation from a marketing viewpoint prior to the outbreak of war. The great bulk of the commercial egg production in New South Wales is obtained within the Counties of Cumberland and Northumberland and the Shires of Nattai and Wollondilly. Briefly this area extends from Sydney, north to Newcastle and Singleton, west to the foot of the Mountains near Penrith and south to Bulli and Bowral.

Following a ballot taken of egg producers within the area mentioned the Egg Marketing Board was constituted on 16th November, 1928, to control the marketing of eggs produced within the Counties and Shires named. The Board has functioned continuously since that date despite the fact that three polls have been taken of the poultry farmers within the area on the question whether the Board should be dissolved. At each poll over 74% of those who voted recorded a vote in favour of continuance. Last year a further opportunity presented itself for the taking of such a poll but the producers did not avail themselves of it.

A poll was taken on 10th September, 1941, of the egg producers in that part of New South Wales outside the Counties of Cumberland and Northumberland and the Shires of Nattai and Wollondilly on the question whether they desired the Board's area extended to cover such outside areas. The poll resulted in a substantial majority favouring the Board's jurisdiction being so extended and from 3rd November, 1941, the Board assumed control of egg production throughout the whole State. The fact that such an organisation existed in this State at the outbreak of war greatly facilitated the finalising of negotiations between the Australian and British Governments for the purchase by the latter of Australia's exportable egg surplus. When war commenced the Commonwealth Government was able to appoint, with a minimum of delay, an Egg Supervision Committee representative of producers and egg marketing organisations in the various States, as an advisory body. As a result of negotiations conducted between the British and Australian Governments a contract was entered into for the purchase by the United Kingdom Government of surplus Australian eggs. I tender a statement marked Appendix 'B' setting out the main provisions of the original contract which extended from 1st July to 31st December, 1940. Arrangements

/wore....



were subsequently made to extend the contract to cover shipments for a further period of two months up to the end of February, 1941.

In February, 1941, the Egg Supervision Committee met to consider new proposals regarding egg purchases by the British Government. British advices were to the effect that the shipping position had greatly deteriorated and although increased eggs would be required space would not be available to take the whole of the supplies in shell.

It was arranged that eggs in shell would be shipped from Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia but supplies from New South Wales and Victoria would be shipped only in powdered form. The Commonwealth Government intimated that the essential points of the agreement were:-

- (a) The price for eggs in shell to be the same as that realised in 1939/40 in London, viz., 1/1.75d per dozen (Australian currency).
- (b) Eggs for drying to be paid for by the Commonwealth Government at a rate equivalent to the nett price per dozen to be paid for eggs exported in shell.
- (c) The Commonwealth Government to pay all costs and expenses incurred by suppliers (e.g. the Egg Marketing Board) which are incidental to drying.

Although the price agreed upon between the British and Australian Governments for eggs purchased for the United Kingdom during the 1941/42 season was at the same rate as that realised during the previous season on an f.o.b. basis the nett return to the Board for the eggs accepted for drying was less than the equivalent nett return for eggs in shell, because of heavy expenditure necessarily incurred in the purchase of over 200,000 cases required to store the eggs whilst the installation of the drying plant in New South Wales was being completed.

Herounder is a statement showing the quantity of eggs marketed by the Egg Marketing Board on the local market, the quantity exported and the average price per dozen paid by the Board for all eggs received during the past five years.

	<u>Pool Year</u> <u>1936-1937</u>	<u>Pool Year</u> <u>1937-1938</u>	<u>Pool Year</u> <u>1938-1939</u>	<u>Pool Year</u> <u>1939-1940</u>	<u>Pool Year</u> <u>1940-1941</u>
Total Shell:	:	:	:	:	:
Export	:	:	:	:	:
(in dozen) :	5,100,000	4,232,880	3,292,050	3,735,600	7,907,310
Total Pulp :	:	:	:	:	:
Export	:	:	:	:	:
(in dozen) :	-	-	-	-	253,022

/Total ....



	<u>Pool Year</u> 1936-1937	<u>Pool Year</u> 1937-1938	<u>Pool Year</u> 1938-1939	<u>Pool Year</u> 1939-1940	<u>Pool Year</u> 1940-1941
Total Sales on Local Market (in dozen)	15,941,033	16,108,867	17,134,476	19,716,093	20,899,465
Average Price per dozen for all eggs received.	1/3.233d	1/4.14d	1/3.569d	1/1.755d	1/3.132d

It will be observed from the foregoing figures that there has been a consistent expansion of sales on the local market and that during the 1940/41 pool year there was a substantial increase in the quantity of eggs exported. The average price per dozen paid to producers for all eggs received was somewhat lower in 1939/40 than the return for the previous three years but a recovery was made in 1940/41.

The poultry industry in New South Wales has experienced a very trying time during the past 12 months owing to lower prices for eggs and the fact that important poultry foodstuffs have been very difficult to procure.

