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



MONTHLY
MARKETING
REVIEW



OCTOBER, 1942.

Vol. 9

No. 2

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.

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Table of Contents

Page

Highlights	23
Annual Conference of the Vegetable Growers' Association of New South Wales ..	24
Sheep, Cattle and Pig Sales at Homebush ..	29
Fruit and Vegetable Sales at City Municipal Markets, Sydney	34
Alexandria Railway Goods Yard and Sussex Street Sales	38
Commodity Prices in Sydney	41
Fruit and Vegetables - Imports into New South Wales	42
Graph - Beef - Various cuts of ..	43

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H I G H L I G H T S.

The Commonwealth Government has announced re-constitution of the Australian Wheat Board, comprising seven representatives of growers, one flour millers' representative and a Chairman. The personnel of the Board is:- Sir Clive McPherson, Chairman; Mr. J. Gatehouse, flour millers' representative; Messrs. E. Field and J. Cavanagh (New South Wales growers); Messrs. A.P. Everett and W.N. Pearce (Victorian growers); Mr. J. Maycock (South Australian growers); Mr. J.M. Steele (Western Australian growers); and Mr. W.A. Dean (Queensland growers).

Federal Cabinet has decided to subsidise the dairying industry to the extent of £2,000,000 per annum in respect of the production of milk for butter and cheese. The subsidy will be paid from October 1st, 1942. Details of the methods of payment have still to be determined.

Maximum price of honey sold in New South Wales and Queensland has been fixed at 7d per lb. ex store.

The High Court has upheld the right of an orchardist to appeal to the Court if he considers that the Apple and Pear Marketing Board has inadequately compensated him for deliveries of apples and pears.

Prices fixed for citrus required for juice purposes quoted in last month's highlights should be amended to read:-

Grapefruit and Seville Oranges	£20. 0. 0 per ton
Oranges (Late Navels, Common or Valencias)	£15. 0. 0 " "
Lemons	£13. 10. 0 " "

These rates are f.o.r. country stations.

The Division of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture is now prepared to arrange contracts on behalf of the Department of Supply for the growing of soybeans for canning purposes. Contract prices are:- a top price of 25/- per bushel for 98 per cent. grade ranging down to 15/- per bushel for 85 per cent. grade.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE VEGETABLE GROWERS'
ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

The ex-Chief of the Division of Marketing, Mr. A.A. Watson, addressed delegates to the Annual Conference of the Vegetable Growers' Association of New South Wales, which was held at the Department of Agriculture on Tuesday and Wednesday, 29th and 30th September, 1942. Mr. Watson traversed the activities of the Association during the past twelve months and referred to the various difficulties encountered in gearing-up the production of vegetables under war-time conditions. In view of the importance of the various matters touched upon by Mr. Watson in his Presidential report it is proposed to print his address in full, which will necessitate its appearance in a number of issues. The first section follows:-

"The Annual Conference of the Association once again takes place under the shadow of war. Since our meeting in August of last year Japan has entered the struggle on the side of the Axis powers and the threat to Australia and all we hold dear has increased enormously. Under the stress of war many things have been considered luxury products and have gone out of our lives for the time being and supplies of many commodities hitherto considered essentials have been seriously curtailed or are virtually unobtainable. So far as vegetables are concerned it has not been possible to meet requirements fully owing to such factors as the increased demand, shortage of manpower, transport difficulties, and the cumulative effects of drought, etc.

The vegetable-growing industry has faced up to the many difficulties confronting it and is playing a prominent part in the national effort under adverse circumstances.

This Conference provides an opportunity for vegetable growers to propound their various problems and affords them ways and means of solving their difficulties, if such is humanly possible.

Petrol Restrictions.

At last Conference a good deal of attention centred upon the question of petrol restrictions and their effect upon vegetable-growers. A number of delegates pointed out that they had experienced considerable difficulty in getting their produce to market and had been forced to abandon trips which they would have made under normal circumstances.

The Liquid Fuel Control Board was approached regarding the granting of larger allowances of petrol in view of the vital part vegetables play in the people's dietary. The Board advised that whilst the difficulties associated with the limitation of petrol supplies were appreciated, nevertheless the position was that stocks of petrol must be built up to a safe level for security

/and....

and defence purposes before there could be any relaxation of restrictions. It was also pointed out that there was urgent need for consumers to adapt their vehicles to the use of substitute fuels, such as producer gas, not only to meet the position then existent, but to prepare for any more serious emergency. This was the position in November, 1941.

Early in December the "more serious emergency" arose by the entry of Japan into the war. Important sources of petrol supplies, such as the Netherlands East Indies and Borneo, can no longer be tapped and the importation of petrol from elsewhere has become more difficult and hazardous. The possibility of obtaining any substantial measure of relief from existing restrictions is thus very remote. On the contrary, steps have been taken by the authorities to effect further economies in the use of petrol by the elimination of waste and the promotion of efficiency in road transport.

The Markets Advisory Committee, on which the Association is represented by our worthy Vice-President, has had meetings from time to time to discuss ways and means of effecting savings so far as marketing is concerned and the Director of Emergency Road Transport has expressed his appreciation of the active interest taken in the matter and seeks continued assistance in this respect.

Embargo on Use of Water.

