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

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

JANUARY, 1944.

Vol. 11 No. 1.

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
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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.

JANUARY, 1944.

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HIGHLIGHTS.

The pome fruit crop in New South Wales has been officially forecast at 1,700,000 loose bushels of apples and 480,000 loose bushels of pears.

The rationing of meat came into operation throughout Australia on Monday, 17th January, 1944.

Rabbit meat prices were fixed on 10th January, 1944, this action being taken to prevent prices rising as a result of meat rationing.

An additional payment of 1⅓d per bushel is to be made to wheat-growers to cover increased costs for the 1943-44 crop, thus raising wheat payments to 4/1⅓d per bushel, bagged basis.

It has been announced that the contract vegetable production programme arranged by the Department of Agriculture in New South Wales on behalf of the Commonwealth Government will total about 70,000 tons of vegetables.

An increase in the wholesale price of lemons to 25/- per bushel has been announced by the Prices Commissioner. Retailers are allowed a margin of 25% provided the retail price does not exceed 2d each in capital cities or 2½d in country districts.

It is understood that the Federal Government is inquiring into the possibility of fixing prices of all meats on the basis of a guaranteed payable net minimum price on the hooks to the producer.

A reduction in the fixed ceiling price of tomatoes to 8d per lb. came into effect on 20th December, 1943. The retail price must not exceed 11d per lb.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Reports made to the British Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries with regard to "Agricultural Policy after the War" and "Land Utilisation in Rural Areas were published in recent issues of the Monthly Marketing Review.

The series is now completed by the publication of the report made by the Central Landowners' Association to the Committee set up "to review the existing system of agricultural education and to make recommendations for improving and developing it after the War".

The report is as follows:

INTRODUCTORY.

1. At the outset it is desired to emphasise the bearing of national agricultural policy as a whole upon this question of vocational education. A condition precedent to its efficacy and success is the establishment of a long-term agricultural policy, which will provide stable and remunerative conditions for the industry. It is of little use developing agricultural training if those who undergo it and prove themselves competent, cannot look forward to a reasonable prospect of making a living. Again, farmers would not be encouraged to adopt new and improved methods aimed at increased production if the main result of achieving it is to brin down prices against themselves. Subject to the above reservations, it is proposed to deal with the subject under the following heads, while recognising that there must be some overlapping between each stage.

(a) Education of Children (up to leaving centralised senior Schools).
(b) Education of Adolescents (ages, say, 15 to 19).
(c) Instruction of Adults.

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN.

2. The following remarks are based upon the primary consideration that a sound general education must be the foundatio of training the child so as to give all an equal chance in life It is particularly important in the case of the more intelligent children capable of qualifying for advanced education, including the possibility of that at a University where the passing of the School Certificate or Matriculation examination is an essential preliminary. Vocational training at too early an age should therefore not be developed at the expense of general education, but it is submitted that simple agricultural instruction for all should be a recognised part of national education. The aim should be to create an interest in the land, an intelligent understanding of the real meaning of conserving its fertility, and of the vital

/need....

need for maintaining the maximum production of fresh wholesome foodstuffs at home. Such general instruction should naturally occupy a larger part in rural elementary schools, and gradually become more vocational in the centralised senior and secondary rural schools, so that those who show special aptitude for agricultural pursuits should be encouraged and prepared for special training later. The influence of country life upon evacuated children who return to urban areas will very probably create a keener interest in the subject in urban schools. It is therefore of the utmost importance that one or more teachers, according to the size and situation of the school, should be able to teach agricultural subjects from actual knowledge based on a sound training, and not merely founded on theory and sentiment. Opportunities for such training for teachers by special courses at agricultural colleges or ad hoc training institutions with ultimate financial inducement to make it worth while are essential parts of the scheme. It is suggested that the County Agricultural Advisory Officer and agricultural bodies, as well as local education authorities, should be given a voice in deciding on the agricultural education to be given in schools. In training the young, ocular demonstration is far more effective than classroom work.

School Gardens.

These cannot be too strongly recommended, preferably on a site adjoining the school. If that is impracticable in any urban area, a section of an allotment field, if reasonably accessible for the children, should be devoted to the purpose.

Country Excursions under supervision, where the children should be taught to identify trees and shrubs, wild flowers, grasses, weeds, farm animals, birds, insects, and other living things of the countryside.

Instructional Films at the cinema are also a valuable medium.

Visits to Agricultural and Horticultural Shows, under the guidance of a demonstrator competent to explain the various exhibits, and to Museums containing good natural history collections.

EDUCATION OF ADOLESCENTS.

3. When leaving school a boy or girl would probably be able to decide whether to undertake farm work in one of its many branches, or to pursue study with a view to qualifying for a lectureship in agriculture or as an agricultural organiser, or for teaching in schools, or to enter the land agency or surveying professions. A year or two spent on practical work on a farm before entering an agricultural college, or the agricultural department of a University, or even a farm institute, would enable the student to take a much more intelligent interest in scientific teaching, and enable him to apply theory to practice more quickly and with greater advantage. For those who cannot afford the time

/or ...

