609

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

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

SEPTEMBER, 1943.

Vol. 10 No. 5.

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

A. H. PETTIFER, ACTING GOVT. PRINTER. St 6949

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.

SEPTEMBER, 1943.

Vol. 10 No. 5

Table of Contents

Page

Highlights	85
Land Utilisation in Rural Areas	86
Sheep, Cattle and Pig Sales at Homebush ..	90
Alexandria Railway Goods Yard and Sussex Street Sales	96
Fruit and Vegetable Sales at City Municipal Markets, Sydney	99
Commodity Prices in Sydney	102
Fruit and Vegetables - Imports into New South Wales	103
Graph - Cauliflowers - Weekly Average Wholesale Prices	104

HIGHLIGHTS

An immediate increase of 2d per lb. in the ceiling retail price of beans was authorised by the Prices Commission on 7th September, 1943. The maximum wholesale price was increased to 20/- per bushel. This decision was made following a review of vegetable prices in the light of seasonal conditions and the prospects for early crops.

Stocks of bacon and ham in New South Wales are now reserved for Army requirements. A direction was issued to bacon factory proprietors and wholesale distributors that as from 6th September they were not to sell bacon or ham for civilian use.

An urgent survey of vegetable production is being made under National Security Regulations to aid the Commonwealth Government in planning the record plantings contemplated this year.

The Prices Commissioner has fixed the maximum wholesale selling price of apples at 27/- per bushel, representing an increase of 1/- per bushel on the ceiling price previously ruling. The existing retail price schedule remains unaltered and the retail prices for all apples should be within the maximum of 1/- per lb.

The Prices Commissioner announced on 6th September that the ceiling wholesale price for pork in the 80 to 100 lb. weight range, rejected by the Controller of Meat Supplies as unsuitable for export or bacon curing, is to be 7¾d per lb., delivered to purchasers' premises.

LAND UTILISATION IN RURAL AREAS.

In the previous issue of the "Monthly Marketing Review" an article appeared on "Agricultural Policy After the War." This article set out the views of the Central Land Owners' Association with regard to post-war agriculture in the United Kingdom and took the form of a memorandum to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.

The same Association has also gone into the question of land utilisation in rural areas and has submitted a report on the subject to a Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Lord Justice Scott to consider the conditions which should govern building and other constructional development in country areas consistently with the maintenance of agriculture, and in particular the factors affecting the location of industry, having regard to economic operation, part-time and seasonal employment, the well-being of rural communities, and the preservation of rural amenities.

Naturally, some of the questions dealt with are peculiar to the United Kingdom but broadly there is much that is of interest and significance when our own domestic problems of land utilisation are borne in mind.

While recognising that sound planning must be regulated by "the balance of national interest," the Association holds the view very strongly that the best development of rural land is not necessarily confined to the building of factories or houses. From the national point of view, it is at least equally important that our limited supply of land should be devoted to the agricultural, horticultural or sylvicultural use to which it is naturally adapted, always bearing in mind the preservation of rural amenities generally to the greatest possible extent as an invaluable heritage.

The Association also endorses the view that where the introduction of a new industry into an agricultural area is contemplated, the onus of proving that such a step is necessary and advantageous in the national interest, should rest on the industrialist who proposes to introduce it. It is essential to avoid throwing an undue strain on local authorities who provide water supply, sewerage, lighting, education, medical and welfare services, and on the existing supply of working class houses, unless satisfactory arrangements for making good any deficiencies are part of any industrial scheme submitted. Those areas which are already to some extent urbanised or industrialised, should therefore be utilised to the fullest extent, before invading unspoilt rural areas.

The Report of "The Royal Commission on the Distribution of the Industrial Population," dealt with the problem of location of industry from an industrial, rather than an agricultural standpoint. The specific instruction in the terms of reference to consider the question "consistently with the maintenance of agriculture," provides a balancing factor which is greatly

/appreciated....

appreciated by those who own agricultural land, realising as they do, the vital importance of making the best use of our limited area, when the present conflict is over.

The Terms of Reference.

It is proposed to frame this statement under the numbered list of subjects which we are informed will come within the consideration of the Committee under its terms of reference, and then to add some general considerations in conclusion.

1.- Factors controlling or affecting the economic operation of industries in country areas.

Apart from such deciding factors as local deposits of coal or other minerals, these may be summarised as -

(i) Transport facilities by road, rail or water.
(ii) Access to power, particularly electricity or water.
(iii) Supplies of raw materials from home or abroad.
(iv) Proximity to local markets.
(v) Local supplies of labour.
(vi) Housing accommodation for workers.
(vii) Welfare of workers; educational, medical, and recreational services.

2.- Effect on the life of rural communities caused by the introduction of industrial establishments to the countryside.

Subject to reservations mentioned in other paragraphs, the introduction of comparatively small industries (preferably those ancillary to agriculture or forestry) on carefully selected and planned sites, should contribute materially to the life of many villages, and do something to stem the tendency of young people to migrate to the towns, while it would also be conducive to the health and well-being of industrial workers. Decentralisation of industries essential for war purposes is already taking place to a considerable extent, and regulation in the direction indicated elsewhere in the statement appears to be required without further delay. The Service Departments placing works for defence purposes under their over-riding powers, have frequently little or no regard for agricultural requirements or rural amenities generally, and it is suggested that in addition to consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture, before good agricultural land is requisitioned by those Departments, their requirements should (subject to pressing needs of defence at the moment) come within the purview of the National Planning Authority referred to in the concluding paragraph of this memorandum.

