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

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

OCTOBER, 1943

Vol. 10 No. 6

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

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MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

A MISCELLANY OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS, AT HOME AND ABROAD.

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ACTING CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

OCTOBER, 1943.

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HIGHLIGHTS

The Prices Commissioner has fixed the maximum retail price for tomatoes sold in Sydney at 1/7 per lb. Prices for Melbourne and Brisbane have been pegged at 1/3 and 1/2 per lb., respectively.

An increase of 1/- in the wholesale ceiling price of apples has been announced by the Prices Commissioner, thus making the maximum wholesale rate 28/- per bushel. The retail price schedule remains unchanged.

The Minister for Customs has "declared" egg pulp under National Security (Prices) Regulations, thus bringing the commodity within the scope of price control.

The current season's wheat yield in New South Wales has been officially forecast at 39,000,000 bushels. This represents a decrease of 12,693,000 bushels in production compared with season 1942-43, but a smaller acreage is under crop this year.

It has been announced that arrangements have been made to ship substantial quantities of Tasmanian Brownell potatoes to Victoria for dehydration. The resultant gap in supplies for Sydney, it is stated, will be filled by white varieties grown in Victoria.

The Minister for Commerce and Agriculture, Mr. W.J. Scully, has appointed a Pig Meats Advisory Committee to assist in the development of the pig industry in New South Wales.

LAND UTILISATION IN RURAL AREAS.

In the September issue of this Review, the first part of an article relating to land utilisation in rural areas of the United Kingdom appeared. The second and concluding portion now follows:

5. Types of industry hurtful to rural life and/or unsuitable for rural location.

All industries coming under the designation of "noxious trades" should be rigorously excluded from those areas whose rural characteristics it is desired to preserve. Smoke, fumes, and the discharge of harmful effluents into streams used for watering live-stock are also definitely hurtful to rural life. Very large concerns employing a considerable number of workers are quite incompatible with farming, forestry and the preservation of rural amenities. The unbalancing effect on rural labour has been referred to under subject 3, and trespass on land, leaving gates open and damaging hedges by blackberry picking, etc., make it very difficult for farmer or woodland occupier to carry on the work of food and timber production effectively. The environs of the smaller towns where public services - water supply, lighting and sewerage - are available, with areas already allocated to industrial development under town planning schemes, are much more suitable for extended development. From the point of view of vulnerability to air attack, such urban sites for industries essential for war purposes would probably be more difficult to identify, than if placed in isolated positions in the open country.

6. Non-Industrial building - housing, ribbon development, etc.

The difficulties of planning the countryside have been aggravated by the enforced break-up of large landed estates under pressure of heavy death duties, with the consequent multiplicity of small owners, who have not the capital to develop back land. They are naturally tempted to raise money by selling plots on existing road frontages, and by felling timber without regard to amenities. In view of the revolution brought about by motor transport (particularly the 'bus services now operating in hitherto comparatively inaccessible areas) it is possible to sell a building plot almost anywhere if water supply is available. Control of indiscriminate building, and particularly of ribbon development is undoubtedly necessary, and the safeguards in the Town and Country Planning Act 1932 and the Restriction of Ribbon Development Act 1935 should not be relaxed. The rural housing problem after the war may be intensified by the number of families at present evacuated from towns who in some cases will not be able to return to bombed areas for a considerable time. Adequate housing accommodation for rural workers, equipped with amenities in the way of water supply, lighting and sanitation that should accompany a higher standard of living and education, must be provided in the

/country ....

country if migration to the towns is to be arrested. Very valuable work in reconditioning the older cottages, is being accomplished with the aid of grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

In the neighbourhood of London, for example, large areas of good market land naturally adapted for growing fresh fruit and vegetables, have been engulfed by the spread of housing and industrial development, and lost to food production for ever. Again in the Home Counties (and other districts contiguous to the larger towns) where access is convenient, the more attractive farmhouses have been acquired by business men, and enlarged for private residences. In some cases the farm land has been bought as well. On a resale, such farms are no longer suitable for working farmers, and the result is a break-up for housing development. In such areas cottages intended for local workers have been bought and adapted for "weekend" use.

7. Alienation of land from agricultural use for other purposes than building - aerodromes, golf courses, playing fields, etc.

For defence purposes the provision of an ample supply of aerodromes cannot well be questioned, but it is hoped that sites will not be decided on without previous consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the local Agricultural Committees, as they often appear to be placed quite unnecessarily on the best land in the area. Such agricultural use as is possible, e.g. grass drying, sheep grazing, etc., should be continued after acquisition, and when the land is no longer required for defence purposes, it should be restored for agricultural use as a national duty. For civil purposes an aerodrome will no doubt ultimately be as necessary to an important town as a railway station and arterial roads, and similar considerations should apply. Golf courses, fortunately, do not entail the use of good agricultural land; light sandy soils on heath or hill land is much more suitable, and the grazing of sheep need not be unduly restricted. A playing field or recreation ground (with a swimming pool where natural facilities do not exist) should be considered essential for every village community, and being comparatively small in area, can usually be cited without undue encroachment on agricultural land.

