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

OCTOBER, 1948.

Potato Supplies Exceptionally Light.

Fair quantities were available last month (151,901 bags), but a marked reduction occurred in October, supplies from all sources totalling only 34,119 bags. This is the smallest quantity for a considerable time. Local offerings at Alexandria amounted to 2,945 bags which consisted of 1,305 bags of Nos. 1, 2 and 3 grade Factors, and 1,640 of seed which arrived from the Crookwell and Batlow districts. A consignment of 162 bags of No. 1 grade Factors and Katahdins was received from Queensland. Tasmanian receivals at Sussex-street aggregated only 31,012 bags and comprised mostly No. 1 grade Brownells, although a few Snowflakes were included. Most of the offerings were available for trading but were not nearly sufficient for requirements.

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

Swede Prices High.

Consignments from both local and interstate sources were again very scarce. Alexandria supplies consisted of 745 bags from local centres and 333 bags from Queensland. Demand was very keen and during the first half of the month local sold at £13 to £22, but later increased to £25 to £34. Queensland brought £18 to £32 per ton.

Other Root Vegetables Again Scarce.

A consignment of 138 bags of Victorian parsnips arrived at Alexandria and sold at £30 per ton. Supplies of local beetroot at Alexandria amounted to 45 bags which realised £8 to £10 per ton, few higher. The 30 bags of Queensland sweet potatoes received brought £32 per ton.

Queensland Onions in Heavy Supply.

There was a further increase in the quantity of Queensland onions on offer at Alexandria. The total of 28,778 bags was the highest for the past twelve months. Rates covered a fairly wide range and, at times, stocks of carry-over lines were large. Early in the month new season's brown realised £14 to £17, with inferior £10, but later £12 to £14 was obtained, inferior selling at £9 to £10. White brought £18 to £22 early, later sales being recorded at £14 to £19, while at closing choice were quoted at £20 and other grades at £14 to £16 per ton.

Pumpkin Prices Extremely High.

Receivals at Alexandria were again reduced, only 19½ trucks being available for trading in contrast to a supply of 57 trucks in September. Demand was very keen, and all lines sold readily at high prices. The total included 14 trucks from Queensland, 5 from Victoria, and 78 bags from local centres. Queensland realised £60 to £70, Victorian Triambles £42 to £50. One truck of "Queensland Blues" from Victoria brought £72 at auction. Local was quoted early at £50 per ton.

Oaten Chaff Offerings Again Reduced.

Only 117 trucks were offered for trading compared with 137 trucks in September. Demand, except for choice grades, was fairly quiet in spite of the light supplies. Rates showed little change. Medium brought £6 to £7 10s. od., good sound £8 to £9 10s. od., prime £9 to £10 10s. od. (few £11), and choice £10 10s. od. to £11 (few £11 5s. od.). Auction sales included 2 trucks of medium which realised £6 11s. 8d. per ton.

Wheaten Chaff Supplies Lighter.

A reduction of 2 trucks made the month's total of 19 trucks the lightest for four months. This quantity, however, was quite adequate for trade needs and prices showed little variation. Medium was quoted at £7 5s. od. to £7 10s. od., good sound at £8 10s. od., prime at £9 10s. od. to £11, and choice at £11. Two trucks of medium were auctioned and brought £5 18s. 4d. per ton.

Lucerne Chaff Continues to Sell Well.

Stocks increased to 39 trucks, 32 being available last month. Demand was good for prime and choice lots, but other grades sold slowly. Medium cleared at £7 to £8, good sound at £8 to £9 10s. od., prime at £9 10s. od. to £11 5s. od., and choice at £12 to £12 10s. od., few £13 per ton.

Lucerne Meal.

Only one truck of prime came to hand for which £14 10s. od. per ton was paid.

Price of Maitland Lucerne Hay Lower.

Consignments from the Maitland district increased slightly to total 79 trucks. Most offerings met a good request, but rates were easier. New soft green realised £4 to £5 10s. od. (few £3 to £3 10s. od.), and well-made £6 (few £6 10s. od. to £6 15s. od.). A few small baled special lots brought £8, and derrick pressed well made £5 to £7, few early £7 10s. od. per ton. Truckings from other centres also increased to amount to 53 trucks, including 20 of derrick pressed. A total of 31 trucks was received last month. Demand for new season's prime and choice grades was good, but other lines sold slowly. Quotations were as follow:—Medium, £6; good sound, £6 10s. od. to £7 10s. od.; half baled good sound, £7; new season's spring cut good sound, £6 10s. od. to £7; grassy, £7 10s. od. to £8; slightly heated, £8 to £8 10s. od.; prime, £9 to £10 10s. od.; choice, £10 to £11; few early, £12 10s. od. Derrick pressed heated brought £4, good sound £4 10s. od. to £5 10s. od., and prime £6 to £7 10s. od. per ton.

Oaten Hay Supply Light.

Stocks were again reduced, only 12 trucks being available. The supply consisted of 8 trucks of rack oaten and 4 of derrick pressed. No prime or choice rack was available. The medium and stained on offer sold at £5 to £6. Derrick pressed good sound realised £6 10s. od., few choice £8 per ton.

New Season's Wheaten Hay Arrives.

A total of 5 trucks came to hand. Opening sales of choice derrick pressed were recorded at £7 10s. od., and later sales at £6 10s. od. to £6 15s. od. per ton.

Oaten Straw Sells Well.

Last month's supply was exceeded by 14 trucks when 42 came to hand. Prime and choice lines sold readily. Stained oaten was quoted at £4, good sound at £6 to £7, and prime and choice at £8, few £8 10s. od. Five trucks of wheaten were included in the total, good sound selling at £6 15s. od. to £7. At auction, medium brought £4 per ton.

Increased Consignments of Wheat.

Supplies were fairly heavy and at Alexandria aggregated 100 trucks; 74 were forward in September. No f.a.q. wheat was available as this grade is handled by the Wheat Board. Most of the trucks were offered for auction sale, pick-ups realising 2s. 3d. to 6s., and inferior 4s. 10d. to 6s. 7d. per bushel.

Maize Very Scarce.

Supplies were smaller than the September offering, which was very light. Stocks totalled only 2,545 bags and consisted of 2,329 of local yellow and 216 of white. The bulk of the supply was not offered for sale but taken direct to store. A few sales of yellow were recorded at 10s. to 10s. 9d. per bushel.

Oats in Short Supply.

Truckings at Alexandria were again light, only 10 trucks coming to hand. Five were sold by auction, inferior bringing 3s. to 3s. 6d., and feed 4s. 1d. per bushel.

C. H. FERRY.