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

October, 1946.

Potato Consignments Considerably Reduced.

There was a marked reduction in the quantity arriving from both Interstate and local sources during October, supplies being the smallest since January. Arrivals from Tasmania at Sussex-street comprised 97,269 bags and 17,445 crates. These tubers consisted chiefly of Brownells with only a few Snowflakes and Bismarcks. A large percentage was made available for general trading; but owing to delay in unloading it was necessary to regrade some lines. At Alexandria goods yard supplies from local centres showed a considerable decline, only 1,486 bags from the Oberon and Crookwell districts coming to hand, compared with last month's total of 5,133 bags. Included in the consignments were 583 bags of No. 2 and 3 grade Factors and 903 bags of seed Factors. Only No. 2 and 3 grade were available for trading. No supplies were received at Alexandria from Interstate sources during the period.

Prices fixed for the month ending 31st October, Sydney basis, were:—Wholesalers' Prices to Retailers Local and Interstate No. 1 grade, £7 17s. 6d.; Undergrades, £6 7s. 6d. 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 New South Wales 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.

Swede Supplies Exceptionally Light.

Receivals of swedes from local and interstate sources showed a considerable decline following fairly heavy supplies from Tasmania in September. The only supplies at Alexandria consisted of 230 bags from Tasmania which realised £18 per ton. At Sussex-street consignments from Tasmania were reduced to 2,429 bags compared with last month's total of 10,474 bags. Owing to delay in unloading, stocks opened up in an unsatisfactory condition. At Darling Harbour three trucks from Victoria were disposed of at £16 to £17 per ton.

Other Root Vegetables Continue Scarce.

At Alexandria 380 bags of carrots were received from Victoria, portion of which sold at £20 while 200 bags of inferior lines were mostly disposed of for stock feed. A consignment of 65 bags of choice grade from Queensland realised £40 per ton. Receipts at Darling Harbour landing totalled 8 trucks, including 2 from local centres which brought £21 15s. Five trucks from Victoria realised £21 15s. early and £30 later. A truck from Tasmania sold for £16 per ton. Consignments of beetroot at Alexandria comprised 91 bags from local centres and 250 from Queensland which realised £18 and £21 per ton, respectively. Sweet potato supplies increased to 350 bags. Opening sales were made at £23 to £24 and values gradually increased to £35 per ton.

Queensland New Season's Onions Well Supplied.

There was a marked increase in supplies at Alexandria, 16,852 bags coming to hand. Demand was very keen and sales were readily effected at opening for brown and white at approximately £21. On the 9th October, maximum rates were gazetted for new season's brown at £21 and white at £30 per ton. No consignments were received at Darling Harbour during the period.

Exceptionally High Rates for Pumpkins.

Supplies at Alexandria showed a considerable decline and were the lightest since November, 1944. Truckings totalled 46½, including 32½ from Queensland and 14 trucks of Triambles from Victoria. Supplies were greatly below requirements and rates were very firm, Queensland lines selling at £32 to £40 per ton. Sales were made of Victorian Triambles early at £36, increasing to £38, with small sizes at £25. During the latter part of the month a truck of Victorian Triambles was submitted to auction and realised the exceptionally high rate of £50 per ton.

Oaten Chaff again in Light Supply.

Limited supplies of oaten chaff, aggregating 106 trucks, were available. These were insufficient for requirements and all lines were in request. Sales were effected at the maximum rate of £10 5s. except for a few lines which realised, medium £8 to £9, good sound £9 10s. to £9 15s., and at auction early 3 trucks of medium £8 1s. 8d. per ton.

Wheaten Chaff Supplies Increase.

Following very light supplies in the previous month there was an increase of 16 trucks during the period when 46 trucks were forward. Despite this increase, supplies were insufficient for requirements and all lines met a ready demand. Clearances were made as follows:—Medium £9 to £9 5s., good sound £9 to £9 10s., with the bulk of the stocks realising the maximum ceiling rate £10 5s., and 3 trucks of medium £9 5s. to £9 10s. per ton at auction.

Exceptionally Light Supplies of Lucerne Chaff.

Consignments showed a further decline and totalled 10 trucks, being the lightest for a considerable period. Demand was good and with the exception of 1 truck of good sound, which was disposed of at £12 10s., all lines brought the ceiling level of £13 10s. per ton.

Increased Consignments of Maitland Lucerne Hay.

Arrivals from the Maitland district showed a marked increase and aggregated 88 trucks. This total was the largest since December last. Sales were effected at lower levels, but well made lines were in request. Rates were recorded as follows:—New soft green £6 to £8 10s, few £9; well made £8 10s. to £10 10s., few higher, also few half-baled lots of well made £10 10s. to £12 5s. per ton. During the latter half of the month, new soft green lines were disposed of at £5 10s. to £8, well made £8 to £9, few higher. Arrivals from other centres also showed a marked increase when 36 trucks were forward, including 24 trucks of derrick pressed lines. The bulk of the offerings of Mudgee baled lines brought the maximum ceiling rate of £12 5s. per ton. Derrick pressed lots, quality of which varied considerably, were disposed of as follows:—Heated £9 10s. to £9 15s., medium £10 10s., good sound £10 to £11, also 3 trucks of Victorian grassy £7 10s., medium £10 18s. 4d., good sound £11 10s. and 2 trucks of medium from South Australia which realised £6. At auction, 5 trucks were submitted, new green sold at £7, medium £8 6s. 8d., also South Australian medium £6 11s. 8d. per ton.

Oaten Hay Consignments Maintained.

Slightly increased supplies totalling 27 trucks came to hand, including 4 trucks of rack and 23 of derrick pressed. A good demand prevailed for the bulk of the offerings which sold as follows:—Choice rack £10 10s. to £11, derrick pressed, heated £6, good sound £6 to £7 10s., prime £7 10s. to £7 15s. per ton. At auction 4 trucks were submitted, including good sound £5 10s. and £5 11s. 8d., prime £7 10s. to £8 per ton.

Wheaten Hay Supplies Increase.

Following very light arrivals in September supplies improved when 18 trucks of derrick pressed were available. Sales were effected as follows:—Medium £4 15s., good sound £5 to £6 10s., prime £6 5s. to £7 10s. Sales by auction included medium £4 13s. 4d., good sound £5 5s to £5 10s., also 1 truck of new seasons medium £5 13s. 4d. per ton. One truck of meadow hay was also received and realised £5 per ton.

Straw Again Plentiful.

Increased consignments were available totalling 85 trucks including 45 of oaten, 14 of wheaten and 26 of rice. Prime lines met with good request and brought £7 10s. Rates for other grades ranged from £4 per ton.

Maize More Plentiful.

Following exceptionally light supplies in September consignments increased to 2,478 bags, comprising 2,263 bags of yellow from local centres and 215 bags of white. The bulk of the receivals were consigned direct to buyers, no sales being recorded.

C. H. FERRY.