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will avail themselves of the facilities provided by Tasmanian legislation to set up a marketing Board vested with statutory powers, amongst other things, to licence production as a factor in marketing control.

In the event of an affirmative vote, the Act provides for the winding up of the present Board and the repeal of the Plant Diseases Act, 1930, so far as it relates to the functioning of that body.

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### GENERAL NOTES AND NEWS.

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Since the preliminary estimate by this Division of the total yield of wheat to be harvested in this State for the current season, very adverse weather conditions were experienced. The position, already serious, showed further deterioration, particularly in the south-eastern section of the wheat belt where a reasonable harvest was expected. Based on conditions and prospects existent at 22nd November, 1946, a yield of 14,500,000 bushels of wheat grain and 127,000 tons of wheaten hay was forecast. This estimate is the lowest since the 1919-1920 season, when 4,387,000 bushels were obtained. The yield last season (1945-6) was 62,500,000 bushels of grain and 500,000 tons of wheaten hay.

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A survey is to be conducted by the Division to ascertain soybean production costs in the New England district.

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The Division has accumulated evidence in connection with its Markets Advisory Service that action is needed regarding the poor grading which obtains in the case of certain lines of vegetables. The whole subject is being investigated, having regard to the National Mark Scheme which has operated in connection with marketing of fruits and vegetables in the United Kingdom for several years.

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The Division is arranging, for the first time, an exhibit at the forthcoming R.A.S. Show, depicting the services available from the Department in respect of marketing and agricultural economics.

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At the invitation of the Lismore Municipal Council, the Chief of the Division conferred with the Town Clerk and members of committee in regard to the possibilities of decentralised marketing of fruits and vegetables insofar as the Lismore district is concerned.

The shortage of fruit cases in recent years has partly been met by the use of cut-down packer cases. Certain pear cases, for instance, when cut in half, are suitable for use in packing tomatoes. The practice has much to commend it, provided the requirements of the Fruit Cases Act are met. Experience has shown that this is not always the case in that some cut-down cases fail to meet the prescribed measurements laid down in the Act. To remedy the position strong action has just been taken by the Department and in many instances repacking has been ordered.

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The Chief of the Division visited Murwillumbah to confer with the Directors of the Banana Growers' Federation Co-operative Limited in regard to suggested amendments of the Marketing of Primary Products Act in so far as marketing of bananas is concerned.

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In connection with the shortage of fruit and vegetable cases, it is interesting to note that pre-war imports of timber into New South Wales were in the vicinity of 200,000,000 feet, whilst local production was approximately 160,000,000 feet. It has been estimated by the Department of Labour and Industry that the present local production figure can be taken as approximately 230,000,000 feet and that imports may attain 50/60,000,000 feet. Assuming annual requirements to be approximately 400,000,000 feet, it is apparent that import and local production will probably fall short of requirements by 100,000,000 feet.

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## **SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.**

**November, 1946.**

### **SHEEP.**

#### **Numbers Decline Substantially.**

Supplies of sheep and lambs were considerably lighter, being approximately 65,000 head less than the previous month's aggregate. During the period yardings amounted to 227,420 head while for the corresponding month in 1945, 335,000 head were available. Slightly fewer lambs than grown sheep were penned and although numbers were well maintained early in November, subsequent offerings declined appreciably.

#### **Suitable Trade Sheep Numerous.**

Although the number of sheep submitted showed a reduction and totalled 114,694 head, quality generally was better than that of the previous month. Good useful light trade wethers and ewes made a satisfactory showing and comprised a substantial proportion of the penning, the offering of plain to medium grades showing a decline. Good to prime heavy wethers were fairly well in evidence with prime weighty ewes also making an improved showing.