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



MONTHLY
MARKETING
REVIEW



NOVEMBER, 1943.

Vol. 10

No. 7

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.

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.

NOVEMBER, 1943.

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HIGHLIGHTS.

The maximum wholesale price of apples has been increased by a further 1/- to 29/- per bushel but the retail price limit of 1/- per lb. will remain unchanged.

The Prices Commissioner has announced an increase of 5/- per bushel case in the wholesale price of oranges. The new wholesale price is 26/- per case but the maximum price of 3d each retail will not be altered.

The Federal Production Executive has fixed the meat production goal for 1944 at 1,180,000 tons, which, if achieved, will constitute a record output.

The maximum retail price for tomatoes in Sydney will, as from 15th November, 1943, be 1/5d per lb. The Prices Commissioner has announced that the new "ceiling" wholesale price will be 1/0¹/₂d per lb. Retailers' prices must be based on cost plus 33-1/3%.

According to the Potato Expert, Department of Agriculture, this season's contract plantings of potatoes in coastal areas of New South Wales was from 10,000 to 11,000 acres, from which a record yield of up to 40,000 tons of tubers was expected.

To ensure an increase in the quantities of vine fruits available for drying this season, a National Security Regulation is being issued restricting the use by wineries of certain varieties of grapes suitable for the production of dried fruit.

UNITED NATIONS FOOD CONFERENCE

Some months ago a conference attended by representatives of the United Nations was held at Hot Springs, Virginia, U.S.A., to consider food problems from a global standpoint. Extracts from the Report of Conference which recently came to hand are published herein with a view to acquainting our readers of the important decisions reached and the various recommendations made.

The Report, in its abridged form, is as follows:

I. Declaration.

This Conference, meeting in the midst of the greatest war ever waged, and in full confidence of victory, has considered the world problems of food and agriculture and declares its belief that the goal of freedom from want of food, suitable and adequate for the health and strength of all peoples, can be achieved.

1. The first task is to complete the winning of the war and to deliver millions of people from tyranny and from hunger. During the period of critical shortage in the aftermath of war, freedom from hunger can be achieved only by urgent and concerted efforts to economise consumption, to increase supplies and distribute them to the best advantage.

2. Thereafter we must equally concert our efforts to win and maintain freedom from fear and freedom from want. The one cannot be achieved without the other.

3. There has never been enough food for the health of all people. This is justified neither by ignorance nor by the harshness of nature. Production of food must be greatly expanded; we now have knowledge of the means by which this can be done. It requires imagination and firm will on the part of each government and people to make use of that knowledge.

4. The first cause of hunger and malnutrition is poverty. It is useless to produce more food unless men and nations provide the markets to absorb it. There must be an expansion of the whole world economy to provide the purchasing power sufficient to maintain an adequate diet for all. With full employment in all countries, enlarged industrial production, the absence of exploitation, an increasing flow of trade within and between countries, an orderly management of domestic and international investment and currencies, and sustained internal and international economic equilibrium, the food which is produced can be made available to all people.

5. The primary responsibility lies with each nation for seeing that its own people have the food needed for life and health; steps to this end are for national determination. But each nation can fully achieve its goal only if all work together.

6. We commend to our respective governments and authorities the study and adoption of the findings and recommendations of this Conference and urge the early concerted discussion of the related problems falling outside the scope of this Conference.

7. The first steps toward freedom from want of food must not await the final solution of all other problems. Each advance made in one field will strengthen and quicken advance in all others. Work already begun must be continued. Once the war has been won decisive steps can be taken. We must make ready now.

II. Interim and Permanent Commissions for Carrying Out the Recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture.

Whereas:

1. Freedom from want is difficult to achieve without concerted action among all likeminded nations to expand and improve production, to increase employment, to raise levels of consumption, and to establish greater freedom in international commerce.

2. The successful carrying out of the recommendations of the Conference in the field of production, distribution, and consumption of food and other agricultural products in the post-war period will be the most important prerequisite for the achievement of freedom from want, and requires the creation by the governments and authorities here represented of a permanent organisation in the field of food and agriculture; therefore

Recommends:

1. That the governments and authorities here represented recognise and embody in a formal declaration or agreement the obligation to their respective peoples and to one another, henceforth to collaborate in raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of their peoples, and to report to one another on the progress achieved;

2. That the governments and authorities here represented establish a permanent organisation in the field of food and agriculture; and

Resolves:

1. That in order that every practicable step may be taken to attain these and the other appropriate objectives set forth in the declaration and specific recommendations of the Conference, an Interim Commission for carrying out the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture be established.

2. That each of the governments and authorities here represented be entitled to designate a representative on the Interim Commission, and that the Interim Commission be installed in Washington not later than July 15, 1943.

3. That the Interim Commission perform its work with due regard to the exigencies of the war, through such form of organisation and personnel as it may deem appropriate; and formulate regulations covering its expenditures and submit to the member governments and authorities a budget and allocation of quota contributions.

