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

May, 1946.

Potatoes in Lighter Supply.

Although Tasmanian arrivals in Sussex-street were considerably reduced, this was partly offset by large supplies received at Alexandria from Victoria, Queensland and local sources. Tasmanian consignments to Sussex-street totalled only 33,544 bags, compared with 165,209 bags in the previous month.

Victorian supplies arriving at Alexandria aggregated 100,061 bags, a considerable increase on the 21,800 available in April. These tubers comprised No. 1 grade Carmans and Snowflakes, 10,569 bags of which required regrading because of Blight, Eel Worm, mechanical injuries and frost damage.

Queensland consignments began arriving late in the month and amounted to 10,451 bags of No. 1 grade Factors.

Supplies from local centres also increased and totalled 9,753 bags of No. 1 grade Factors, with a few Alpine Wonders. Most of these potatoes were received from the Crookwell and Oberon districts.

Prices fixed for the week ended 31st May, 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 merchants' prices to wholesalers are £1 5s. per ton less than the figures quoted.

Tasmanian Swedes Lightly Supplied.

Because of shipping troubles, only 4,208 bags of swedes were received in Sussex-street from Tasmania. Rates were from £10 to £12 per ton. Supplies to hand at Alexandria from Tasmania via Victoria amounted to 983 bags, which realised £12 to £13 10s., and four trucks at Darling Harbour which sold at the higher rate of £14 per ton.

Local consignments increased to 493 bags and realised from £10 to £12 per ton.

Other Root Vegetables More Plentiful.

Receivals of carrots at Alexandria totalled 1,078 bags, of which 280 bags came from Tasmania via Victoria, 362 from local sources and 436 of Victorian origin. Sales of Tasmanian were effected at £12, local inferior at £4 to £5, good quality at £14 to £15 and Victorian at £10 to £12 per ton. In addition, 333 bags were received in Sussex-street from Tasmania, but owing to the delay in unloading no rates were disclosed. Victorian carrots which arrived at Darling Harbour comprised 4 trucks which sold at £10 to £11 per ton.

Small consignments of parsnips, comprising 53 bags from local centres and 50 from Tasmania, were on offer at Alexandria. Local lots brought £12 and Tasmanian £19 per ton. At Sussex-street, two trucks were available from Victoria and 108 bags from Tasmania. Victorian parsnips of medium quality realised £8 per ton.

Supplies of Queensland sweet potatoes on offer totalled 451 bags, which were cleared early in the month at £14 and later at £12, with a few at £9 to £10 per ton.

Pumpkin Supplies Again Lighter.

Receivals again showed a reduction, 51 trucks from local growers and 42½ from Queensland being available. Good demand prevailed early in the month but later rates had to be reduced to low levels in order to effect clearances. At closing, a better inquiry was noticed.

Local pumpkins sold at as high as £11 during the first week but by the end of the following week, quotes had receded to £5 to £6 per ton. During the remainder of the period the market gradually firmed to £9 per ton, though under-grade lots were sold at £5 to £6 at the close of May.

A similar trend was observed in respect of trading in Queensland supplies, opening quotes being £9 5s. to £9 10s., later £5 to £6 and then firming to £7 10s. to £8 per ton. The one truck received at Darling Harbour from Queensland during the first week of May sold at £10 per ton.

Victorian Onions Plentiful.

Consignments of brown table lines were much heavier, a total of 24,869 bags being received, compared with 13,711 last month. In addition, 240 bags of brown pickling onions came to hand from Victoria. Brown table brought £17 10s. to £18 10s. and pickling £9 10s. to £10 per ton. Brown onions from local centres aggregated 1,514 bags, which cleared at £13 to £14, with a few at £12 per ton. The one truck received at Darling Harbour was stored, no prices being available.

Oaten Chaff Meets Better Inquiry.

