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

December, 1945.

Potato Supplies Decrease.

Tasmanian consignments received at Sussex-street were considerably less, a total of 81,554 bags and 5,030 crates being received compared with 199,766 bags and 2,567 crates during the previous month. The greater proportion of the supplies comprised Brownells, with a few Snowflakes and other varieties. Quality deteriorated, and shipments ceased during the latter half of the period. Only 20 bags of Factors were received from the North Coast by sea.

At Alexandria goods yard, 3,650 bags of new grade Factors were received from Queensland (during the first week of December), but these were stored. Arrivals at Alexandria from local sources increased considerably, when 54,411 bags came to hand compared with 37,490 last month. The tubers comprised mostly new grade Factors, with a few Katahdins.

No fresh consignments were received at Darling Harbour during the month.

Prices were as follows:—Wholesalers' Prices to Retailers (Local and Interstate). No. 1 Grade, £7 17s. 6d. per ton; undergrades, £6 7s. 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 5s. per ton less than the figures quoted.

Other Root Vegetables Very Scarce.

A small consignment of Queensland sweet potatoes, aggregating 70 bags, was received at Alexandria, and sold at £12 per ton.

A total of 259 bags of beetroot from local centres arrived at Alexandria. Sales were made at from £5 to £6, with a few at £8 to £8 10s. per ton.

No carrots, swedes or parsnips were received at Alexandria or Sussex-street during the month.

Queensland Pumpkins in Smaller Supply.

Arrivals totalled 73½ trucks. Early sales were effected at £10 to 13, but later the quality of the offerings fell off, and rates were reduced to £8 to £8 10s. in order to make clearances. Closing quotes were higher at from £10 10s. to £12 per ton. Only 53 bags were received from local centres, and these realised £8 per ton.

Onion Arrivals Decrease.

Consignments from Queensland amounted to 5,916 bags of brown table lots and 678 bags of white lines. Early sales of brown were made at from £10 10s. to £13, but later higher rates ruled, £14 to £14 10s. being obtained for the smaller quantities arriving. White onions were of variable quality; some inferior lines were sold at from £3 to £4, medium quality at £10, and sound lines at £15 to £16 per ton.

Victorian new onions began to arrive, a total of 1,518 bags of brown and 391 of white being received. Brown realised approximately £17 10s. to £18 10s. Some early arrivals of whites were in bad condition and were unsaleable, but later consignments brought approximately £17 per ton.

Receivals from local sources aggregated 1,229 bags, including 503 bags of brown, 405 of white table lots, 300 of brown pickling and 21 of white pickling lines. Sales of brown table lots were effected at £14 to £15, a few inferior white at £5, and sound at £15 to £19 per ton. No sales of pickling onions were recorded. At Darling Harbour, seven trucks of Victorian brown realised approximately £17 10s. to £18 10s., and one truck of white about £21 per ton.

Oaten Chaff More Plentiful.

Consignments of oaten chaff began to improve in the second week of December, when harvesting of the new crop became more general in southern growing areas of the State. A total of 156 trucks was received, compared with 62 last month.

During the first week of the month no difficulty was experienced in securing the fixed maximum price of £10 5s. per ton for good and prime lots. Inferior grades realised £5 10s. and, at auction, medium lots £7 1s. 8d. per ton. Later, however, medium brought £5 10s. to £6, good sound £8 10s. to £9, prime £9 to £10 5s., and choice £10 to £10 5s. per ton.

Increased Consignments of Wheaten Chaff.

Arrivals aggregated 171 trucks. Early sales of medium were made at £7 10s. to £8, with good sound at £8 to £9 and prime at £9 to £9 10s. per ton. At auction, inferior brought £6 and good sound £8 15s. per ton. Prices subsequently were lower, medium bringing £6 5s., good sound £7 to £8 10s., and prime £8 10s. to £9 per ton. At auction, good sound lots realised £8 3s. 4d. and, at closing, £7 5s. per ton.

Lucerne Chaff Scarcer.

Consignments totalled 45 trucks, or 14½ less than last month. Medium heated lines brought £8, medium £10, very grassy £8, grassy £9 10s. to £10, and later £10 10s. to £11, good sound £11 to £12, prime £12 to £13, and choice £13 10s. per ton.

Included in the supplies were 4½ trucks of mixed wheaten and lucerne chaff. Heated realised £7 and other lots from £7 to £10 per ton, according to the amount of wheaten included.

One truck of lucerne meal received early in the month sold at £15 per ton.

Maitland Hay in Lighter Supply.

Supplies yarded amounted to 84 trucks compared with 116 last month. Because of generally hot weather conditions, most lots were well made, the proportion of new green lines being small. New green brought from £6 to £7, and well-made £7 5s. to £8 5s. (a few higher) per ton.

Supplies from other centres showed a considerable reduction and amounted to 26 trucks. Medium brought £7 10s., good sound £9 to £11 10s., grassy £10 10s., slightly heated £11 10s., prime £12 to £12 5s. and choice £12 5s. per ton. Derrick pressed heated and grassy sold at £6 15s. to £7 10s., medium £7 5s., good-sound £10 to £10 10s., and mixed with rye grass £7 15s. per ton.

Oaten Hay.

Receivals, comprising 24 trucks of derrick pressed and 2½ of rack, showed a slight increase. Prime rack sold readily at £9 10s. to £10, derrick pressed inferior at £4 15s., good sound at £7 to £8, and prime at £9 per ton.

Wheaten Hay Scarce.

Much smaller supplies were received, only six trucks coming to hand. Sales were effected at £6 to £6 10s. per ton.

Straw Supplies Increase.

A total of 36 trucks, comprising 17 of oaten, 16 of wheaten and 3 of rye, were received. Oaten brought £5 15s. to £7 10s. per ton, while one truck sold at auction realised £5 16s. 8d. Wheaten straw sales were effected by private treaty at £6 15s. to £7 10s., while £7 10s. per ton was realised at auction.

No rates were available for rye straw.

Wheat Still in Short Supply.

Receivals at Alexandria amounted to 16 trucks, which were taken direct to store.

Oat Supplies Increase.

A total of 123 trucks was received. Most lots were either taken direct to store or used for milling purposes. At auction, three trucks of feed lines realised from 3s. 4d. to 3s. 4½d. per bushel.

G. GEDDES.