Bran and pollard supplies have been extremely short owing to (a) the heavy demand from dairying districts affected by the protracted drought and (b) the limited number of export orders available for New South Wales for flour. Although the prices of bran and pollard have been "pegged" at £6 per ton for some time past by the Prices Commissioner, many poultry farmers have been unable to secure supplies and have had to utilise substitute foods at higher costs. Further, the uncertainty of the future export position since the extension of the war to the Pacific has necessitated the fixation by the Board of lower wholesale prices of eggs than those ruling at the same period for a number of years as the following table of wholesale prices fixed for 1st grade hen eggs (per dozen) will show:-

	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>
December	1/2 to 1/4	1/2	1/3	1/1 to 1/3	-
January	1/4 to 1/6	1/4 to 2/-	1/2 to 1/4	1/3 to 1/6	1/2 to 1/3
February	1/6 to 1/7	1/9 to 2/-	1/4 to 1/7	1/6	1/3 to 1/6

The outlook for bran and pollard has been considerably improved during the past few weeks by reason of heavy falls of rain in a number of dairying districts where natural fodder should shortly be available and by the announcement that the Commonwealth Government has now arranged for New South Wales flour mills to grist one million bushels of wheat. The result will be the production of over 20,000 tons of flour and approximately 8,000 tons of bran and pollard. This, however, will constitute only a temporary measure of assistance and further gristing orders for New South Wales flour mills will be essential if help of a more permanent character is to be afforded.



R I C E

Rice was first produced in commercial quantities in Australia in the 1924-25 season when an area of 153 acres was sown to rice on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area of New South Wales and produced 304 tons. Rapid progress was made in the industry until, in 1927-28, the production amounted to 16,483 tons. On 9th November, 1928, the Rice Marketing Board for the State of New South Wales was constituted to control the whole of the rice produced within the State and the Board has functioned continuously since that date.

The whole of the commercial rice growing is concentrated on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and a normal crop amounts to about 42,000 tons of "paddy" rice. The annual consumption of rice in Australia is approximately 26,000 tons of "paddy" rice, leaving a balance of about 16,000 tons of "paddy" rice available for shipment in a normal season. The Board has been able to dispose of the whole of its exportable surplus since the war began at prices considered to be satisfactory, though some difficulty was experienced at certain stages last year in negotiations for overseas sales. It has also been possible for the Board to maintain prices since the war at reasonable levels. The 1942 crop will be harvested during the first half of this year and it is probable that the trade which had been built up with the Islands will this season be lost. The Board may therefore be confronted with a more difficult problem in handling its exportable surplus this year and no doubt an endeavour will have to be made to stimulate and increase consumption within Australia.

An Australian tariff effectively discourages imports of rice. However, the tariff protection for Australian rice is conditioned by provision which contemplates the protection of the Australian consumer should exploitation occur. Actually, the average annual retail prices of rice sold in Sydney, as recorded in the New South Wales Official Year Book, have not risen since the advent of the Rice Marketing Board in November, 1928, but fell from 3.7d per lb. in 1929 to 3.0d in 1936 and 1937. The average for 1938 was 3.06d rising to 3.35d in 1939 and 3.39d in 1940. Prior to the Board's coming into existence the officially recorded annual averages ranged from 3.3d in 1923 to 3.8d per lb. in 1928.

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It is reported that more than 1,277,700 bales of wool have been appraised in Sydney and Newcastle this season. The quantity shows an increase of 40,000 bales on the total handled during the same period of the preceding year.

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CONCENTRATED KITCHEN WASTE FOR STOCK FEED.

The Acting Official Secretary, New South Wales Government Offices, London, has supplied the following interesting information regarding experiments conducted by the British Ministry of Agriculture with a view to producing a suitable stock feed from kitchen waste:

"For some time past experiments have been conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture here with a view to supplementing the much reduced supplies of stock feeding stuffs. One result of these experiments is a concentrated feed (suitable, I am told, for both pigs and poultry) produced from processed kitchen waste.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Salvage Department of the Ministry of Supply co-operated and the Waste Food Board was set up, one of the functions of which was to make kitchen waste available through organised collections from private houses and other sources by Local Authorities. Much progress was made in the first year or so of the war with the collection and sale to local stock keepers of raw kitchen waste, but it was found difficult to dispose of the total supply which was collectable in this way, because raw swill is too bulky and expensive to transport any considerable distance and its keeping qualities are also very limited. I am also informed by the Ministry of Agriculture, that the transport of raw kitchen waste to farms involves great risks of spreading animal diseases. The material may be spilled on the roads; it may be carried in vehicles which are also being used from time to time for the carriage of ordinary feeding stuffs or other articles for farm use; and the sterilisation arrangements on the farm may not always be adequate or the boiling of the swill efficiently carried out. It is believed that many of the outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease which have occurred since the war began, have been traced to infection arising from the use of raw kitchen waste, and that swine fever also may be spread in this way.

After taking expert scientific and technical advice, the Ministry of Agriculture concluded that it was most desirable to ensure wherever possible that kitchen waste should be sterilised under effective supervision before disposal to stock keepers in order to minimise the risk of outbreaks of animal disease. These risks were, the Ministry said, growing proportionately more serious as persons inexperienced in the use of kitchen waste were beginning to take supplies in order to supplement their rationed feeding stuffs.

To secure the maximum quantities of kitchen waste and to safeguard animal health, the Waste Food Board is arranging in the more populous areas for the co-ordination of collections by Local Authorities and for the installation of plants which will produce a concentrate. This concentrate has a substantially lower water  
/content....



content than the raw product and therefore keeps longer (up to 10 or 14 days) and is much easier to handle and cheaper to transport. Concentrated kitchen waste is also sterilised in the course of processing and the user is so saved the trouble and expense of boiling it.