As was the case last year the restrictions imposed by the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board on the use of the city water supply continues to exercise the minds of our members who are largely dependent upon such water for the successful carrying on of their market-gardens. The prolonged drought was partially relieved by the heavy rains which fell during March, 1942, but these were of only temporary benefit to metropolitan vegetable-growers and the gain in water storage in the various dams was insufficient in the view of the Board to permit of any relaxation of restrictions in the use of water other than for domestic use.

The Board in a letter dated 7th May, 1942, indicated that even after the addition to the water impounded, the reservoirs were still less than one-quarter full. Further, with the entry of Japan into the war, and the possibility of large quantities of water being required for fire-fighting, the Board could not go beyond the removal of the embargo on domestic uses until such time as a further improvement in storage occurred. As little rain has been received since the March falls the position so far as market-gardeners are concerned is virtually unchanged.

Under existing arrangements market-gardens may be watered on all days except Sundays between the hours of 10.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. but in a letter received recently the Board stated that now that summer is approaching it may be advantageous to the interests

/concerned

concerned to revert to the hours of 3.30 p.m. to 6 p.m. previously prevailing. In order to facilitate the Board's review the Association has been requested to consider the matter and furnish the Board with its views. The subject will be open for full discussion during the course of the deliberations of Conference.

Pea and Bean Bags.

At the Conference last year a good deal of discussion took place as a result of the decision of the Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries to discontinue the return of pea and bean bags to growers. A hire system had previously operated with regard to bags but agents alleged that they could not continue to operate under those arrangements because of the losses incurred. The question was referred to the Executive by Conference with a view to conferring with the Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries in an endeavour to evolve a system of bag returns.

The matter is one which chiefly affects country growers and a good deal of consideration has been afforded the question on their behalf. At a conference held between the Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries and representatives of the Association in October, 1941, the whole question was very thoroughly canvassed but the fact emerged that agents were adamant in their decision not to introduce the system of returning bags to producers. The suggestion was put forward at that meeting that a service could and should be provided which would enable the repurchase of bags from buyers such as retailers and others for reconditioning and reselling to growers and that for the purpose of implementation all such bags be so branded as to provide that they are the property of an organisation set up to render that service.

The matter has been under review from time to time in an endeavour to formulate a suitable scheme and in this connection provision was made in the draft of the "Second-hand Cases Bill". The provisions with regard to bags, however, were removed from the draft bill when it was learned that the Commonwealth Authorities, through the Commonwealth Jute Buyer attached to the Department of Supply and Development, had under consideration the introduction of a system of statutory control of second-hand bags generally. Briefly the scheme provides for the issue of licenses in two forms, viz., "A" licenses and "B" licences. The "A" licence will be given to traders who are in a position to repair, recondition and grade, and "B" licences will be issued to collectors who sell in their normal course of trade to "A" licence holders.

It appears that the negotiations for the control of second-hand bags have been protracted; mainly, I understand, because of the necessity for having prices fixed by the Prices Commissioner as this forms an integral part of the scheme. However, the Jute Controller recently saw Professor Copland who is arranging to expedite action in regard to price fixing.

I have been informed that in view of the necessary requirements of the various industries steps were taken some while ago to curtail the requisitioning of hessian stocks by the Department of Defence from private firms. Since then releases have been freely granted where hessian is available for any essential requirements, which include all vegetable bags. Those in need of vegetable bags are asked to submit their inquiries through their usual channels and ask their suppliers to make the necessary application for the release of the hessian to the Department of Supply and Development.

The position will continue to be watched as to further developments.

Proposed Closure of Markets
on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

On a number of occasions the suggestion has been made in certain quarters that the City Municipal Markets should be closed on Wednesday and Saturday of each week. It would appear that various retailers are particularly anxious that the markets be closed on the days mentioned and the idea gained ground that such a move might receive favourable consideration by the Liquid Fuel Control Board.

On the other hand it was held that the closing of the Markets as suggested would prove detrimental from many angles and it was decided to approach the affiliated branches of the Association with the object of obtaining an expression of members' views. The Branches were written to on the matter and the replies received are unanimous in their condemnation of the proposal as being inimical to growers' interests.

The matter received consideration at a recent meeting of the Executive following receipt of a request by the Markets Advisory Committee from the Commissioner of Road Transport for an expression of opinion on this proposal when it was decided to inform the authorities that the Association is definitely opposed to the closing of the Markets on Wednesdays and Saturdays as it is considered that such a course would be very detrimental to both producers and consumers and would not result in any appreciable saving in motor transport.

This decision has been conveyed to the Markets Advisory Committee but no information is yet to hand as to how these representations have been received.

New Branches.

Having in mind the necessity for increasing the number of vegetable-growing centres represented in this Association invitations were issued to attend last year's Conference to a number of vegetable-growers located in areas in which a branch of

/the

the Association had not been established. Various growers accepted the invitation and took part in the deliberations of Conference. The value of the work being done by the Association was made manifest to these gentlemen and has resulted in the affiliation of two new Branches, viz., the Tumby Umbi and District Agricultural Bureau and the Narrabeen Growers' Co-op. Limited. Mr. Stewart Kennedy of Port Macquarie, who was also present last year, recently wrote stating that he had formed an association of vegetable-growers in his district and that this body would seek affiliation with our Association in due course. Although delegates from these new Branches have been unable to attend through various reasons it is indeed pleasing to announce the added strength of our Association.

