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SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

JUNE, 1947.

SHEEP.

Reduced Numbers Penned.

Owing to the incidence of the King's Birthday public holiday, on which no sales were held, thus reducing the number of days on which sales were conducted to eight, considerably fewer sheep and lambs were penned, the overall total showing a decline of about 34,000 head on the previous month's supplies. Yardings amounted to 241,602 head compared with 362,625 for the same month last year.

Heavy Sheep Scarce.

Despite a total offering of 114,941 head of sheep, the supply of good to prime heavy grades was relatively light, although at times some particularly fine drafts, carrying exceptionally good skins, were submitted. On the other hand, medium to good light trade wethers and ewes were well represented and mostly were well suited for trade needs, but on occasions plain descriptions were in over supply.

Mutton at High Levels.

Considerable fluctuation in realisations was evident but rates advanced substantially up to the middle of the period and reached high levels. Later, however, demand was not so strong and prices had declined appreciably by the end of the month. Opening sales were very firm, but at the following auctions values advanced by from 1s. to 2s. per head followed by a further increase of from 2s. to 3s. The strong position of the market, however, was not maintained and the cost of mutton declined appreciably, falls of from 4s. to 8s. per head occurring, the fall being more pronounced on wethers than on ewes. Prices for some drafts of prime heavy wethers reached very high levels, when up to 68s. per head was obtained. Quite a few lines were also sold at from 60s. to 66s. each, but generally good quality wethers were purchased at from 34s. to 58s. per head, thus indicating the variable state of the market.

During the early part of the month the cost of heavy wether mutton ranged from 6½d. to 8½d. and light 6¾d. to 8½d. per lb., but at the final sale of the period heavy wethers were obtained for 5¼d. to 5¾d. and light 5¼d. to 6d. per lb. At times, prime heavy ewes realised 52s. per head, but for the most part made from 38s. to 48s. each, with good light descriptions selling at from 32s. to 45s. per head. The cost of heavy ewe mutton ranged from 5d. to 6¾d. and light 5¼d. to 7¼d. per lb., although at the close of the period operators paid considerably less, securing heavy and light ewes at from 4¾d. to 5½d. and 5d. to 5½d. per lb., respectively.

Heavy Lambs Numerous.

The number of lambs offered showed a reduction, pennings totalling 126,661 head. Good to prime heavy lambs, however, made a particularly good showing, the supply including some very attractive consignments. Only odd drafts of prime light descriptions were submitted, although suitable light trade quality comprised a good proportion of those available.

Variable Market for Lambs.

Lambs met with a keen inquiry for the most part and at times values were higher than those prevailing during May. The market throughout was variable, and, while the cost of lamb advanced during the early part of the month and reached the highest level about mid-June, prices subsequently declined appreciably, heavy grades showing a fall of from 4s. to 8s., and light descriptions 3s. to 4s. per head, operators endeavouring to secure their requirements within the wholesale ceiling limits. Heavy lambs cost from 9d. to 11½d. per lb. during the first half of the month, but later were purchased at from 8d. to 10½d. Light lambs realised 10d. to 12d. per lb. early in the period, but were considerably cheaper at the final auctions, being worth from 9¼d. to 10¾d. per lb. Some drafts of prime heavy lambs sold to 60s. per head, while sales at prices ranging from 53s. to 58s. per head were also made. Generally, however, rates for good light to heavy grades were from 35s. to 50s. per head.

Hoggets were in fairly light supply and met with a good demand, although prices were lower at the end of the month at 7¼d. to 8¼d. per lb., compared with 8¼d. to 9¼d. at the early sales. At times prime lots of hoggets sold to 58s. per head.

—G. COLEMAN.

