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NEW SOUTH WALES
STATE MARKETING BUREAU
DIVISION OF MARKETING
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

MAY, 1943

Vol. 10 No. 1

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MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

A MISCELLANY OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS, AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Released during the Second Week of each Month.

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ACTING CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

MAY, 1943.

Vol. 10. No. 1

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HIGHLIGHTS.

A total maize grain yield for the State has been officially forecast at 3,100,000 bushels. This approximates the outturn last season, although the acreage under crop is smaller.

Maximum wholesale prices for meat were fixed as from 10th May, 1943, in respect of the Sydney Metropolitan Area. No changes in "ceiling" retail prices will be permitted.

The Department of Commerce estimates that approximately 500,000 tons of potatoes will be needed in Australia next season to meet the requirements of the Services, civilians, dehydration and seed.

Prices Commissioner has announced that he proposes fixing "ceiling" prices for all vegetables in the near future.

It is estimated that this year's rice yield will approximate 55,000 tons which will constitute an Australian all-time record. Normal production is in the vicinity of 42,000 tons of paddy rice.

The Egg Marketing Board reports having cold stored approximately 87,000 cases of eggs during the 1942-43 pool year, compared with the previous highest total of 45,000 cases. Demand from the Armed Services in addition to civilian requirements has been extremely heavy and available cold stored stocks are expected to be exhausted about the third week in May.

PRICE CONTROL OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS.

The Minister for Trade and Customs, Senator the Hon. R.V. Keane, made a statement in the Senate on 24th March, 1943, concerning Government policy in relation to price control of primary products. Although extracts from Senator Keane's statement have appeared in the press, it is considered desirable to publish such an important statement in full, and copy is set out hereunder:

"Much confusion has been created concerning the operation of price control of primary products over the past year. This is due to the prominence given in some sections of the press to the comments of a few critics of the actions of the Prices Commissioner in controlling prices of one or two vegetables. In order to clarify the position, I ask leave to make the following statement briefly surveying the operations of price control on leading primary products.

In the first place, it is not generally realised that over a large field of primary production the Government, either through special Boards or through the determinations of the Prices Commissioner, has guaranteed minimum prices as well as fixing maximum prices. This applies to wool, wheat, hides and skins, rabbit skins, potatoes, sugar, flax and peas. In co-operation with the States, there are also minimum prices for eggs, milk, and onions in certain States. In addition to this, the arrangements made by the dairying industry, with tacit approval of the Government, provided virtually for a minimum price. This covers production amounting to more than £150m. per annum at present guaranteed minimum prices, and provides an effective answer to those who contend that the Government through its machinery of price control is fixing maximum prices only, and leaving primary producers to the mercy of low prices during periods of over-supply.

The Government is extending its programme of guaranteed minimum prices. Hon. Senators will recall that it was part of the duty of the Meat Commission, the Regulations for which were disallowed in this Chamber, to guarantee minimum prices of all meats. Unfortunately, the development of this plan has been suspended, but the Government intends to proceed with it as rapidly as possible in spite of the adverse vote on the Regulations. Plans are also in hand for extending the principle to a number of leading fruit and vegetable products. There is, in fact, already a minimum price for many fruits for processing purposes. These include plums, pears, apricots, peaches, pineapples and all the berry fruits. Through the contract prices fixed for supplies of vegetables and fruits for the Department of Supply and Shipping, there is virtually a lower limit set for the prices of these vegetables and fruits. In addition to potatoes for which special arrangements have been made, they include carrots, parsnips,

/onions....

onions, cabbages, cauliflowers, turnips, oranges, lemons, grapefruit, pineapples. This action guarantees prices to producers.

These developments are consistent with the view that the determination of maximum prices for seasonal products may impose disabilities upon producers if they are not protected from the low prices that will prevail in the event of periodic gluts occurring. The Government is fully alive to this position, and I think it should be officially stated that the Prices Commissioner, whose principal duty hitherto it has been to fix maximum prices, has advocated the principle of minimum prices for certain seasonal primary products. Up to the present time maximum prices have not been fixed for many primary products for which minimum prices have not also been determined, either by the Government itself directly, or by the industry adopting an internal form of control which is recognised by the Prices Commissioner. Thus, in the dairying industry and the dried fruits industry, to quote two important examples, the arrangements made for the maintenance of minimum prices are recognised by the Prices Commissioner and the practices adopted by the industries to maintain minimum prices are officially approved.

The major project for which minimum prices have not been fixed, but for which a maximum price has been fixed, is meat. I have already indicated that this is not primarily the fault of the Government. Its plans were temporarily held up, and on account of the strong upward tendency of meat prices, it was necessary to exercise some form of control. Accordingly, I took steps to declare meat under the National Security (Prices) Regulations, and the Prices Commissioner determined ceiling wholesale and retail prices as those operating on February 26th. I can give the assurance that over a large field, if not over the whole field of the meat trade, while maximum price control is in operation the Government will protect meat producers against a severe decline in prices brought about by temporary surpluses of supply. Plans for this are being worked out by the Meat Controller in co-operation with the Prices Commissioner.