8. Social and physical amenities of the countryside.

The social amenities of the countryside have a direct effect in attracting people to it and in keeping them there. To those who desire to own land, good sporting facilities make a great appeal, and by increasing the number of possible buyers, maintain the values of land, and so indirectly benefit the smaller proprietor. The bona fide countryman is a lover of sport, and provided the production of foodstuffs and timber are given first place, it is a sound and healthy instinct. Recreation in the way of games and social gatherings are mainly important in keeping the younger generation contented with their rural surroundings, and when available, have much to do in preventing an inclination to

/migrate....

migrate to the town. Among the physical amenities, woodlands and trees usually hold pride of place, and much of the beauty of the countryside is due to the enlightened landscape planting by the owners of the larger estates in the past. The importance of avoiding the influx of factories likely to emit smoke and noxious fumes harmful to tree growth is of outstanding importance in this connection. Control of elevations and the siting of new industrial buildings; of telephone, telegraph and electricity supply poles, are also necessary measures.

General Considerations.

In considering this question broadly, we are impressed with the need for a national planning authority to prevent local or self-interest influencing considerations which should be decided from the point of view of the maintenance of agriculture, the successful operation of the industry concerned, and national prosperity. There is a great temptation to local authorities to encourage constructional development which brings about an increase in rateable value (particularly as agricultural land is derated), because rising costs of administration of local government are an inevitable result of legislation imposing additional duties on these bodies. It is not suggested that a central body should entirely supersede local and regional planning committees (more manageable units for dealing with details), but rather that they should co-ordinate, supervise, and examine their proposals from a national and non-political standpoint, such a structure being more in accordance with the methods generally acceptable in a democratic country. Regional committees are charged with the duty of safe-guarding areas having common interests, while the knowledge of, and preservation of local amenities are the special concern of the bodies acting in the smaller areas. A national body should in our opinion concentrate first on the redevelopment and improvement of many of our over-large towns, particularly in the direction of slum clearance and the provision of open spaces. Much of the desire of the town-dweller to escape to rural surroundings would disappear if the towns were made pleasanter to live in; the many conveniences of town life have a great appeal, particularly to older people. The effect of an uncontrolled exodus to the countryside is in many cases, to ultimately destroy that elusive thing which is so anxiously sought. There is much to be said for preventing the further extension of towns already overgrown, and for settling the maximum limits of all towns, with the sterilisation of agricultural or green belts surrounding them.

The alienation of good agricultural land from productive use, except where such a course is absolutely unavoidable in the national interest (e.g. for purposes of defence), should be prohibited. Where such land, and also land suitable for afforestation, is reserved in the national interest for the specific purpose of maintaining a reasonable standard of production of foodstuffs and timber, it is suggested in fairness to the landowner

/who ...

who is thereby deprived of prospective value, that there should be remission of death duties on its principal value. The Ministry of Agriculture should identify the agricultural land to be reserved, bearing in mind, inter alia, climatic influences which have brought about specialised farming in different parts of the country. The Forestry Commission would exercise a similar function with regard to land suitable for afforestation. A number of suitable sites for industries should then be carefully selected after holding local enquiries. After these locations have been made, the siting of new roads for inter-communication (apart from national trunk or artorial roads) may afterwards be undertaken with greater benefit to all concerned.

Following the precedent of the electricity grid supply, the question of water supply by a similar method might well be explored. Greater use of canals is also worthy of consideration. Land required for public purposes requires to be identified first, and as early notice as possible given of intention to acquire.

In conclusion, it appears to be manifest that there is need for great caution in formulating proposals for dealing with questions which must have far-reaching effects not only in the localities which may be directly affected, but also in their cumulative results, upon national interests as a whole.

----oooOooo----

TOMATO CONTROL IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Minister of Food has now made the Home Grown Tomatoes (Control and Maximum) Prices Order 1943, prescribing maximum prices and regulating the distribution of tomatoes in the 1943 season.

The principal changes in the schedule of prices in the United Kingdom as compared with 1942 are as follow: The grower's price during the period of maximum outdoor production from 16th September to 13th October is reduced to 7d per lb.; provision is made for two wholesale margins to operate throughout the country; the primary wholesale margin is reduced from 11d to 6d; and there are reductions in the retail margins and in retail prices.

Secondary margins remain at approximately the same amounts as in 1942, but secondary wholesalers will be required to meet the expenses of Distribution Committees. Retailers will not contribute towards the expenses of Distribution Committees.

Sales by growers to manufacturers will be permitted at a price of 7d per lb. throughout the season.

In the North of England and in Scotland, growers' prices will throughout be a halfpenny a pound more than in England, and because of this and of transport costs, retail prices will be 1d per lb. more.

----oooOooo----

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

Smaller numbers of sheep and lambs offered.

The number of sheep and lambs available was considerably below the previous month's total, supplies during September comprising 269,783 head. The decline was due to reduced truckings and cancellation of one sale day, as a result of restricted killings at some Abattoirs in the Metropolitan Area.

Quality of sheep chiefly fair.