The Ministry of Agriculture states that over 30 concentrator plants are now operating and this number will shortly be increased. The Waste Food Board proposes to define in respect of each plant a specific area in which the Authority operating the plant will be able to draw upon supplies of raw kitchen waste and so obtain an economic throughput for their plant. Within that area Local Authorities will be compelled by direction of the Ministry of Supply to collect the kitchen waste and to sell the material to the plant.

The feed is being sold at a price between £4 and £5 per ton, ox works, and feeding trials show that it is good value at that price.

It is claimed that stock keepers stand to gain great advantages from the increased production of this concentrated swill. They will obtain a sterile feeding stuff which can be transported considerable distances and will keep for many days, and they are not obliged to pay for the transport (as with raw kitchen waste) of a large volume of water."

The report adds that complete technical data of the concentrating plant has been forwarded by the manufacturers in England to their manufacturing agent in Australia.

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#### SOYA BEANS.

Reports from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Stock indicate that the area annually placed under soya beans is gradually extending in Queensland but is not of sufficient importance to justify inclusion in crop acreage statistics, and accurate particulars are therefore not available at present.

Prior to the war, when small quantities of yellow beans were imported from Manchoukuo, Japan, and the U.S.A., local soya bean crops were utilised almost entirely on the farms as green fodder, or as beans for home use.

The home market for beans as a protein rich foodstuff is now expanding and there are also prospects of utilising a considerable tonnage of beans in industry.

Experience in the field has indicated that given suitable varieties there will be no great difficulty in producing soya beans for an expanding market.

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SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

INCREASED YARDINGS OF CATTLE, SHEEP AND LAMBS  
BUT PIG NUMBERS SLIGHTLY REDUCED.

Supplies again heavy.

Compared with the yardings for March, supplies of sheep and lambs again showed an increase, actual penningings being 420,492 head. For the first time on record sales were held on Easter Monday which was not observed as a Public Holiday. Pastoral conditions in many parts of the State generally are not good and owners, faced with the problem of holding sheep and lambs through the winter on light food supplies, have marketed fairly substantial numbers.

Plain sheep numerous.

Large numbers of plain and aged wethers and ewes were included in the penningings and buyers often experienced difficulty in securing good quality mutton. Good light trade sheep were in short supply throughout while only moderate numbers of good heavy sheep were available.

Market declines for sheep.

The market for wethers and ewes was marked by a good deal of variation. The opening sales of April showed little change but subsequently rates increased by 1/- per head. Later however, increased supplies resulted in lower values, the decline being from 3/- to 5/- per head spread over several sales. Towards the end of April a much firmer tone prevailed for grown sheep and values increased by from 2/- to 3/6 per head. Some sales recorded throughout the period, illustrative of price trends are indicated below:-

First Week

Good heavy	50 lb.	wethers	(skin 4/9)	made	19/10	each	or	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	per lb.
" trade	42 lb.	"	(" 3/6)	"	17/7	"	"	4d	" "
" heavy	56 lb.	ewes	(" 7/7)	"	21/2	"	"	3d	" "
" trade	46 lb.	"	(" 3/9)	"	16/5	"	"	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	" "

Second Week

Good heavy	50 lb.	wethers	(skin 8/-)	made	21/8	each	or	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	per lb.
" trade	44 lb.	"	(" 9/6)	"	22/5	"	"	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	" "
" heavy	56 lb.	ewes	(" 8/-)	"	20/10	"	"	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	" "
" trade	42 lb.	"	(" 6/6)	"	16/10	"	"	3d	" "

Third Week

Good heavy	54 lb.	wethers	(skin 8/6)	made	19/6	each	or	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	per lb.
" trade	46 lb.	"	(" 4/-)	"	13/8	"	"	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	" "
" heavy	50 lb.	ewes	(" 6/6)	"	15/6	"	"	2d	" "
" trade	45 lb.	"	(" 8/6)	"	16/10	"	"	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	" "

/Fourth.....



Fourth Week

Good heavy	48 lb.	wethers	(skin 8/-)	made	19/10	each	or	3d	per lb.
" trade	45 "	"	( " 7/6)	"	20/-	"	"	3½d	" "
" heavy	50 "	ewes	( " 7/6)	"	15/10	"	"	2d	" "
" trade	38 "	"	( " 6/6)	"	14/9	"	"	2½d	" "

Cheaper mutton.

Rates for mutton again declined and reached the lowest levels for some considerable time, good trade sheep being worth from 2d to 2½d per lb. for part of the period. Light wethers made as much as 4d per lb. and heavy 3½d per lb., but this, however, was only on one sale day. For the most part wethers cost from 2d to 3½d for light and 2d to 3d per lb. for heavy. Light ewes cost up to 3½d and heavy 3d per lb. but rates generally ranged from 1½d to 2½d per lb. for heavy and 2d to 2½d per lb. for light. Many lots of plain and inferior ewes and wethers made very low prices, sales often reaching below 1/- per head. On the other hand, however, good wethers frequently made to 24/- each and generally sold at 12/- to 22/- each. Ewes realised to 21/- per head, but 10/- to 18/- was fairly general. Medium to fair trade made from 5/- to 10/- each.

Increased supplies of lambs - Quality fair only.

Supplies of lambs were heavier, pennings totalling 202,221 head. Although supplies were heavy a large percentage was only of fair to medium quality, while a good number was of a plain description. Some consignments of good heavy lambs were received, also odd drafts of good light trade. On one occasion the percentage of good to prime lambs was the best seen for some time.

Fairly steady lamb market.

