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



MONTHLY
MARKETING
REVIEW



APRIL, 1943.

Vol. 9

No. 8

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 ACTING CHIEF
OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

APRIL, 1943.

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HIGHLIGHTS.

It has been announced that prices of practically all commodities were to be "pegged" on the basis of those ruling on 12th April, 1943, and that no further increases would be permitted. It is stated that the fixation of ceiling prices is to (a) stabilise the price structure, (b) enable consumers to purchase the bulk of their essential needs on a constant outlay of money and (c) stabilise incomes and give the Australian £ a firm value in terms of commodities for the duration of the war. Certain perishable products such as fruit and vegetables are not covered for the time being.

Latest estimate of the Australian wheat crop place the total production at approximately 158,400,000 bushels or nearly $7\frac{3}{4}$ million bushels below last season. The decline in production is most noticeable in Western Australia where the yield is 17,000,000 lower than in 1941/42.

An official forecast of the main or inland potato crop in New South Wales this season places the prospective yield of tubers at approximately 45,000 tons compared with 26,214 tons last year.

The Federal Government has announced the appointment of Mr. H. Souter of the Department of Commerce and Agriculture as Federal Egg Controller and Mr. R.C. Blake, Chairman, New South Wales Egg Marketing Board, as Assistant Controller.

The Ginger Marketing Board for the State of New South Wales, constituted under the Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927-1940, has been appointed as from 26th February, 1943. The elected representatives of producers are Messrs W. Rudgley of Wardell, J. Layzell, Alstonville, and the Government Nominee is Mr. W. Giles, Agricultural Instructor, Lismore.

IMPORTANCE OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS IN THE
NATIONAL ECONOMY.

In discussing this question regard must necessarily be had to the fact that statistics relating to exports of individual commodities since the outbreak of war are confidential and cannot be published. In any event it perhaps is desirable to base observations on pre-war figures which might be regarded as representative of normal trading conditions. The export position prior to the outbreak of war is clearly illustrated by the following table published by the Commonwealth Statistician covering Australian exports over a period of ten years 1930-31 to 1939-40:-

<u>Industrial Group</u>	<u>Value of Exports during Ten Years</u>	<u>Percentage on Total Exports</u>
	£A, 000	%
Agriculture	292,063	23.11
Pastoral	603,296	47.74
Dairy and Farmyard	125,002	9.89
Mining	166,653	13.19
Forestry and Fisheries	12,050	0.95
<u>Total, Primary Produce</u>	<u>1,199,064</u>	<u>94.88</u>
Manufacturing	64,709	5.12
<u>Total</u>	<u>1,263,773</u>	<u>100.00</u>

It will be noted from the foregoing that the average annual value of exports over the ten-year period was £126,377,300, of which £102,036,100 represents the products of the pastoral, agricultural, and dairying and farmyard industries, or 80.74% of the total value of all exports.

The importance of the new wealth accruing to the nation as a result of sales of primary produce overseas needs no emphasis. It is sufficient to say that when primary industries are prosperous the whole community benefits.

For the purpose of this survey it is proposed very briefly to traverse various primary industries which figure prominently in Australia's export trade, utilising the annual average figures for the five-year period 1934-35 to 1938-39, inclusive.

W o o l.

The annual value expressed in Australian currency of wool exports from the Commonwealth during the period including greasy, scoured and washed wool, also tops, noils and waste, was £48,744,241. The New South Wales share of this total was £20,560,012. A noticeable feature disclosed by an analysis of the returns from wool exports is a marked decline in values during 1938-39 compared with the previous two years. The United Kingdom was, as for most other lines, our best customer, the quantity of wool purchased far exceeding that bought by any other country. Apart from the United Kingdom the principal destinations were Belgium, France, Japan, Italy and the United States. Almost immediately after the commencement of the war in September, 1939, it was announced that the British Government had agreed to buy the whole of the Australian and New Zealand wool clips for the duration of the war and one clip thereafter at an average price of 10¹/₂d per lb. sterling or 13.4375d per lb. in Australian currency and 9¹/₂d per lb. sterling (A.12 25d), respectively. The return for the 1939-40 clip was estimated to be about £54,000,000 compared with £42,500,000 realised for the previous year's clip.

In May, 1942, it was announced that the British Government had arranged to increase the price for Australian wool by 15% beginning with the next clip and this was estimated to represent an increased return of about £9,000,000 per annum to Australia.

Wheat and Flour.

Ranking next in importance to wool among our export industries is wheat. Exports of grain from Australia during the five years 1934-35 to 1938-39 averaged 76,472,723 bushels, valued at £14,813,138 annually. The value of exports from New South Wales in the same period averaged £3,542,545. In addition to grain, large quantities of flour were shipped overseas from the Commonwealth, the five-year average value totalling no less than £5,058,147.

Although the acreage sown to wheat in Australia each year is substantially below that in numbers of other countries, the Commonwealth figures as one of the major exporters. Exports of wheat were mainly to the United Kingdom, while in some years shipments were substantial to such countries as China, India, Japan, Greece and the Irish Free State.

Outside of the United Kingdom, the main flour exports were to the East.

Butter.

