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Pigs—Good to Prime Quality.

Values shown in pence per lb.:—Based on selling price per head of live animals and estimated dressed weight of carcase.

Date of Sale, 1948	6 April.	13 April.	20 April.	27 April.
No. Yarded each Sale	1,381	2,070	1,336	1,605
Estimated prices per lb. for—	d.	d.	d.	d.
Porkers—				
35-50 lb., Extra Light	11½-14½	11½-14½	12-14½	12-14
50-60 lb., Light	10½-14½	11½-14	12-14½	12-14
60-70 lb., Medium	10½-13½	11½-13½	11½-13½	11½-13½
70-80 lb., Medium	11½-12½	11-13	11½-13½	11½-13½
80-90 lb., Heavy	11½-12½	11-12½	11½-13	11½-13
Intermediates—				
90-100 lb.	10½-12½	10½-12½	10½-12½	10½-12
Baconers—				
100-110 lb., Light	10½-12	10½-12	10½-12	10½-12
110-120 lb., Light	11-12½	10½-12	10½-12	10½-12
120-130 lb., Medium	11-12½	10½-12	10½-11½	10½-11½
130-160 lb., Heavy	10½-12	10½-11½	10½-11½	10½-11½
160-180 lb., Extra Heavy	10½-11½	10½-11½	10½-11½	10½-11½
180-200 lb., Extra Heavy	10-11½	10½-11½	10½-10½	9½-10½
200-240 lb., Extra Heavy	8½-10½	8½-10	8½-9½	8½-9½
Backfatters—				
250-350 lb.	6½-9	6½-8½	6½-8½	6-8
350 lb. and over	5½-8	6-8	6-8	5½-7½

G. COLEMAN.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

April, 1948.

FRUIT.

Apples Slightly Dearer.

Supplies of apples from New South Wales growing areas were lighter during the month and, in addition, only small quantities came to hand from Victoria and Queensland. However, larger shipments from Tasmania helped to offset the decline in receivals from other districts and values made only a slight advance. Quotations throughout the month showed little fluctuation and ranged mainly as follow:—*New South Wales*: Delicious, 10s. to 16s. special coloured to 20s., early sales to 24s.; Jonathan, 8s. to 16s., early sales to 18s.; Granny Smith, 6s. to 16s.; Rome Beauty, 8s. to 10s., few 12s. to 14s.; Cleopatra, 8s. to 12s.; Dunn's Seedling, 8s. to 10s. *Queensland*: Delicious, 12s. to 18s., few 20s. *Tasmanian*: Delicious, 10s. to 16s., few 18s.; Jonathan, 10s. to 14s.; Worcester, 7s. to 10s.; McIntosh Red, 10s. to 12s.; Cleopatra, 8s. to 12s.; Alfriston, 8s. to 9s., few 10s.; Tasman Pride, 9s. to 11s.; Alexander, 9s. to 10s.; London Pippin, 9s. *South Australian*: Jonathan, 13s. to 16s.; *Victorian*: Delicious, 10s. to 16s., few 18s.; Jonathan, 8s. to 12s., special to 14s., few 15s., per bushel case.

Rates for Pears Advance at Closing.

Pears met only a limited inquiry throughout the greater part of the month, but supplies were only moderate and sellers were able to maintain satisfactory clearances. Demand was principally for the Packham's Triumph variety, both from New South Wales and Victorian sources, which had been held in cool store. Quotations at closing had advanced to the following levels:—*New South Wales*: Packham's Triumph, 8s. to 16s., late sales to 18s.; Josephine, 10s. to 15s.; Howells, 8s. to 12s., few higher; Buerre Bosc, 12s. to 14s., few 15s.; Winter Cole, 10s. to 16s., few late sales to 18s.; Williams, 5s. to 8s., good 10s., early sales to 14s., inferior from 2s. *Victorian*: Packham's Triumph, 8s. to 16s., late sales to 18s.; Josephine, 7s. to 14s.; Buerre Bosc, 10s. to 14s.; Winter Cole, 8s. to 16s., late sales to 18s., per bushel case.

Grapes From Inland Districts Plentiful.

Fairly large consignments of grapes were received from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and from other inland growing districts during the period. On occasions of temporary shortage, some fairly high prices were obtained, but, in the main, stocks were ample for requirements and during the last week of the month values were fairly low. The Cornichon variety in particular was over-supplied at closing. Most of the Black and White Muscat grapes received from Central Tableland growing areas were lacking in size and appearance and a considerable percentage was cleared to factory buyers. Consignments from Queensland terminated during the second week. Representative quotations were as follow:—*New South Wales* (M.I.A.), Waltham Cross, 10s. to 14s., few special to 16s., odd 18s.; Doradillo, 6s. to 10s., few 12s.; Gordo, 6s. to 12s., few to 16s.; Cornichon, 5s. to 8s., choice to 10s., early sales to 16s., odd higher; (other inland), Black Muscat, 7s. to 12s., few special to 18s., odd sales to 24s.; White Muscat, 6s. to 12s., few special to 16s., odd 18s. *Queensland*: Gros Colman, 6s. to 10s., special 12s., inferior lower, per half-case.