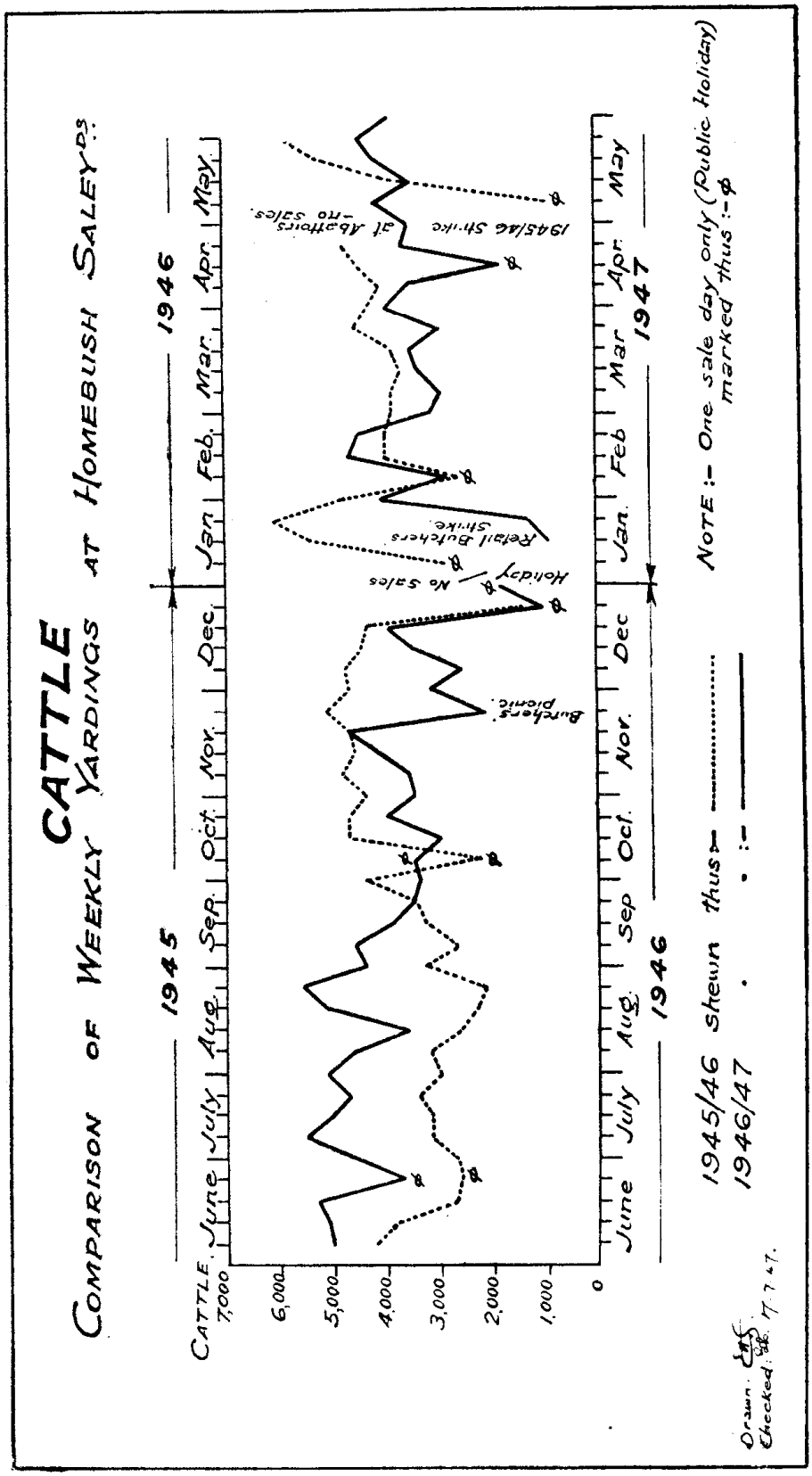
CATTLE.

Smaller Numbers Available.

Supplies during June showed a reduction when compared with the previous month's offering, 16,184 head being available at the eight auctions held during the period. This number included 3,467 head auctioned in the store section. Quality generally showed some improvement, good trade sorts being more in evidence, with a corresponding decrease in the proportion of plain types. Although still comparatively small, the proportion of grown stock was an improvement on recent months.

Demand continued to be fairly strong, and prices were affected by a temporary shortage of supplies, as no sale was held on King's Birthday holiday, 16th June, 1947. At the two sales prior to the holiday, rates increased to their peak for the month, and then generally declined to a level slightly below that ruling at the beginning of June.