Registration of Potato Growers.

It will be recalled that a good deal of discussion took place last year with regard to the registration of potato-growers. A resolution was carried on a majority vote to the effect that the Association was opposed to the registration of potato-growers and the payment of registration fee by such growers.

The views of the Association were placed before the Department of Agriculture who advised that legislation for the licensing of potato-growers was enacted in accordance with representations made by organisations representing the majority of potato-growers throughout New South Wales.

The reason for asking for such legislation, it was stated, was that funds were necessary for furthering the interests of the potato industry, particularly in the direction of arranging for the orderly marketing of supplies. It was stated, further, that in view of the fact that the Department had not received indication of any change in the general opinion of the organisations representing the majority of potato-growers in this State, the Minister was not prepared at present to take any action with regard to the question of the Potato Growers' Licensing Act of 1940.

There the matter still rests. Whether any change of mind has taken place amongst the bulk of growers I am not in a position to say. Possibly the need for a potato grower to be registered before he may enter into contracts with the Government has reduced to some extent the opposition to the registration of growers.

Registration of Dusts and Sprays.

A resolution carried at last Conference was to the effect that the Association seek the enactment of legislation compelling manufacturers of sprays and dust to label containers and guarantee the contents thereof, thus affording protection to growers. This matter was taken up with the Department of Agriculture which advised that a Pest Destroyers Bill had been prepared but no definite assurance could be given as to when the Bill would be introduced in Parliament's legislative programme. The position in that regard remains unchanged and there does not appear to be any immediate prospect of the Bill going before Parliament."

(To be Continued)

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SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

GENERALLY LOWER PRICES RULE FOR BEEF, LAMB AND MUTTON:
LARGER SUPPLIES OF PIGS AVAILABLE.

Further improvement in supplies of lambs.

A considerable increase occurred in the number of stock available, despite the fact that fewer sheep were offered than in August. The deficiency, however, was more than balanced by the heavier consignments of lambs and suckers.

Shorn sheep numerous.

By far the largest percentage of the grown sheep penned comprised shorn descriptions, only occasional lots of full-woolled sheep being included. Quality generally was very fair with light to medium weight sheep predominating. Very few consignments of heavy wethers were received but a moderate number of heavy ewes was included. Good light trade sheep were somewhat scarce but medium trade sorts were well represented.

Irregular sheep market.

A good deal of variation occurred in realisations for grown sheep, the reduced numbers offering on several occasions affecting price levels. Opening auctions were marked by a downward trend in values, while on the following sale day sheep were from 1/- to 2/- per head cheaper. Later, however, lighter supplies stimulated demand and rates for most grades advanced by from 1/- to 3/- per head. About mid-September greater numbers of sheep were offered and owing to a restricted enquiry buyers obtained sheep at from 1/- to 1/6 per head lower. On the next sale day competition was freer and sheep generally were 1/- to 2/- dearer. At the last two sales held in September a weaker tendency was evident for practically all grades, medium to plain sorts being most adversely affected.

Some representative sales are given hereunder:-

First Week

Good trade	46 lb. wethers	{ skin 14/6 }	made 25/10	each or 3d	per lb.
" "	38 lb. ewes	{ " 2/6 }	" 10/4	" " 2 ¹ / ₂ d	" "
" heavy	60 lb. wethers	{ " 3/- }	" 16/1	" " 2 ¹ / ₂ d	" "

Second Week

Good trade	44 lb. wethers	{ skin 1/9 }	made 14/6	each or 3 ¹ / ₂ d	per lb.
" "	46 lb. ewes	{ " 1/3 }	" 12/6	" " 3d	" "
" heavy	52 lb. wethers	{ " 9/- }	" 23/11	" " 3 ¹ / ₂ d	" "

/Third...

Third Week

Good trade 38 lb. wethers (skin 1/6) made 14/8 each or 4¹/₄d per lb.
 " " 38 lb. ewes (" 10/6) " 20/8 " " 3¹/₄d " "

Fourth Week

Good trade 46 lb. wethers (skin 1/6) made 15/8 each or 3³/₄d per lb.
 " " 44 lb. ewes (" 1/3) " 12/3 " " 3d " "

Mutton costs less.

The average cost of mutton during September was lower than in the preceding month when up to 5¹/₂d per lb. was paid for light wether mutton compared with 4¹/₄d in the month under review. For the most part, however, light wethers were worth from 2¹/₂d to 3³/₄d per lb. and light ewes 2¹/₂d to 3¹/₄d, while heavy wethers and ewes cost from 2¹/₄d to 3¹/₂d and 2d to 2³/₄d per lb., respectively. Allowing for the variable state of the market, mutton generally was from ³/₄d to 1¹/₂d per lb. cheaper than in August. Up to 29/- per head was secured for wethers, while some of the best ewes offering made to 24/- per head.

Considerable increase in lamb numbers.

A substantial improvement was indicated in the number of lambs and suckers auctioned, the actual figure for September being 261,775, representing an increase of 87,912 head. New season's sucker lambs comprised a fairly substantial proportion of the ponnings. Some pens of exceptionally good heavy summer lambs were submitted but for the most part fair to good trade lambs predominated. The general quality of the suckers was fairly good. Medium to good trade suckers were well represented, while fair numbers of prime quality were also auctioned.