Consignments of oaten chaff totalled 142½ trucks, or 16½ more than were received last month. Demand improved and rates were higher at the end of May, the market gradually firming by about £1 per ton on April's closing quotes. Early sales were made of medium at £6, good sound at £7 to £7 10s., prime at £8 to £8 5s., and choice at £8 5s. to £8 10s. per ton. Realisations later included medium at £7 to £7 5s., good sound at £8 to £8 5s., prime and choice at £8 10s. to £8 15s., with some special lines at £9 per ton.

Four trucks of medium lines were submitted at auction and brought £6 10s. to £6 15s. per ton.

Wheaten Chaff Supplies Increase.

Arrivals amounted to 38½ trucks. A better demand prevailed and prices were higher. Sales included medium lots at £6 10s. to £7 10s., good sound at £7 to £7 5s. (later £8), prime at £8 (later £8 10s.), and a few special-quality lots early in the month at £8 5s. to £8 10s. per ton.

Lucerne Chaff Arrivals Maintained.

Consignments totalled 49 trucks, but there was a considerable variation in the quality of the offerings and rates covered a wide range. Inferior brought £5, medium grassy £8 5s., medium £9, heated £8 15s., good sound £10 to £11 10s., prime £11 15s. to £12 10s., and choice £11 15s. to £13 per ton.

Lucerne meal comprised two trucks, which realised £14. One and a half trucks of lucerne threshings brought £8 to £8 10s., and 46 bags of lucerne dust sold at £11 10s. per ton.

Lucerne Hay Again Sells Well.

Supplies from the Maitland district decreased by 7 trucks, only 26 trucks being received, constituting the smallest quantity available since last June. Most lots coming forward comprised new, soft green lines, which realised from £2 10s. to £6; a few new green brought £6 10s., and derrick-pressed new green £7 5s. per ton.

Larger consignments totalling 65½ trucks were forwarded from other centres, including 27 of derrick-pressed. Clearances were easily effected, with prime and choice lines reaching ceiling levels and lower-grade lots selling at enhanced prices. Medium brought £9, good sound £10 to £11, prime £11 to £12 5s., and choice £12 to £12 5s. per ton. Derrick-pressed inferior brought £6, medium grassy £5 to £6 10s., heated £6 10s. to £7, medium £7 5s. to £8, good sound £7 10s. to £8 10s. (later £8 10s. to £9 10s.) and prime £9 10s. per ton during the first week of May.

Oaten and Wheaten Hay Supplies Increase.

Receivals of oaten hay amounted to 19½ trucks, including 12 of derrick-pressed and 7½ of rack. Prime rack was in demand at £9 to £10 10s. per ton and prompt clearances were made for the small amount available. Derrick-pressed was rather slow of sale, good sound bringing £6 10s. to £7 per ton. One truck of medium grade submitted at auction realised £3 15s. per ton.

Wheaten hay was more heavily stocked, 7 trucks being on offer. Good sound lines were cleared at £6 10s. and inferior at £3 15s. per ton. One truck of medium "oaty" brought £4 10s. per ton at auction.

Straw in Lighter Supply.

The quantity of straw forward was considerably less than last month, a total of 75 trucks being received, comprising 47 of oaten, 26 of wheaten, one of rye and one of rice. Medium quality oaten brought £4 to £4 5s., good sound £4 15s. to £5 and prime £5 10s. to £6 10s. per ton.

Wheaten straw was quoted at £4 for medium grade, good sound at £5 to £6 10s. and a few prime early at £5 5s. to £5 10s. per ton.

Wheat Again Scarcer.

A total of 20 trucks was available. The bulk was not offered for general trading, being taken direct to store, and no rates were disclosed.

Maize Still in Light Supply.

Supplies at Alexandria aggregated 6,913 bags and included 2,495 of yellow, 350 of red and 1,540 of white from local centres and 2,125 bags of yellow and 403 of red from Queensland. No rates were disclosed, most lots being taken direct to store.

A total of 921 bags was received from the North Coast by sea. Some sales were made at the maximum rate of 7s. 3d. per bushel.

Oats Scarce.

Only 12 trucks were received at Alexandria, compared with 38 in the previous month. No prices were available, the bulk of supplies being taken direct to store.

G. GEDDES.