Opening sales for lambs did not vary appreciably but on the following sale day values for good to prime grades were up to 1/- per head better and a further advance of 1/- occurred on the next succeeding sale day. During the next couple of sales rates did not vary. At the beginning of the third week values fell by about 1/- per head, only to recover in the last week when prices advanced by 1/- per head. In many instances very plain light lambs were difficult to dispose of and the market for medium trade lamb was marked by a certain degree of irregularity. Some representative sales are given below:-

First Week

Good heavy	44 lb.	lambs	(skin 5/-)	made	25/1	each	or	5½d	per lb.
" trade	31 lb.	"	( " 3/3)	"	20/-	"	"	6½d	" "

Second Week

Good heavy	38 lb.	lambs	(skin 3/6)	made	23/11	each	or	6½d	per lb.
" trade	33 lb.	"	( " 3/6)	"	22/8	"	"	7d	" "

/Third....



Third Week

Good trade 32 lb. lambs (skin 5/6) made 21/4 each or 6<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>d per lb.  
 " heavy 36 lb. " ( " 3/6) " 20/6 " " 5<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>d " "

Fourth Week

Good heavy 40 lb. lambs (skin 5/-) made 22/6 each or 5d per lb.  
 " trade 32 lb. " ( " 3/6) " 19/4 " " 6d " "

Average rates slightly lower than March.

A line of prime heavy crossbred lamb realised 27/- per head, this being one of the best sales recorded, but in most instances the better class of lamb offering sold at from 18/- to 24/- each, according to weight and skin values. Fair to good trade lambs realised mostly from 14/- to 18/- per head, while the plain- or sorts were disposed of at relatively lower levels.

Best lightweight lambs and suckers, which were in short supply cost as much as 7d per lb. as against 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d per lb. in March. Heavy lambs were worth up to 6<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>d per lb., but mostly sold at from 5d to 6d per lb., while rates for light lambs ranged from 5<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>d to 6<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>d per lb.

Indications at present point to a falling-off in yardings and with probable lighter supplies prices for both sheep and lambs may be expected to advance in the ensuing month.

Cattle supplies increase but quality deteriorates.

Consignments of cattle at Homobush during April, 1942, were variable, being fairly light at the commencement and close of the period but moderate to fairly heavy on other occasions. The aggregate yarding for the nine sale days was heavier than that of March, 17,422 head being penned, including 2,995 auctioned in the store section. Quality also fluctuated but at the best it was only fair. Towards the close of the month the general quality was very disappointing; the bulk of the supplies comprised small stock of plain description, for which the demand was the dullest for some considerable time.

The poor condition of a large percentage of the stock is the result of the very unsatisfactory pastoral conditions obtaining throughout the greater part of the State. Following the widespread rains of February, conditions showed an improvement, especially in the northern half of New South Wales. April, however, was very dry generally and the pastoral outlook again became serious, particularly in central and southern areas. Some beneficial rain fell about the close of April at centres located in the south-east quarter of the State but general rain is urgently required. Despite the adverse conditions, many prime drafts were submitted at the Homobush auctions.

/Prime....



Prime bullocks scarce.

On most sale days bullocks were in limited supply with medium to heavy descriptions scarce. Quality for the most part ranged from fair to good trade. On one or two occasions, however, bullocks made a better showing when many good trade to prime lines were noticed as well as heavier beasts.

The market displayed fluctuations but it was much less marked than during the previous month. In the main, values of prime light bullocks ranged from 47/- or 48/- per 100 lb. dressed weight. Towards the close of April, values for other than prime grade weakened substantially and good trade lines were quoted from 41/- per 100 lb. Demand was also easier for medium weight cattle and rates declined to 43/- per 100 lb., whereas they had ranged to 47/- per 100 lb. earlier in the month. Compared with the previous month, the market showed no material alteration.

Prime steers become scarce.

Steers were well supplied throughout the greater part of the month with good trade to prime descriptions making a satisfactory showing, particularly early in the period. Subsequently a noticeable decline in quality occurred and prime animals were very difficult to secure. A firm market prevailed on the first two sale days but values gradually declined until quotations for prime light steers ranged to 48/- per 100 lb. during the third week. This quotation was 6/- lower than the opening rate. The market firmed subsequently and at closing good to prime steers ranged in value from 45/- to 51/- per 100 lb.

Variable offerings of cows.

During the first half of the period cows made a poor showing, both from a quality standpoint and numbers arriving. Consignments, however, subsequently increased and many drafts of good trade to prime description were noticed. Quality again deteriorated towards the close when quality beasts were submitted in odd lots only. A very firm market was in evidence early when prime light cows were worth the equivalent of 44/- per 100 lb. By the third week, however, prices had declined about 6/- per 100 lb. but the market firmed during the final week. Quotations for good to prime grade at the close were:- Heavy 35/- to 40/-, light 36/- to 41/- per 100 lb.

Prime heifers scarce.

Truckings of heifers were most variable. Generally, pennings comprised fair to good trade quality light and medium weights with prime sorts somewhat difficult to secure. The market followed a similar trend to that ruling for cows and values of prime heifers ranged from 46/- to 53/- per 100 lb. On the final sale day quotations for good to prime grade ranged from 43/- to 50/- per 100 lb.

/Small.....



Small vealers well in evidence.

On some sale days vealers were in light supply but for the most part they were rather numerous. Quality, however, was disappointing, the pennings consisting chiefly of small, medium to fair trade sorts. Values declined appreciably after the first week during which prime descriptions sold to 63/- per 100 lb. By the third week rates for good to prime vealers ranged from 46/- to 55/- per 100 lb., while values of other grades were considerably less. The market recovered sharply at the close.