3.- Labour and Employment: (a) agricultural and other labour; (b) diversity of employment for young people.

Probably the greatest risk incurred by an agricultural /community

community through the influx of new industries to the countryside, is that by providing the attractions of higher cash wages, superannuation schemes, shorter hours and longer holidays, they compete with farmers for local labour; absorb the available housing accommodation, and throw a strain on local government services. At the moment this applies with great force to munition works and other war-time industries. The result is a most unbalancing effect on the area in or near which the new industries are located, and in the interests of food production should be avoided. It serves to show how much the question depends upon conditions being provided over a sufficient period of years for a stable and remunerative agriculture, which will enable it to pay comparable wages. If a fair balance can be maintained and ample housing accommodation provided, then alternative sources of employment for young people, and additional employment in the winter for casual workers, should be to the benefit of the district. There is a steady demand for skilled agricultural workers, and no unemployment exists among those who are fit for work. A supply of "tied cottages" for the housing of men in charge of livestock is an essential part of the fixed equipment of the farm. The demand for casual labour, except for corn and hay harvest (which is general throughout the country) is seasonal in character and depends largely on locality and climatic conditions.

The work of the agricultural labourer is highly skilled, requiring early training and long experience, so that direct entry into it from school is most valuable. On the other hand, if on leaving school the country youth is at once absorbed into industrial work on mass production lines, he may after the lapse of a few years, find himself in a "blind alley" occupation. The monotonous repetition of work on a machine tool, producing part only of the complete secondary product, does not teach him a trade which provides a "ladder." The result is that when he is called upon to make room for a younger hand, he drifts into the ranks of unskilled labour, to find casual work when and where he can.

4.- (a) <u>Types of industry suitable for rural location and beneficial to rural life; (i) rural industries; (ii) industries ancillary to agriculture; (iii) industries supplementary to agriculture (processing, etc.).</u>
(b) <u>other industries not hurtful to rural life</u>.

Generally speaking, the most appropriate rural industries are those which develop or process the products of the farm, garden, or woodland, and make use of such surface minerals as sand, gravel, clay, stone and lime, together with the village trades which are ancillary to them, e.g. blacksmith, wheelwright, saddler and the like. Where deposits of surface minerals occur, there will probably be an increased demand after the war in view of the large amount of re-building to be undertaken in the bombed areas. Interference with good land, and unnecessary waste may to a large extent be avoided by grouping pits. Where such minerals are

/obtained.....

obtained by surface workings, the ultimate aim should be to fill in the excavations and restore the surface for agricultural purposes wherever practicable. In other cases, and on poorer land where such a course would not be economic, many eyesores could be screened by planting-out with suitable trees. In the Midland counties where ironstone is obtained by surface workings, this question of restoration is a local problem which is the subject of special consideration by the Association at the moment. The following are examples of rural industries, some of which have been carried on long enough to become accepted features of the countryside, while others have been strangled by the unregulated competition of cheap foreign imports.

Woodland Industries.

Turnery and furniture making.
Cooperage.
Clogging.
Timber Merchants' Yard, sawmill and other converting machinery.

Underwood Industries.

Baskets, barrel hoops, crate rods, fencing, hurdles, brooms, charcoal, hayrakes, oak bark.
Osier growing and basketry.

Rural Factories, with out-work in workers' homes.

Sugar beet.
Weaving, mat-making, glove-making.
Wood pulping, straw pulping, flax retting, etc.

Creameries and processing of dairy produce.

Fruit and Vegetable canning and bottling, jam-making.

Bacon Factories.

Water Mills, flour and grist.

Brick and Tile works.

Stone quarries.

Sand and Gravel pits.

Lime and Cement works, and the resuscitation of lime kilns.

Peat Industries, where there are local deposits.

Village Workshops.

Blacksmith, welder, and repairs to agricultural machinery.
Wheelwright, Saddler, Cobbler, Ropes, nets and halters.

(To be continued)

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

Yardings reduced

Supplies of sheep and lambs were not quite so heavy as in the previous month, aggregate pennings for the period being 303,953 head, or about 19,000 less than the July total.

Medium quality sheep numerous.

The number of grown sheep available was about 22,000 below last month's total, although shorn descriptions were in much heavier supply. Medium trade lines comprised a fair proportion of the offerings but good to prime light trade mutton was in fairly short supply. Prime weighty sheep were relatively scarce.

Strong demand for grown sheep.

Most classes of sheep sold well throughout the period, more particularly good to prime wethers and ewes. At opening sales rates advanced by 1/- per head and for the greater part of the period the market remained firm to very firm. At the end of the month demand was again better and values advanced, the improvement in many instances being up to 2/- per head with sales at times showing a still further increase.