or expense of a three years course at a University or college, the short courses at farm institutes, are strongly recommended. These courses if available are generally more practical and effective in their results, than local continuation classes, where geographical conditions frequently make attendance difficult for those living on isolated farms. Where local conditions are favourable, continuation classes in theoretical and manual training should be made available for those who have left school and wish to add to their knowledge, and there is some ground for making such attendance compulsory. A suggestion worthy of consideration is that applicants for farm tenancies should be required to produce evidence of training at a recognis agricultural college, farm institute, or on a farm of good standing. To give parents confidence it is most necessary that the farming taught at these training centres should be on econom lines which have been put to the test of practice in the localit and special attention in future should be given to mechanical farming, ensilage, alternate farming and other modern developmen More scholarships should be made available for farm institute an agricultural college courses, with sufficient grants in aid. Young Farmers' Clubs are excellent, and visits to experimental and demonstration farms, estates and woodlands should be organised through them. Visits to well-managed and well-equipped estates would bring home the importance of effecting repairs to buildings and other fixed equipment in good time; the meaning of land drainage and the care of outfalls, and the interconnecti between agriculture and forestry. One of the most lamentable results of the enforced break-up of agricultural estates, where repairs were attended to by the estate maintenance staff, is tha farmers who purchased the farms which they occupied as tenants are often quite inexperienced in the maintenance of the fixed equipment, and neglect and deterioration bring about a considerable diminution in the value of their holdings. Through Women's Institutes similar visits should be organised for farm girls to widen their outlook and bring more interest into country life, coupled with instructional classes in, for example, (a) the meaning of nutrition and a healthy, well-balanced diet, (b) cooking of fresh foods to counteract the practice of using tinned products to excess, (c) the principles of hygiene and the avoidance of waste, (d) needlework, darning, and mending of clothes, and (e) the care of young children.

For those who are not in a position to farm or qualify for the higher paid professional or educational appointments, the teaching of rural handicrafts by means of an apprenticeship system should be encouraged. Carpentry and wheelwright's work, masonry and bricklaying, draining, hendging and ditching, thatching, care and management of agricultural implements and machinery, forestry and woodcraft are instances of such outlets, but care must be taken to find employers who will really teach, and not merely utilise the apprentice as a source of cheap labou Most agricultural estates employ skilled men who would be quite capable of training apprentices in their trades, and other

/craftsmen ...

craftsmen can be found in many villages. Attention may be drawn to the Scandinavian system under which farmers' sons serve an apprenticeship on farms other than those occupied by their parents. It is most desirable that the children of rural workers should be encouraged to follow country occupations, and in order to make these attractive every attention should be given to developing the amenities of village life. Unless rural conditions are made really attractive to the intelligent youth, the best brains will inevitably drift to urban and possibly better paid occupations.

INSTRUCTION OF ADULTS.

4. This, in the case of the farmer and worker, should mainly consist of means of keeping abreast with the results of experiment and research, and modern developments generally in the science and practice of farming. It is suggested that too little attention has been directed to the economic aspect of new methods of manuring, feeding, cultivation, and farm organisation recommended to farmers as a result of experiment. All such methods should pass through an economic "clearing house", by being put through a costing test on farms in regions where farming conditions are similar, as local factors have a direct bearing on results. It is of little use recommending farmers to adopt new methods which do not pay; the main consideration in farming, as in other gainful occupations, is to earn a living. Each region or county should have an experimental centre, at which new methods, seeds, manures, etc., may be tried out, and what is more important, a separate demonstration farm run on practical commercial lines, where profit making plus conservation (and improvement) of soil fertility, would form a reliable guide for the farmers in their respective areas. Organised visits to other similar centres would widen outlook, and farmers should be encouraged to take their workers with them on these inspections. In their daily lives on the land, both farmer and worker learn by seeing things done and observing the results. Visual demonstration leaves a clearer and more lasting impression than the printed word, to which as a class they have not yet become accustomed, although among the younger generation this handicap in acquiring knowledge is gradually being overcome. There is much avoidable waste on many farms, e.g., want of care of farmyard manure, implements left in the open to rust, weed seeds allowed to germinate, uncultivated headlands, want of pruning of hedgerow trees and the like. It is also suggested that good farming would be much encouraged by the holding of periodical farm prize competitions, with special recognition of improved methods of meeting changing conditions. Workers also should have their competitions in such rural crafts as ploughing, hedging, ditching, thatching, stacking, milking, sheep shearing, gatemaking, wrought iron work, and gardening. County Agricultural Organisers and their staffs do a great deal of valuable work of this character in their respective areas, and it is hoped that more use will be made of their services. Where they are not available, this advisory work might be supplemented by the employment of travelling experts to visit

/holdings...

holdings and advise the occupiers on up-to-date methods, and to carry the results of experiment and research direct to the farm.

A review of agricultural education would not be complete if no reference were made to the owner and the agent of an agricultural estate, both of whom are in a position to exert considerable influence on rural life, and last but not least, to the townsman, upon whose practical sympathy the welfare of our hom agriculture so much depends. Ownership of an agricultural estate can be as much a business or profession as any other, and every owner who assumes the personal direction of his estate shoul be sufficiently qualified to act as managing director. It is not suggested that an owner should cease his traditional duty of devot part of his time to public work both national and local, including a term in the fighting services. From the point of view of develop ment of character and leadership, nothing can effectively replace the general groundwork of public school and university, coupled wherever practicable with travel in other countries. Where an estate is of considerable size, the services of a resident agent a required. The education of land agents for this work is already dealt with by the Land Agents' Society, the Chartered Surveyors' Institution, and the Universities. The importance of a sound knowledge of practical farming should be emphasised, and the extension of travelling scholarships is desirable to enable visits to other countries and our Dominions in particular to be undertaken. Where a landowner wishes to manage his estate himself, he would be well-advised to undergo the same training as a land agent, and be encouraged to obtain similar qualifications by examination. Here again sufficient inducement to make it worth while for the young landowner to equip himself for his trust is the real incentive. It is hoped that the general agricultural policy of the country wi include recognition of the functions of a competent landowner by making equitable adjustments in taxation, and according to that pa of his net income which represents a fair return for his supervisi or practical administration, the abatement of taxation given to "earned" incomes generally. With regard to the education of the townsman in the real meaning and value to him of a thriving home agriculture and the national need for conserving the fertility of the soil, the lessons of the war and the actual contact with the land made by many evacuated families offer an unrivalled opportun for awakening and maintaining interest in rural matters. Reasonabl access to the countryside, persistent propaganda through the publi press and the exhibition of instructional films at the cinema, the maintenance and development of the allotment movement with regular horticultural competitions and shows, and courses of evening lectures and classes would all be helpful methods in the desired direction, not forgetting instruction in the etiquette of the countryside and the importance to the nation as a whole of helpin to preserve its natural beauties.

