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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

June, 1946.

FRUIT.

Apples Continue to Sell Well.

There was a good demand for fancy packs of red, dessert varieties of apples. Supplies of Delicious from New South Wales sources were only moderate and prices showed a further advance, as much as 30s. per bushel being obtained for selected lots. The market for local Granny Smiths firmed towards the close of the month, some sales being effected at 20s. Rome Beauty also reached this figure. Small quantities of Stayman's Winesap and Democrat were available late in June, the former selling to 22s., and Democrats to 16s. per bushel.

Victorian consignments included Jonathan, Rome Beauty, Delicious, Granny Smith and Statesman. Jonathans sold well at prices ranging to 14s., and up to 20s. was realised for Delicious. Request for Statesman packs was somewhat slow at 8s. to 12s.

Small consignments of South Australian Jonathans came to hand and were sold at 14s. to 20s. per bushel.

Shipments of Tasmanian fruit comprised such varieties as Jonathan, Granny Smith, Delicious, Crofton, Rome Beauty, Cleopatra, Democrat, Sturmer and Geeveston Fanny. Rates for Jonathan, Delicious, Crofton and Cleopatra showed improvement.

Demand for Pears Weaker.

Request for pears generally was only moderate and towards the close of the month demand was very quiet with values weak. Supplies of Packham's Triumph were received from cool stores in this State and Victoria; up to 24s. was realised early, but few sales were made above 20s. per bushel during the closing week. Both New South Wales and Tasmanian Winter Coles were available. Up to 24s. was paid for New South Wales packs, and 22s. for Tasmanian, but values were lower later in June. Other varieties on offer included Victorian Josephine and Beurre Bosc and Tasmanian Glou Morceau and Giblin's Seedling. Rates for these pears generally were on a lower basis than those ruling for Packham's and Coles.

Navel Oranges Sell Well.

Fairly large quantities of navels from coastal groves were marketed but consignments from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area were relatively small. Request generally was good and values steady during the greater part of the period at rates ranging to 14s., while some special packs realised to 16s. per bushel. For M.I.A. fruit, prices ranged from 10s. to 14s., only a few sales being effected at higher prices.

Emperor Mandarins Well Supplied.

Consignments were new-season's Emperor mandarins from coastal areas were heavier. Demand for local needs was only moderate but sales for interstate markets enabled fairly good clearances to be effected. Rates were mainly from 7s. to 12s., with extra choice 14s. per bushel.

Regular bi-weekly consignments of Glen Retreat mandarins from Queensland were forward. Owing to the attractive appearance of most of the fruit, satisfactory disposals were made, choice lines realising to 26s. per bushel. Some poor quality lots, however, sold at 10s.

Lemons Sell Slowly.

Only relatively light consignments of lemons were received from coastal groves. Request was somewhat slow and values showed only slight improvement.

Lighter Supplies of Pineapples.

Bi-weekly consignments of pineapples ranged to about 6,500 cases during the first week of the month, and from 4,500 to 4,800 subsequently. Demand was somewhat quiet early at 10s. to 20s., with some sales to 21s. 3d. per case. With the lighter supplies offering later, values were firmer, selected counts of good quality realising the maximum of 21s. 3d.; however, small fruit sold from 12s.

Pawpaws More Plentiful.

Considerably increased supplies of pawpaws came to hand late in the month. Coloured fruit cleared satisfactorily, but small sizes and green packs were difficult to sell although offered at low prices.

Choice Custard Apples Sell Satisfactorily.

Consignments of custard apples were only light to moderate. Choice lines met a good request, up to 18s. per half case being paid.

Choice Large Bananas in Request.

Demand for large bananas and choice quality was good and rates were firm. Clearance of small fruit was slow at times and some lines had to be sold at comparatively low prices.

Rates for Passion-fruit Easier.

Passion-fruit supplies generally were light, although receivals showed a slight increase towards the close of the month. Values showed a downward trend; as much as 50s. per half-case was obtained early, but prior to closing it was difficult to obtain 35s. for choice packs.

Queensland Strawberries Available.

Small consignments of new season's strawberries reached the market from Queensland at tri-weekly intervals. Realisations for trays mainly ranged from 8s. to 16s. each, although a few specials brought 18s. From 24s. to 36s. per dozen was obtained for packets.

