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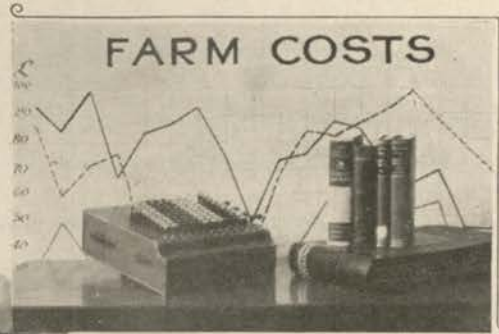
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Review of



Marketing and

Agricultural Economics

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DIVISION OF MARKETING
AND
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

REVIEW OF MARKETING AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.

Issued by authority of the Minister for Agriculture
(HON. E.H. GRAHAM, M.L.A.)
and prepared under the direction of the Chief of the
Division of Marketing and Agricultural Economics,
Department of Agriculture, New South Wales, Australia.

Vol.13, No.3 (New Series)

March, 1945.

WASTAGE IN VEGETABLES - A MARKETING PROBLEM.

The recent Press announcement by this Division of the loss at the City Markets of 132 tons of vegetables for the quarter ending January, 1945, draws attention once more to the care necessary in harvesting, packing and transporting perishable produce. The fact that the loss this year was 35 tons less than in the corresponding period last year does not connote improvement in methods of handling, for the 1944 drought resulted in reduced supplies at the Markets and consequently a drop in quantities condemned. In their own interests, fruit and vegetable growers should study improved methods in marketing procedure. Particularly is this necessary during the warmer months of the year when spoilage is most common. It is recognised that war-time conditions have created difficulties, but there is little to justify the methods which have led to so many condemnations in recent months - for example, the despatch to market of large quantities of grub-infested and very immature tomatoes, and the transmission of peas and beans that were packed wet and not cooled down after picking, resulting in spoilage at the Markets. The quantities of vegetables condemned by Departmental Inspectors or City Council officers at the Markets for the period under review included 55 tons of tomatoes and 16 of peas and beans. In the case of carrots, the condemnations amounted to almost 30 tons, and growers should realise in this connection that close-textured bags allow of poor ventilation and encourage spoilage, while the use of rigid containers (e.g., tropical fruit cases) is preferable even to the open-mesh type of bag sometimes used.

Wastage in valuable food products is deplorable in times of scarcity, apart from the effect it has in increasing production costs to the farmer. There is a wealth of information on methods of harvesting and packing best suited to the various types of vegetables, and this is available free to all growers who care to contact their district field officers or the Department direct.

H. J. Hynes.
Chief of Division.