----oooOooo----

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

Smaller numbers of sheep and lambs yarded.

The number of sheep and lambs available during December was somewhat below the previous month's total due, no doubt, to the intervention of the Christmas period. Aggregate pennings for the month were 394,428 head, sheep and lambs being about equally supplied.

Fair representation of prime descriptions.

Although plain to medium sheep were fairly well in evidence, more particularly towards the end of the month, quality for the most part was suitable for trade needs. The total available in the grown sheep section was 196,554 head, shorn descriptions again forming the bulk of the pennings. Fair numbers of good light trade sheep were available but prime heavy wethers generally were scarce; good heavy ewes were fairly numerous.

Sheep generally in good demand.

The market displayed some irregularity. A good demand mostly prevailed for good to prime grades but at times medium to plain sheep were somewhat difficult to sell. Rates at opening sales did not vary appreciably but at the following auctions values advanced by 1/- per head. The improvement, however, was not sustained and on the next sale day all sheep were 1/- cheaper. A firm market then ruled for most classes of sheep but prime grades were at times 1/- dearer. Closing sales were marked by lower realisations, medium and plain sorts being most adversely affected. Some representative sales are given below as a guide to price trends throughout the period:-

First Week

Good trade	46 lb. ewes	(skin 4/-)	made	18/11	each	or	3¾d per lb.
" "	44 lb. wethers	(" 1/6)	"	18/10	"	"	4¾d " "

Second Week

Good trade	46 lb. wethers	(skin 1/6)	made	19/10	each	or	4¾d per lb.
" "	50 lb. ewes	(" 2/-)	"	15/4	"	"	3¼d " "

Third Week

Good trade	46 lb. wethers	(skin 1/-)	made	17/7	each	or	4¼d per lb.
" "	45 lb. ewes	(" 6/-)	"	20/3	"	"	3¾d " "

Fourth Week

Good trade	46 lb. wethers	(skin 9d)	made	18/-	each	or	4½d per lb.
" "	46 lb. ewes	(" 2/-)	"	16/3	"	"	3¾d " "

/Cost...

Cost of mutton somewhat higher.

The average cost of mutton throughout December was higher than during the previous month. While the price of wether mutton fluctuated somewhat, the price paid for ewes was much more consistent. Good light trade wethers made to 5d per lb. and prime heavy grades 4¾d, although in the main the cost of light mutton was 4d to 4¾d and heavy 3¾d to 4½d per lb. Good light ewes realised to 4d per lb. but generally the average cost per lb. ranged from 3¼d to 3¾d, while heavy ewes were worth from 3d to 3½d per lb.

Lighter supplies of lamb.

The number of lambs available was considerably below the aggregate of last month, the total yarding being 197,874 head or about 73,000 less than during November. Good to prime lambs and suckers were fairly well supplied but a good proportion of the offering comprised plain to medium trade lambs. Only odd drafts of prime heavy lambs were forward.

Prime lambs sell well.

The market for good to prime lambs and suckers did not fluctuate to such an extent as that for grown sheep and values were well maintained. Request for plain to medium lambs was somewhat restricted and by the end of the month values were considerably lower. Prices for this class of lamb were influenced by the advent of the Christmas and New Year holiday period as such lambs fall off considerably in condition if held over from slaughter.

Some indication of prices movements may be gained from the following actual sales:-

First Week

Prime heavy	38 lb.	suckers	(skin 4/6)	made	28/4	each or	7½d per lb.
Good trade	36 lb.	"	(" 4/-)	"	28/-	" "	8d " "

Second Week

Good trade	38 lb.	suckers	(skin 5/-)	made	27/11	each or	7¼d per lb.
" "	34 lb.	"	(" 4/6)	"	26/7	" "	7¾d " "

Third Week

Good trade	32 lb.	suckers	(skin 6d)	made	20/5	each or	7½d per lb.
" "	40 lb.	"	(" 6d)	"	24/4	" "	7d " "

Fourth Week

Good trade	29 lb.	suckers	(skin 2/6)	made	21/9	each or	8d per lb.
" "	35 lb.	lambs	(" 5/-)	"	25/-	" "	6¾d " "

/Cost...

Cost of prime lamb virtually unchanged.

The cost per pound of good to prime lambs and suckers when compared with the average of the previous month was practically unchanged, but medium trade lambs and suckers were cheaper. On occasions, prime light Down type suckers cost 8¼d per lb. but generally good to prime light descriptions were secured at from 7¼d to 8d, and heavy at 6½d to 7½d per lb. Heavy lambs were worth from 6¼d to 6¾d and light 6½d to 7¼d per lb.

Increased cattle supplies.

