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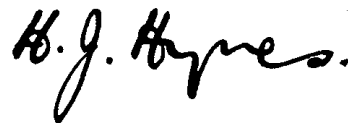
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Editorial.

AUSTRALIAN EGG MARKETING SCHEME.

In considering the future of the egg industry at its meeting in Canberra last month, the Australian Agricultural Council was aware that whilst the scheme for marketing of eggs on a Commonwealth-wide basis as embodied in the prospectus of Egg Boards of Australia Ltd. was endorsed by most of the States, New South Wales and Queensland objected to certain of the provisions. Under this scheme, each State Board was to sell all its eggs to the Company which, as far as practicable, would make available sufficient eggs for the needs of consumers in the respective States. Each Board was to become the sole agent of the Company in the State concerned to sell eggs and egg products as directed by the Company. This was in direct conflict with the provisions of the Marketing of Primary Products Act of New South Wales for under that statute the Board is required to act as a principal in the discharge of its duties and is not empowered to assume the obligations of an agent for, and under the control of, some other body. It is significant that no representation was made to the Minister either by the New South Wales Egg Board or the Poultry Farmers' Association for the Act to be amended to enable the Board to participate in the scheme, and it was apparent to all that without New South Wales the Company plan could not work. Even so, it was generally admitted throughout Australia that when Egg Control Regulations lapsed at the end of this year, some co-ordinated scheme would be necessary if uncontrolled interstate dumping with consequent weakening of the price structure was to be eliminated, and if chaos generally in the industry was to be avoided. Consequently, the Agricultural Council decided last month that it would have to further review the question before the end of 1946, by which time the original plan would have been reconsidered by New South Wales, and the Commonwealth Department of Commerce and Agriculture would have formulated a scheme for adoption after December 31 in the event of non-agreement by the States on the Company proposals or similar plan.

Since the meeting of the Council, the industry has not been slow to act, for representatives of the Egg Boards and Agricultural Departments of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, met on September 10-11 in Melbourne to discuss an amended scheme, details of which are outlined in this issue. The verdict of Governments and the industry throughout Australia on the merits of the new proposals has yet to be given, but it is apparent that objectionable features of the original plan have been eliminated, with much to be said in favour of the amended scheme.



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