Generally speaking, the value of butter exports has shown a progressive increase. In 1934-35 Australian shipments /totalling

totalling about 262½ million lb. were valued at approximately £9,586,000, whilst just under 230 million lb. exported during 1938-39 were valued at no less than £12,892,000. The five year average of Australian butter exports was £10,378,822

Lamb, Mutton and Beef.

Frozen lamb constitutes the main item of meat exports. The average quantities transported overseas from Australia during the period was 153,606,462 lb. with an average value of £4,208,318. Frozen beef averaged 190,499,839 lb., valued at £2,540,701. Chilled beef exports showed a marked increase. Exports from Australia in 1934-35 aggregated just over 21½ million lb., valued at £322,000, whilst shipments in 1938-39 reached just on 59 million lb., valued at just under £1,000,000. There has been a tendency for shipments of frozen mutton to decrease in recent years, although exports from the Commonwealth averaged 40,583,651 lb., valued at £656,934 during the period 1934-35 to 1938-39, inclusive. It is pleasing to record a steady increase in the value of exports of bacon and hams which rose from £98,825 in 1934-35 to £119,994 in the year 1938-39. The value of pork and veal exports during the period under review averaged £698,490 and £164,305, respectively.

The outstanding customer for the various meats was the United Kingdom, although fair quantities of frozen beef were exported to Egypt and Japan.

Dried Fruits.

Australian exports of dried currants and sultanas showed a substantial increase during the last three years of the period under review. The average exports totalled 123,273,080 lb., valued at £2,100,537. The bulk was marketed in the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand, to which Australia will be called upon to make supplies available during this year in order to protect the food position in those countries. Large quantities will also be needed for the Armed Services within Commonwealth territory.

With regard to dried tree fruits, normal production is around 5,000 tons, of which approximately 30% was exported during pre-war years. The Federal Government has acquired the whole of the present season's production for the use of the Services and, apart from prunes, it appears unlikely that supplies of these fruits will be available for civil requirements. However, it is possible that the Government will make limited supplies of prunes available for invalids and children.

Fruits - Fresh and Canned.

Export of fresh fruits largely comprised apples, which in the period under review averaged £1,396,082 in value but

/since

since the war shipments overseas have ceased. Canned fruits, however, are in a different category and during the five-year period 1934-35 to 1938-39, inclusive, the exports of apricots, peaches, pears and pineapples preserved in liquid, each year averaged 66,548,759 lb., valued at £1,022,688.

Planned Production

As was mentioned at the outset, figures with regard to exports have not been made available for publication owing to the exigencies of war. It is well known, of course, that Australia stands committed, not only to feeding its own population, including undisclosed numbers of Australian and Allied troops, but to increasing production to such an extent that large quantities of various primary products will be available for export overseas to the United Kingdom and allied countries. Admittedly, the normal vagaries of the Australian climate will provide the usual imponderable factors in production but planned production directed towards overcoming such problems as manpower-shortages, scarcity of fertilisers, machinery parts, etc., transport and other difficulties is vital. That the necessity for such planning is recognised is evidenced by the appointment of a Director-General of Agriculture who is charged with administering an Australian-wide scheme of planned agricultural production.

The Minister of Supply in a recent statement indicated that action was to be taken to step-up production in order that Australia would take its share in feeding the people of Britain, other allied Nations and countries won back from the enemy. Increased primary production will not only be necessary during the war but in the immediate post-war years as well. Indications are not lacking that there are serious food shortages in many of the occupied European countries as well as in some of the minor countries supporting the Axis Powers. There is little doubt that by co-operative planning of agricultural production and distribution on a comprehensive scale much suffering through malnutrition could be alleviated and many lives saved. It is obvious that even if hostilities were to cease suddenly a considerable time must elapse before areas in European countries can again be brought into effective production on an adequate scale.

The Minister for Supply has also disclosed that the extent of Australia's participation in food relief and the feeding of liberated countries is to be considered in Washington during April.

The following schedule sets out the value of the principal primary products exported from New South Wales and Australia on the basis of a five-year average 1934-35 to 1938-39 inclusive:-

COMMODITY	NEW SOUTH WALES		AUSTRALIA	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
(lb.)		£		£
Wool - Greasy	319,341,241	13,129,491	762,866,112	42,819,940
" - Scoured & Washed	23,282,057	1,936,789	64,184,946	5,517,322
" - Tops, Nails & Waste	4,445,063	493,732	5,948,354	606,980
Wheat (Bush.)	18,015,034	3,542,545	76,472,725	14,813,138
Flour - Wheaten (Bush.)	236,887	1,854,648	647,071	5,058,148
Butter (lb.)	33,239,432	1,652,009	215,272,380	10,378,823
Cheese (lb.)	807,328	25,982	21,378,930	608,892
Eggs - In Shell (Dozens)	5,043,371	283,197	15,397,895	867,719
Lamb - Frozen (lb.)	38,623,698	1,055,523	153,606,462	4,208,318
Mutton - " (lb.)	19,624,027	518,751	40,583,651	656,194
Beef - Chilled (lb.)	835,116	14,809	40,857,586	647,790
" - Frozen (lb.)	12,618,574	201,120	190,497,859	2,540,701
Pork (lb.)	1,139,953	31,518	26,141,231	698,490
Veal (lb.)	1,687,890	29,519	10,353,356	164,605
Bacon & Ham (lb.)	398,587	25,699	1,686,340	111,783
Fruit - Dried (lb.)				
Currants	902,448	12,503	33,721,143	548,838
Sultanas	4,391,294	62,437	89,551,937	1,551,700
" - Fresh (Bush.)				
Apples	116,313	62,689	3,856,564	1,396,083
Pears	23,810	13,245	568,405	248,347
Oranges	143,551	71,968	439,775	225,362
" - Preserved in Liquid				
Apricots (lb.)	2,393,613	40,870	8,083,879	133,889
Peaches (lb.)	8,074,801	130,080	34,587,874	501,138
Pears (lb.)	223,243	3,775	21,220,029	335,236
Pineapples (lb.)	21,379	523	2,656,977	52,425
Rabbits & Hares (Pair)	1,018,064	61,210	4,643,392	242,351