Cattle yardings during December, 1943, generally showed a considerable increase and only on two sale days were the pennings light. On Monday 20th, 3,681 head were received, representing the largest single yarding since 14th December, 1939. The total for the month was 16,204, of which 1,291 were auctioned in the store section. On most sale days, lightweight stock greatly predominated, although at the final auctions this class of beast was relatively scarce. Quality generally was most variable, but for the most part good trade descriptions constituted the bulk of the offerings.

Pastoral conditions continue to be very satisfactory over most of the Eastern half of the State but the position in the Western districts showed further deterioration.

Bullocks continue in light supply.

Consignments of bullocks continued to be limited notwithstanding the increase in cattle supplies generally. Pennings comprised chiefly good trade quality lightweights, although fair numbers of medium weight lines were submitted. Heavy bullocks were somewhat scarce and generally were noticed in odd lots only. Fluctuations in values were not marked, although average rates were slightly below those of the previous month. The market was very firm at closing, when light bullocks realised to 53/- per 100 lb. and medium weights to 51/-. On a per head basis the market did not vary more than about 10/- per head from the closing values. On the final sale day a pen of heavy bullocks realised £23.0.0 per head, equivalent to about 51/- per 100 lb.

Strong market for steers.

For the most part steers were plentiful but on several occasions a substantial proportion of the consignments comprised plain to fair trade lightweights. On the other hand there were times when good trade medium weights made a satisfactory showing. The percentage of prime sorts varied, but beasts of this quality were generally in light supply. A firm market ruled throughout the period and quotations generally ranged from 50/- to 55/- per 100 lb. Values showed a small decline during the third week but this weakness was followed by a sharp rise towards the close when rates ranged to 57/- per 100 lb. Compared with those of the previous

/month...

month average prices showed a small advance.

Cows make good showing.

Cows were particularly well supplied during the greater part of the period when many good trade medium and heavy weight drafts were available, while a noticeable percentage of those submitted was of a prime description. A falling off in both quality and numbers occurred towards the close of the month. A good demand prevailed and a generally steady market ruled with rates for quality descriptions ranging to 46/- per 100 lb. Lightweights, however, exceeded this value at closing. What fluctuations did occur during the period were noticed chiefly in respect of plainer descriptions.

Steady market for heifers.

Fair numbers of heifers were forward and these consisted for the most part, of good trade lightweights. Moderate consignments of medium weights were occasionally available but heavy grades were noticed in odd lots only. A steady market ruled with rates generally on a par with those of November, ranging from 46/- to 54/- per 100 lb. Demand was very keen at closing and prices showed a small increase.

Rates for vealers advance sharply.

Except on the last sale day, vealers were well represent the pennings comprising all grades of weight and quality. Generall medium weights made the best showing. Values were mainly steady and on a par with those of November. Quotations ranged chiefly from 54/- to 63/- per 100 lb. During the final week, however, demand became the keenest for some time and values advanced sharply, quotations for prime lightweights ranging to 70/- per 100 lb.

Fewer pigs available.

Heavier consignments of pigs were forward on the first two sale days of December, 1943, but numbers arriving showed a considerable falling-off for the third sale of the month, whilst at the final auction only nine pigs were submitted at auction, the lowest on record. Sales are not usually held between Christmas and New Year and it is understood producers were not aware that an auction would be held on Tuesday, 28th December. Despite the large yardings early in the period the total for the month, 3,755 head, was less than that for November. Receivals by rail accounted for 2,389 while the number disposed of by private treaty in the Abattoir area was 1,409 head.

Strong demand for baconers.

Baconers comprised the great bulk of the pennings which

/included...

included all weights from extra light to extra heavy. Quality generally was satisfactory, good trade to prime pigs predominating. At the concluding auctions heavy baconers were scarce, while extra heavy descriptions were available in odd lots only. Competition was exceptionally keen at the opening sale and a very firm market ruled for extra heavy lines, while other grades were a little dearer. Prices generally ranged from £3.17.6 to £7.15.6 per head and on a per lb. basis rates were quoted to 9¾d for all weights from 100 to 180 lb. Values of baconers 180/200 lb. ranged from 8¾d to 9½d and for pigs 200/240, 7¾d to 9d per lb. The improved rates for light and medium weight baconers were maintained throughout the month but values of heavy descriptions declined by up to 10/- per head from the second sale day.

Fewer prime backfatters.

Backfatters were in lighter supply and the general quality was not quite as good as during the previous month. Fair to good trade medium weights predominated and prime heavy descriptions were noticed, chiefly in odd lots. The market, for the most part, was firm, although an irregular tendency was evident towards the close when values fluctuated during the sale, especially for lighter sorts. Quotations for good to prime heavy backfatters ranged from 5d to 5¼d per lb. and lightweights from 4½d to 6d.

Porkers relatively scarce.

Porkers were submitted in odd lots. Rates at opening were firm and ranged from 7½d to 8d per lb. for lightweights and from 8¼d to 9d for heavy descriptions. The subsequent sale saw a weaker demand and very low values obtained for medium quality sorts. At the Christmas sale, however, the usual keen request was apparent and values advanced sharply, quotations ranging from 8d to 9¼d per lb. with odd sales higher. On this occasion competition from Chinese buyers was mainly responsible for the higher prices.

G.O. & J.W.

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The maximum retail price for watermelons in New South Wales and Queensland has been fixed at 3d per lb. The ceiling wholesale price in the States mentioned has been fixed at 1½d per lb. The maximum retail price in other States is the wholesale price ruling on 23rd December, 1943, plus a retail profit margin of ¾d per lb.

It is stated that last year prices increased up to three times the pre-war level and prices had now been pegged as there were indications that similar conditions would prevail this season, particularly where troops were stationed.

