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**SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY**

June, 1946.

**SHEEP.****Further Improvement in Supplies.**

The number of sheep and lambs submitted for sale showed a further increase, supplies over the period amounting to 286,627 representing an increase of about 18,000 head on the previous month's total.

**Better Quality Offerings.**

The general standard of quality was fairly good, medium to good light trade wethers and ewes comprising a fairly large proportion of the 165,656 head penned. There was a much better showing of good to prime heavy wethers than in recent months, some very attractive drafts being available. Increased numbers of good quality shorn sheep were forward.

**High Prices Rule.**

The sheep-skin market, in which values showed a strong upward movement, considerably enhanced prices paid for sheep, realisations in many instances reaching high levels, some lots of prime grade making 43s. per head. Some irregularity was manifest, the market being 1s. to 2s. per head lower early in the period but rates subsequently recovered and closing values were very firm. The cost of mutton, however, did not reach the level of last month when wethers sold to 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and ewes to 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. Prices throughout June ranged from 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for heavy wethers with some prime lots reaching 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. and 6d. per lb. Light grades chiefly sold at from 5d. to 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. and occasionally 6d. per lb. Heavy ewes were worth from 4d. to 5d. and light sorts from 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb.

The advance in prices for sheep could largely be attributed to the improved skin values but part of the increase was also reflected in carcase costs, which were from  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. higher at the closing auctions than at the opening sales.

**Heavy Lambs Numerous.**

Lamb supplies were well maintained, 120,971 head being yarded. However, while the general standard of the offerings was fairly good, prime light descriptions were relatively scarce. Nevertheless, on occasions some attractive lots of early suckers were offered. The number of heavy lambs forward was fairly large, good to prime sorts ranging from 40 lb. to 50 lb. dressed weight being particularly well represented.

**Strong Demand for Lambs.**

A strong demand was evident for the most part, particularly for good to prime grades and rates were fairly well maintained, although on occasions some irregularity was noticed. Values, which were easier at early sales, subsequently improved, and at

closing were from  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. higher. Heavy lambs were worth from 8d. to  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. and light from  $8\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 10d., with odd lots of suckers making from 10d. to  $10\frac{1}{4}$ d. Sales were frequently made at prices ranging from 40s. to 46s. per head, and up to 51s. was obtained for some outstanding lambs. In common with sheep, the improved skin realisations tended materially to enhance the highly satisfactory prices which ruled during the month.

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## CATTLE.

### **Substantial Supplies Available.**

Large numbers of cattle continued to be received during June and although there were only seven sale days, 20,041 head were yarded, including 2,385 auctioned in the store section. The yarding on the 20th (3,735 head) was the largest for over six years.

Quality varied considerably but generally the standard was very fair. The proportion of grown stock available also fluctuated from day to day, the heavier types being relatively scarce at times. Dry weather continued over a large area of the State and drought conditions prevailed in many northern and north-western districts.

### **Steady Market for Bullocks.**

Supplies of bullocks were mostly fairly light although medium to heavy-weight drafts were well represented. Quality ranged from fair to good trade with occasional prime lots.

Average values were about equal to those of May and fluctuations were not marked. On most sale days, rates ranged to 53s. per 100 lb. but values were occasionally lower. Closing values for the respective weight grades were the reverse of usual, heavy being quoted to 53s., medium weights to 52s. and light to 51s.

### **Weaker Values for Steers.**

Steers were plentiful and included all grades of weight and quality. Lightweights predominated but on several occasions there was a good showing of medium to weighty sorts, some of which were of prime grade.

The market was not quite so strong as that of the previous month and 52s. per 100 lb. was the highest price secured at the commencement and close of the period. Rates, however, were occasionally higher, 55s. being reached on the 13th. On some sale days the highest value per 100 lb. was noted in respect of heavyweights, while at times, certain good trade light drafts were worth the equivalent of only 46s.

**Lighter Supplies of Cows.**

Numbers of cows forward were only moderate and penning consisted chiefly of light and medium weights, although on a few sale days prime heavy sorts comprised a noticeable proportion of the penning. This class met a steady enquiry and values gradually improved as the month progressed. Quotations were:— Heavy, 40s. to 44s.; light, 35s. to 42s. at opening, and heavy, 42s. to 46s.; light, 40s. to 45s. at closing.

**Good Showing of Heifers.**

In contrast with cows, heifers made a particularly satisfactory showing and included many medium and heavy lines of good trade to prime quality. The weaker trend in values noted towards the close of May continued early in the period when rates ranged from 40s. to 47s. per 100 lb. The market subsequently displayed some improvement and at closing good to prime lines realised from 43s. to 50s. per 100 lb.

**Vealers Well Represented.**

Vealers were well in evidence throughout the period and included all grades of weight and quality. Prime descriptions, however, were scarce and while good trade sorts constituted the bulk of supplies, the general quality on occasions was only fair.

The market fluctuated somewhat but average values were about equal to those of May. Rates ranged from 46s. to 54s., odd higher at opening, and 53s. to 60s. at closing.

**PIGS.****Supplies Fall Off.**

The decline in the number of pigs arriving at Homebush, which commenced during the second half of May, continued until the final sale in June. As a result, aggregate penning for the period totalled only 6,061 head, including 4,226 received by rail, compared with an aggregate of 8,502 head in May.

**Fluctuating Market for Baconers.**

Baconers, although in lighter supply, comprised a substantial proportion of the offerings. All grades of weight were included and quality for the most part could be described as good trade.

The market fluctuated considerably. The decline of the previous month was recovered during the first two sale days when equivalent values of most weight grades ranged to 9¼d. per lb. On the following sale day competition was extremely dull following rumours of possible industrial trouble at the Abattoirs. The market became very irregular and rates generally were lower; the great bulk of the consignments failed to realise 9d. per lb. and many sold from 7¾d. Competition at the closing sale was considerably brighter and values advanced sharply to reach the highest level since April, viz., 9¾d. per lb. On a "per head" basis prices ranged to £7 9s. 6d.

**Backfatters in Light Supply.**

Except on the final sale day, backfatters were in limited supply, particularly good quality heavy-weights. Good medium to heavy trade descriptions, however, were well in evidence at closing. The trend in values was similar to that for baconers, rates being highest at closing when quotations ranged to 6¾d. for light-weights and 6½d. for heavy lines. The highest price noted per head was £14.

**Good Stores Scarce.**

Consignments of porkers were variable, but supplies on the whole were moderate. Except on one sale day the offerings chiefly were of a type unsuitable for store purposes. Values were irregular, but good quality stores usually met a fairly keen inquiry and again sold to 12d. per lb. Some porkers, however, were worth only 7d.

J. R. WILLIAMS & G. COLEMAN.

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