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

November, 1948.

Potatoes Still in Short Supply.

Supplies in November increased by 53,705 bags, when a total of 87,824 came to hand from all sources. Local offerings at Alexandria amounted to 48,948 bags of new season's Factors and Katahdins and 337 bags of old season's No. 3 grade Factors. Queensland consignments of No. 1 grade new season's Factors and Katahdins totalled 13,495 bags. Tasmanian supplies at Sussex-street amounted to only 15,352 bags of No. 1 grade Brownells. A shipment of 9,692 bags of new season's Delawares came to hand from Western Australia. Most of the offerings were made available for trading and sold readily as stocks were still not sufficient to meet requirements.

Government subsidised potatoes were still selling to the retailer at £10 per ton and 1½d. per lb. to the consumer. The fixed maximum price of new season's was £22 12s. 6d. per ton through primary wholesalers and £23 13s. 6d. per ton, plus cartage, through secondary distributors. The maximum retail price to the consumer has been fixed at 3d. per lb.

Other Root Vegetables Scarce—Prices High.

Receipts of swedes from both local and interstate sources were again in short supply and aggregated 395 bags. Supplies at Alexandria consisted of 352 bags from Queensland and 43 from local centres. These arrived early in the month and sold quickly. Local supplies brought £32 and Queensland £28 to £32 per ton. There were no supplies of carrots, parsnips, beetroot, or sweet potatoes at Sussex-street or at Alexandria.

Onions Continue in Good Supply.

Consignments were still maintained at a high level when 25,710 bags of new season's onions arrived at Alexandria from Queensland. A moderate inquiry prevailed early in the month and new season's brown realised £14 to £16 per ton, but later, as supplies were reduced, request was keener and sales to £19 per ton were recorded. Choice White was disposed of at £18 to £20 and a few choice Brown and White pickling at £21 to £22 per ton.

New Season's Pumpkins Arrive—Values Decline.

Queensland offerings increased to 34½ trucks, an increase of 15 on the previous month's offering. As potatoes were in short supply, all lots sold well. Early sales brought £60 to £70, but the arrival of large supplies of new season's lines caused prices to decline rapidly to £50, whilst later £25 to £30 per ton was obtained. The quality of the new season's lines was very poor, their high water content causing rapid deterioration.

Oaten Chaff Stocks Light.

Only 77 trucks came to hand in contrast with 117 received last month. The shortage resulted in a keener demand and high rates obtained. Medium brought £8 to £9 16s. 8d., good sound £8 10s. to £10 10s., prime £10 to £11, and choice £11 to £11 16s. 8d. with a few odd sales at closing to £12 per ton.

Slightly Increased Quantity of Wheaten Chaff on Offer.

An increase of six trucks brought the month's total to 25. Request was firm and prices showed little alteration. Quality was variable. Inferior lines realised £7, medium £8 to £9, good sound £8 10s. to £10, prime £10 10s. to £11, and choice £11 5s. to £11 10s. per ton.

Lucerne Chaff Continues to Sell Well.

Stocks were reduced to 23 trucks, 39 being available the previous month. Demand was very keen and prime and choice, which were in short supply, sold at high rates. Medium cleared at £8 to £8 10s., good sound at £8 10s. to £10, prime at £10 5s. to £11 10s., and choice at £11 10s. to £13 per ton.

Lucerne Hay Prices Steady.

Consignments from the Maitland district continued to show a slight increase, and totalled 98 trucks, including 14 of derrick pressed. All offerings met a good request at slightly higher prices. New soft green realised £6 to £7 10s. and well-made £6 to £8 per ton. Well made derrick pressed was disposed of at £7 to £8 per ton. Receipts from other centres were reduced by 19 trucks when 34 arrived, including 5 of derrick pressed. Demand for new season's prime and choice grades was good but other lines sold slowly. Quotations were as follow:—Medium grassy £6 to £8, good sound £7 to £10, prime £9 to £11, and choice £10 10s. with a few extra choice to £13 per ton. Inferior, grassy, derrick pressed lines sold at £4 10s. to £5 and prime at £6 to £8 per ton.

Oaten Hay Offerings Slightly Larger.

Consignments totalled 17½ trucks compared with 12 the previous month. The supply consisted of 10 trucks of rack and 7½ of derrick pressed. Choice lots were in demand and sold well. Rack lines were disposed of at the following rates:—Stained £5 to £6, good sound £8 to £8 10s. od., and prime £10 10s. od. per ton. Derrick pressed hay sold well, good sound bringing £5 10s. od. to £7, prime £8 10s. od., and choice £11 per ton.

Straw in Short Supply.

Stocks declined to 39 trucks including one of wheaten, compared with 42 trucks on hand during October. Prime and choice lines sold well, but other grades were not in demand. Good sound oaten was disposed of at £7 to £7 10s., prime at £8 to £8 10s. od., and choice at £8 10s. od. per ton. The one truck of inferior grade wheaten on offer realised £4 per ton.

More Wheat Available.

Last month's supply was exceeded by 35 trucks when 135 came to hand. No f.a.q. wheat was available as this grade is released on a quota system by the Australian Wheat Board. One hundred and twenty-eight trucks were offered for auction sale, pick-ups and sweepings realising 2s. to 5s. 11d., inferior 6s. 1d. to 6s. 11d., and bleached 7s. per bushel.

Maize Stocks Reduced.

Supplies were the smallest since March, consisting of 1,774 bags of yellow and 25 of white from local centres. A few sales of yellow were recorded at 11s. per bushel, but the bulk of the receivals was stored.

Oat Prices Higher.

Truckings at Alexandria were again light, only 26 trucks coming to hand. Country farmers required higher prices in the country and this caused prices to rise. Six trucks were auctioned at 3s. per bushel.

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