Wethers and ewes yarded totalled 121,700 head. Generally some improvement was noticed in the quality of the pennings although fair to medium trade sheep comprised a substantial proportion of the supplies. Prime weighty sheep, particularly wethers, were somewhat scarce, while good light trade sheep were available in moderate numbers.

Grown sheep values irregular.

Prices of grown sheep showed a good deal of irregularity but when supplies were limited very high levels were reached. At opening sales, rates for wethers did not vary appreciably but ewes were 1/- cheaper. At the following auctions light supplies and strong competition from near country butchers, who carried on with their normal slaughterings, resulted in a sharp upward price movement. Later on, realisations were not so high, increased supplies and a reversion to normal activities by slaughtermen resulting in prices easing by from 2/- to 3/- and in some instances up to 4/- per head.

Some representative sales are shown hereunder:-

First Week

Good trade	44 lb. wethers	(skin 1/-)	made	20/1	each	or	5¼d per lb.
" "	44 lb. ewes	(" 10/6)	"	28/-	"	"	4¾d " "

Second Week (Strike period)

Good heavy	56 lb. wethers	(skin 1/3)	made	29/5	each	or	6d per lb.
" trade	46 lb. ewes	(" 3/-)	"	26/8	"	"	6d " "

Third Week (Return to normal selling)

Good trade	42 lb. wethers	(skin 1/6)	made	19/10	each	or	5¼d per lb.
" "	44 lb. ewes	(" 12/6)	"	28/9	"	"	4½d " "

Fourth Week

Good trade	40 lb. wethers	(skin 1/-)	made	17/11	each	or	5d per lb.
" "	42 lb. ewes	(" 9/-)	"	24/5	"	"	4½d " "

/Mutton ....

Mutton values reach extreme levels.

During the period of reduced supplies, rates for mutton reached very high levels, ewes costing to 6d and wethers to 7d per lb. Such prices, however, ruled under exceptional circumstances and must not be regarded as a true reflex of values. For the most part average rates were below those of the previous month. With improved supplies coming forward, ewe mutton at the end of September was procurable for 3¾d to 4½d and wether mutton at from 4¼d to 5d per lb.

Lamb supplies increase.

Although the aggregate penning of 148,083 head of lambs was smaller than that of the previous month, a considerable increa in numbers took place when normal selling was resumed. Suckers ar now reaching the market in considerably increased numbers, good to prime grades being well represented.

Lamb prices ease.

Rates for lambs and suckers showed a good deal of irregularity. At opening sales, prices eased, the decline in most cases being 1/- per head, but subsequently a much firmer tendency prevailed. Increased supplies during the last three sales held during the period were primarily responsible for a progressive decline in realisations, the fall mostly approximating from 3/- to 5/- per head, according to quality.

Some actual sales during the period are shown hereunder:-

At Opening Auctions

Good trade	34 lb.	suckers	(skin 3/6)	made	26/1	each	or 8d	per lb.
" heavy	42 lb.	lambs	(" 6/6)	"	30/8	"	" 7d	" "

Second Week

Prime heavy	38 lb.	suckers	(skin 4/-)	made	30/8	each	or 8½d	per l
Good "	48 lb.	lambs & hoggets	(" 1/6)	"	30/4	"	" 7¼d	" "

Third Week

Prime light	34 lb.	suckers	(skin 3/-)	made	26/10	each	or 8½d	per l
Good heavy	48 lb.	lambs	(" 5/6)	"	31/7	"	" 6¼d	" "

Fourth Week

Good trade	34 lb.	suckers	(skin 3/6)	made	23/4	each	or 7d	per lb.
" heavy	46 lb.	lambs	(" 8/-)	"	29/10	"	" 5¾d	" "

/Lamb ...

Lamb sells at lower rates.

The average cost per lb. for lambs and suckers was lower than during the previous month, despite the fact that prices of suckers reached to 8½d per lb. and lamb to 7¾d per lb. The market declined considerably towards the end of the month when rates for suckers ranged from 5¾d to 7¼d per lb. as against 7½d to 8¼d per lb. at the corresponding time in August, while heavy and light lambs realised 5½d to 6d and 6¼d to 6¾d per lb., respectively.

Industrial trouble causes decline in cattle consignments.

Owing to prolonged industrial trouble only limited slaughtering operations were conducted at the Homebush Abattoirs during the first half of the period. Except on one sale day, however, auctions were held in order to dispose of the small supplies of stock reaching the Saleyards. These consignments were purchased chiefly by operators conducting private killing establishments, including the Riverstone Meat Company. Killing operations at the Sydney Meat Preserving Company's works at Auburn also ceased during the period in question. As a result of these conditions consignments of cattle during September, 1943, totalled only 8,609 head, the smallest aggregate for some years. Auctions in the store section accounted for 509 head.

The general quality of the offerings was most variable, nevertheless a substantial proportion comprised good trade to prime beasts; the number of really plain cattle yarded was only small. The general pastoral outlook showed some improvement during the month in the Eastern half of the State where frequent showers were experienced over a wide area. Soaking rains are required, however, in order to create a more lasting benefit, while in the more Westerly sections of the State, including most of the plains, substantial falls are urgently required.