Butter and cheese were included among the basic commodities declared at the beginning of the war. The price was raised in February, 1942, by 3/4d per lb. for butter, and 1½d per lb. for cheese. Later, the Government granted a direct subsidy to the industry at the rate of £2m per annum. A review of wage rates is now being made by the Arbitration Court, and the industry has recently made application to the Prices Commissioner for a further rise in price.

For potatoes an interesting and effective experiment has been made. A maximum wholesale price of £17.5.0 per ton in Sydney (with corresponding maximum prices elsewhere) has been fixed, and through the Australian Potato Committee a minimum price of £8 per ton has been guaranteed to growers. The market fluctuates between these two limits, and in each State a Committee representing the

/trade.....

trade and the Potato Controller determines the level at which prices will be held from week to week. The producer is thus guaranteed a minimum price, but he also gets the current market price up to a maximum equivalent to £17.5.0 per ton at Sydney.

Owing to the heavy demands of the Services for fruit and vegetables, the Department of Supply and Shipping has placed large contracts with growers for a wide variety of fruit and vegetables. Prices for these contracts are determined by the Prices Commissioner on the advice of a Committee in each State representative of the Prices Branch, the Supply Department and the State Department of Agriculture. This Committee makes contact with producers or their representatives, and in some cases the Prices Commissioner meets representatives of the producers himself. The prices determined for these contracts are now regarded as satisfactory by most producers, and they offer most persons whose normal occupation is fruit and vegetable growing the opportunity of a guaranteed minimum price.

Unfortunately the open market prices for vegetables have, on the average, been higher than the contract prices. Some margin is reasonable because the producer has to take the risk of fluctuating prices on the open market, and his costs of marketing are greater. Where, however, the open market price is very high, the tendency is for producers to supply the open market rather than to meet the urgent needs of the Supply Department. In order to correct this position, it has been necessary in a limited number of cases only to fix maximum prices for fruit and vegetables in the open market. Commodities concerned are onions and carrots in all States, and tomatoes and peaches in one or two States. A semi-official control was exercised over the price of citrus fruit in the open market last year, and it is intended to operate a legal control in the current year.

The limited sphere of operation of price control is in striking contrast to the extravagant statements that have been made concerning the effect of price control upon the production of fruit and vegetables. Present prices of fruit and vegetables are admittedly very high, and it is impossible to sustain the view that any general shortage of supplies is due to low prices or to the operations of price control. There has been much discussion concerning the effects of price control upon crops of early onions and carrots. It does not occur to the critics to consider whether it is desirable in the interests of the war effort to encourage the production of expensive crops with relatively low yields to produce goods out of season in war time. As regards peaches and tomatoes, the only reason for controlling their prices, and at the moment control operates only in New South Wales and Victoria, was the urgent need to divert sufficient supplies to the canneries to meet Service requirements.

It will be obvious from this review that there is a vast range of primary products in which the producer is guaranteed

/a ....

a minimum price, a very narrow range in which maximum prices have been fitted without determining also minimum prices, and a considerable range of fruit and vegetables of which no maximum prices have yet been fixed. The contention that serious disability has been imposed upon primary producers by the operations of price control cannot be sustained, though at times the Prices Commissioner has been compelled to act quickly on account of legitimate pressure from the Supply Department. He has done everything possible to meet the needs of special areas or special crops, and to adjust maximum prices accordingly.

In conclusion, I should add that the Government cannot permit prices of essential fruits and vegetables to go to exorbitant levels. Such extreme levels not only press on consumer interests, but also tend to disrupt the general production programme. Steps are being taken to extend price control to the more important fruit and vegetables now uncontrolled. These goods were exempt from the blanket declaration of goods and services made by me on April 15th last. I propose gradually to include fruits and vegetables under the declaration of goods for the purpose of price control, and the Prices Commissioner will determine ceiling prices. He has intimated that he will fix ceiling prices at relatively high levels in present circumstances, but he may have to fix maximum prices lower than ceiling prices at certain times and in certain areas if the difference between the ceiling price and the contract price for the Supply Department is so great as to prevent the Supply Department from obtaining sufficient supplies for the essential needs of the Armed Forces."

COMMONWEALTH CONTROL OF EGG INDUSTRY.

The Minister for Commerce and Agriculture (The Hon. W.J. Scully) has announced that Regulations under the National Security Act have been gazetted which provide for the appointment of a Commonwealth Controller of Egg Supplies, in order that the Egg Industry may be organised on an Australian-wide basis.

The Minister has appointed Mr. H. Souter of the Department of Commerce and Agriculture, Sydney, as Commonwealth Controller of Egg Supplies, and Mr. R.C. Blake, Chairman of the New South Wales Egg Marketing Board as Assistant Controller.

Provision is also made for the appointment by the Minister of Deputy Controllers for each State, and in respect of those States in which State Egg Marketing Boards are in operation, the following persons have been appointed as Deputy Controllers:-

New South Wales .. Mr. R.C. Blake

/Victoria...

Victoria - Mr. H. Cotton (Chairman of the Victorian Egg and Egg Pulp Marketing Board).

South Australia - Mr. C.F. Anderson (Chairman of the South Australian Egg Board).