----oooOooo----

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Increased arrivals of potatoes.

There was a considerable increase in arrivals of potatoes at Alexandria, about 70,218 bags being received compared with 34,287 during November. The bulk came from Coastal areas such as Windsor, Grafton, Murwillumbah, Raleigh, Maitland, Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo and Macksville. Throughout the month supplies comprised tubers in very bad condition, particularly those from the North Coast. This fact, together with the taking over by the Federal Authorities of a large proportion of arrivals left only a small quantity for general trading purposes. Demand was very keen for available supplies and distribution to buyers by a system of rationing was continued throughout the period. Clearances were effected at £6.17.6 for New Grade, whilst Chats realised £4.0.0 per ton. At Darling Harbour, 15 trucks received from the North Coast were taken over by the Federal Authorities.

Consignments to Sussex Street from the North Coast amounted to about 2,621 bags compared with 3,178 during the previous period. A small proportion was available for civilian use at £6.17.6 for New Grade, while Chats realised £4.0.0 per ton. Tasmanian arrivals in Sussex Street totalled 8,681 bags as against 16,719 received during November. These arrivals aggregated 7,149 bags of New Grade and 1,532 Old and comprised early Carman, Bismarck and Pink-eye varieties. Those released sold readily at £6.17.6 per ton.

Swedes in shorter supply but demand dull.

Supplies of swedes at Alexandria (mainly from the Maitland district) totalled 1,257 bags compared with 3,258 during the previous month. Up to mid-December demand was good and £9.0.0 was obtained but later values fell to £7.0.0 per ton. Towards the close of the month no demand was forthcoming and agents were compelled to sell consignments for stock feed to effect clearances. There were no arrivals at Darling Harbour or Sussex Street.

Other root vegetables.

At Alexandria receivals of carrots comprised 23 bags from local centres, for which buyers readily paid £20.0.0 per ton by private treaty.

Supplies of beetroot amounted to 111 bags, which were in good demand early in the month at £10.0.0 per ton. Subsequently, however, 1/- per bag was accepted at auction for good quality lines.

/Sweet ...

Sweet potatoes from Queensland totalled 154 bags, for which £14.10.0 per ton was obtained.

There were no receivals at either Darling Harbour or Sussex Street.

Pumpkins in large supply.

Stocks of Queensland pumpkins at Alexandria totalled 9,632 bags, compared with 254 in November. During the first week buyers were eager to secure supplies and paid £19.0.0 to £22.0.0 per ton. As the month progressed demand slackened and clearances were difficult to effect at £6.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton. Two trucks were submitted at auction and realised £6.0.0 and £7.0.0 per ton. At Darling Harbour 76 trucks were received from Queensland. £22.10.0 was obtained at the beginning of the month but prices were reduced to £7.10.0 at the close.

Supplies of local onions increase.

Receivals of local onions amounted to about 4,883 bags consisting of 2,199 white and 2,684 brown. In addition, 35 bags of pickling onions came to hand. Receivals from local sources during November totalled 2,689 bags. Early arrivals met a spirited demand, buyers paying £20.0.0 to £21.0.0 per ton for white and £16.0.0 to £18.0.0 for brown. At closing, however, difficulty was experienced in effecting sales, although a few disposals were made at £6.0.0 to £8.0.0 for white and £4.0.0 per ton for brown. Eight lines were sold by auction, the earlier offerings realising £12.0.0 to £16.15.0, while the later buyers secured supplies at £2.0.0 to £4.0.0 per ton. The consignment of pickling onions was disposed of privately for £12.0.0 per ton. From Queensland 8,373 bags of brown and white were handled, compared with 14,462 bags in the previous month. A good demand existed throughout the month though values were a little easier at the close of December. Early clearances were made at £12.10.0 to £17.0.0, but later £12.0.0 to £13.10.0 was being accepted. At auction, 2 damaged lines were disposed of at £3.0.0 per ton.

At Darling Harbour 10 trucks from Queensland were received while 3 trucks came to hand from Victoria. No prices were recorded. During the last week of the month very small consignments reached the market.

Oaten chaff - smaller supplies received.

Supplies of oaten chaff amounted to 108 trucks. Despite the falling-off in receivals values eased a little, sales being made at the following rates:- Medium £6.0.0, good sound £6.10.0 to £7.0.0, prime £7.5.0 to £7.10.0, choice £7.15.0 to £8.0.0 per ton. Only two trucks were submitted at auction and these realised £6.0.0 for medium and £6.16.8 per ton for good sound lines.

/Wheaton ....

Wheaten chaff consignments decrease.

Only 11 trucks and 155 bags were handled. Quality was good, stocks comprising mostly new season's cut, and clearances were effected without trouble at the following prices:- good, sound £6.5.0 to £6.15.0, prime £7.0.0 to £7.10.0, choice £7.15.0 to £8.0.0 per ton.

Lucerne chaff in demand.

There were 39 trucks received, being 11 less than durin the previous month. Demand was excellent, especially for choice lines, and disposals were made at the firm rates ruling during November. Medium and brown realised £8.0.0, good sound £8.10.0 to £10.10.0, prime £11.0.0 to £11.10.0, choice £12.0.0 to £12.10.0 and extra choice £13.0.0 per ton. During the period, 9 bags of lucerne dust were also received and these sold readily at the rate of £13.0.0 per ton.

Demand for lucerne hay varies.