4. That the functions of the Interim Commission be to formulate and recommend for consideration by each member government or authority:

(a) A specific plan for a permanent organisation in the field of food and agriculture.

(b) The formal declaration or agreement referred to in the first recommendation, in which each participant shall recognise its obligation:

(i) To raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living of its own people:

(ii) To improve the efficiency of agricultural production and distribution:

(iii) To co-operate, so far as may be possible, with other nations for the achievement of these ends:

(iv) To undertake to submit periodically to the other participants, through the permanent organisation, reports on the action taken and the progress achieved towards these ends.

(c) Such proposals or reports as are necessary to give effect to the recommendations of the Conference.

5. That in the preparation of a plan for the permanent organisation the Interim Commission give full consideration to the following:

(a) The relation of the permanent organisation to, and methods of associating it with other institutions, national as well as international, which already exist or which may hereafter be established, in the field of food and agriculture and in related scientific, economic and other fields.

(b) Provision for membership in the permanent organisation, in due course, of governments not represented on the Interim Commission.

6. That in considering the functions and duties to be assigned to the permanent organisation the Interim Commission take into account:

(a) The promotion of scientific, technological, social, and economic research:

(b) The collection and dissemination of information and provision for the exchange of services:

/(c) ...

(c) The submission to member governments and authorities of recommendations for action with regard to the following:

- (i) Nutrition.
- (ii) Standards of consumption of food and other agricultural products.
- (iii) Agricultural production, distribution, and conservation.
- (iv) Statistics and economic studies in the field of agriculture and food, including the study of the relation of agriculture to world economy.
- (v) Education and extension work in the field of food and agriculture.
- (vi) Agricultural credit.
- (vii) Problems of agricultural population and farm labour.

7. That the Interim Commission further consider the desirability of assigning to the permanent organisation functions in the field of:

- (a) Development of agricultural resources and orientation of production, where necessary.
- (b) Agricultural commodity arrangements.
- (c) Agricultural co-operative movements.
- (d) Land tenure.
- (e) Other subjects on which recommendations have been made by the Conference.

8. That the Interim Commission also consider the initiation of preliminary statistical investigations and research into the problems with which the permanent organisation will deal:

9. That the Interim Commission be deemed to have been dissolved when the permanent organisation has been established:

10. That the Government of the United States of America be invited to take whatever preliminary action may be necessary for the establishment of the Interim Commission after the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture has completed its work.

(To be continued)

-----oooOooo-----

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

Supplies of sheep and lambs well maintained.

The number of sheep and lambs yarded was fairly substantial throughout October, supplies being well maintained. Pennings totalled 388,492, which exceeded the previous month's total by approximately 118,000 head.

Quality of grown sheep very fair.

Some improvement was noticed in the general quality of the wethers and ewes offering. Many lines of good to prime descriptions were yarded and heavy sheep made a much better showing. Medium trade lines were fairly well represented in the 154,932 head yarded in the grown sheep section. Very few woolly sheep were offered, shorn descriptions comprising the bulk of supplies.

Values fluctuate.

Prices of grown sheep fluctuated somewhat but a fairly strong demand generally prevailed. At opening auctions rates declined by from 1/- to 2/- per head, while on the next sale day a weaker tendency was evident. At the following sale the market improved, most classes of sheep being 1/- per head dearer. Although for the remainder of the month sales of wethers were maintained at a reasonably steady level, in places ewes were a little cheaper. In some instances wether mutton was dearer. Some of the sales are particularised hereunder:-

First Week

Good trade	42 lb. wethers	(skin 1/-)	made	15/11	each	or	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	per	lb.
" "	38 lb. ewes	(" 9/-)	"	20/8	"	"	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d	"	"

Second Week

Good trade	46 lb. wethers	(skin 1/-)	made	18/7	each	or	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	per	lb.
" heavy	50 lb. ewes	(" 2/-)	"	17/-	"	"	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	"	"

Third Week

Good trade	46 lb. wethers	(skin 1/3)	made	18/8	each	or	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	per	lb.
" heavy	42 lb. ewes	(" 4/6)	"	17/10	"	"	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	"	"

Fourth Week

Good trade	46 lb. wethers	(skin 1/-)	made	19/3	each	or	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d	per	lb.
" "	46 lb. ewes	(" 1/-)	"	14/8	"	"	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	"	"

Mutton cheaper.

The average cost per pound of mutton was considerably
/lower...

lower than during September, the increase in supplies no doubt being a contributing factor. Prime light wethers made to 5d but generally sold at from 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. Heavy wethers cost to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d but mostly supplies were obtained at 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. Heavy ewes were worth up to 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d and light to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb., but mostly rates ranged from 3d to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d to 4d per lb., respectively.

Considerable increase in lamb supplies.