Beef quotas reduce cattle values.

Although the market during the first half of the month was somewhat irregular, prices generally were fairly well maintained. During the latter half of the month, however, values declined following the institution of a system of quota purchases, applicable to operators from centres outside the area controlled by the Meat Industry Commissioner. The severe rationing of beef for civilian consumption also helped to bring about a weaker market. At present the quantity of beef available for civil needs varies according to available supplies and service and canning requirements.

Supplies of bullocks limited.

Bullocks continued in limited supply and consignments comprised chiefly light and medium weight descriptions of generally good trade quality. Prime drafts, also heavy bullocks, made a fair showing on odd occasions. A firm market ruled early in the period

/when...

when rates for both light and medium weight bullocks ranged to 62/- per 100 lb. Values subsequently declined until the third week when a much dearer market prevailed at the first regular sale day after the resumption of work at the Homebush Abattoirs. At the auction in question medium weight bullocks were worth to 64/- per 100 lb., while odd lots of prime extra heavy beasts realised the highest prices in recent years, namely to £30.6.0 per head. At subsequent sales the effect of the quota system became apparent; values declined progressively and at the close of September quotations for prime bullocks stood at 54/- per 100 lb., representing a reduction of up to £3.10.0 per head.

Fair trade steers well represented.

Generally, steers were well supplied but on a number of sale days a substantial proportion of the pennings comprised only small, fair trade beasts. Quality generally improved towards the close of the month when prime medium weight drafts made a good showing. Values were well maintained during the first three weeks when quotations ranged as high as 66/- per 100 lb. At closing, however, 56/- per 100 lb. was the highest quotation for prime lightweights.

Improved supplies of cows.

The proportion of cows yarded was the highest noticed for some time, while quality generally was very satisfactory. The market was well maintained and on the average rates exceeded those of August. Best prices ranged to 55/- per 100 lb. On several occasions rates per 100 lb. of heavy cows exceeded those of light descriptions. Values generally declined towards the close of the month.

Variable heifer truckings.

Consignments of heifers were variable and on some occasions only odd lots were available. Lightweights of fair to good trade quality predominated. Best rates slightly exceeded those of August, quotations reaching to 61/- per 100 lb. At closing, however, values showed a sharp decline.

Irregular vealer market.

Moderate consignments of vealers were forward on most sale days. Prime vealers were noticed chiefly amongst the heavier descriptions. The market was very irregular and considerable fluctuations were apparent. Last month's extreme levels were not reached, nevertheless rates ranged to 70/- per 100 lb. At closing good to prime vealers mostly sold at 52/- to 61/- per 100 lb.

Reduced pig supplies.

The industrial trouble at the Homebush Abattoirs also caused a decline in the number of pigs arriving for sale. The ~~total~~ submitted ~~at auction during September was only 2,601 head, of~~

/which...

which 1,559 were received by rail. Sales by private treaty totalled 661 head.

Baconers well represented.

Bacon pigs continued to comprise the bulk of the pennings Supplies for the most part were of good trade quality, while prime descriptions were well represented. All weights were included in the offerings, although medium and heavy weights predominated. The extreme rates of the previous month were not maintained, although the market was satisfactory from the producer's viewpoint. Quotations for pigs dressing up to 160 lb. ranged to 10½d per lb., while up to 9½d was quoted for extra heavy sorts dressing between 180 and 200 lb. Until the close of the month, values of extra lightweights were somewhat below those of the heavier grades. At the closing auction the market for this class showed an advance and rates were in line with those ruling for light and medium weights. The guaranteed price for baconers now covers pigs in the 100-200 range and during the period action was taken to treat baconers exceeding 200 lb. as backfatters, the price of which has been fixed at a much lower level than those for baconers. It is understood, however, that the Controller of Meat Supplies is now instructing bacon curers to pay maximum prices for all bacon pigs, irrespective of weight, providing, of course, they are of suitable quality. The guaranteed minimum prices for baconers have not yet been finally decided upon. The present rate at which the Meat Controller may acquire carcases is about 10d per lb. at wholesalers' stores.

Extreme prices paid for backfatters.

Backfatters made a very fair showing and the pennings included both light and heavy descriptions of generally satisfactory quality. On the first sale day in September when supplies were extremely light very high prices were paid for the odd backfatters available, quotations reaching as high as 9d per lb. These prices were not maintained during subsequent sales, nevertheless average values were only slightly below those of the previous month. On the final sale day light backfattors were quoted to 6½d per lb. and heavy descriptions to 6¼d.

The odd lots of heavy porkers submitted sold at rates ranging from 7¾d to 9d per lb.

- -ooooOoooo- -

G.C. & J.W.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Large oranges in request.

Marketing of Navel oranges from coastal districts and the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area continued but supplies showed a considerable decline. Only very small quantities were coming forward after mid-September and buyers had to turn their attention to new season's Valencias to fulfil their requirements. The quality of the Valencias generally was pleasing and little difficulty was experienced in disposing of the main trade sizes at up to the maximum of 21/- per bushel. At times there were insufficient supplies of fruit of counts ranging from 80 to 150 but for the most part ample quantities of smaller fruit was available.