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

Supplies of sheep considerably heavier.

The numbers of sheep and lambs available increased substantially during March, when supplies were the heaviest for some considerable time. Throughout the period, 407,118 head were auctioned, representing an increase of 78,655 head compared with the February total.

Plain sheep numerous.

Plain descriptions comprised a fairly large proportion of the pennings but medium trade sheep were also plentiful. Of the total of 226,282 head yarded, the percentage of good to prime wethers and ewes was only relatively small, although some attractive consignments of prime heavy sheep were included.

Prime sheep sell well.

Generally a strong demand prevailed for good to prime grades. At opening sales, practically all descriptions were up to 1/- cheaper but subsequently rates advanced, the increased realisations ranging from 1/6 to 2/6 per head. From then on until the end of the month values remained steady but at closing auctions, keen competition resulted in a further improvement in prices, ewes, in particular, selling extremely well. Generally demand was not so strong for plain to medium quality lines and at times lower values ruled but in common with the better class of sheep, prices improved at the end of the period. Some of the actual sales recorded are given below:-

First Week

Good trade	40 lb. ewes (skin 4/6)	made	12/8	each	or	2 ⁵ / ₈ d	per lb.
" "	42 " wethers (" 3/-)	"	14/4	"	"	3 ¹ / ₂ d	" "

Second Week

Good trade	40 lb. ewes (skin 4/-)	made	13/4	each	or	2 ⁵ / ₈ d	per lb.
" "	42 " wethers (" 3/6)	"	15/8	"	"	3 ¹ / ₂ d	" "

Third Week

Good heavy	50 lb. ewes (skin 6/-)	made	17/10	each	or	2 ⁵ / ₈ d	per lb.
" trade	40 " " (" 3/6)	"	13/5	"	"	3d	" "
" "	40 " wethers (" 5/-)	"	17/10	"	"	3 ¹ / ₂ d	" "

/Fourth.....

Fourth Week

Good trade 42 lb. ewes (skin 3/6) made 12/11 each or 2⁵/₄d per lb.
 " " 46 " wethers (" 3/6) " 18/5 " " 3⁵/₄d " "

Closing Sales

Good trade 40 lb. ewes (skin 4/6) made 14/8 each or 3d per lb.
 " " 44 " wethers (" 3/9) " 16/8 " " 3¹/₂d " "

Mutton prices fairly constant.

Although some variation occurred in realisations for grown sheep, the average cost of mutton throughout March was substantially the same as during February. Good light trade wether mutton was worth from 2³/₄d to 3³/₄d per lb. and heavy 2¹/₂d to 3¹/₂d. Operators mostly paid from 2¹/₂d to 3d for light ewes, with odd lots making 3¹/₂d, while heavy grades cost from 2d to 2¹/₂d per lb. Plain and medium classes of mutton, however, were obtainable at relatively lower prices.

Lamb supplies increase.

Considerable improvement took place in the supply of lambs, pennings for the period aggregating 180,836 head or about 26,000 more than the previous month's total. A moderate number of good heavy lambs was submitted but there was a continued shortage of prime light grades. A fair proportion of the light lambs offering was only of medium quality, while plain descriptions were also fairly well in evidence.

Strong demand for prime lambs.

Although at early sales lambs were up to 1/- cheaper, subsequent brisk inquiry for practically all descriptions, more particularly good light weights resulted in prices advancing by 1/- to 2/- per head. The market then continued firm to very firm until about the end of March when a further increase of up to 1/- per head occurred. Plain to medium lambs also sold reasonably well, the shortage of prime grades creating a much better demand. Representative sales, indicating price trends are shown hereunder:-

First Week

Good trade 30 lb. suckers (skin 3/-) made 20/8 each or 7d per lb.
 " " 32 " lambs (" 4/-) " 20/9 " " 6¹/₂d " "

Second Week

Prime 34 lb. suckers (skin 3/-) made 24/5 each or 7¹/₂d per lb.
 " Good heavy 46 lb. lambs (" 2/6) " 22/10 " " 5¹/₂d " "

/Third....

