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

February, 1948.

Local Potato Consignments Reduced—Tasmanian Increase.

Arrivals from all sources amounted to 163,345 bags compared with last month's total of 121,863 bags. At Alexandria 22,092 bags of local were available and comprised new grade Factors and Katahdins. Victorian consignments increased to 35,441 bags of new grade Carmans, Snowflakes and a few Manistees. All lines opened up in very good condition and were cleared without difficulty. Tasmanian supplies at Sussex-street also showed an increase, 99,087 bags coming to hand. Only 41,774 bags arrived in January. The bulk of the tubers consisted of Bismarks, the percentage of Brownells being small. A shipment of 6,725 bags of Delawares was received from Western Australia but they opened up in a very unsatisfactory condition. Despite the increased arrivals during the period, supplies were not sufficient to meet demand.

Prices fixed for the month ending 29th February, 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.

Swede Supplies Exceptionally Light.

No fresh consignments were received at Alexandria during the month. Receipts at Sussex-street continued to be light, only 526 bags being forward. These were disposed of at £12, a few later sales being made at £10 per ton.

Other Root Vegetables.

No supplies came to hand from local or interstate sources.

Pumpkin Consignments Considerably Reduced.

A total of ninety-four trucks was available compared with 142 the previous month. Despite this reduction, rates were considerably lower. Local supplies amounted to sixty-two trucks, and at opening sold at £10 10s. od. to £11, but at closing realised to £8. Queensland consignments totalled twenty-three trucks, early sales being made at £9 to £10 and closing at £9 per ton.

Onion Receivals Reduced.

A considerable reduction in onion supplies occurred when only 14,019 bags arrived from local and interstate sources compared with the previous month's total of 23,550 bags. These consisted of 9,994 of brown table and 1,845 of white from Victoria, and 1,570 bags of white from South Australia. All lines arrived in very satisfactory condition. Demand was good and values showed little alteration. Victorian brown realised £19 10s. od. to £21, and white £20, while South Australian white brought £19 to £21. Only 610 bags of local brown were on offer which sold early at £21, but later were reduced to £14 per ton.

Oaten Chaff in Short Supply.

Little improvement was noticeable in the quantity available, only 115 trucks being received. Demand was good, especially for prime and choice grades for which rates were firm. Good sound brought £8 to £10, prime £9 10s. od. to £10 10s. od., and choice £10 10s. od. to £11, few £11 5s. od. per ton.

Exceptionally Light Receivals of Wheaten Chaff.

Only fifteen trucks came to hand which is the smallest quantity for a considerable period. Owing to the shortage, sales were readily effected and rates were firm. A few medium lots realised £6 15s. od., good sound and prime £10 to £10 10s. od., and choice £10 15s. od. At auction, one truck of medium sold at £7 16s. 8d. per ton.

Lucerne Chaff Well Supplied.

Supplies showed an increase this month of twenty trucks when fifty-six were received. The bulk of the offerings, especially prime and choice grades, sold well. Sales of heated were recorded at £8, good sound £8 to £9 10s. od., prime £10 to £11 10s. od., and choice £11 to £12. One truck of medium brought £8 8s. 4d. per ton at auction.

Lucerne Hay Arrivals Light—Rates Unaltered.

Consignments from the Maitland district were the smallest for many months. Only nineteen trucks arrived, the total including two of derrick pressed. Although receivals were limited, request was slow and rates were slightly easier. New soft green brought £4 10s. od. to £5 10s. od., few £3, well made £6, and derrick pressed new green £5 10s. od. to £6. Supplies from other centres also declined, a total of forty-eight trucks being on offer, compared with seventy-two during January. Demand for these lines was also restricted. Heated lots brought 6, good sound £6 to £8, few early £9, prime £8 to £9 10s. od., and choice £10 10s. od. to £11. Medium sold at auction for £6. Only four trucks of derrick pressed were received; medium realised £5, and good sound £6 per ton.

Large Quantity of Derrick Pressed Oaten Hay—Values Easier.

Receivals, which totalled forty trucks, showed a marked increase on those of the last few months. The supply included five trucks of rack and thirty-five of derrick pressed. Demand was good early but later, when supplies increased, sales were made at lower levels. Choice rack realised £10 10s. od. to £11; derrick pressed, medium, £6 to £6 10s. od., good sound £8 10s. od., and prime £10 to £10 10s. od., while heated lines brought £6 to £6 5s. od. at auction. Later in the period six trucks were submitted for auction, stained selling at £5, and good sound at £5 to £6 15s. od. per ton. Two trucks of derrick pressed wheaten came to hand, some sales of good sound being made at £6 per ton.

Choice Straw in Request.

A total of seventy-five trucks of straw arrived, which was a marked increase on the previous month's supply of twenty-one trucks. Prime and choice grades sold readily, but other lines were difficult to clear except at low rates. Good sound oaten realised £7, prime and choice £8 to £8 10s. od. Early in the period, Victorian medium brought £7 10s. od. to £8, and prime £9. Supplies increased later and rates were easier, damaged selling at £6 15s. od., good sound £7 5s. od. to £7 10s. od., and choice £8 to £8 10s. od. Stained wheaten was quoted at £3 10s. od., good sound at £6 to £7, and prime at £7 to £8 per ton.

Wheat Supplies Again Limited.

Only eighteen trucks arrived compared with forty-seven trucks on offer during January. At the one sale recorded, damaged was auctioned for 6s. per bushel.

Wheat Still Selling Well.

Receivals increased to 4,372 bags, the total including 2,506 bags from local centres and 1,866 of yellow from Queensland. Only a portion of the supply was available for trading. A price of 7s. 9d. per bushel was recorded.

Oats Not for General Trading.

A total of twenty-three trucks came to hand compared with fifty-three in January. No sales were recorded, the bulk of the supply being taken to store.

C. H. FERRY.