Values of Backfatters Easier.

Moderate numbers of backfatters were submitted, but prime heavy grades were in fairly short supply, those available being chiefly good trade light to medium weights. Fair supplies of boars were included and these met with a much better inquiry than was evident last month. Rates for backfatters were well maintained at the commencement of the period, but subsequently sales were marked by easier to cheaper values. The average cost of backfatters was below that of the previous month when up to £15 3s. 6d. was obtained as against the highest price of £14 18s. 6d. during the period reviewed. Light weight descriptions estimated to dress from 250 lb. to 350 lb. made from 6½d. to 9d. and the heavy class, estimated to weigh over 350 lb. dressed, were worth from 6½d. to 8½d. per lb.

Rates for Porkers Irregular.

Porkers were fairly well represented throughout, although on occasions prime lines were scarce. Good trade medium to heavy weight grades predominated, prime lightweights being in relatively short supply. Rates were somewhat irregular throughout and while a dearer market ruled at the commencement of the period, rates later on generally were cheaper. Extra light porkers made to 63s. 6d. per head and up to 15½d. per lb., but mostly cost from 10d. to 14½d. per lb., being cheapest at the closing auction. Light weight porkers, estimated to dress between 50 lb. and 60 lb., sold up to 7½s. 6d. per head and reached 14½d. per lb., although rates mostly ranged from 11d. to 13½d. per lb. In the medium weight range of porker, estimated to weigh from 60 lb. to 80 lb., realisations reached 93s. 6d. per head and, while mostly costing from 11d. to 13½d. per lb., at times 14½d. per lb. was paid. Good heavy grades, estimated to dress out between 80 lb. and 90 lb., sold up to £5 6s. 6d. per head and generally were worth from 10½d. to 12½d. per lb., although on occasions the cost of the carcase reached as high as 13½d. per lb. Although prices fluctuated, at times they reached higher levels than those which were obtained during the previous month. A keen demand was manifest for all suitable store pigs and rates did not vary to any appreciable extent.

—G. Coleman.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

June, 1947.

FRUIT.

Apples Again Principally Interstate and Lightly Supplied.

Most of the apples offered on the market during the month were from interstate sources, principally Tasmania, Western Australia and Victoria. Supplies generally were insufficient for the requirements of the retail trade and values remained at high levels, although a slight reduction was apparent in the case of the highest-priced lines. Best local Delicious realised from 34s.
to 36s. per bushel case throughout the month with smaller sizes from 16s. Other varieties available from New South Wales growing areas were Rome Beauty at 12s. to 24s., special, 26s. to 28s., Dougherty at 16s. to 30s., Granny Smith at 12s. to 24s., special green, 26s. to 28s., and small quantities of Democrat at 10s. to 20s. per bushel case. Tasmanian lots included Delicious, Jonathan, Geelvink Fanny, Cleopatra, Granny Smith, Dunn's Favorite and Cox's Orange Pippin. Highest realisations were for Delicious which brought 16s. to 23s. per bushel case. Other stocks included Western Australian Delicious, Cleopatra, Dunn's Seedling and Granny Smith and Victorian Jonathan, Rome Beauty, King Cole, Cleopatra, Dunn's Seedling and Ben Davis. Towards closing choice large coloured packs were practically unobtainable.

**Pears Remain Plentiful and Prices Ease.**

Only small quantities of pears were received from New South Wales districts during the period but consignments from Victoria were fairly heavy and resulted in the market being well supplied. Rates declined slightly during the first week of the month but thereafter remained steady, quotations for New South Wales packs being as follow:—Packham's Triumph and Winter Cole, 8s. to 16s., few special, 18s.; Josephine, 8s. to 12s., special, 14s. Victorian stocks were approximately 2s. cheaper in the case of Packham's Triumph and Winter Cole, whilst Josephine brought from 8s. to 13s., Buerre Bosc from 6s. to 13s., few 14s., and Winter Nelis, 8s. to 12s. per bushel case. Demand for choice large fruit was keen at all times, whilst medium-sized and "good" grade fruit sold satisfactorily.