Queensland - Mr. O.M. Dart (Acting Chairman of the Queensland Egg Board).

In the case of Western Australia and Tasmania, where State Egg Boards have not yet been established, it is proposed to appoint Deputy Controllers as soon as possible.

The Deputy Controllers already appointed will constitute an Egg Industry Advisory Committee with the Controller as Chairman. The Minister explained that, under this arrangement, the services of the existing State Egg Marketing Boards will be utilised to the fullest possible extent, in co-operation with the Commonwealth authority.

In reviewing the circumstances which finally resulted in the Government's decision to establish a scheme for the effective control of the Egg Industry, the Minister outlined several important aspects which, in some instances, have adversely affected the general egg position in Australia, by reason of the fact that the States have previously acted independently of each other

Certain States which are carrying large Service personnel have secured a considerable advantage because of local Service demands, and it is felt that this advantage should be spread throughout the whole industry

Because of large Service demands, the quantity of eggs to be held in store to meet civilian and Service demands during the autumn and winter months is much larger than normal. Some States have found difficulty in arranging adequate finance for this purpose, and under Commonwealth control arrangements can be made to hold the required quantities in store, as finance will be made available through the Commonwealth Bank.

Under wartime conditions, interstate and intrastate transport difficulties are likely to become greater. Normally, there is considerable interstate trade in eggs in shell and egg pulp, and as interstate transport should be limited to the minimum essential requirements, it will be possible for a Commonwealth Authority to regulate this trade to the best advantage.

The Commonwealth has already established Egg Drying Plants in several of the States owing to the fact that refrigerated space is not now available to enable eggs in shell to be shipped to the United Kingdom. Surplus eggs are being dried for shipment to

/the....

the British Ministry of Food and for use by the Allied Services in Australia. It is proposed that the process of drying surplus eggs will be placed under the control of the Commonwealth Authority.

The provisions of the Regulations envisage such a scheme, which will permit of the general application of a producer agency arrangement which has been successfully operating in some of the States, and will also permit of pool deductions being made so that an equalisation system upon the sale of eggs, egg pulp and dried egg powder throughout the Commonwealth and Overseas can be established. It is considered that only under a system which permits of price equalisation will it be possible to make self supporting any marketing scheme for eggs.

In conclusion, the Minister said that the question of Commonwealth control was discussed with representatives of the Egg Industry from all States in January last, and the conference carried a resolution in which the opinion was expressed that a Commonwealth Authority should be established to control the Egg Industry.

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SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

SMALLER SUPPLIES OF SHEEP, LAMBS AND PIGS: CATTLE CONSIGNMENTS MAINTAINED.

Smaller pennings of sheep and lambs.

The number of sheep and lambs available showed a considerable decline when compared with the previous month's heavy supplies, being approximately 100,000 head less. Aggregate pennings for the period were 307,350 head.

Quality sheep scarce.

Good quality sheep, more particularly prime heavy wethers, were in short supply, while only fair numbers of good light trade wethers and ewes were included. A total of 185,539 head of grown sheep was offered, of which medium quality consignments comprised a substantial proportion. Plain aged sheep, mostly ewes, were also numerous.

Strong demand prevails.

Good to prime sheep sold well and at all times met good inquiry. During the early part of the month a firm to very firm market was evident and subsequently rates advanced by from 1/6 to 2/- per head. Towards the close of April, as the result of light supplies and very keen competition, rates for good to prime sheep advanced by from 3/- to 4/- per head, while values of the medium to plainer grades also showed considerable improvement. /Some ....

Some specimen sales, illustrating price trends, are shown below:-

First Week

Good trade	42 lb. wethers	(skin 6/6)	made	18/5	each or	3¼d per lb.
" "	44 lb. ewes	(" 6/6)	"	18/1	" "	3d " "

Second Week

Good trade	44 lb. wethers	(skin 3/6)	made	16/10	each or	3¾d per lb.
" "	40 lb. ewes	(" 6/6)	"	16/5	" "	3d " "

Third Week

Good heavy	48 lb. wethers	(skin 6/-)	made	25/8	each or	4¾d per lb.
" trade	40 lb. ewes	(" 4/-)	"	18/1	" "	4¼d " "

Fourth Week

Good trade	46 lb. wethers	(skin 6/-)	made	25/-	each or	5d per lb.
" "	42 lb. ewes	(" 6/-)	"	19/10	" "	4d " "

Increased cost of mutton.

The average cost of mutton throughout April was substantially higher than in March. The greatest increase occurred towards the end of the period, when wether mutton cost 5d and ewes 4¼d per lb., representing an increase of from 1d to 1¼d per lb. on the peak prices ruling in the previous month. For the most part, however, good light wether mutton was worth from 3½d to 4¼d per lb. and heavy 3d to 3¾d. Heavy ewes mostly were obtained at 2½d to 3½d and light weights generally cost 2½d to 3½d per lb. Plain to medium trade mutton was worth on an average 1¾d to 3½d for ewes and 2½d to 3½d per lb. for wethers.

Yardings of lambs smaller.