A substantial increase occurred in lamb supplies, offerings for the month totalling 233,560 head, of which suckers comprised a fairly large proportion. Good to prime lambs made a very fair showing, while several drafts of a heavy description were outstanding.

Lamb prices irregular.

The lamb market generally was irregular. Values were from 1/- to 2/- per head lower at opening sales but during the second week rates advanced by 1/- per head for all grades. In the third week the market again improved, the increase ranging from 1/- to 2/- per head. Values were fairly steady until the closing auctions when lower rates ruled, the decline mostly being 1/- to 2/- per head.

Some representative sales are given below:-

First Week

Good trade 32 lb. suckers (skin 3/6) made 20/1 each or 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.
" heavy 44 lb. lambs (" 6/6) " 25/6 " " 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d " "

Second Week

Good trade 36 lb. lambs (skin 7/-) made 24/1 each or 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.
" " 34 lb. suckers (" 4/-) " 21/10 " " 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d " "

Third Week

Good trade 36 lb. suckers (skin 4/6) made 25/10 each or 7d per lb.
" heavy 46 lb. lambs (" 5/6) " 26/5 " " 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d " "

Fourth Week

Good trade 34 lb. suckers (skin 4/-) made 22/4 each or 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.
" heavy 44 lb. " (" 5/6) " 27/6 " " 6d " "

Lamb generally cheaper.

The cost of lamb was lower than in the preceding month, the highest price paid being 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. as against 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d in September. For the most part, however, suckers were obtained at from 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d to 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d, according to quality, and heavy and light lambs at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 5d to 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb., respectively.

Improved cattle truckings.

Consignments of cattle during October were for the most part light, although they showed some increase on the September figures. The yardings aggregated 9,793 head, compared with 17,301 received during the corresponding period of 1942. Stock auctioned in the store section amounted to only 361 head. The quality varied considerably from day to day and was mostly only fair, particularly during the first half of the period. On some occasions, however, good trade to prime beasts made a greatly improved showing. The pastoral position over most of the eastern half of the State is very satisfactory but conditions west of the Slopes are more or less unfavourable and at the close of the month good rains were urgently required.

Bullocks scarce.

Supplies of bullocks were again limited, although all grades of weight were represented. The percentage of prime quality beasts varied and, on the whole, good trade descriptions predominated. The falling-off in the number of grown stock reaching Homebush has been a feature of late and it is possible that the operation of ceiling wholesale prices has been a factor in this regard. In addition, consignments are not now coming to hand from Queensland. Wholesalers operating in the Sydney and Newcastle area are subject to selling quotas and wholesale price ceilings and, as mentioned in the previous month's review, lower prices at auction have resulted. Country operators have had their slaughterings restricted but, in the absence of wholesale ceiling levels, it is understood that they are able to offer higher prices for stock and, in addition, generally seek the more weighty beasts. From the 1st November, 1943, country operators were required to confine their slaughterings of cattle and calves to not more than 50 per cent. of the killings for the corresponding month of 1942. During the last week of the period wholesale price ceilings in the Sydney and Newcastle areas were reduced by $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb.

Although values of bullocks were well below the peak levels of the previous month the market, for the most part, was fairly steady and rates generally should have proved satisfactory from the producers' viewpoint. Quotations were lowest at the commencement and close of the period when 52/- per 100 lb. was the highest price paid. The market was at its peak about the middle of the month when prime light bullocks were quoted to 55/- per 100 lb. and medium weights to 54/-. The operation of ceiling levels has had the effect of more or less equalising values on a weight basis; thus, heavy beasts were frequently worth as much per 100 lb. as lightweights and bullocks generally as much per 100 lb. as steers.

Weak demand for small steers.

Steers were well in evidence but, for the most part, the ponnings comprised fair to good trade lightweights and prime /beasts...

beasts were in somewhat short supply. Average values were below those of September, nevertheless quotations reached 57/- per 100 lb. and on most sale days ranged to at least 55/-. The market was weakest at closing when quotations ranged generally from 46/- to 53/- per 100 lb. During the final week prices of fair to good trade light weights declined to the lowest level for some time.

Cow beef graded.

Variable consignments of cows were forward but generally speaking this class of beef made a good showing with all grades of weight and quality represented. The pennings included many prime drafts while heavy beasts were well in evidence. Values frequently exceeded £17.0.0 per head and £19.0.0 was paid on one occasion, despite the lower market. Rates were fairly steady during the greater part of the month with quotations generally ranging from 42/- to 47/- per 100 lb. Values declined by from 10/- to 15/- per head during the final week. During October action was taken to fix ceiling wholesale prices for cow beef according to grade. This had the effect of reducing considerably the market value of plainer beasts which hitherto had tended to sell at rates equivalent to the ceiling level for cows generally.

Fair pennings of heifers.