Third Week

Good light 30 lb. suckers (skin 3/6)	made 22/5	each or 7½d	per lb.
Prime heavy 46 lb. lambs (" 2/3)	" 23/8	" " 5½d	" "

Fourth Week

Good trade 36 lb. lambs (skin 3/9)	made 23/7	each or 6½d	per lb.
Prime light 31 lb. suckers (" 3/-)	" 22/9	" " 7½d	" "

Closing Sales.

Good trade 34 lb. suckers (skin 4/-)	made 23/9	each or 7d	per lb.
" heavy 44 lb. lambs (" 6/-)	" 26/3	" " 5½d	" "

Rates for lamb fairly steady.

Considering the general lack of quality of supplies, and having regard to the improvement which occurred in prices, the average cost per lb. of lamb did not vary to any appreciable extent, from that of the previous month. Prime light suckers, more particularly Southdown types, made up to 8d per lb., but by far the greater percentage of suckers sold was worth from 6½d to 7½d, with a moderate number making 7½d per lb. Good light summer lambs cost from 6d to 6½d with heavy grades ranging in price from 5d to 6½d per lb. Good quality hoggets, which were in somewhat short supply, also realised satisfactory prices and generally were worth 4d to 5d per lb., according to weight and finish.

Sheep and lamb prices, bearing in mind the large numbers offering, could be regarded as good.

Increased cattle supplies.

Consignments of cattle during March, 1943, were moderate to fairly heavy and, the aggregate for the nine sale days, was the largest for some time, 19,040 head being penned, of which 1,692 were auctioned in the store section. The heaviest truckings occurred towards the close of the month.

The bulk of the stock comprised fair to good trade lines and, on the whole, quality showed less variation from sale day to sale day than was the case during February. Dry conditions continued to prevail throughout the greater part of the State and the feed position showed further deterioration.

Improved yardings of bullocks.

Bullocks made a better showing and only on one or two sales days were supplies really light. Good trade descriptions predominated, while many medium weight drafts were noticed. As

/ usual.....

usual, heavy descriptions were scarce. At opening sales, prime light bullocks ranged to 47/- per 100 lb., but were worth to 49/- towards the close. Quotations were lowest during the second week when price ranges for good to prime grade were as follow:- heavy 36/- to 42/-, medium weight 41/- to 44/-, light 42/- to 46/- per 100 lb. Average values were a little below those of February.

Variable market for steers.

Steers were well supplied, the consignments comprising chiefly fair to good trade light and medium weights. Occasionally all grades of weights were well represented. The percentage of prime descriptions generally was small. Values were variable and the market generally was not so strong as that of the previous month. Prime lightweights ranged to 53/- per 100 lb., but average rates were much lower, best quotations on some occasions not exceeding 48/- per 100 lb.

Good trade cows lightly supplied.

Truckings of cows ranged from light to moderate. Generally, medium to fair trade beasts greatly predominated; nevertheless attractive drafts were noticed on several sale days, including heavy descriptions. The market was at its peak during the third week when quotations for both light and heavy grades ranged to 42/- per 100 lb. On some occasions, however, best rates failed to reach 40/-.

Prime heifers scarce.

Moderate numbers of heifers were forward, comprising light and medium weights of chiefly fair to good trade standard. Prime sorts were somewhat scarce and generally obtainable in odd lots only. Quotations for prime descriptions ranged from 46/- to 50/- per 100 lb., while rates for good trade lines ranged from 40/- per 100 lb.

Vealers well supplied.

Supplies of vealers were variable during the first half of the period, but they improved later and were plentiful at the close. Fair to good trade descriptions greatly predominated, although the general quality was of a higher standard during the final week when many good trade to prime medium weights were submitted. The market during the greater part of the period was steady with quotations for good to prime grade ranging from 50/- to 59/- per 100 lb. During the final week of March prices again moved upwards when prime vealers realised the equivalent of 62/- per 100 lb.

Increased pig supplies.

Supplies of pigs during March, 1943, showed an improvement particularly towards the close of the month when increased consignments.....

ments came to hand from both local and country centres. Pigs submitted at auction totalled 5,731 head including 3,525 received by rail, while 1,046 were sold privately.

Improved market for porkers.

Good trade to prime porkers of medium to heavy weight description were well in evidence, but supplies of lightweights were limited. Towards the close the proportion of porkers yarded became progressively lighter. The County of Cumberland area is still under quarantine owing to Swine Fever and small porkers in store condition met a very poor demand as pigs cannot be removed from the Saleyards except for slaughtering. The market for good to prime porkers, however, steadily improved on the lower levels prevailing towards the close of February. Rates showed the greatest rise during the month on lightweights, porkers dressing 60 lb. realising to 51/6d per head at opening and to 56/6d on the final saleday. Values of heavy porkers followed a somewhat different trend and reached their peak at the middle of the month when 90 lb. pigs brought to 75/6d per head. The closing rate, however, was 71/6d. On the final sale day the carcass equivalent value of prime extra light porkers was 1/- per lb.

Good showing of baconers.

Baconers made an excellent showing and comprised a very substantial proportion of all the pennings. All weights were represented, although light baconers greatly predominated. Most of the pennings comprised good trade descriptions, but prime sorts were well in evidence. A strong demand prevailed and values generally showed an improvement. Heavy baconers realised to £6.8.6 per head and for four sale days in succession the dressed weight equivalent of light baconers ranged to 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ d, medium weight to 10d and heavy to 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. The market weakened slightly on the final saleday.