Some actual sales noted throughout are given below:-

First Week

Good	trade	44 lb.	wethers	(skin 10/6)	made	27/10	each	or	$4\frac{3}{4}$d	per lb.
"	"	44 "	ewes	(" 9/-)	"	24/-	"	"	4d	" "

Second Week

Good	trade	44 lb	wethers	(skin 11/-)	made	27/11	each	or	$4\frac{3}{4}$d	per lb.
"	"	46 "	ewes	(" 2/6)	"	18/1	"	"	4d	" "

Third Week

Good	heavy	48 lb.	wethers	(skin 1/6)	made	21/6	each	or	5d	per lb.
"	trade	39 "	ewes	(" 1/-)	"	14/1	"	"	$4\frac{1}{4}$d	" "

Fourth Week

Good	trade	44 lb.	wethers	(skin 2/-)	made	21/10	each	or	$5\frac{1}{2}$d	per lb.
"	"	46 "	ewes	(" 10/6)	"	29/9	"	"	5d	" "

Increased cost of mutton.

The generally improved demand for mutton, no doubt occasioned by the lighter supplies of beef and reduced numbers of sheep, resulted in a rise in values of practically all classes.

/Light.....

Light wether mutton, which was obtainable at the end of July for 4d to 4½d per lb. was worth from 4¾d to 5½d per lb. at the close of August. Good light ewe mutton at the same time was worth 4½d to 5d per lb., or an increase of ¾d per lb. Heavy wethers and ewes showed corresponding increases, realising to 5¼d and 4½d per lb., respectively.

Slight increase in lamb numbers.

The number of lambs available showed a slight increase on the previous month's aggregate. A feature was the progressive increase in the supplies of new season's suckers. A total of 150,029 head was auctioned. Quality generally was very fair to good with many attractive lots of suckers offering.

Fairly steady lamb market.

Although a fairly steady market ruled, some fluctuations occurred at times. Early sales were marked by an advance of up to 1/- per head. Subsequently a weaker tendency prevailed followed about the middle of the month by a fall of up to 1/- per head. Later, however, demand improved and good to prime grades were about 1/- per head dearer. The market remained firm until the close of the month's operations. Representative sales, indicating price trends are given below:-

First Week

Good trade 32 lb. suckers	(skin 4/-)	made	26/9	each	or 8½d	per lb.
" heavy 38 lb. lambs	(" 6/-)	"	28/9	"	" 7¼d	" "

Second Week

Good trade 34 lb. suckers	(skin 4/-)	made	27/6	each	or 8¼d	per lb.
" heavy 39 lb. lambs	(" 3/6)	"	26/3	"	" 7d	" "

Third Week

Good trade 30 lb. suckers	(skin 3/-)	made	24/6	each	or 8¼d	per lb.
" " 32 lb. lambs	(" 3/-)	"	23/-	"	" 7½d	" "

Fourth Week

Good trade 36 lb. suckers	(skin 3/6)	made	28/7	each	or 8¼d	per lb.
" heavy 44 lb. lambs	(" 4/-)	"	29/2	"	" 7d	" "

Rates for lambs mostly unchanged.

The average cost per pound of lambs and suckers did not vary appreciably, although at times extra prime light suckers sold at higher levels, reaching to 8½d per lb. Generally suckers ranged from 7¼d to 8¼d per lb., according to weight and quality while rates for heavy and light summer lambs were from 6¼d to 7½d and 7d to 7¾d per lb., respectively.

/Further...

Further falling-off in cattle supplies.

Moderate numbers of cattle were forward early in the period and towards the close but consignments otherwise were mainly light and the monthly aggregate indicated a further falling off in supplies. The total for the nine sale days was 12,617 head, including 917 auctioned in the Store section. Quality was most variable and, while it could only be described as fair on some sale days, on other occasions good to prime descriptions made a very satisfactory showing. On the final sale day the general quality was the best seen for some time. The pastoral outlook at the close of the month continued to be fair only, and warmer weather, in addition to substantial falls of rain, is urgently required.

Dearest market for twenty-three years.

Supplies of bullocks were somewhat limited and comprised chiefly fair to good trade lightweights. On several occasions, however, medium and heavy weights made a good showing, while the pennings included a noticeable percentage of prime descriptions. The market generally was a very fluctuating one and rates at one period reached the highest level for 23 years. During the first half of the month values showed a tendency to rise on Mondays when "outside" buyers were present, and fall on Thursdays when normal competition prevailed. During this period quotations for light bullocks ranged to 57/- per 100 lb. Values then rose sharply and on the 19th August medium weight bullocks were quoted to 68/- per 100 lb. and lightweights to 65/-. Heavy bullocks ranged from 56/- to 64/-. Since restrictions were placed on the number of beasts which may be purchased and reconsigned from Flemington buyers have been relying more on weighty stock, thus accounting for the high rates per 100 lb. of medium weight and heavy bullocks. The same tendency was also noticed with other classes of stock. These high values were not maintained and prices receded only to rise again on the final sale day when medium weight bullocks were quoted to 62/- per 100 lb. Many lines of bullocks sold during the period to £23.0.0 and £24.0.0 per head while the highest price noted was £25.15.0.

Steers well represented.