Some variation in lamb prices.

The market for lambs and suckers showed some irregularity. Opening sales were fairly steady but on the second sale day rates declined by 1/- to 1/6 per head, summer lambs being most affected. Later, a further fall of up to 1/- occurred and values remained fairly constant until about the beginning of the third week, during which prices declined by from 2/- to 3/- per head. Some recovery, however, was made at the closing auctions, when most classes of lambs and suckers were 1/- to 1/6 per head dearer.

Sales indicating prices trends are set out hereunder:-

First Week

Good trade 33 lb. suckers (skin 3/6) made 24/- each or 7¹/₂d per lb.
 " heavy 42 lb. " (" 4/3) " 27/8 " " 6³/₄d " "

/Second....

Second Week

Good trade	34 lb. suckers	(skin 3/6)	made 23/2 each or 7d per lb.
" heavy	37 lb. lambs	(" 7/6)	" 26/11 " " 6 ¹ / ₂ d " "
" "	46 lb. lambs	(" 8/6)	" 28/7 " " 5 ¹ / ₂ d " "

Third Week

Good trade	33 lb. suckers	(skin 3/3)	made 20/10 each or 6 ¹ / ₂ d per lb.
" "	36 lb. lambs	(" 3/-)	" 19/3 " " 5 ¹ / ₂ d " "

Fourth Week

Good trade	34 lb. suckers	(skin 3/6)	made 21/4 each or 6 ¹ / ₂ d per lb.
" heavy	42 lb. lambs	(" 8/6)	" 24/4 " " 4 ¹ / ₂ d " "

Cheaper lamb.

Although prices fluctuated somewhat, the average cost of lamb showed a substantial decline, compared with August figures when suckers made to 9¹/₂d per lb. The highest price per lb. for suckers during September was 7¹/₂d, rates mostly ranging from 5d to 6³/₄d according to quality. Summer lambs which made as much as 7¹/₂d per lb during the previous month reached no higher than 7d. Average rates, however, were considerably lower, heavy ranging from 4d to 5¹/₂d and light from 5d to 6¹/₂d per lb. Generally, suckers and lambs were from 1d to 1³/₄d per lb. below the average prices ruling in August. Although at times prime heavy lambs made to 31/- per head, good quality lambs and suckers realised from 18/- to 28/- per head, according to weight and skin value, while plain to medium grades sold at from 7/- to 17/- per head.

Improved cattle supplies.

Consignments of cattle during September, 1942, were most irregular; nevertheless, the average number yarded on each sale day showed an increase. The penning aggregated 14,752 head, including 1,389 auctioned in the store section. Queensland cattle again featured largely in the supplies, particularly during the early part of the month.

Quality was again variable but on the whole it was better than during August. Good trade cattle generally were well supplied but a larger proportion of prime beasts would have been appreciated by the trade.

The improved pastoral position was reflected to some extent in the better quality drafts coming forward. Rainfall, however, was again light in districts where moisture was most required. Pastoral conditions during the winter were such that the outlook was considerably brighter and it would be a considerable disappointment, especially when supplies of beef are so urgently required if unfavourable weather conditions again continue to prevail.

/Good

Good trade bullocks in moderate supply.

Consignments of bullocks comprised chiefly lightweight descriptions. Medium weight bullocks, however, made a good showing while a fair number of heavy bullocks, including several extra heavy drafts, were yarded. Quality generally ranged from fair trade to prime, with good trade sorts predominating. A firm market ruled early in the period when light bullocks were worth to 55/- per 100 lb. During the second week, however, the market declined sharply, rates falling by about 30/- per head. At closing quotations for good to prime grade were:- heavy 38/- to 46/-, medium 45/- to 48/-, light 49/- to 52/- per 100 lb. dressed weight. Extra heavy bullocks realised to £23.0.0 per head and in several instances the dressed weight of such bullocks exceeded 1,000 lb.

Prime light steers in keen demand.

Steers as usual were well supplied but there was a shortage of really prime sorts, especially lightweights, while a noticeable percentage was of fair trade standard only. Prime light steers continued in very keen demand and only on a few occasions did carcass equivalents fall below 60/- per 100 lb., while 62/- was reached during the third week. The market for heavier descriptions was a little weaker.

Record draft of cows.

Supplies of cows were most variable. Quality varied to a large degree and while good trade sorts were well in evidence on some sale days, on others they were noticed in odd lots only. Heavy cows were well represented and one draft was reported to be the weightiest ever seen at the Homebush Saleyards. These cows were prime Shorthorns and realised £17.18.0 per head. The lightest beast dressed 900 lb. and the heaviest the abnormal weight of 1,200. The average was 1,024 lb.

Compared with the average of the previous month, values showed some recession, although the market was steady during the second half of the period. At opening light cows realised to 48/- per 100 lb., while quotations generally at closing for good to prime grade were:- Heavy 37/- to 44/-, light 39/- to 45/-.

Prime light heifers scarce.

Heifers made a fair showing on most sale days, although prime lightweights were mostly in very light supply. For the most part, consignments comprised light and medium weights of good trade quality. The market was fairly steady and values were about on a par with those of the previous month, quotations for the most part ranging from 48/- to 60/- per 100 lb.