Mandarins of good quality sell well.

Choice medium to large-sized mandarins continued to meet a good inquiry; rates were very firm and up to 30/- and occasionally more was obtained for some special packs. Stocks of small and inferior fruit were plentiful early in September and proved difficult to sell but with a cessation of supplies of this class of fruit agents were able to effect clearances, although some losses were occasioned.

Lemons sell slowly.

Demand for lemons for the most part was limited. Coastal fruit was slow of sale but purchases for factory purposes enabled agents to clear stocks. Small consignments of fruit from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area were available and choice packs of the best trade sizes realised ~~to~~ 20/- per bushel.

Reduced supplies of apples.

Only a few consignments of Granny Smith apples were received from country cool stores, and any lines offered for sale were quickly bought up. Supplies of this variety from Tasmania were practically exhausted at the close of the month. Western Australian consignments were light and little difficulty was met with in realising the maximum of 27/- per case for sound fruit. Small quantities of local and interstate Yates were obtainable and sizes above two inches sold up to the ceiling price. Stocks of Tasmanian Sturmers were cleared but Democrats were still available at the close of the month. With Army requirements to be met from the limited quantities coming forward, the outlook for the retail trade during October was not bright.

Rates for pears advance.

The principal supply of pears came from Victoria in regular weekly consignments. The main varieties offered were

/Packham's ...

Packham's Triumph, Winter Cole and Josephine, while small lots of Glou. Morceau, Madame Cole, Broom Park and Winter Nelis were also available. There was a good demand and towards the close of the month values advanced to 30/- for best sizes of Packhams, Winter Coles and Josephines. From local sources occasional lines of Packham's Triumph were forward but only isolated lots of other varieties were received. Rates for Packhams firmed to 30/- per case.

Bananas sell at firm rates.

With only limited consignments of bananas reaching the selling floors the market was firm and values were maintained at high levels. Large fruit comprised only a small percentage of supplies and high prices were paid for choice packs. Under grade fruit included in consignments had to be sold at rates well below those ruling for standard trade sizes.

Improved demand for pineapples.

Pineapples were fairly well supplied and early rates ranged to 18/-. Subsequently, owing to a better demand, values advanced for best lines, which sold to 20/- per case.

Other fruits.

There were only limited supplies of passionfruit availabl and rates for choice lots were firm. Strawberries from Queensland were received regularly and good quality lines met a ready inquiry. Towards the close of the month a good deal of fungus was apparent and many lots had to be repacked.

Supplies of peas below trade requirements.

Consignments of peas to agents' floors throughout the month were light and little difficulty was experienced in disposing of all stocks. The maximum rate of 21/- per bushel ruled for practically all lines, although some North Coast lots damaged by rain had to be sold at lower levels. A number of retailers obtaine supplies direct from growers and towards the end of September a fairly large percentage of consignments reaching Darling Harbour was being obtained in this way.

Reduced supplies of beans.

There was a considerable decline in the supply of beans from the North Coast and Queensland and it would appear that the season in both areas is drawing to a close. Quality showed much variation and some lots were beyond the edible stage. Breakdown was apparent in some consignments and losses were occasioned.

Reasonably good quality lines realised the maximum price which was increased from 16/8 to 20/- per bushel on 8th September.

/Up ...

Up to the end of the month no new season's beans had arrived from the Gosford-Terrigal district. Reports indicate that marketing will be later this year owing to the extremely cold winter.

Tomatoes come under price control.

Tomatoes were lightly supplied. Consignments from Queensland fell away sharply; only moderate quantities of local glasshouse packs were available and the North Coast forwardings were light. On Friday, 3rd September, prices advanced sharply up to 50/- per half-case being paid for glasshouse and as much as 45/- for Queensland repacks. Rates were maintained at up to 40/- and higher per half-case until 22nd September when maximum rates were fixed by the Prices Commissioner at 30/- per case of 24 lbs. Subsequently, many buyers found it difficult to secure supplies of glasshouse lots, as the bulk was being taken for Army needs.

Cauliflower season drawing to a close.

Cauliflowers were in reduced supply as the crop had been cut out in many areas. Some very good quality heads were forward from gardens within the County of Cumberland and high prices were obtained, up to 40/- per dozen and occasionally more being paid.

Choice cabbages sell well.

Supplies of cabbages from local sources were augmented by consignments from Victoria and Queensland. Many of the local cabbages were showing seed development and values were affected adversely where this was apparent. Generally, the demand was good and top rates for choice large heads ranged from 20/- to 24/- but seedy and inferior lots sold cheaply.

With restricted supplies of table potatoes there was a keen inquiry for the sweet variety and prompt disposals were effected of all lines reaching the market.

Other vegetables.

Lettuce sold well on most days and choice lots realised very satisfactory prices.

Larger quantities of spinach were available and rates generally were easier.

Rhubarb met a good inquiry owing to the limited supplies of fruit suitable for culinary purposes. Prices were firm, some extra choice selling at 12/- per dozen bunches.

R.M.

----oooOooo----

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Reduced consignments of Victorian and Tasmanian potatoes.