Steers were well supplied throughout the month and on some occasions they comprised the bulk of the yarding. All grades of weight were represented, although lightweights of fair trade description only predominated. Despite the fact that the general quality was only fair many prime drafts were submitted and on some sale days weighty drafts included more beasts in the steer class than grown bullocks. The market was particularly strong and during the first half of the period prices were quoted to 60/- per 100 lb. On the 19th values rose to 65/- for best quality lines and, for the remainder of the month, were steady at 63/-. Despite these high values quotations per 100 lb. failed to reach the highest level obtained for medium weight bullocks. On a per head basis values rose as high as £24.7.0.

High prices for heavy cows.

Cows, for the most part, were in light supply and the pennings comprised chiefly fair trade sorts. On odd occasions, however, consignments showed considerable improvement and included many good trade to prime lines of both light and heavy description. Demand was keen and although values fluctuated somewhat the top of the range of quotations did not fall below 47/- per 100 lb. on any sale day. The market was dearest towards the close of August when quotations ranged to 53/- per 100 lb. In odd instances values exceeded this level. A feature of the month was the high prices paid for dairy breed cows, even for plainer descriptions, while heavy cows were frequently worth more per 100 lb. than lightweights. One extra heavy beast was purchased by a country buyer at £21.11.0.

Limited consignments of heifers.

Heifers made a very fair showing on a few sale days but consignments, for the most part, were limited, with prime descriptions obtainable chiefly in odd lots. The market for this class of stock was more stable than most other lines and quotations during the first half of the period ranged chiefly from 50/- to 56/- for good to prime quality. With the general rise in values prime light heifers advanced to 60/- per 100 lb. with other grades selling from 53/-. These prices remained practically unaltered during the remainder of the month. It might be mentioned that heavy heifers followed the general market trend, brought about by the fixing of quotas and ceiling prices, and realised relatively high rates when compared with those obtaining for lightweights. One prime animal realised as high as £19.6.0.

Moderate truckings of fair and good trade heifers.

Moderate numbers of vealers were forward on most sale days and the pennings included all grades of weight and quality. However, fair to good trade drafts greatly predominated and prime beasts were sometimes difficult to secure. As a rule quality lines were secured chiefly from the heavier weight grades. Practically all lines of vealers realised high prices during August, although, on the average, values showed no material alteration when compared with July levels. During the first half quotations ranged chiefly to 67/- per 100 lb. and 71/- per 100 lb. during the latter half of the period. On the 19th August, however, prime lightweights were quoted to 75/-. During the corresponding period of 1942 rates ranged to 77/- per 100 lb.

Lower prices expected as result of quota system.

With the exception of vealers the market for cattle during

/August....

August, 1943, was the dearest for 23 years. The increased demand generally, including strong competition amongst outside operators who had difficulty in securing suitable stock from other centres, owing to adverse seasonal conditions, is held to be the chief cause of the high values obtaining during the period under review. Steps were taken early i September, however, to place the beef trade on a quota basis generally and it is reasonable to expect that, with a lessening in the demand, as a result thereof, coupled with an increase in supplies generally as the Spring advances, prices should recede.

Reduced pig supplies.

The marketing of pigs at the Homebush Abattoir Saleyards underwent considerable change during August, 1943, as regards the type of animals coming forward for auction. The opening sale was the last occasion on which porkers could be purchased and slaughtered for the normal pork trade and the yarding was large. On subsequent sale days porkers arrived in odd lots only, resulting in a lower monthly aggregate, the total for August being 4,980 head, including 3,147 received by rail. Sales by private treaty amounted to 846 head.

Local pork trade ceases to function.

As already indicated, pork may not now be sold in butchers' shops and this restriction applies to those dressing over 100 lb. as well as to pigs in the normal weight range, viz., 35 lb. to 90 lb. It is understood, however, that heavy porkers may be purchased for military contracts and that porkers in the weight range 82-100 lb. may be consigned to the United Kingdom. Porkers bought for export and rejected may be sold to small goods manufacturers. In each instance, prices have been fixed at levels below what might be considered present-day market values in order to discourage the sale of any pigs dressing under 100 lb. By this action the authorities hope to increase the number of baconer class pigs. Porkers yarded on the opening sale day included all weights although the heavier descriptions predominated. Prime sorts made a good showing but many of the consignments were in store condition. The market was very firm to a little dearer and prices of prime pigs, dressing 60 lb., ranged to 51/6 per head and those dressing 90 lb. to 75/6. The odd lots of porkers noticed subsequently comprised chiefly heavyweights which sold from 50/6 to 68/6 per head.

Bacon values reach high level.

Baconers were well supplied throughout the period and after the opening sale day comprised the great bulk of the pennings. Medium to heavyweight baconers predominated, while on some sale days extra heavy descriptions were well in evidence. Quality ranged generally from good trade to prime, although a noticeable percentage was only of medium to fair trade standard. A firm market ruled

/during.....

during the first half of the period when heavy descriptions sold to £6.18.6 per head. Values subsequently showed a sharp advance and heavy baconers dressing to 180 lb. realised to £7.17.6 and extra heavy (to 240 lb.) to £8.13.6. These values were the highest for many years. On a per lb. basis the highest quotation, 11½d, was noticed in respect of pigs in the heavy range (130-160 lb.). Although baconers generally became considerably dearer rates for extra lightweights showed no advance and on one sale day were a little cheaper.

