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

AUGUST, 1947.

Local and Interstate Potatoes Scarce.

There was a marked reduction in the quantity available for trading, the offering being the smallest since March last. Only 115,315 bags came to hand, compared with a total of 215,965 bags on offer in July. Arrivals from Tasmania at Sussex-street totalled 59,690 bags and consisted of No. 1 grade Brownells, Bismarcks, Snowflakes and Up-to-Dates. About 121,920 bags were received last month. Victorian consignments at Alexandria were reduced to 53,868 bags of No. 1 grade Carmans and Snowflakes. Local supplies were also very light and amounted to 1,755 bags, the offering including 244 bags of No. 3 grade Factors and 1,531 bags of seed Factors. These tubers were forwarded mainly from the Crookwell district. The bulk of the receivals were available for trading and no difficulty was experienced in disposing of all lines as supplies were insufficient for requirements.

Prices fixed for the month ending 31st August, Sydney basis, were:—Wholesaler's Prices to Retailers:—Local and Interstate—No. 1 grade and undergrades £10 per ton, plus cartage, which must not exceed 10s. 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 N.S.W. 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.

Little Alteration in Swede Prices.

Arrivals were again fairly light, 815 bags being received from local centres at Alexandria. Quality varied considerably and sales were made at £8 to £9, with a few at £7 10s. At auction £7 5s. was realised, while 170 bags of medium brought £4 1s. 8d. per ton. Tasmanian consignments at Sussex-street were again reduced to total 834 bags. Most sales were effected at £8 10s. to £9, with a few at £10 per ton.

Other Root Vegetables Again Scarce.

Receivals were limited to 586 bags of Victorian carrots at Alexandria. Although supplies were light, demand was slow, early sales being made at £7 to £8, while at closing £5 per ton was realised. Only seventy-nine bags arrived from Tasmania at Sussex-street, but no rates were disclosed. At Darling Harbour, one truck of Victorian carrots was received and brought £5 per ton. Tasmanian parsnip supplies at Sussex-street amounted to thirty-six bags which were cleared at £12 per ton.

Increased Rates for Pumpkins.

Supplies at Alexandria increased when 104 trucks came to hand, including thirty-nine from local centres and fifteen from Queensland. Although larger quantities were available, request was good and rates were firmer. During the first half of the period, clearances were effected at £7 to £9, while at closing quotations ranged from £6 10s. to £7 per ton. Queensland lines brought £8 to £9, few £10 per ton.

Onions Rationed to Buyers—Sell Readily.

Consignments were again reduced, 5,280 bags being on offer at Alexandria. The supply included 2,650 bags of Victorian brown table, compared with 5,639 bags available in July. Sales were made at approximately £21 per ton. The first consignment of new season's Queensland onions, totalling 2,603 bags, came to hand and were readily disposed of at £28 per ton.

Oaten Chaff Arrivals Heavier.

Receivals increased by twenty-nine trucks when 161 trucks were forward. The total included sixty trucks from Victoria and two from South Australia. Prime and choice lines were in request, but other grades sold slowly. Inferior was quoted at £7 10s., med. £9 10s., good sound £9 10s. to £10, and prime at £10 5s. An extra charge was made for new bags. At auction, nine trucks were submitted, damaged bringing £5 5s. to £8, medium £8 to £8 11s. 8d., and good sound £9 15s. to £10 per ton.

Wheaten Chaff Well Supplied.

Receivals increased to thirty-five trucks, the supply including three trucks from Victoria. Demand was good, especially for prime lines which brought ceiling rates. Medium lots realised £8, good sound £9 10s., and prime £10 5s. An extra charge was made for new bags. Three trucks were sold by auction, inferior being quoted at £6 10s., medium £6 16s. 8d. and good sound £9 15s. per ton.

Lucerne Chaff Prices Maintained.

A total of twenty-eight trucks was received. A good demand ruled for most lines and rates showed little alteration. Good sound cleared at £12 to £13, while prime and choice were sold at £13 10s. A few prime lots which were disposed of late in the period realised £14. An extra charge was made for new bags.

Lucerne Threshings, Dust and Pods.

Two trucks of threshings were offered for trading and brought £8 15s. and £11. Only forty-eight bags of lucerne pods arrived and were disposed of at £10, while twenty-nine bags of lucerne dust realised £14 10s. per ton.

