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NEW SOUTH WALES

STATE MARKETING BUREAU
DIVISION OF MARKETING
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW



AUGUST, 1943.

Vol. 10

No. 4

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.

AUGUST, 1943.

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HIGHLIGHTS.

By orders gazetted on 30th July, 1943, maximum wholesale and retail selling prices for apples were fixed. A maximum wholesale price for choicest quality of 26/-per bushel has been determined, with a corresponding maximum retail price of 1/- per 1b. The Prices Commissioner has prepared a schedule for the fixation of prices for all grades of apples.

The Director-General of the Department of War Organisation of Industry has announced plans to expand and improve the fishing industry, including restoration of some fisheries, increase in the fishing fleet, control to prevent over-fishing and zoning of fish shops. Consultative committees representing the principal sections of the fishing industry will be set up in all States.

Secretary of July 124, 17

A large increase in potato production in New South Wales is aimed at this year as it is hoped 40,000 acres will be planted compared with 26,000 acres under crop last season. Compared with pre-war years this represents an increase of more than 100%.

The Minister for Commerce and Agriculture has announced that the Commonwealth Government has decided to instal bulk handling and fumigating facilities for wheat in South Australia. This will ensure that all wheat shipped overseas would be free from weevil.

Traile and Vegotable so legant of the Markelle E.

A recent prices regulation order compels wholesalers to sell cases containing less than 105 oranges at a price that will enable retailers to obtain a margin of 25%, without exceeding a maximum retail price of 3d an orange in capital cities and 3½d in other places. The maximum wholesale price in capital cities will remain at 21/- per case.

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AGRICULTURAL POLICY AFTER THE WAR.

In a memorandum submitted to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries by the Central Lundowners' Association, interesting views are expressed with regard to post-war agriculture in the United Kingdom. The Central Landowners' Association is said to be a national organisation of owners of agricultural land in England and Wales and the following statements indicating the views of the Association on some outstanding post-war problems should be of particular interest, having in mind the steps already taken in relation to rural reconstruction in Australia after the war.

The general basis of policy.

The suggestions made in this memorandum depend on the assumption that the lessons of the present war will not be forgotten by the Government of the day, as was the case in the years following the Great War of 1914-18, and that after the cessation of hostilities the maintenance of our home agriculture will be treated as an essential part of national policy, accompanied by the development of the fullest productive use of the land and the conservation of its fertility as a recognised national duty. It is consequently accepted that incompetence and inefficiency on the part of owner or occupier of agricultural land would not be tolerated, provided the Government establishes such conditions as would ensure to all engaged in the industry a fair return for capital, labour and enterprise. The prosperity of the agricultural industry as a whole, and the accumulation of a reserve of fertility in the soil which would stand the strain of maximum production in times of emergency (that may arise from adverse economic conditions as well as from war) can only be achieved by making officient farming reasonably remunerative in poaco-time. The restoration and maintenance of soil fertility is of such outstanding importance that there is ground for some statutory definition of a standard of cultivation, applicable to the owner in occupation as well as the tenant-farmer, provided the basic requirements are sufficiently elastic to permit necessary local variations to suit diversities of soil, climate and situation. The danger of the absence of any such standard is exemplified by the resulting soil erosion which has taken place to an alarming extent in other parts of the world, mainly as the consequence of selfish and unrestricted exploitation of virgin soils.

It is fully realised that the Government must have regard not only to conditions at home, including the restoration of our export trade, but also to the requirements of the Dominions with their accumulated surpluses, and of other overseas countries including the United States of America and the terms of its Lease-Lend legislation. The Government alone is therefore in a position to fix the national stundard of peace-time production considered essential; the policy of stable prices and markets over a reasonable period of years required to achieve it; the making of commodity

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agreements with the Dominions, and the conclusion of treaties with the U.S.A. and other food exporting countries. These considerations involve the regulation of imports generally, and a degree of control over the home industry sufficient to maintain and develop that essential reserve of soil fertility which the nation has the right to domind in return for providing fair competitive conditions. All engaged in agriculture should also recognise the need for doing everything that is humanly possible in the direction of self-help and attaining efficiency. But agriculture is a long-term calling, and those efforts can only be expected if confidence is first restored by giving security of cutlock over a sufficiently long period. The Sixth Report of the Select Committee on National Expenditure strongly emphasised "the importance of a long-range policy", and "the need to establish confidence in continuity of policy".

Troatment of the subject.

In view of the attack on private ownership of the land and on the existing system of landlord and tenant in particular, which is alloged to have "broken down", it may be more convenient to discuss the subject in two parts; (a) Land Tenure and (b) Farming Policy generally.

(a) Land Tenure:

(i) State evereship of the land.

(ii) The landlord and tonant system under private ownership.

(iii) The farmer-owner under private ownership.

(iv) Conditions required for maintaining the landlord and tenant system under private ownership.

(i) State ownership of the land.

Having considered this question dispassionately, the Council of the Association has come to the conclusion that nationalisation of the land would be a disastrous policy for the nation, particularly in the reconstruction period following the war. It would throw an intelerable burden on the general tax-payer during a period when the weight of taxation should be relieved by every available means, to enable the nation to recover quickly from the shock of war. The threat of nationalisation undermines the confidence not only of the present owners, but also of the Banks, Insurance Companies, Building Societies, the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation and the like, who are financially interested in the land. Further, by destroying security of outlook, it prevents necessary expenditure by the landowner, of capital required for improvement of the fixed equipment of the land.