Backfatters dearer at closing.

Consignments of backfatters were variable and while supplies were limited early in the period they were more plentiful later. Quality also showed a great deal of variation. Values were a little weaker at opening but the market later recovered and subsequently became dearer. At closing, quotations for both light and heavy sorts ranged to 7½d per lb. Prices per head reached £13.8.6.

G.C. & J.W.

----oooOooo----

The Prices Commissioner recently announced maximum wholesale and retail prices for fish in relation to the Sydney Metropolitan Area. Prices per lb. for the principal lines are:-

Variety	WHOLESALE	RETAIL			
		Uncleaned	Cleaned	Cutlets	Fillets
	s.d.	s.d.	s.d.	s.d.	s.d.
Mullet	/7	/10½	1/3	-	2/-
Murray Cod	1/6	-	2/4	3/9	4/6
Whiting, Sand	1/3	1/10	2/3	-	-
Whiting, Trumpeter	/10	1/3	1/6	-	-
Teraglin	1/-	1/6	1/9	2/2	-
Bream	1/-	1/6	1/10	-	3/-
John Dory	1/-	1/6	-	-	3/9
Flathead	1/-	1/6	1/10	2/9 fins on 3/6 fins off	
Jewfish	1/-	-	1/6	2/6	-
Trevally	/7	/10½	1/1	-	1/9
Leatherjackets	/10	-	1/4	-	2/6
Yellowtails	/5	/7½	/9	-	-
Salmon	/4	/6	-	1/- fins on 1/4 fins off	
Angel Shark	/4	/6	-	-	-
Lobster, cooked	1/2	1/8	-	-	-

----oooOooo----

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Large consignments of potatoes.

Arrivals of local potatoes at Alexandria were considerably smaller and totalled 3,546 bags. There was a good demand for all lines offering which comprised mostly choice grade which sold at £6.17.6. A few No. 2's realised £5.0.0 and No. 3 grade £3.0.0 per ton. Consignments from Victoria were the heaviest for some considerable time and aggregated 35,245 bags. These were available for general trading purposes and were in request at £6.17.6 per ton. At Darling Harbour, supplies totalled 73 trucks of Victorian Carmans. Arrivals in Sussex Street from Tasmania amounted to 137,835 bags as against 95,169 bags during the previous month. Rates showed little change, No. 1 and No. 2 grade being quoted at £6.17.6. A fairly large percentage was available for civilian use, the balance being taken over by the Federal Authorities. Arrivals from the North Coast were very light, only 147 bags coming to hand. The ruling rate of £6.17.6 was obtained for choice grade.

Increased stocks of swedes - lower rates rule.

Supplies of Tasmanian swedes at Alexandria totalled 1,048 bags and there were also 272 bags from local centres. Sales of Tasmanian were made at £9.0.0 to £10.0.0 and local at £8.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton. At auction 72 bags of inferior quality locally grown realised £3.15.0 per ton. In Sussex Street, consignments from Tasmania totalled 11,278 bags which sold at £9.0.0 per ton.

Limited supplies of carrots and parsnips.

The only arrivals of carrots at Alexandria comprised 555 bags from Victoria, which sold at £19.0.0 to £20.0.0 per ton. Sales of 100 bags of regraded carrots by auction were at the rate of £10.0.0 per ton. Tasmanian arrivals in Sussex Street increased to 1,270 bags; the only sale recorded was for a few lots at £16.0.0, the Federal Authorities taking over the balance. Twenty-five bags from the North Coast realised £18.0.0 per ton At Darling Harbour 8 trucks from Victoria realised £18.0.0 to £19.0.0 early but subsequently £15.10.0 per ton was accepted. Parsnips received from Victoria totalled 417 bags and clearances were effected at £8.0.0 per ton. Tasmanian arrivals in Sussex Street comprised 415 bags but no price was disclosed.

Tasmanian beetroot.

Arrivals in Sussex Street comprised 2,788 bags; opening sales were at £12.0.0 per ton but later rates were reduced to £8.0.0 per ton.

/Heavy....

Heavy supplies of pumpkins - rates reduced.

Arrivals from local centres comprised 14 trucks and 46 bags. Prices ranged from £4.10.0 to £10.0.0 per ton. Consignments from Queensland were heavy and consisted of 79 trucks. Rates were firm at £10.0.0 for the greater part of the month but owing to continued heavy supplies rates declined gradually to £7.10.0 with few at £6.0.0 per ton. Arrivals in Sussex Street from the North Coast totalled 283 bags, which sold at £10.0.0 per ton. Consignments to Darling Harbour comprised 13 trucks from Queensland which were available at £10.0.0 per ton.

Victorian brown onions well supplied.

Supplies of onions, which consisted of Victorian brown table varieties, showed a marked increase, 8,617 bags coming to hand. Demand continued good, however, and rates were unchanged at £17.10.0 to £18.0.0 per ton. A small consignment of 159 bags of Victorian brown picklers also arrived and these were disposed of at £13.0.0 per ton. Arrivals at Darling Harbour were also heavier, 32 trucks of Victorian brown being on offer at £17.10.0 to £18.0.0 per ton.

