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SALES OF FARM PRODUCE AT ALEXANDRIA AND SUSSEX STREET, SYDNEY.

July, 1946.

Potato Supplies Considerably Reduced.

There was a marked decrease in the quantity of potatoes available in July.

Tasmanian supplies in Sussex-street were reduced to 114,673 bags compared with the previous month's total of 157,955 bags. These tubers consisted of Brownell, Bismarcks, Snowflakes, Arranchiefs and a few other varieties. There was also a considerable falling off in supplies at Alexandria. From Victoria, only 5,250 bags were offered, mainly comprising No. 1 grade Carmans and Snowflakes, of which 1,500 bags were taken over for essential services. Receipts from South Australia were also very light, only 430 bags of No. 1 grade Delawares coming to hand. There were 10,018 bags from local centres; these mostly comprised No. 1 grade Factors but 923 bags of Factor seed were included. These supplies were received from Crookwell, Taralga, Dorrigo and Blayney. The bulk of these stocks were available for trading, with the exception of Factor seed.

At Darling Harbour, nine trucks, including Factor and Satisfaction seed, were not offered for general trading. Prices fixed for the month ending 31st July, Sydney basis, are:—

Wholesalers' Prices to Retailers:—

Local and Interstate—

No. 1 Grade, £7 17s. 6d.

Undergrade, £6 7s. 6d. per ton.

Rates for New South Wales grown potatoes for delivery to country areas are as quoted, plus freight from loading station; prices for interstate potatoes to New South Wales country areas are as quoted, plus freight from Sydney or loading station, whichever is the lower.

Primary merchants prices to wholesalers are £1 5s. 0d. per ton less than the figures quoted.

Swede Supplies Reduced—Lower Rates Rule.

Following heavy consignments in June, there was a considerable reduction in the quantity on offer at Alexandria and Sussex-street. Tasmanian supplies in the latter centre amounted to 5,253 bags. Demand was fairly slow and rates were easier. Opening sales were effected at £8 to £9 but later prices were reduced and ranged from £6 to £8.

Consignments totalling 1,125 bags came to hand at Alexandria from local growers. The grades were variable, medium lots being sold at £5 to £5 10s. 0d. and choice at £8 to £8 10s. 0d. per ton, while some lots were disposed of for stock feed at low rates. Also received from Tasmania at Alexandria were 444 bags which realised £8 to £9 per ton.

Other Root Vegetables in Light Supply.

At Alexandria 1,814 bags of Victorian carrots were on offer and towards the end of the period, sales were difficult to effect, except at lower prices. Opening sales were made at £12 but there was a gradual decline in values, disposals being effected at £9 to £9 10s. od. per ton.

Tasmanian arrivals in Sussex-street were restricted to 446 bags and clearances were made at £11. Consignments to Darling Harbour landing increased to eight trucks. Early sales were made at £11, but later £8 per ton was the highest price recorded.

Parsnips were lightly stocked, only 429 bags being received from Tasmania in Sussex-street and these were disposed of at £15 per ton. At Darling Harbour, two trucks from Victoria sold early at £15 but later values were easier at £14 per ton; one truck from local centres brought £15 per ton.

A small consignment of forty-seven bags of sweet potatoes arrived at Alexandria from Queensland and these were disposed of at £15 to £16 per ton.

Included in shipments from Tasmania were 107 bags of beet-root, which sold at Sussex-street at £12 per ton.

Pumpkins in Heavy Supply.

There was a marked increase in the quantity available at Alexandria, 146 trucks being yarded, this being the highest total since January last. During the period rates again showed a rather wide range. Stocks included fifty-seven trucks from local centres and eighty-nine trucks from Queensland. Early sales of local lots were effected at £10. The market later eased to £8 but towards the latter part of the month values were firmer at £10 to £11; Queensland supplies sold to £11 per ton at the close of July.

Victorian Onions Well Supplied.

Supplies were again heavier and aggregated 24,463 bags. Included in the total were 22,204 bags of brown table lots, and 2,259 of brown pickling. No difficulty was experienced in disposing of all lines, clearances being made at unchanged rates, brown table selling at approximately £17 10s. od. to £18 and pickling at £14 to £15 per ton. No fresh supplies were available at Darling Harbour landing during the period.

Oaten Chaff More Plentiful—Rates Reduced.

Receivals increased by forty trucks to 195 trucks, including eighteen from Victoria. In the first half of the period demand was good and rates were firm but later owing to continued heavy supplies rates were reduced to effect clearances. Sales were recorded as follows:—Medium £7 10s. od. to £8, good sound £8 to £8 15s. od., prime £9, choice £9 5s. od. to £9 10s. od. Auction

sales of eight trucks included medium lots at £6 15s. od. to £8, and good sound at £8 3s. 4d. Later rates were reduced when medium realised £7, good sound £7 5s. od. to £8 5s. od., prime £8 5s. od. to £8 15s. od., with a few choice at £8 15s. od. to £9. Auctions included four trucks of damaged at £5 16s. 8d., medium at £6 15s. od. to £7 5s. od. and good sound at £7 5s. od. per ton.