Some ardent advocates of nationalisation advance an argument which requires special mention. It is alleged that the rapid progress of mechanised methods demands the creation of large /farming...

farmin; units and that to bring these into existence unified ownership of the land is essential in order that the necessary re-planning may be carried out. It may be admitted that over a limited range of second-class soils large-scale mechanised farming would be the most effective method of management. the diversified physical conditions of this country such opportunities are far from general, and where they exist economic factors are already bringing about an increase in the size of holdings. It is submitted that it would be difficult to defend the extensive application of a policy that is not generally justified, and which must adversely affect production by causing loss of confidence and unrest among many competent farmers of moderatesized holdings, not to mention the social and political consequences which would be regrettable. Other protagonists are careful to say that farming should still be carried on by individuals as tenants of the State, but it is not made clear as to how a mere change of landlords is supposed to ameliorate agricultural conditions. The private landowner obtains on the capital invested in land and its fixed equipment a rate of interest substantially lower than that at which the Government borrows money. It follows, therefore, that if a large burden on the general taxpayer (which in a preponderantly industrial country would be strongly objected to) is to be avoided, agricultural rents under State ownership would have to be doubled at the least. This would be a staggering blow to the industry which would nullify the effects of financial aid provided by the State. In common with other members of the community, the financial outlook for many landowners under the present level of taxation is undoubtedly grave, but given a fair chance (as indicated elsewhere in this statement private ownership will succeed in carrying on officiently the maintenance of the land in proper condition.

(ii) The landlord and tenant system underprivate ownership.

The Council of the C.L.A., realising the nature of the trust imposed by the ownership of agricultural land, are of opinion that the retention of the present system of landlord and tenant as it exists today (subject to such modifications as may be found desirable to bring it into conformity with a new situation) would bo in the best interests of the nation. Over sixty per cent. of the land is still farmed under this method, which leaves the whole of the tonant's financial resources available for use as working capital. Moreover, the sympathetic help of the landowner in times of depression, together with his personal touch in management, are features of a well-tried system which are of real help and encouragement in a strongly individualistic calling. production of food-stuffs on our widely diversified soils, and in varying climatic and physical conditions depends to a great extent on the skill and personal attention of the farmer, who by experience learns the best method of dealing with each field on his farm. The enforced break-up of many of the larger hereditary estates is not evidence of decay, but in many cases is due to /causos causes over which the landowner had no control. The disastrous effect of heavy death duties is undoubtedly the main reason, coupled with the increased cost of maintenance, and loss of control over cultivation of farms occupied by tenants.

In paragraph (i) it was pointed out that the landowner's average return on land and its fixed equipment is a very low one judged by commercial standards. No comparable substitute has been found for the agricultural landlord as a source of cheap fixed capital, nor (particularly in times of financial stringency as is likely to be the case after the war) is one likely to be found. If landowners are prepared to carry on for so low a return, it is difficult to see what the nation would gain by getting rid of them. It is contended by the Association that they are prepared to continue, if their claim for fair conditions is conceded by the Government, and if sufficient security of outlook is accorded to enable them to expend capital on the land and its fixed equipment, with confidence that a reasonable return will be assured to them and their successors. The test of the landowner's efficiency should be the condition of the land and its necessary equipment.

(iii) The farmer-owner under private ownership.

While it is felt that the landlord and tenant system has over a long period of time, proved to be the best suited to conditions prevailing in this country, where agriculture has perforce to experience shocks from time to time which tend to over thelm the small proprietor, there is room for some diversity of tenure. The ultimate prospect of ownership undoubtedly attracts the best type of thrifty farmer, and from the national point of view, the occupying-owner or yeoman farmer is a type to be encouraged, as promoting stability and the raising of sturdy selfreliant human stock. The proportion of farmer-owners has risen from about 12 per cent. in 1914 to between 30 and 40 per cent. at the present time. Many of these new owners bought the farms they formorly occupied as tenants, in the sales forced upon estate owners by pressure of death duties and high costs of maintenance after the Great War of 1914-18. A large number of farmers did so relying on the guarantees given by the Government in the Corn Production Act, 1917, and Part I of the Agriculture Act, 1920. repeal of those provisions in 1921 left many of them in a parlous condition, and it is strongly urgod that the agricultural policy of the future should have special regard to the welfare of farmerowners, particularly in the direction of providing adequate credit facilities for the maintenance and improvement of the fixed equipment (including workers' cottages), and also for the working of the farm. Many of the criticisms of the condition of owneroccupied farms are not due to purchase per se, but rather to purchase on insufficient capital without the help of a land-purchase schome; the consequent depletion of working capital resulted in inefficient cultivation and reduction of livestock, with the resulting deterioration of soil fortility and depreciation of the fixed equipment. On the death of the farmer, the effect of death duties has also /contributod.... contributed materially to the difficulties arising from lack of working capital.

Land settlement where local conditions are favourable should be encouraged to give opportunities for those who wish to earn a living in the country and to provide a "ladder" for the enterprising rural worker.

(iv) Conditions required for maintaining the landlord and tenant system under private ownership.

The principal conditions to enable the landlord and tenant system to continue are as follows:

(a) Restoration of control of cultivation.

The effective control of cultivation of land occupied by tenants was taken out of the landlord's hands by the Land Tenure Act, 1906, the freedom of cropping and sale of produce provisions of which are now incorporated in the Agricultural Holdings Act, 1923 (a consolidation measure). In 1920 the power of the landlord over bad farming was further curtailed by the compensation for disturbance provisions of the Agriculture Act of that year. Designed to give security of tenure, those compensation provisions had the effect of making it practically impossible to terminate the tenancy of an indifferent farmer, except by the landlord incurring a heavy penalty. The result of this legislation in the times of low prices following the Great War was a decrease in the acreage kept under proper cultivation and a steady deterioration of soil fertility generally. When the County War Agricultural Executive Committees were set up at the outbreak of war to carry out a food production campaign during the present emergency, one of the first steps considered necessary was to give them a greater measure of control of cultivation than was ever possessed by the private landlord. It is therefore suggested that on a return to peace, equal treatment should be extended to the landlerd, by restoring a sufficient measure of control to enable him to resume his function of maintaining soil fertility by measures adapted to local conditions, which have in the past been the foundation of continuous good farming for many generations.

