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Choice Cabbages Dearer.

The market for choice cabbages was very satisfactory, large heads selling to 30s. per dozen. Small sizes proved difficult to sell on a few occasions but mainly good clearances were made.

Carrots in Request.

There was good inquiry for both bunched and bagged carrots and best lines sold at maximum prices. Supplies of bagged lines were relatively light early in February but stocks increased considerably subsequently. Some lines affected by breakdown had to be sold to the best advantage while others became a total loss.

Choice Lettuce Scarce.

Reduced quantities of lettuce were forward and the percentage of choice lines was small. Prices for best quality lots reached 20s. and a few sales were made at still higher rates.

R. D. MEAKER.

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

February, 1946.

Supplies of Tasmanian Potatoes Increase.

Following exceptionally light consignments from Tasmania in January, stocks arriving in Sussex-street in February from that source showed a marked increase, supplies totalling 112,125 bags compared with 43,050 bags in the previous month. The tubers mostly comprised new-grade Bismarcks, although a few new Brownells as well as about 800 bags of old-season's Brownells were included. Approximately 50,000 bags were made available for general trading, the balance going to essential services.

Supplies arriving at Alexandria Goods Yard from Victoria were on a reduced scale and comprised 9,988 bags. The bulk consisted of Carmans, with a few Manistees and Brownells.

Supplies from local centres at Alexandria continued to be very light and aggregated 6,705 bags, including 110 bags of seed. These tubers were new grade Factors and chats. Most of these supplies were available for civilian use, about 1,000 bags being for essential services.

Rates during the month were unchanged as follows:—

Wholesale Prices to Retailers:—

Local and Interstate—No. 1 Grade £7 17s. 6d.

Undergrades £6 7s. 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 Interstate 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 5s. per ton less than the figures quoted.

Other Root Vegetables Again Scarce.

There were 1,152 bags of swedes received in Sussex-street from Tasmania; some sales were effected at £10 5s. with medium lots lower.

Supplies of Tasmanian carrots were restricted to 114 bags which sold at £22 10s., whilst 484 bags of parsnips early in the period brought £9 per ton.

Local Pumpkins Sell Well.

Consignments arriving at Alexandria from Queensland showed a considerable reduction, only 42 trucks coming to hand. Rates were slightly firmer but it was again necessary to regrade a number of lines owing to breakdown. Sales of a few lots were effected at £7 but the bulk cleared at £7 10s. to £8 10s. per ton.

Arrivals from local centres showed a marked increase, 65 trucks being forward. There was a good enquiry, especially towards the latter end of the month when rates gradually increased. Sales were made as follows:—

A few lines at £8, most lots at £9 increasing to £12 per ton.

Receivals in Sussex-street from the North Coast were heavier and totalled 947 bags which brought £9 to £11 per ton.

Exceptionally Heavy Supplies of Victorian Onions.

Consignments from Victoria at Alexandria showed a marked increase and comprised 20,826 bags. Particulars of receivals are as follows:—16,322 bags of brown table, 1,136 bags brown pickling; 3,368 bags of white table lines. The onions were in good condition and despite heavy supplies, all lines met good enquiry. Sales were made as follows:—

Brown Table; approximately £17 10s. to £18 10s., white table: early sales £21 late sales at £15 to £18 per ton. At Darling Harbour landing, 6 trucks of Victorian brown table lines sold at approximately £17 10s. to £18 10s. while one truck of white table made £16 per ton.

Oaten Chaff Much Scarcer.

Following record receivals in January, there was a marked falling-off in the quantity of oaten chaff on offer. Stocks amounted to only 125 trucks, which constituted the smallest supply since November. This was partly due to country buyers and agents having purchased oaten hay from farmers in stooks, early in the season, then cutting into chaff and loading direct to trucks because of the favourable price for chaff. Subsequently, however, owing to the sharp fall in prices, holders of hay stacked the bulk of their hay in the hope of a more satisfactory market later.

