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which, if adjustments are left to take care of themselves, the same violent price fluctuations will occur as have characterised the international market in the past." Some other commodities will remain in short supply for some considerable time.

The report reaches this conclusion: "Thus on the one hand there is a danger of a return of unmarketable surpluses of certain agricultural commodities, resulting in a disastrous break in prices which would have widespread repercussions throughout the economy and lead again to heavy pressure for restriction of farm output; and on the other, a need to expand production, as indicated by the target figures in this report, in order to raise levels of health and standards of living throughout the world. Unless positive action is taken, the world will move not in the direction of the goals but away from them, and there may again be shortages like those we face in the present emergency, which could have been largely avoided if adequate international machinery had been available."

The positive action and the machinery which the report recommends, but whose details it leaves for elaboration elsewhere, are the setting up of a World Food Board.

R. B. McMILLAN.

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### **GENERAL NOTES AND NEWS.**

An Immigration Advisory Committee was recently set up by the Government, and is composed of representatives of several State Departments under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the newly established Ministry of Tourist Activities and Immigration. The Chief of the Division represents the Department of Agriculture on the Committee. At a recent meeting dealing with absorptive capacity in industry, it was pointed out in a survey that rural absorptive capacity in New South Wales had been set down at a small nominal figure.

Negotiations have been conducted by this Division on behalf of the recently constituted Navy Bean Marketing Board for the purchase of land, sheds, seed cleaning machinery and office furniture of Commonwealth Machinery Pool Headquarters, Guyra. These facilities are required by the Board in the marketing of the commodity. It is not unlikely that in the near future, arrangements will be made for the Navy Bean Board to take over also the marketing of soy beans.

The Chief of the Division recently visited Parramatta, Penrith, Springwood and Katoomba and discussed with wholesalers and retailers the possibility of decentralising the marketing of fruits and vegetables. The general view was that there was room for subsidiary markets, but that it would be essential to arrange for continuity of supply for all lines. Parramatta appeared to be an ideal centre for development. On the advice of the Division, a small wholesale unit has been established at Katoomba and the owner is satisfied with the progress made during the past six months.

The New South Wales Public Service Board has revived the pre-war Statistical Committee on which the Government Statistician, Director-General of Education, Under Secretary for Labour and Industry and Under Secretary and Director for Agriculture are represented. The aim of the Committee is to review present statistical collections and make recommendations for improvement of the statistical service to Government Departments and the general public. The Chief of the Division attended the first post-war meeting held at the Public Service Board under the chairmanship of Mr. A. W. Hicks.

The Markets Advisory Service to growers of fruits and vegetables, recently instituted by this Division, is carrying out regular inspection of produce coming to the selling floors at the Municipal Markets. Prompt action was taken recently by the special officer in carrying out the inspections to bring to notice the extremely unsatisfactory position with regard to the influx to the Markets of immature tomatoes from growers on the North Coast. In suitable cases, telegrams were despatched to the growers concerned.

A comprehensive report has been furnished to the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission in connection with the proposal to develop an irrigation scheme at Utungun on the North Coast. The reports deals with climatological features, land-use, production and financial statistics of the district based on an analysis of questionnaires distributed to individual farmers in the Macksville-Utungun area. The merits of the proposed Utungun scheme are also discussed.

A communication has been addressed to each of the Agricultural Departments and Egg Boards of Australia to ascertain their views in regard to the proposals for handling of surplus eggs as outlined in last month's Review. It is thought that an Australian-wide conference of interested parties is necessary in order to finalise proposals in time for submission to the next meeting of the Australian Agricultural Council, and arrangements are accordingly being made for a three-day conference in Sydney on November 12-14.

A committee is to be set up independent of the Markets Advisory Committee (a body composed of representative interests acting in an advisory capacity to the City Council on matters affecting the Municipal Fruit and Vegetable Markets) comprising two representatives of interests concerned, with a view to considering the proposal that the City Fruit and Vegetable Markets be transferred to a more favourable site.

*Staff Notes.*

Mr. J. W. McCullough, Economics Research Officer, ceased duty on 8th October to transfer to a position at the New South Wales Bureau of Statistics and Economics.

Major T. McKeon resumed duties in the Marketing Branch after being absent six years with the A.I.F.