Supplies from Maitland comprised 68½ trucks of varying quality, due mainly to weather conditions. Demand was erratic and was governed mainly by quality. Sales were made as follows:- Inferior and rain washed £3.0.0 to £4.0.0, new soft green £4.0.0 to £5.0.0, special £5.10.0 to £6.0.0. At auction a line in heate condition was cleared at £2.10.0 per ton.

From other centres, 53½ trucks came to hand. Disposals were effected as follows:- Medium £6.0.0 to £7.10.0, good sound £8.0.0 to £9.0.0, prime £10.0.0 to £11.0.0, choice £11.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton. Derrick-pressed lines realised £3.15.0 to £5.0.0 for medium, £5.10.0 to £7.10.0 for good sound, and £8.5.0 to £8.10.0 per ton for prime.

Oaten hay plentiful.

Consignments of oaten hay increased considerably, 48½ trucks of rack and 3 of derrick-pressed being received. Demand was fair, disposals being made at the following rates:- Stained £4.10.0 to £4.12.6, medium £5.0.0 to £5.10.0, good sound £7.10.0, prime £8.0.0 to £9.10.0, choice £9.15.0 to £10.0.0. Derrick pressed lines were slow of sale, good sound lines moving out at £4.5.0 to £5.0.0, while at auction one truck realised £5.0.0 per ton. Wheaten hay receivals consisted of 3 trucks which were cleared at the following prices:- damaged £4.0.0, good sound £5.0.0 to £5.10.0 per ton.

Straw supplies slightly lighter.

Straw arrivals from local centres totalled 21 trucks consisting of 18 oaten, 2 rice and 1 wheaten. A firm demand

/prevailed...

prevailed and prices improved slightly, good sound oaten realising £7.0.0, prime £7.0.0 to £7.10.0 and choice £7.15.0 to £8.0.0 per ton. The rice straw was cleared at £6.0.0 per ton but no price was disclosed for wheaten.

Wheat supplies increase.

At Alexandria, 39 trucks of wheat came to hand compared with 28 trucks during the previous month. Sales by private treaty were:- Inferior 3/-, slightly under quality 3/6, F.A.Q. 3/8 and 3/9 premium 3/10 per bushel. At auction, 8 trucks sold at the following rates:- damaged 2/-, 2/11½ and 3/-, pick-ups and sweepings 2/-, 2/4, 3/- and 3/2 per bushel. At Darling Harbour, 20 trucks were received, but no price was disclosed as the bulk was consigned direct to private buyers.

Maize in shorter supply.

Consignments of maize to Alexandria were smaller than for some considerable time, only 1,516 bags (605 yellow and 142 white) being received from local centres, while 568 yellow and 201 white came to hand from Queensland. An exceptionally good demand prevailed and prices advanced sharply. For local and Queensland yellow 7/3 per bushel was obtained without difficulty and for one line as high as 7/8 was paid.

No price was recorded for white maize. In Sussex Street 423 bags of yellow were received from the North Coast but the only price acknowledged was 7/3 per bushel. At Darling Harbour, 529 bags of yellow were received and disposed of without any price being made available.

Oats plentiful.

Arrivals of oats showed a large increase, 61 trucks being handled compared with 34 during November. Demand was good and firm prices ruled, sales by private treaty being made as follows:- Feed quality 2/7 and 2/8, seed 3/1 and 3/2 per bushel. Six trucks were offered at auction and cleared at 2/7½ to 3/2 per bushel. At Darling Harbour, 58 trucks were available, but no prices were made available.

Barley.

Consignments of barley totalled 8 trucks, 4 going to Alexandria and 4 to Darling Harbour. These were disposed of at undisclosed prices.

Canary Seed.

Receivals of canary seed comprised one truck to Alexandria and 2 to Darling Harbour. These supplies were cleared without a price being made available.

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V.B.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Most fruits sell well.

In the fruit section of the Municipal Markets, generally good demand ruled and values were maintained at fairly high levels, except for peaches and some lines of other stone fruits which showed evidence of breakdown.

Marketing of new season's apples commences.

Stocks of old season's Tasmanian Democrat apples were cleared early in the month at the maximum rate of 30/- per bush

Harvesting of some varieties of the new season's crop commenced and supplies were coming forward fairly freely toward the close of the month. Consignments were mainly from coastal orchards, although the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area contributed to the supply. "Cookers" realised to 30/- per case early but a increased quantities became available prices could not be maintained and only a few special packs brought above 24/- subsequently. Small fruit was difficult to sell and some lines were offered at as low as 5/- per bushel. Dessert varieties, mainly Carringtons, were lightly stocked and up to 30/- per case was paid. Crop prospects this season are reported to be much more promising than for a considerable period and heavy yields of the main commercial kinds are expected in a number of centres.

Pear stocks cleared

The high prices for Victorian Winter Cole and Winter Nelis pears ruling at the close of November were not sustained owing to a slackening in demand caused by early breakdown of the fruit after purchase. Rates for Josephines, however, remain firm at up to 40/- per case. Supplies were exhausted about mid-December and no new season's fruit was expected to reach the market until early in January.

Peaches plentiful.

Prior to the commencement of the marketing period for peaches, the maximum wholesale selling rate was fixed at tenpen per lb. This price was obtained for choice lots in early consign ments but with a rapid increase in supplies about the third week of December values showed a sharp decline. Just before Christm stocks were heavy and with many packs of doubtful keeping qualit on hand sellers were forced to accept the best prices offering. In some instances disposals could not be effected and the fruit became a total loss.

/Choice.....

Choice apricots meet good inquiry.

The market for apricots was very firm early in December when up to 22/- per half-case was realised for choice fruit. With the arrival of consignments from the M.I.A. prices eased, nevertheless realisations for good quality fruit were very satisfactory.