Pennings of heifers again were variable. Prime descriptions were noticed chiefly in odd lots and generally amongst the heavier weights. Values generally were the lowest for some months, while the market fluctuated somewhat. Prime lightweights sold to 54/- per 100 lb. but good trade heavier descriptions could be purchased on one occasion for the equivalent of 44/- per 100 lb.

Variable truckings of vealers.

Consignments of vealers were most variable, especially from a quality standpoint. Young vealers, however, were generally well represented and comprised chiefly good trade medium weights. Prime sorts were to be had mostly amongst the heavy grades, although prime medium weights occasionally made a good showing. The market was fairly steady at September's closing rates and variation in quality was partly responsible for any fluctuations. Quotations mostly ranged from 52/- to 63/- per 100 lb. The market was weakest on the final sale day.

Larger yardings of pigs.

Supplies of pigs forward on each sale day during October, 1943, showed a progressive increase, the monthly aggregate being 4,502 head compared with 2,601 during the previous month. Consignments received by rail totalled 3,009 but the number sold by private treaty was only 210.

Average weight increases.

From the point of view of numbers, truckings of pigs were still light when compared with normal yardings before the advent of meat control and the ravages of Swine Fever. The position is much more favourable, however, when it is remembered that the great bulk of the pennings now comprise pigs whose average weight considerably exceeds that of normal yarding in the past when porkers and store pigs predominated. It is probable that baconers are coming to hand in greater numbers than at any time previously and on a weight basis the present yardings equal or exceed those of recent years.

Values of baconers decline.

Baconers continued to comprise the bulk of the pennings and the consignments included all grades of weight, including extra heavy sorts exceeding 200 lb. dressed. A noticeable percentage of the baconers was only of fair trade standard; nevertheless, for the most part, quality was very satisfactory and prime pigs made a good showing. Competition at the opening sale was exceptionally keen and the market was very firm to slightly dearer in places. Baconers sold to £7.13.6 per head and on a per lb. basis light and medium weights were quoted to 10¹/₂d per lb. Action, however, was taken by the Deputy Meat Controller to bring values at auction more in line with guaranteed prices and acquisition rates and the market on the following sale day declined sharply. Values fell by from 5/- to 10/- per head, quotations for most baconers ranging from 9d to 9¹/₂d per lb. Sales of quite a number of the heavier descriptions, however, were effected at rates below 9d per lb. It is understood that the rate at which the Meat Controller may acquire carcasses for bacon curing was reduced during the month from 10d to 9¹/₂d per lb. at wholesalers' stores.

Increased weight of backfatters.

Backfatters continued to be well represented and a large proportion of the consignments was of very satisfactory grade. The proportion of heavy backfatters marketed lately has shown a tendency to increase. The price at which backfatters and choppers may be acquired (5d per lb.) is the same for all grades of weight and quality and this fact probably accounts for the relatively high value of extra heavy pigs. A very firm market prevailed early in the period when prime backfatters were quoted to 6³/₄d per lb. Values, however, declined sharply during the second week, although rates later showed a slight improvement. Quotations generally for good to prime quality ranged from 5d to 6d per lb. at closing.

Porker values firm.

Prices of the odd lots of porkers submitted showed no material alteration and sales generally were effected at 7³/₄d to 9¹/₄d per lb. Most of the porkers were of a heavy description.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES
AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Fruit scarce.

Trading in fruit was much smaller in volume than during the preceding month owing to the limited supplies offering. This applied particularly to apples and pears, and notably the former, as buyers had to be content with obtaining only a small percentage of their requirements. In some instances prospective purchasers did not secure any supplies whatsoever. Prior to the close of the month the market was bare of apples on some days, while weekly consignments of Victorian pears were cleared within two days of their arrival.

Good demand for oranges.

Only small quantities of Navel oranges were available, trading generally being confined to Valencias from Coastal groves. Inquiry was good for large fruit and the maximum of 21/- was paid for the best trade sizes. Just prior to the close of October the ceiling rate was advanced to 26/- per bushel. No difficulty was experienced in selling at up to this price as supplies were relatively light. No consignments of Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area fruit have as yet reached the market.

Mandarins lightly supplied.

Only small quantities of mandarins were forward. Choice fruit was keenly sought after and sales were effected at up to 30/- and occasional special packs made to 35/- per bushel.

Factory purchases assist lemon market.

Demand for lemons for the retail trade was only moderate but the sale of fairly large quantities to factory buyers assisted in maintaining the market at satisfactory levels from the growers' standpoint. Much of the fruit on offer was of poor keeping quality and losses occurred. Consignments from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, including some packs of very small size, were received. Choice lots of the main trade sizes realised to the maximum of 20/- but small fruit was available from 10/- per bushel.

Apples scarce.

There were very few local apples available, apart from a small quantity of Granny Smiths and occasional consignments of Yates. The maximum rate of 28/- was paid for all lines except some very small fruit of the Yates variety. The Apple and Pear Marketing Board was able to supply Western Australian Granny Smiths until about mid-October but subsequently supplies had to be issued to buyers on a rationed basis. Just prior to the close of the month this variety was unobtainable. The principal Tasmanian apples on offer...

offer were Democrats and owing to the acute shortage of other varieties, 28/- per case was obtained for all sizes. A few small consignments of Croftons were received and were quickly disposed of.