Rates for Bananas Again Advance.

Supplies of Cavendish bananas from Northern New South Wales and from Queensland were at most times insufficient for the requirements of the retail trade, and prices generally were much higher than those recorded during March. Main sales ranged from 14s. to 28s. per case, with special to 32s., but on occasions of scarcity, as much as 36s. was obtained. A percentage of small, mixed-ripe and inferior fruit was cheaper. Realisations for the 7,000 cases received from Queensland were comparable to those obtained for New South Wales stocks.

New Season Navel Oranges Replace Valencias at Closing.

As a result of a temporary scarcity, rates for second crop Valencia oranges from coastal growing areas were high during the first few days of the month, but a sharp decline occurred subsequently and, for the balance of the period, stocks were ample for retail needs. Second crop fruit was not popular, particularly lines lacking in colour and very small sizes. Main sales ranged from 5s. to 12s., with choice coloured to 16s. per bushel case, but very

small and inferior packs were not wanted even at as low as 3s. Considerable quantities were cleared to factory buyers. Main crop Valencias from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area were keenly sought after, mainly at from 15s. to 26s. per bushel case, according to count, although some sales early in the month were as high as 35s. New season coastal Navels were available in fairly large quantities during the last week of the period. Most lines were lacking in colour and brought from 12s. to 18s., but well-coloured packs cleared rapidly at 20s. to 24s., with occasional sales to 25s. Queensland Navels were on offer after 13th April and brought from 16s. to 25s., with a few special brands to 30s.

Coastal Lemons Plentiful.

Offerings of lemons from coastal and near-metropolitan districts were fairly heavy on most trading days and, with the exception of choice packs of selected counts, sellers experienced difficulty in maintaining clearances. Main sales ranged from 3s. to 8s. per bushel case, with selected sizes 10s. to 12s. Only occasional sales reached 16s. Queensland consignments were mainly of choice quality and moved out well. Prices varied according to count and grade from 10s. to 20s., with special to 24s. and occasionally to 26s.

Dull Demand for New South Wales Grapefruit.

Moderate supplies of grapefruit from New South Wales growing areas were available, but inquiry was dull and prices were mainly nominal at 5s. to 10s. per bushel case, some very small and inferior being lower. Queensland stocks were more popular and brought from 8s. to 16s. per bushel case, with occasional early sales at 24s.

Choice Passionfruit Still Scarce.

Choice and special quality passionfruit were at all times lightly supplied and cleared rapidly at 18s. to 25s. per half-case, with occasional sales to 28s. Stocks of medium to good grade fruit, however, were ample for requirements and clearances were rather quiet at from 8s. to 14s.

Restricted Inquiry for Persimmons.

Request for persimmons generally was insufficient to enable satisfactory clearances to be effected. A few special lines of large ripe fruit in unblemished condition cleared well at 6s. to 8s. and occasionally to 10s. per half-case, but the bulk of the offerings met a dull demand at from 1s. to 5s.

Quality of Cantaloupes Declines Towards Closing.

Early in the period, cantaloupes from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area met a keen inquiry, best packs bringing from 22s. to 26s. and occasionally higher. Towards the end of the month, however, a gradual decline in size and quality was apparent and a falling-off in the retail demand resulted. Final quotations ranged from 8s. to 16s., with choice to 22s. per crate, only isolated sales being higher. Bushels brought from 5s. to 12s. at closing, although early sales had

been as high as 16s. With the decline in supplies of cantaloupes, some improvement in demand for honey dews was reported, crates bringing from 10s. to 12s., with special to 14s., and bushels from 6s. to 8s., with a few to 10s.

Heavier Supplies of Queensland Papaws.

Greatly increased supplies of Queensland papaws came to hand on the first day of the month and a total of 5,714 tropical cases was available during April. Most quotations ranged from 8s. to 16s. per tropical case, with selected packs to 20s. As a result of variable weather conditions, however, consignors experienced difficulty in estimating the correct stage of maturity for marketing in Sydney and most consignments included a percentage of green or over-ripe fruit which was slow of sale at lower prices.

Pineapples Slightly Cheaper.

Receipts of pineapples from Queensland totalled 30,637 tropical cases. Prices remained fairly stable at moderately high levels and most realisations ranged from 14s. to 24s. per case, with occasional sales to 28s. A considerable percentage of very small fruit was included in some consignments for which quotations were as low as 8s.

Other Fruit.

Representative quotations for other main lines were as follow:—Plums, 4s. to 10s., special 12s. to 16s.; Custard apples (Queensland), 4s. to 12s., early sales to 15s.; Avocados (Queensland), Fuerte, 8s. to 16s., early sales to 20s., inferior lower, (Other), 3s. to 8s., early sales to 12s. per half case. Quinces, 4s. to 10s., few 12s., per bushel case.

VEGETABLES.

Peas More Lightly Supplied.

