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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES  
AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Navel oranges in short supply.

Consignments of navel oranges from coastal groves reached fairly large proportions early in July and daily clearances could not be effected. Supplies, however, were not maintained and subsequent receipts showed a sharp downward movement. Prior to the close of July, the quantities coming forward were insufficient to meet demand and selling agents found it necessary to ration supplies to their customers. Maximum rates ruled except for a very short period.

There was a keen inquiry for M.I.A. consignments which, in the main, were only moderate to light.

Choice Emperor mandarins sell well.

With the decline in receipts of navel oranges there was an improved demand for Emperor mandarins and the ceiling rate of 25/- per bushel was paid for choice packs of selected counts. A fairly wide range of prices ruled for other quality lines and for small fruit.

Marketing of the Queensland Glen Retreat variety was continued until about mid-July, but a fairly large percentage of packs included wasty fruit and prices had to be reduced below the maximum to enable clearances to be effected.

Demand for lemons quiet.

Request for lemons for the retail trade was limited but purchases for factory purposes kept stocks from accumulating. Rates were variable and, although up to 18/- per bushel was paid, most sales were effected at lower levels.

Apples find ready sale.

The maximum wholesale rate for apples was increased by 1/- to 28/- per bushel on 5th July. This increase had no effect so far as demand was concerned and prompt clearances of all varieties continued. Supplies from within New South Wales were small, the few lines of Granny Smith, Delicious, Rome Beauty and Crofton on hand being quickly sold at ceiling rates.

Consignments from Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia were forward. The bulk of supplies was received from the first-mentioned State and comprised Democrat, Sturmer, Crofton, Scarlet Pearmain and Granny Smith. Other interstate lots included Rome Beauty, Statesman, Rokewood, London Pippin, Cleopatra, Munro Favorite, occasional lines of Granny Smith and Delicious and a few other kinds. For sound fruit, irrespective of size or variety, the ceiling price was paid.



Firmer market for pears.

The market for pears of choice quality was firmer. The wholesale selling rate was advanced to 29/- per bushel on 5th July. Supplies were drawn mainly from Victoria and the varieties on offer were Packham's Triumph, Josephine, Winter Cole, Beurre Bosc and Winter Nelis. Up to 29/- was realised for the three first-mentioned varieties but lower prices had to be accepted for Beurre Bosc and Winter Nelis. Very small fruit or packs too forward in maturity had to be sold to the best advantage.

Consignments from within New South Wales were relatively small. The greater percentage of Packham's was only "good" grade and well below the maximum of 29/- per bushel was accepted.

Supplies of pineapples decline.

Consignments of pineapples were heavy during the first half of the month but there was a considerable falling off in supplies towards the close. Inquiry was restricted early in the period and rates were lower but as supplies declined prices improved and at the close of July the maximum of 21/3d per case was being paid for choice fruit of the best trade counts.

Bananas lightly stocked.

The market for bananas was unchanged for good quality fruit at the coiling rate of 7d per lb. Supplies generally were light.

Request for passionfruit improves.

Passionfruit met a limited request early in July but there was a better inquiry towards the close and values were firmer.

Tropical fruits sell well.

Supplies of custard apples declined appreciably and higher prices ruled as reduced quantities reached the market, up to 20/- per half-case being paid for best packs. Papaws were in request and colored fruit of good quality realised to 35/- per tropical case. Choice avocados sold to 20/- per half-case.

Queensland strawberries fairly plentiful.

Fairly large consignments of strawberries in trays and packets were received from Queensland. Demand generally was good and realisations satisfactory for sound fruit, especially sales for week-end trading. Some losses occurred owing to breakdown in a number of consignments but the greater proportion of supplies opened up in reasonably good condition.



Green vegetables in short supply.

Owing to the limited quantities of green vegetables reaching the market, demand was keen and values of some lines reached particularly high levels. Just prior to the close of the month, supplies were very light and such lines as peas and beans were insufficient to meet trade needs. Rain at frequent intervals was stated to be hampering cultural and planting operations in a number of centres and it would appear that little relief from the current scarcity can be expected until the Spring.

Pea supplies considerably below requirements.

Consignments of peas declined from about 500 bags to less than 50 per day. The falling off was the result of flood rains in the growing centres which destroyed a large acreage of both forward and young crops. The scarcity of this vegetable was a contributing factor in creating an active demand for beans, cabbages and cauliflowers.

The quality of supplies was only medium as very few lots escaped weather damage; nevertheless buyers willingly paid the maximum of 23/4d per bushel, irrespective of condition. This will be more readily realised when it is borne in mind that 2,000 bags or more can be disposed of daily in the City Markets.

Maximum rates realised for beans.

Both the Far North Coast and Queensland bean consignments were received at bi-weekly intervals. Up to 2,600 cases from Queensland and slightly over 1,000 bags from the North Coast were received in individual consignments. Apart from these supplies, only small quantities came to hand from the Central North Coast.

Request was particularly brisk and buyers were able to secure only portion of their requirements, especially late in the month when there was a sharp drop in receipts. The ceiling of 20/- per bushel was paid for all lines until 30th July when the maximum rate was raised to 25/-, but the increase had no effect so far as demand was concerned.

Tomato supplies improve.

Inquiry for tomatoes was satisfactory until late in July when heavy consignments from Queensland were on offer. Another factor which appeared to steady demand at times was cold weather. On Thursday, 26th July, 19,000 half-cases came to hand and on the following Monday 34,900 were received. This large supply brought about a reduction in values of all grades and at closing most sales of good quality green packs were around 10/- to 12/-, while 14/- and occasionally more was obtained for choice colored lines. First quality repacked tomatoes realised the ceiling rate of 18/- per half-case. Supplies from within New South Wales were light, small



quantities coming from Metropolitan plots, the North Coast and Menindee. Only a few choice, colored lots were included.

Cabbages realise higher prices.

With a good inquiry from retailers, together with purchases for Service requirements, cabbages sold at high levels. Up to 30/- per dozen was realised and on a few days still higher prices were obtained. Local supplies were light but Victorian consignments supplemented stocks, although at the close of the month supplies from this source appeared to have ceased.

Good demand for cauliflowers.

Cauliflowers from inland areas generally were superior to Metropolitan grown supplies and were in request at all times. For selected large "heads," prices exceeded 40/- per dozen on a number of occasions, while 50/- and higher was obtained on Friday, 27th July. Demand for Metropolitan supplies was also very satisfactory and, although the quality showed considerable variation, good clearances were effected at remunerative rates for the bulk of offerings.

Brussels sprouts in request.

There was a particularly good inquiry for Brussels sprouts which came to hand from both local and Victorian sources. Up to 20/- per 12 lbs. was paid for locals while Victorian lots realised as much as 30/- per box.

Root vegetables plentiful.

Loose carrots, parsnips and swedes were well supplied. Inquiry was satisfactory, however, and maximum rates ruled for choice washed lines.

(R.D. Meaker).

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD  
AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Potato consignments reduced considerably.

At Sussex Street, Tasmanian supplies showed a marked falling off during July, amounting to only 106,339 bags, compared with 145,567 bags and 16,361 crates in June. The consignments consisted mostly of No. 1 grade Brownells, Bismarcks, Snowflakes and other varieties; these were not nearly sufficient to meet requirements owing to a large percentage going to essential services and consequently supplies for general trading were very much restricted.