

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES
AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

"Ceiling" rates rule for apples.

The market for apples was very firm owing to the limited supplies available. The relatively few local packs forward, including Democrats, realised the fixed maximum of 27/- per bushel. Rates for all varieties of Tasmanian apples firmed and the ceiling rate of 27/- per case ruled from about mid-June onwards. Towards the close of the month supplies from Tasmania mainly comprised Democrats and Sturmers. From other interstate sources, Jonathan, Rome Beauty, Cleopatra, Dunn's Seedling, Statesman, Democrat and small quantities of Granny Smith, Delicious and a few other varieties were obtainable. Demand for all lines was very keen and 27/- per bushel was readily obtained for sound fruit.

At the close of June stocks were extremely light.

Demand for pears improves.

Pears sold somewhat slowly early in the period but towards the close there was a better inquiry and values improved, selected sizes of choice Packham's Triumph and Winter Cole selling at the maximum of 28/- per bushel. Small consignments of Packham's Triumphs and Winter Coles were forward from inland cool stores of this State but the bulk of supplies came to hand from Victoria and included the varieties previously mentioned as well as Josephine, Bourre Bose and Winter Nellis.

Supplies of Navel oranges increase - values weaken.

Supplies of Navel oranges were short of requirements until the last week of the month when consignments increased considerably. Heavy rains in Coastal growing areas during the second week of June delayed picking operations and, as a result, only very small quantities were available until weather conditions improved. Supplies received during the closing week were more than sufficient to meet the demand and values of large fruit weakened but the maximum of 16/- per bushel for selected counts of choice fruit was still being realised. Consignments from the M.I.A. met a ready sale and top rates ruled.

Mandarins more plentiful.

With much larger supplies of Emperor mandarins from coastal groves available values, apart from the period when heavy rains prevented marketing, were easier. Only occasional lots of extra choice fruit brought the ceiling price of 25/- per bushel. Request was slow at times and some packs had to be cleared at low rates.

Consignments of Queensland Glen Retreat mandarins continued to come forward. Choice, sound fruit sold well at 25/- per bushel but much lower prices had to be accepted for packs which showed a percentage of breakdown.

Limited inquiry for lemons.

Request for lemons was restricted and values showed a downward trend, the market being very weak towards the close of the month and few sales were effected above 14/- per bushel. Purchases for factory purposes assisted in clearing surplus stocks. Supplies of Queensland lemons continued to come forward but the demand for this fruit showed a falling-off and rates were easier.

Firm market for bananas.

Demand for bananas continued to be keen and owing to the relatively light consignments received little difficulty was experienced in securing the ceiling rate of 7d per lb.

Pineapples well supplied and rates ease.

Consignments of pineapples were heavier, bi-weekly receipts ranging from about 4,000 early in the month to 11,800 at the close. The market was firm early and the top rate of 21/3 per case ruled but with the receipt subsequently of increased quantities and a slowing up of demand, values could not be maintained. The carry-over between consignments was fairly heavy at times. Closing rates ranged from 12/- to 18/- per case with an occasional sale higher.

Custard apples sell well.

Fairly large quantities of custard apples were received from Queensland. Request generally was satisfactory and sales were made at prices ranging to 14/- per half-case.

Passionfruit cheaper.

There was a marked increase in consignments of passionfruit towards the close of the month and with a slow inquiry prices eased.

Queensland strawberries in request.

A good demand ruled for Queensland strawberries, particularly for the week-end trade, and up to 20/- per tray was realised for choice berries.

Flood rains damage vegetable crops.

Following the heavy to flood rains which fell over the coastal belt a considerable acreage of peas and beans was destroyed

while a good deal of damage to cauliflower and other crops was occasioned. Towards the close of June, the quantities of green vegetables reaching the market were relatively light and maximum rates ruled for peas and beans, while high prices were obtained for cauliflowers and cabbages.

Supplies of peas insufficient for trade requirements.

During the first week of the month, daily receipts of peas ranged from around 1,000 to 2,000 bags. Choice offerings comprised only a small percentage of supplies and the ceiling price of 23/4 per bushel was realised. The bulk, however, was mainly of medium to lower grade, many lines being badly discoloured and a wide range of prices ruled in consequence. There was a marked decline in consignments and during the period of the heavy rains most lots were received in a very wet and discoloured condition; some consignments deteriorated to such an extent in transit that they were unsaleable on arrival on the selling floors. Subsequently the position with regard to the condition of supplies improved, although most lots were still showing weather damage. Supplies were very light prior to the close of the month, and well below trade requirements. Only a few poor quality lots sold below the top rate of 23/4 per bushel.

Keen demand for beans.

Generally, quality of the North Coast and Queensland beans reaching the market early in June was unsatisfactory owing to the presence of breakdown, some lines being so badly affected as to be unsaleable. The small percentage of choice included in consignments met a ready sale at the ceiling price of 20/- per bushel.

There was a marked increase in supplies from Queensland towards the close of the month and a considerable improvement in quality. With a keen demand ruling, the greater proportion sold at the maximum. The flood rains which fell over the North Coast growing areas brought about a considerable reduction in consignments although the quantities were increasing with the advent of fine weather. At closing the market was very firm and with few exceptions both Coastal and Queensland beans were realising 20/- per bushel.

Firmer market for tomatoes.

With rapidly dwindling supplies of local tomatoes, buyers had to turn their attention to Queensland consignments to fulfil their requirements. Values showed an upward trend as the month progressed. Choice, coloured local packs realised to 18/- per half-case while up to 16/- was obtained for Queensland lots, with repacked lines realising to 18/-. The heaviest consignment from Queensland was received on 25th June when 28,000 half-cases reached the market.

High prices for choice cauliflowers.

Fairly heavy supplies of cauliflowers came to hand early in the month, and following the heavy rains prices weakened. Subsequently, however, receipts were much lighter and there was a sharp advance in rates, choice, large heads selling to 50/- per dozen on two occasions.

Cabbages realise higher prices.

With the limited quantities of other green vegetables on offer, the market for cabbages was much firmer, especially for choice heads, which sold up to 24/- per dozen. Generally, the quality of offerings was medium to poor, nevertheless good clearances were effected at rates well above average.

Carrots and parsnips in request but swedes sell slowly.

Loose carrots and parsnips met a satisfactory inquiry and choice washed lines sold at the maximum of 25/- and 28/- per cwt., respectively. Demand for swede turnips was restricted and values were easier.

(R.D. Mecker).

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD
AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Potatoes well supplied.

Tasmanian consignments which arrived in Sussex Street amounted to 145,567 bags and 16,361 crates, as compared with 165,304 bags in the previous month. These stocks comprised No.1 Grade Brownells, Bismarcks, Snowflakes and Up-to-Dates. A good percentage was made available for general trading, portion was stored, and the remainder went to essential services.

Supplies from local centres at Alexandria Goods Yard totalled 9,037 bags, including 295 bags of seed, and mainly comprised Factors, with a few Manhattan and Satisfaction. Reduced supplies, which aggregated 59,308 bags, came to hand from Victoria, consignments including Carmans, Snowflakes and a few Manistoes. The bulk of the supplies were made available for trading, although about 900 bags were reconsigned to other stations. The demand was fairly good considering the heavy supplies that have been coming to hand recently.

At Darling Harbour landing only seed Factors amounting to 6 trucks were received. These were consigned direct to various agents for distribution.

Rates during the period continued unchanged, and were as follows:- Wholesalers' rates to retailers for local and