Weak market for medium quality cattle.

Compared with the previous month the market for good to prime cattle was weaker, although in some instances there was no material alteration in average values.

Medium grade cattle, however, were over-supplied. This resulted in a very weak demand and the lowest prices for this class of beef for some considerable time.

Slightly reduced yardings of pigs.

Average consignments of pigs submitted at auction at Homobush during April, 1942, showed a slight reduction, the aggregate for the four sale days being 8,232 head, of which 4,620 were received by rail.

Sales by private treaty totalled 3,425 head. Baconers comprised the bulk of the pigs sold privately and it was reported that some of the consignments came from Queensland where prices were considerably lower than those ruling in Sydney.

Quality of porkers again satisfactory.

Porkers were well supplied and quality generally was fairly good. Medium grade porkers were mostly in light supply, while stores also were sometimes difficult to secure. Medium weights comprised the bulk of the offerings, although lightweights were fairly well represented on occasions. Small porkers or extra light descriptions, however, were generally scarce. The high level of values reached at the close of March was well maintained, although rates for heavy porkers showed some recession during the second half of the period. On the other hand, rates for light and medium pigs showed a further advance. A feature, on most sale days was that values of pigs dressing 75 lb. were very little less than those dressing 90 lb. A very firm market prevailed on the final sale day when prices ranged as follows:- Porkers 50 lb., to 46/6; 60 lb., to 51/6; 80 lb., to 60/6; 90 lb., to 62/6 per head. The market was also at a very high level on the initial sale day of the period.

/Heavy .....



Heavy supplies of baconers.

Baconers were particularly well supplied until the close of the month when heavy sorts were scarce. Good trade pigs predominated, while prime baconers made a satisfactory showing. Values generally were an improvement on March realisations but they were not as high as those prevailing at the close of March. On the first sale day, however, the market was maintained at the closing rates of the previous month when quotations ranged from 67/6 to 119/6 per head. On a per lb. basis, medium and heavy weights were valued to 9d per lb. and lightweights to 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. These values were exceeded in odd instances. Mention was made in the previous issue of the Review of the unusual per lb. rates obtaining recently. The market eased somewhat subsequently and at the close of the period prices of prime heavy pigs were steady at 109/6 per head. On a per lb. basis all grades were quoted at the same rate, good to prime quality ranging from 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.

Good showing of backfatters.

Except on one sale day, backfatters were well in evidence, although quality was somewhat variable. However, good trade to prime pigs were well represented, while a fair percentage was of heavy descriptions. A steady market prevailed during the first three sale days, when quotations for good to prime backfatters ranged from 5d to 6d for pigs dressing 200/350 and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 5d for those exceeding 350 lb. Sixpence per lb. was obtained for very light backfatters. On the final sale day values advanced by from 10/- to 15/- per head and heavy descriptions were quoted to 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.

Pig market continues very satisfactory.

The very satisfactory market position from the producer's viewpoint was well maintained, while in some instances values showed a further advance. Present indications are that prices will continue to be satisfactory for some time to come, even if they are not maintained at the present high levels.

G.C. & J.W.

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Replying to a question in Parliament recently regarding alleged malpractices at the City Fruit and Vegetable Markets, the Minister for Agriculture (Capt. the Hon. W.F. Dunn; M.L.A.) stated that on 17th April 23 persons, most of whom were of Foreign origin, were fined amounts ranging from £2 to £20 for breaches of the Prices Regulations relating to sales of potatoes and tomatoes and fines and costs totalled £242.

On 22nd April a wholesaler was fined £100 on each of three counts of having sold potatoes at more than the fixed price. Further prosecutions are pending.

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CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY  
- SALES OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES -

Satisfactory inquiry for apples.

Demand for apples was well maintained throughout the month. Stocks generally were only moderate, while at times Jonathans were scarce and on these occasions values firmed. Supplies from local sources were mainly Jonathan, Delicious, Granny Smith and London Pippin, although a few other varieties were available at times. Tasmanian shipments included Jonathan, Granny Smith, Delicious, Cleopatra, Scarlet Pearmain, Geeveston Fanny, Worcester Pearmain, Alfriston, Ribston Pippin and others, while Victorian Jonathans were also obtainable. Rates for Jonathans and Delicious from within this State realised fairly high prices but interstate fruit sold at lower levels. Of the other dessert apples, values generally were much lower. Particularly good inquiry ruled for Alfristons and all stocks were cleared. Buyers, therefore, had to turn their attention to Granny Smiths to secure supplies of cookers as this was the only variety available for the purpose.

Pears in limited supply.

With the season for Williams pears finished, buyers inquired for Packhams and Winter Coles, but prior to the close of the month supplies were very light and values advanced sharply. Bourre Bosc, Doyenne du Comice and Bourre d'Anjou pears were received from Tasmania but in many instances the fruit arrived on the market in an over-ripe condition owing to delay in transit.

Citrus fruits continue to sell well.

Relatively few main crop Valencia oranges were received from coastal districts but fair quantities of intermediate crop fruit came to hand and during the early part of April satisfactory prices were obtained. Later, however, the market was easier owing to the arrival of Queensland navels in addition to some small consignments from coastal groves. High rates were paid for Valencias from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and for interstate lots, special packs realising to 32/- per bushel.