The number of lambs and suckers available was considerably smaller. Pennings aggregated 121,811, representing a decline of about 59,000 head. Prime light lambs were again scarce, a fair proportion of the light lambs and suckers offering being of fair to good trade standard. Heavy lambs made a much better showing, fair numbers of good to prime grade being available. Generally, however, the quality of the lambs and suckers was only fair, plain sorts being numerous.

Higher prices for lambs.

Keen competition was evident for lambs and suckers and although the market remained fairly steady early in the period, rates later advanced by from 1/- to 2/- per head. By the end of the month, owing to limited supplies, values for practically all descriptions advanced sharply, an increase of 3/- to 4/- per head

/occurring....

occurring. Some actual sales recorded during the period are shown below:

First Week

Good heavy 46 lb. lambs (skin 6/-) made 26/- each or 5¼d per lb.
" trade 30 lb.suckers (" 3/6) " 21/7 " " 7¼d " "

Second Week

Good heavy 46 lb. lambs (skin 5/-) made 26/5 each or 5½d per lb.
Prime light 32 lb.suckers (" 3/-) " 24/3 " " 8d " "

Third Week

Prime 34 lb. suckers (skin 4/6) made 29/10 each or 8½d per lb.
Good trade 33 lb.suckers (skin 5/6) made 27/7 each or 8¼d per lb.

Fourth Week

Prime 31 lb. suckers (skin 3/-) made 25/1 each or 8½d per lb.
Good trade 33 lb.suckers (skin 4/-) made 26/4 each or 8¼d per lb.

Lamb dearer.

The cost of lamb was higher during April, more particularly towards the end of the month when prime light suckers made 8¾d per lb., as compared with the best price of 8d per lb. in March. Good quality light summer lambs also sold exceptionally well. For the greater part of the period, however, suckers were worth from 6½d to 8d per lb., according to weight and quality, while heavy lambs made from 5¼d to 6¾d and light 6½d to 7d per lb. Heavy lambs, however, sold up to 7¼d and light to 7½d per lb. at the close of the period.

Cattle supplies maintained.

The aggregate number of cattle penned for sale at Homebush during April was 19,823 head, which included 18,122 fats and 1,701 sold as stores. The total approximated that of the number sold during the previous month.

Fair to good trade cattle constituted the bulk of the supplies, although on some sale days a fairly large percentage of rather plain descriptions was included.

Bullocks well supplied.

On most sale days bullocks were well in evidence and comprised chiefly medium to good trade quality lines of light to medium weight. Heavy bullocks were relatively scarce and on occasions only odd lots were available. Prices for heavy bullocks

/ranged...

ranged from 37/- to 45/-, medium from 42/- to 48/- and light from 43/- to 49/- per 100 lb. A general hardening of values was noticeable throughout the period.

Good demand for steers.

Good trade steers were well supplied but this class of cattle continued to command a very strong inquiry, values reaching high levels, as much as 58/- per 100 lb. being realised. Rates, although mostly ranging from 44/- to 52/-, generally were distinctly higher than during the previous month.

Cows in moderate supply.

Cows, particularly prime descriptions, were available in moderate numbers only. Some attractive lines were submitted but the offerings were mostly of fair quality, whilst a fair proportion of plain types was included. Demand, particularly for good light cows, was consistent and values showed a fairly regular advance, although the market was a little easier at the close of April. Heavy cows sold at 32/- to 41/- and light at 34/- to 43/-, although the top rates shown were exceeded at times.

Good heifers relatively scarce.

Prime heifers met brisk inquiry and as high as 52/- per 100 lb. was realised but quotations mostly ranged between 42/- and 48/- per 100 lb.

Supplies of vealers vary.

The number of vealers penned varied substantially from day to day, although on occasions supplies were fairly plentiful. Good to prime grades generally were in moderate supply only but fair to good trade descriptions were usually in sufficient numbers to fulfil buyers' immediate requirements. Values at closing ranged from 56/- to 64/- per 100 lb.

Cattle market dearer.

Viewed generally cattle values showed a consistent improvement and although a weaker tone was in evidence on the last sale day of April prices mostly were on a higher level than those ruling during the previous month.

Smaller numbers of pigs available.

Lighter yardings of pigs were available, a sharp decline in the numbers offering occurring at the end of the month. During April 5,512 head was auctioned. Supplies received by rail comprised 3,947 head, truckings showing an increase of about 400 head on the previous month's figure. In addition, sales by private treaty aggregated 1,835 head.

/Strong....

Strong demand for pork.

Only a relatively small supply of light porkers was available but moderate numbers of medium to heavy weights were offered. A fair number of good to prime grades was included but medium quality lots were also numerous. Early in the month the market for practically all porkers showed an easier tendency and subsequently, although demand was better at improved rates for light descriptions, heavy sorts did not sell quite so well. Towards the end of the month keen inquiry was evident for all classes of porkers, values advancing by from 3/- to 5/- per head. Although good light porkers sold to 53/6 early in April, values advanced to 62/6 per head by the end of the period, while heavy porkers made to 77/6 as compared with 71/6 at opening auctions. Good light porkers realised up to 13d per lb. and heavy to 11d, or about 1d to 1½d per lb. higher than the previous month's best prices. Medium weight porkers made to 75/6 each and up to 12½d per lb.