Higher prices rule for pears.

Relatively few pears were received from local sources, the principal supplies being of Victorian origin. There were regular weekly consignments of Victorian fruit, the main varieties on offer being Packham's Triumph, Josephine, Winter Cole, Winter Nelis and small lots of Broome Park and Madam Cole. Owing to the scarcity of apples the market showed an upward trend, rates advancing with each week's receipts. Towards the end of the month up to 40/- per bushel was obtained for best packs of Josephine and Winter Cole.

Pineapples sell at high prices.

Approximately 7,200 cases of pineapples were received from Queensland during the period 30th September to 4th October, but the quantities forwarded subsequently showed a marked decline and the weekly consignments were around the 3,000 case mark. With limited supplies of other dessert fruit offering, prices moved up sharply and as much as 45/- was obtained for selected lines of fruit late in October.

Other Fruits.

Supplies of bananas continued light and prices were maintained at high levels.

Passionfruit were scarce and choice packs realised 34/- per half-case and occasionally more.

The first box of new season's cherries reached the market from the Young district and realised 30/-. It was expected that general marketing would commence early in November.

Some vegetables oversupplied.

The position with regard to supplies of the principal green vegetables underwent a marked change during the month. Production of peas and beans, which was insufficient to meet demand up to the end of September overtook the absorptive capacity of the market. As a result, there was a slump in values of both lines and prices were well below the fixed maximum levels ere the end of October was reached.

Increased consignments of peas cause values to fall sharply.

The quantity of good quality peas on offer during the first week of October was insufficient to meet demand and the
/maximum...

maximum of 21/- per bushel was obtained. Rain damaged lots from the North Coast were slow of sale and some lines that opened up in a sweated condition became a total loss. Consignments were heavier during the second week but discoloured and damaged lots comprised the greater proportion and some sold at as low as 4/- per bushel. For the small percentage of choice quality included in receipts 21/- was readily obtained. On the 19th October over 3,000 bags were available of which only about two-thirds could be cleaned, the remainder being carried over. Prices fell sharply, best lots rarely selling above 10/- per bushel. During the remainder of the month consignments were heavy and the assistance of canneries under the control of the Department of Supply had to be sought to enable floors to be cleared of surplus stocks.

Bean supplies heavier and prices lower.

Consignments of beans from the Far North Coast and Queensland showed a considerable falling-off until after mid-October. The quality of the greater proportion of offerings was only moderate to poor and difficulty was experienced in disposing of some lines. Choice lots, however, were firm at 20/- per bushel. The position showed a marked change on 18th October when 1,260 packages arrived from Queensland, part of the consignment being from the Brisbane market. In addition, supplies from the North Coast also increased and Gosford-Tuggerah receipts were heavier. Subsequent consignments attained greater proportions, over 2,000 packages being available on Monday, 25th October. A fairly large percentage of North Coast and Queensland supplies arrived in poor condition owing to the inroads of diseases and some were unsaleable. Owing to large quantities on offer prices had to be reduced to much lower levels. The influx of Queensland supplies at this time of the year is unusual; generally speaking, marketing from that State is practically finished by the end of September, while the position is usually similar with regard to the Far North Coast. Supplies from the Gosford-Tuggerah area did not commence to come on the market until 11th October which is much later than usual. Growers were only able to realise on a small percentage of their crops at the ceiling price of 20/- per bushel.

Tomatoes in short supply.

There were insufficient supplies of tomatoes to meet buyers' requirements. Stocks of glasshouse lots were mostly taken for the Army, only very small quantities being available for the retail trade.

Both North Coast and Queensland consignments were relatively light and supplies from these sources were quickly bought up.

Choice cabbages sell satisfactorily.

Generally a fairly good demand ruled for choice cabbages
/but....

but difficulty was experienced at times in disposing of those showing signs of seeding. Some fairly large consignments were received from Queensland early in the month but the quantities coming forward towards the close were small. Values were slightly easier towards the end of October.

Cauliflower harvest nearing completion.

The cauliflower season practically finished during October, only isolated lots reaching the market. The quality generally was only medium, the few choice heads available realising fairly high prices.

Lettuce more plentiful.

With favourable growing conditions there was a considerable increase in supplies of lettuce. Rates showed fluctuations but the general trend was downward and on a few occasions it was difficult to obtain above 4/- per case for choice heads.

Other vegetables.

Sweet potatoes, pumpkins, and loose parsnips were scarce and any consignments that reached the market were sold quickly.

Owing to a large percentage of spinach crops going to seed, supplies of this vegetable were relatively light and up to 8/- per dozen bunches was obtained. Both loose and bunched beetroot met a good inquiry and values were very firm.