Backfatters bring high prices.

Backfatters were well supplied throughout the period. Quality was well above average, the majority of the consignments consisting of good to prime descriptions. Many prime heavy to very heavy sorts were included in the offerings. On the opening sale day, prices advanced by from 15/- to 30/- per head. Prime heavy pigs realised to £14 per head, while the carcass equivalent rate ranged to 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. for both light and heavy descriptions. These rates prevailed until towards the close when values receded. Quotations for good to prime grade on the final sale day were:- light 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d to 7d, heavy 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.

G.C. & J.W.

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD

AND

SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Potato supplies increase substantially.

Arrivals of local Factors at Alexandria comprised 15,731 bags of table tubers and 1,494 bags of seed. The quality was good and no difficulty was experienced in effecting clearances when supplies were available for general trading purposes. Prices in the first week of the month were fixed at £15 for choice and £14 for seed, but subsequently, prices were advanced to £16 for choice and £14 for No. 2 grade and seed. Consignments from Victoria were much larger, 19,100 bags of Carmans arriving compared with 4,061 the previous month. The bulk of these arrived in very satisfactory condition and sold readily at the fixed rate of £15 to £16 per ton for choice and £14 for No. 2. Sixteen trucks arrived at Darling Harbor which mostly sold at £16 per ton. Consignments received in Sussex Street from Tasmania comprised 86,503 bags. A fairly large percentage was available for civilian needs, the balance being taken by the Federal Authorities. Rates were:- £16 for No. 1 New Grade Brownell and Bismarcks, Other grades £15.10.0; No. 3 grade £12.10.0 per ton. During the period, 8,000 bags of Delawares were received from South Australia and sales were effected at £15 per ton. In Sussex Street 92 bags from the North Coast sold at undisclosed rates.

Tasmanian swedes more plentiful.

Consignments of swedes to Alexandria were again very light, only 18 bags being available. These were offered at auction and realised the high rate of £21.5.0 per ton. Supplies in Sussex Street comprised 4,737 bags received from Tasmania. Opening sales were made at £12, but £10 per ton was accepted later owing to a falling off in quality.

Carrots and parsnips very scarce.

Only 16 bags of carrots were received at Alexandria and no price was disclosed. Three bags arrived in Sussex Street from Tasmania and these sold at the rate of 22/6d per cwt. Parsnips comprised 3 bags of Tasmanian, but no price was available. One truck at Darling Harbor Landing also sold at undisclosed rates.

Beetroot. A consignment of 500 bags of Tasmanian beetroot arrived and cleared at £10 per ton.

Heavy consignments of pumpkins.

Supplies at Alexandria comprised 54 trucks and 110 bags of
/ Locals.....

locals, whilst 40 trucks also came to hand from Queensland. Owing to the heavy supplies, prices were gradually reduced and at closing ranged from £2 to £5.15.0 per ton. Arrivals in Sussex Street from the North Coast consisted of 571 bags. A fair percentage was cleared at undisclosed rates, but some sales were made at £5 to £6 per ton.

Exceptionally heavy arrivals of Victorian onions.

Receivals of Victorian onions at Alexandria were the heaviest since April of last year, 12,224 bags of brown, 1,783 of white and 190 bags of brown pickling being available. Little alteration was noticed in rates, brown selling at £17.10.0 to £18 (with a few lines late in the month at £17 per ton) and white at £19 and £20 per ton. Brown pickling sold at £12, with few at £16, and a few white pickling at £13 per ton. Locally grown supplies were again very light, 286 bags of brown selling at £15 to £18, 154 bags of white at £16 to £17 and about 76 bags of odourless at £7 to £9 per ton. Arrivals at Darling Harbor amounted to 20 trucks; a quantity of these cleared at £17.10.0 to £18 per ton.

Consignments of oaten chaff heaviest for several years.

Receivals of oaten chaff totalled 265 trucks, the largest quantity received since early in 1940. Prices showed little alteration despite heavy supplies and during the period sales were recorded as follow:- Medium £5.10.0 to £7, good sound £6.10.0 to £7.10.0, prime £7 to £8.5.0, special lots £7.15.0 to £8.10.0 per ton. Sales by auction totalled 7 trucks which included medium at £5.11.8 to £6.1.8 and good sound at £7 to £7.8.4 per ton.

Wheaten chaff plentiful.

Arrivals of wheaten chaff aggregated 46½ trucks. The market remained firm at £6.5.0 to £9 per ton.

Lucerne chaff dearer.

Receivals of lucerne chaff were lighter, 55 trucks coming to hand. Rates gradually firmed, sales being effected at £7.10.0 to £11.5.0 per ton. Two trucks of lucerne poultry meal also arrived and sold to £15 per ton.

Very heavy consignments of lucerne hay.

