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

March, 1946.

Increased Supplies of Tasmanian Potatoes.

Quantities of potatoes arriving at Sussex street showed a further improvement. Tasmanian supplies amounting to 145,700 bags, also 13,708 crates, compared with 112,351 bags consigned during February. The bulk of the tubers was mostly No. 1 grade Bismarcks with a percentage of Brownells. Demand for general trading was very keen following short supplies for sometime. A fairly large quantity was released for civilian use, especially during the latter part of the period.

Consignments at Alexandria showed a further reduction and comprised the following from Interstate sources: 5,392 bags of No. 1 grade Carmans from Victoria, compared with last month's total of 9,988 bags, and 1,000 bags of No. 1 grade Bismarcks from Tasmania. Truckings from local centres were exceptionally light, only 2,131 bags and 356 of seed coming to hand. The bulk of the arrivals which consisted of No. 1 grade Factors and Manhattans, also a few Factor undergrades from the Guyra district were released for trading.

Prices fixed for the month ending 31st March, 1946, Sydney basis, are :—

Wholesalers' Prices to Retailers.

Local and Interstate—No. 1 Grade, £7 17s. 6d.; 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 merchant's prices to wholesalers are £1 5s. 6d. per ton less than the figures quoted.

Tasmanian Swede Consignments Increase.

No supplies of swedes arrived at Alexandria from local or Interstate sources but arrivals from Tasmania at Sussex street were the heaviest for a considerable time, and totalled 9,912 bags. Sales were effected at £12 per ton.

Other Root Vegetables Scarce.

At Alexandria 239 bags of carrots arrived from Victoria and realised £15 to £16 per ton. Increased supplies were available at Darling Harbour totalling 6 trucks. Opening sales were made at £18 but values later ranged from £15 to £16 per ton. Consignments of sweet potatoes from Queensland amounted to 670 bags and sold at £20 to £21 per ton. One truck of Victorian parsnips also was received and realised £25 per ton.

Pumpkins Well Supplied: Rates Variable.

Arrivals of pumpkins at Alexandria increased to 121 trucks, including 54 from local centres and 67 from Queensland. It was necessary to regrade a number of Queensland lots owing to their breakdown condition on arrival. There was a good demand but values showed a wide range at times. Early sales of local lines were effected at £13 to £14. Rates later, however, were £8 to £9, but subsequently they advanced and £10 to £13 was secured. Queensland consignments sold early at £11 to £12, few £13, and later at £7 to £9, few as low as £6. The market was firmer at closing and values ranged to £11 per ton. Arrivals at Sussex street from the North Coast, totalled 297 bags which were disposed of at £9 per ton.

Victorian Onion Consignments Again Heavy.

Following heavy supplies from Victoria in February, which totalled 20,826 bags, consignments again increased and amounted to 23,583 bags. These comprised 19,615 bags of brown table, 1,589 brown pickling, 1,983 white, and 396 bags of white pickling. Despite the increased offerings, no difficulty was experienced in clearing most lots and rates showed little change at approximately £17 15s. od. to £18 10s. od. for brown table; £10 for brown pickling; white lines, £18 10s. od. to £21, with white pickling £12 early, later £10 per ton.

At Darling Harbour landing 6 trucks of brown table realised approximately £18 to £18 10s. od. and 3 trucks of white lines £15 per ton.

Oaten Chaff Sells Slowly.

Slightly increased consignments, 147 trucks, of oaten chaff were available compared with 125 trucks in February. Rates were slightly higher, although demand was fairly slow at times. Prices: Medium lines £6 to £6 15s. od., good sound £6 15s. od. to £7 10s. od., prime £7 15s. od. to £8, choice and special lots at £8 5s. od. per ton. Sales by auction included medium lots at £6 13s. 4d. per ton.

Wheaten Chaff Consignments Increase.

