

**Higher Rates for Pork.**

Good quality porkers were in comparatively short supply and a fair proportion of the offering was only suitable for the needs of store buyers. Good trade medium to heavy weights comprised the bulk of the pigs suited for trade requirements, and, due to the light supplies available, they met with a particularly good demand, the average cost of pork being higher than that prevailing during March. Very few extra light sorts were offered, but when submitted were worth from 12d. to 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. Light pork generally made from 12d. to 15d. per lb., medium weight 12d. to 14d., and heavy weight pork 12d. to 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., while on a "per head" basis up to £4 18s. 6d. was realised.

Moderate numbers of suitable store pigs were on offer and while, for the most part, a good demand prevailed at recent price levels, on occasions lower values ruled.

G. COLEMAN.

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**FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.**

**April, 1947.**

**FRUIT.****Supplies of Dessert Apples Light and Prices High.**

Dessert apples were available in moderate quantities only on most selling days and stock was insufficient to meet retail requirements. Rates remained firm at previous levels and advanced slightly towards the end of the month. Quotations for local packs of popular counts ranged from 24s. to 32s., and occasionally to 36s. for Delicious, and from 20s. to 28s., with few to 30s. for Jonathan. Smaller sizes were cheaper. Interstate apples received included more than 7,500 cases from Tasmania, and moderate consignments from Western Australia, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. Realisations for fruit from these sources were slightly lower than those for corresponding varieties from local districts. Other varieties represented were less popular than those quoted above and brought lower prices accordingly.

**Small Stocks of Pears Result in Increased Rates.**

Very few Williams pears were offered and, due to a decline in quality, this variety was not popular. Packham's Triumph, however, were available in gradually increasing quantities and sold well at all times. Buyers were unable to obtain sufficient supplies for retail needs. Rates advanced to 20s. very early in the period and had reached 24s., and occasionally 25s., towards closing. On the last few days of the month, however, greatly increased consignments resulted in values showing a tendency to weaken.

Supplies from local sources were supplemented by appreciable quantities from Victoria. Realisations for other varieties were as follows: Winter Cole, 8s. to 18s., special 20s. to 22s.; Beurre Bosc, 10s. to 16s., special to 20s.; Josephine, 10s. to 18s., few 20s.; Howells, 8s. to 14s. per bushel case.

#### **Regular Receipts of Peaches Terminate.**

Peaches from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and from Victoria were available in small quantities during the first fortnight of the period, but were mainly of yellow clingstone varieties and were not in demand.

#### **Small Supplies of Grapes.**

A gradual decline in the quantities of grapes received from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and other inland districts was apparent. However, as a result of cooler weather, inquiry was more restricted and values showed little alteration from those ruling previously, though they were weaker at closing. Very small stocks from Victoria were also available. Most realisations were as follows:—*New South Wales*: Black Muscat, 6s. to 16s., special 18s. to 20s.; White Muscat, 7s. to 14s., few special 16s. to 20s.; Cornichon, 7s. to 10s., choice 12s., few specials 15s.; Waltham Cross, 6s. to 14s., few 16s.; Doradillo, 6s. to 8s., choice 10s., few 12s. to 14s. per half case. *Victorian*: Cornichon, 18s. to 20s.; Waltham Cross, 16s. to 23s. per bushel case.

#### **Bananas Again Relatively Scarce.**

Supplies of bananas, which were mainly from North Coast districts of New South Wales, were at all times insufficient for the demand, and all good quality fruit of popular size realised the fixed maximum price of 6¼d. per lb. Very small and inferior packs, however, were lower.

#### **New Season's Navel Oranges Available.**

First regular receipts of new season's Navel oranges from coastal districts came to hand in the second week of the month. Many lines were lacking in colour and sold slowly at first, but a few special packs brought 24s. to 28s. per bushel case. Supplies increased gradually and at closing quotations ranged mainly from 12s. to 16s., with choice coloured 18s. to 20s. In addition, moderate stocks of Queensland Navels were received and these cleared well at 22s. to 34s., with specials to 36s., and occasionally 40s. per bushel case. Very few main crop Valencia oranges were offered and delivery of these has ceased. Second crop Valencias sold satisfactorily early in the period, but inquiry for this variety declined as Navels became more plentiful. Prices covered a wide range as a result of considerable variation in size and quality, but best coloured packs were bringing 12s. to 16s. at closing. Small quantities of the Siletta variety were available, but were not in demand. As high as 26s. was obtained early, but final quotations were within the range of 10s. to 16s. Queensland Joppas also were offered in small quantities at 24s. to 30s.

**Local Lemons Meet Dull Demand.**

Stocks of lemons from coastal districts were at all times in excess of retail requirements and values showed no improvement, ranging mainly from 4s. to 10s., with only special coloured packs of popular counts bringing 12s. to 14s. per bushel case on occasions. Weekly consignments of Queensland lemons declined gradually in quantity and quality. Sales were satisfactory at 12s. to 20s., special to 25s. per bushel case, though prices for special packs advanced sharply in the last few days to as high as 30s. in some instances.

**Passionfruit Lightly Supplied and Values Remain High.**

Daily supplies of passionfruit were light and rates were well maintained at the high levels recorded previously, but covered a wide range as a result of considerable variation in size and quality. In the last week of April quotations for best packs advanced and 28s. to 30s. per half case was realised in some instances.

**Increased Stocks of Papaws Result in Lower Prices.**

Consignments of papaws from Queensland increased gradually each week and a depreciation in values resulted, realisations at closing ranging mainly from 15s. to 25s. per tropical case.

