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Values shown in pence per lb.:—Based on selling price per head of live animals and estimated dressed weight of carcass.

Date of Sale, 1947	5 August.	12 August.	19 August.	26 August.
Number yarded each Sale	1,620	1,652	1,682	1,200
Estimated prices per lb. for:—	d.	d.	d.	d.
Porkers—35-50 lb. Extra light	12½-15½	12½-15½	13-15½	13-15½
" 50-60 lb. Light	12½-14½	12½-14½	13-15	13-15½
" 60-70 lb. Medium	12½-14½	12½-14½	13-14½	13-14½
" 70-80 lb. Medium	12½-14½	12½-14½	12½-14½	13-14½
" 80-90 lb. Heavy	12½-14	12½-14	12½-14	13-14
Intermediates—90-100 lb.	12½-12½	12½-12½	12½-13	12½-13
Baconers—100-110 lb. Light	11½-12½	11½-12½	11½-12½	11½-12½
" 110-120 lb. Light	11½-12	11½-12	11½-12½	11½-12½
" 120-130 lb. Medium	11½-12	11½-12	11½-12	11½-12½
" 130-160 lb. Heavy	11½-12	11½-12	11½-12	11½-12
" 160-180 lb. Extra heavy	11½-11½	11½-11½	11½-11½	11½-12
" 180-200 lb. Extra heavy	11-11½	11-11½	11-11½	11½-11½
" 200-240 lb. Extra heavy	9½-11	9½-11	9½-11	9½-11
Backfatters—250-350 lb.	7½-9½	7½-9½	7½-9½	7½-9½
" 350 lb. and over	7½-9	7½-9	7½-9½	7½-9½

G. COLEMAN.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

AUGUST, 1947.

FRUIT.

Dessert Apples Continue to be Relatively Scarce.

Offerings of choice coloured dessert apples were, at all times, insufficient for the requirements of the retail trade and values generally were well maintained at the high levels recorded previously, whilst some varieties were dearer. Most of the supplies were from interstate sources. Towards the close of the period an increase in consignments of New South Wales Delicious, principally from the Orange district, resulted in rates receding slightly and few sales exceeded 35s. per bushel case. Prices showed little fluctuation and representative quotations were as follows:—*New South Wales*: Delicious 17s. to 34s., selected counts 35s. to 38s., few 40s.; Rome Beauty 18s. to 26s., few special 27s. to 32s.; Democrat 14s. to 22s., special to 25s.; Dougherty 15s. to 30s.; Granny Smith 14s. to 24s., choice 25s. to 28s., few 30s., special sizes higher. *Tasmanian*: Crofton 17s. to 26s.; Democrat 13s. to 20s.; Rokewood 16s. to 20s.; Rome Beauty 20s. to 24s.; Sturmer 14s.; Granny Smith 14s. to 20s. *Western Australian*: Yates 20s. to 25s. Granny Smith 16s. to 22s. *Victorian*: Delicious 25s.

to 33s.; Jonathan 20s. to 28s.; Rome Beauty 20s. to 28s.; King Cole 18s. to 26s.; Statesman 18s. to 28s.; Democrat 16s. to 20s.; Granny Smith 14s. to 18s., few higher; Dunn's Seedling 12s. to 16s. *South Australian*: Jonathan 22s. to 28s.; Rome Beauty 18s. to 24s. A percentage of inferior and very small fruit was cheaper than the minimum prices quoted above.

Pears Slightly Dearer.

The dull retail demand for pears reported at the close of July continued to adversely affect sales during the first week of the current month. Subsequently, however, request improved and prices for the remainder of the period were generally slightly higher than previously. Rates throughout the greater part of the month were as follows:—*New South Wales*: Packham's Triumph 8s. to 18s., Special 20s. to 22s.; Josephine 8s. to 15s. *Victorian*: Packham's Triumph 7s. to 16s.; Winter Cole and Josephine 7s. to 14s., special 15s. to 16s.; Beurre Bosc 7s. to 12s., few special 13s. to 14s.; Winter Nelis 5s. to 12s., few special 14s. *Tamarian*: Josephine 10s. to 14s. per bushel case. Towards closing, however, receipts from Victoria increased and the market had a considerably weaker tendency, sellers being unable to effect complete clearances before the close of the last trading week.