Good supply of baconers.

Baconers comprised a fairly large percentage of the pigs marketed, supplies including a fair number of good trade to prime grades. Moderate supplies of heavy bacon pigs were available but light to medium weights represented a substantial proportion of the yardings. Opening prices were slightly higher for light descriptions but heavy sorts were a little cheaper. Subsequently, however, demand was much stronger and increases of up to 7/- per head occurred. The market for all kinds of bacon pigs was particularly strong at closing, and a further advance in prices occurred. Heavy baconers realised to £6.7.6 per head and the dressed weight equivalent of 10d per lb. Light baconers were worth 10½d per lb. and medium weights 10¼d per lb.

Backfatters in short supply.

Compared with the previous month, the yarding of backfatters was relatively light, while quality generally deteriorated. Light to medium grades comprised the bulk of the supplies, prime heavy weights being scarce. Generally demand weakened and values declined substantially, the market in most instances being from 10/- to 15/- lower. At the closing sales, however, owing to a small supply, values made a substantial recovery, and were about on a par with those ruling at the opening auctions. Prime heavy pigs made to £12 per head and rates per pound on the hoof ranged to 6½d for heavy, while lighter weights were worth to 6¾d per lb. At the period of lower prices, values ranged from 5d to 5¾d for heavy and 5½d to 6½d per lb. for light.

S.R. & G.C.

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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Locally grown apples sell well.

Supplies of apples generally were only moderate until just prior to the close of the month when a large shipment of Tasmanian fruit arrived. Locally grown fruit was well supported, particularly Jonathans, 18/- to 20/- being obtained for best packs. There was a steady inquiry for Delicious at rates ranging from 20/- to 26/-, with a few sales to 28/-. Consignments of Granny Smiths were light and at times there was a scarcity of this variety. Values showed an upward movement. Some attractive lines of Rome Beauty were on offer, which were mostly of large size, occasional packs containing only three dozen. Very satisfactory prices were obtained. Tasmanian supplies consisted of Jonathan, Delicious, Cleopatra and Alfriston. With the exception of Cleopatras, values of other varieties were easier. Some of the Jonathans received late in April had reached an over mature stage, noticeably amongst the large sized fruit and disposals of affected lots had to be made to the best advantage. The market for Cleopatras was much firmer, prices showing an advance of about 4/- per bushel.

Good inquiry for pears.

With the clearance of stocks of over-ripe pears, the market improved. There was a good inquiry for both local and Victorian Packham's Triumph, the former selling to 18/- during the greater part of April and advancing to 20/- towards the close. Rates for Victorian Packhams were steady at from 14/- to 16/- per case. Small consignments of local Winter Coles were available and sales were made at up to 18/- per bushel. Occasional lots of Beurre Bosc were available. Both Josephines and Winter Coles were received from Tasmania; prices of Coles advanced from 13/- 14/- to 15/- 16/-. Values of Josephines were steady at up to 15/-.

Marketing of new season's Navel oranges commences.

Trading in oranges was confined to intermediate crop Valencia until late in the month when new season's Navels from Coastal groves and small consignments of "common" oranges commenced to come forward. Little difficulty was experienced in selling the large sizes of Valencias but where counts were above three hundred inquiry was very slow and some accumulation of stocks was noticeable at times. Demand for new season's Navels was keen and the bulk of sales was effected at the maximum rate of 21/- per bushel although large sizes had to be sold at lower levels so as to enable retailers to sell at the fixed maximum of 3/- per dozen.

Market for lemons easier.

The high prices ruling for lemons early was not maintained

/and ....

and values declined. Demand was slow for coastal packs late in April and plain grade fruit was difficult to sell. Small consignments were received from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and best packs realised higher prices than those ruling for coastal lots. Supplies from Queensland continued to arrive and realisations were at higher levels than for fruit from within New South Wales.

From 1st May of this year the ceiling rate of 20/- per bushel will apply and this will operate until 31st October.

Bananas realise high prices.

With a sharp decline in supplies of bananas the market generally was very firm and prices rose to highest levels for some time. Demand was somewhat quiet towards the close of the month but rates showed little change.

Lighter supplies of pineapples.

Consignments of pineapples showed a marked falling-off compared with the previous month. Demand was satisfactory and values advanced, best packs selling to 30/- during the last two weeks of April.

Muscatel grapes sell well.

Fairly good supplies of Muscatel grapes were received from inland districts and the market showed an upward trend about mid-April. Choice packs sold up to 20/- while a few specials brought 25/- per half case. Request for Cornichons was steady on most days but prices varied to some extent. Fair quantities of Doradillas were available, also occasional lots of Ohanez.

Scarcity of passion-fruit.

There was a scarcity of choice passionfruit during the greater part of the month and high prices were paid. Some improvement in supplies was noticeable prior to closing and values had an easier trend.

Sundry fruits.

There were plentiful supplies of persimmons but apart from large fruit sales were slow and values were weak.

Small consignments of custard apples and papaws were received. The former realised to 14/- per half-case while rates for papaws ranged up to 30/- per tropical case.

