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## GENERAL NOTES AND NEWS.

The Egg Marketing Board has devoted some attention to increasing the sales of eggs on the local market, and is endeavouring to formulate a scheme for packing in cartons. The Board is hopeful that supplies of essential material for carton manufacture will be available soon and that within a comparatively short time an approach may be made to the whole question of local market packing.

The new Markets Advisory Service, which was the subject of the editorial of the June issue of the Review, has been favourably commented upon in a number of quarters. In this connection it is of interest to note that the Vegetable Growers' Association of N.S.W. has expressed its appreciation of the Department's endeavours to uplift the standards of grading, etc., of fruits and vegetables, and has offered wholehearted co-operation.

The City Council authorities have advised that they have given further consideration to the proposal for the closing of Sydney Fruit and Vegetable Markets, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 on Saturday mornings during the winter months of 1946, and have decided to take no further action at this stage. The matter, however, will be reviewed prior to the winter months of 1947.

Further to representations which have been made by various vegetable-growing organisations, the Minister for Agriculture has recommended to Cabinet that it approve of the introduction of a Bill to provide for the registration of vegetable growers in New South Wales and that he be authorised to have such Bill prepared.

Following a recent deputation from representatives of citrus-growing organisations, fruit-juice processors and others, who expressed their anxiety regarding the current scarcity of suitable barrels and glass containers for fruit juices, this Division, on behalf of the Minister, personally contacted the Secretary for Railways on the question of provision of trucks required to convey timber to the barrel manufacturers in the metropolitan area. An executive of Australian Glass Manufacturers Pty. Ltd. was also interviewed with a view to his firm exploring the possibility of making additional glass containers available to fruit juice manufacturers.

The issue of preliminary lists of poultry farmers apparently entitled to vote at the forthcoming poll for the election of five producer-members to the Egg Marketing Board of New South Wales has been completed. These rolls refer to Electoral Districts Nos. 1, 2 and 3, respectively, and will be on exhibition at various post offices and other places throughout the State from the 14th August to 2nd September, 1946. The Returning Officer for the poll will receive claims for enrolment, notices of objection, etc., if in the post up to the latter date.

The Chief of the Division recently attended a further meeting arranged by the Cumberland County Council for the purpose of hearing the views of primary producing interests in regard to land use and marketing problems in the County of Cumberland. A questionnaire was forwarded by the Council to the various primary producer organisations and to selected Government Departments, and the views of the Department of Agriculture on the questions submitted were collated by this Division.

The Navy Bean Marketing Board is considering the question of acquiring from the Federal authorities, certain bean-cleaning and grading equipment (which includes both lend-lease and locally purchased machinery) operating at the Guyra Machinery Pool shed. The Division of Import Procurement arranged for a sale-value to be placed on the lend-lease material and details have been supplied to the Board for its consideration. Purchase of land and sheds at the Guyra Pool is also under consideration by the Board.

The Division is co-operating with the Commonwealth Department of Information in the compilation of material for use in the publicity field, particularly in respect of information designed to answer typical questions of potential migrants from the United Kingdom who contemplate entering certain rural industries in this State.

The Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area Vegetable Growers' Association has furnished details of a scheme for the production and marketing of fresh vegetables in collaboration with the Leeton Co-operative Cannery Ltd. to the Chief of the Division of Food Preservation and Transport, C.S.I.R. The latter has suggested the desirability of this Department being represented at discussions of these plans at a meeting shortly to be held at Leeton.

Negotiations, which have been going on in London, for the revision of Australian meat contracts with the United Kingdom have acquired additional importance following Argentina's declaration that she will not renew her agreement with Britain for the export of meat and livestock. Australian meat contracts with Britain expire in 1948.

Farmers in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area have formed a co-operative company and purchased from the Commonwealth Covernment the whole of the machinery pool plant for £7,000.

The Navy Bean Marketing Board of New South Wales has decided to obtain 100 tons of seed from Queensland. The Board will negotiate with all canners for any certified seed they may hold and allocate this for seed production. No seed will be obtained from the United States this season but Queensland seed has been inspected in the field and it can be recommended to growers.

A grant of £10,000 a year for five years on a £ for £ basis will be made to the States by the Commonwealth Government for the purpose of encouraging demonstrations and experiments in tobacco growing. The allotment will be: N.S.W. £1,500, Victoria £2,250, Queensland £3,750 and Western Australia £2,500.

Sales of wool for the 1945-46 season reduced the Dominion wool surplus in official hands by almost 40 per cent.—from 10 million bales to 6.3 million bales.

A Government report estimates that in 1946 there will be a record corn crop and near record crops of wheat, oats, potatoes and rice in the United States. The 1946 wheat crop is expected to total 1,090 million bushels, compared with last year's record of 1,123 million, and the average for the past ten years of 844 million bushels.