R.M.

-----oooOooo-----

A report was recently made to the London County Council in connection with Post-War plans which are being considered for the decentralisation of London Fruit and Vegetable Markets. The report states, inter alia, that "too many issues are involved for us to put forward concise proposals, but we do suggest that the activities and trade of the main central markets, including particularly Covent Garden, should wherever possible, be reduced in scale, and that a considerable proportion of the trade should be decentralised to at least three new points nearer the periphery of the county area. While the delivery of bulk goods to the existing main markets is reasonably direct and can be carried out without great loss of time and undue cost of transport, this cannot be said of the delivery of goods from the markets. It is illogical that goods in bulk should be brought to points at the congested centre of London to be despatched in small individual quantities to every part of the London region. It would appear to be possible to conduct the auction sales by sample, leaving the bulk goods either at the decentralised markets or at the railway goods yard".

-----oooOooo-----

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD
AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Consignments of potatoes from Victoria
and Tasmania very light.

Arrivals of local potatoes at Alexandria were very limited and comprised mostly new season's Factors amounting to 2,669 bags and 342 bags of old season's. The bulk of the new tubers was grown in the Grafton and Raleigh districts and opened up in an exceptionally good condition, although there was a fair percentage of No. 2 Grade and Chats. Demand was very keen for supplies on offer, which were rationed out to the various buyers. Rates were:- Choice New Grade £6.17.6 and No. 2 £5.0.0. Chats sold early at £4.0.0 but subsequently the market advanced to £5.0.0 per ton. Supplies from Victoria declined considerably, only 1,066 bags of Carmans being available. Portion of these were of inferior quality and prices realised were not disclosed. Sales of No.1 Grade were effected at £6.17.6 and No. 3 at £5.0.0 per ton.

Arrivals in Sussex Street from Tasmania also showed a falling-off, a total of 57,567 bags coming to hand as against 89,031 bags in the previous month. The bulk of the consignments was taken over by the Federal Authorities. Rates for No.1 Grade Tasmanian continued unchanged at £6.17.6 per ton. Supplies from the North Coast were again very light, amounting to only 10 bags of old and 4 bags of new season's, in respect of which no rates were disclosed. No fresh supplies were received at Darling Harbour landing during the period.

Heavier supplies of swedes - rates lower.

At Alexandria arrivals of local swedes showed a marked increase, 3,344 bags coming to hand. These were in demand in the first half of the month, sales being effected chiefly at £8.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton, with a few inferior at £2.0.0 per ton. Later, rates were reduced to £6.0.0 and £7.0.0 per ton.

Arrivals in Sussex Street totalled 583 bags as compared with the previous month's aggregate of 6,561 bags. These consignments arrived in a mostly inferior condition and no rates were disclosed. Arrivals from the North Coast were again light, comprising 165 bags which realised £8.0.0 per ton.

Beetroot received from the Maitland district totalled 481 bags, which realised £11.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton.

Market practically bare of carrots and parsnips.

The only consignments of carrots comprised 24 bags from the North Coast in Sussex Street; rates were not disclosed. Parsnips from Tasmania were limited to 103 bags which were not available for general trading purposes.

/Exceptionally...

Exceptionally light consignments of pumpkins -
maximum rates realised.

Supplies at Alexandria comprised only 142 bags. There was an exceptionally keen demand and although a few sold at £11.0.0, the bulk brought £12.0.0 per ton. Only about 9 trucks arrived from Queensland compared with 43½ trucks last month. Clearances were effected at the maximum rate of £12.0.0 per ton.

Receivals from the North Coast in Sussex Street were also very light (17 bags) and these were disposed of at undisclosed rates. Arrivals at Darling Harbour landing included 8 trucks from Queensland, which were quoted at £12.0.0 per ton.

Queensland new brown and white onions arrive.

Onions from Queensland gradually increased, supplies totalling 5,891 bags of brown and white. Some of the consignments comprised very mixed grades. Sales were at approximately £20.0.0 to £21.0.0 per ton practically throughout the period but on the last day values were lower at £19.0.0 to £20.0.0 per ton. Supplies comprising 443 bags which were received from Victoria early in the period were taken over by the Federal Authorities. The first consignments of local new season's white onions aggregating 562 bags arrived from the Wellington district; of this total 382 bags were on offer and realised £18.0.0 to £19.0.0 per ton.

Heavy consignments of oaten chaff - rates lower.

Arrivals of oaten chaff comprising 244½ trucks were the heaviest for the past six months. Demand for other than good quality lines was slow. Clearances were effected at the following rates:- Damaged £5.0.0, medium £5.10.0 to £6.10.0, good sound £6.10.0 to £7.15.0, prime £8.0.0 to £8.15.0, special £8.15.0 to £9.5.0 per ton. Later, owing to continued heavy supplies, rates showed a decline, good sound selling at £5.15.0 to £7.0.0 and prime at £7.10.0 to £8.10.0 per ton.