Green vegetables again in short supply.

There was a further decline in the quantities of green vegetables from local sources and high prices ruled throughout

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the month for the principal lines. The receipt of Victorian peas and beans materially assisted in maintaining supplies of these vegetables.

Peas lightly supplied and prices high.

Consignments of peas rarely reached the thousand bag mark and at times the quantity available was around five hundred. Receivals during the early part of the month showed considerable variation so far as quality was concerned, many lines being badly discoloured. Following the receipt of rain in the growing areas there was a good deal of improvement, although frost damage was apparent in some lines. With the limited quantities on offer there was a sharp upward movement in values. Choice quality lines sold up to 28/- per bushel during the first week of April, subsequently up to 40/- per bushel was realised. The high prices ruling were having a steadying effect on purchasers and it was noticeable that the daily carryover towards the close of the month was increasing.

Rates for beans improve.

Fairly large consignments of beans were received from Victoria during early April, at times exceeding 1,500 packages, but the supply gradually declined, only relatively small lots coming to hand after mid-April. Supplies from inland districts continued to arrive in small quantities. Local growers' lots were much lighter but there was an improvement in the quantities arriving from the North Coast where a considerable proportion of the autumn and winter supplies for this market are drawn. While the Victorian beans were in plentiful supply prices ranged up to 18/- per bushel but values improved immediately the quantity was reduced. Choice lines sold up to 25/- and occasionally 28/- per bushel was obtained.

Choice coloured tomatoes in request.

Offerings of tomatoes from within the County of Cumberland were lighter and only small quantities were coming forward at the close of the month. Consignments from inland districts were received, including Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area lots, but supplies from the Area were frozen for Defence requirements on 21st April. Some of the inland packs were damaged by frost and difficulty was experienced in disposing of affected lots, although offered at low levels. Small consignments were received from Queensland and some Victorian lots arrived towards the end of April. There was a good inquiry for choice coloured lines from local sources and rates advanced, a few specials selling to 30/- per half-case. Demand for inland packs was steady and generally satisfactory prices were obtained for good quality green and coloured lots.

Cauliflowers meet a good inquiry.

Consignments of cauliflowers from growing areas in the

/Bathurst...

Bathurst district generally were only moderate. Demand was good and little difficulty was experienced in effecting disposals. Rates for choice heads ranged up to 30/-, while 36/- per dozen was obtained for specials.

Good returns for cabbages

Supplies of cabbages were mostly light. Rates early in the month varied but realisations were above normal. Following the decline in supplies of Victorian beans and the high prices ruling for other greens a keen demand for this vegetable set in. Choice heads realised as much as 30/- per dozen and stocks cleared well on practically all days.

Good demand prevailed for all bunched vegetables; spinach continued to realise high prices while rates for parsnips and carrots were firm.

There was a considerable reduction in supplies of lettuce late in the month and values reached high levels.

R.M.

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ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD
AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Tasmanian potato supplies increase considerably.

Stocks of Factors at Alexandria Goods Yard consisted of 2,568 bags of table tubers, 386 bags of seed and 202 bags of stock feed. Quality was good in most instances and ready clearances were effected at £16.0.0 for choice and £14.0.0 for seed and No.2 Grade. No price was disclosed for stock feed. Arrivals from Victoria were considerably smaller, 11,875 bags comprising mostly Carmans being received. Quality was maintained and rates were unchanged at £16.0.0 per ton for choice, while the few No. 2 Grade brought £14.0.0 per ton. Arrivals at Darling Harbour landing totalled 52 trucks from Victoria and one from local centres. These were available at £16.0.0 for choice and £14.0.0 per ton for No. 2 Grade. In Sussex Street exceptionally heavy consignments of Tasmanian Brownell Bismarcks and other varieties were received, supplies amounting to 132,723 bags. A fair proportion was made available for general trading purposes, the balance being taken over by the Federal authorities. Rates were as follow:- Brownell and Bismarcks £16.0.0, other varieties £15.10.0, No. 3 Grade was reduced from £10.0.0 to £6.0.0 and seed prices ranged from £8.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton.

Consignments of Tasmanian swedes maintained.

Arrivals of Tasmanian swedes in Sussex Street amounted to 4,688 bags. Demand was good and rates were higher at £15.0.0

/per ...

per ton. Consignments to Alexandria were again light, only 120 bags being available and these were disposed of at undisclosed prices.

Carrots again in light supply.

Consignments of carrots to Alexandria were restricted to 28 bags; these were sold at 22/6 per cwt. Tasmanian consignments to Sussex Street totalled 221 bags which sold at the same rate.

Pumpkins fairly plentiful.

Supplies of local pumpkins at Alexandria amounted to 59 trucks and 90 bags. There was a good inquiry and prices were firmer. Queensland pumpkins consisted of 22 trucks, 18 less than last month. Sales during the period were recorded at £7.0.0 to £8.0.0 for choice lines. At auction, one truck of Queensland brought £6.0.0 and local £2.10.0 to £2.15.0 per ton. Arrivals in Sussex Street from the North Coast comprised 360 bags which realised £7.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton.