/Variable....

Variable consignments of vealers.

The numbers of vealers on offer varied considerably. Except on the final sale day quality was somewhat disappointing and fair trade sorts greatly predominated. Prime descriptions met an exceptionally keen inquiry and quotations throughout the month reached as high as 70/- and 72/- per 100 lb. Although abnormally high, these figures were not quite equal to those obtaining in August.

Cattle values recede.

Values of some classes of cattle were well maintained during September but in most instances a decline was apparent. At this stage there are indications that a further weakening in value will occur.

Larger supplies of pigs.

Increased numbers of pigs were submitted at the Homebush Saleyards during August, 1942, supplies aggregating 10,342 head. Rail consignments totalled 6,194, whilst 2,342 head were sold by private treaty.

High prices for porkers.

Porkers were well represented throughout the period, although lightweights were generally in short supply. Quality for the most part could be described as good trade and on some occasions prime pigs were relatively scarce. Buyers of store pigs obtained their requirements from all weight classifications and on several occasions values exceeded those ruling for prime pigs of similar weight. Small stores, in particular, sold exceptionally well. The market generally for porkers was maintained at an exceptionally high level and only towards the finish of auctions on the final sale day did values show any definite indication of receding. Although the market generally was steady the usual irregularities were noted. Highest quotations for the weights specified were:- 50 lb., 52/6; 60 lb., 61/6; 80 lb., 74/6; 90 lb., 78/6 per head.

Baconers well in evidence.

Baconers made a very satisfactory showing and a fairly large proportion was of good trade to prime grade. The exceptionally high values recorded during August were maintained, although rates showed a small decline during the third week. With the exception of the extra heavy descriptions all grades of prime baconers sold up to prices equivalent to 10d per lb. dressed weight. Closing rates were 10d per lb. On a per head basis, prices of good to prime ranged from £4.0.0 to £7.0.0 with one extra heavy line selling to £7.7.6.

During the month it was decided to give quotations for the
/additional

additional weight grades of baconers, viz., 160/180 lb. and 180/230 lb. This course was dictated by the changed buying procedure arising from war time demands.

Backfatters made only a fair showing and at times there was a scarcity of prime descriptions and heavy sorts. A number of prime heavy pigs, however, was submitted early in the period and one, dressing 601 lb., realised £17.8.6, the highest price obtained in recent years. Generally values remained at a high level and only towards the close of the month was a weakening in the market manifest. Best prices for prime backfatters ranged to 8½d for light and 7½d per lb. for heavy descriptions.

G.C. & J.W.

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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES
AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Apples in light supply and values advance.

The market was reasonably well stocked with apples early in September, but as only limited quantities from interstate and local sources arrived subsequently the stocks available towards the close of the month were reduced to low levels. Rates generally showed an upward trend, most varieties advancing by about 2/- per bushel.

Of the local supplies, Delicious continued to realise top prices, up to 30/- per bushel being paid for selected packs. Best lines of Granny Smiths sold to 17/- for the greater part of the month, but rates advanced to 20/- prior to the close. Other local varieties consisted mainly of Democrat and Rome Beauty and high prices ruled for the first-mentioned towards the end of September.

Small consignments of Victorian Jonathan, Rome Beauty and Delicious were received at intervals and all lines met good inquiry. Tasmanian Granny Smith, Democrat, Sturmer and Crofton were fairly well supplied early but stocks were not maintained owing to transport difficulties. Western Australian Granny Smith were available and sold well, rates firming from 17/- to 20/- for best lines.

Relatively few local pears were on offer; the bulk of the light supplies were drawn from Victoria and comprised Josephine, Winter Nellis, Packham's Triumph and small lots of Winter Cole. Generally, fairly high prices ruled, and a sharp rise was recorded for all varieties late in the month, when Josephine sold up to 24/- and Packham's Triumph to 26/- per bushel.

Citrus rates rise sharply.

The market for Navel oranges was firm at opening but it
/weakened

weakened slightly later and small fruit was difficult to clear; nevertheless, returns to growers were far from unremunerative. About the middle of September there was a considerable falling-off in supplies and the announcement of control of Valencia and common oranges by the Commonwealth Government resulted in prices advancing to high levels, selected sizes of choice oranges selling to 30/- per bushel. Rates remained very firm for the balance of the month, for the small quantities coming forward which included some Victorian packs.

The high rates ruling for Navel oranges resulted in increased harvesting of Valentias prior to the Commonwealth control order coming into effect. Although prices fluctuated somewhat during the first two weeks of September, they were steady at up to 24/- during the balance of the period owing to the limited quantity allowed to be marketed by growers and the reduced quantities of Navels coming forward.

Demand for lemons was dull until late in the month, when supplies were very light. Values showed an appreciable advance and choice fruit realised to 20/- per bushel and occasionally higher.

Choice mandarins met a satisfactory request and up to 30/- per bushel was obtained. Small fruit was difficult to sell early in the month, but a better inquiry ruled when supplies of oranges declined and rates advanced.

Pineapples in request.

Consignments of pineapples from Queensland varied from light to heavy. Demand generally was satisfactory; apparently the limited quantities of other fruits on offer was a major factor and prices, although fluctuating according to the quantities on offer were maintained at fairly high levels, as much as 25/- per case being obtained, while best lines did not fall below 16/- at any period. The heaviest consignment, comprising 6,400 cases, came to hand on Monday, 28th September.

