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Higher Rates for Porkers.

Demand for the limited supplies of good to prime porkers offering was exceptionally keen, and operators were unable to secure their full requirements. Bidding was very keen at all sales and rates showed a further increase on those prevailing last month, good quality light and medium-weight porkers making to 14½d. per lb. Good heavy-weight pork sold to 14d. per lb., while up to £4 19s. 6d. per head, and occasionally higher, was obtained for prime quality lines.

Moderate supplies of suitable store pigs were yarded and good clearances were effected at prices comparable with those obtained during the previous month.

Owing to the intervention of the Christmas holiday period it was decided that the last sale of pigs at the Homebush Abattoir Pig Saleyards would be held on Tuesday, 17th December, 1946, and that sales in the New Year would be resumed on Tuesday, 7th January, 1947.

G. COLEMAN.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

November, 1946.

FRUIT.

Apples Less Plentiful.

The quantity of apples being marketed dwindled off considerably. The main demand, particularly towards the end of the month, centred on New South Wales Granny Smiths, values of which increased, best packs realising to 35s. per bushel case. New South Wales and Victorian Yates were forward throughout the period, but supplies of other varieties were limited. Very little-Tasmanian fruit was received.

Light Supplies of Pears.

Regular consignments of Victorian Josephine and Winter Nelispears were received, though quantities were relatively light. Values remained fairly stable at 14s. to 24s. and 10s. to 22s., occasionally 24s. per bushel, respectively. Very few other varieties, were offered.

Pineapples and Bananas in Short Supply.

A keen demand prevailed for pineapples and bananas, supplies mostly being insufficient to satisfy requirements. All choice fruit realised maximum wholesale rates.

Steady Demand for Papaws.

Consignments of papaws from Queensland aggregated approximately 2,000 tropical cases weekly. With prices generally ranging from 10s. to 20s. per case, steady sales were effected.

Good Demand for Choice Valencia Oranges.

Fairly substantial quantities of Valencia oranges were marketed throughout November. The bulk, however, consisted of medium quality and plain grade fruit which was rather slow of sale on many occasions. Choice large clean packs were somewhat scarce and in demand, realising 20s. to 24s. per bushel case.

Increased Supplies of Peaches.

The quantity of peaches being marketed showed a gradual increase, fairly substantial supplies being forward on most days during the latter part of the month. Choice quality large peaches sold readily, but in many instances much of the fruit was small and rather slow to clear.

As much as 30s, per half-case was obtained early, but over the last week only special brands realised more than 18s.

Choice Cherries in Demand.

Adequate consignments of early and mid-season cherries were received from the Young and Orange districts. Rain which occurred about mid-November adversely affected fruit being marketed at that time, many lots opening in medium to poor condition. Demand for choice packs was satisfactory, values mainly ranging from 12s. to 14s. per quarter-case.

VEGETABLES.

Rains received during November had a beneficial effect on crops. Increased quantities were received, particularly during the latter half of the month, and quality showed much improvement.

Beans Plentiful and Cheap.

Consignments of beans increased considerably. Supplies were received mainly from the North Coast and the Gosford-Tuggerah districts. Fair quantities of Queensland produce was available for the first three weeks. Stocks from local gardens, offered in the Growers' section, were substantial during the last week. Many of the deliveries from the North Coast continued to arrive in medium to poor condition, but over the last few weeks mostly good quality beans were marketed from other centres. Values declined appreciably. Whereas 10s. to 26s. was obtained on 1st November, quotations were 1s. to 6s., with a few 7s., per bushel on Friday, 29th; even at these low rates clearances were difficult to effect.

Pea Values Fall.

For the first three weeks of the month values for peas remained fairly steady at 10s. to 20s., with best quality lots to 24s., and occasionally higher. During this period quite a percentage of supplies were of inferior quality, selling from 5s. per bushel. Subsequently, with the increased quantities on offer, together with heavier supplies of beans, values were much lower. At the ruling

rates of 5s. to 12s. during the last week, demand by the ordinary trade was insufficient to clear stocks, and many lines were sold to factories.

Numerous consignments of Victorian peas were received during November.

Cabbages Slow of Sale.

Cabbages were well supplied from New South Wales growing centres, but Queensland consignments were much smaller. October closing rates were maintained during the first half of the month but, owing to the plentiful supplies of peas and beans over the last two weeks, demand was limited and values depreciated by 50 per cent., being 1s. to 6s. per dozen on the closing day.

Tomato Prices Fluctuate.

Heavy stocks of tomatoes from the North Coast were marketed. Local glasshouse supplies continued to come forward, and towards the end of November small quantities of metropolitan field crops were received. On a number of occasions fairly large purchases were made for resale on the Melbourne market. Variations in the weather were reflected in demand. A few days of unseasonably hot weather early in the month saw values of glasshouse rise temporarily to 28s. and 30s., and best North Coast packs to 24s. and 26s. per half-case. A continual decline brought rates for best quality down to 12s. on 25th and 26th. Closing quotations were firmer at up to 20s. per half-case.

Root Crops Dear.

Supplies of potatoes continued to be insufficient for requirements, with the result that demand for other root crops was keen. As these were in comparatively short supply, values were very high, both carrots and parsnips realising to 72s., and occasionally 8os. per cwt. Many consignments of carrots opened up in poor condition; some lots were unsaleable.

Pumpkins also brought up to 80s. per cwt.

Queensland Cucumbers Plentiful.

Some 21,500 cases of cucumbers were received from Queensland. Steady clearances were effected. Up to 15s. was paid during the first week, but for the remainder of the month prices were mostly about 3s. to 6s. per half-case.

H. G. Moon.