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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

September, 1948.

Many Lines of Apples Breaking Down.

A noticeable feature of the apple trade during September was the faulty quality of many offerings. Demand was confined chiefly to choice fruit, with Delicious and Granny Smith varieties most favoured. Supplies were on offer from New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia. Quotations throughout the month showed little variation and were as follow:—New South Wales: Delicious 16s. to 24s., special to 30s.; Rome Beauty 12s. to 20s., few 24s.; Democrat 12s. to 14s.; Granny Smith 12s. to 18s., few special to 24s.; Dougherty 14s. to 24s. Tasmania: Rome Beauty 12s. to 16s.; Democrat 12s. to 14s.; French Crab 10s. to 12s.; Granny Smith 12s. to 22s.; Crofton 14s. to 18s.; Stone Pippin 10s. to 14s.; Sturmer 10s. to 14s. South Australia: Jonathan 14s. to 20s.; Statesman 12s. to 16s.; Rome Beauty 12s. to 16s. Victoria: Jonathan 12s. to 18s.; Delicicus 14s. to 22s.; Granny Smith 14s. to 20s., few 22s.; Yates 12s. to 20s.; Statesman 12s. to 16s.; Rome Beauty 12s. to 18s.

Quiet Request for Pears.

Stocks of pears were available from New South Wales and Victorian sources. Choice and fancy quality fruit sold steadily with values slightly firmer during the last two weeks of the month. Quotations were:—New South Wales: Packham's Triumph 12s. to 24s.; Winter Cole 12s. to 22s., few 24s.; Josephine 16s. to 22s. Victoria: Packham's Triumph 12s. to 22s.; Josephine 13s. to 22s.; Winter Cole 14s. to 24s.

Variations in Realisations for Bananas.

Rates for Cavendish bananas fluctuated somewhat throughout the month, variations being mainly due to the extra quantities of ripe fruit available during the third week, when sixes sold from 6s. per banana case. Realisations were mainly as follow:—9" and 8" 35s. to 44s.; sevens 24s. to 34s.; sixes 16s. to 20s. Ripe, inferior, under-sized and small grades were lower. Lady Fingers brought from 10s. to 25s., special to 30s., few to 35s. per banana case.

Limited Supplies of Valencia Oranges on Offer.

Washington Navel oranges were ample for requirements throughout the month, small and plain grade fruit being slow of sale. Choice packs, at times, realised to 16s. per bushel case, but main sales were from 8s. to 12s., with small and inferior lower. Limited supplies of Coastal Valencias came forward from 10th of the month, large fruit making from 6s. to 10s. Murrumbidgee Navels sold mainly at 8s. to 10s., with a few sales to 14s.

Weak Request for Lemons.

Lemons were heavily supplied throughout the period under review and met a weak demand. Request was principally for counts 150 to 180. Single cases of choice fruit sometimes brought as high as 8s. per bushel, but mostly sales were made at from 4s. to 6s. Only when processors operated were stocks cleared and then at lower rates.

Choice Large Emperor Mandarins Wanted.

Small and medium sized Emperor Mandarins were plentiful, but choice large fruit was scarce and realised from 12s. to 14s. per bushel case, with special packs to 18s. Other sales ranged from 4s. At times, owing to a limited demand, considerable wastage occurred. Ellendales brought 12s. to 16s., with small and inferior lower.

Limited Demand for Grapefruit.

Choice grapefruit of desired size was sold at 6s. to 8s. per bushel case, with sales toward the end of the month to 10s. Stocks were in excess of market requirements and inferior fruit was almost unsaleable.

Choice Passionfruit Sells Well.

A strong demand was maintained for choice, large, well-coloured passionfruit which was lightly supplied. Other qualities sold slowly. Rates ranged from 16s. to 28s. per half case with special packs 30s. to 34s. Inferior fruit was lower.

Queensland Fruits.

Bananas totalled 12,154 banana cases against 10,718 during August. Rates for Cavendish ranged from 12s. to 38s. while Lady Fingers brought from 15s. to 30s., with few special to 38s. per banana case.

Pineapples amounted to 25,967 tropical cases compared with 33,036 for August. Sales were mainly at from 12s. to 22s. per case.

Papayas comprised 7,918 tropical cases, being approximately 3,200 more than the August consignments. Rates ranged from 8s. to 16s., with sales early in the month to 20s. per case.

Avocados. Consignments totalled 612 half-bushel cases (August 507) and prices were: Fuerte and similar 10s. to 14s.; other varieties 4s. to 8s., with inferior lower.

Strawberries sold steadily at 1s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. per box, with trays 4s. to 8s. each. Choice fruit commanded higher prices and inferior was lower.

VEGETABLES.**Increase in Supplies of Peas.**

A total of 40,788 bags of peas was offered during September in the Agent's section, being about 14,000 more than in August and, in addition, increased quantities were available in the growers' markets. Supplies came from North and South Coast districts and near-Metropolitan areas, with the exception of a small consignment from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area during the last

week of the month. Apart from the 6th and 10th of September, when prices ranged to 22s. per bushel, realisations were mainly from 10s. to 16s. with inferior lower.

