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OBITUARY

C. P. DOWSETT

Cecil Philip Dowsett, until recently Director of Development and Research and Deputy Commissioner of the Rural Bank of New South Wales, died in Sydney on 15th January, 1977, after a brief illness. He was born in Roseville, N.S.W., in 1916, educated at the North Sydney Boys' High School and graduated from the University of Sydney with the degree of Bachelor of Economics in 1939.

He joined the N.S.W. Public Service Board in 1933 as a member of the staff of the then Farmers' Relief Board and was transferred in 1935 to the Bank where he spent his entire subsequent professional career. He joined the Economist's Division of the Bank in 1938 becoming Assistant Economist in 1948 and Economist in 1954. Like others he was involved in the administration of the wartime agricultural programme in this country through the activities of his superior, Mr J. G. (now Sir John) Crawford. This resulted some years later in his co-authorship with Crawford, Donald and Ross of the Stanford University Press's book on *Wartime Agriculture in Australia and New Zealand 1939-1950*. For a short period in 1952-53 Dowsett was granted leave of absence by the Bank to enable him to serve with the South Pacific Commission in Noumea.

Dowsett's contribution to the establishment of the Australian Agricultural Economics Society was tremendous. He was a member of the group of five which planned and organized the meeting in February, 1957, at which the Society was formed. He served as its first secretary during the years in which the administrative responsibilities for the Society were located in Sydney and he was the architect of the Society's constitution.

Cecil Dowsett was a conscientious and meticulous man who made an ideal secretary. He contributed substantially to placing the society on a firm footing. He eventually became President of the N.S.W. Branch and later Federal President. In the latter capacity, he induced the first group of business organizations to become corporate members of the Society. As he assumed broader administrative responsibilities in the Rural Bank, his participation in Society activities declined, and consequently he was not known as well as he might have been to those who joined the Society in later years.

Cecil Dowsett was a man of a retiring disposition who tended to avoid the limelight. Behind the scenes however, he was a loyal, tireless and thoroughly dependable worker and administrator who could draw on a vast store of experience. To his friends he was a delightful companion with a keen sense of humour.

The Society recognizes his unique contribution in its founding years and expresses its sincere condolences to his widow and daughter.