Reduced consignments of Victorian brown onions.

Receivals of Victorian brown table onions at Alexandria were considerably smaller and comprised 8,040 bags. Ready sales were effected but the market remained unchanged, brown table selling at £17.10.0 to £18.0.0, white at £18.0.0 and brown pickling at £11.0.0 to £12.0.0 with few white pickling at £10.0.0 per ton. At Darling Harbour landing, supplies were very light, only 3 trucks being available; sales were made at £17.10.0 to £18.0.0 per ton.

Smaller supplies of oaten chaff.

Arrivals of oaten chaff consisted of 93 trucks. Demand continued good but prices showed little change despite limited supplies. Rates were as follows:- Good sound £7.5.0 to £7.15.0, prime £7.10.0 to £8.0.0, with special lots £8.0.0 to £8.10.0 per ton. Two trucks were offered at auction. Damaged was disposed of at £5.16.8, while prime realised £7.10.0 per ton.

Prices of wheaten chaff unchanged.

Supplies of wheaten chaff were also restricted, 25½ trucks being available compared with 46½ trucks in the previous month. Little change was noticed in rates, sales of good sound being effected at £6.0.0 to £7.10.0, prime at £7.0.0 to £8.0.0 and a few special lots at £8.5.0 to £8.10.0 per ton. At auction one truck of damaged realised £6.10.0 per ton.

Lucerne chaff in demand.

Arrivals of lucerne chaff consisted of 46 trucks. Clearances were made at £8.0.0 to £11.10.0 per ton according to quality.

/Supplies....

Supplies of lucerne hay maintained.

Arrivals from the Maitland district consisted of 58 trucks. Demand continued good and sales were made at slightly increased rates which ranged from £5.0.0 to £8.15.0 per ton. Supplies from other centres declined considerably and rates were firm at £7.0.0 to £11.10.0 per ton. Prime derrick pressed realis £6.0.0 per ton, whilst medium derrick-pressed brought £5.0.0 per ton at auction.

Exceptionally light consignments of oaten hay.

Only small supplies of oaten hay came to hand. Sales were recorded for choice rack at £9.0.0 to £10.10.0 per ton.

Oaten straw in request.

Consignments of oaten straw from local centres also declined considerably, 36 trucks being received. There was a good request for quality lines and clearances were made at £6.0.0 to £6.10.0 for prime lots and choice at £7.0.0 to £7.10.0. Medium wheaten realised £4.10.0 per ton.

Wheat consignments light.

Consignments of wheat to Alexandria Goods Yard were very light, only 14 trucks being available. F.A.Q. was on offer at the unchanged rates of 3/8 and 3/9 per bushel. Sales by auction consisted of 5 trucks, inferior lines selling at 2/10 to 3/4 per bushel and damaged at 3/- per bushel.

Arrivals of maize increase - lower rates rule.

Receivals of maize at Alexandria increased to 5,196 bag of yellow, 43 bags of red, and 208 bags of white. There was a goo demand but owing to the larger supplies rates declined, yellow selling at 5/9 to 6/1. Sales by auction were made at 6/- to 6/1, with red at 5/11 per bushel. Queensland supplies also increased, 1,594 bags coming to hand; opening sales were at 6/9 but values gradually declined to 6/3 and later to 5/9 per bushel. At auction 160 bags of yellow brought 5/6 per bushel. Consignments of yellow maize from the North Coast in Sussex Street aggregated 2,933 bags. Early sales were effected at 6/- but later 5/9 per bushel was accepted.

Oats in lighter supply.

Consignments of oats were considerably smaller than the previous month, 22 trucks being received as against 70 trucks las month. Most of these supplies were consigned to private buyers and prices were not disclosed. One truck offered at auction realised 2/7½d per bushel.

C.F.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING APRIL, 1943, AND CORRESPONDING FIGURES AT 31st AUGUST, 1939.

The following table gives particulars of the range of prices in Sydney as collected and recorded by the State Marketing Bureau in respect of various commodities for the period indicated:-

Commodity	April, 1943		31st August, 1939	
	From	To	From	To
Wheat: Home consumption Bulk - per bushel	3/11½d (unchanged)		2/4d	
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2 (plus £2.8.10 tax)		£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)	
Bran - " "	£6.0.0		£4.5.0	
Pollard " "	£6.0.0		£4.5.0	
Eggs (hen) - per dozen	2/-	(unchanged)	1/-	
Butter (choice) per cwt.	169/4d	(unchanged)	161/2d	
Cheese:				
Loaf per lb.	1/0½d	(unchanged)	11d	
Large " "	1/-	"	10½d	
Special brands "	1/1d	1/3½d	1/2d	

	April, 1943		29th August, 1939	
	From	To	From	To
Pigs (Abattoir sales): Good to prime per head				
Porkers:				
Extra light	34/6	53/6	31/6	40/6
Light	43/6	62/6	39/6	44/6
Medium weight	52/6	75/6	43/6	57/6
Heavy	64/6	77/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	£3.13.6	£6.7.6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£5.16.0	£12.0.0	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

Note: The pig sales nearest to 31st August, 1939, were those held on 29th August, 1939.