Most of the navel oranges on offer were artificially coloured. Queensland fruit opened up well and prices realised were very satisfactory. Local packs of medium size cleared steadily at prices ranging to 20/- per bushel but large sizes were somewhat slow of sale.

Fairly large stocks of coastal lemons were on offer early and values weakened but demand improved subsequently and the market improved. Request for Queensland consignments was generally very satisfactory, largely owing to the attractive appearance of the fruit, and much higher rates were realised than for locally grown. Some new season's grapefruit came to hand towards the end of the  
/month.....



month but many lines showed lack of colour and sales were only moderate in comparison with Queensland supplies which, for the most part, opened up very satisfactorily.

Grapes plentiful.

Heavy supplies of grapes were on offer early; many lines were only of medium to inferior quality and had to be sold at fairly low rates. Subsequently, with the clearance of stocks and smaller quantities coming forward the market firmed and values gradually improved. The bulk of supplies was received from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and comprised mainly Cornichon, Chanez and Doradilla varieties.

Quality bananas sell well.

The market was lightly supplied with bananas, particularly choice large fruit, but plain grades were fairly plentiful at times. Values showed an upward trend and at the close of the month rates for good quality fruit were at comparatively high levels.

Pineapples in shorter supply and dearer.

The heavy consignments of pineapples received during March were not maintained, a marked decline occurring in April. The result of the reduced quantities coming forward was a sharp advance in price from 10/- to 18/- per case for best packs.

Values of passionfruit ease.

Very few passionfruit were available until late in the month and high prices ruled for choice lines. The receipt of Queensland and North Coast supplies subsequently, however, caused prices to drop.

Bunched vegetables in light supply.

Supplies in the growers' section of the market, particularly bunched vegetables, were light until late in April, when there was a slight increase in the quantities available. On the other hand, consignments of peas and cauliflowers to agents from inland growing areas showed considerable improvement and values generally were easier.

Peas more plentiful.

Daily receipts of peas showed much variation; generally the quantities forward approximated 1,000 bags and as many as 1,500 were on offer, although supplies dropped to 400 on one occasion.

Despite the larger offerings, realisations for choice lines generally were very satisfactory but the bulk was only

/medium ....



medium grade; at times, many lots showed weather damage and had to be disposed of at the best prices offering. Consignments from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area generally arrived on the market at a very late hour with the result that disposals had to be effected at rates below those ruling during early sales.

Supplies of beans vary considerably.

Supplies of beans generally were only moderate, although some heavy consignments were received. Demand for the most part was satisfactory, particularly for choice descriptions and up to 22/- per bushel was realised. Prices, however, were much lower when receipts were heavy and on some occasions it was difficult to obtain above 10/- per bushel for top grades, while inferior lots sold as low as 2/-.

Prices of cauliflowers on high levels.

Consignments of cauliflowers were fairly heavy on most days; nevertheless, good inquiry was in evidence and little difficulty was experienced in effecting clearances. Prices for the most part were lower, although far from being unremunerative to growers. Choice large heads rarely sold below 18/- per dozen, while up to 24/- and even higher rates were paid. The bulk of supplies came to hand from the Bathurst district but late in the month small lots from within the County of Cumberland appeared on the market.

Market for cabbages eases.

Light supplies of cabbages were on offer and rates early in April were at fairly high levels but later, with the increased quantities of peas and cauliflowers offering, request slackened and sellers were forced to reduce prices in order to clear stocks. Choice large heads realised from 12/- to 14/- at closing compared with 18/- to 20/- per dozen earlier in the period.

Tomatoes very scarce.

The position with regard to tomatoes was again acute, supplies falling far short of requirements and some buyers were unable to fulfil their needs. Victorian consignments were small and on some occasions the condition of the tomatoes was wasty and much loss resulted.

R.M.

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SALES IN SUSSEX STREET  
AND AT  
ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD.

Tasmanian and local potato consignments increase.

Arrivals of local new potatoes from the Crookwell district at Alexandria showed a considerable increase, 4,738 bags being consigned as against 649 bags last month. The bulk consisted of new tubers which were in keen demand at the fixed rate of £17.5.0 per ton, No. 1 £16.0.0 to £17.0.0, Chats £10.0.0 to £16.0.0; Stock feed 5/- to 10/- per bag. A small consignment comprising 100 bags of new Factors arrived in Sussex Street from the Clarence River and these cleared at £17.5.0 per ton. Tasmanian potatoes were heavily supplied, 132,219 bags being available compared with 80,194 bags in March. The Federal authorities took over a fair percentage of these stocks but the shortage for general trade was not so acute as in the previous month. Demand was very satisfactory and ready sales were effected for all available stocks at £17.5.0 per ton.

Heavy supplies of Tasmanian root vegetables.

Supplies of Tasmanian swedes in Sussex Street amounted to 9,424 bags, this being more than twice the quantity which arrived last month. The Federal authorities required a percentage of these stocks. Disposals were made at higher rates in the early part of the month, £14.0.0 to £18.0.0 per ton being obtained, but subsequently prices declined to a maximum of £15.0.0 per ton.

Carrots, also, were well supplied, 2,882 bags reaching the market. Prices were reduced from £25 per ton to £15 per ton. Parsnips were in request at the firm rate of £20 per ton. Supplies totalled 240 bags.

Victorian brown onions well supplied.

Brown table onions were more plentiful, 13,779 bags being consigned to Alexandria, but no difficulty was experienced in disposing of stocks at £17.0.0 per ton.

