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GENERAL NOTES AND NEWS.

The Markets Advisory Committee will suggest to the City Council that the Fruit Section of the Sydney Municipal Markets be closed during the winter months of June, July and August, subject to the Council Authorities being able to make the necessary arrangements in that section of the Markets where both fruit and vegetables are sold.

The Potato Growers' Association is at present examining a scheme for post-war organisation of the industry on an Australia-wide basis. The views of individual members of the Association are being sought by means of a questionnaire.

The N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries has requested the Markets Advisory Committee to consider the question of altering the opening hour of the Fruit and Vegetable Markets from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., or alternatively that 8 a.m. be the opening hour during the winter months. Action is at present being taken to obtain the views of the various interests involved.

Over thirty Municipal Councils in the Sydney Metropolitan Area have been circularised in order to enlist their co-operation in providing facilities for the ready disposal of fruit and vegetables, particularly during periods of glut. It has been suggested that Councils may be able to make a valuable contribution in this regard by issuing permits for the setting up of additional fruit and vegetable stands in the suburbs as well as in the City area in such locations as will not unduly interfere with established shops and stands.

Mr. H.E. Bishop, Assistant Prices Commissioner, Canberra, on 13th June attended a meeting at the Department of Agriculture, Sydney, of the Working Committee appointed by the Conference recently held to discuss problems associated with the sale of apples on a case basis. It was decided at this meeting that further test weighings are to be conducted in respect of both apples and pears, so that graduated price schedules might be devised for cases containing less than 40 lbs. net of fruit.

The damage to New England potato crops this year caused by moth is thought to have cost growers in the vicinity of £200,000. Only a part of the crop is of prime quality and the bulk of the crop is being marketed as stock food.

Total potato contracts recorded for the 1944-45 season reached 41,147 acres, and were divided as follows: Early crop 13,542 acres; main crop 26,019 acres; autumn crop 1,586 acres. Contracts for 40,000 acres are being aimed at from this State for 1945-46.

Egg production during May, 1945, was about 13 per cent. higher than for the same month last year. Total Egg Board production for 1944-45 is expected to be between 47 and 48 million dozen; 48 million dozen was the production target set.

New South Wales butter production for 1944-45 will probably be no more than 31,000 tons, compared with 39,195 tons for 1943-44, and 41,864 tons for 1942-43. Cheese output will probably be about 1,900 tons compared with 2,469 tons for 1943-44, and 2,297 tons for 1942-43.

A production target of 115,000 acres of maize for grain has been set this State for 1945-46. Given average yields, this should produce over 3 million bushels of grain. This compares with an estimate of $2\frac{5}{8}$ million bushels for the crop which has just matured. However, most of the current season's crop has been retained on farms or sold locally, and comparatively little is reaching Sydney markets.

Grain sorghum crops in the Northern part of the State have matured well, and the average yield appears to be around 35 bushels per acre, some crops even reaching 60 bushels. The Commonwealth Government is again guaranteeing 3/7d per bushel for next season's crop.

The autumn lambing has been fairly satisfactory in the West, but has been a total failure in the Southern and Riverina districts.