Lucerne Hay Continues to Sell Well.

A larger quantity was on offer, seventy-eight trucks being forward, compared with sixty in July. Receivals from the Maitland district totalled thirty-seven trucks. Request for all lines was good early, new soft green bringing £7 to £8 10s., few £5, and some well-made lines £10, but later in the period supplies were more than sufficient for requirements and rates were lower. New soft green realised £5 to £7 10s., well-made £7 10s. to £8 10s. and a few special £10 per ton. Consignments from other centres showed an increase of seven trucks, forty-one being available including twelve and a half of derrick pressed. Prime and choice lines were in request, but other grades, particularly derrick pressed, sold at reduced prices. Quotations for medium lots ranged from £10 to £11, good sound £11 10s., prime £12 to £12 5s., and choice £12 5s., while derrick-pressed medium grassy brought £6 10s., medium £8 5s. and good sound £8 10s. to £9 10s. At auction two trucks of medium were sold at £4 5s. and £6 7s. 5d. per ton.

Increased Supplies of Oaten Hay.

Consignments increased to twenty-nine trucks, the supply consisting of twenty-four of rack and five of derrick pressed. Rack lines moved out slowly at times, as supplies exceeded the demand. Sales of good sound were recorded at £9 to £10, prime and choice £11 to £11 10s., and derrick pressed £8 2s. 6d. to £9 per ton. Wheaten hay arrivals totalled four trucks of derrick pressed. Inferior lines brought £4 10s. to £5, whilst one truck of mild wheaten and oaten realised £8 per ton.

Prime and Choice Straw in Demand.

Receivals were again fairly heavy and amounted to fifty-two trucks, comprising seven of local and thirty-three of Victorian oaten and twelve of local wheaten. Request for prime was good, but other grades sold slowly at lower levels. Good sound local oaten realised £5, prime £7 to £7 10s., Victorian damaged £4 10s. to £4 15s., prime £7 to £7 10s., and choice £7 10s. Inferior and stained wheaten were disposed of at £3, good sound £4 10s. to £5 5s. and prime £6 10s. A total of seven trucks was offered for auction sale, stained bringing £4, damaged £4 1s. 8d., and good sound £4 10s. to £4 16s. 8d. per ton.

NOTE.—All forage was subject to additional freight charges.

On the 22nd August, the Deputy Prices Commissioner allowed an increase of 10s. per ton in the price of forage. The rate for new bags is 9s. 6d. per dozen. Maximum prices are now as follow :—

	£	s.	d.
Hay—Oaten, wheaten and mixed	9	10	0
Hay—Lucerne	12	15	0
Chaff—Oaten, wheaten and mixed	10	15	0
Chaff—Lucerne	14	0	0

Wheat Supplies Limited.

At Alexandria, twenty-four trucks were forward, including eighteen from South Australia. The bulk of these arrivals were taken direct to store.

Maize Sells at Lower Rates.

Supplies totalled 3,909 bags, compared with 4,198 bags available during July. Although receivals were lighter, demand was slow and sales were made at lower rates. Arrivals from local centres amounted to 2,434 bags of yellow and 1,339 of white, while 136 bags of yellow came to hand from Queensland. Local yellow brought 6s. 10d. to 7s. and small yellow 7s. 1d. and 7s. 2d. per bushel.

Demand Slow for Oats—Prices Below Maximum.

Consignments at Alexandria, which were reduced by four trucks, amounted to seven trucks and included one from Victoria. At auction three trucks realised 4s. to 4s. 3½d. per bushel.

Rates for Milo Seed Reduced.

Receivals at Alexandria increased to eleven trucks and twenty-five bags, but request was limited. Realisations for seven and a half trucks sold at auction ranged from 4s. 11½d. to 5s. 6d. per bushel.

The Deputy Prices Commissioner has authorised an increase in maximum grain prices from 22nd August. The new maximum rates are as follow:—

Oats: Feed 4s. 1½d., Milling 4s. 5½d., Seed 5s. 1½d. per 40-lb. bushel.

Maize: Varieties other than white—

Truck lots 7s. 10½d. per 56-lb. bushel.

Lots less than a truck, but not less than 1 ton 8s. 5½d. per 56-lb. bushel.

C. H. FERRY.