

Cabbages in Steady Request.

With only moderate supplies of cabbages on offer the market was steady during the first half of December at rates ranging from 3s. to 12s. per dozen. During the latter half, however, prices showed marked fluctuations. On Monday, 15th December, demand was very keen, choice large heads realising 20s. per dozen and, on the following day, up to 18s. was obtained. Values showed a downward trend subsequently and some days it was difficult to obtain 10s. At closing, rates ranged from 4s. to 12s. per dozen.

Lettuce Supplies Decline—Prices Reach High Level.

Lettuce were plentiful and cheap until late in the third week of December when supplies eased off sharply owing to rain damage to crops. Prices rose to higher levels during the balance of the month. For choice heads up to 20s. was paid on 24th December, whilst on 31st December as much as 24s. was paid.

Carrots Sell at Higher Levels.

Trading in carrots, both bunches and bagged lots, was quiet until late December when supplies, especially bagged lines, became scarce. Buyers then turned their attention to the bunched product and values rose quickly, best lots at closing realising 12s. per dozen bunches. No bagged lots were available.

Representative quotations for other main vegetable lines were as follow: Parsnips, 5s. to 6s.; sweet potatoes, 15s. to 36s.; pumpkins, Queensland, 10s. to 20s.; onions, Queensland, white and brown, 23s. 6d.; New South Wales, white, 12s. to 20s. per cwt.

Good quality swedes were practically unobtainable.

R. D. MEAKER.

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

December, 1947.

Supplies of Potatoes from Local Sources Increase.

Receivals from local centres increased to 66,546 bags of new grade Factors and Katahdins, compared with 52,324 bags received last month. Main supplies came from Grafton, Windsor, Raleigh, Kempsey, Murwillumbah and Bonville, with smaller quantities from Dorrigo, Lismore, Maitland, Macksville and other centres on the Central and North Coast.

Small consignments were affected with blight, while some, having been dug during the prolonged wet weather, tended to deteriorate rapidly. Supplies were in excess of local requirements and often did not meet a ready market.

From interstate sources a total of 37,369 bags were received. This included 3,879 bags of old season's Queensland Factors at Alexandria, and 33,490 bags of old season's Brownells from Tasmania received at Sussex-street. The bulk of all supplies was made available for trading, only small quantities being reserved for essential services.

Prices fixed for the month ended 31st December, 1947, Sydney basis, were:—Wholesalers' prices to Retailers: Local and interstate, No. 1 grade and undergrades, £10 per ton, plus cartage which must not exceed 10s. per ton. Rates for New South Wales grown potatoes for delivery to country areas were as quoted, plus freight from loading station; prices for interstate potatoes to New South Wales country areas were as quoted, plus freight from Sydney or loading station, whichever was the lower. Primary merchants' prices to wholesalers were £1 per ton less than the figures quoted.

Other Root Vegetables Scarce.

No fresh supplies of swedes, carrots or parsnips arrived at Alexandria, but 488 bags of new season's swedes were received from Tasmania at Sussex-street.

Pumpkin Supplies Increase and Values Decline.

Receivals amounted to 121 trucks from Queensland and two from local sources. During the month rates varied from £8 10s. od. to £16 per ton in accordance with the supply. Quantities of the Queensland consignments had to be regraded owing to breakdown.

Onion Receivals Heavier—Rates Firmer.

A total of approximately 15,500 bags was received from Queensland, as compared with 14,756 in November, and local supplies were increased by 3,063 bags to a total of 3,478. Demand was good and most lines sold readily, Queensland brown bringing £14 to £17, and white £18 to £21 per ton. At auction one truck realised £23 and £24 5s. od. per ton. Local brown sold at £10 to £16, and white £18 to £20, while at auction sales of brown were made at £11 10s. od., and white £12 and £20 per ton.

Larger Supplies of Oaten Chaff.

Consignments aggregated 145 trucks, compared with 54 trucks received last month, but values of most lines remained firm. Medium realised £9 to £10, good sound £10 to £11 10s. od., and prime £11 to £12. Later, with heavier consignments, prime sold at £10 10s. od. to £11 10s. od. Choice realised £11 10s. od. to £12 10s. od., while at auction some damaged lots brought £7 5s. od., good sound £10 10s. od., and mixed £9 15s. od. per ton.

Wheaten Chaff in Short Supply.

Supplies were reduced to eighteen trucks and values increased. Medium sold at £8 10s. od., good sound £10 10s. od. to £11, prime £10 10s. od. to £11, and choice £11 per ton. One truck of good sound was auctioned at £10 10s. od., and later two trucks brought £7 15s. od. and £8 per ton.

Consignments of Lucerne Chaff Well Maintained.

Consignments were increased to sixty trucks. Inferior lots realised £7 to £7 10s. od., medium (heated) £6, good sound £8 to £9 10s. od., prime £10 to £13, and choice £12 to £13 10s. od. per ton. Two trucks of good sound were auctioned at £9 5s. od. and £10 10s. od. per ton.

Lucerne Hay Receivals Reduced.

Consignments amounted to forty-two trucks from the Maitland district and fifty-nine from other centres, including six of derrick pressed. This represented a reduction of forty-six trucks on last month's figures. A quantity of the Maitland consignment was of inferior quality and sold at £2 10s. od. to £3 per ton. New soft green realised £4 to £6, well made £5 10s. od. to £6 15s. od., and special "dump" lots £8 10s. od. per ton. Consignments of hay from other centres were reduced by twenty-four trucks. Sales were effected of medium at £6 to £7, good sound £7 to £9, prime £8 to £11, choice £10 5s. od. to £11, while medium grassy was disposed of at auction for £6 per ton.

Wheaten Hay Consignments Light.

Receivals were reduced to three trucks. One truck of wet and damaged was auctioned at £2 6s. 8d. per ton. A few prime lots realised £7 10s. od. per ton.

Increased Amount of Oaten Straw Available.

Total arrivals amounted to thirty-eight trucks, including twenty-eight from Victoria. Medium local straw was disposed of at £5, good sound £6 15s. od., and prime £8 to £8 10s. od. per ton. Prime Victorian sold at £8 to £8 10s. od., and at auction medium £5 15s. od. per ton. No fresh consignments of wheaten straw arrived at Alexandria.

Wheat Arrivals Heavier.

A total of fifty-one trucks were received, compared with forty the previous month. The bulk was not offered for sale and was placed in store.

Larger Quantities of Maize on Offer.

Arrivals from Queensland increased from 643 bags in November to 4,828 in December, and from local centres from 1,392 to 1,867 bags. In addition, 190 bags of local white were received at Alexandria.

Heavier Supplies of Oats.

Consignments increased to fifty-one trucks. Some sales were made at 4s. 3d. per bushel, and one truck of damaged realised 3s. 6d. at auction.

Other Grain in Short Supply.

Two trucks of bird seed arrived and seven of barley. A few sales of barley were made at 5s. 6d. per bushel.

I. E. STILES.