Owing to reduced supplies, rates were at higher levels as follows:—Good sound, £6 10s. to £7, prime £7 to £7 15s. with a few lots of choice selling early in the period at £7 5s. to £7 15s. per ton. Sales by auction included 4½ trucks of damaged at £4 10s. to £6 6s. 8d. and prime at £7 per ton.

Reduced Supplies of Wheaten Chaff.

There was a further marked falling-off in supplies of wheaten chaff. Only 36 trucks were offered, the smallest quantity since November, 1944. These stocks met good enquiry, sales being made at higher prices, which were as follows:—few inferior lots £4 10s.; good sound £6 to £7 10s.; prime £7 10s. to £7 15s.; a few special to £8 per ton.

Lucerne Chaff Also Scarcer.

Arrivals were reduced by 8 trucks when 49 trucks came to hand. Choice was in demand, but other grades moved out slowly. Clearances were effected as follows: medium £7 10s. to £8; good sound £8 to £10; prime £10 to £11 10s.; and choice £12 to £12 10s. per ton.

Maitland Hay In Short Supply.

Supplies of Maitland hay amounted to only 29½ trucks, compared with 87 trucks in January, partly due to unfavourable weather conditions. Prices showed little change as supplies from other centres were maintained. Sales were recorded as follows:—new soft green £4 10s. to £5; new green £5 to £6 10s.; well made £6 10s. to £7 10s. (with a few higher) per ton.

Receivals from other centres were the heaviest for a number of months, and totalled 96 trucks including 35 trucks of derrick pressed. Most lines sold well, but demand was mostly for prime and choice lots, other grades selling at lower prices. Rates were as follows: medium £5, good sound £6 to £8, prime £9 to £11, choice £11 5s. to £12, with a few specials at £12 5s. A few choice sold early made £10 to £11 per ton. Derrick pressed inferior realised £2 10s. to £3 12s. 6d.; heated £3 to £5; medium £4 to £5 10s.; prime £6 to £6 15s. per ton. Sales by auction included 8 trucks of medium at £4 15s. to £5 1s. 8d., heated at £5 10s. and good sound at £5 16s. 8d. per ton.

Oaten Hay More Plentiful.

Arrivals of oaten hay totalled 27 trucks, including 17 trucks of rack and 10 trucks of derrick pressed. Early in the period, rack lots sold well, but owing to increased supplies associated with a limited demand for this type of hay, rates were reduced. At closing, good sound realised £6 to £7, while prime and choice lots moved out at £9 per ton. Derrick pressed medium sold at £4 15s. with good sound at £6 to £6 10s. per ton. Wheaten hay supplies were restricted to 5 trucks and derrick pressed, good sound realised £5 15s. and prime £6, while one truck sold at auction realised the latter rate.

Wheaten Straw In Heavy Supply.

Supplies totalling 88 trucks were more than sufficient for requirements. These included 27 trucks of oaten, 60 trucks of wheaten and one truck of barley straw. Prime lots met a satisfactory request, but other grades were disposed of at low rates. Prices were:—medium oaten £3 10s. to £4, good sound £4 10s. to £5, prime £6 to £6 15s. per ton, with a few higher. Wheaten medium brought £3 15s. to £4 10s., good sound £4 10s. to £5, and prime £6 to £6 10s. per ton. Sales by auction comprised 3 trucks, medium lines realising £4 and good sound £4 10s. to £4 11s. 8d., while one truck of medium barley straw bought £3 12s. 6d. per ton.

Wheat Supplies Again Restricted.

There were 19 trucks forward. The bulk was taken direct to store and not offered for general trading.

Maize Very Scarce.

During the period, arrivals were again restricted, only 160 bags of yellow and 45 bags of white coming to hand from local centres and these were not offered. It is expected that given favourable weather conditions there should be an improvement in supplies coming forward in the next few weeks.

Oat Supplies Considerably Reduced.

There was a marked reduction in supplies of oats, only 14 trucks arriving at Alexandria compared with 70 trucks in the previous month. No rates were disclosed as the bulk was taken to store.

C. H. FERRY.