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GENERAL NOTES AND NEWS.

The Division has estimated that a total yield of 2,700,000 bushels of maize will be forthcoming from the current season's crop in New South Wales. As in the case of last season's yield, this figure is below the State's average. Adverse weather conditions were responsible for the present position. Drought conditions prevailed generally during the early part of the growing season, and early plantings are mostly poor or have failed entirely. The weather subsequently proved much more favourable and good yields are expected in places from late crops. Owing to insufficient rain in South Coast districts, however, many crops have been utilised for stock fodder, while on the North and Central Coast rainfall has been excessive and many promising stands have been adversely affected.

A review of the inland potato crop conditions of New South Wales indicates that the total out-turn this season should be from 45,000 to 48,000 tons. As in the case of maize, weather conditions were adverse in many districts. Viewed generally, the outlook is variable, being poor on the Northern Tablelands, fair on the Central Tablelands and fairly good in southern districts.

In response to representations, the Egg Marketing Board of New South Wales has arranged to investigate the possibility of establishing an Egg Depot at Casino.

The Egg Marketing Board has been perturbed for some time past over reports alleging the superiority of Canadian eggs on arrival in Great Britain over those from Australia. As a result, the Board has sent a representative to Canada in order to obtain as much information as possible regarding the systems used in that Dominion in order that it may be in a position to determine to what extent it should follow the Canadian technique.

Lack of authentic information in respect of many phases of vegetable production, such as area under crop, prevailing conditions, prospective yields, etc., contributes to marketing uncertainty. This problem has been discussed with the Vegetable Growers' Association with a view to joint action being initiated to overcome some of these disadvantages.

With the view to improvement of packs, the markets advisory service of the Division has been responsible for advising a considerable number of growers this season in regard to the condition of their tomatoes reaching the market. In recent weeks, for instance, the quality of a large portion of tomatoes from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area was of extremely low grade owing to immature fruit and various diseases, and the sale of hundreds of cases was withheld to allow for re-conditioning.

The Vegetable Growers' Association has had under consideration for some time the matter of improvements in the transit and distribution of vegetables, and it is understood that it has a comprehensive plan in mind which could even extend to the point of covering deliveries from producer to consumer through the medium of delivery lorries organised by producers and fitted with facilities for refrigeration.

The Division regrets to record the death of Mr. A. E. Tasker, President of the New South Wales Vegetable Growers' Association. Mr. Tasker was actively associated with the organization of the Vegetable Growers' Association for many years, and its success was largely due to his untiring efforts.

Mr. A. A. Tegel, who was recently elected a producer member of the Egg Marketing Board, has been compelled to resign from office owing to ill health. Steps are being taken to arrange a poll of producers for the purpose of electing a member to fill the vacancy.

STAFF NOTES.

Mr. J. B. Mayne, B.Ec., has been appointed to the Division as an Economics Research Officer.