From the Maitland district, receivals increased to 61½ trucks as compared with 46 in the previous period. A good demand continued to prevail and sales were recorded at £5 to £8 per ton. A few lines of new soft green in small bales realised £8.5.0 to £8.10.0 per ton. There was a large increase in arrivals from other centres which amounted to 114 trucks. Rates were maintained notwithstanding these heavy supplies and sales were recorded at £7 to £10.10.0, with extra choice lots at £11 to £11.5.0

/ per

per ton. Included in the total were 23 trucks of derrick pressed good sound which brought from £5.15.0 to £7.5.0 per ton. Arrivals in Sussex Street comprised 16 bales consigned from the Hunter River. No price was disclosed.

Arrivals of straw increase.

Supplies of straw were heavier and consisted of 59 trucks of oaten, 7 of wheaten and 2 of millet straw. A fair inquiry ruled and sales were made as follow:- Good oaten £4.10.0 to £5.10.0, prime £5.15.0 to £7, good wheaten £4.10.0 and prime £6.10.0 per ton. Millet straw sold at auction, realised £4.15.0 per ton.

Increased consignments of oaten and wheaten hay.

Arrivals comprised 20 trucks of oaten hay and 2 of wheaten. A large percentage consisted of choice rack oaten which brought £10 per ton. A few medium realised £4.10.0 per ton, whilst wheaten medium also sold at the same rate.

Wheat more plentiful.

At Alexandria, 37 trucks of wheat were received. Demand continued good and f.a.q. sold at the fixed rate of 5/9d per bushel. Thirteen trucks of under quality were offered at auction; inferior brought 2/3d to 3/3d per bushel, weavily 2/7d and pick-ups and sweepings 2/6d per bushel.

Maize continues to sell at high rates.

Supplies of local maize at Alexandria showed an increase, 1,834 bags of yellow and a quantity of red being on offer. Buyers paid from 7/3d to 7/6d per bushel. About 73 bags of white arrived but rates were not disclosed. Queensland maize was lightly supplied, only 760 bags being available. Sales were effected at 7/4d to 7/6d per bushel for yellow. Arrivals from the North Coast consisted of 2,582 bags forwarded to Sussex Street. Opening rates were 7/3d and 7/9d per bushel, but towards the end of the month 7/5d was obtained.

Exceptionally heavy consignments of oats.

Receivals of oats amounted to 70 trucks; a large percentage was consigned direct to buyers, the prices not being released. Eight trucks offered by auction realised 2/8d to 3/- per bushel.

C.H.F.

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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES
AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Apples more plentiful.

Generally, a good demand ruled for the heavier supplies of apples, consignments from local sources, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmanian being available. Colored dessert varieties sold well, particularly local and interstate Jonathans, extra fancy lines of locally grown fruit realising to 24/- per bushel at times, while up to 20/- was obtained for interstate packs. Only relatively small consignments of Delicious were received and local lots met a good inquiry at prices ranging to 28/-; ruling rates for Tasmanian were 16/- to 18/-. Some Queensland packs were on offer early in the month and up to 22/- and occasionally more was obtained. Tasmanian Worcester Pearmains were on offer during the first three weeks of March, but the high prices ruling early were not maintained. Granny Smiths from within the State and Queensland found ready sale. Other varieties, such as Cleopatra, London Pippin and Alfriston were forward as well as small quantities of Ribston Pippin, Alexander and a few other varieties; little difficulty was experienced in clearing stocks.

Large quantities of Williams pears were forward from Victoria and local packs were well represented, but the season was practically finished at the end of the month. Values early were firm, up to 15/- per bushel being paid, but the market was much easier later, owing to rapid maturity of many lines and the competition from other varieties which were coming forward more freely. Local Packham's Triumph pears were available and best lots realised to 16/-, but prices for Tasmanian packs were lower. A quantity of over-matured Tasmanian Comice, Beurre Bosc and Packhams reached the market towards the close of the month and disposals had to be effected at low rates. With the clearance of these stocks prices of all sound lines tended to firm.

Rates for good quality oranges firm.

Trading in oranges was confined in the main to second crop Valencias. The fruit showed much variation both as regards quality and size. Good trade counts sold readily and up to the ceiling rate of 32/- per bushel was obtained, but counts of over 300 proved difficult to sell at times. Price regulations will come into force for oranges on 8th April when the maximum rate will be 21/- per bushel until 31st October.

Lemons in light supply.

The market for lemons showed a strong upward trend as local supplies declined and values at the close of the month were very firm at rates ranging to 32/- and occasionally higher for coastal fruit. Consignments from Queensland met a good inquiry and selected lines sold to 40/- per bushel.

/ Peaches....

Peaches and Plums sell satisfactorily.

In the stone fruit section the fixation of retail prices of peaches at 5¹/₂d per pound caused some dis-organisation for a few days, but with an adjustment of a rate for canning fruit and another for J.H. Hale and white fleshed varieties, trading soon became more normal. Canning lines sold to 6/6d and dessert packs to 11/- per half-case.

Most of the plums on offer were Presidents and Grand Dukes drawn from cool stores. Demand was very satisfactory and prices advanced.

Good inquiry for grapes.

Choice Muscatel grapes were in request. Supplies from coastal vineyards finished, but inland lots came to hand daily. Rates were firm and special packs realised to 20/- per half-case. Cornichons from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area arrived in larger quantities towards the close of the month and generally cleared well. Request for Doradilla, Waltham Cross and Chanez was variable and some fluctuations in price levels occurred.