Prices for Bananas Remain Stable.

Moderate consignments of bananas from Northern districts of New South Wales were augmented by approximately 4,450 cases from Queensland. Prices generally were on a par with those quoted in last report, best 9-inch Cavendish bananas bringing 44s. to 48s. per case.

Realisations for Navel Oranges Remain at Moderate Levels.

Offerings of Navel oranges were sufficient for the needs of the retail trade on all selling days and values showed little fluctuation. The market generally was slightly firmer than during the previous month and well-coloured packs of selected counts frequently realised 13s. to 14s. per bushel case. Most sales of Standards, however, took place within the range of 7s. to 12s. Supplies were principally from the coastal districts but increased consignments came to hand from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area during the latter half of the month.

Lemons Sell Slowly at Low Rates.

Receipts of lemons throughout the period were at all times far in excess of retail requirements. Considerable quantities were purchased by factory buyers but sellers were unable to maintain satisfactory clearances. Early in the month most sales took place at from 4s. to 6s., with specially selected packs 7s. to 8s. and occasionally higher, but subsequently it became necessary to reduce prices still further and main quotations varied from 3s. to 5s. although single-case lots of choice quality continued to realise more. A percentage of inferior packs was included and these could not be disposed of even when offered as low as 1s. per bushel case.

Firm Large Mandarins Comparatively Scarce.

Mandarins were plentiful throughout the month but choice large fruit in firm condition represented only a small proportion of the total offering and realised mainly from 14s. to 18s., with a few special to 20s. per bushel case. Stocks of medium grade mandarins were more than sufficient for requirements and cleared quietly on most occasions at prices varying from 5s. to 12s., according to size and quality. Small sizes were neglected by buyers even when offered from 2s.

Realisations for Passionfruit again Decline.

Increased supplies of passionfruit were forward and values consequently continued to recede. Early in the period as high as 24s. per half case was obtained for choice well-coloured packs but, subsequently, most sales for this class of fruit took place at from 16s. to 20s. A large percentage of lines lacking in colour was included in offerings and sellers experienced considerable difficulty in maintaining disposals despite appreciable purchases by factory buyers. Quotations for medium to good lots covered the wide range of 6s. to 14s.

Papaws More Plentiful.

Consignments of papaws from Queensland were larger, amounting to 5,120 tropical cases. Most of the additional supplies, however, were received in the last two weeks of the period. At opening, a temporary shortage had resulted in prices for choice advancing sharply to range from 24s. to 30s., but most quotations varied from 10s. to 20s. according to size, condition of ripeness, and quality. A much smaller percentage of green and lightly coloured lines was apparent and stocks generally opened up in good condition. Fruit of popular counts (20 to 25 to the case) cleared well but a considerable proportion of offerings which was of large size (10 to 15 to the case) was difficult to clear.

Retail Demand for Queensland Pineapples Declines.

Stocks of Queensland pineapples received during the month, amounted to 26,130 tropical cases. Early in the period clearances were satisfactory and best packs brought from 22s. to 25s. Subsequently, however, a sharp decline in the retail demand occurred. This was attributed partly to the period of very cold weather, but more particularly to the increasing incidence of "Black Heart" condition. Closing quotations were much weaker and varied mainly from 10s. to 18s., with a few to 20s. per tropical case.

Queensland Strawberries Heavily Supplied.

Receivals of strawberries from Queensland exceeded the demand on most selling days and sellers were obliged to carry over stocks. A percentage of waste occurred both in carry-over lots and in fresh consignments. Most realisations varied from 12s. to 24s. per dozen packets although special quality lines brought 30s. and occasionally 36s. on some days.

Other Fruit.

Representative ranges of prices for other main lines of fruit on offer were as follow:—Grape Fruit (N.S.W.): 4s. to 6s., few special to 10s. per bushel case. Custard Apples (Queensland): 8s. to 16s. Avocados (Queensland): round 6s. to 10s., Fuerte and similar 15s. to 20s., special to 25s. per half case.