**Bananas Relatively Scarce.**

Supplies of bananas were at all times insufficient for retail requirements and choice packs brought the fixed maximum price of 6½d. per lb.

**Navel Oranges Plentiful and Prices Decline.**

Daily receipts of navel oranges from coastal districts increased rapidly in size during the first two weeks and by Friday, 13th June, stocks had assumed near-glut proportions. Early in the period, opening quotations reached 14s., and occasionally higher, per bushel case, but on the above date few realisations exceeded 10s. Growers, however, restricted their consignments during the third week of the month and the collapse in prices which had been anticipated by sellers was averted, values returning to the former level of 8s. to 12s., with special coloured packs to 14s. per bushel case. Towards closing, however, an increase in the quantities carried over from day to day was again apparent. Moderate stocks were received from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. These were well coloured and sold briskly at 12s. to 14s., and on occasions 15s.

**Offerings of Lemons Heavy and Rates Lower.**

Offerings of lemons on most selling days were in excess of the needs of retailers and sellers were obliged to reduce prices as the month progressed in an endeavour to maintain disposals. Closing quotations ranged mainly from 4s. to 6s. per bushel case, although choice coloured packs brought as much as 8s. on occasions when
sold in small quantities. The moderate supplies which came forward from Queensland showed a decline in quality, and prices, which reached 20s. per bushel case early in the month, ranged from 10s. to 14s. at closing.

**Increased Supplies of Mandarins.**

Emperor Mandarins from New South Wales growing areas were plentiful at all times and realisations generally were lower, being mainly within the range of 8s. to 12s. per bushel case, with special coloured 14s. to 16s. Some very small and inferior packs were cheaper. Large quantities from Queensland also reached the market. These opened up in good condition and met a keen demand from the retail trade. However, values declined throughout the period, Glen Retreats, which brought as much as 35s. per bushel case early, seldom realising more than 16s. at closing. Prices for Queensland Ellandales showed a corresponding decline.

**Passionfruit Again Dearer.**

During the first three weeks of the period under review, receipts of passionfruit were insufficient to meet the demand and rates again advanced, choice bringing from 26s. to 32s. per half-case and occasionally higher, whilst medium and inferior packs were available from 10s. Towards the end of the month however, supplies increased, and, although a percentage of offerings realised from 26s. to 30s., most sales took place within the range of 10s. to 24s.

**Values for Pineapples Improve Towards Closing.**

Consignments of Queensland pineapples were approximately equal to those received during the previous month. Early in the period, inquiry was restricted and few realisations exceeded 20s. per tropical case. A slight improvement was apparent towards closing, however, and some special packs brought the fixed maximum price of 26s. 3d. Other quotations ranged from 14s. according to size and quality.

**Other Fruit.**

Representative prices for other main fruit lines available were as follows:—Custard Apples (Queensland), 8s. to 16s., few special, higher; Avocados (Queensland), 10s. to 20s., few to 25s. per half-case; Papaws (Queensland), 8s. to 20s., special, 22s. to 25s., few to 28s. per tropical case; Quinces (South Australian), 12s. to 18s., few to 20s.; Grapefruit (New South Wales), 4s. to 8s., few higher; (Queensland), 8s. to 12s.; Gayndah special, 15s. to 20s. per bushel case. Strawberries (Queensland), 18s. to 26s., few special, 42s. (early consignments to 48s.) per dozen packets, 6s. to 10s. (early consignments to 18s.) per tray. Realisations for some inferior lines were lower than these quotations.

