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

April, 1947.

Tasmanian Potato Consignments Increased Considerably.

Following exceptionally light receipts during the past few months, a marked improvement was noticed in the quantity available when 145,150 bags came to hand, which is the largest quantity since September, 1946. At Sussex-street, 133,706 bags were received from Tasmania and comprised Bismarcks, Brownells and a few Arranchiefs. Arrivals from the Dorrigo district at Alexandria amounted to 1,207 bags and consisted of No. 1 grade and seed Factors. About 10,237 bags also arrived from Victoria, this quantity being composed mainly of No. 1 grade Carmans and including 567 bags of seed. Although a large percentage of the supply was made available for trading, arrivals were not sufficient for requirements because merchants had no stocks on hand. Consequently, all lines were cleared readily.

Prices fixed for month ending 30th April, Sydney basis, were:—Wholesalers' prices to retailers—local and interstate, No. 1 grade and undergrades, £7 17s. 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 per ton less than the figures quoted.

Swedes Sell at Reduced Rates.

Supplies at Alexandria were again very light. Early arrivals consisted of 180 bags from Tasmania, which were disposed of at £18 per ton. At Sussex-street, Tasmanian consignments increased to 6,894 bags. Early in the month, about 1,025 bags realised £16, but, later, owing to increased stocks of other vegetables, rates were considerably reduced, sales being recorded at £10 to £11 per ton.

Other Root Vegetables Fairly Scarce.

At Alexandria, 613 bags of carrots arrived from Victoria and sold at lower levels, opening sales being made at £16. Rates were gradually reduced at closing, quotations ranging from £7 to £8 per ton. Approximately 637 bags were received at Sussex-street from Tasmania, and realised £12 to £16, while at Darling Harbour three trucks came to hand and brought £16 early, later selling at £7 to £8 per ton. Parsnip supplies were restricted to 70 bags of Victorian at Alexandria, which sold at £14 to £16, and 112 bags of Tasmanian at Sussex-street which were disposed of at £12 per ton.

Victorian Onions in Lighter Supply.

Consignments declined considerably during April and totalled 16,981 bags, compared with 27,768 bags last month. The supply consisted of 16,110 bags of brown table, 450 of brown pickling and 191 of white from Victoria, and 140 bags of brown and a few white from Queensland. Owing to the lighter supplies available, no difficulty was experienced in disposing of all lines. Brown table realised approximately £21 and brown pickling £17 10s. per ton. Only one truck of brown table arrived at Darling Harbour from Victoria and cleared at the ruling rate.

Pumpkin Supplies Lighter.

Receivals at Alexandria were the lightest since December and amounted to 70 trucks, including 61 from local centres and 9 from Queensland. Although offerings were reduced, demand was slow, and rates, at times, were the lowest for some months. Opening sales were made at £6 to £8, but later increased to £8 to £9. However, prices were again reduced at closing, quotations ranging from £6 to £7.

Queensland lines sold at as low as £5 to £6, with a few £7 to £8 per ton.

Oaten Chaff Receivals Decline.

Arrivals were reduced to 102 trucks, which included 14 from South Australia and one from Victoria; 140 trucks were available in March. Sales, especially of prime and choice lines, were readily effected and clearances were made as follows:—Medium, £8; good sound, £9 to £9 15s.; with prime and choice (including shandy), £10 5s. At auction, 4 trucks were submitted, inferior selling at £6 15s. to £7 10s. and stained at £8 to £8 1s. 8d. per ton.

Wheaten Chaff Consignments Exceptionally Light.

Only 36 trucks were available for trading at Alexandria, compared with a total of 76 during the last month. All lines were easily cleared on account of the restricted supplies. Rates were as follows:—Medium, £7 10s. to £7 15s.; good sound, £9 to £10; prime, £10 5s., few £10. At auction, 6 trucks of medium brought £7 to £8 per ton.

Lucerne Pods.

Only one truck was received and realised £8 10s. per ton.

Lucerne Chaff in Short Supply.

The quantity available showed little improvement, only 21½ trucks being forward. Rates continued to be firm, owing to the limited supply. Medium was on offer at £11; good sound, £11 10s. to £12 10s.; and prime, £12 5s. to £13 10s. per ton.

Lucerne Hay Extremely Limited.

The quantity forward from the Maitland district showed little alteration, 26 trucks being available. Request was steady and clearances of new soft green were made at £5 to £6; well made, £6 to £7 10s., few £8; and dump-baled, well made at £8 10s. to £10 10s. Arrivals from other centres showed a marked decline.

Only 33 trucks, including 8 of derrick pressed, were received, the total being 40 less than last month. All stocks, especially Mudgee baled lots, sold readily. Sales of the Mudgee consignments included a few medium at £9; good sound, £12; with the bulk of the prime bringing £11 to £12; and choice, £11 10s. to £12 5s. Derrick pressed, new soft green brought £4 to £5 5s.; medium, £7 10s.; and good sound, £8 5s. per ton.

Oaten and Wheaten Hay Scarce.

Oaten receipts showed a heavy decrease, only 5 trucks of rack being on offer. Choice lots sold well at £10 5s. per ton. No consignments of derrick pressed came to hand. Wheaten supplies were restricted to one truck of derrick pressed inferior, which cleared at £3 5s. per ton.

Oaten and Wheaten Straw Exceptionally Light.

Only 24 trucks were forward, the total showing a marked decline on the 115 trucks which were on offer during March. The offering included 19 trucks of oaten, 5 of wheaten, and 2 of rye. Prime oaten brought £7; choice, £7 10s.; and stained wheaten, £3 10s. At auction, 2 trucks of stained wheaten sold at £2 10s. per ton.

Wheat Consignments Again Restricted.

Supplies continued to be light, only 30 trucks being available at Alexandria. The bulk was taken to store.

Maize Still in Light Supply.

Receipts at Alexandria increased slightly, 2,869 bags coming to hand. This quantity included 1,985 bags of yellow, 110 of white, and a few red from local centres, and 774 bags of yellow from Queensland. Most of these consignments were stored. Some sales of local yellow (small lots), however, were made at 7s. 5d., while, at auction, about 200 bags of weevily (including yellow and red) brought 7s. 3d. per bushel.

Oat Consignments Again Reduced.

At Alexandria, 14 trucks were received from Victoria, contrasting with 35 trucks available last month. Only a few lines were offered for trading, and they included 2 trucks of Algerian stained, which brought 4s. 7d. and 4s. 9d. per bushel, at auction.

—C. H. FERRY.