Supplies of local potatoes at Alexandria were maintained, 3,830 bags arriving, chiefly from the Crookwell district. These supplies comprised Factors and only portion was of choice grade. There was a good demand for all lines offering, No. 1 realising £6.17.6 and No. 2 and No. 3 £5.0.0 per ton.

Arrivals from Victoria showed a sharp decline, only 1,381 bags coming to hand as against 34,245 bags in the previous period. Supplies consisted mostly of Carmans which sold at £6.17.6 for No.1 Grade. At Darling Harbour landing 11 trucks of Victorian-grown Carmans were available at the unchanged rate of £6.17.6 per ton for No.1 Grade. Tasmanian consignments in Sussex Street, comprising 89,031 bags, showed a reduction of almost 50,000 bags compared with the previous month. Rates were unchanged at £6.17.6 per ton for No.1 Grade. Only limited quantities were made available for general trading purposes, a large percentage being taken over by the Federal Authorities. Supplies from the North Coast were very light, only 8 bags coming to hand in Sussex Street.

Lighter supplies of swedes - rates unchanged.

Consignments of swedes at Alexandria totalled 875 bags from local centres. Little change was noticeable in rates which ranged from £7.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton. Also consigned to Alexandria ex store were 706 bags of Tasmanian swedes but the bulk comprised inferior lines and were disposed of at £5.0.0 per ton, although 227 bags sold at auction brought only £1.0.0 per ton. Arrivals in Sussex Street from Tasmania were lighter and totalled 6,561 bags, which were disposed of at £7.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton. There were 218 bags received in Sussex Street from the North Coast and rates were firm at £9.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton. Tasmanian swedes arrived at Darling Harbour ex Victoria and realised £9.0.0 per ton.

Carrots and parsnips again in light supply.

Consignments to Alexandria from local centres comprised 150 bags of inferior quality; no rates were disclosed. Receivals from Victoria amounted to 508 bags which were in request at firm rates, £18.0.0 to £20.0.0 per ton being obtained. Receivals from Tasmania in Sussex Street (279 bags) brought £20.0.0 per ton. Consignments from the North Coast amounted to 46 bags. At Darling Harbour, portion of 5 trucks from Victoria realised £20.0.0 per ton, the Federal Authorities taking the balance. Consignments of Tasmanian parsnips in Sussex Street aggregated 719 bags. Portion of these supplies sold at £12.0.0 to £14.0.0, whilst 629 bags of inferior quality brought £8.0.0 per ton.

/Tasmanian....

Tasmanian beetroot.

Supplies of Tasmanian beetroot amounted to 1,065 bags. Some of inferior grade sold at £5.0.0 but the balance realised £8.0.0 per ton.

Pumpkins scarcer and rates firm.

Supplies from local centres amounted to only 3 trucks. Two of these sold readily at the higher rate of £11.0.0, whilst one truck of loose lots realised £8.0.0 per ton at auction. Consignments received from Queensland were also lighter, 43½ trucks coming to hand compared with a total of 79 trucks last month. One truck sold early brought £7.0.0 but later the market gradually firmed from £9.10.0 to £11.0.0 per ton. Arrivals at Darling Harbour included 5 trucks from Queensland which were available at £11.0.0 per ton.

Victorian brown onions in lighter supply.

Consignments of Victorian brown table onions were much lighter, 3,985 bags reaching the Sydney market. There was a satisfactory inquiry and rates continued unchanged. In the latter half of the period consignments were restricted and clearances were effected at £17.10.0 to £18.0.0 per ton. About 100 bags of Victorian brown pickling onions were disposed of at £13.10.0 per ton.

The first consignments of new season's Queensland brown and white Globe arrived. Supplies amounted to 558 bags which were available at approximately £20.0.0 to £21.0.0 per ton. At Darling Harbour, 15 trucks of Victorian brown table varieties came to hand. Portion was taken over by the Federal Authorities, but £17.10.0 to £18.0.0 per ton was obtained for the balance.

Oaten chaff consignments decline - rates remain firm.

There were 158 trucks of oaten chaff on offer. Demand was good and rates continued firm. Medium brought £6.0.0 to £7.12.6, good sound £7.6.8 to £9.0.0, prime £9.0.0, special lines £9.5.0 to £9.10.0 per ton. Sales by auction amounted to 13 trucks. Inferior realised £3.10.0, damaged £5.15.0 to £7.16.8, medium £7.3.4 to £7.11.8 and prime £9.1.8 per ton. Damaged carry-over lots sold ex ground at £5.6.8 to £7.10.0, medium £7.10.0 and good sound £7.15.0 per ton.

Consignments of wheaten chaff continue light.

Supplies comprised 29½ trucks. Demand continued good, rates remaining firm as follows:- Medium £7.0.0, good sound £8.0.0 to £8.10.0, prime £8.15.0 to £9.0.0, with a few special lines at £9.0.0 to £9.10.0. Nine trucks (mostly damaged lots) realised £5.0.0 to £7.6.8 per ton at auction.

/Lucerne....

Lucerne chaff sells at firm rates.

