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## GENERAL NOTES AND NEWS.

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The position of Chief of the Division, rendered vacant by the appointment of Dr. H. J. Hynes as Assistant Director of Agriculture, has been filled by Mr. C. J. King, M.A., B.V.Sc., Dip. Pub. Ad. Mr. King was formerly attached to the Division of Animal Industry, and, after a period of army service, was, in 1943, appointed to the Commonwealth Rationing Commission as officer-in-Charge of Foodstuffs Rationing within the New South Wales office of the directorate. This position he retained until the end of 1945, when he rejoined the Department of Agriculture, New South Wales, as District Veterinary Officer (Armidale).

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The Market Advisory Service of the Division is continuing to produce gratifying results and, while it is frequently necessary to get in touch with growers consigning poor quality produce, there is evidence that the warnings are heeded in that the same parties rarely offend twice.

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A feature of marketing of fruit and vegetables in the United States of America in recent years has been termed "Concentration Markets." These markets are run by a number of authorities—States, Counties, Municipalities, Chambers of Commerce, Co-operative Organisations, Banks, private business men, etc., and they serve a particular purpose in catering for the marketing needs of the small producer. Alternative methods of disposal either by auction or private sale represent the modus operandi. This development is particularly interesting since the Cumberland County Council's master plan, due to be completed by July of next year, also includes provision for markets to be developed by Municipalities. An article on the matter is in course of preparation for inclusion in this Review.

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Queensland tomato growers at Inkerman are endeavouring to overcome the position created by the unsatisfactory condition on arrival in Sydney of many individual lines which adversely affects the value of the district's produce generally. They aim to improve the standard of the tomatoes offered for sale on the Sydney market by consigning in bulk in bushel cases. On arrival, the tomatoes are regraded to best advantage while the bushel cases are cut down to conform to the standard half-bushel containers. Unfortunately, however, the district has not yet reaped the full benefit of their experiment owing to the very depressed state of the market.

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Organisations representative of the fruit-growing industry have been advised of action taken by the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, at Brisbane, towards the encouragement of re-forestation in fruit growing districts with the view to enabling growers to provide their own timber for fruit cases.

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An inter-departmental conference is pending at which consideration will be given to the possibility of developing the barrow trade in the municipalities as an adjunct to selling within the City areas. It is appreciated that this question has many angles and that congestion of already crowded thoroughfares in urban areas is reaching acute proportions. Nevertheless, it is the view of this Department that, having regard to the very useful purpose which street stalls and barrows do undoubtedly serve in providing an available means of disposal of essential foodstuffs, they should be retained and the problem of traffic congestion approached from other points.

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The poll for the election of one producers' representative to the Egg Marketing Board, vice Mr. A. A. Tegel resigned, resulted in the return of Mr. C. E. Mitford, of Seven Hills.

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