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STAFF NOTES.

The Chief of the Division, Dr. H. J. Hynes, has been appointed to the newly created position of Assistant Director, New South Wales Department of Agriculture, and is expected to take up his new duties at an early date. Dr. Hynes has also been appointed Executive Officer of the New South Wales Advisory Committee on Co-ordination of Agricultural Research. This Committee was set up by the Premier last year, the members being Mr. Wallace C. Wurth (Chairman), Dr. R. J. Noble, Dr. I. Clunies Ross, Professor J. R. A. McMillan, and Mr. C. K. Jacka.

Mr. N. R. Wills, B.Sc., B.Ec., Economics Research Officer, has tendered his resignation in order to accept the appointment of Lecturer on Public Administration, University of Sydney.

Mr. F. H. G. Gruen, B.A., B.Com. (Melbourne), has commenced duty as Economics Research Officer.

Mr. H. G. Moon resigned from the State Service last month to accept the new position of Markets Officer in the Queensland Department of Agriculture. Mr. Moon entered the Marketing Division as a junior clerk and, including a period of absence with the armed forces overseas, served the Division for almost nineteen years.

Mr. B. K. Compton, junior clerk, resumed duty after extended absence on military service.

PRODUCTION TRENDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR JANUARY, 1947.

The greater part of the State remained drought-stricken throughout January. Temperatures were high, pastures deteriorated even further, and stock were in bad condition. The chief exception was the north-eastern corner of the State, where the long drought broke during the month. Since the beginning of February, however, heavy rains have brought relief over most of the rest of the State, transforming the outlook completely.

The main North Coast butter-producing districts received drought-breaking rains in January and early February as well. The January, 1947, figure of butter output did not reveal their influence, since, at 2,849 tons, it was only 5 tons greater than December, but 790 tons below January, 1946; however, pastures have already responded, and the February figure should be much higher.

Early and mid-season potatoes of this year's main crop are not expected to yield much above 30 cwt. per acre as a result of the dry weather in January. Late plantings were languishing, but the early February rains should allow them to recover. The main crop target of 19,250 acres has probably been reached.

There is every indication that this year's wheat sowing will be greatly increased, possibly to record levels. With winter fallow apparently above average, and large areas which failed last year, much of the crop will be sown on land in good heart and condition.

Maize prospects from Tableland crops, due to frost, scalding and dry weather, are not good; coastal crops are rather better. Grain sorghum has withstood the trying summer better than maize, but some areas in the north-west will give disappointing yields; on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area grain sorghum is giving very encouraging results.

The rice crop gives every indication of heading out well, and, despite a fair amount of weed growth, yields should be high.

The broom millet crop from the whole State should not be far off the State average of 650 tons. In spite of adverse conditions earlier along the Coast, some 200 tons are expected from the Richmond River, and 250 tons from the Hunter and Manning. Conditions have been generally favourable in the Tumut-Gundagai district.

Banana production has suffered heavily from the recent torrential rains, and crops are expected to yield some 20 per cent. less than last year.

Egg production is still at a higher level than last year. Receivals by the Egg Marketing Board for the 28 weeks to 11th January, 1947, totalled 35.8 m. dozen, compared with 34.0 m. dozen for the corresponding period a year ago.

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

January, 1947.

SHEEP.

Reduced Numbers Yarded.

A further decline in the supplies of sheep and lambs available occured during the month, due partly to the intervention of public holidays reducing the number of sale days to seven, the closure of retail butchers' shops as a protest against the prices being paid for carcases and the continuation of drought conditions in many parts of the State, which has considerably curtailed the supplies of fat sheep and lambs for slaughter. A total of 199,380 head of sheep and lambs was penned, representing a decline of about 11,000 head on the previous month's aggregate. Early in the month supplies were very light, being in the vicinity of 9,000 head, but offerings later improved and at the closing sale had reached about 53,000 head.

Sheep Well Supplied.

Despite a decrease in the overall supplies, the pennings of grown sheep showed an increase, 120,131 head being offered. Plain to medium quality wethers and ewes were in fairly heavy supply with good light trade descriptions generally making a satisfactory