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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES
AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Demand for fruit generally was somewhat restricted until towards the close of the month, when trading showed considerable improvement.

New season's apples sell readily.

Supplies of old season's apples, mainly from South Australia, were on offer until after mid-January. The varieties available included Jonathan, Democrat, Rokewood and Yates, and the maximum of 27/- per bushel was obtained for sound fruit. There was a gradual increase in consignments of local new season's apples, although the quantities received could only be classed as light. Some McIntosh Red, Gravenstein and a number of early varieties from coastal orchards were available while Granny Smiths from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area found ready sale as "cookers". A few Jonathans came to hand late in the month. Generally speaking, any good quality fruit of reasonable size realised the ceiling price of 27/-.

Williams pears plentiful.

Large quantities of Williams pears reached the market from Victoria. Opening rates ranged up to the maximum of 28/- per bushel but owing to a limited inquiry an appreciable reduction in prices had to be made to enable clearances to be effected. A large quantity of ripe fruit accumulated and agents had to accept low prices to clear. With the disposal of ripe packs, the market showed a firming trend, although best green packs were only realising 14/- at the close of January.

Peaches more plentiful.

The market for peaches was firm during the first two weeks of January and maximum rates ruled for choice, large fruit. Heavy supplies subsequently caused values to ease appreciably, although there was an upward trend in prices just prior to the close of the month owing to the reduced quantities coming forward.

Supplies of plums decline.

Large plums were only lightly stocked and realisations generally were very satisfactory. Small fruit, however, had to be sold to the best advantage at times. Supplies of all sizes were light at the close of January and values were very firm.

Choice nectarines in demand.

High prices were realised for choice nectarines, up to 30/- per half-case and higher being obtained for some extra choice packs early in the month. Rates were not maintained at these levels

Peas in plentiful supply.

Following the New Year holiday period, there was a considerable increase in consignments of peas, over 3,000 bags being available on agents' floors on Tuesday, 2nd January, including some Victorian lots. The quality showed a good deal of variation but it was still possible to obtain the ceiling rate of 23/4 per bushel for extra choice green lots. Supplies during the balance of the month were fairly heavy, particularly towards the close, when over 2,000 bags were available daily.

Generally, demand was satisfactory for reasonably good quality offerings but prices fluctuated. Lower grade lines proved difficult to sell, especially late in the month when the assistance of cannery buyers was sought to clear surplus stocks; large purchases were made at 5/- and 6/- per bushel.

Beans over-supplied late in the month.

About 1,700 bags of beans were forward on 2nd January, the bulk coming from the far South Coast and consignments from this area continued to arrive throughout the period. The market was variable and values were ruled largely by the quantity available. On Friday, 17th January, the supply was light and little difficulty was experienced in disposing of good quality lines at 20/- per bushel, and rates for choice remained fairly high until 24th January. Supplies then showed a considerable increase and a fall in prices resulted. Large quantities remained unsold daily. On Friday, 26th January, 2,000 bags were on offer and with a considerable proportion unsold at the close of business Food Supply officials purchased surplus stocks at from 1/- to 2/- per bushel to prevent wastage in view of the market being closed from Saturday until Tuesday, 30th January. Consignments were fairly heavy on the closing market and values showed only slight improvement, the range being 1/- to 6/- per bushel.

Choice tomatoes find ready sale.

A generally good inquiry ruled for choice, locally-grown tomatoes but medium quality and small fruit were somewhat slow of sale at times. The maximum of 20/- per case of 24 lbs. was reduced to 14/- as from Monday, 8th January. Towards the close of January consignments from southern Queensland began to reach the market on Monday, Thursday and Friday of each week, about 3,000 half-cases arriving on each day. Best packs sold to 12/-. North Coast supplies declined appreciably, only small consignments coming forward at the close of the month.

Demand for choice cabbages maintained.

Despite the more plentiful supplies of peas and beans, choice cabbages sold satisfactorily at up to 15/- and occasionally 20/- per dozen for selected large heads. Inquiry for lower grade

descriptions was somewhat restricted and some lines had to be sold cheaply.

Root vegetables in short supply.

Both bunched and loose carrots were keenly sought, supplies being insufficient to meet requirements.

Only small consignments of loose parsnips and swede turnips were forward, while sweet potatoes were practically unprocurable.

(R.D. Meaker).

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD
AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Tasmanian potato consignments increase -
local supplies very light.

Local supplies of potatoes received at Alexandria Goods Yard were exceptionally light during January when only 730 bags arrived from coastal areas. These comprised new grade Factors and Chats. From Victoria supplies were also reduced when 645 bags of new grade Carmans and Chats were received. The local and Victorian lines were released for general trading.

Tasmanian arrivals at Sussex Street showed a marked increase, a total of 124,184 bags coming to hand and consisting mostly of Bismarcks with a few Brownell and Snowflakes. Some releases were made for general trading but a fairly large percentage went to essential services. Also received at Sussex Street were 14,103 bags of Carmans and Snowflakes from Victoria. The bulk of these was made available for general trading after a portion had been regraded. From Western Australia consignments totalled 10,205 bags of Delawares and portion of these was released for trading. Rates for the month were unchanged as follows:- Wholesalers' prices to retailers, local and interstate were - New and No.1 grade £7.17.6 and Nos. 2 and 3 grades and Chats £7.5.0 per ton. Primary merchants' rates to wholesalers were £1.5.0 per ton less than figures quoted.

Limited supplies of swedes.

There were no fresh supplies of swedes on offer at Alexandria. Arrivals at Sussex Street from Tasmania increased to 2,269 bags. These were in demand but the bulk was taken over by the Federal Authorities; a few sales were effected at £12.0.0 per ton.