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RETURN OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IMPORTED INTO NEW SOUTH WALES
BY LAND AND SEA - MARCH, 1943.

FRUIT

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland	63,121	4,695	41,030	27,738	136,584
Victoria	23	25	71,155	70	71,273
Tasmania	-	-	202,475	967	203,442
Sth. Aust.	-	-	28,376	-	28,376
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	63,144	4,720	343,036	28,775	439,675

VEGETABLES

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins bags	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkges.	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland	576	22	-	8,653	41	2,778	12,070
Victoria	17,087	28,308	465	-	-	12,225	58,085
Tasmania	132,039[x]	-	7,810	-	-	981	140,830
Sth. Aust.	2,382	299	-	-	-	3,027	5,708
West Aust.	8,200	829	-	-	-	-	9,029
TOTALS	160,284	29,458	8,275	8,653	41	19,011	225,722

Note: x Also 14 cases potatoes for scientific purposes.

STATE MARKETING BUREAU – DIVISION OF MARKETING – DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – NEW SOUTH WALES

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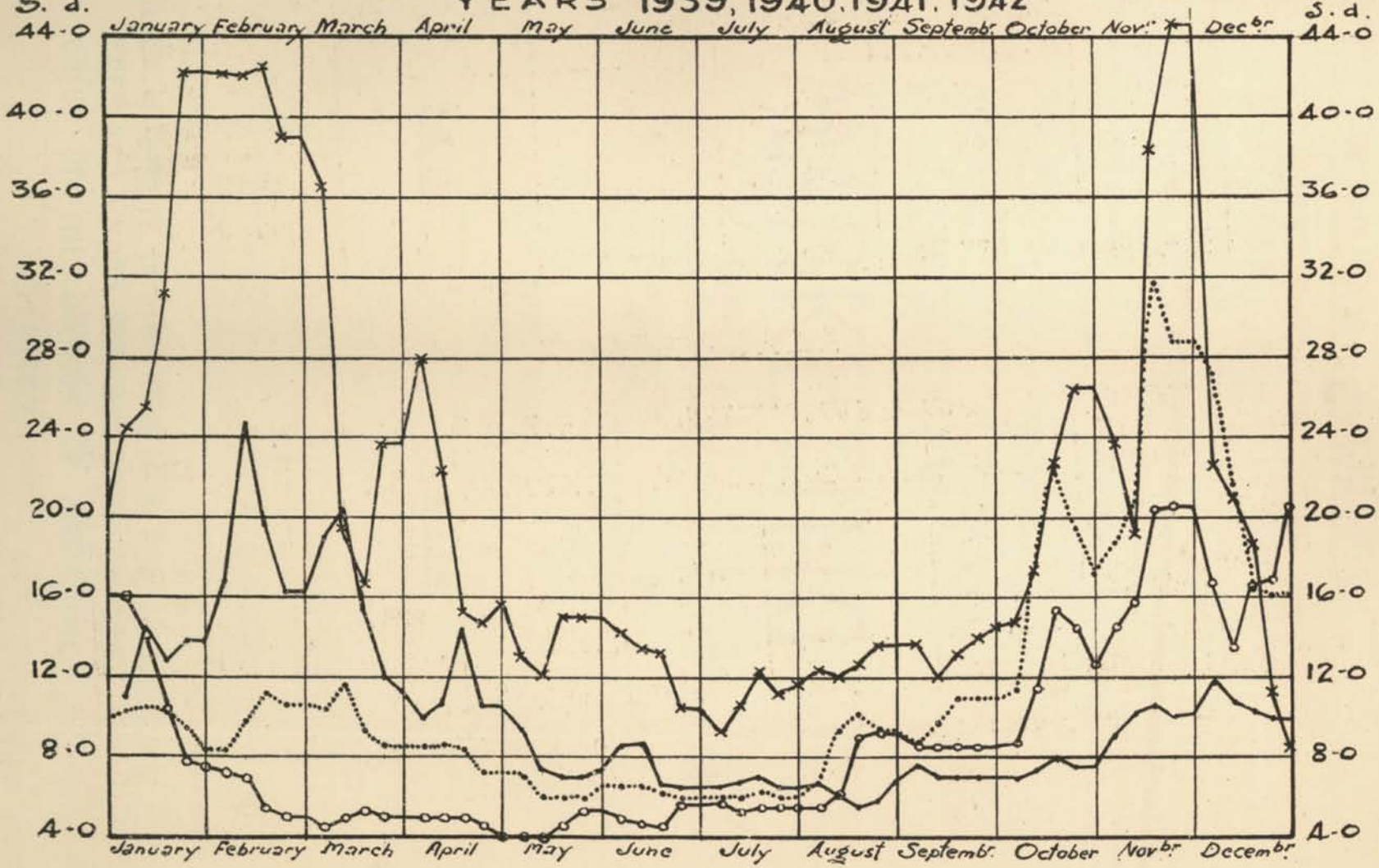
PUMPKINS

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES PER CWT.
FOR
YEARS 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942



Drawn: E.H.
Checked: G.J.

E. F. WHITBREAD
Acting Chief, Division of Marketing