There were 25 trucks offered at auction. Damaged lots realised £2.0.0 to £3.0.0, inferior and medium £4.16.8 to £5.10.0, good sound £5.15.0 to £7.6.8 and prime £8.1.8 to £8.3.4 per ton. Carry-over lots of damaged lines sold ex ground at £3.0.0 to £5.13.4 per ton.

Supplies of wheaten chaff increase substantially -
rates decline.

Receivals of wheaten chaff amounted to 50½ trucks. Demand was fairly slow except for the limited number of good quality lines. Prices were lower and were as follow:- Damaged lots £3.10.0, medium £4.10.0 to £6.10.0, good sound £5.10.0 to £7.10.0, prime £7.0.0 to £8.10.0, odd special lines £9.10.0 per ton. Sales by auction amounted to 12 trucks. Damaged realised £4.5.0 to £6.5.0,
/medium

medium £6.10.0 and good sound £5.10.0 to £7.0.0 per ton. A few carry-over damaged lots sold ex ground brought £3.15.0 to £4.5.0 per ton.

Lucerne chaff scarce and rates firm.

Yardings of lucerne chaff were very light, only 25 trucks and 42 bags being available. The bulk was in request, especially choice lots, and sales were made at the following rates:- Medium £9.0.0 to £11.0.0, good sound £10.0.0 to £11.10.0, prime £11.10.0 to £12.0.0, choice £12.10.0 to £12.15.0 per ton.

Lucerne hay continues to be well supplied.

Arrivals of lucerne hay from the Maitland district totalled 85½ trucks. The consignment consisted of new-soft green lots which varied considerably in quality, inferior lines selling as low as £1.10.0 to £2.10.0. The bulk, however, realised £2.10.0 to £5.0.0 with few at £5.5.0 per ton. Odd dry lines moved out at £5.10.0 to £6.10.0 and a few small bales at £7.0.0 per ton. Supplies from other centres were maintained, 47½ trucks arriving, including 5 of derrick-pressed. A good demand continued to rule for choice lines but these were very scarce. Sales were made as follows:- Inferior £4.10.0, grassy £5.0.0 to £8.10.0 and good sound £8.10.0 to £10.10.0. At closing prime sold at £9.0.0 to £11.0.0 per ton. New spring cut brought £8.0.0 to £10.10.0, while one truck of extra choice from the Tamworth district cleared at £12.0.0 per ton. Sales of derrick-pressed comprised medium lots at £5.15.0 and good sound at £6.6.8, while one truck of inferior brought £3.5.0 per ton at auction.

Oaten and wheaten hay much scarcer.

Arrivals of oaten hay amounted to 5½ trucks of rack, and 5½ trucks of derrick-pressed. There were also 9½ trucks of wheaten and one truck of rye hay on offer. Sales of good sound rack oaten were effected at £6.0.0 to £6.15.0, while one truck of medium brought £4.5.0 per ton at auction. Derrick-pressed oaten sold slowly; good sound made £5.15.0 to £6.5.0 per ton. Good sound old season's wheaten hay (derrick-pressed) brought £5.10.0 and new season's good sound £6.10.0. Inferior or heated realised £3.0.0 per ton. Rye hay, which was limited to one truck, sold at £6.10.0 per ton.

Heavy consignments of oaten straw but demand good.

Supplies of straw showed a marked increase, totalling 56 trucks as compared with 21 in the previous month. A portion comprised oaten hay but owing to the demand for straw, was sold as such. Rates continued firm, clearances being effected as follows:- Damaged lots £4.5.0, stained £4.0.0 to £6.0.0, good sound £6.0.0, prime £7.0.0 to £7.10.0, choice £8.0.0 per ton. Only 2 trucks of wheaten straw arrived and prime lines sold at

Steady supplies of wheat.

Arrivals of wheat at Alexandria amounted to 26 trucks and 65 bags. F.A.Q. sold at the unchanged rate of $3/8$ per bushel, while slightly under-quality made $3/7$. Nine trucks were submitted at auction and from $1/7\frac{1}{2}$ d to $3/2$ per bushel was realised, according to quality.

Arrivals of maize continue light.

Consignments of maize to Alexandria were again limited, 5,093 bags arriving or 200 bags less than during September. Deliveries were as follow:- 1,652 yellow, 298 bags of white from local centres; 1,288 bags of yellow and 1,855 bags of white from Queensland. Demand continued satisfactory, rates being firm at $7/2$ per bushel for local yellow (few small yellow $7/3$). At auction, 180 bags of local yellow realised $7/0\frac{1}{2}$ d per bushel. Very few sales of Queensland yellow were recorded, the bulk going to private buyers although a small quantity sold at $7/0\frac{1}{2}$ d per bushel. No particulars of sales of white maize were disclosed.