The market for bananas maintained.

Consignments of bananas from the North Coast totalled about 43,000 cases. The quality generally was only medium, much of the fruit being thin owing to unfavourable seasonal conditions. Choice lines generally met a satisfactory demand and values were well maintained. Small fruit, which was fairly plentiful, took some time to clear.

Passionfruit continued to sell at high prices. Values advanced by about 4/- per half-case during the month and buyers paid 24/- for choice lines, while some specials were dearer still.

The Queensland strawberry season is practically closed. Most lines received towards the close of September were affected by /fungus....

fungus and reconditioning was necessary. Realisations this season were higher than for some years.

Plentiful supply of peas.

Consignments of peas to agents' floors were fairly heavy at all times, as many as 3,000 bags being available on one occasion. In addition, fairly large quantities were offered in the growers' section of the market. The quality showed deterioration towards the close of the month, owing to adverse weather conditions, choice lines constituting only a small percentage of receipts. Demand generally was satisfactory and, apart from a few occasions, daily carry-overs were small. Purchases for interstate markets and by chain stores in the city and larger suburbs was a factor in effecting disposals, while heavier buying by retailers was brought about by the scarcity of good quality beans. Values fluctuated, but choice lots rarely fell below 10/-, while up to 14/- per bushel was obtained. Inferior lines, however, sold for as low as 4/- per bushel on some days.

Choice beans scarce.

Supplies of beans from the North Coast and Queensland showed a further decline. The major proportion comprised medium to low grade, although some choice lines from the Valla and Nambucca areas of the North Coast were included. Demand for good quality descriptions was satisfactory and up to 25/- per bushel was obtained; other grades, however, met a slow inquiry and some lines were unsaleable. The first of the new season's beans, comprising a few bushels, arrived from the Tuggerah district during the second week of September, and sold at 27/- per bushel. Subsequent consignments showed a gradual increase, but no considerable improvement in supplies from this district is expected until towards mid-October. Satisfactory prices were realised, choicest lots rarely selling below 25/- per bushel.

Prices of tomatoes reach high levels.

The principal supplies of tomatoes were from Queensland, supplemented by local glasshouse and small consignments from the North Coast, but the total weekly receipts from all sources were only moderate. Low temperatures early in the month restricted demand and values weakened slightly, but the market soon recovered with the advent of warmer conditions and prices rose sharply. First grade Glasshouse lines realised to 30/- per half-case and in a few instances more was paid. North Coast supplies, comprising mostly green fruit, met a very good request and sold at high prices. Trellis-grown, coloured packs from Southern Queensland found ready sale at up to 30/- per half-case. Receipts from Bowen (Northern Queensland) varied considerably in quality; some opened up in poor condition and had to be disposed of at the best prices offering. Rates for choice lines generally were well below those obtained for best Southern packs.

/Cauliflower....

Cauliflower season ending.

With the season for cauliflowers drawing to a close, the quantities on offer were not large and were mainly from Metropolitan gardens. Some extra choice heads were included in offerings and up to 26/- per dozen was realised, while 30/- was paid for a few specials. Demand was good for all lines on offer. It is expected that crops will cut out earlier than usual owing to unfavourable conditions.

Market for cabbages improves.

Cabbages were fairly heavily supplied early in the month and clearances could not be effected on all days with the result that values showed a downward trend. The position improved later owing to the somewhat smaller quantities coming to hand and a brighter inquiry was noticeable. Rates for choice lines showed an advance of about 3/- per dozen, compared with early realisations.

Supplies of sweet potatoes from local sources were light but fairly large quantities were received from Queensland. Demand was brisk owing to the scarcity of table tubers and high prices ruled. Loose parsnips were in short supply towards the close of September and rates rose sharply.

Bunched vegetables met a good request. Carrots were in light supply, while the shortage of loose parsnips improved value of bunched lots. Rhubarb continued to sell at well above normal levels. Spinach was plentiful and cheaper.

R.M.

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Control of Egg Marketing in the
United Kingdom during the War.

A letter received from the Acting Official Secretary, New South Wales Government Offices, London, states that the end of the first year of the Ministry of Food's egg distribution scheme occurred in June last and in the twelve months 2,422,500,000 eggs were distributed, of which 784,000,000 were imported. This means that, roughly, two in three were home-produced. Every registered consumer should have received about 40 eggs, and since the middle of November children and invalids should have received about 100 each.

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ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD
AND
SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Exceptionally light consignments of Tasmanian potatoes.

Supplies of potatoes at Alexandria Goods Yard consisted of 141 bags of Factor Seed Potatoes and 30 bags of Factors (Chats) but these stocks were not offered for sale. There were also 157 bags of Victorian Seed potatoes which were consigned to Government Stores for distribution amongst various institutions.

Exceptionally light consignments of Brownell and other varieties were received from Tasmania. A very small proportion was available for general trading purposes, the bulk being taken over by the Federal authorities. Prices continue unchanged, ranging to the maximum of £17.5.0 per ton.

Decreased supplies of swedes.

