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THE AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS SOCIETY

The Inaugural Meeting of the Society was held in Sydney on Thursday, February 21, 1957. The following is a summary of the Minutes of that meeting.

ATTENDANCE

There were 75 persons present, I. A. Butler acting as Chairman and K. O. Campbell as Secretary. Apologies were received from Sir Samuel Wadham, J. G. Crawford, T. H. Strong, J. P. Belshaw, J. A. Money, W. T. Allen and F. Bollman.

FORMATION OF SOCIETY

A motion, moved by P. C. Druce and seconded by D. B. Williams, "that this meeting endorse the formation forthwith of a society to be known as the Australian Agricultural Economics Society," was carried unanimously.

CONSTITUTION

The meeting had before it a draft constitution prepared by the organising committee. The Chairman indicated that it was the committee's recommendation that this draft, subject to any amendments which might be incorporated at this stage, should be adopted as an interim constitution at this meeting, and considered for formal adoption as a permanent constitution at the next general meeting of the Society.

C. P. Dowsett moved and R. B. McMillan seconded a motion that "the draft constitution as circulated be accepted as the interim constitution of the Society, subject to final consideration at the next meeting of the Society".

An amendment moved by D. B. Williams, seconded by P. C. Druce, "that provision be made for a patron of the Society", was carried.

An amendment moved by D. B. Williams, seconded by M. J. Phillips, "that section 4 of the draft constitution be amended to provide for two vice-presidents of the Society", was not carried.

Sheila Rowley moved and B. Philpotts seconded an amendment "that the Society be organised on an Australasian basis". It was pointed out that the organising committee had considered this point in some detail, but had decided against including New Zealand formally in the Society at this stage. In any circumstances, the Society would welcome applications for membership from residents of New Zealand and other countries. The amendment was not carried.

M. J. Phillips asked whether the drafting committee had considered the inclusion of a category of life member. This suggestion was referred to the Council for further consideration. It was also suggested that

clause 3 (*a*) might be amended to read "membership of this Society shall be open to any person interested in the advancement (or promotion) of the objects of the Society".

An amendment moved by J. R. Thomas and seconded by F. H. Gruen "that the words 'in Australia' be deleted from paragraphs 2 (*a*) and 2 (*b*)", was carried.

The Chairman put the original motion as amended and it was carried.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1957

F. H. Gruen moved and G. D'A. Chislett seconded a motion "that persons who have paid the conference registration fee of 20s. od. shall, if they so elect, automatically become financial members of the Society for the year 1957 without payment of further subscription". The motion was put and carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following office bearers were declared elected for the year 1957:—

PRESIDENT: K. O. Campbell.

VICE-PRESIDENT: D. B. Williams.

HON. SECRETARY: C. P. Dowsett.

HON. TREASURER: F. H. Gruen.

Councillors:—

New South Wales: I. A. Butler.

Victoria: R. B. McMillan.

Queensland: C. H. P. Defries.

South Australia: F. G. Jarrett.

Western Australia: H. P. Schapper.

Australian Capital Territory: D. R. Munro.

The question of the appointment of a member of Council to represent Tasmania was referred to the Council, in accordance with Clause 4 (*f*) of the interim constitution.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS IN THE COMMONWEALTH AGRICULTURAL BUREAUX

W. Ives outlined the history of a proposal to establish a Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau, principally to do abstracting work in Agricultural Economics. Unless there were evidence of strong support from the Dominions, he feared that this very worthwhile project would not come to fruition.

A motion by D. B. Williams, "that this meeting of the Australian Agricultural Economics Society, having noted with interest the proposal to establish a Bureau of Agricultural Economics within the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, records its whole-hearted support for the early establishment of such a Bureau to provide an information and abstracting service for agricultural economists", was carried.

INTERIM CONSTITUTION AND ENQUIRIES

Copies of the Interim Constitution can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Mr. C. P. Dowsett, Rural Bank of New South Wales, Martin Place, Sydney, to whom all inquiries regarding the *Australian Agricultural Economics Society* should be addressed.