(b) Remission of death duties.

It has already been pointed out that the incidence of death duties is the most potent cause of the break-up of agricultural estates; no more effective method of eliminating such estates could have been conceived. If it is accepted by the Government that the remaining agricultural estates should be retained then it follows that such a result can only be achieved by the remission of those duties where land is scheduled for the production of foodstuffs and timber. Agricultural capital required for new works and improvements cannot be raised by methods generally adopted in trade and industry, owing to the absence of sufficient security of return to attract the investing public. It is therefore

of supreme importance that the certified drain of agricultural capital through the death duties should be arrested without further delay.

(c) Maintenance and improvement of fixed equipment.

While the cost of maintenance, replacements and certain improvements (provided no increase of rent is obtained in respect of them) is admitted in the maintenance claim for repayment of income tax, the cost of other new buildings and works on the farm (particularly on changes of tenancy of agricultural holdings) where necessary to maintain rental value, should also be admitted in the claim. It is unreasonable to expect continued outlay on the fixed equipment unless a fair return is obtainable, particularly as such a return is in any case limited by the rental value of the farm as a whole.

(d) Amendment of the Agricultural Holdings Act, 1923.

In addition to the amendments necessary to restore control of cultivation to the landlord, it is submitted that the vague and general "Rules of Good Husbandry" in Section 57(1) of the Agricultural Holdings Act, 1923, should be revised so as to lay down a definite national standard for the maintenance of a reserve of fertility, while leaving sufficient scope for necessary variations in different districts.

While the need for sufficient security of outlook to give tenant farmers confidence for expending capital is unquestioned, and in the prevailing yearly tenancy a twelve-months! notice to quit is in general quite reasonable, it is suggested that where a farmer is proved to be farming so badly as to cause serious deterioration of the furm, a shorter notice should be substituted for the twelve-months! notice, which is open to the objection of giving the bad farmer too much time for "farming to leave" in such cases.

Again, the landlord's security for a roturn on capital expended on buildings and other improvements is seriously undermined by the power given in the Act of resort to arbitration at intervals of two years as to the rent to be paid for an agricultural holding. A reduction of rent awarded by an arbitrator might be sufficient to wipe out the interest on improvements which a tenant had voluntarily agreed to pay. The Act should be amended to extend the period of two years to five years at least.

(b) Farming Policy Generally.

Subject to the conditions referred to in the foregoing paragraphs, viz., the maintenance of the landlord and tenant system under private ownership, restoration of the landlord's control of cultivation, remission of death duties, amendment of the Maintenance Claim Rules and of the Agricultural Holdings Act, 1923, and regard

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for the special position of the farmer-owner - it is held that the only satisfactory basis for a long-term policy to put our home agriculture in a position to respond adequately to abnormal calls in an emergency is the guarantee of reasonably remunerative prices and assured markets for produce in peace-time over a sufficiently long period of years. Stable conditions appear to the Association to be the only sound foundation for restoring and maintaining prosperity. This view is confirmed by the satisfactory experience of guaranteed prices and markets during the war, and an essential corollary to the maintenance of production is the economic rationalisation of distribution of produce.

The ideal of a solf-supporting industry may at first be unattainable in view of the cost of the war, the need for reestablishing our export trade, and our obligations to the foodproducing Dominions of the Empire. The State assistance considered indispensable to provide fair conditions for those dependent on agriculture should therefore be given in a form most acceptable to the consuming public, and in this connection it should be remembered that the greater proportion of the competition in foodstuffs which has to be faced from overseas, is subsidised in the country of origin of the product. The method adopted in the Wheat Act of 1932 has worked so smoothly that it is hoped that in the case of other home products which bear a somewhat similar relation to the imported article similar methods will be adopted. In others the Association supports the application of the levysubsidy. Concrally speaking, subsidising the product is considered the soundest principle, although it is recognised that in the case of certain commodities, such as potatoes, regulation on an acreago basis may operate more smoothly in practice. Agriculturists feel that they are justly entitled to ask the Government to take such steps as are necessary to put a bottom into the market for each home-produced commodity, at such a level as will prevent the efficient producer from incurring continuous losses, and that the home producer should be assured of first place in the nome market, especially in those fresh foods which are so important from the nutrition point of view. It is realised that public support cannot be expected for an industry that is not in a position to pay cash wages comparable with these obtainable in other callings where a similar amount of skill is expected from the worker, and that adequate housing accommodation and amenities which accompany a higher standard of education and living must be provided in rural areas, if migration of the younger people to the towns is to be arrested. Agriculture should be put in a condition to provide these essential conditions of employment.

achieving as great a degree of agreement among themselves as is humanly possible as to the measures to be adopted, and the Association has noted with pleasure the successful efforts of the Government to bring the principal political parties into accord on the need for a long-term policy. It is, however, apparent that under our Constitution no Parliament has the power to bind that under our Constitution has partied as security for continuity a successor, and that consequently the real security for continuity

of policy depends on a favourable public opinion. In this connection it is hoped that the publicity and propaganda service of the Ministry of Agriculture which has been conducted with successfictions success in the Food Production Campaign, will after war be continued with the object of instructing the urban and industrial public as to the real significance of a prosperous he agriculture. The expense would be amply justified on national grounds, and would be far more effective than any similar steps taken by agricultural bodies, which are always open to the charg of self-interest.

Conclusion.

The foregoing statement has for the sake of brevity be confined to the more important aspects of the problem, as it is impossible at the moment to forecast the actual conditions that will influence the agricultural situation after the War.

