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

February, 1947.

Increased but Inadequate Supplies of Potatoes.

Following exceptionally light arrivals in January, consignments showed an increase of approximately 10,000 bags, totalling 97,982 bags. These included 65,432 bags at Sussex-street from Tasmania, comprising mostly new-grade Bismarks, with only a few Brownells; 4,760 bags of Delawares from Western Australia; 10,136 bags of new-grade Factors and Chats at Alexandria from local centres; and increased Victorian supplies at Alexandria totalling 17,654 bags and consisting of Carmans and Katahdins. Although a good percentage of the arrivals was released for general trading, the quantity was well below trade requirements.

Prices fixed for the month ending 28th February, Sydney basis were:—Wholesalers' prices to Retailers:—Local and Interstate—No. 1 Grade and Undergrades, £7 17s. 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.

Tasmanian Swedes Again in Light Supply.

Arrivals were again limited, only 2,337 bags being available at Sussex-street from Tasmania, compared with 4,339 bags in January. A few sales were made at £18, but later, clearances were effected at £16 per ton. No fresh supplies were received at Alexandria during the period from local or interstate sources.

Other Root Vegetables Scarce.

Again no fresh consignments of carrots and parsnips were received at Alexandria or Sussex-street.

Onions Well Supplied and in Demand.

Following exceptionally light arrivals in January, increased consignments came to hand from Victoria, totalling 10,609 bags at Alexandria and thirteen trucks at Darling Harbour. Apart from 612 bags of whites, supplies consisted of brown table. Despite increased supplies, no difficulty was experienced in disposing of stocks at £21 per ton. The first consignments of new season's brown table, 860 bags, arrived at Alexandria from local centres and were also disposed of at £21 per ton.

Reduced Supplies of Pumpkins—Rates Vary Considerably.

Following heavy arrivals in January, consignments were reduced by twenty-four trucks, 108 being on offer at Alexandria, sixty from local centres and forty-eight from Queensland. Demand at times was very slow and a number of Queensland lines had to be regraded owing to breakdown. Local lines realised £10, few

£9, during the first half and £12 later in the period. Values at closing, however, were £8 to £9 per ton. Queensland consignments sold at £9 to £10 with carry-over lots as low as £6 to £6 10s. Prices later increased to £12 but closed at £9 per ton. At Darling Harbour landing one truck from local centres brought £12 per ton.

Oaten Chaff in Request.

There was little improvement in the quantity available, which comprised only 107 trucks, including twenty-nine from Victoria. These were not sufficient to meet the demand and the bulk of the offerings were disposed of at the ceiling level of £10 5s. A few medium lots realised £8 10s. to £9 10s. and good sound £9 10s. per ton. Sales by auction included two trucks of medium from Victoria at £8 16s. 8d. per ton.

Wheaten Chaff Consignments Light.

Receivals were again light, amounting to forty-one trucks or ten less than the previous month. A good enquiry ruled and sales were readily effected, the bulk of the offerings selling at the ceiling rate of £10 5s., with a few medium lines at £8 10s. to £9 10s. At auction, one truck of medium sold at £8 5s. per ton.

Choice Lucerne Chaff in Demand.

Supplies, twenty-two trucks, were again fairly light and prime and choice lines met a good enquiry. Sales were made as follows:—Heated £11 10s. to £12, good sound £11 10s., few to £13, choice £13 5s. to £13 10s.; later, sales were made of prime at £12 to £12 10s. and choice at £12 10s. to £13 per ton.

Lucerne Dust and Pods Scarce.

Two trucks of lucerne dust on offer realised £12 15s. to £13 and one truck of lucerne pods £8 10s. per ton.

Maitland Lucerne Hay Values Decline.

Following light supplies in January, consignments increased by five trucks, forty-three being on offer for trading. In the first half of the period, rates were exceptionally firm, sales being recorded at £10 to £11 for well-made lots. Later, however, owing to increased supplies and favourable weather conditions, demand was restricted and rates were reduced to effect clearances, new soft green selling at £4 to £6 15s. and well made £6 to £7. At closing new soft green brought £3 10s. to £5 10s., with well made £6 per ton.

Arrivals from other centres increased by ten trucks, thirty-five coming to hand including seventeen of derrick pressed. Prime and choice met with good enquiry but other grades moved out slowly. Rates were:—Prime and choice £12 5s., good sound £10 15s. per ton. Derrick-pressed lines sold at lower rates, new soft green £5 10s., medium dry £8, good sound £7 to £8 5s., heated £9, well made new green £9 10s. to £10 15s. per ton.

Heavy Arrivals of Oaten Hay.

Receivals were the heaviest for some months, comprising thirty-seven trucks, including twenty-five of derrick pressed, compared with only three and a half trucks in January. The increase was

due to a considerable improvement in the pastoral outlook following beneficial rain over a wide area of the State. Previously hand feeding of stock had been necessary in many centres and the changed position caused a number of consignments to be diverted to Alexandria. Sales were made as follows:—Prime rack £10 10s., choice £10 10s. to £11, derrick-pressed medium £5, good sound £6 10s. to £8, few early at the maximum of £9, and at auction medium £4 15s. per ton.

Wheaten Hay Consignments Heavy.

Receivals increased to eighteen trucks, compared with last months' total of two. This increase was also due to an improvement in pastures. Rates were reduced to effect clearances, inferior derrick pressed realising £3 10s., medium £4 10s., good sound £6 to £6 10s., early sales £9. One truck of good sound derrick-pressed meadow hay sold at £7 per ton early in the month.

Reduced Arrivals of Wheaten Straw.

Following heavy arrivals in January, wheaten consignments were considerably reduced. Total receivals amounted to seventy-two trucks, including thirty-five of oaten and thirty-seven of wheaten. Oaten lines were received from local, Victorian, and South Australian centres. Stained lines realised £5 10s., good sound £6 to £6 12s. 6d., prime £7 10s. Wheaten sold at lower levels, medium brought £3 15s. to £4 10s., stained £4 15s. to £5, good sound £5 to £5 10s., few prime £6 per ton.

Wheat Supplies Increase.

Arrivals at Alexandria increased by nine trucks, thirty-eight trucks being received. These were not available for general trading, being taken direct to store.

Maize Consignments Exceptionally Light.

Only forty-six bags of yellow were received from local centres at Alexandria during the month. These were not offered for trading.

Reduced Supplies of Oats.

Following the heavy arrivals at Alexandria in January, which totalled 111 trucks, supplies were reduced to sixty-four, consisting of fifty-seven from Victoria and seven from local centres. The bulk of the consignments were consigned to private buyers and not offered for trading. A few sales were recorded at 5s. to 5s. 3d. while at auction four trucks of local realised 4s. 10d. to 5s. 2d. per bushel.

C. H. FERRY.