

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

December, 1946.

Potato Consignments Again Exceptionally Light.

Very little improvement was noticed in the quantity of potatoes on offer which, excluding last month's total, was the lightest since January, 1946. At Sussex Street, 22,130 bags were received from Tasmania, comprising Brownells, Bismarcks, and Up-to-Dates, while 11,227 bags of Delawares arrived from Western Australia. At Alexandria consignments from New South Wales coastal centres aggregated 44,893 bags, consisting chiefly of new grade Factors and Katahdins, also chats.

Interstate truckings included 7,416 bags of Victorian No. 1 and 3 grade Carmans, 2,822 bags of new grade Factors from Queensland, also 2,514 bags of No. 1 grade Brownells from Tasmania.

The bulk of the receivals during the period was available for trading but demand greatly exceeded the supply. Prices for Undergrade potatoes were increased as from 2nd December, 1946.

Prices fixed for the month ending 31st December, Sydney basis were:—

Wholesalers' Prices to Retailers.

Local and Interstate.—No. 1 Grade and Undergrades £7 17s. 6d. per ton.

Rates for New South Wales.—Grown potatoes for delivery to country areas are as quoted, plus freight from loading station; prices for Interstate potatoes to New South Wales country areas are as quoted, plus freight from Sydney or loading station, whichever is the lower. Primary merchants' prices to wholesalers are £1 per ton less than the figures quoted.

Swedes, Carrots and Parsnips Again Exceptionally Scarce.

The only supplies received during the month consisted of 161 bags of Tasmanian Swedes received at Sussex Street. No rates were disclosed.

Marked Decline in Onion Supplies.

Arrivals at Alexandria declined considerably, only 4,705 bags being received from interstate sources. This was the smallest quantity for many months apart from last September's consignments. Queensland forwarded 2,530 bags of new season's, completing deliveries for the season. All lines were in request and realised £30. The first of the new seasons crop of Brown Globes, totalling 2,205 bags, were received from Victoria. Supplies were insufficient for requirements and sold readily at approximately £21 per ton.

Pumpkin Consignments Increase: Prices Fluctuate.

Queensland supplies at Alexandria showed a considerable increase, totalling 63 trucks compared with 21½ in November. Values varied considerably and while opening sales were recorded at £22 to £27, rates subsequently declined to £9 to £10. Due to the shortage of other lines of vegetables, however, closing prices improved to £14.

Oaten Chaff Supplies Increase.

Following exceptionally light arrivals in November, consignments showed an increase of 31 trucks, 123 trucks including 34 from Victoria being on offer. There was a good enquiry for prime and choice lots but other grades sold slowly. Sales were made as follows:—Medium and good sound £9 to £9 15s. od., few stained £10, with prime and choice at the maximum rate of £10 5s. od. At auction, medium realised £8 7s. 6d. to £9 5s. od. and good sound £9 to £9 10s. od.; Victorian medium £8 10s. od. to £9 15s. od., good sound and prime £10 to £10 5s. od., and at auction, medium £8 5s. od., and heated £8 6s. 8d. per ton.

Wheaten Chaff Supplies Increase.

Increased supplies totalling 50 trucks were available, including two from Victoria. Demand was good for prime lines but other grades sold slowly, especially Victorian consignments. The following sales were effected:—Good sound £8 10s. od. to £10, with prime and choice £10 to £10 5s.; at auction, 4 trucks realised £8 10s. od. to £8 15s. od. for medium; £9 5s. od. to £9 6s. 8d. for good sound; and £7 1s. 8d. to £8 per ton for 2 trucks of Victorian medium.

Lucerne Chaff Receipts Increase Considerably.

Arrivals showed a marked improvement, 34 trucks being the highest total since May last. The bulk of the offerings were in demand, but towards the latter part of the month values were easier. Clearances were made as follows:—Heated lines, £8 10s. od. to £9; good sound, £11; prime, £12 to £12 10s. od.; choice, £13 to £13 5s. od. Towards the close good sound realised £10 to £11, choice £12 to £13, and at auction, 1 truck of medium brought £10 per ton.

Maitland Lucerne Hay Consignments Considerably Reduced.

Available stocks from Maitland, 36 trucks, were the smallest since May. Despite reduced supplies rates were lower and were recorded as follows:—New soft green, £4 10s. od. to £6, few £3 10s. od.; well made lines, £6 10s. od. Due to short supplies toward the latter part of the month the market improved and well made lots realised to £8 per ton.

Arrivals from other centres were the heaviest since May last, amounting to 58 trucks, including 26 of derrick pressed. There was a good enquiry for prime and choice lots, but other grades moved out slowly, especially derrick pressed. Clearances were as follows:—Mudgee baled lots, few heated, £9; good sound, £10 10s. od.; prime, £11 10s. od. to £12; with choice £12 5s. od.;

few £11 10s. od.; derrick pressed, medium £6 5s. od. to £7 5s. od.; heated £6 12s. 6d. to £7 5s. od.; good sound, £6 15s. od. to £8 10s. od. Sales by auction included inferior thistly lots at £3; grassy at £7 per ton.

Oaten Hay Supplies Exceptionally Light.

Only 5 trucks were available for trading, being the smallest quantity for many months. These included 3 trucks of choice rack which were disposed of at £11 and 2 trucks of derrick pressed which realised £8 for good sound and £9 per ton for prime.

Wheaten Hay Also Very Scarce.

Supplies were again restricted, only 4 trucks being available for trading. These included medium which brought £5 to £5 10s. od. and good sound £6 15s. od. per ton.

Straw Consignments Again Reduced.

Consignments continued to show a marked falling off and stocks, 22 trucks, were the smallest since November, 1945. Supplies comprised 15 trucks of oaten, including 5 from Victoria, 5 of wheaten, and 2 of rice. Prime lines met with good enquiry, but other grades sold slowly. Rates were as follows:— Oaten, damaged, £3 10s. od.; good sound, £6 10s. od. to £7 5s. od.; and Victorian medium, £4 15s. od. to £5; prime, £7 5s. od. to £7 10s. od.; wheaten, good sound, £6 15s. od. to £7 5s. od. per ton.

Wheat Consignments Again Restricted.

Again receipts at Alexandria were exceptionally light, only 11 trucks being received. These were not offered for general trading.

Maize Consignments Scarce.

The only arrivals were 77 bags of yellow from local centres. No rates were disclosed.

Oats In Heavy Supply.

There was a marked improvement in the quantity available at Alexandria which totalled 70 trucks. These comprised 26 trucks from local centres, 40 from Victoria, and 4 from South Australia. In most instances consignments were made direct to operators and not offered for trading.

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