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up to 105s. 6d. dressed, or 16¼d. per lb. Heavy weight grades, dressing from 80 lb. to 90 lb., made to 117s. 6d. per head, and up to 15¾d. per lb.

Suitable store pigs were in short supply early in the month, but were more numerous at subsequent sales. Inquiry for the most part was good, and values were higher in some instances. The accompanying schedule indicates the trend in prices over the period.

Values shown in pence per lb.—Based on selling price per head of live animals and estimated dressed weight of carcase.

Date of sale, 1947	...	...	...	2nd Dec.	9th Dec.	16th Dec.
Number yarded each sale	...	...	...	1,221	1,724	2,730
Estimated prices per lb. for—				d.	d.	d.
Porkers—35-50 lb., extra light	...	...	...	14½-16½	15½-17½	15½-18
50-60 lb., light	...	...	...	14½-16	15½-16½	15½-17
60-70 lb., medium	...	...	...	14-15½	15-15¾	15-16½
70-80 lb., medium	...	...	...	13¾-14¾	14½-15½	14½-16½
80-90 lb., heavy	...	...	...	13½-14¾	14-15½	14-15¾
Intermediates—90-100 lb.	...	...	...	13½-14	13¾-14¾	13¾-14¾
Baconers—100-110 lb., light	...	...	...	13-14	13½-14½	13½-14½
110-120 lb., light	...	...	...	13-13¾	13½-14½	13½-14½
120-130 lb., medium	...	...	...	13-13½	13-14	13-14
130-160 lb., heavy	...	...	...	12¾-13½	12¾-13¾	12¾-14
160-180 lb., extra heavy	...	...	...	12¾-13½	12¾-13½	12¾-13¾
180-200 lb., extra heavy	...	...	...	12½-13	12¾-13½	12½-13½
200-240 lb., extra heavy	...	...	...	11¾-12½	11¾-12½	11½-12¾
Backfatters—250-350 lb.	...	...	...	8¾-10	8¾-10	8¾-10
350 lb. and over	...	...	...	8-9½	7½-9	7½-9

T. R. PERRY AND G. COLEMAN.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

December, 1947.

FRUIT.

New Season's Apples on Offer.

Only relatively small consignments of Delicious and Granny Smith apples from cool stores in New South Wales were available, as the season was virtually finished for these varieties. For choice packs rates were maintained at high levels, up to 46s. per bushel and occasionally more being realised. There was a keen inquiry for Batlow-grown Yates, and best sizes sold to 40s. per bushel. Interstate supplies comprised mainly Victorian Yates, Tasmanian Democrats and Western Australian Granny Smiths. Marketing of new season's apples from coastal orchards progressed. The bulk of supplies, however, comprised cookers, although some dessert varieties were available towards the close of December. Values for ordinary varieties were wide owing to the

preponderance of small sizes and ranged from 6s. to 20s. Dessert varieties were available from 12s. to 25s., with a few to 30s. per bushel. Very small sizes were lower.

Season for Pears Practically Finished.

The market for pears was confined principally to Victorian fruit which comprised mainly Packham's Triumph, Josephine, Winter Cole and Winter Nelis varieties. Demand was good for sound fruit of good quality, but clearances of over-mature lines were slow. Towards the close of the month supplies had practically ceased.

Firmer Market for Valencia Oranges.

Trading in Valencia oranges was satisfactory. Heavy rains in coastal growing areas restricted harvesting at times during the month and, as a result, consignments on some days were very light. For choice fruit prices firmed and up to 20s. per bushel was paid during the second half of December. Breakdown was noticeable in many packs and values of affected lines had to be reduced in order to effect disposals.

Rates for Lemons Show Improvement with Reduction in Supplies.

With a restricted inquiry the market for lemons was very weak during the early part of December, but with a subsequent reduction in consignments and an improved request, values firmed, and for selected counts of 180's to 216's, up to 12s. per bushel, and occasionally more, was paid. Large-sized fruit, however, continued to have poor keeping qualities and wastage was high throughout the month.

Peaches Plentiful.

Supplies of peaches, which came mainly from orchards within the County of Cumberland increased appreciably, and towards the close of December some inland fruit was received. Demand was variable and prices showed a good deal of fluctuation. Top rates ranged from 10s. to 16s. per half case, but on a few occasions it was difficult to obtain above 8s. for the choicest packs, while as low as 2s. was accepted. Losses were occasioned by fungus and pests.

Apricots from Inland Areas Available.

There was a much easier tone in rates for apricots compared with those ruling during November. Early in the month up to 20s. per half case was realised, but with the advent of consignments from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, about mid-December, top prices rarely exceeded 12s. to 14s., while on a few days this level was not reached. Small fruit proved difficult to clear even when offered at as low as 4s. per half case.

Large Plums Sell Satisfactorily.