Consignments of Tasmanian swedes declined considerably and amounted to only 1,583 bags as against 5,876 bags in the previous period. A small quantity was sold at £6.0.0 per ton but the bulk realised the higher rate of £12.0.0 per ton. At Alexandria, supplies totalled 2,491 bags. Prices varied considerably and ranged from £5.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton, with a few bags of Stock Feed at 3/- per bag.

Tasmanian root vegetables again in limited supply.

Very light supplies of Tasmanian carrots, aggregating 1,024 bags, were received. Demand continued good at £16.0.0 per ton. In Sussex Street 12 bags received from the North Coast sold at the same rate. Parsnips were also in very light supply, only 197 bags being available; sales were recorded at £20.0.0 per ton.

Smaller stocks of pumpkins.

Arrivals of Queensland pumpkins totalled 84 trucks and 7 trucks and 78 bags arrived from local sources. There was a satisfactory demand and prices showed an increase. A few sales were made early at £9.0.0 but £12.0.0 to £12.10.0 per ton was obtained at the close of the period.

Oaten chaff realises higher prices.

Consignments of oaten chaff totalled 95 trucks, including 8 from South Australia and 3 from Victoria. Agents had no difficulty in disposing of stocks at higher rates. The following values ruled at the close of September:- Good sound £8.10.0 to £9.0.0, Prime and Choice £10 10.0, with one truck of Choice at £10.15.0 per ton. At auction one truck of damaged Oaten realised £5.5.0 per ton.

/Light

Light supplies of wheaten chaff.

Arrivals of wheaten chaff consisted of 33½ trucks, including 7 trucks from South Australia, but quality lines were scarce. Sales during the month were as follows:- Medium £7.10.0 to £8.15.0, Prime £8.15.0 to £10.5.0. £6.16.8 to £8.5.0 per ton was obtained at auction.

Higher rates for lucerne chaff.

Lucerne chaff consignments consisted of 30½ trucks and owing to the limited supplies sales were made at higher rates, especially choice quality lots. Closing prices were:- Good sound £11.0.0 to £12.0.0, Prime £13.10.0, Choice £14.15.0 and Extra Choice £15.0.0 per ton.

Lucerne threshings and dust.

About 2 trucks of lucerne threshings arrived and disposal were effected at £9.10.0 to £10.0.0 per ton. Lucerne dust totalled about 50 bags, buyers paying £11.0.0 for medium quality and £14.0.0 per ton for choice.

Increased consignments of lucerne hay.

Arrivals of lucerne hay from the Maitland district showed an increase and amounted to 126 trucks. There was a good inquiry and higher prices ruled. During the first half of the period sales of new soft green were made at £4.0.0 to £6.0.0 per ton with a few very soft lines at £3.15.0 per ton. Subsequently, values continued very firm, most sales being effected at £6.0.0 to £7.15.0 with a few special lines at £8.0.0 to £8.10.0 per ton. There were 42 trucks received from other centres. Prices were higher at the close of the month and were as follow:- Medium £9.0.0 to £10.0.0, Good sound £10.0.0 to £11.0.0 and Prime £12.0.0. New soft green £9.10.0 to £10.0.0, Choice spring cut £12.0.0 to £12.10.0 per ton. In Sussex Street 63 bales cleared at £4.10.0 to £6.0.0 per ton.

Consignments of oaten and wheaten hay decline.

Supplies of oaten and wheaten hay decreased and totalled 27½ trucks, including 18½ trucks of oaten and 9 of wheaten. During the period sales were effected as follows:- Medium oaten £7.0.0, Good sound £7.10.0 to £8.0.0, Prime £8.10.0, Choice Rack £10.0.0, Good sound Wheaten £8.0.0, New dry Wheaten £6.0.0. New soft green realised £4.15.0 per ton at auction.

Oaten and wheaten straw well supplied.

Wheaten, oaten and rice straw continued to be well supplied. A good demand ruled and prices remained firm. Oaten realised £8.0.0 to £9.0.0, wheaten £8.0.0 to £9.0.0 and rice straw £6.0.0 per ton. At auction, rice straw brought £5.10.0 per ton.

/Maize...

Maize sells at firm rates.

Consignments of maize increased slightly and consisted of 10,865 bags. Enquiry was again keen. At Alexandria, 7,483 bags of yellow and 663 bags of white arrived from the North Coast and North West, and 1,002 bags of yellow and 156 bags of white came to hand from Queensland. In Sussex Street, consignments from the North Coast totalled 1,561 bags of yellow. Sales of yellow were made at 7/- per bushel at Alexandria and small yellow 7/2. Queensland small No. 2 quality brought 6/8 and 6/10 and small yellow 6/11¹/₂ per bushel at auction. No prices were disclosed for white, which was purchased direct by agents. In Sussex Street, prices were unchanged, yellow at 7/- and some white at 7/9 per bushel.

Wheat unchanged.

Receivals of wheat at Alexandria Goods Yard amounted to 14 trucks. The bulk was of F.A.Q. standard and sold at 3/8 per bushel. Several trucks of under quality were offered at auction and brought from 3/3¹/₂d to 3/7d per bushel.

Consignments of oats reduced.

Supplies of oats totalled 10 trucks. From 3/- to 3/4¹/₂d was obtained at auction.

C.H.F.