Supplies of oaten chaff increase but rates continue firm.

Arrivals of oaten chaff amounting to 206½ trucks were the heaviest for the past four months. Inquiry was satisfactory at £6.5.0 to £9.10.0 per ton. About 16 trucks of damaged lines brought £4.0.0 to £8.16.8 per ton at auction, according to quality.

Supplies of wheaten chaff maintained.

Consignments of wheaten chaff aggregated 28 trucks. Early in the period supplies were light and prices were firm for under quality lines. Sales were recorded as follows:- Medium £8.0.0, good sound £7.5.0 to £9.0.0, prime £8.15.0 to £9.0.0 with special lots at £9.0.0 to £9.10.0 per ton. Six trucks were offered at auction and brought £5.15.0 to £8.5.0 per ton.

Lucerne chaff dearer.

Arrivals of lucerne chaff totalled 41 trucks representing a reduction of 50 trucks compared with July. Sales were readily effected, clearances being made at £10.0.0 to £13.0.0 per ton. At auction, 1 truck of damaged brought £8.1.8 per ton.

Light supplies of lucerne hay.

Arrivals from the Maitland district were considerably smaller, 27 trucks coming to hand.

From other centres there were 55 trucks. Rates were as follows:- Grassy £5.0.0 to £7.10.0, Medium £7.10.0 to £9.10.0,

/Good .....

Good sound £9.0.0 to £11.0.0, Prime £10.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton. Small bales of good sound sold at £10.10.0 and choice at £12.5.0. Inferior lots sold at auction brought £5.15.0 to £6.12.6 per ton. Two trucks of dry meadow hay realised £2.16.8 to £3.5.0 per ton at auction.

Reduced supplies of oaten hay.

Arrivals of oaten hay were smaller, 44¾ trucks being offered compared with a total of 69 trucks last month. During the period sales were recorded at £5.10.0 to £9.5.0 per ton.

Oaten and wheaten straw sells at unchanged rates.

Receivals comprised 20 trucks of oaten and 3½ trucks of wheaten straw. Oaten sold at £7.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton, while wheaten straw realised £7.10.0 to £8.0.0 per ton.

Good demand for wheat.

There were 29 trucks of wheat available. F.A.Q. sold at 3/8, while under quality lines disposed of by auction brought 2/8 to 3/6½d.

Maize more plentiful but rates continue firm.

Arrivals of maize at Alexandria again increased, 15,196 bags being received. Consignments comprised the following:- 7,039 bags of Yellow, 2,102 bags of White from local centres; 3,429 bags of Yellow and 2,626 bags of White from Queensland. A large percentage was consigned to private buyers. Sales were recorded in the first half of the period at 6/10 to 7/- per bushel for Yellow. Supplies received in Sussex Street from the North Coast comprised 1,974 bags of Yellow. Sales were chiefly effected at 7/- per bushel but in the last few days of the period rates were firmer at 7/- to 7/2 per bushel.

Oats continue to sell well.

Consignments of oats aggregated 35 trucks. Only 5 trucks were offered, 2/10½ to 3/- per bushel being realised at auction.

C.H.F.

----oooOooo----

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Apples in reduced supply.

Only small quantities of apples from local sources reached the market. Occasional supplies of Granny Smith, Dougherty, Crofton and Yates were available early in the month but towards the close few lots were obtainable. Reports indicate that disposals of stocks in the country are being effected at the storage centres at maximum rates, thus obviating freight and commission charges incurred by marketing in Sydney. The principal trading was transacted in Tasmanian varieties which comprised Granny Smith, Democrat, Sturmer, Crofton, Cleopatra, Rome Beauty, French Crab and Western Australian Granny Smith, Democrat and Yates. At the close of August the number of varieties offering was limited to Granny Smith, Sturmer and Democrat. A few Victorian Jonathan, Rome Beauty and Rokewoods were on offer at times.

Rates for most lines were firm and the maximum rate of 26/- was paid for Granny Smith, Crofton, Yates and Rome Beauty.

Pears sell well.

Without Victorian consignments of pears buyers would have found it difficult to secure supplies as fruit from New South Wales cool stores was limited, only small quantities of Packham's Triumph, Winter Cole, Winter Nelis and Josephine coming forward. Regular weekly consignments of Victorian packs came to hand which included Packham's Triumph, Winter Cole, Winter Nelis, Josephine and a few Glou. Morceau and Broom Park. Good demand ruled and values showed an upward trend.

Choice Navel oranges sell well.

Fairly large quantities of Navel oranges from coastal groves were marketed. Choice fruit met a good inquiry on most days but small sizes met a limited request and some packs sold at comparatively low levels. The price range of quality fruit showed some variation but towards the close of the month rain hampered harvesting; supplies were restricted in consequence and the maximum of 21/- was obtained for specially selected packs.

Consignments from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area were only moderate, the bulk of the fruit being disposed of on other markets.

Small lots of main crop Valencia oranges were received but sales were slow unless the sugar content was satisfactory.