Choice large plums met a steady sale, but large quantities of small fruit were disposed of to jam factories. Early in the month up to 20s. per half case was paid, but generally only a few specials brought more than 12s. late in December. Purchases for factory purposes were made at 4s. per half case.

Cherries Show Effect of Rain.

The bulk of the cherries from both the Orange and Young districts showed the effects of rain. Many lines arrived split and also affected by fungus, some to the extent of being unsaleable. For the limited quantities of choice, sound fruit fairly high prices were obtained during the Christmas week, some lines realising 30s. per quarter bushel. Rates, however, were variable, the range on many days being very wide.

Small quantities of South Australian cherries of exceptionally good quality arrived by air transport from that State and were cleared promptly at up to 3s. per lb.

Bananas in Heavier Supply.

Fairly large consignments of bananas came to hand from New South Wales growing areas and Queensland supplies arrived bi-weekly. Rates for eights and nines were fairly steady, but were lower for sixes and sevens. There was an accumulation of stocks over the holidays and a considerable quantity of fruit reached a ripe to over-ripe stage and it was expected that some difficulty would be experienced in effecting clearances even at low prices.

Pineapples Sell Well.

Receivals also of Queensland pineapples, which amounted to slightly over 29,000 tropical cases, showed a falling off of about 2,500 cases compared with November deliveries. Request was good and selected counts of choice fruit realised up to 34s. per case on some days, while in a few instances more was paid. Generally top rates throughout the month ranged from 25s. to 30s. On the other hand, small Ripleys were available from as low as 10s.

Rates for Papaws Advance.

There was a decline in consignments of papaws, about 11,100 cases being received, representing a drop of about 3,000 cases from November deliveries. Good clearances were effected and rates generally were on a higher plane during the second half of the month at from 10s. to 20s. per tropical case, while on some days choice packs sold to 24s.

Queensland Rock Melons Arrived in Poor Condition.

The greater proportion of Queensland rock melon supplies arrived in a wasty condition. The small percentage of good quality lines met a ready sale, but faulty packs had to be cleared at very low prices. Quotations ranged from 2s. to 10s. per bushel, although 16s. and occasionally 18s. was obtained for a few choice lines.

Successful Air Transport of Perishable Fruit from Other States.

The marketing of highly perishable fruits, such as raspberries, gooseberries, strawberries, red and black currants, by air transport from Tasmania, was carried out. With the exception of raspberries, these fruits generally carried well and realised high prices.

Small air-borne consignments of South Australian cherries were received just prior to Christmas. This fruit, which was of outstanding quality, was packed in cardboard containers holding about

18 lb. Another instance of marketing by air transport was the despatch of over 5,000 pineapples to New Zealand for the Christmas season. The pineapples were loaded without being cased.

Rates for Passionfruit Weaker.

Firm rates ruled for passionfruit early in December when choice packs realised up to 38s. and occasionally 40s. per half case. With increasing supplies subsequently values were downward and, at the close of the month, prices ranged from 15s. to 25s. with inferior lines lower.

VEGETABLES.

Heavy Supplies of Peas—Rates Variable.

Consignments of peas continued to be heavy throughout December, about 66,000 bags being offered. The bulk of supplies came from Central Tableland growing areas, although Northern and Southern Tableland growers forwarded moderate quantities, whilst Victoria also contributed to the total. Owing to the wet season a considerable proportion of supplies were adversely affected in appearance, much pod spot and discolouration being in evidence. Demand generally was good, but supplies were in excess of retail trade requirements and surplus stocks had to be sold to cannery buyers and quick-freeze processors at prices which ranged from 5s. to 8s. per bushel. Prices for trader's requirements fluctuated considerably during the month. On a number of days the top rate was 12s. per bushel, but prices were much higher at other times, especially during the Christmas week when choicest lines exceeded 20s. per bushel and reached as much as 30s. on Christmas Eve.

Beans Lightly Stocked, Market Very Firm at Closing.

There was a further decline in consignments of beans compared with receivals during November, only about 14,500 bags being forward. Choice lines represented only a small percentage of supplies and demand for this class was very satisfactory throughout the greater part of the month, but low-grade lots were often difficult to clear. During the closing week choice beans sold from 15s. to 20s., and some extra choice realised 22s. to 24s. per bushel.

Main Tomato Supplies from Metropolitan Sources.

Much larger quantities of field-grown tomatoes from within the County of Cumberland were available, but marketing of glass-house packs finished. Consignments from the North Coast also were reduced appreciably. Other supplies comprised small lots from inland districts of the State and Queensland. Values showed variations from day to day. Choicest locals on a number of days exceeded 20s. per half-case, and 26s. was obtained on 24th December, but rates were mainly around the 16s. to 18s. mark for the greater part of the period. Heavy rains on the North Coast adversely affected the fruit in that area and many lines opened up in poor condition. Prices for these tomatoes, except a few outstanding packs, were on a lower scale than those which ruled for local field-grown lots. The relatively light supplies from Queensland realised from 4s. to 14s. per half-case.