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ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Record consignments of Potatoes.

Arrivals of potatoes during the month were principally from interstate sources and included only a small quantity from local centres; a record total of 290,113 bags (also 3 trucks) was received.

Consignments to hand in Sussex Street from Tasmania aggregated 176,023 bags compared with the previous month's total of 106,339 bags. The tubers consisted of Bismarcks, Snowflakes, Up-to-Dates and other varieties, which were distributed for general trading and essential services, while a quantity was stored.

Supplies from Victoria at Alexandria Goods Yard were exceptionally heavy, and amounted to 107,379 bags which included Carmans and Snowflakes, with a few Manhattans and Manistees. The tubers, with few exceptions, opened up in very good condition. Early in the period there was a very good demand for general trading, but subsequently, owing to merchants' stocks accumulating, it was found necessary to store about 13,000 bags.

Consignments to Alexandria from local centres continued to be restricted, 5,851 bags coming to hand. These tubers were available for civilian trading but demand for undergrades was very slow. The first consignments, totalling 860 bags, of new grade potatoes arrived from Queensland; these consisted of Brownells, Bismarcks, and Up-to-Dates. There were no sales recorded, as it was necessary to regrade owing to spotted and green lines being included.

At Darling Harbor Landing, 3 trucks of local Factor seed arrived but were not offered. Prices for the month were as follows:-
Wholesalers' Prices to Retailers:- Local and Interstate - No. 1 grade £7.17.6, Undergrades £6.7.6 per ton. Rates for N.S.W. grown potatoes for delivery to country areas are as quoted, plus freight from loading station. Prices for Interstate potatoes to N.S.W. country areas are as quoted, plus freight from Sydney or loading station, whichever is the lower. Primary merchants' prices to wholesalers are £1.5.0 per ton less than figures quoted.

Very slow demand for Swedes.

Supplies of swedes at Alexandria were reduced to 1,460 bags, which arrived from local centres. At times, sales of other than choice lines were hard to effect. Choice realised £6 to £7, while medium lines sold at £4 to £5 per ton. Arrivals in Sussex Street from Tasmania amounted to 2,558 bags. Demand was slow and, although opening sales were effected at £8, values were gradually reduced to £6 per ton.

Other root vegetables scarce.

Arrivals at Alexandria consisted of Victorian carrots which totalled 821 bags. The grades varied considerably and inferior lots were hard to dispose of except at very low prices. A few choice lines sold early at £14, but later sales were made at £10, with inferior lines at £4 to £5 per ton. From Tasmania, carrots on offer in Sussex Street amounted to 2,177 bags of chiefly mixed grades, which sold at £12 per ton. Supplies of Victorian carrots comprised 5 trucks. Early sales were effected at £12.10.0 to £13 but later £10 per ton (with a few lots lower) was accepted. The only parsnips on offer consisted of 150 bags from local centres, which realised £15 and 59 bags which brought £16 per ton.

Pumpkin consignments again heavy.

Receivals of pumpkins at Alexandria comprised 111 trucks, including 47 trucks from local centres and 64 trucks from Queensland. Despite heavy supplies there was a good demand and rates continued firm, the bulk selling at £8 to £9, while late in the period £9.10.0 per ton was secured. Inferior sold at £7 and loose lots at £6.10.0 to £7 per ton.

At Darling Harbor, 2 trucks from Queensland sold at £9.10.0 per ton. Arrivals in Sussex Street from the North Coast were limited to 135 bags and no rates were disclosed.

Victorian onions well supplied.

At Alexandria, arrivals were again fairly heavy, a total of 18,122 bags of brown table lots being received. The supplies arrived in very good condition and as demand continued to be satisfactory sales were easily effected at approximately £17.10.0 to £18.10.0 per ton. There was also a small consignment of 236 bags of brown pickling onions, which realised £14 to £15 per ton. At Darling Harbor, 25 trucks were disposed of at approximately £17.10.0 to £18.10.0 per ton.

Oaten chaff supplies restricted.

There was a falling off in supplies of oaten chaff, only 25 trucks being available. The bulk was rationed to the trade at the fixed maximum of £10.5.0 per ton.

Wheaten chaff more plentiful.

Wheaten chaff supplies at Alexandria increased to 105 trucks, this being the largest supply for a considerable period. However, these stocks were not sufficient for requirements owing to the continued shortage of oaten chaff, which is not expected to show any marked improvement until the new season's supplies arrive.

The bulk of the offerings realised the maximum rate of £10.5.0, the only lines to sell lower than that figure being 3 trucks of good sound which realised £9.15.0 and damaged lots which brought £3 and £8.10.0 per ton at auction.

Increased supplies of Lucerne Chaff.

There were 40½ trucks offered. Prime lots met good inquiry but at times undergrades were difficult to dispose of except at low rates. The bulk brought the ceiling rate of £13.10.0, with inferior at £9, medium at £11 to £11.10.0 and good sound at £12 to £12.15.0 per ton. One truck of heated lines realised £10.10.0 per ton at auction.

Maitland hay in demand.

There was a considerable increase in the quantity of lucerne hay which arrived from the Maitland district, 54½ trucks being received compared with 26 trucks in July. Most of the offerings met good enquiry. A few new soft green lots brought £3.10.0 to £5, with well-made new green lines realising £6 to £7, with a few specials at £7.10.0 to £8 per ton. Supplies from other centres showed a considerable falling off, consignments totalling 33½ trucks, which included 14 trucks of derrick-pressed. Demand for other than prime lots was restricted, except at reduced rates. Medium lines sold at £7 to £9, but the bulk of supplies realised the maximum rate of £12.5.0. Derrick-pressed lines of inferior quality sold at £5 to £5.10.0, grassy at £8, medium at £9.15.0, while later in the period good sound brought £8.15.0, with some lines at the maximum of £12.5.0 per ton.

Sharp decline in supplies of Oaten and Wheaten Hay.

Supplies showed a considerable falling off, only 18 trucks coming to hand compared with 65 trucks in July. A total of 14 trucks of oaten derrick-pressed was on offer, also 4 trucks of wheaten. The bulk of the oaten realised the maximum rate of £9, with a few lines of good sound at £8.10.0. Wheaten sold at £8.10.0 to £9 per ton.

Straw very scarce.

Straw supplies consisted of 5 trucks, which comprised 4 trucks of wheaten. These were in request at £7.10.0, also one truck of badly-damaged oaten which cleared at £2 per ton.

Interstate forage.

There were no fresh arrivals of forage received in Sussex Street during the period.

Wheat in light supply.

Only 18 trucks arrived and the bulk was taken to store. The only sale recorded was in respect of 1 truck of pick-ups which realised 3/6³d per bushel.

Wheat from interstate sources.

The total quantity of wheat received in Sussex Street from other States in the period February to 22nd July amounted to 3,875,871 bushels.

Maize not sufficient for requirements.

Consignments of maize to Alexandria showed a marked increase, supplies totalling 6,264 bags, the largest quantity for many months. Stocks comprised 5,354 bags of local yellow and 910 bags of white. A large percentage was consigned to private buyers and also used for milling purposes, while a quantity was taken to store. The only sale recorded was of 120 bags of inferior damaged white maize at 2/- per bushel.

Arrivals in Sussex Street from the North Coast were restricted to 341 bags of yellow, which realised 7/3d per bushel.

Consignments of oats increase.

The 12 trucks received at Alexandria were not available for general trading.

(C.H. Ferry).