Following only limited supplies in February, consignments of wheaten chaff increased by 20 trucks, 56 trucks being offered for trading. These were in request in the first half of the period, sales being effected at the following rates: Medium £6 to £6 10s. od., good sound £6 15s. od. to £7 10s. od., also prime £7 10s. od. to £8. Later, however, supplies were more than sufficient for requirements and rates were lower, medium lots selling at £6, good sound £6 12s. 6d. to £7, with prime and special lines at £7 10s. od., few £7 15s. od., and medium lots at auction £5 16s. 8d. per ton.

Exceptionally Light Supplies of Lucerne Chaff.

Consignments of lucerne chaff, 24 trucks, showed a considerable falling off, being the lightest for some months. There was a good enquiry for prime lots and rates showed little change, being recorded as follows: Medium and grassy £8, good sound £9 to £10, prime £11 to £11 10s. od. and choice £11 5s. od. to £11 10s. od. per ton.

Maitland Lucerne Hay Again in Light Supply.

Arrivals of hay from the above district, continued to be restricted, only 37½ trucks coming to hand. These met a good enquiry. A few new, soft green lots sold at £3 10s. od. to £4 10s. od. and the bulk, comprising new green £5 to £6 10s. od., also well made £6 to £6 10s. od. One truck of new soft green derrick pressed lots realised £4 10s. od. per ton. Supplies from other centres continued to be fairly heavy, totalling 79½ trucks including 19½ trucks of derrick pressed lots. A good demand continued owing to light supplies from Maitland. However, clearances were effected at the following lower rates: Medium £6 10s. od. to £7, good sound £7 to £8 10s. od., prime £9 to £10 10s. od. with choice £10 5s. od. to £11 5s. od. and specials £11 to £11 10s. od. per ton. Derrick pressed medium lots sold at £4 to £5 5s. od., good sound £5 to £6 with a few prime £7 5s. od. and specials £8 per ton.

Oaten Hay Supplies Restricted.

Supplies of oaten hay showed a considerable falling off, only 10 trucks being on offer. These included 2 trucks of rack lots and 8 of derrick pressed. Rates showed little change, rack lots of good sound realising £7 to £7 10s. od., prime £8 to £9 and derrick pressed good sound £5 10s. od., few £7 per ton.

Wheaten Hay.

Supplies increased by 5 trucks, 10 trucks being on offer. These included inferior and damaged lines which sold at £3 5s. od. to £3 10s. od., medium £4, with good sound lines at £5 10s. od. to £6 per ton.

Straw Consignments Again Heavy.

Receivals of straw continued to be heavy, amounting to 85 trucks comprising 36 trucks of oaten, 47 trucks wheaten, 2 trucks rye straw. Prime lines met with good enquiry but lower grades sold slowly. Clearances were made of oaten lines as follows: Medium £4, good sound £5 to £5 10s. od., prime £6 to £6 10s. od. with few £6 15s. od. to £7; and wheaten lots, medium £3 15s. od. to £4, good sound £5 to £5 10s. od., prime £5 15s. od. to £6. Rates for rye straw were not available.

Wheat Consignments Exceptionally Light.

Only ten trucks of wheat were received at Alexandria compared with 19 the previous month. These were not offered for general trading and, in most cases, were taken to store.

Maize Again in Light Supply.

Slightly improved supplies of maize were available at Alexandria, consignments from local centres amounting to 1,962 bags and consisting of yellow lines with a few red and white. Queensland truckings totalled 392 bags of yellow. Only a small percentage was available for trading at maximum rates of 7s. 3d. and 7s. 6d. per bushel, the remainder being taken to store. Until the recent heavy rain on the North Coast it was expected that supplies would have increased considerably by March. The position now is, however, that the quantity available will probably be exceptionally light. Arrivals from the North Coast at Sussex street totalled 148 bags of yellow lines but no rates were disclosed.

Oats Continue to be Scarce.

Supplies of oats continued to show a considerable falling off, offerings which totalled 10 trucks, being the lowest for some months. The bulk of the consignments was taken to store but one truck realised 3s. 5d. per bushel.

C. H. FERRY.