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

August, 1948.

### Tasmanian Potato Consignments Increase Considerably.

Compared with July totals, which were fairly light, there was an increase in potato offerings, the quantity from all sources being 203,818 bags. Only 2,037 bags arrived at Alexandria from local centres and consisted mainly of No. 1 grade Factors and a few seed from the Crookwell district. Victorian consignments increased to 15,354 bags, which included No. 1 grade Carmans and Snowflakes. Approximately 6,000 bags were reconsigned to other stations. Arrivals at Sussex Street from Tasmania amounted to 186,427 bags compared with last month's supply of 94,128 bags. These comprised mostly No. 1 grade Brownells, Snowflakes, Arranchiefs, with a few Bismarcks and other varieties. A good demand ruled during the period.

Prices fixed for the month ended 31st August, 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, whichever was the lower. Primary merchants' prices to wholesalers were £1 per ton less than the figures quoted.

### Swede Supplies Maintained—Prices Lower.

Swede supplies at Alexandria totalled 866 bags, the supply including 516 from local sources and 350 from Queensland. Sales were made at lower rates, choice local realising £10 to £11, medium £6 to £8 and choice Queensland £12, few higher, per ton. Receivals at Sussex Street aggregated 4,773 bags, which were also sold at lower prices. Medium brought £6 to £8, and choice £12 to £14, few early £16 per ton.

### Other Root Vegetables Scarce.

Receivals were considerably reduced. Only 374 bags of carrots arrived at Alexandria from Victoria and the higher prices of £26 to £27 per ton were obtained. Tasmanian supplies at Sussex Street totalled only 386 bags, which were sold at £20 to £24 per ton. Parsnips were also in short supply. A total of 661 bags was received from Victoria at Alexandria, some choice grade lots selling early at £16 to £18 and medium at £8 to £9 per ton.

### New Season's Brown Onions Arrive from Queensland.

Supplies received from all sources at Alexandria were slightly reduced. The total of 21,265 bags on offer consisted of 16,407 bags from Victoria, 400 bags from South Australia and 4,458 bags from Queensland. Stocks moved out slowly at times and at the end of the month lower prices were quoted. Victorian brown table realised £20 10s. to £21 early whilst, at closing, £14 to £19 was secured. A few brown pickling brought £18 to £18 10s. early

and later £15 10s. South Australian Brown Table were quoted at £20 10s. to £21 and pickling at £15 10s. Queensland new season's brown brought £19 to £20, few early £22 10s. and some white lines £23 per ton.

#### **Pumpkin Prices Very High at Closing.**

Receivals at Alexandria were considerably reduced, only 85 trucks being available for trading, compared with 147 on offer in July. Prices covered a wide range as a result of the very keen demand at times. The supply included 19 trucks from local centres, 66 from Queensland and 15 from Victoria. Early sales of local and Queensland lines were recorded at £14 to £17 and later sales at £18 to £22, whilst at closing £34 per ton was obtained. Victorian Triambles realised £16 to £18 early in the month and later £23 to £28 per ton.

#### **Oaten Chaff Consignments Fairly Heavy.**

A total of 166 trucks came to hand, representing an increase of 18 on the previous month's supply. This was the largest quantity since October, 1947. Demand for prime and choice lines was fairly good but other grades were rather difficult to sell. As a consequence, the market generally was easier. Medium brought £8 10s., good sound £8 10s. to £9 10s., prime £10 to £11 and choice £11 to £11 10s. At auction good sound realised £9 1s. 8d. per ton.

#### **Wheaten Chaff Prices Decline as Supplies Increase.**

In contrast to the light supplies during the previous two months, consignments in August totalled 31 trucks, representing an increase of 17 trucks. Demand was good early but, as stocks increased, rates were reduced. Medium realised £8 10s., good sound £10, prime £10 to £11 5s., and choice £11 5s. to £11 15s. Later in the month good sound sold at £9 5s., prime at £9 15s. to £10 10s. and choice at £10 10s. to £10 15s. per ton.

#### **Heavy Reduction in Lucerne Chaff Supplies.**

Only 35 trucks came to hand, which constituted a reduction of 21 trucks and brought stocks to the lowest level for a number of months. Request was good for prime and choice lots, which were fairly scarce, but other grades were difficult to sell. Medium grades realised £6 to £8, good sound £7 10s. to £10, prime £10 to £11 and choice £11 to £11 15s., few early £12 to £12 10s. per ton.

#### **Lucerne Dust and Meal Scarce.**

Only one truck of meal was received, choice lots selling at £16. The 30 bags of dust which came to hand realised £13 per ton.

#### **Maitland Lucerne Hay in Short Supply.**

Arrivals from the Maitland district were considerably reduced, the supply amounting to only 38 trucks, compared with 71 available in July. No difficulty was experienced in disposing of the limited supplies and rates showed little change. New soft green sold at £5 15s. to £7, well-made at £6 10s. to £8, few £8 5s.; small bales of well-made at £8 10s.; and derrick-pressed, well-made at £8 to £8 5s. per ton. Supplies from other centres were

reduced by 18 trucks when 66 trucks, including 4 of derrick-pressed, were offered for trading. Demand was fairly good and, since rates were easier, choice grades sold readily. Medium brought £4 10s., good sound £5 10s. to £7 15s., prime £7 5s. to £9 5s., choice £10 10s., few specials £11 to £11 10s. Derrick pressed good sound was quoted at £6 to £6 5s., prime at £6 10s. and choice at £7 10s. to £8 per ton.

#### **Choice Oaten Hay Sells Well.**

Consignments were reduced to 23 trucks, the total including 16 trucks of rack and 7 of derrick pressed. Choice lines were in request but other grades were difficult to sell, except at low rates. Stained rack lots realised £6, medium £6 to £6 10s. and choice £11 10s. to £12. Derrick pressed medium brought £5 10s. and good sound £6 to £6 5s. Supplies of wheaten amounted to only 4 trucks. Medium was sold at £6 to £6 10s. and prime at £6 10s. to £7 per ton.

#### **Straw Rates Lower—Supplies Increase.**

A fairly light supply of 28 trucks was available in July, but consignments in August increased to 55 trucks, including 7 from Victoria. During the first half of the month demand was very good and rates were firm, but as stocks increased request became slow and sales were made at lower levels. Medium sold at £6 to £6 10s., good sound at £7 10s. to £8, prime £8 to £8 10s. and choice £9. Later, inferior realised £4, good sound £6 to £7, prime £7 10s. to £8 and choice £8 per ton.

#### **Only Inferior Grades of Wheat Available.**

No supplies of F.A.Q. wheat were available for trading at Alexandria. This grade is released by the Australian Wheat Board on a quota system. Receivals, which were mostly of inferior quality, increased considerably to aggregate 97 trucks. Last month 42 trucks came to hand. A total of 40 trucks was offered for auction sale, pick-ups bringing 2s. 6d. to 6s. 3d. and inferior 6s. 3d. to 7s. per bushel.

#### **Maize Consignments Reduced.**

Only 4,834 bags came to hand, compared with the increased supply of 6,025 bags available in July. The offering included 2,679 bags of yellow and 602 of white from local centres and 823 of yellow and 730 of white from Queensland. A fairly large proportion of the arrivals was consigned direct to buyers or taken to store for milling purposes. No rates were disclosed.

#### **Oat Supplies Maintained.**

A total of 32 trucks arrived at Alexandria. The bulk of the supplies were not offered for trading and consequently no quotations were obtained. Two trucks were sold by auction, inferior bringing 3s. 8d. and feed lines 4s. 3d. per bushel.

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