VEGETABLES.**Considerable Variation in Prices for Peas.**

Supplies of peas, which comprised approximately 29,000 bags from New South Wales growing areas and 3,400 sugar bags from Queensland, were slightly larger than during the previous month. Receivals were not regular, however, and prices as a result showed considerable fluctuation. During periods of temporary acute shortage best lines realised 28s. and occasionally 30s. per bushel but on many trading days sellers found it impossible to realise more than 22s. Medium grades were available at most times from 14s., whilst a percentage of inferior and frost-damaged lots was cheaper.

Choice Beans Comparatively Scarce.

A marked falling-off in supplies of beans from northern coastal districts of New South Wales was apparent and less than 8,000 bags were received. Queensland consignments also were lighter, comprising 9,700 cases and 1,200 sugar bags. The offerings on most selling days were insufficient for trade requirements and choice lines brought 20s. to 24s. per bushel, with special grades 25s. to 26s. On occasions, due to an extreme scarcity, as much as 30s. and more was obtained. Medium to good grades brought mainly from 10s. to 18s., whilst a large proportion of dry, "curly," seedy, and generally unattractive beans was offered at considerably lower prices. Some improvement in the quality of stocks from Queensland was apparent in the latter half of the month.

Market for Tomatoes Over-Supplied with Ripe North Queensland Lots.

Receivals of tomatoes from Queensland were heavier, amounting to 154,600 half cases, most of which were forwarded from northern Queensland. The market was over-supplied with ripe packs and, during a considerable portion of the month, realisations for these stocks of fruit ranged from 2s. to 4s. per half case. Some coloured and green packs, however, sold satisfactorily at 5s. to 6s., whilst towards the end of the month values improved, 8s. and occasionally 10s. being obtained. South Queensland lots were adversely affected by the low rates ruling for northern and, throughout the greater part of the period, few realisations exceeded 10s. Receivals of field grown tomatoes from near-metropolitan districts declined sharply and by the third week of August had almost ceased. Increasing quantities of local glass-house became available, however, and although as much as 18s. per half case was obtained at opening, the market receded to range mainly from 8s. to 14s., with small sizes from 4s.

Cabbages Sell Steadily at Moderate Levels.

Offerings of cabbages on most mornings were sufficient for the needs of the retail trade. Consignments generally were regular and rates showed little fluctuation, varying mainly from 3s. to 8s. per dozen, although choice large heads brought 10s. and occasionally 12s.

Increased Stocks of Cauliflowers Result in Cheaper Rates.

Supplies of cauliflowers in the producers' market were again larger during the month, particularly within the period 11th to 14th August, when offerings assumed glut proportions and despite extensive purchases by factory buyers a considerable accumulation occurred. Early in the month as much as 20s. was obtained for specially selected large heads but during the period of over-supply sellers found it difficult to realise more than 8s., even for best lots. Towards closing, the market recovered and representative quotations ranged from 2s. to 12s. for small and medium sizes, whilst choice large heads brought 13s. to 15s. and occasionally higher.

Realisations for Lettuce Show No Improvement.

Offerings of lettuce on all selling days were more than sufficient to meet the demand. Choice packs represented only a small proportion of the total supply and brought from 7s. to 10s. at most times. Sellers experienced considerable difficulty, however, in maintaining clearances of medium to good grades at rates varying from 2s. to 6s. per case.

Other Main Vegetable Lines.

Representative ranges of prices for other main lines of vegetables available were as follow:—Celery: (South Australian) 8s. to 18s., choice 20s. to 24s., few special brands higher. Marrows: (Queensland) 6s. to 10s., few 12s. to 14s. per crate. Carrots: 5s. to 12s., special to 16s., few higher. Parsnips: (N.S.W.) 8s. to 16s., few higher (early sales to 22s.); (Victorian) 12s. to 20s. (early sales to 24s.). Potatoes: (No. 1 grade) 10s., fixed maximum price. Onions: (Victorian) Brown 23s. 6d.; (N.S.W. and Queensland) Brown and White 29s. 6d., fixed maximum prices, per cwt.

T. M. McKEON.
