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## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

September, 1947.

### FRUIT.

#### Dessert Apples Again Lightly Supplied.

Only small quantities of dessert apples were received from New South Wales growing areas and trading was confined principally to stocks from interstate sources. Values generally were slightly higher than those recorded previously, particularly towards the close of the period. A considerable percentage of the New South Wales Delicious variety opened up in bruised and unattractive condition and was disposed of at prices well below top market rates. Representative quotations were as follow:—*New South Wales*: Delicious, 17s. to 34s., selected counts 36s. to 40s., few special 42s.; Democrat, 14s. to 26s.; Rome Beauty, 18s. to 28s., few 30s.; Granny Smith, 18s. to 28s., selected counts 30s. to 32s., late sales 34s. *Tasmanian*: Crofton, 17s. to 26s.; Democrat, 14s. to 20s.; French Crab, 16s. to 20s.; Sturmer, 14s., few 16s.; Granny Smith, 14s. to 22s., late sales to 26s. *Western Australian*: Yates, 20s. to 25s.; Dougherty, 18s. to 24s.; Rokewood, 16s. to 20s.; Granny Smith, 16s. to 24s., late sales to 26s. *Victorian*: Jonathan, 16s. to 27s.; Rome Beauty, 20s. to 27s.; King Cole, 18s. to 25s., few 26s. to 28s.; Dunn's Seedling, 12s. to 16s.; London Pippin, 12s. to 15s. *South Australian*: Jonathan, 23s. to 29s.; Rome Beauty, 18s. to 24s., large bruised from 12s. per bushel case. A percentage of inferior and very small fruit was cheaper than the minimum prices quoted above.

#### Rates for Pears Continue to Improve.

The improved retail demand for pears, which was apparent over the greater part of the previous month, continued to operate during September. Realisations generally showed little fluctuation and for the first three weeks of the month were approximately equal to those quoted in the previous issue. Towards closing, however, an increase of approximately 2s. per bushel case occurred. Only small quantities came to hand from New South Wales centres and the demand was met mainly by consignments from Victoria and fairly small shipments from Tasmania. Representative prices were as follow:—*New South Wales*: Packham's Triumph, 10s. to 20s., few 22s.; Josephine, 8s. to 14s. *Victoria*: Packham's Triumph, 8s. to 16s., late sales to 18s., and occasionally 20s.; Josephine, 7s. to 16s., late sales to 18s., and occasionally 20s.; Winter Cole, 7s. to 15s., late sales to 20s.; Beurre Bosc, 6s. to 14s., few 15s.; Winter Nelis, 5s. to 10s., few 12s. to 14s. *Tasmania*: Winter Nelis, 10s. to 14s.; Winter Cole, 13s. to 15s. per bushel case.

**Bananas Dearer.**

Approximately 5,400 cases of bananas arrived from Queensland to supplement moderate supplies from northern districts of New South Wales. Offerings generally were insufficient for requirements, and realisations firmed throughout the month, being the highest at closing, as follow:—Cavendish 9 in., 8 in., 7 in., 48s.; 6 in., 40s. to 46s.; small and inferior from 33s. per banana case.

**First New Season Valencia Oranges Available.**

Stocks of navel oranges from coastal districts and the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area showed a gradual decline during the period, and prices advanced steadily, being highest on 18th September, when from 14s. to 20s. and occasionally to 22s. per bushel case was obtained. In that week, however, new season Valencias commenced to come forward and deliveries rapidly assumed large proportions. A few early quotations ranged from 16s. to 18s. per bushel case, but towards the close of the month both Navels and Valencias were more plentiful, and the market showed a gradual decline from day to day. Moderate quantities of Navels from the Murray Valley region were received, but these opened up mainly in a forward condition, and a very high percentage of wastage was apparent in some brands. Approximate final quotations were as follow:—Navel (coastal and Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area), 10s. to 14s., selected counts to 16s., few special higher (Murray Valley), 6s. to 12s.; Valencia (coastal), 8s. to 12s., few special 13s. to 14s. per bushel case.

**Lemons Over-supplied.**

Offerings of lemons on most selling days were far in excess of the restricted requirements of the retail trade. Processors and factory buyers operated only to a limited extent and a large carry-over remained on selling floors at most times. A considerable percentage of wastage resulted. Most quotations varied from 2s. 6d. to 5s. per bushel case, although a few packs of choice quality brought 6s. to 7s. when sold in small quantities. On occasions, good quality lemons were offered at as low as 1s.

**Firm Mandarins Dearer.**

“Emperor” mandarins in firm condition represented only a small proportion of the offerings, and prices advanced to range from 18s. to 24s. throughout the greater part of the month. Soft fruit, however, was plentiful and cleared slowly, mainly at from 10s. to 16s. per bushel case. Some New South Wales “Ellendale” mandarins also were available at 18s. to 26s.

**More Remunerative Prices for Grape Fruit.**

Receipts of grape fruit, which had been far in excess of requirements for many weeks, showed a decline towards the end of the current month, and values improved to range mainly from 6s. to 10s. per bushel case, although a few specially selected lines brought 12s.

**Passionfruit Fairly Plentiful.**

Receipts of passionfruit on most selling days were ample for requirements, and values generally remained at the lower levels recorded in last report. Although 22s. and occasionally 24s. per half case was obtained at times, most choice packs brought 16s. to 20s. Other grades brought from 5s. to 14s. according to size and quality.