Choice mandarins met a good request and higher prices

/were .....

were obtained, up to 26/- and more being paid. Small fruit was difficult to dispose of and some was offered at very low prices.

Demand for coastal lemons was somewhat quiet but owing to the limited supplies reaching the market prices were maintained at remunerative levels. Fruit from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area met a brighter inquiry and best trade sizes realised the maximum of 20/- per bushel.

Banana market very firm.

With only light supplies of bananas reaching the selling floors values were firm throughout August. Large-sized fruit comprised only a small percentage of consignments and high prices ruled. There was a good deal of under grade fruit included in supplies on some occasions and this grade had to be sold at much lower rates than those ruling for standard packs.

Pineapples sell slowly.

Consignments of pineapples to the 25th August approximated 25,000 cases. During the first week of the month prices ranged to 20/- per case. Subsequently values were easier, largely as a result of a restricted demand due to the unsatisfactory condition of many packs which were damaged by frost. Rates were reduced, the range being 8/- to 14/- with an occasional sale higher. The position improved late in the month and values firmed to 18/- for best lines.

Other fruits.

Regular consignments of strawberries came to hand from Queensland. Demand was satisfactory, trays selling to 12/- each and a few specials to 14/-. Rates ruling for packets generally ranged from 18/- to 36/- per dozen.

Passionfruit were lightly stocked; choice sold to 24/- while higher rates were obtained for a few specials.

Peas and beans in short supply.

Supplies of peas and beans were insufficient to meet the requirements of the trade. Consignments of peas were extremely light and daily receivals were mostly around the 200 bag mark, although on some days this quantity was not reached. Many buyers were unable to secure any supplies. Some direct dealing between growers and retailers took place and these purchases were a factor in curtailing consignments to agents' floors. The maximum price of 21/- was obtained for all lines. The bi-weekly consignments of beans from the North Coast and Queensland varied; on some occasions about 1,400 packages were available, while at other times less than 1,000 were forward. Demand was keen and prompt clearances were effected at the ceiling rate of 16/8 per bushel, irrespective of quality.

/Cauliflowers ....

Cauliflowers sell well.

Fairly large supplies of cauliflowers were received early in the month but there was a gradual decline subsequently and at the close of the period many growers stated that their crops were practically cut out. South Australian and Victorian consignments augmented local offerings but generally little difficulty was experienced in effecting disposals. Choice heads realised very satisfactory prices and up to 36/- per dozen was paid.

Satisfactory demand for cabbages.

Cabbages from local sources were moderately supplied but Interstate consignments were heavy at times. Generally a good demand was experienced and rates for best lots ranged between 18/- and 26/- per dozen.

Supplies of tomatoes decline and prices rise sharply.

Approximately 50,000 half-cases of tomatoes arrived from Queensland during the first two weeks of August. Demand was restricted and values were weak. Supplies declined sharply during the next fortnight by about fifty per cent. and as a result the market developed a much firmer tone. Rates advanced, green packs selling to 20/- and coloured to 24/- per half-case. The closing market showed further improvement, particularly for choice repacked lots which sold up to 36/-. Small quantities of local glasshouse tomatoes were available and sales were made at up to 32/-. Some North Coast packs were on offer and coloured lots brought to 30/- per half case.

Other vegetables.

There was a marked increase in supplies of spinach and lettuce and prices of both lines were easier.

R.M.

----oooOooo----

The Minister for Commerce has announced that greatly increased orders for Australian flour have been received from overseas through the United Kingdom Government.

The quantity of flour required totals 500,000 tons. Apart from the cash value, estimated at about £7,000,000, much larger supplies of bran and pollard will become available for dairy stock, pigs and poultry.

----oooOooo----

WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING AUGUST, 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	August, 1943 From	August, 1943 To	31st August, 19[39] From	31st August, 19[39] To
Wheat: Home Consumption - Bulk - per bushel	3/11¼d (unchanged)		2/4d	
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2 (plus £2.8.10 tax)	"	£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)	
Bran - " "	£6.0.0 (unchanged)		£4.5.0	
Pollard " "	£6.0.0	"	£4.5.0	
Eggs - per dozen	2/-	1/7	1/-	
Butter (choice) per cwt.	169/4 (unchanged)		161/2	
Cheese:				
Loaf - per lb.	1/0½	"	11d	
Large " "	1/-		10½d	
Special brands per lb.	1/1d	1/3½d	1/2	

	August, 1943. From	August, 1943. To	29th August, 193[9] From	29th August, 193[9] To
Pigs (Abattoir Sales): Good to prime per head -				
Porkers:				
Extra light	28/6	44/6	31/6	40/6
Light	43/6	51/6	39/6	44/6
Medium weight	48/6	70/6	43/6	57/6
Heavy	£2.10.6	£3.15.6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	£3.9.6	£7.18.6 (extra heavy to £8.13.6)	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£5.5.0	£13.8.6	£4.5.0	£8.10[.0]

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

----oooOooo----

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

F R U I T

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland	23,737	3,175	6,647 x	96,418	129,977
Victoria	23	25	69,353	285	69,686
Tasmania	-	-	55,234	-	55,234
Sth. Aust.	-	-	16,486	-	16,486
West Aust.	-	-	16,364	-	16,364
TOTALS	23,760	3,200	164,084	96,703	287,747

Note: x Also 4,005 trays Strawberries.