Total offerings of peas for the month under review were much lighter, less than 36,000 bags being consigned by New South Wales growers and only 1,240 being received from Victoria. The greatest percentage of these supplies, however, was received during the first half of the month, when values remained at the lower levels recorded at the close of the last report, main sales ranging from 6s. to 14s. per bushel and occasionally to 20s. On 14th April, however, an unexpectedly light supply caused prices to advance sharply to as much as 28s. and, with only a few exceptions, rates were maintained at these levels, subsequently. In the last week, realisations varied from 18s. to 28s., with special "Gems" to 32s. Many lines, however, showed frost and weather damage and were slow of sale at lower prices. Stocks were drawn mainly from the Central Tableland region, but moderate quantities came to hand from Griffith.

Realisations For Beans Mainly Unremunerative.

Beans were heavily supplied early in the month and realisations were mainly unremunerative, ranging on several selling days, from 1s. to 6s. per bushel, according to quality, whilst at times sellers experienced difficulty in realising more than 4s. even for choice lines. A gradual improvement was apparent during the

latter half of the period, however, when choice lots brought mainly from 10s. to 14s. At closing a temporary scarcity had caused rates to advance to as much as 22s. Consignments to agents totalled more than 26,000 bags and, in addition, fairly large quantities were available in the growers' market.

Cabbages Fairly Cheap.

The heavy supplies of beans continued to have an adverse effect upon realisations for cabbages and, on most selling days, sales ranged mainly from 2s. to 7/8s. per dozen, with only specially selected large heads to 10s. Only on occasions of temporary scarcity did prices reach 14s.

Cauliflowers Bring High Prices.

Supplies of cauliflowers on most trading days were well within the requirements of the retail trade. Wide variation in size and quality was again apparent and prices ranged accordingly, main quotations being from 6s. to 20s. per dozen, with choice large to 24s., and specially selected heads to 30s. In some instances, as much as 34s. was obtained for a few lines, but on three selling days early in the period, values dropped to a maximum of 20s. At all times a percentage of very small, discoloured and inferior heads was available to factory buyers at as low as 1s. 6d. per dozen.

Slight Improvement in Lettuce Market at Closing.

During the first three weeks of the month, offerings of lettuce each morning were more than sufficient for the needs of the retail trade and realisations for medium to good grade packs were largely unremunerative at from 2s. to 5s. per case, whilst choice brought from 6s. to 8s. Towards closing, however, supplies declined and sellers were able to increase rates, best packs bringing 10s. to 12s. and occasionally to 14s.

Rates for Tomatoes Remain at Moderate Levels.

Receivals of coloured tomatoes from near-metropolitan growing areas were lighter, but some contractions of the retail demand, as a result of the cooler weather, was apparent and stocks generally were sufficient for requirements. Early in the period, best packs brought 16s. to 18s., and occasionally 20s. per half-case but, during the second and third weeks, main sales ranged from 4s. to 12s., according to size and quality. Towards closing, a decrease in consignments from inland growing areas resulted in realisations for local stocks recovering to reach 18s. and occasionally 20s. Supplies from inland districts were fairly large early in the month, being principally from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. Quotations in the main varied from 3s. to 8s. per half-case, but on occasions, best packs brought 10s. During the last week prices advanced to 14s. for choice coloured lots. Consignments from Southern Queensland declined in size and quality and brought mainly from 4s. to 8s., with best lines to 10s. In addition, moderate quantities came to hand from the Portland district of Victoria and cleared satisfactorily at from 10s. to 16s. per bushel case, with isolated sales to 22s. A small consignment from the Bowen district of Northern Queensland reached the Sydney market on 27th April.

New Season Brussels Sprouts Arrive From Victoria.

First new season Brussels sprouts were received from Victoria on the fifteenth of the month and moderate consignments came to hand thereafter. Demand was fairly good and clearances were effected at from 10s. to 14s. per 12 lb. box, with a few special 15s. to 16s.

Other Main Vegetable Lines.

Representative ranges of prices for other main lines of vegetables were as follow:—Carrots, 14s. to 28s., few sales to 32s., odd 40s. to 45s.; Parsnips (N.S.W.), 20s. to 28s., few to 32s., odd sales to 36s.; (Victoria), 24s. to 28s., few 30s.; Potatoes, No. 1 Grade 10s. (fixed maximum price); Onions (N.S.W.), 10s. to 14s., few special to 18s. (Victoria), 22s. to 23s. 6d. (23s. 6d. is fixed maximum price); Swedes (N.S.W.), 12s. to 18s., special to 24s., (Tasmania), 12s. to 16s., few 18s.; Pumpkins, 6s. to 8s., few 10s.; Sweet potatoes, 6s. to 16s., early sales to 24s., few to 32s. per cwt.; Celery (local), 6s. to 12s., special to 15s., few to 20s. per dozen bunches, (South Australian), 22s. to 30s., special brands to 34s. per crate; Cucumbers (apple), 5s. to 10s., few special to 14s., (green), 5s. to 10s., few 12s., per half-case.

T. M. McKEON.