VEGETABLES.

Owing to comparatively limited supplies coming forward, values of the principal lines of green vegetables remained at high levels throughout the month.

Choice Peas Realise High Prices.

Consignments of peas were comparatively light during the period; daily receivals for the first week ranged from 330 to 1,000 bags, and though an improvement occurred over the last two weeks the average daily offering only approximated 800 bags. Quality varied considerably; many lots showed frost injury, some to such a degree that they failed to pass inspection, about 390 bushels being condemned.

Values were firm at 20s. to 32s., with extra choice Gems at 35s. and occasionally to 38s. per bushel for the first two weeks. The market was a little easier subsequently when 32s. was the top price for best quality Gems.

Beans Sell Well.

Only limited quantities of beans from nearby growing centres were available, but supplies increased from the Central and Far North Coast of New South Wales and from Queensland. Some extra choice lots were included, particularly from the Central North Coast, but much of the Queensland produce opened up in a somewhat dried-out condition.

Demand was satisfactory and prices high, the main volume of business being transacted at 15s. to 26s., with extra choice to 30s. per bushel during the first three weeks of the period, and at 15s. to 22s., with extra choice to 25s., for the last week of the month.

Cauliflowers Meet Good Inquiry.

Supplies of cauliflowers from the Bathurst district showed a decrease compared with May, but larger quantities were received from metropolitan areas. In addition, consignments were received from Victoria. Inquiry was good and stocks cleared readily on most occasions. Rates mostly ranged from 10s. to 30s. per dozen, although during the last week extra choice large heads realised to 36s., and occasionally more.

Higher Prices Obtained for Tomatoes.

Tomatoes were still coming to hand from local sources during the period, but on a considerably diminished scale. In the first week of June, up to 18s. per half-case was obtained for choice coloured packs. Subsequently, values showed a sharp upward movement and for the remainder of the month ranged from 20s. to 30s., and occasionally 32s.; inferior lines, however, were sold at prices lower than those quoted.

Queensland consignments were heavier, but most lines were green. Sales were effected at 12s. to 22s., with occasional special packs to 25s. per half-case.

Victorian Cabbages Available.

Moderate supplies of cabbages were marketed from New South Wales growing centres, but towards the end of the month fairly large consignments were received from Victoria. Demand was quiet early, values mainly being 4s. to 10s., with special large heads to 12s. per dozen. Request was brighter subsequently, and on most occasions as much as 16s. per dozen was realised for choicest lines.

Victorian Sprouts Plentiful.

Considerable quantities of Brussels Sprouts were received from Victoria, including many consignments by air transport. Demand for good quality lines was satisfactory and sales were made to 16s., with extra choice packs to 18s. per box.

High Prices Paid for Parsnips.

Supplies of bagged parsnips were light. Rates showed a sharp advance during the last week of the month when up to 40s. per cwt. was secured for choice washed lines.

South Australian Celery Well Supplied.

Weekly consignments of celery from South Australia were heavy, ranging from 3,200 to 4,200 crates. Generally good clearances were effected. Choice packs sold up to 24s. per crate, but some low grade lines had to be disposed of at 12s.

R. D. MEAKER.

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

June, 1946.

Potato Consignments Increase Considerably.

There was a marked increase in the quantity of potatoes which arrived on the Sydney market during the month, supplies being the heaviest since November last.

Tasmanian consignments received in Sussex-street totalled 157,955 bags, chiefly Brownells, Bismarcks and Up-to-Dates.

There were 22,882 bags of No. 1 grade Carmans, Snowflakes and a few Manhattans received from Victoria. It was necessary to regrade approximately 650 bags owing to blight and mechanical injuries.

Queensland consignments were maintained, 13,516 bags of No. 1 grade Factors being on offer. Arrivals from South Australia totalled 2,939 bags of No. 1 grade Delawares, constituting the first consignments for twelve months.

From local centres, 28,350 bags arrived, this being the largest quantity since December last. The bulk consisted of No. 1 grade Factors which opened up in very good condition. Also included in the total were 990 bags of Factor Seed. The bulk of the tubers were received from Crookwell, Tumbarumba, Oberon, Blayney and Millthorpe.