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## GENERAL NOTES AND NEWS

The triennial ballot was held on 25th January, 1945, for the election of five producers' representatives to the Wine Grapes Marketing Board for the Shires of Willimbong, Wade and Carrathool. As from 3rd February, 1945, the personnel of the Board will be Messrs. J.C. Thorne, E.E. Bulmer, R. Smellie, W.A. Cooper and G.R.R. Pigott, who were elected by the producers, and Messrs. G.J. Evatt and R. Mallinson, Government nominees.

The Auditor General has submitted to the Minister for Agriculture a report covering his audit of the accounts of the Egg Marketing Board for the State of New South Wales for the pool year ended 30th June, 1944. The report states, inter alia, that as compared with the previous pool (1942/43) there has been a reduction of £183,696 in the Board's income, a reduction in expenditure of £284,578 and the conversion of a deficiency of £44,871 to a surplus of £56,011, an improvement of £100,882.

Recently the Chief of the Division of Marketing and Agricultural Economics was appointed the Department of Agriculture's representative on an inter-departmental committee of experts called together by the Premier to inquire into the possibilities of developing a deep-sea port on the Far North Coast of New South Wales. Basic to the scheme is an adequate survey of the present agricultural importance of the districts likely to be served by such a port and some idea of their potentialities. Research officers of the Division of Marketing and Agricultural Economics are at present engaged in a preliminary agricultural survey of the regions.

The total area for which 1944-45 crop potato contracts were accepted in New South Wales was 38,750 acres. Of this area, 12,600 acres were for the early crop, 24,650 acres for the main crop, and 1,500 acres for the autumn crop.

Citrus crops this year have suffered considerably as a result of unfavourable conditions and it appears likely that production from the 1945 main crop will be below last year. The total yield of all citrus is expected to aggregate 2,446,000 loose bushels.