The price trend will be more apparent from the table on page 265.


CATTLE
COMPARISON OF WEEKLY YARDINGS AT HOMEBUSH SALEYDS.
CATTLE
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
0
1945
1946
1947
June
July
Aug.
Sep.
Oct.
Nov.
Dec.
Jan.
Feb.
Mar.
Apr.
May
Butchers' picnic.
Holiday
No sales
Retail Butchers Strike.
1945/46 Strike at Abattoirs - no sales.
1945/46 shewn thus:-
1946/47 . . :-
NOTE:- One sale day only (Public Holiday) marked thus:- ϕ
Drawn:
Checked:

Bullocks Lightly Supplied.

Bullocks were more plentiful than for some months, but comprised only a small proportion of the total yarding. Medium weight drafts of fair to good trade standard made up the bulk of the offering of this class, prime lots being rather scarce, while heavy animals were available in odd lots only.

Rates at opening were at the same level as those ruling at the end of May, and increased at succeeding sales until the peak was reached on 12th June, when medium and light weights realised to 65s. per 100 lb. Demand then eased a little and values declined until at closing auctions, medium weights sold at 53s. to 60s. and light weight sorts at 54s. to 61s. per 100 lb.

Steers Plentiful.

Light and medium weight drafts of chiefly good trade standard comprised the bulk of the offering of steers, although prime lots were more in evidence than of late. Heavy descriptions were scarce.

The market at opening was firm at the closing values of the previous month and, following the trend already mentioned, rates increased and on 12th June were 60s. to 65s. per 100 lb., declining to 54s. to 62s. at the end of the month.

Cows Moderately Supplied.

Cows were available in moderate numbers only and comprised chiefly fair to good light and medium weight lines, prime and heavy sorts being relatively scarce.

As with other classes, a similar tendency was noticeable in prices, which ranged from firm at opening to 50s. to 55s. and 52s. to 57s. for heavy and light descriptions respectively on 12th June, and then decreased to 45s. to 51s. and 47s. to 54s. per 100 lb. at closing sales.

Good Showing of Heifers.

Although only moderate supplies of heifers were yarded, quality showed some improvement, light and medium weight lots of chiefly good to prime grades comprising a substantial proportion of those offered.

May's closing quotations were fully realised at the first sale in June and rates then appreciated to 56s. to 63s. per 100 lb. on 12th idem. Values subsequently declined to the closing price of 50s. to 56s. per 100 lb.

Vealers Well Supplied.

Vealers were plentiful during the month, and consisted mainly of light and medium weights of fair to good trade standard, although prime drafts were more in evidence than for some months.

Rates at opening sales were slightly in advance of those ruling at the end of May, and increased to 65s. to 75s. on 12th June. As the demand weakened, values declined and at closing were 58s. to 67s. per 100 lb.

CATTLE—JUNE, 1947.

Values shown in shillings per 100 lb. :—Based on selling price per head of live beast and estimated dressed weight of carcase.

Date.	Number Yarded.	Bullocks.		Steers.	Cows.		Heifers.	Vealers.
		Medium.	Light.	All Weights.	Heavy.	Light.	All Weights.	All Weights.
		675–775 lb.	575–675 lb.		Over 575 lb.	400–575 lb.		Approximately 200–400 lb.
29 May	2,163	55–62	55–62	55–62	49–53	49–55	50–57	60–68
2 June	1,613	58–62	57–62	57–62	49–53	49–55	50–57	62–69
5 ,,	1,747	57–61	57–62	58–63	49–53	49–55	50–58	62–69
9 ,,	1,312	59–64	59–64	59–65	50–55	52–57	56–63	65–73
12 ,,	2,587	59–65	60–65	60–65	50–55	52–57	56–63	65–75
19 ,,	2,419	58–62	59–63	59–64	50–55	52–57	56–61	65–73
23 ,,	1,937	58–63	58–64	59–64	49–55	50–57	56–61	64–72
26 ,,	2,524	53–60	54–61	54–62	45–51	47–54	50–56	58–67
30 ,,	2,045	53–60	54–61	54–62	45–51	47–54	50–56	58–67

D. McGREGOR.

PIGS.

