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heavy baconers—over 200 lb.—realised to 10d. per lb. Sales in the vicinity of £8 to £8 10s. per head were frequently made, while up to £9 12s. 6d. was realised for good quality extra heavy pigs.

Moderate Offering of Backfatters.

Only moderate numbers of backfatters were yarded, light to medium weights of fair to good trade quality comprising a good proportion of the supply. Some drafts of prime heavy grades were offered, but, generally, pennings of this class of pig were light. Demand for good quality backfatters was strong for the greater part of the month but on occasions values were a little easier. At times boars were in fairly heavy supply and lower rates were evident, more particularly at the closing auctions. Values of backfatters, with the exception of boars, generally were higher than those prevailing during the previous month, heavy grades over 350 lb. making to 8¼d. and lighter weights up to 350 lb., being disposed of to 8½d. per lb. On a per head basis up to £16 16s. was obtained for prime heavy descriptions.

High Rates for Porkers.

The supply of good quality porkers was relatively light and not sufficient to meet the full requirements of the pork trade, and values throughout remained at a consistently high level. Rates at times, however, showed some fluctuation but for the most part were higher than those prevailing in September. Light porkers made to 14¼d. and medium to heavy grades 14d. per lb., while sales were made to £4 19s. 6d. per head.

Fair numbers of suitable store pigs were available during the period and values were well maintained at the previous month's levels. On one occasion, however, plain light stores were numerous, and, owing to the inferior quality, values were adversely affected.

G. COLEMAN.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

October, 1946.

FRUIT.

Small Valencia Oranges Plentiful.

The packing of a large number of Valencia oranges for export to the East and Japan about the third week of October caused a temporary shortage of supplies on the local market. Generally, however, this fruit was well stocked. Medium and small sizes comprised the bulk of supplies and comparatively low rates were accepted to clear these grades. Counts of 96 to 125 were rather scarce and choice packs of these commanded prices mostly ranging from 16s. to 18s. per bushel case; 20s. and 22s. was paid throughout the week ending Friday, 18th October.

Marketing of Navel oranges ceased during this month.

Pineapple Supplies Short of Requirements.

The bi-weekly consignments of Queensland pineapples continued to decline throughout October, although the transport strike in Victoria towards the end of the month resulted in the diversion to the Sydney market of some supplies intended for Melbourne. The advent of warmer weather brought about an improved demand and on most occasions stocks were insufficient to satisfy requirements. All choice quality fruit realised the maximum wholesale rate of 23s. 9d. per tropical case.

Bananas Sell at Ceiling Rates.

Supplies of bananas showed a steady decline and by the end of the month retailers were finding it difficult to secure desired quantities. Values firmed, and apart from small stocks of poor quality, sales during the last fortnight were made at fixed ceiling rates. The change over from the tropical case ($1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels) to the "banana case" ($1\frac{1}{4}$ bushels) was effected during October. Fruit packed in the new type cases realised 30s. to 36s. and occasionally more.

Papaw Prices Fluctuate.

Values of papaws remained steady at 8s. to 16s., with some special coloured lots 18s. per tropical case for the first two weeks of October. Subsequently the shortage of pineapples resulted in an improved demand for this fruit. Prices advanced, up to 25s. per tropical case being obtained. With the transfer of Melbourne supplies during the last week rates were reduced to a range of 8s. to 16s. to expedite clearances.

Apple Supplies Diminish.

A marked decrease occurred in the quantity of apples marketed. In addition to the seasonal decline industrial disputes hampered the transport of Victorian and Tasmanian supplies. Granny Smiths comprised a large percentage of stocks and included New South Wales, Victorian, Tasmanian and Western Australian fruit. New South Wales produce was mostly much superior in keeping quality to that from other States and its value for the first half of the month was steady at 10s. to 20s.; subsequently prices firmed to 22s. per bushel case for best packs.

Red dessert apples were comparatively scarce and much of that available was of indifferent quality. Varieties included Delicious and Democrat from New South Wales, Democrat and Crofton from Tasmania, and Delicious, Yates, Rome Beauty and some Jonathan from Victoria.

Pears in Short Supply.

Consignments of pears received towards the end of the month were comparatively light. Supplies from New South Wales centres consisted mainly of Packham's Triumph. These were mostly of small sizes, choice large fruit being scarce. Josephine and Packham's Triumph comprised the bulk of the Victorian stocks on offer, although some Winter Coles and Winter Nelis were also received. Much of the fruit from that State showed break-down if held on selling floors a few days.

Passionfruit Values Advance.