V E G E T A B L E S

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins bags	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkges.	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland	205	2	9	25,975	719	7,874	34,784
Victoria	85,723	23,029	7,260	1,269	-	94,486 /	211,767
Tasmania	29,400	-	13,406	-	-	6,056	48,862
Sth. Aust.	1,792	45	-	-	-	14,347	16,184
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	117,120	23,076	20,675	27,244	719	122,763	311,597

Note: / Also 6 tons 12 cwt. 2 qrs. Cauliflowers.

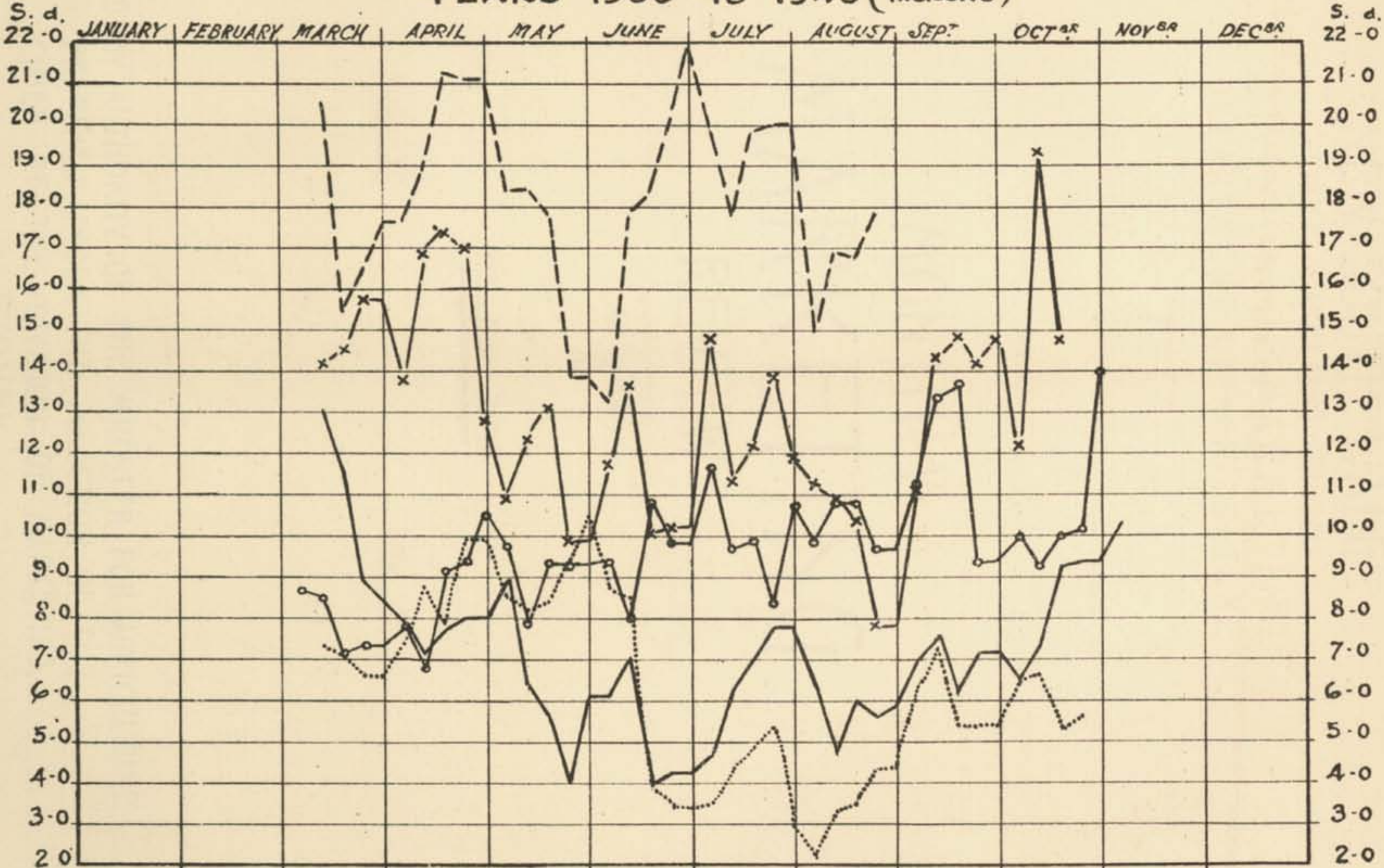
STATE MARKETING BUREAU DIVISION OF MARKETING —— DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEW SOUTH WALES.

C. 43.2

CAULIFLOWERS

43-895

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES PER DOZEN IN SYDNEY FOR YEARS 1939 TO 1943 (inclusive)



1939 shewn thus: ——— 1941 shewn thus: o-o-o-o
1940 " " -------- 1942 " " x-x-x-x
1943 shewn thus: — — — —

Compiled E.H.S.
Drawn: E.H.S.
Checked J.W.

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

104