Reduced Numbers Yarded.

The number of pigs available showed a reduction on the previous month's aggregate, pennings amounting to 5,419 head of which 2,653 were received by rail, principally from country centres, the balance of the receivals being by road transport from Metropolitan and near country piggeries. For the corresponding period last year 7,219 head of pigs were offered.

Rates Decline for Bacon.

Supplies of baconers were well maintained with suitable trade light to medium weight grades comprising a good proportion of the offerings. Fair numbers of good trade heavy descriptions were available while, on occasions, extra heavy weights made a good showing. The market throughout showed some irregularity and on an average the cost of bacon was lower than during the previous month. At the opening auctions, light weight baconers were a little dearer, although other classes generally showed an easier tendency. Subsequent sales were mostly cheaper for practically all grades, but at times values for prime heavy grades did not alter to any appreciable extent. Light weight baconers sold from £4 5s. 6d. per head and mostly cost from 10d. to 11½d. per lb., with odd lots from 11¾d. to 12d. Medium weight baconers made to 12d. per lb., but for the most part were worth from 10d. to 11¾d. Occasional lines of prime heavyweight baconers cost 12d. per lb., but a large proportion of those available sold at from 10¼d. to 11¾d. Extra heavy grades of baconers which sold to £10 1s. 6d. per head during May, realised to £9 10s. 6d. per head during June, and although this class of pig brought from 9¾d. to 10¾d. at the commencement of the period operators at the concluding sales secured their requirements at from 9d. to 9¾d. per lb.

Values of Backfatters Easier.

Moderate numbers of backfatters were submitted, but prime heavy grades were in fairly short supply, those available being chiefly good trade light to medium weights. Fair supplies of boars were included and these met with a much better inquiry than was evident last month. Rates for backfatters were well maintained at the commencement of the period, but subsequently sales were marked by easier to cheaper values. The average cost of backfatters was below that of the previous month when up to £15 3s. 6d. was obtained as against the highest price of £14 18s. 6d. during the period reviewed. Light weight descriptions estimated to dress from 250 lb. to 350 lb. made from 6¾d. to 9d. and the heavy class, estimated to weigh over 350 lb. dressed, were worth from 6¼d. to 8½d. per lb.

Rates for Porkers Irregular.

Porkers were fairly well represented throughout, although on occasions prime lines were scarce. Good trade medium to heavy weight grades predominated, prime lightweights being in relatively short supply. Rates were somewhat irregular throughout and while a dearer market ruled at the commencement of the period, rates later on generally were cheaper. Extra light porkers made to 63s. 6d. per head and up to 15¾d. per lb., but mostly cost from 10d. to 14¾d. per lb., being cheapest at the closing auction. Light weight porkers, estimated to dress between 50 lb. and 60 lb., sold up to 71s. 6d. per head and reached 14½d. per lb., although rates mostly ranged from 11d. to 13¼d. per lb. In the medium weight range of porker, estimated to weigh from 60 lb. to 80 lb., realisations reached 93s. 6d. per head and, while mostly costing from 11d. to 13½d. per lb., at times 14½d. per lb. was paid. Good heavy grades, estimated to dress out between 80 lb. and 90 lb., sold up to £5 0s. 6d. per head and generally were worth from 10¾d. to 12¾d. per lb., although on occasions the cost of the carcase reached as high as 13¾d. per lb. Although prices fluctuated, at times they reached higher levels than those which were obtained during the previous month. A keen demand was manifest for all suitable store pigs and rates did not vary to any appreciable extent.

—G. COLEMAN.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

June, 1947.

FRUIT.

Apples Again Principally Interstate and Lightly Supplied.

Most of the apples offered on the market during the month were from interstate sources, principally Tasmania, Western Australia and Victoria. Supplies generally were insufficient for the requirements of the retail trade and values remained at high levels, although a slight reduction was apparent in the case of the highest-priced lines. Best local Delicious realised from 34s.