The market for bananas improves.

Rates for bananas were weak early in March, but there was a marked improvement subsequently and prior to the close of March, the market was very firm. High prices ruled for selected fruit, the general range being 25/- to 36/- per case for trade lines, while up to 40/- and higher was paid for specials.

Heavy supplies of pineapples on offer.

Consignments of pineapples from Queensland were exceptionally heavy, approximating 59,000 cases. The quantity received on Monday, 8th March, was slightly over 9,000 cases; this was said to be the largest single consignment on record to reach the market. Despite the large supplies available, no difficulty was experienced in effecting disposals. As might be expected, prices were reduced to lower levels when the bi-weekly supplies were at their peak, but immediately there was a falling off in consignments, values improved. Owing to the presence of water blister, some packs had to be sold cheaply.

Other fruits.

There was a marked decline in supplies of passionfruit and rates advanced. Small consignments of custard apples were received and sales were made at 10/- to 14/- per half-case.

Vegetable production affected by weather.

Generally dry and at times very hot conditions were experienced during the month. The effects of the prolonged dry spell were reflected in the diminishing supplies of many lines, a /decline...

decline in quality and an upward movement in values.

Supplies of peas decline and rates improve.

Consignments of peas during the first week of March were fairly heavy and ranged from around 2,000 to 2,600 bags. Choicest lines sold mainly at 16/- to 18/-, but frosted and inferior lots were available from 5/- per bushel. There was a considerable falling off in supplies during the following week and values rose sharply and at times reached as much as 24/- per bushel. With somewhat heavier receipts during the week ended 19th March, including some Victorian lots, prices had to be reduced to effect clearances. Subsequent supplies were only moderate and rates firmed, up to 26/- and occasionally 28/- per bushel being paid for choice descriptions. The quality was mainly medium, choice lots comprising only a small proportion of the daily offerings.

Victorian beans augment light local supplies.

Only small quantities of beans were received from local sources, although there was some improvement towards the close of the month in supplies from inland districts. Victorian consignments were heavy and on some occasions the quantity on offer approximated 2,000 packages. Despite the plentiful supplies, prices did not fall to low levels except for poor quality lots. Choice lines met good inquiry and values rarely fell below 15/- per bushel, while 20/- and higher was obtained for extra choice locals on many occasions. It was expected that Victorian consignments would cease towards mid-April. Small lots of Queensland beans were received, but the quality generally was somewhat disappointing.

Firming market for tomatoes.

Fairly good supplies of tomatoes were available daily the first half of the month from growing areas within the State and from Southern Queensland. Subsequently there was a gradual decline in receipts, consignments from Queensland practically ceasing. Demand was satisfactory and rates were fairly steady until towards the close of March, when values rose sharply, extra choice packs selling to 20/- per half-case.

Cabbages sell well.

There was a good demand for cabbages and as supplies were somewhat limited, sellers were able to obtain very satisfactory prices. During the greater part of the month, choice large heads realised from 20/- to 24/- per dozen. On a few days when stocks were very light, these rates were exceeded.

Choice cauliflowers realise high prices.

Consignments of cauliflowers were received from the
/Bathurst...

Bathurst district. The quality showed considerable variation and ranged from choice to inferior. Selected heads realised high prices, up to 30/- per dozen being obtained, but the percentage of sales at this figure was small; rates generally ranged from 8/- to 24/-, while inferior lines sold from 3/- per dozen.

R.M.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES
IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING MARCH, 1943,
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 period indicated:-

Commodity	March, 1943.		31st August, 1939.	
	From	To	From	To
Wheat: Home Consumption				
Bulk - per bushel	3/11½d (unchanged)	"	2/4d	"
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2	"	£6.12.3	"
	(plus £2.8.10 tax)		(plus £6.2.9 tax)	
Bran - per ton	£6.0.0		£4.5.0	
Pollard " "	£6.0.0		£4.5.0	
Eggs (Hen) - per dozen	2/- (unchanged)		1/-	
Butter (Choice) - per cwt.	169/4d (unchanged)		161/2d	
-Cheese:				
Loaf - per lb.	1/0½d		11d	
Large - " "	1/-		10½d	
Special Brands - per lb.	1/1d	1/3½d	1/2d	

Commodity	March, 1943.		29th August, 1939.	
	From	To	From	To
Pigs (Abattoir Sales)				
Good to Prime per head:				
Porkers:				
Extra light	24/6d	47/6d	31/6d	40/6d
Light	41/6d	56/6d	39/6d	44/6d
Medium weight	50/6d	67/6d	43/6d	57/6d
Heavy	62/6d	75/6d	50/6d	54/6d
Baconers	£3.12.6	£6.8.6	60/6d	75/6d
Backfatters	£6.10.0	£14.0.0	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

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

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RETURN OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IMPORTED INTO NEW SOUTH WALES
BY LAND AND SEA - FEBRUARY, 1943.