Cherries in request.

Little difficulty was experienced in disposing of both dark and light varieties of cherries from the Young and Orange districts. Prices realised for dark varieties were very satisfactory and up to 20/- per quarter case was obtained for extra choice Margarets. The light varieties also sold at above average levels and at times up to 12/- per quarter case was paid.

Valencia oranges in lighter supply.

Consignments of Valencia oranges from coastal districts showed a falling-off and only relatively light supplies of M.I.A. fruit was available. The market generally was firm; large fruit met ready sale and the maximum rates for the principal trade sizes was realised. At the close of the month, supplies were limited owing to the fact that most packing houses closed during the Christmas-New Year period.

Lemons scarce and dearer.

There was a scarcity of lemons throughout the month and keen inquiry ruled for the small quantities forward. The ceiling price of 20/- per bushel was advanced to 25/- on 22nd December.

Pineapples and other tropical fruits sell well.

In the tropical fruit section, there was a marked decline in consignments of pineapples and rates held at high levels; on some occasions 50/- per case was paid while a few sales were made at as high as 55/-. Supplies of papaws were also lighter and values advanced to 40/- per case for best packs.

Some fairly heavy consignments of mangoes were forward. Demand was good, however, and rates showed a sharp upward trend prior to the Christmas season.

Passionfruit were in short supply until just prior to the close of the month when consignments were increasing, mostly from the North Coast.

Some vegetables in heavy supply.

The production and marketing of a number of lines of green vegetables was considerably in excess of trade requirements. Large quantities of beans and cabbages were purchased by the

/Department...

Department of Supply to clear sellers' floors and thus prevent waste. Other vegetables in over-supply on some days were spinach, lettuce and celery.

Values for peas advance.

The market for peas showed a considerable improvement compared with the previous month. Supplies on Thursday, 2nd December, amounted to 1,600 bags and with a steady inquiry choice lots sold to 12/- per bushel. On the following day the market advanced to 15/-. During the week ended 10th December, consignments were fairly heavy early in the period and it was difficult to obtain above 10/- but subsequently supplies were lighter and values increased to 14/- and occasionally higher at the week-end. While rates were somewhat weak during the first three days of the following week there was a sharp upward trend on Thursday, 16th, and Friday, 17th December, when choice quality realised to 16/- and a few sales were made at higher levels. The market was very firm during the Christmas week and the maximum of 21/- per bushel was obtained on 23rd and 24th December. Trading was somewhat restricted over the balance of the month and rates showed a downward movement.

Purchases of surplus stocks were made by cannery buyers and at times fairly large quantities were brought.

Beans over-supplied.

Consignments of beans to agents' floors were heavy on a number of days while supplies in the growers' section were also considerable. Demand was insufficient to enable clearances to be effected and large quantities were purchased by the Department of Supply at different times to prevent loss by deterioration. Rates were low throughout the month and mainly ranged from 1/- to 5/- per bushel. Higher prices were obtained at one period when wet weather prevented picking and up to 7/- per bushel was obtained for choice lots. From the limited demand ruling on most days it would appear that considerable quantities of beans were harvested from home gardens.

Rates for tomatoes lower.

Tomato supplies during early December were mainly local glasshouse and North Coast lots. The maximum rate of 25/- ruled for choice glasshouse packs until mid December and the best North Coast lines also sold at this level until about the end of the first week, although there was no sharp decline in price levels until the market eased appreciably on 14th December.

The drop in values was the result of considerably increased supplies of field-grown fruit from within the County of Cumberland and from Balranald and Menindie. The quality of the

/local ....

local supplies in most instances was very good but prices showed a gradual downward trend and at closing best packs were difficult to sell at above 8/- per half-case. The receipt of heavy rain on the North Coast affected many lines from that source and a good deal of wastage occurred.

Cabbages sell cheaply early but market improves later.

Cabbages met poor inquiry early in the month and on a few occasions surplus stocks were cleared by the Department of Supply. Values were low until the week prior to Christmas when the market had a firmer tone owing to reduced quantities of better quality coming forward and some choice heads sold to 15/- per dozen; generally, however, rates ranged to 10/-. The quality of consignments from the Moss Vale district reaching the market towards the end of December was mostly very good.

R.M.

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AUSTRALIAN MEAT RATIONING SCALE
(INTRODUCED 17th JANUARY, 1944)

GROUP "A" ¾lb. a coupon	GROUP "B" 1 lb. a coupon	GROUP "C" 1½lb. a coupon	GROUP "D" 2 lb. a coupon
BEEF Fillet steak Rump steak Topside Silverside	BEEF Sirloin (bone in) Prime ribs (bone in) Thick flank	BEEF Back ribs (boned) Blade Bolar Chuck	BEEF Brisket (boned) Gravy beef Minced meat
VEAL Fillet (boned) Cutlets	VEAL Loin (bone in) Loin chops	VEAL F'quarter (boned) Shoulder	VEAL Knuckle
MUTTON -	MUTTON Leg Chump chops Loin chops Loin	MUTTON	MUTTON Forequarter F'quarter chops Shoulder Best end of neck Breast. Shank.
LAMB -	LAMB Leg Chump chops Loin chops Loin	LAMB Forequarter Shoulder F'quarter chops Best end of neck Breast.	LAMB -
PORK Leg Fillets	PORK Loin (best end) Belly	PORK Hand Loin (fore)	PORK -