White table onions amounted to 199 bags only and these were in demand at £25.0.0 per ton. Consignments of brown pickling onions, aggregating 1,059 bags also arrived. These were consigned to a private buyer and no price was disclosed.

New Zealand Globe onions reach market.

A heavy consignment of New Zealand brown Globe onions (18,000 bags) arrived in Sussex Street but despite large supplies demand was good at £17.0.0 per ton.

/Lower...



Lower rates for pumpkins with larger supplies.

Increased arrivals of pumpkins totalling 51 trucks from Queensland and 13 from local centres were available. Demand was satisfactory but prices continued to fall during the month. At opening, £20.0.0 to £22.0.0 per ton was paid but the market gradually weakened and at closing clearances were made at £13.0.0 per ton. There were 558 bags from the North Coast in Sussex Street and the bulk sold at £12.0.0 per ton.

Oaten chaff in demand at higher rates.

Oaten chaff arriving at Alexandria totalled 134 trucks. Inquiry was exceptionally good and prices gradually increased. A few sales of prime to choice were made early in the month at £8.5.0 but values continued to rise and no difficulty was experienced in effecting sales at £8.10.0 to £9.10.0 per ton. Only one truck was sold at auction and £9.3.4 per ton was obtained.

Choice wheaten chaff scarce.

Consignments of wheaten chaff comprised 31 trucks but only a limited quantity was of choice quality. Request was very keen, buyers paying £7.15.0 to £8.0.0 for medium and £8.10.0 for prime. One truck of choice realised £9.16.8 per ton at auction.

Lucerne chaff in demand.

Lucerne chaff railed to Alexandria totalled 48 trucks. There was a satisfactory demand and prices increased. A few inferior lines were disposed of at £7.10.0 to £8.0.0 but prime realised £9.0.0 to £10.0.0 and choice £11.10.0 to £13.0.0 per ton. A few trucks offered at auction sold at £7.10.0 to £9.10.0 per ton.

Eight trucks of lucerne pods and thrashings were available. Pods at auction brought £7.11.8 and thrashings by private treaty realised £7.10.0 to £8.10.0 per ton.

Heavy consignments of hay.

Arrivals of lucerne hay from the Maitland district aggregated 56 trucks. The bulk of the supply comprised soft green hay in the early part of the month, for which £7.10.0 to £9.0.0 was obtained. With increased supplies prices were lower at £4.10.0 to £5.10.0 per ton. Lucerne hay from other centres totalled 58 trucks. There was a keen inquiry, sales being made at the following prices:- Derrick pressed £7.0.0 to £8.5.0; hard dry old summer £9.0.0 to £10.0.0; medium £8.10.0 to £9.15.0; prime £10.0.0 to £11.0.0; choice £11.15.0 to £12.10.0 per ton.

Maitland hay arriving in Sussex Street totalled 100  
/trucks....



trucks. The bulk was sold at undisclosed rates.

At Alexandria 10 trucks of eaten hay from various districts were consigned to private buyers and rates were undisclosed.

Good request for straw.

Victorian and local eaten straw consisted of 25 trucks from Victoria and 16 from local centres and there were also trucks of wheaten. The bulk of the straw was of choice quality and cleared readily at higher rates, £6.10.0 to £7.0.0 per ton being obtained.

High prices for maize.

Supplies of maize amounted to 2,312 bags. Demand was very good and prices continued to rise during the month. 597 bags of yellow and 59 bags of white from local centres, and 54 bags of yellow maize from Queensland cleared at 5/3 per bushel. One truck comprising 202 bags of yellow from Queensland sold at the high rate of 6/5 per bushel.

In Sussex Street, 1,400 bags received from North Coast districts were disposed of privately at 5/3 to 6/- per bushel.

Small supplies of wheat.

Only 21 trucks of wheat were forwarded to Alexandria. A number of these being inferior quality was offered at auction and realised 3/8½d to 3/11½d per bushel. Wheat for poultry farmers was reduced by the Wheat Board by 6d per bushel. At auctions during the latter half of the month further trucks were sold at lower rates, inferior realising 2/7d to 3/3d per bushel. F.A.Q. sold by private treaty brought 3/8d to 3/9d per bushel.

There were 19 trucks of oats from Victoria consigned to private buyers in addition to one from local centres.

Peas from New Zealand.

A fairly large consignment of peas arrived in Sussex Street from New Zealand. These were sold privately at the following rates:- Blue 28/6, Grey 11/3, Marrowfat 28/6, Greenfeast 23/6 and Massey 37/6 per bushel.

C.F.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES  
IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING APRIL, 1942,  
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	April, 1942		31st August, 1939.	
	From	To	From	To
Wheat - Home Consumption:				
Bulk - per bushel	3/11½d (unchanged)		2/4d	
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2 (unchanged) (plus £2.8.10 tax)		£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)	
Bran - per ton	£6.0.0 (unchanged)		£4.5.0	
Pollard " "	£6.0.0 " "		£4.5.0	
Eggs (hen) per dozen	2/- (unchanged)		1/-	
Butter -				
Choice - per cwt.	169/4 (unchanged)		161/2	
Cheese -				
Loaf per lb.	1/0½d (unchanged)		11d	
Large " "	1/- " "		10½d	
Special brands " "	1/1	1/3½d	1/2	

	April, 1942		29th August, 1939	
	From	To	From	To
Pigs (Abattoir sales)				
Good to prime, per head:				
Porkers - Extra light	29/6	46/6	31/6	40/6
Light	42/6	51/6	39/6	44/6
Medium weight	47/6	61/6	43/6	57/6
Heavy	56/6	64/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	64/6	119/6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£4.15.0	£9.0.0	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

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 - MARCH, 1942.