Receivals of lucerne chaff were again very light, amounting to only 31 trucks. Clearances of available lines were readily effected, medium bringing £10.0.0, good sound £10.10.0 to £11.10.0, prime lots £11.10.0 to £12.10.0, with a few choice at £13.0.0 per ton.

Lucerne threshings, poultry meal and dust.

Lucerne threshings amounted to 1½ trucks which were disposed of at £6.15.0 to £9.10.0 per ton. One truck of choice lucerne poultry meal realised £14.0.0 per short ton. Lucerne dust was in light supply; about 47 bags of prime sold at £14.0.0 to £15.0.0 per ton.

Heavy supplies of lucerne hay - rates decline.

Arrivals of lucerne hay from the Maitland district were exceptionally heavy, 117 trucks being available as compared with 27 trucks last month. Rates continued firm in the early part of the month when new soft green realised £6.0.0 to £6.10.0 but later, when consignments were heavy, clearances were effected at considerably reduced prices which ranged from £4.0.0 to £5.5.0 per ton with a few at £3.0.0. Supplies from other centres were somewhat lighter, 46½ trucks being available. Sales of grassy lots were effected at £6.0.0 to £6.10.0, medium at £8.10.0 to £9.0.0, good sound at £8.10.0 to £10.0.0, prime at £10.10.0 to £11.10.0, with a few choice lines at £12.0.0 per ton. At auction two trucks of medium realised £6.15.0 to £7.6.8 per ton. Included in the supply were 12 trucks of derrick-pressed and good sound sold at £7.0.0 to £8.10.0 and prime at £8.10.0 to £9.0.0. Two trucks of good sound offered at auction brought £6.16.8 to £7.1.8 per ton.

Consignments of oaten hay reduced.

Arrivals of oaten hay comprised 18½ trucks of Rack, 13 trucks of derrick-pressed, also 6 trucks of wheaten and one truck of oaten and wheaten mixed. Demand was rather slow. Sales were recorded as follows:- Rack oaten, inferior £5.0.0, good sound £5.15.0 to £6.10.0, prime £7.0.0 to £9.0.0; derrick-pressed, good sound £6.0.0 to £7.0.0, also wheaten good sound £5.0.0 to £6.0.0. Sales by auction included 3 trucks of derrick-pressed oaten medium £5.5.0, with good sound at £6.2.6 per ton. The first consignments of choice new season's derrick-pressed wheaten hay arrived and choice lots brought £5.10.0 to £5.15.0 per ton when submitted at auction.

Oaten straw sells well at firm rates.

Arrivals of oaten straw amounted to 21 trucks and there were also 7 trucks of wheaten straw available. Demand continued

/satisfactory....

satisfactory and clearances were effected of prime oaten at £7.10 with choice at £8.0.0 per ton. Prime wheaten straw brought £7.0.0 to £7.10.0 per ton. Six trucks of oaten arrived from Victoria, choice lots realising £8.0.0 per ton.

Wheat supplies maintained.

Supplies of wheat at Alexandria totalled 28 trucks. F.A.Q. continued to sell at 3/8 to 3/9 per bushel. Six trucks of various grades and quality were submitted at auction, 2/- to 3/2 per bushel being recorded.

Exceptionally light supplies of maize.

Receivals of maize amounted to 5,294 bags compared with 15,196 received at Alexandria last month. Particulars of deliveries were as follow:- 2121 bags of yellow and 1,028 bags of white from local centres and 674 bags of yellow and 1,471 bags of white from Queensland. The only sales recorded were of yellow maize at 7/2 per bushel. A fair percentage of yellow was consigned to private buyers as well as all lines of white. Supplies received from the North Coast in Sussex Street were also smaller, totalling 1,624 bags of yellow. Rates were firm at 7/2 per bushel.

Oats sell well.

Arrivals of oats totalled 18 trucks and 45 bags. During the period eight trucks submitted at auction realised 3/- to 3/3½d per bushel. The balance was consigned direct to agents and rates were not disclosed.

C.H.F.

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A joint announcement by the Ministries of Agriculture and Food gives further information regarding the conditions under which acreage payments will be made in respect of land devoted to the growing of potatoes, wheat and rye in England and Wales for harvesting in 1943.

It has been agreed between the Departments concerned that the work of examining applications for these payments and paying them after they have been endorsed by the appropriate County War Agricultural Executive Committee will be carried out by the Acreage Payments Section of the Ministry of Food, acting as agents for the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The rates of payment for the specified crops harvested in 1943 will be as follows:-

Wheat	£3	per acre.
Rye, to be harvested as grain	£3	" "
Potatoes	£10	" "

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING SEPTEMBER, 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 Division of Marketing and Agricultural Economics in respect of various commodities for the period indicated:-

Commodity	September, 1943		31st August, 1939	
	From	To	From	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.	1/1	1/3½	1/2	

	September, 1943.		29th August, 1939	
	From	To	From	To
Pigs (Abattoir sales):				
Good to prime per head -				
Porkers:				
Extra light	-	-	31/6	40/6
Light	-	-	39/6	44/6
Medium weight	-	-	43/6	57/6
Heavy	50/6	69/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	75/6	153/6 (extra heavy to 171/6).	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£5.10.0	£14.18.6	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

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

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

FRUIT

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases.	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland	27,230	2,071	6,755[x]	73,520	109,576
Victoria	1	16	54,944	1,114	56,075
Tasmania	-	-	61,347	-	61,347
Sth. Aust.	-	-	5,004	-	5,004
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	27,231	2,087	128,050	74,634	232,002

Note: x Also 2,750 trays Strawberries.

