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

**March, 1947.**

### **Exceptionally Light Consignments of Potatoes.**

The quantity arriving from both local and inter-state sources during March showed a marked decline and totalled only 70,576 bags, the smallest since December, 1944. At Sussex-street, 63,988 bags from Tasmania comprised chiefly Bismarks, with a few Brownells and Arranchiefs. These arrived during the early part of the period and, owing to the delay in unloading, due to industrial trouble, no fresh consignments were received after 11th March. At Alexandria only 203 bags arrived from local centres. These consisted of No. 1 grade and seed Factors. From Victoria 5,385 bags came to hand and comprised mostly No. 1 grade Carmans with a few Manhattans.

Prices fixed for the month ending 31st March, Sydney basis, were:—Wholesalers' Prices to Retailers: Local and Inter-state—No. 1 Grade and Undergrades, £7 17s. 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 Inter-state 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 per ton less than the figures quoted.

### **Swedes Again in Light Supply.**

Receivals at Alexandria were again restricted, amounting to only 109 bags from local centres. Choice lines realised £20 per ton. At Sussex-street, Tasmanian arrivals totalled 5,166 bags. Early in the period approximately 880 bags were sold at £15 to £16, but the balance, which arrived during industrial trouble, met with considerable delay in unloading and opened up in an unsatisfactory condition. Some sales were made at £8 per ton. Two trucks arrived at Darling Harbour from Tasmania and were disposed of at £18 per ton.

### **Other Root Vegetables Scarce.**

Limited supplies at Alexandria comprised 77 bags of Victorian carrots, 45 bags of parsnips and 30 bags of Queensland sweet potatoes, which realised £13, £17 and £40 per ton respectively.

### **Victorian Onion Consignments Heavy.**

Arrivals from inter-state sources were the heaviest for a considerable period, 27,768 bags coming to hand from Victoria compared with 11,221 bags in February. There was a good demand for all lines, which consisted of brown table and a few whites. Sales were effected at approximately £21 per ton. At Darling Harbour landing seven trucks of Victorian brown table arrived and sold at ruling rates.

### **Queensland Pumpkins in Light Supply—Local Lines Increase.**

Supplies at Alexandria showed a further reduction and aggregated 82 trucks, or 26 less than the previous month. Of the total, 75 trucks came from local centres and only 7 from Queensland.

There was a good enquiry for most lines and a firm market ruled due to the shortage of other vegetables. Opening sales were recorded at £8 to £9 and values gradually increased to £12 for local consignments, but at closing rates were reduced to £8 to £9. Queensland lots also sold at £8 to £12 per ton.

#### **Oaten Chaff Supplies Increase.**

Receivals again showed an improvement, 140 trucks being available for trading, which was the largest quantity on offer for six months. Included in the arrivals were 23 trucks from Victoria and 6 from South Australia. Ready sales were effected of prime and choice lines, but other grades sold slowly. Particulars were as follows:—Medium £8 to £8 17s. 6d., good sound £9 to £9 15s., prime and choice chiefly at the ceiling rate of £10 5s. per ton. Sales by auction (11 trucks) included damaged £7 1s. 8d. to £8, medium £8 to £9, good sound £9 5s. to £9 16s. 8d. per ton.

#### **Wheaten Chaff Consignments Heavy.**

There was a marked increase in receivals, which totalled 76 trucks, compared with 41 trucks in February. The quantity available was the largest for sixteen months. There was a good demand for prime and choice lines, but rates for other grades were easier owing to increased arrivals. Sales were as follows:—Medium £7 10s. to £8 10s., good sound £8 10s. to £9 10s., few early £10, prime £10 to £10 5s. (few £9 to £9 10s., choice £10 5s.). At auction eight trucks were offered, inferior bringing £6 and medium £7 3s. 4d. to £8 per ton.

#### **Lucerne Chaff Supplies Again Fairly Light—Rates Easier.**

Arrivals showed a slight increase and aggregated 24 trucks. These were sufficient for requirements and with the exception of choice lines clearances were made at reduced rates, which included the following:—Heated £8 5s. to £10, good sound £11 to £12, prime £11 to £12 10s., few £13 10s., choice £13 10s. per ton. At auction one truck of prime was disposed of at £12 per ton.

#### **Lucerne Dust Scarce.**

The one truck of prime realised £12 to £12 10s. per ton.

#### **Maitland Lucerne Hay—Limited Increase from Other Centres.**

There was a considerable reduction in the quantity which arrived from Maitland, only 21 trucks being received, or 22 less than the previous month. Despite the reduced quantity, demand was slow and rates continued at low levels, including grassy lines which sold at £3 10s., new soft green £3 10s. to £5 10s., and well made £5 to £6 per ton. Consignments were fairly heavy from other centres, increasing to 73 trucks, including 31 derrick-pressed lines. Mudgee baled choice lots sold well, but demand for other grades was slow and prices were lower, especially for derrick pressed. Sales were made as follows:—Medium £7 10s. to £7 15s., heated £7 to £7 10s., good sound £9 to £10 10s., prime £10 to £12, choice £11 10s. to £12 5s. Derrick pressed heated realised £3 10s. to £5 10s., good sound £5 10s. to £7, prime £7 to £7 10s., choice early £8. Five trucks submitted to auction included grassy and new soft green at £3 1s. 8d. to £4 5s., medium £4 10s. per ton.

**Reduced Arrivals of Oaten Hay.**

Following heavy consignments in February, supplies in March showed a considerable reduction, 18 trucks being available—6 of rack and 12 of derrick pressed. Sales were recorded as follows:—Choice rack £11, derrick-pressed medium £4 to £4 10s., good sound £6 15s., few choice lines £9 per ton.

**Wheaten Hay Sells Slowly.**

Supplies—15 trucks of derrick pressed—were again more than sufficient for requirements. No prime lines were available and inferior lots were disposed of at £3 and good sound at £4 5s. to £5 10s. per ton. Two trucks of inferior derrick-pressed meadow hay sold at £2 15s. to £3, while 2 trucks of Victorian derrick-pressed inferior grassy realised £3 10s. per ton at auction.

**Oaten Straw Consignments Exceptionally Heavy.**

Following fairly light supplies during the previous month there was a marked increase in the quantity arriving, which totalled 86 trucks of oaten, including 47 from Victoria and 29 of wheaten from local centres. A large percentage of the oaten supplies were not offered for sale, being taken to the Royal Agricultural Show. Some sales were effected of stained at £3 10s. to £4, good sound £6 10s. to £6 15s., and prime and choice at £7 to £7 10s. Two trucks at auction of stained brought £3 10s. and damaged £5. Wheaten lines sold slowly, with the exception of a few prime-grade lots. Inferior and damaged brought £3 to £3 10s., stained £3 10s. to £3 15s., few £5, medium £4, prime £6 10s. to £7. At auction, 6 trucks were offered and included inferior at £2 10s. and stained at £4 per ton.

**Wheat Consignments Reduced.**

Receivals at Alexandria were reduced by nine trucks when 27 trucks were received, including one from South Australia. These were not offered for general trading.

**Maize Continues to be Scarce.**

Only 865 bags from local centres were received at Alexandria. No sales were recorded, as they were taken to store.

**Reduced Supplies of Oats.**

Consignments at Alexandria again showed a considerable falling off, 35 trucks, including 29 from Victoria being received, compared with 64 in February. Only a few lines were offered for trading. These included 5 trucks at auction, which sold at 4s. 9d. to 4s. 11d. per bushel.

C. H. FERRY.