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING DECEMBER 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	December, 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	1/7d	1/10d	1/-	
Butter (choice) per cwt.	169/4d		161/2d	
Cheese:				
Loaf - per lb.	1/0½d		11d	
Large " "	1/-		10½d	
Special Brands	1/1d	1/3½d	1/2d	

	December, 1943		29th August, 1939	
	From	To	From	To
Pigs (Abattoir sales):				
Good to prime per head -				
Porkers:				
Extra light	-	-	31/6	40/6
Light	29/6	40/6	39/6	44/6
Medium weight	38/6	59/6	43/6	57/6
Heavy	54/6	68/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	71/6	155/6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£5.0.0	£12.18.6	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

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

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

F R U I T.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland	13,404	2,995	80,358ø	33,245	130,002
Victoria	7	122	105,681	2,571	108,381
Tasmania	-	-	45,966	-	45,966
Sth. Aust.	-	-	3,601	17	3,618
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	13,411	3,117	235,606	35,833	287,967

Note: ø Also 815 crates Melons.

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	121	27,587	84	14,206	32,039	22,580	96,617
Victoria	4,728	2,400	-	2,007	-	1,489	10,624
Tasmania	17,579	-	-	-	-	-	17,579
Sth. Aust.	414	197	-	-	-	2,177	2,788
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	22,842	30,184	84	16,213	32,039	26,246	127,608

DIVISION OF MARKETING AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS — DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE — NEW SOUTH WALES

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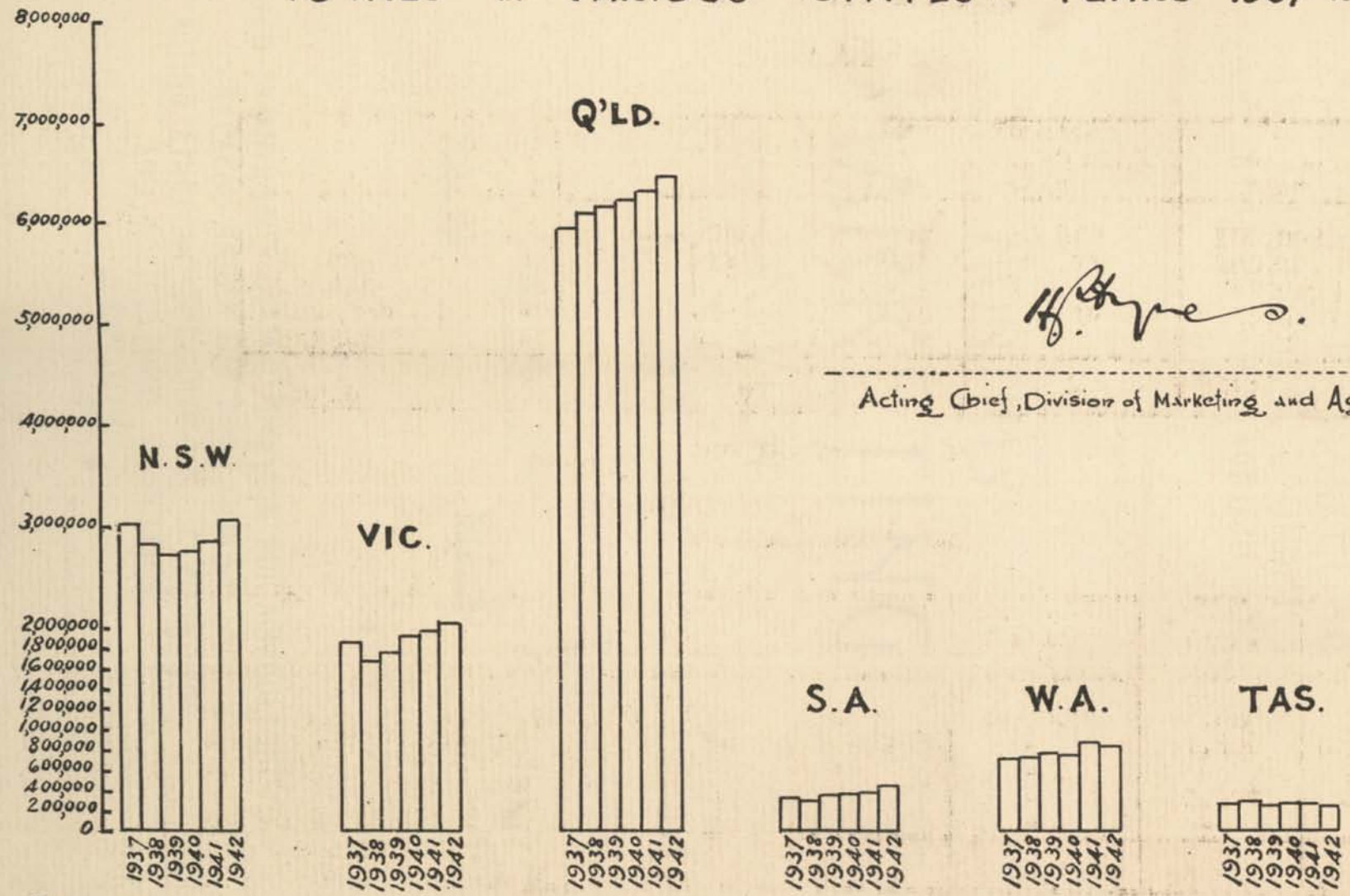
TOTALS IN VARIOUS STATES: YEARS 1937 TO 1942



Acting Chief, Division of Marketing and Agri. Economics.

Drawn: E.H.S.
Checked: D.R. 7·1·44.

Note: Compiled from figures supplied by Commonwealth Statistician.

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