SYDNEY PRICES OF EIGHT VARIETIES OF VEGETABLES FIXED.

The Prices Commissioner on 29th July, 1943, announced that maximum prices of eight varieties of vegetables had been fixed. Following are particulars:-

Carrots 25/- a cwt. wholesale, 4d a lb. retail. Parsnips 28/- a cwt. " , 4½d a lb. " Swede Turnips 12/- a cwt." , 2½d a lb. " Beans 10d a lb. " , 1/1 a lb. " , 1/2 a lb. " Beetroot 23/- a cwt. " , 3½d a lb. " Sweet Potatoes 16/- a cwt. " , 3d a lb. " Pumpkins 12/- a cwt. " , 2½d a lb. "

Professor Copland said that in New South Wales country areas the Sydney prices could be increased by the cost of transpoplus an allowance of 10 per cent. Wholesale margin to the secondary wholesaler.

The general margin for retailers would be thirty-three and a third per cent. but provision was made that the margin should not exceed one penny a 1b. for swede turnips, pumpkins, bestroot and sweet potatoes, lad for carrots and parsnips, and 3d for beans and peas.

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

Falling off in cattle supplies.

During July, 1943, there were 15,867 head yarded, including 1,795 auctioned in the store section. There were 14,348 head received in June but there were only seven sale days compared with nine in July.

On most sale days prime beasts made a good showing. The bulk of the drafts was of fair to good trade standard only, but very few really plain descriptions were yarded. The pastoral outlook at the close of July was only fair. Rain was urgently required in many areas, while severe and extensive frosts were frequent.

Competition from buyers from areas where prime stock is difficult to secure, owing to prevailing seasonal conditions, was very keen at times, especially for the limited supplies of good quality weighty bullocks and steers. As a result, enhanced prices were secured for many consignments whenever these outside operators were present. Following complaints from Metropolitan operators that they are finding it difficult to purchase their requirements at a price which will permit them to sell at wholesale ceiling levels, it is understood that action is being taken towards the placing of purchases at auction on a quota system and controlling the reconsignment of cattle from Homebush.

Bullocks sell at higher prices.

Consignments of bullocks fluctuated and, on the whole, supplies were fairly light. Good trade to prime lightweights predominated, although medium weights made a fair showing at times. Heavy bullocks were in limited supply and obtainable chiefly in odd lots only. There was a very strong demand and although values fluctuated somewhat, they were at a higher average level than during the previous period.

At the close of July, good trade to prime quality light bullocks were quoted at from 53/- to 56/- per 100 lb. Weighty bullocks were dearest about the middle of the month when both medium and heavy grades were worth to 53/- per 100 lb. Heavy bullocks realised to £25.0.0 per head and very high prices were paid in odd instances where "outside" orders were concerned. One paid in odd instances where "outside" orders were concerned. One draft of prime Hereford bullocks, weighing about 670 lb., realised £18.19.0 per head, or 56/6 per 100 lb.

Strong demand for steers.

Steers were well supplied throughout the period, although quality was variable. A feature was the good showing made by prime medium to heavy weight steers towards the close of the month. A very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on several sale days quotations very strong market provailed and on s

the previous month's level. On the final sale day quotations range to as high as 60/- per 100 lb.

Uneven truckings of cows.

Supplies of cows were moderate at times but they were very light on other occasions, especially during the second half of the period. Quality also fluctuated considerably. Many heavy cows were yarded during the month. Values for the most part were maintained, heavy descriptions selling to 46/- per 100 lb. and light to 48/-. At closing lightweights were quoted to 49/- per 100 lb.

Steady market for heifers.

Good trade heifers made a fair showing but, on most occasions, prime beasts were obtainable chiefly in odd lots. The market was steady, quotations for good to prime quality ranging from 46/- to 56/- per 100 lb.

Good trade vealers well supplied.

Generally, moderate numbers of vealers were forward the ponnings comprising mainly good trade medium weights. Prime yealer were occasionally difficult to secure. A keen inquiry ruled and variations in quality were responsible chiefly for fluctuations in values. Prime lightweights were quoted to 70/- and during the latter part of the period, when the market appeared more steady than earlier in the month, quotations ranged from 60/- to 66/- per 100 lb.

Sheep and lambs - increased numbers penned.

Supplies of sheep and lambs yarded during July showed a substantial increase, a total of 322,691 head being penned, compared with an aggregate of 263,956 during the previous month.

Quality of grown sheep maintained.

Medium to good trade quality wothers and ewes were well supplied and a fair proportion of prime quality was available on each sale day. Heavy sheep of prime grade were only moderately represented. The total number of grown sheep offered was 175,680 head.

The sale of the second of the sale of the

Values .maintained.

Although values showed a small declina at the opening sale of July, prices throughout the greater part of the month were maintained. Towards the end of the month some improvement in rates was noticeable and the market closed very firm. Heavy wethers mostly sold at 3% to 4% per 1b. and light wethers at 4d to 4% per 1b., although these prices were exceeded at times.

/Heavy :...

Heavy ewes were mostly disposed of at $3\frac{1}{4}$ d to $3\frac{3}{4}$ d and light at $3\frac{1}{2}$ d to 4d, although occasionally $4\frac{1}{4}$ d was paid for light ewes of prime quality.

Supplies of lambs increase.

A total of 147,011 lambs was penned for sale during the period under review, representing an increase of approximately 40,000 head. Summer lambs again constituted the bulk of the supplies in this section, although increasing numbers of new season's suckers were to be seen. A fairly wide range in quality was available ranging from very fair to good. A moderate percentage of prime descriptions was offered.

Satisfactory inquiry for lambs.