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The following is an extract from a press clipping from the London "Times" received from the New South Wales Government Offices, London:-

"A greater measure of self-sufficiency has been achieved by higher farming all round and by developing certain lines of production, such as cereals, potatoes, sugar beet, vegetables and milk, at the expense of beef and mutton. The output of wheat, barley, and oats in Britain has been increased by 50 per cent. since the war started, and the potato acreage by 70 per cent. The consumption of green vegetables has expanded by 30 per cent., and the whole supply is home-grown. Such facts should be made known widely. To be told the results of their labours encourages farmers and farm workers, and it is good for the public to recognise the possibilities of British agriculture when the land is fully used."

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES
IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING SEPTEMBER, 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:-

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>September, 1942.</u>		<u>31st August, 1939</u>	
	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Wheat - Home Consumption:				
Bulk - per bushel	3/11½d (unchanged)		2/4d	
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2 (plus £2.8.10 tax)		£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)	
Bran - " "	£6.0.0 (unchanged)		£4.5.0	
Pollard - " "	£6.0.0 "		£4.5.0	
Eggs (hen) - per dozen	1/6	"	1/-	
Butter (choice) - per cwt.	169/4	"	161/2	
Cheese:				
Loaf - per lb.	1/0½d	"	11d	
Large - " "	1/-	"	10½d	
Special Brands - per lb.	1/1	1/3½d	1/2d	
	<u>September, 1942</u>		<u>29th August, 1939</u>	
	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Pigs (Abattoir Sales):				
Good to prime - per head				
Porkers:				
Extra light	35/6	53/6	31/6	40/6
Light	48/6	62/6	39/6	44/6
Medium weight	58/6	74/6	43/6	57/6
Heavy	70/6	78/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	£3.18.6	£7.0.6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£6.5.0	£17.8.6	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

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

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

F R U I T.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS packages
Queensland	17,292	4,417	14,068 ^x	95,321 ^ø	131,098
Victoria	-	32	80,108	2	80,142
Tasmania	-	-	49,729	-	49,729
Sth. Aust.	-	-	2,760	-	2,760
West Aust.	-	-	2,945	-	2,945
TOTALS	17,292	4,449	149,610	95,323	266,674

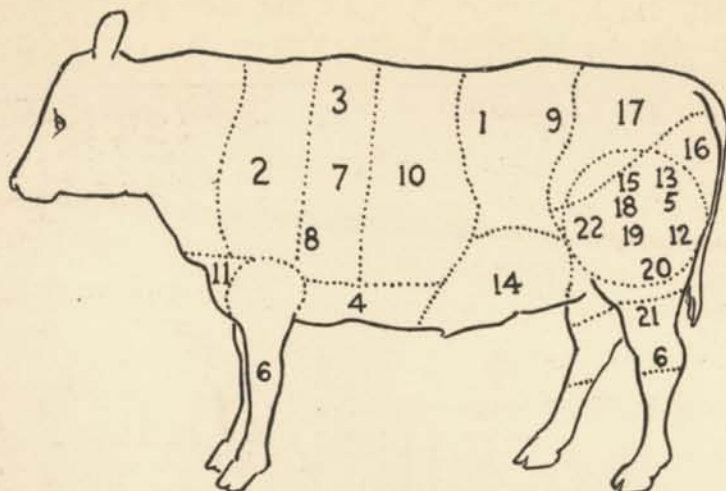
Note: x Also 11,591 trays Strawberries.
ø Also 1 tray Tomatoes.

V E G E T A B L E S.

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins		Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkges	TOTALS	
				bags	tons			pkges.	tons
Queensland	265	102	48	55,166	57½	946	18,124	74,651	57½
Victoria	19,135	7,153	418	-	-	-	9,322	36,028	-
Tasmania	83,156	-	7,750	-	-	-	5,825	96,731	-
Sth. Aust.	204	4,047	-	-	-	-	6,994	11,245	-
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	102,760	11,302	8,216	55,166	57½	946	40,265	218,655	57½

B. 42-1.

BEEF



CUTS AND THEIR USE IN COOKING

1. WING RIB (Roasting)
2. CHUCK & BLADE BONE STEAK (Puddings & Pies)
3. BACK RIBS (Braising)
4. BRISKET (Salted or Fresh)
5. TOPSIDE - CROSS CUT (Roasting)
6. SHIN OF BEEF (Stewing)
7. FLAT RIB (Roasting)
8. BOLAR ROAST
9. SIRLOIN (Roasting, and PORTERHOUSE STEAK)
10. RIBS ROLLING (Roasting)
11. BRISKET (Pickled or Fresh for boiling)
12. TOPSIDE or STEAK
13. BUTTOCK or TOPSIDE STEAK
14. FLANK (Braising)
15. SILVERSIDE (Salted or Fresh)
16. AITCHBONE (Roasting or Salted)
17. RUMP STEAK (Grilling and FILLET STEAK inside rump)
18. SILVERSIDE - CROSS CUT (Salt or fresh)
19. SILVERSIDE (Salt or fresh)
20. TOPSIDE or STEAK
21. LEG OF BEEF (Puddings & pies)
22. THICK FLANK (Roasting)

E. F. WHITBREAD,
Acting Chief, Division of Marketing.

NOTE: Nos 5, 15, 13 & 20, marked in the circle, are cuts from the inside of the leg.

Drawn - E.H.S. - 29-9-42.

Checked - G.C.