More Beans Available.

Consignments of beans amounted to 26,500 packages, an increase of approximately 4,500. New South Wales growers forwarded 7,792 bags while 18,708 cases and bags came from Queensland. Realisations from 1st to 10th September were from 10s. to 24s. per bushel with choice Queensland offerings to 30s., but the market weakened and at the close of the month not more than 20s. a bushel could be obtained for choicest lines.

Firm Sale for Large Cabbages.

Offerings of cabbages were fairly heavy and they continued to comprise mostly small and medium sized heads. Demand, with the exception of two or three days, was good and rates ranged from 8s. to 12s. per dozen with choice large 14s. to 16s. Very small and inferior heads were cheaper.

Cauliflowers in Demand.

Stocks of cauliflowers were sufficient for retail requirements and occasional purchases were made for processing. Rates for the first half of September were from 10s. to 20s. per dozen with larger heads to 24s., but values during the following two weeks were mainly 4s. per dozen lower.

Increased Supplies of Lettuce.

Heavy offerings of lettuce met a weak inquiry. Sales early in the month were mainly 5s. to 10s. per case, with a few to 12s., but from 8th to 10th September a very heavy demand resulted in prices rising and as high as 18s. to 20s. was paid for choice packs. At closing the market had weakened and realisations were from 2s. to 6s. per case.

Consignments of Tomatoes from North Coast.

A steady increase in supplies of North Coast tomatoes occurred and totalled 1,950 half cases. These supplemented 68,046 from Queensland, which total exceeded last month's consignments by approximately 23,000 cases. In addition, light offerings of New South Wales glasshouse tomatoes were available. Realisations for glasshouse and North Coast tomatoes showed little alteration, being mainly from 30s. to 38s. per half case, but on 15th to the 21st September, up to 42s. was obtained. Queensland offerings brought mainly 20s. to 34s. per half case.

Other Main Vegetable Lines.

Representative ranges of prices for other main vegetable lines were as follow:—Carrots 30s. to 48s., few to 80s., closing sales 48s. to 56s.; parsnips 10s. to 28s., few to 34s., closing sales 20s. to 34s.; potatoes No. 1 grade 10s. (fixed maximum price); swedes 12s. to 20s., few to 28s., closing sales 14s. to 20s.; pumpkin 18s. to 48s., few to 56s., closing sales 48s. to 58s.; sweet potatoes 10s. to 24s., few to 44s., closing rates 20s. to 34s. per cwt.; celery

(N.S.W.) local 12s. to 24s. per dozen bunches; South Australian 16s. to 24s., few to 30s., closing sales 16s. to 38s. per crate; brussels sprouts (Victorian) 8s. to 12s. per 12 lb. box, date of last consignment, 16th September (N.S.W.), 8s. to 10s. per 12 lb.

A. M. BURNS.

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

September, 1948.

Tasmanian Potato Supplies Reduced.

Whereas a heavy supply of 203,818 bags was available in August, offerings from all sources in September were considerably reduced to aggregate 151,901 bags. A total of 3,465 bags arrived at Alexandria from local centres. These tubers mostly consisted of No. 3 grade Factors with a few seed. Victorian consignments amounted to 15,813 bags and included No. 1 grade Carmans and Snowflakes. Of this quantity, approximately 3,500 bags were reconsigned to other stations. Receipts from Tasmania at Sussex-street were reduced to 132,623 bags compared with the previous month's total of 186,427 bags. The supply mainly consisted of No. 1 grade Brownells, but a few other varieties were included. All lines made available for trading sold readily, as stocks were not sufficient to meet the demand.

Prices fixed for the month ended 30th September, Sydney basis, were:—*Wholesalers' Prices to Retailers*—Local and Interstate—No. 1 grade and undergrades £10 per ton, plus cartage, which was not to exceed 10s. per ton. Rates for New South Wales grown potatoes for delivery to country areas were as quoted, plus freight from loading station; prices for interstate potatoes to New South Wales country areas were as quoted, plus freight from Sydney or loading station, whichever was the lower. Primary merchants' prices to wholesalers were £1 per ton less than the figures quoted.

Swedes Scarce—Prices Higher.

Supplies at Alexandria from local centres were reduced to 358 bags. Choice lots sold early at £16 and later in the period at £12 10s. per ton. Tasmanian stocks amounted to 470 bags, which also realised higher prices, being cleared at £16 to £18 per ton. Offerings at Sussex-street were reduced to 1,690 bags from Tasmania, compared with a total of 4,773 bags in August. Choice brought £12 to £14 and large sizes £10 per ton.

Other Root Vegetables Again Short.

Receipts of carrots at Alexandria only amounted to 279 bags from Victoria. Some sales of washed lines were made early at £42 and later at £58 to £60 per ton. Supplies at Darling Harbour totalled 130 bags from Tasmania which sold at £28 to £32. The supply of 147 bags from Victoria brought £55 per ton. Parsnips were also in light supply, 263 bags arriving at Alexandria from Victoria. These were of medium grade and a few sold at £11 to £12 per ton.