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

April, 1948.

Lightest Potato Supplies For Many Months.

The quantity received from local and interstate sources was considerably reduced and aggregated 54,589 bags, compared with 234,357 bags forward in March. Supplies at Alexandria were again lighter, only 409 bags arriving from local centres. These tubers consisted of No. 1 grade Factors and a few seed. No fresh interstate consignments were received at Alexandria. A marked decline was also evident in Tasmanian arrivals at Sussex-street, which totalled 54,180 bags. The supply was mostly No. 1 grade Brownells. A good percentage was made available for trading, but the quantity was not nearly sufficient for requirements as merchants' stocks were very low.

Prices fixed for the month ending 31st April, Sydney basis were:—

Wholesalers' Prices to Retailers, Local and Interstate.—No. 1 grade and undergrades, £10 per ton, plus cartage, which must not exceed 10s. per ton. Rates for New South Wales grown potatoes for delivery to country areas were as quoted, plus freight from loading station; prices for Interstate potatoes to New South Wales country areas were as quoted, plus freight from Sydney or loading station, whichever was the lower. Primary merchants' prices to wholesalers were £1 per ton less than the figures quoted.

Tasmanian Swedes in Demand.

At Alexandria, 133 bags arrived from local centres and realised £10, whilst 780 bags of Tasmanian swedes, which were railed from Victoria, sold at £11 to £12 per ton. Tasmanian arrivals at Sussex-street, increased to 3,293 bags. Request was good and choice grades brought £12 to £15, with large sizes £9 to £11 per ton.

Other Root Vegetables.

No fresh supplies came to hand during the month.

Pumpkin Supplies Increase—Rates Lower.

Only 60 trucks were forwarded in March but consignments this month aggregated 84 trucks, one truck being received from Queensland and the remainder from local centres. Demand was good at opening sales and prices were quoted at from £8 10s. to £9, but, later, as stocks increased, rates were reduced to £7 10s. to £8 per ton.

Victorian Onions Again in Heavy Supply.

Receivals from all sources at Alexandria increased considerably when 28,878 bags were offered for trading. This is the largest quantity available since October, 1947. Despite the heavy arrivals, clearances were satisfactory and rates showed little change. The supply consisted of 20,337 bags of brown table, 1,140 of pickling, and 5,237 of white table from Victoria, and 2,164 bags of local brown. Victorian brown table brought £20 10s. to £21, pickling £18 to £20, and white table £20 to £21. Local brown realised £12 to £13 early, but, later, they were quoted at £10, with a few sales at as low as £8 per ton.

Rates for Oaten Chaff Maintained.

Receivals were again fairly heavy and totalled 145 trucks. This total represents a slight increase on receivals during March. A good enquiry ruled for prime and choice grades, but request for other grades was slow. Inferior realised £6 to £6 10s., medium £8 to £9 10s., good sound £9 to £10 5s., prime £10 10s. to £11, and choice £10 10s. to £11 10s. Sales by auction included 7 trucks of medium which were disposed of at £7 15s. to £8 8s. 4d. per ton.

Wheaten Chaff Arrivals Reduced.

Consignments were reduced by 6 trucks when 24 were offered for trading. This quantity, however, was sufficient to meet the demand and rates showed little alteration. Medium brought £8 to £8 10s., good sound £9 to £9 10s., prime £10 10s. to £11 and choice £11 per ton.

Lucerne Chaff Receivals Again Lighter.

Only 39 trucks were available. A good request was evident for prime and choice grades and prices remained practically unaltered. Inferior lots were disposed of at £6, medium £8 to £9 10s., good sound £9 to £10, prime £10 10s. to £11 5s., and choice £11 to £12, few £12 10s. per ton.

Lucerne Meal.

Receivals were limited to one truck of prime for which £14 10s. per ton was obtained.

Lucerne Hay Prices Lower.

Receivals from the Maitland district amounted to 33 trucks. New soft green brought £4 10s. to £5 10s., few £3 10s., and well made £6, with a few specials £6 10s. Arrivals from other centres showed a considerable reduction when 74 trucks came to hand, compared with a total of 97 trucks forwarded in March. Despite this reduction, rates for the bulk of the offerings were recorded at lower levels. Good sound sold at £5 10s. to £7 10s., heated £7 to £7 10s., prime £7 to £8 5s., and choice £8 15s. to £9 5s., with a few early at £10 5s. The supply included 15 trucks of derrick pressed. Heated lines realised £3, new soft green £4, medium £4 10s., good sound £5, and choice £6 per ton.

Oaten and Wheaten Hay.

Only one truck of derrick pressed wheaten came to hand which was of good sound quality and sold at £5 5s. per ton.

Straw Supplies Considerably Reduced.

There was a marked decline in the quantity available for trading, which amounted to only 14 trucks, compared with 101 last month. The total consisted of 12 trucks of oaten and 2 of wheaten. Demand at opening was very slow but increased later when supplies were very scarce. Inferior sold at £2 and good sound £5 to £6 15s. Victorian good sound oaten brought £4 10s. to £5, prime £5, and good sound wheaten £4 10s. per ton.

Wheat Consignments Fairly Heavy.

Arrivals at Alexandria increased to 61 trucks, this being the largest supply for some months. A very large proportion, however, was of inferior grade. A total of 19 trucks was auctioned, inferior lots being disposed of at 6s. 3d. to 6s. 10d. and sweepings at 5s. 3d. per bushel.

Maize Sells Slowly.

Stocks at Alexandria increased to 3,896 bags, the supply consisting of 3,183 bags of yellow and 195 bags of white from local centres and 520 bags of yellow from Queensland. Request was fairly quiet and rates were easier. Yellow lots from the North Coast realised 7s. 6d. to 7s. 9d., few 7s. 10d., whilst small, choice yellow from the North-west brought 8s. A few inferior Queensland lines sold at 6s. 9d. per bushel.

Receipts of Oats Considerably Reduced.

Supplies at Alexandria totalled to only 9 trucks. The bulk of the arrivals were taken direct to store for milling purposes and no rates were disclosed.

C. H. FERRY.