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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

July, 1946.

FRUIT.

Choice Apples in Demand.

Fancy packs of red dessert apples sold well throughout the month. On most days choice New South Wales Delicious realised to 30s. with Rome Beauty to 18s. (specials 20s.) per bushel. Local Granny Smiths were in demand, particularly during the third week of July; up to 20s. per bushel was regularly obtained for choicest packs.

The quality of Victorian consignments showed a falling-off during the latter half of the month, especially during the third week of July, when much waste was apparent on opening up of cases. Demand was satisfactory for good packs, Jonathan realising to 14s. with odd specials to 16s., Rome Beauty to 16s., occasionally higher, Delicious 10s. to 20s., specials higher and Granny Smith 10s. to 17s. per bushel case.

Shipments from Tasmania included Jonathan, Democrat, Sturmer, Rome Beauty, Delicious, Crofton, Cleopatra and Granny Smith.

A small consignment of Jonathan received from South Australia realised 12s. to 20s. per bushel.

Limited Inquiry for Pears.

Choice pears sold satisfactorily but other grades were very slow to clear; much of the Victorian and Tasmanian fruit was of medium to poor quality only. Up to 20s. per bushel was regularly obtained for N.S.W. Packham's Triumph throughout July. Prices for Victorian supplies of this variety were firm at 20s. early, but towards the close of the month the market had an easier tendency and only occasional specials realised more than 18s. Supplies of Victorian Josephines realised similar prices to Packham's from that State. Shipments of Tasmanian Winter Coles opened up in very poor condition on most occasions.

Values of Navel Oranges Fluctuate.

Heavy supplies of navel oranges were received during the first two weeks of July and values were lower, 14s. per bushel being the highest price obtained. There was a marked increase in prices during the third week, when supplies coming forward showed an appreciable decrease, up to 18s. per case being realised for selected packs. Subsequently a progressive increase in supplies was accompanied by a gradual decline in rates, very few sales being effected at more than 14s. at the close of the period.

Only limited quantities of oranges were received from the Murumbidgee Irrigation Area. Choice, large mandarins cleared readily at 12s. to 14s. per case. Medium and small sized fruit was plentiful and as demand was poor, clearances were slow.

Supplies of lemons received from coastal groves continued to be relatively light. Inquiry was limited, but prices remained unchanged.

Lower Prices for Pineapples.

Demand for pineapples was only moderate during the first half of July; nevertheless, the maximum price of 21s. 3d. was obtained for choice packs of selected counts. The 9,026 tropical cases received on Monday, 22nd July, was one of the heaviest consignments ever received during the winter period; demand was only fair and, although rates were lower at 10s. to 18s., clearances were not effected, supplies being carried forward to the following week when the market was unchanged.

Lower Rates for Papaws.

Choice, coloured papaws sold readily but small sizes and green packs were difficult to clear; up to 20s. per tropical case was realised early but values subsequently weakened, 16s. being the highest price obtained at the close of the month.

Small Bananas Sell at Low Prices.

Choice bananas, particularly large fruit, cleared readily and prices were firmer. Much of the small fruit, however, was of inferior quality and was offered at low rates.

Passionfruit Cheaper.

Increased supplies of passionfruit were received. Prices were much lower during the second half of July when only an occasional special pack realised more than 20s. per half case.

Strawberries Clear Well.

Consignments of strawberries were received from Queensland almost daily; however, quantities were comparatively light and on Fridays particularly were insufficient for the week-end demand. Values mainly ranged from 6s. to 14s. per tray and 18s. to 36s. per dozen packets.

VEGETABLES.

Very Heavy Supplies of Cauliflowers.

During the first two weeks of July, the quantities of cauliflowers on offer showed a gradual increase, which resulted in prices for best quality "heads", declining from 36s. to 24s. per dozen. During the remainder of the month, supplies were very heavy and values dropped sharply, 12s. per dozen being the maximum realised for extra-choice, large descriptions.

Peas Cheaper.

Quantities of peas received from Metropolitan and Coastal growing areas showed a progressive increase as the month advanced. Frosts were experienced in most centres and a fair percentage of supplies received in the market showed resultant injury, some to such a degree that they failed to pass inspection and were condemned.

Up to 32s. per bushel was obtained for choice "Gems" at the beginning of the month but values gradually declined, best quality lines being disposed of at 22s. on the closing day.

Beans Principally Medium to Poor Quality.

Supplies of beans on offer consisted of bi-weekly consignments from the Central and Far North Coast of New South Wales and Queensland. The continuous dry weather in producing areas had a very adverse effect on crops. Quantities coming forward decreased and the bulk was only of medium to poor quality, choice lots being scarce.

Demand for choice quality lines was keen, even though prices were high, 30s. to 35s. being requested; other grades were difficult to dispose of, rates in some instances being 10s. per bushel and less.

Cabbages Plentiful.

Cabbages were plentiful throughout July. Increased quantities were received from near-Metropolitan growing centres and in addition consignments came to hand from the M.I.A. and from Victoria.

Demand was only moderate and on some days clearances were not effected. Values, which were lower than those ruling at the end of June, ranged from 4s. to 12s. per dozen.

Brussels Sprouts Plentiful.

Victorian Brussels Sprouts were well supplied, consignments coming by air, rail and road transport. Inquiry was satisfactory, choice packs selling at 16s. to 18s. per box, although second-grade lots were much lower in price.

Tomatoes Cheaper.

Only limited supplies of tomatoes were received from local growing centres but consignments from Queensland were much heavier. Some coloured packs were included but the majority were green. Supplies of Queensland "repacks" were available towards the end of the month. Values were much lower compared with those ruling in June.

Good Quality Celery Sells Well.

Weekly consignments of South Australian celery were smaller, ranging from 3,100 to 3,500 crates. Good quality lots sold readily, the market being firmer at prices ranging to 26s. per crate. Small sizes and inferior quality were slow to clear, rates being as low as 10s. in some instances.

H. G. MOON.