Throughout the month a good demand ruled for lambs, particularly good quality lines, and the market displayed a progressively firming tendency. Heavy lambs were mostly purchased at 6½d to 7½d per lb., whilst light lambs for the most part realised 7½d to 8d, and 8¼d per lb. was paid on numbers of occasions for light lambs of outstanding quality.

Pig supplies well maintained.

A total of 6,090 pigs was submitted at auction during July, 1943, including 4,020 received by rail. Pigs disposed of by private treaty amounted to 1,210 head.

The Homebush Abattoir Saleyards are still under quarantine and animals may not be removed therefrom except for slaughter. However, pig farmers in the Metropolitan Area are permitted to restock with pigs consigned direct from country areas and it is expected that, in the near future, local feeders will be allowed to buy direct from breeders within the quarantine area. At the close of the month it was announced that the killing of pigs dressing under loo lb. would be prohibited and that all suitable animals dressing between 100 and 180 lb. must be converted into bacon.

Prices of perkers reduced.

Porkers were well supplied throughout the period. On some sale days a substantial proportion was in store condition only. As store pigs cannot be removed except for slaughter, demand was store pigs cannot be removed except for slaughter, demand was restricted and prices were very irregular and substantially lower in places. On the opening sale day the market for perkers was very in places. On the opening sale day the market for perkers was very firm to a little dearer and prime pigs dressing 60 lb. sold to 54/6, firm to a little dearer and prime pigs dressing 60 lb. sold to 54/6, while those dressing 90 lb. realised 75/6. On a dressed weight basis extra lightweights were worth to 1/- per lb.

On the following sale day the market was considerably weaker and while the decline in values of prime lines was only 5/- per head in places the average reduction was much greater. An important factor influencing the price of porkers on the hoof was important factor influencing the price of porkers on the hoof was

the fixation of lower ceiling levels for wholesale transactions. On the 24th June, 1943, the maximum wholesale price of pork was declared at 10d per 1b. for all grades of weight and during July the ceiling was further reduced to 93d. The lower prices on the hoof continued to operate for the remainder of the period except that heavy porkers were a little dearer on the final sale day. On a per pound basis values on the hoof ranged to about 10d for practically all weights.

Strong market for baconers.

Baconers continued to be well supplied. Good trade lines greatly predominated and the percentage of prime sorts offered varied somewhat. The latter, however, made a good showing on one or two sale days.

A very strong market prevailed and on the opening sale day values advanced. On a carcase basis the bulk of the baconers were worth to 102d per lp. Extra heavy pigs, dressing 160-180 lb. were quoted at 81d to 92d and 180-230 lb. at 71d to 82d. Except for a slight easing the market remained firm throughout the month. On a per head basis prices ranged from £3.17.6 to £6.17.6.

Keen demand for backfatters.

Backfatters were in moderate supply during the first half of the period but subsequent consignments were limited. Quality was variable, although prime heavy descriptions were fairly well represented. A firm market ruled and quotations generally ranged to 6d per 1b. for lightweights and 5% per 1b. for heavy descriptions. On the final sale day demand was very keen for the limited supplies and prices advanced sharply, quotations ranging to 6% per 1b.

5.R. & J.W.

Advices received from overseas disclose that the Ministry of Food recently announced that arrangements for supplying the meat ration in the United Kingdom had been changed as from 4th April, 1943.

The ration remains at 1/2d worth of meat a week, but from the date mentioned butchers were to receive one-seventh of their supplies in the form of canned corned meat. Adult consumers are, therefore, entitled to an average of 1/-d worth of butchers! meat and 2d worth of canned corned meat per week with a proportionate amount for holders of the child's ration book. These arrangements correspond with those made a year ago when canned corned meat was included as part of the meat ration. Canned corned meat is not, of course, included in the Points scheme.

Following the above announcement the Minister of Food has made an Order revoking the Canned Corned Meat (Prehibition of Sales) Order 1942 which prohibited the sale of canned corned meat by retailers.

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Steady business in fruit transacted.

Trading generally was of a steady nature. Supplies, apart from citrus fruits, were mostly light and rates were high for practically all lines.

Apples come under price control.

Consignments of apples from local cool stores were limited and with good inquiry prices of Granny Smiths firmed to 30/-, while up to 38/- per bushel was obtained for Delicious. Small quantities of Democrat, Rome Beauty and Dougherty were on offer at times and high prices were paid.

There was a fairly wide range of Tasmanian apples on offer but the number of varieties was appreciably reduced towards the close of the month. Rates were fairly steady, only minor changes occurring. Delicious sold up to 26/- and Granny Smith, Crofton and Rome Beauty to 25/-. Stocks of Scarlet Pearmain, Rokewood, Cleopatra and French Crab were cleared. The only varieties offering at closing were Democrat, Granny Smith and Sturmer.

Supplies of Western Australian Granny Smiths were available about mid-July and green packs sold to 27/- but lines in an advanced stage of maturity were offered at from 20/-.

On 31st July apples came under control, a ceiling price of 26/- per bushel being fixed. With the greater proportion of the light New South Wales crop already marketed only the small percentage of the stocks remaining in cool stores in the country are expected to reach the City Markets, as disposal is likely to be effected at these centres.

Rates for pears higher.

Victorian supplies of pears again predominated, only small consignments of local fruit coming forward. The Victorian varieties available comprised Packham's Triumph, Josephine, Beurre Bosc, Winter Cole, Winter Nelis and a few lots of Doyenne du Comice. Good demand ruled and prices advanced towards the close of the month.

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Local Packhams and Winter Coles sold well and values improved, the former selling to 28/- and Coles to 27/- per bushel.

Demand for citrus fruit satisfactory.