Wheaten Chaff Well Supplied.

Supplies were the heaviest since March last and aggregated fifty-six trucks. At times, demand was slow, especially for grades other than prime. During early sales prices were as follows:—Good sound £7 10s. od. to £8 5s. od., prime £8 10s. od. to £9 (few £9 5s. od.), choice £9 5s. od. to £9 10s. od., while two trucks of medium brought £6 15s. od. to £7 at auction. Later, however, owing to increasing supplies, it was necessary to reduce rates to effect sales. Medium realised £7, good sound £7 to £8 and prime £8 to £8 10s. od. with a few at £8 15s. od. Three trucks sold at auction included damaged at £5 11s. 8d., medium at £6 10s. od. and good sound £7 11s. 8d. per ton.

Lucerne Chaff Consignments Again Restricted.

There was little improvement in the quantity of lucerne chaff on offer which comprised only thirty trucks. The bulk sold well and rates, which continued firm, were as follows:—Medium £10, grassy £10 15s. od., good sound £11 to £12 15s. od., prime £12 to £13 5s. od., choice £13 5s. od. to £13 10s. od. At auction two trucks of medium grassy realised £6 11s. 8d. and medium brought £10 per ton.

Lucerne Meal, Dust, Pods, Threshings.

One truck of lucerne meal realised £15 10s. od., 187 bags of dust sold at £15 to £16, while three trucks of lucerne threshings brought £7. A consignment of 100 bags of lucerne pods realised £10 per ton.

Lucerne Hay Receivals Increase—Rates Firm.

There was a considerable improvement in the quantity of hay available from the Maitland district which has been in very light supply since February last, a total of forty-five trucks being forward. Sales included new, soft, green lines which were disposed of at £5 10s. od. to £6 10s. od., with well-made new green at £7 to £8 with a few higher. A few dump baled lots sold at £8 10s. od., while a number of derrick pressed new green lines realised £9 to £9 5s. od. per ton.

Supplies from other centres increased by eleven trucks and totalled forty-eight trucks, including six trucks of derrick pressed lots. These supplies were not sufficient for requirements and rates continued firm, especially for prime and choice lots. Disposals were made as follows:—Medium grassy £7, grassy £8 10s. od., medium £8 10s. od. to £10 10s. od., good sound £11, with prime £12 up to the maximum of £12 5s. od., choice £12 5s. od. Derrick pressed medium brought £8 10s. od. and good sound £9, while at auction, one truck of good sound moved out at £10 5s. od. per ton.

Oaten Hay More Plentiful.

There were thirty-five and a half trucks available, including nine and a half trucks of rack lots and twenty-six trucks of derrick pressed. There was a good inquiry, and despite increased supplies, rates remained firm. Clearances were as follows:—Good, sound rack £8 10s. od. to £9, prime and choice £10 10s. od., derrick pressed medium £5, good sound £6 5s. od. to £7 (few £7 5s. od.), and prime £7 5s. od. to £7 10s. od. One truck of medium brought £4 16s. 8d. per ton at auction. Only two trucks of derrick pressed wheaten hay were received and no rates were disclosed.

Oaten Straw Supplies Decrease.

There was a marked falling off in supplies, the quantity received amounting to thirty-three trucks. The bulk met good inquiry and rates showed little change, as follows:—Good sound oaten £5 to £5 10s. od., prime £6 to £6 10s. od., choice £6 5s. od. to £6 10s. od. At auction, damaged lots realised £4 to £4 5s. od. per ton.

Wheaten Straw in Light Supply.

Seven trucks only arrived and no prime lines were available, supplies consisting of stained and damaged lots being disposed of at £3 10s. od. to £4 per ton. Rice straw totalled fifteen trucks but no rates were disclosed.

Wheat Supplies Again Restricted.

Only eight trucks of wheat were received. The bulk was taken direct to store and not offered for general trading.

Maize Scarce.

Arrivals of maize at Alexandria declined considerably, only 3,627 bags arriving compared with 5,683 bags in June. Particulars of receipts were as follows:—From local centres, 2,222 bags of yellow and 750 bags of white; 655 bags of yellow came to hand from Queensland. There were no sales recorded during the period as the bulk of the arrivals were consigned direct to buyers and taken to store. In Sussex-street, consignments from the North Coast totalled 673 bags, which were disposed of at undisclosed rates.

Oat Consignments Again Light.

Nine trucks came to hand but these were mostly consigned direct to buyers and not offered.

C. H. FERRY.