**Stocks of Papaws Again Heavy.**

Consignments of papaws from Queensland amounted to 7,270 tropical cases, most of which were received in the latter half of the period. At opening, 25s., and occasionally 26s. to 28s., was obtained for choicest packs, but realisations subsequently declined and ranged mainly from 10s. to 22s. according to size, condition of ripeness, and quality.

**Improved Retail Demand for Queensland Pineapples.**

Consignments of pineapples from Queensland were larger, totalling more than 33,000 tropical cases. A general improvement in the retail demand, however, accompanied the advent of warmer weather and satisfactory clearances were maintained. A percentage of "Black Heart" caused some losses to retailers. Prices were highest during the mid-portion of the month, when as much as 26s. and occasionally 28s. per tropical case was realised. During the first and last trading weeks, however, few sales exceeded 20s., whilst inferior and very small packs were offered from 12s.

**Other Fruit.**

Representative ranges of prices for other lines of fruit on offer were as follow:—Mulberries (local), 8s. to 10s., few 12s.; strawberries (local), 12s. to 18s. per dozen punnets; strawberries (Queensland), 12s. to 24s., choice 30s., special 36s., few higher. per dozen packets, 5s. to 10s., few 12s., per tray; avocados (Queensland), round 5s. to 8s., few 10s.; fuerte and similar, 15s. to 20s.; loquats (local), 12s. to 20s., few special to 30s., very small and inferior lower per half-bushel case.

## VEGETABLES.

### **Greatly Increased Supplies of Peas Result in Lower Prices.**

Receipts of peas were considerably heavier during September, the 40,000 bags consigned to agents by growers in northern, southern and near metropolitan areas of New South Wales being augmented by 520 sugar bags from Queensland. In addition, fairly large quantities were forward in the producers' market on each trading day. During the first week of the period, best lots brought 24s. to 26s. and occasionally 28s. per bushel, but a gradual decline in prices was apparent subsequently, and, by the fourth week, few sales exceeded 12s. However, considerable stocks were purchased by "quick-freeze" processors (although canners did not operate), and prices made a slight recovery towards closing, when most sales took place, within the range of 10s. to 18s. per bushel.

### **Choice Beans Scarce and Dear.**

Offerings of beans on most selling days were insufficient for requirements, particularly choice quality lines, which represented only a small proportion of the total supply. New South Wales growers consigned slightly more than 7,000 bags to agents, in addition to 10,200 cases and 3,100 sugar bags from Queensland. At most times choice beans brought 22s. to 24s. per bushel, whilst special brought 25s. to 26s. and occasionally higher. Other grades showed a wide variation, partly as a result of dry weather in the growing areas and partly because of picking at an over-mature stage, and quotations varied accordingly from 5s. to 20s. on most occasions.

### **Realisations for Tomatoes show a gradual Decline.**

Consignments of tomatoes from Queensland were again heavier during the month, a total of more than 159,600 half cases being received. In addition, increasing supplies came to hand from local glasshouse growers and from the Central and Far North Coast districts. In the first half of the month, best glasshouse and field grown packs brought 20s. to 24s. per half case, but towards closing few sales exceeded 16s. for glasshouse and 14s. for field grown. A marked decline in quality was apparent in North Queensland supplies, and the incidence of "Mosaic," weather damage and general breakdown was fairly high. In addition many lines opened up in a forward ripe condition, and the fruit generally was too small. As high as 15s. per half case was obtained for Northern Queensland lots early in the period, but prices subsequently showed a gradual decline, being lowest at closing, when good quality packs were bringing 6s. to 7s. Final quotations were

as follow:—*New South Wales*: (Local) glasshouse, 8s. to 16s., few 17s., small and inferior from 2s.; (Northern Coastal), 5s. to 12s., choice coloured and mature green, 14s., few higher. *Queensland*: (Northern), 4s. to 7s., repacked, 6s. to 12s.; (Southern), 6s. to 12s. per half case.

#### **Cabbages Sell Satisfactorily.**

Daily receipts of cabbages were sufficient for requirements, and values showed little fluctuation, most realisations ranging from 3s. to 8s. per dozen with choice large heads 10s. and occasionally higher.

#### **Prices for Cauliflowers Remain at Remunerative Levels.**

Supplies of cauliflowers in the producers' market were fairly regular throughout the month, and on most selling days up to 16s. per dozen was obtained for choice large heads. On a few occasions, however, rates advanced to 20s. and in isolated instances to 24s., due to a temporary scarcity. Quotations for small and medium heads varied generally from 2s. to 12s.

#### **Other Main Vegetable Lines.**

Representative ranges of prices for other main lines of vegetables available were as follows:—Broad beans, 4s. to 7s., early sales to 14s. per bushel; lettuce, 3s. to 8s., choice 9s. to 10s., few to 12s. per case; celery (South Australian), 12s. to 20s., special brands to 24s., few higher; marrows (Queensland), 6s. to 8s., few to 10s. per crate; carrots, 5s. to 12s., few 14s. to 16s.; parsnips (New South Wales), 6s. to 14s., early sales to 20s.; (Victorian), 10s. to 16s., early sales to 20s.; pumpkins, 7s. to 16s., late sales to 22s.; sweet potatoes, 6s. to 14s., special 16s., occasional sales to 20s.; potatoes (No. 1 grade), 10s., fixed maximum price; onions (Victorian), brown, 23s. 6d.; (New South Wales and Queensland), brown and white, 29s. 6d., fixed maximum prices (late sales from 26s.) per cwt.; mushrooms (cultivated), 2s. to 4s. per lb.

T. M. P. McKEON.