During the first week of July the market for Coastal navel oranges was firm owing to the smaller quantities coming forward and special packs realised 20/-; this rate was not general, but 18/- was freely paid for selected sizes. Values were not maintained, however,

as larger quantities were available during the remainder of the month and except for a few outstanding lines rates mostly ranged to 16/-. Small fruit was somewhat difficult to clear at times. Heavy frosts and strong winds were stated to be causing a good dea of damage to the fruit in some localities. Consignments from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area were only moderate and values general held at levels slightly above those ruling for coastal packs. Dema for choice mandarins improved. All large fruit of quality met read sale and values showed an upward trend. Small fruit and inferior grades were hard to dispose of and some lines were offored at very low prices. Supplies of lemons were light to moderate and included some consignments from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. Request was somewhat quiet but purchases for factory purposes helped to stabilise the market. Irrigation Area packs were selling to 18/- and coastal to 14/- at the close of the month.

Light supplies of bananas.

Consignments of bananas were light and as a result value were firm and only minor variations in rates occurred. Choice, larger fruit was scarce.

Consignments of pineapples increase - prices decline.

Only 470 cases of pineapples came to hand on 1st July an prices advanced, up to 34/- per case being realised. During the following week the market for choice, coloured packs was slightly firmer. With increased quantities coming forward subsequently, together with a quiet demand, prices could not be maintained and only occasional "specials" were selling above 24/-. The market was weak at closing.

Other Fruits.

There was a satisfactory inquiry for custard apples and best lots sold to 14/- per case. Consignments of papaws included many green packs which were slow of sale but lines showing good colour cleared well.

Consignments of strawberries from Queensland were heavier with trays and packets available. Rates eased as the quantities increased. A small quantity of local fruit was obtainable.

Demand for passionfruit was somewhat quiet and values of choice lots showed a decline of about 6/- per half-case.

Weather conditions affect vegetable supplies.

Exceptionally cold weather with many frosts and strong winds did not improve the situation so far as supplies of vegetable wer concerned. Extensive damage was caused to pea crops, the great proportion of the light consignments to the market showing frost /injury

finjury. The quantities of beans from the North Coast and Queensland showed a falling off compared with previous seasons. Fairly large consignments of cabbages from Victoria and South Australia were received and assisted materially in maintaining sufficient supplies of this vegetable. High prices ruled for all green lines.

Peas scarce and prices high.

Supplies of peas were light practically throughout the month and values for choice lots were very firm, up to 38/- per bushel being realised, while on some occasions even more was paid. Badly frosted lines had to be sold at the best prices offering but in the main any reasonably well filled peas realised high rates.

On 29th July this vegetable came under control and the price was fixed at 21/- per bushel maximum and retailers were allowed to sell at 3d per 1b. above the wholesale level. Supplies are insufficient to meet the increased demand and many retailers are unable to purchase any.

Beans in keen request.

The bi-weekly consignments of beans from the North Coast and Queensland met a very keen demand. The quantities available were reduced and prices were higher than those ruling during the previous month. Choice lines sold up to 35/- per bushel or the equivalent of 1/9 per 1b. wholesale.

The fixing of a ceiling rate of 16/8 on the 29th July brought about an exceptional inquiry and agents were unable to supply their clients with quantities sufficient for their requirements. Stocks were disposed of in record time and all lots irrespective of quality brought the maximum rate.

bacabbages meet a good inquiry.

Supplies of cabbages from local sources were light but were augmented by fairly large quantities from Victoria and South Australia. Demand was good and choice large heads sold at 20/- to 24/- per dozen; occasionally higher prices were paid for small lots.

Cauliflower market weaker.

There was an improvement in the supply of cauliflowers from metropolitan areas and with the addition of Interstate supplies the market was easier towards the end of the month. Nevertheless, the prices realised were still high, choice selected large heads selling to 30/- per dozen.

Main supplies of tomatoes come from Queensland.

Jeon Consignments of Queensland tomatoes comprised the bulk

/approximately

approximately 24,000 half-cases being received on 27th July, compared with about 17,000 during the first week. Coloured packs sold well and rates ranged to 24/- per half-case. The inquiry for green packs was somewhat slow at times but generally satisfactory clearances were effected.

Local supplies were limited, but the quality compared with that of the previous month was better. Choice, coloured lots were disposed of at prices ranging to 26/- per half-case.

Lettuce scarce.

Lettuce were in short supply and good quality heads soll at high prices.

"Pegged" prices for certain vegetables.

Maximum price levels were also fixed for carrots, parsnips, swedes, pumpkins and sweet potatoes on the 29th July, apart from second grade lines the ceiling rates rulod.

R.M.

ATEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SAIES.

Consignments of Tasmanian potatoes increase.

Supplies of local Factors at Alexandria Goods Yard totalled 6,157 bags. For the greater part of the period rates were as follows: Choice £16.0.0, No. 2 Grade £14.0.0, Stock Feed and Chats £10.0.0. At auction a limited quantity of stock feed realised £2.15.0 to £5.10.0 and seed brought £13.5.0 per ton. In the last week of July rates were considerably lower when choice were quoted at £6.17.6 and No. 2 at £5.0.0 per ton. Arrivals of Victorian Carmans were again fairly heavy, 21,458 bags being received. These were in demand at £16.0.0 per ton for choice grade, but in the last week prices were reduced considerably, choice grade selling at £6.17.6 per ton.

Consignments to Darling Harbour from Victoria were much lighter, 36 trucks of Carmans coming to hand. These stocks were disposed of at £16.0.0 per ten for choice grade. There were also 9 trucks of local seed received which were mostly grown under contract and disposed of at undisclosed rates to licensed growers Consignments arriving in Sussex Street from Tasmania were fairly heavy and comprised Brownell, Bismarcks, Arranchie's, Snowflakes, and Up to Date. These supplies totalled 95,169 bags as compared with 68,554 in the previous month. A fairly large percentage was made available for general trading purposes. As was the case with other potatoes, prices were lower in the last week of July, No. 1 Grade being quoted at £6.17.6, No. 2 Grade at £5.0.0 and

No. 3 Grade at £3.0.0 per ton. Supplies arriving at Sussex Street from the North Coast totalled 1,239 bags, mostly Factors.