**VEGETABLES.**

**Prices for Beans Reach Fairly High Levels.**

Supplies of beans from New South Wales growing areas were lighter during the period under review, amounting to slightly more than 22,000 bags. These were supplemented by Queensland consignments totalling 10,200 cases and 2,600 sugar bags. Offerings
generally, however, were insufficient for the requirements of the retail trade and values advanced steadily during the first two weeks of June, being highest on Friday, 13th, when up to 20s. per bushel was obtained for choicest lines. Subsequently, however, there was a slight decline, but quotations on most selling days throughout the entire month were within the range of 5s. to 14s., few to 16s., according to quality. Receivals from the North Coast districts of New South Wales and from Queensland included a high percentage of lines which opened up in dry and “curly” condition, attributed to cold, windy and dry weather in the growing areas. Some lots from Queensland, however, arrived in perfect condition and realisations were approximately equal to those ruling for choicest descriptions from local sources.

Rates for Peas Advance Sharply.

There was a marked falling off in supplies of peas from the commencement of the month and quotations, which had closed at 16s. for choicest lines at the end of May, had risen to 28s. per bushel by 3rd June. Subsequently, rates showed slight fluctuations according to the quantities available from day to day, but a representative range of prices on most mornings was from 10s. to 20s. for medium and weather-damaged lines, and from 22s. to 26s. for good and choice. On occasions, best lots brought 28s. to 30s. per bushel.

Heavy Supplies of Queensland Tomatoes.

Receivals of tomatoes from local sources declined, and, during the first half of the month, prices advanced, as high as 20s. per half-case for choice large ripe being recorded on some selling days. A sharp increase in consignments from Queensland, however, resulted in the market being over-supplied with green and semi-coloured packs towards the end of June and values depreciated. Stocks from Queensland totalled approximately 141,000 half-cases. Closing quotations were,—New South Wales (Local), 4s. to 8s., choice ripe 10s., few 12s.; (Coff’s Harbour) green and semi-coloured 4s. to 6s., few to 8s.; (Queensland) Bowen—green and semi-coloured 3s. to 5s., special 6s., few 7s.; Proserpine and Home Hill 2s. to 5s. (few special repacked lines to 10s.); Southern Queensland 4s. to 6s., special coloured to 8s. per half-case.

Realisations for Cabbages Improve.

Receivals of cabbages were only moderate at most times and values improved, particularly in the last two weeks of the month, when choice large heads brought 8s. and occasionally 10s. per dozen. Other quotations ranged from 3s. according to size and quality.

Cauliflowers More Lightly Supplied and Rates Advanced.

Daily consignments of cauliflowers were more regular during June and values showed a considerable improvement. Stocks were mainly from near metropolitan growing areas, although moderate quantities continued to come to hand from the Central Tableland region. Realisations were mainly within the range of 3s. to 15s. per dozen according to size and quality, but a percentage of specially selected large heads on each selling day brought
from 16s. to 26s., with special on occasions to 30s. On Friday, 20th June, however, a temporary shortage resulted in as high as 40s. being obtained in some instances.

**Lettuce Dearer.**

Stocks of lettuce declined as the month progressed and rates, which seldom exceeded 10s. per case early, advanced, ranging from 6s. to 16s. during the last week of the month.

**Improved Realisations for Queensland Cucumbers.**

The falling off in the size of weekly consignments of Queensland cucumbers after the middle of June resulted in improved returns, realisations varying from 6s. to 10s. per half-case according to quality.

**Other Main Vegetable Lines.**

Closing quotations for other main vegetables were:—Carrots (N.S.W.) 8s. to 16s., special 18s., few higher, (Victorian) Unwashed 4s. to 6s.; Parsnips (N.S.W.) 8s. to 18s., few 20s., (Victorian) Unwashed 4s. to 6s., Washed 12s. to 22s.; Potatoes, 10s. (fixed maximum price from 30th June); Onions (Victorian), Brown 23s. 6d. (fixed maximum price); Swedes 6s. to 10s., few higher, inferior lower; Pumpkins 5s. to 8s., few 10s.; Sweet Potatoes, 8s. to 16s. per cwt.; Celery (N.S.W.), 8s. to 15s. per doz. bunches; (South Australian) 12s. to 24s. per crate; Brussels Sprouts (N.S.W.), 4s. to 8s., special 10s. per 12 lb.; (Victorian) 5s. to 8s., special 10s., few 12s., per 12-lb. box.

T. McKeon.