FRUIT.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical Y cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS cases
Queensland	41,642	5,044	43,216	58,288	148,190
Victoria	18	87	111,692	855	112,653
Tasmania	-	-	2,333	140	2,473
Sth. Aust.	-	-	10,975	-	10,975
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	41,660	5,131	168,217	59,283	274,291

VEGETABLES.

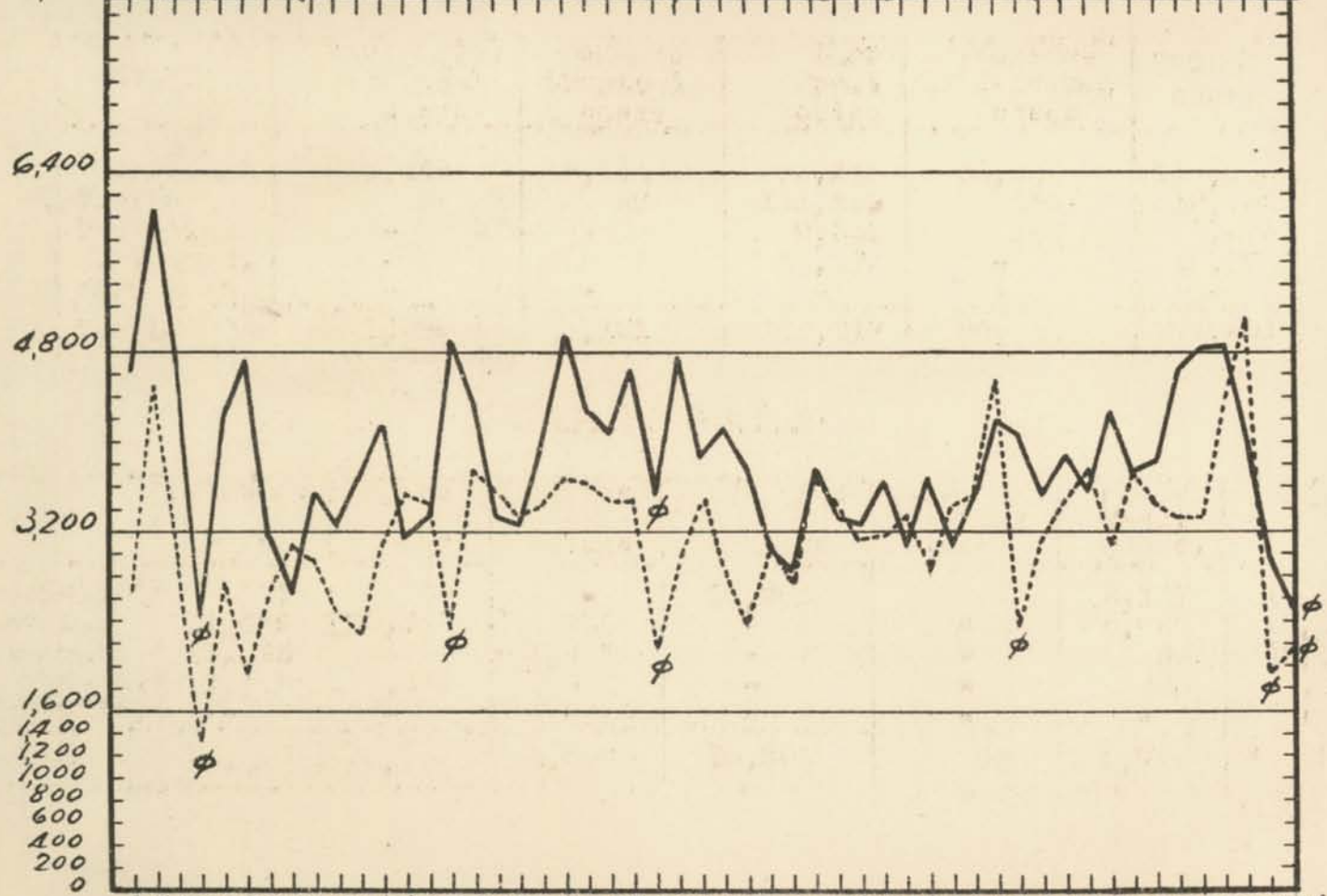
STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins bags	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkges.	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland	114	58	-	10,201	43	2,167	12,583
Victoria	11,409	25,342	115	-	-	4,038	40,904
Tasmania	46,043	-	1,481	-	-	55	47,579
Sth. Aust.	1,309	1,403	-	-	-	532	3,244
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	58,875	26,803	1,596	10,201	43	6,792	104,310

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CATTLE

COMPARISON OF WEEKLY YARDINGS AT HOMEBUSH SALE YARDS FOR 1941 & 1942

CATTLE 8000
 Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May 1941 July Aug. Sep. Oct. Nov. Dec.
 10 17 24 31 7 14 21 28 7 14 21 28 4 11 18 25 2 9 16 23 30 6 13 20 27 4 11 18 25 1 8 15 22 29 5 12 19 26 3 10 17 24 31 7 14 21 28 5 12 19 26 2 Jan.



Compiled: G.C.
 Drawn: E.H.S. 5/4/43
 Checked: S.R.

1941 shown thus: 1942 shown thus: —

NOTE: φ: only one sale day held - public holiday.

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