FRUIT.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Melons crates	Tomatoes half-bushel cases.	TOTALS packages
Queensland	40,989	3,735	29,222	6	109,350	183,302
Victoria	24	121	86,368	3	20,531	107,047
Tasmania	-	-	203,172	-	3,240	206,412
Sth. Aust.	-	-	2,002	-	-	2,002
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	41,013	3,856	320,764	9	133,121	498,763

VEGETABLES.

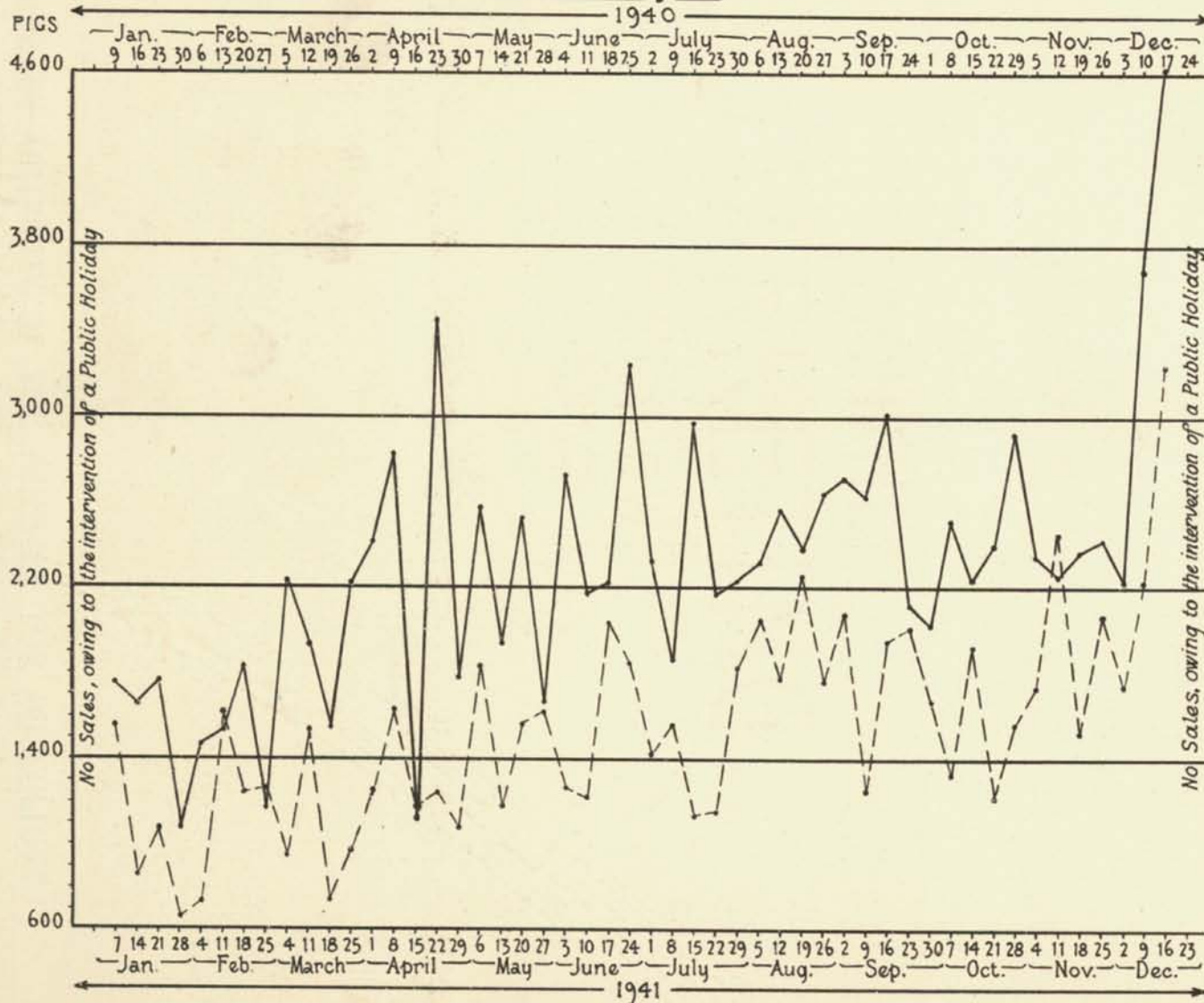
STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins bags	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkges.	TOTALS packages
Queensland	334	6	-	17,509	588	10,031	28,468
Victoria	25,856	30,856	50	591	5	4,816	62,174
Tasmania	108,939	-	8,754	34	-	1,497	119,224
Sth. Aust.	1,428	564	-	292	-	1,242	3,526
West Aust.	- x	150	-	-	-	-	150
TOTALS	136,557	31,576	8,804	18,426	593	17,586	213,542

x 238 cases potatoes.



# PIGS

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



1940 shewn thus. — — — 1941 shewn thus — — —

A. A. WATSON  
Chief, Division of Marketing

Compiled ... G. C.  
Compilation checked ... G. J.  
Drawn ... E. H.  
Graph checked ... D. R.

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