Larger supplies of Tasmanian swedes - Lower values rule.

Consignments of local swedes were very light at Alexandria, comprising 638 bags, as compared with 2,331 bags last month. Opening sales were at £13.0.0, but prices were subsequently reduced to £12.0.0 per ton. About 150 bags of inferior lines realised £6.10.0 per ton at auction. Supplies from Victoria consisted of 247 bags, which moved out at £15.0.0 per ton. Arrivals from Tasmania in Sussex Street consisted of 8,380 bags. Sales were made early at £12.0.0 but later the market was lewer at £9.0.0 per ton. At Darling Harbour, 6 trucks from Victoria were on offer; sales were recorded early at £15.0.0 but values gradually eased to £12.0.0 per ton.

Consignments of carrots and parsnips decline considerably.

Supplies of carrots at Alexandria comprised 375 bags from local centres of mostly inferior grade. These were offered at auction and about 300 bags realised £3.0.0 per ten. Arrivals from Tasmania in Sussex Street were much smaller, only 626 bags being received compared with 5,446 bags in the previous menth. These supplies were mostly taken over by the Federal Authorities. At Darling Harbour 5 trucks of Victorian carrots sold at £18 and £19 per ten. Parsnips were lightly supplied at Alexandria, 498 bags of Tasmanian being received. Sales of medium grade were effected at £8.0.0 and choice lots at £9.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ten. At auction, inferior lines cleared at £4.15.0 per ten. Tasmanian consignments to Sussex Street amounted to 1,702 bags.

Pumpkin prices firm.

Consignments of local pumpkins were less than half the quantity available during the previous month, only 20½ trucks coming to hand. Supplies from Queensland totalled 53 trucks. Sales of both Queensland and local took place at £10.0.0, whilst inferior of both Queensland and local took place at £10.0.0, whilst inferior lines sold at £4.0.0 to £6.0.0, with small sizes at £9.0.0 per ton. At auction, 1 truck of loose pumpkins from Queensland brought £6.15.0 per ton. Arrivals in Sussex Street from the North Coast comprised 365 bags which were disposed of at £8.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton.

Very light supplies of Victorian onions.

Arrivals of onions from Victoria comprised 3,944 bags.

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Partitor. A small change, buyers paying £17.10.0 to £18.0.0 per

Carrivals of onions from Victoria comprised 3,944 bags.

Good demand for oaten chaff.

Supplies of oaten chaff were again fairly heavy and rates continued firm with a good demand. Sales were effected as follows:
Medium £7.0.0 to £8.5.0, Good sound £7.10.0 to £8.10.0, Prime £8.1 to £9.0.0, with special lines £9.5.0 to £9.10.0 per ton. There were 13 trucks submitted at auction, medium realising £6.15.0 to £7.11.8 good sound £7.5.0 to £8.5.0 per ton.

Wheaten chaff solls at firm rates.

Consignments of wheaten chaff aggregated 28 trucks and clearances were effected as follows: - Medium £6.5.0 to £7.10.0, Good sound £7.10.0 to £8.10.0 and Prime £8.10.0 to £9.0.0 per ton. Disposal of 4 trucks of medium at auction realised £6.3.4 to £7.0.0 per ton, while a small quantity of damaged sold at £7.6.8 per ton.

Heavy supplies of lucerne chaff.

Supplies of lucerne chaff (91 trucks) were much larger. good demand prevailed and the market continued firm, rates being as follows:- Medium £7.15.0 to £8.15.0, Good sound £8.5.0 to £10.5.0, Prime £10.0.0 to £11.10.0, Choice £11.15.0 to £12.0.0, Extra Choice £12.10.0 per ton. Seven trucks were submitted at auction, medium lots realising £8.11.8, good sound £9.1.8 to £9.15.0, and prime £10.5.0 to £10.15.0 per ton.

Lucorno dust and poultry meal.

lines were made at £13.0.0 per ton. One truck of lucerne poultry moal of prime grade brought £14.0.0 per ton.

Lucerne hay consignments considerably less.

Arrivals from the Maitland district comprised 54 trucks. New soft green lets sold at £5.0.0 to £6.10.0 per ten. Consignment from other centres showed a considerable decline, 73 trucks coming to hand as against 139 trucks in the previous period. Quality variations decrably and sales were recorded as follows:- Grassy lets £5.10.0 to £5.15.0, dry £6.15.0, Medium £7.10.0 to £8.10.0, good sound £7.10.0 to £9.15.0, prime £9.15.0 to £11.5.0 and choice £11.0.0 with few £12.5.0 per ten. Prime derrick-pressed sold at £7.10.0 and at auction good sound realised £8.0.0 per ten.

Increased supplies of oaten hay.

Consignments of oaten hay were fairly heavy, 69 trucks of oaten and 6 trucks of wheaten arriving. Owing to the heavy supplies the quotes varied considerably and ranged from £4.12.6 to £10.15.0 per ton.

Oaten and wheaten straw sells at unchanged rates.

Arrivals of oaten chaff comprised 18 trucks and 20 bales of oaten and 4 trucks of wheaten. Clearances were effected at £7.10.0 to £8.0.0 for choice oaten and £7.10.0 to £8.0.0 per ton for choice wheaten.

Wheat in demand.

