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**Root Crops Dear.**

Most root crops were in light supply, parsnips and sweet potatoes being particularly scarce during the second half of the month. Rates reached high levels, parsnips realising to 72s.; sweet potatoes to 52s.; carrots to 36s. and Swedes to 24s. per cwt. In each case broken-bagged lots were dearer.

H. G. MOON.

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

**September, 1946.**

**Tasmanian Potato Consignments Increase.**

Arrivals from Tasmania showed an increase, 141,162 bags coming to hand compared with 114,673 in August. The consignments consisted mainly of Brownells, with a few Snowflakes, Up-to-Dates and Arranchiefs. Receipts at Alexandria from Victoria were considerably reduced, only 4,787 bags being available compared with the previous month's total of 24,474. These tubers consisted of No. 1 grade Carmans and Snowflakes. Supplies from local centres, mainly the Crookwell district, increased to 5,133 bags. These included mostly No. 1 grade Factors, with a few No. 3 grade and 487 bags of seed. A large percentage of the supplies was available for civilian use, the remainder being required for essential services.

Prices fixed for the month ended 30th September, Sydney basis, were—Wholesalers' Prices to Retailers:—Local and Interstate No. 1 grade £7 17s. 6d, undergrades £6 7s. 6d. per ton. Rates for N.S.W. grown potatoes for delivery to country areas are as quoted, plus freight from loading station; prices for interstate potatoes to N.S.W. country areas are as quoted, plus freight from Sydney or loading station, whichever is the lower. Primary merchants' prices to wholesalers are £1 5s. per ton less than the figures quoted.

**Increased Supplies of Swedes by Sea.**

Receipts at Alexandria were again light, only 1,071 bags arriving, including 150 from local centres, 806 from Victoria and 125 from Tasmania. The only sales recorded were of Victorian consignments which realised £8 to £9 per ton. Tasmanian receipts at Sussex Street showed a considerable increase and aggregated 10,474 bags, this being the largest total for some months. Despite heavier supplies, a good demand prevailed and rates were higher. A few sales were made at £10, but the bulk sold at £11 to £12 and later to £14 per ton.

**Other Root Vegetables Again Very Scarce.**

Receipts of carrots from local centres aggregated only one truck which realised £8 per ton. Victorian consignments at Alexandria, 167 bags, sold at £11 per ton, while at Darling Harbour, two trucks brought £13. A consignment of sweet potatoes from Queensland realised from £21 to £22 per ton.

**Pumpkins Realise Exceptionally High Rates.**

Queensland consignments on offer at Alexandria were maintained and aggregated 116 trucks, or only two less than last month. Receipts from local centres, however, showed a marked falling off, only one truck arriving compared with 23½ in August. Values showed a wide range as demand improved and, at closing, were the highest for a considerable period. In the first half, Queensland lines sold at £14 to £16, but at closing values reached as high as £32 per ton. The one truck from local centres, available early in the month, realised £14 per ton.

**Onion Supplies Exceptionally Light.**

Receipts showed a marked decline, being the lightest for some months. At Alexandria only 5,456 bags of brown table arrived from Victoria, compared with last month's total of 9,285 bags. All lines were in request and were disposed of at approximately £17 10s. to £18 per ton. The first consignment of Queensland new season's brown and white Globe arrived, comprising 198 bags. A small quantity of these were disposed of at approximately £19 to £21 per ton and the balance was taken to store. Arrivals by sea at Sussex Street consisted of 851 bags of Victorian brown. These also sold at approximately £17 10s. to £18 per ton.

**Oaten Chaff in Light Supply.**

The quantity available continued to decline and supplies, 101 trucks, were the lightest for some months. These were insufficient for requirements and all lines sold readily, only in a few instances early in the period were sales made below maximum ceiling levels. Prices were as follows:—Medium £9 10s., good sound and prime £10 5s., few early sales £10 per ton.

**Wheaten Chaff Consignments Restricted.**

Little improvement in supplies was noticed, only 30 trucks coming to hand. Demand was firm for all lines and only a few sales were made at prices below the maximum rate of £10 5s. per ton. Early in the period a few good sound lines realised £9 10s. to £10 per ton.

**Lucerne Chaff Exceptionally Scarce.**

Supplies showed a further falling off and were the smallest for some time, only 14½ trucks being available for trading. These sold readily at the following high values:—Few inferior lots £9 15s., grassy £12, medium £12 10s., good sound £13 and prime and choice at the maximum of £13 10s. per ton.

**Lucerne Hay in Demand.**

Consignments from the Maitland district were maintained and totalled 55 trucks. Inquiry for all lines was keen, especially for well made lots. Clearances were effected of new soft green at £8 to £9, few higher, and well made at £9 10s., with a few to the maximum of £12 5s. per ton. Well-made derrick-pressed and ½ baled lots also sold at the maximum price of £12 5s. per

ton. Receipts from other centres continued to decline and totalled only 7 trucks, including 2 of derrick-pressed. Early in the period, a few good sound lines realised £12, but later the maximum rate of £12 5s. per ton ruled for all lots.

#### **Oaten Hay More Plentiful.**

Truckings showed an improvement, the 32 arriving being an increase of 6 on the August consignments. The total included 22 of rack and 10 of derrick-pressed. Despite the increased quantity available, little difficulty was experienced in effecting clearances at firm rates. Prime brought £10 5s. to £10 10s. and choice £10 15s. to £11. Derrick-pressed sold well at higher levels, with prime at £8 to £9 and a few Victorian good sound £7 10s. per ton.

#### **Wheaten Hay Again Scarce.**

Only 5 trucks were available for trading, derrick-pressed medium realising £7, good sound £8 10s. and few prime lines £9 per ton.

#### **Good Demand for Straw.**

Increased quantities were submitted totalling 61 trucks, comprising 25 of oaten (including 2 from Victoria), 13 of wheaten and 23 of rice. Oaten lines, the bulk of which was of prime quality, sold readily and realised £7 10s., while Victorian good sound sold at £7. Wheaten lots also sold well, medium bringing £5 5s. to £6 10s. and prime £7 10s. per ton.

#### **Increased Wheat Truckings.**

At Alexandria goods yard 17 trucks were on offer, being an increase of 10 over the August consignments. These, however, were not offered for general trading and were taken direct to store.

#### **Maize Continued Scarce.**

Supplies showed a considerable reduction and, at Alexandria, aggregated only 814 bags, including 385 of yellow and 429 of white. These supplies were received from local centres. The bulk of the stocks was taken direct to store.

#### **Oats in Light Supply.**

Truckings showed a considerable reduction, only one being available and this was not offered for trading.

C. H. FERRY.