There was a steady demand for passionfruit. Supplies declined towards the close of the month and rates increased to 26s. per half case for best packs.

Cherries on Offer.

Small quantities of cherries were received from the Lakesland and Young districts during the last two weeks of the month. Although the fruit was not of a very high standard stocks cleared quickly and up to 30s. per quarter case was paid for some of the early deliveries.

New Season's Apricots.

The first of this seasons apricots were marketed about mid-October. By the end of the month fair quantities were coming forward but purchases for re-sale in Brisbane prevented the market from being overstocked. The fruit, which was of the Glengarry variety, was chiefly very small. Prices ranged from 6s. to 14s. per $\frac{1}{4}$ bushel case, and 10s. to 20s. per $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel case, best fruit generally being packed in the smaller cases.

VEGETABLES.**Decline in Pea Values.**

Peas on offer on agents' floors in October generally approximated 1,000 bags daily; a temporary increase to an average of about 1,300 bags daily occurred during the third week. Fairly substantial supplies were available in the growers section of the market throughout the month. Some 700 bags of peas were received from Victoria over the last few days of October. Choice peas of attractive appearance were in the minority, the greater percentage being of medium to poor quality, while many showed "browning off" as a result of adverse weather. Demand for best lots was satisfactory but medium and poor grades were slow to clear. The high prices ruling at the beginning of the month were maintained for the first two weeks, 36s. per bushel and occasionally more being paid for extra choice. Subsequently values eased until the 24th October, when 20s. per bushel was the maximum realised. A slight improvement followed, 24s. being the highest price on 31st October.

Many Inferior Quality Beans.

Increased quantities of beans were forward. Supplies were received each morning from the Gosford-Tuggerah districts; passenger train deliveries of Southern Queensland beans were made on most days. Bi-weekly consignments from the North Coast of New South Wales and from Queensland growing areas situated north of Brisbane continued, but these were not so substantial as during the previous two months. Many of the Gosford-Tuggerah beans were choice, but towards the end of the month the detrimental effects of the continued absence of good rains were apparent. Most of the Southern Queensland produce opened up in a satisfactory condition. Other supplies were mainly in a drying-out state, some were "nesty" and, generally, quality was chiefly medium to poor only. Values for choicest beans available depreciated gradually from 40s. on 1st to 26s. per bushel on 31st October.

Cabbages Well Supplied.

Cabbages from New South Wales growing centres were always well supplied. In addition, bi-weekly consignments were received from Queensland, but many of these opened up in an unfavourable condition. Demand was satisfactory on most days, values being fairly stable at 4s. to 12s.; 14s. per dozen and even more was paid at times for special large heads whilst very small and inferior lots were cleared at less than 4s. on occasions.

Cauliflower Season Ends.

The season for cauliflowers was practically complete by the end of October. Most supplies marketed during the month were medium to small in size. The few choice large heads received sold readily at 36s. to 40s. per dozen.

Sharp Decline in Tomato Prices.

Consignments of tomatoes were received daily from local glass-houses. Supplies were heavy during the week ended Saturday, 26th, but purchases of large quantities for resale on the Melbourne market prevented an accumulation of stocks. Values for best quality were up to 35s. per half case on 1st October, but declined continuously throughout the month, 16s. being the maximum paid on 31st October.

Increased quantities of tomatoes from the North Coast of New South Wales were on offer. The general quality showed much improvement, although some lots still failed to pass inspection and were withheld from sale owing to immaturity. Choice coloured and partly coloured packs met a ready demand, but many green lots were slow to clear. The very high prices obtained late in September and early October were not maintained; a comparison of value ranges being 16s. to 32s. on 1st and 8s. to 16s. per half case on 31st October.

Steady Inquiry for Queensland Marrows.

Consignments of marrows from Queensland were delivered each Monday and Thursday. Supplies which exceeded 1,000 crates on some days aggregated 8,220 one and one-half bushel crates for the month. Steady clearances were effected at 16s. to 20s. during the first ten days and mainly at 14s. to 18s. per crate for the remainder of the month.

Values for Lettuce Steady.

Rates for best lettuce on offer was mostly 10s. to 12s. per case. Unseasonably hot weather on a few days resulted in a keener inquiry by retailers and on these occasions 14s. and 16s. per case was obtained.

High Prices for Root Crops.

Carrots, parsnips, sweet potatoes and swede turnips were in light supply. As potatoes were scarce demand for other root crops was keen resulting in high prices being obtained, carrots realising to 56s.; parsnips to 80s.; sweet potatoes to 56s. and swedes to 40s. per cwt. Broken bag lots were sold at higher rates.

H. G. MOON.