VEGETABLES.

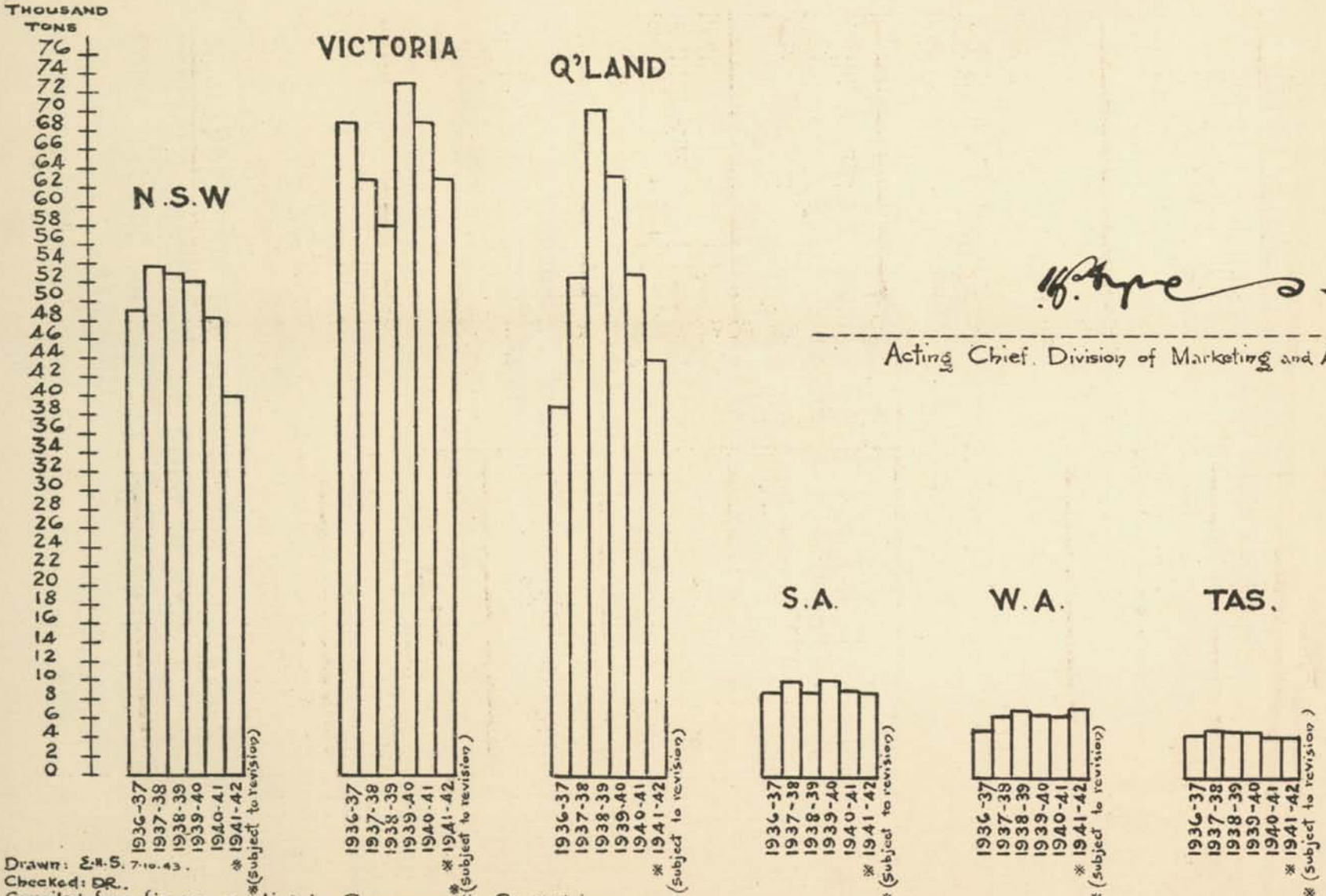
STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins bags	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkges.	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland	204	85	-	56,785	832	5,279	63,185
Victoria	80,390	22,733	2,630	23	-	64,672	170,448
Tasmania	130,173	-	10,108	4,994	-	-	145,275
Sth. Aust.	2,311	273	229	11,510	-	-	14,323
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	213,078	23,091	12,967	73,312	832	69,951	393,231

DIVISION OF MARKETING AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: NEW SOUTH WALES.

B.A3.2

BUTTER

PRODUCTION OF VARIOUS STATES : YEARS 1936-37 to 1941-42



Acting Chief. Division of Marketing and Agr. Economics.

Drawn: E.R.S. 7.10.43.
Checked: DR.
Compiled from figures supplied by Commonwealth Statistician.

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