North Coast supplies in Sussex Street comprised 493 bags of yellow, which cleared at $7/2$ per bushel.

Oat consignments show little change.

Arrivals of oats consisted of 20 trucks and 116 bags. About 6 trucks offered at auction sold at $2/9\frac{1}{2}$ d to $3/1\frac{1}{2}$ d per bushel. The balance was consigned to private buyers and rates were not disclosed.

C.H.F.

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A preliminary forecast of the wheat production in Western Australia during the present season has been made by the Statistical Office in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Bank.

It is estimated that 15.2 million bushels will be harvested from an area of 1,335,000 acres, representing an average yield per acre of 11.4 bushels. The area sown is less by 418,000 acres than that for the previous season, and the forecasted production by 5.4 million bushels.

The acreage is based on wheatgrowers' declarations of areas actually sown for grain, as required under the Wheat Stabilisation Scheme, and is some 600,000 acres below the total of the Licensed Areas.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN
 SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING OCTOBER, 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	October, 1943.	31st August, 1939.
Wheat - Home consumption		
Bulk - per bushel	3/11½d (unchanged)	2/4d
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2 (plus £2.8.10 tax)	£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)
Bran - " "	£6.0.0 (unchanged)	£4.5.0
Pollard " "	£6.0.0 " "	£4.5.0
Eggs - per dozen	1/7d	1/-
Butter (choice) per cwt.	169/4d (")	161/2d
Cheese:		
Loaf - per lb.	1/0½d (")	11d
Large " "	1/- (")	10½d
Special brands	from 1/1d to 1/3½d " "	1/2d

October, 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	40/-	61/6	43/6	57/6
Heavy	50/6	70/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	75/6	153/6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	100/-	271/6	85/-	170/-

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 - SEPTEMBER, 1943.

FRUIT

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland	39,057	1,431	6,520 ^x	29,104	76,112
Victoria	48	57	87,514	5,214	92,833
Sth. Aust.	-	-	4,910	1,584	6,494
West Aust.	-	-	7,000	-	7,000
Tasmania	-	-	85,908	-	85,908
TOTALS	39,105	1,488	191,852	35,902	268,347

Note: x Also 6,112 trays Strawberries
and 85 crates Melons.

VEGETABLES

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins bags	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vogs. pkges.	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland	270	5,636	-	30,019	2,632	6,514	45,071
Victoria	26,437	24,341	3,577	-	-	35,707	90,062
Sth. Aust.	1,072	836	2,229	-	-	7,869	12,006
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	1,378	1,378
Tasmania	89,376	26	7,061	-	-	3,249	99,712
TOTALS	117,155	30,839	12,867	30,019	2,632	54,717	248,229

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WHEAT

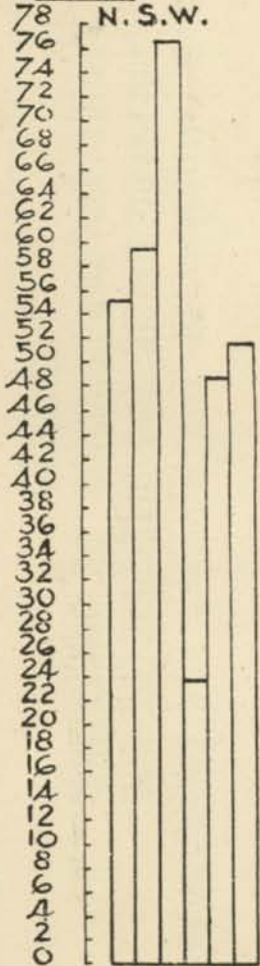
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PRODUCTION IN VARIOUS STATES : YEARS 1937-38 TO 1942-43

(IN MILLION BUSHELS)

MILLION BUSHELS

N. S. W.

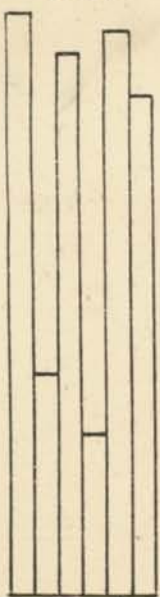


NOTE : Compiled from figures supplied by Commonwealth Statistician.

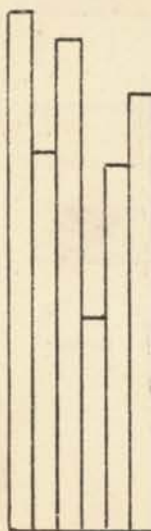
H. J. Jones

Acting Chief, Division of Marketing & Agric. Economics.

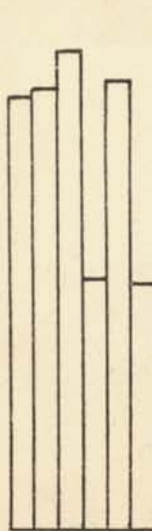
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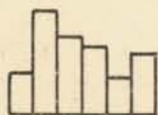
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