Arrivals of wheat at Alexandria amounted to 26 trucks, for which there was a satisfactory request. Prices ranged as follows:- F.A.Q. 3/8 to 3/9, slightly under quality 3/6 to 3/7 per bushel. Sales of 9 trucks at auction were recorded, damaged lots selling at 2/9 to 3/42d, and inferior at 3/- to 3/2, with sweepings at 2/- per bushel.

Maize more plentiful.

Supplies of maize received at Alexandria showed a marked increase, 12,638 bags being received. Particulars of consignments are as follows:- 3,579 yellow and 2,187 bags of white from local control and 4,370 bags of yellow and 2,502 bags of white from Queensland. Sales of both local and Queensland yellow were made at 7/- to 7/1 per bushel, with a few at 7/3 per bushel. There were no rates disclosed for white maize. Arrivals in Sussex Street from the North Coast totalled 3,209 bags. Rates in a few cases were firmer at 7/- to 7/2 per bushel.

Dats Continue to be well supplied.

Consignments were again fairly heavy, 34 trucks and 60 bags arriving. A fair percentage of these was not available for general trading purposes, being consigned to private buyers. Rates recorded at auction ranged from 2/8 to 3/- per bushel.

C.H.F.

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The Commonwealth Food Controller has announced that plans have been made by the Food Control Organisation which envisages an enormous increase in the production of milk, eggs, vegetables and other primary products in 1944. The plans aim at 1,300,000,000 gallons of milk (compared with the previous record of 1,250,000,000 gallons in 1940) and up to 200 million dozon eggs.

An attempt will probably be made to introduce a double hatching, because the present rate of egg production is considerably less than demands. Vegetable production will be increased greatly, and special arrangements have been made for increased imports of phosphate rock. A milling programme equal to pro-war figures when Australia was the world's largest flour exporter, will be arranged to fulfil very large export orders for flour obtained on special representations by the Government.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING JULY, 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	July, 1943 31st August, 193	
	From To	- From To
Wheat: Fome Consumption Bulk - per bushel	$3/11\frac{1}{4}d$ (unchar	igod) 2/4d
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2 (plus £2.8.10 tax)	£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 t
Bran - " "	£6.0.0 (unchan	god) £4.5.0
Pollard " "	£6.0.0 n	£4.5.0
Eggs - per dozen	2/- (1) 1/-
Butter (choice) per cwt.	169/4d ("	d) walda 161/2d
Cheese: Loaf - per lb. Large - " " Special Brands per lb.	$\frac{1}{0} = \frac{1}{0} \left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \end{array} \right)$	11d
. 1	July, 1943	29th August, 1939
I HAVE I STATE I	From To	From To
Pigs (Abattoir sales): Good to prime per head -	reford blevidalkovror ged Idropeli boet ere to altrologgadi al	Stad of E PrimeEdy Hond orbid ora-order amounts
Porkers: Extra light Light Medium weight Heavy Baconers	22/6 48/6 40/6 54/6 45/6 70/6 60/6 75/6 76/6 137/6	31/6 40/6 39/6 44/6 43/6 57/6 50/6 54/6 60/6 75/6
Backfatters	£5.10.0 £11.11.0	£4.5.0 £8.10.

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

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

FRUIT

-	STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS pkgos.	1
The state of the s	Queensland Victoria Tasmania Sth. Aust. Wost Aust.	16,649	3,119	13,064 ^x 86,443 108,455 23,195	83,507 . 97 -	116,339 86,700 108,455 23,195	
	TOTALS	16,657	3,271	231,157	83,604	334,689	-

Note: x Also 144 trays Strawberries and 8 bundles.

VEGETABLES.

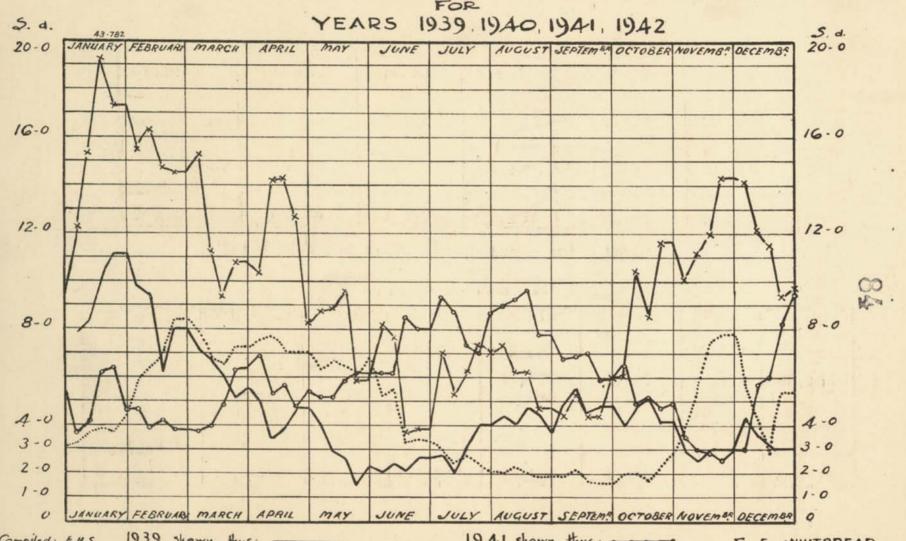
STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes	Pumpkins bags	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkges.	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland Victoria Tasmania Sth. Aust. West Aust.	118 74,533 105,778 1,001	46 45,991 30	7,910 10,224	14,430 513	1,837	5,724 40,455 13,806 6,321	22,155 169,402 129,808 7,352
TOTALS	181,430	46,067	18,134	14,943	1,837	66,306	328,717

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CABBAGES

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES PER DOZEN IN SYDNEY



Compiled: E.H.S

1939 shewn thus:

1941 shewn thus : a ooo

E. F. WHITBREAD .

Checked: D.R.

1940

1942

Acting Chief Div. of Marketing