**Pineapples Less Plentiful and Prices Remain at Maximum Levels.**

Only 19,236 cases of Queensland pineapples came to hand during April and good quality lines brought the fixed maximum price of 26s. 3d. per tropical case, though on occasions a slight reduction was made in order to expedite clearances immediately prior to holiday or week-end periods. A high percentage of breakdown due to "water blister" was apparent early in the month and stocks affected in this way were sold at levels considerably below the maximum. In addition, a percentage of very small sized fruit was included in each consignment and this was slow to clear, often at as low as 10s.

**Cantaloupes and Honey Dew Melons Meet a Slow Demand.**

Supplies of cantaloupes from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area were much lighter and choice packs were relatively scarce. Prices, which were as high as 24s. at opening, seldom exceeded 12s. per crate at the end of the month, the cooler weather having resulted in a considerable lessening in demand. Honey Dew melons were moderately supplied, but met only a quiet request, values showing little alteration at 6s. to 10s. per crate with some very small and inferior lower.

**Other Fruit.**

Other fruit available included Custard Apples (Queensland), 4s. to 10s., few to 15s. early in the month; Avocados (Queensland), 15s. to 25s.; Persimmons, 5s. to 10s. per half case; *Monstera Deliciosa* (Queensland), 3s. to 6s. per box; Quinces, 6s. to 12s.,

few 14s.; Grapefruit (New South Wales), 4s. to 8s., choice 10s. to 14s., few higher (Queensland), 10s. to 20s., few higher per bushel case. Realisations for some inferior lines were lower than these quotations.

### **VEGETABLES.**

#### **Peas Slightly Cheaper.**

Although offerings of peas on most selling days were insufficient for trade requirements, they were slightly larger than previously and values were below the levels recorded during March. Rates for choice lines varied mainly between 15s. and 24s. per bushel according to the quantity available from time to time. A high percentage of medium and inferior lots was included, however, and quotations for these ranged mainly from 6s. to 14s.

#### **Beans More Plentiful and Cheaper.**

Stocks of beans available were at most times larger than during March, and as consignments were fairly regular prices did not show any marked fluctuation. At times as high as 16s. per bushel was obtained, but on several days choice beans could be purchased at prices ranging from 5s. to 8s. Medium and inferior lots represented a fairly high proportion of supplies and were not in demand, particularly on days when values for choice offerings were low. On occasions sellers found it impossible to dispose of lower grades even at prices ranging from 1s. to 4s. per bushel.

#### **Receivals of Tomatoes Regular and Market Stable.**

As a result of regularity in daily supplies, values for tomatoes remained fairly stable throughout the period. Firm, large, coloured packs from near-metropolitan sources were scarce and quotations for these remained high, ranging from 16s. to 18s. on most days, although on occasions as much as 22s. was asked. Stocks of semi-ripe and medium grade fruit, however, were sufficient for requirements and sold quietly at prices ranging from 4s. to 14s. per half case according to size and condition. Consignments from inland districts of New South Wales comprised mainly green and semi-ripe lines which were not in demand and sold slowly, mainly at 3s. to 10s., although a few special coloured packs brought 12s. to 14s. per half case. Moderate quantities came to hand from the Portland district of Victoria, but a marked falling off in quality was evident. Most lots were lacking in size and colour and generally were neglected by buyers. A few choice packs brought 16s. to 20s., and occasionally higher early in the month, but most quotations were within the range of 8s. to 14s. per bushel case.

#### **Inquiry for Cabbages Weaker at Closing.**

Receivals of cabbages generally were lighter and, for the first half of the month, when a satisfactory demand prevailed, as high as 14s. per dozen was obtained on many selling days. Towards the end, however, request was much weaker and sellers were forced to reduce quotations in order to maintain clearances, choice large heads being offered at 6s. to 8s. per dozen and other grades at 1s. to 5s.

**More Choice Cauliflowers Available.**

Much heavier consignments of cauliflowers came to hand during April, but a strong demand operated and clearances at most times were well maintained. Choice large heads comprised a higher percentage of available stocks and sold briskly at 16s. to 24s. per dozen and occasionally more, though on a few occasions, due to a temporary increase in supplies, realisations were lowered to range from 12s. to 14s. Medium and inferior grades were not as much in demand and large quantities were sold to factory buyers. Prices ranged from as low as 2s. per dozen.

**Lettuce Cheaper.**

Although only moderate quantities of lettuce were offered in the producers' market on most days, a dull inquiry ruled as a result of the cooler weather, and, after the first week of the month, sellers experienced difficulty in maintaining clearances even at very low levels. Most sales of choice packs throughout the month were within the range of 7s. to 10s., but on occasions realisations did not exceed 5s. Grades other than choice were very slow to sell, mainly at 2s. to 4s. per case.

**Cucumbers Scarce and Prices Rise Sharply.**

Both apple and green cucumbers which had been heavily supplied during March were available only in small quantities after the first week of April. Values increased sharply on the third of the month and were maintained thereafter at the following levels:—Green, 5s. to 10s., few higher; apple, 4s. to 10s., few 12s., per half case.

**Other Main Vegetable Lines.**

Closing quotations for other main vegetables were:—Carrots, 8s. to 16s., few 18s.; parsnips, 12s. to 24s., few higher; potatoes (fixed maximum price), 7s. 10½d.; onions, Victorian Brown, 22s. 6d. to 23s. 6d. (23s. 6d. is fixed maximum price); swedes (N.S.W.), 8s. to 14s.; (Tasmanian), 12s. to 14s.; sweet potatoes, 12s. to 24s., few 26s. per cwt.; celery: N.S.W., 4s. to 10s., special to 15s. per dozen bunches, South Australian, 8s. to 16s., few special brands higher, per crate.

—T. McKEON.

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