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GENERAL NOTES AND NEWS.

The decision to increase producer representation on the Egg Marketing Board from three to five members has necessitated a modification of the boundaries of electoral districts for the purposes of the forthcoming poll. The Board's "inner area", comprising the Counties of Cumberland and Northumberland, the Shires of Nattai and Wollondilly and the Municipality of Camden will return three members, while the balance of the State will be divided into two zones, each of which will return a member.

A proclamation formally appointing five producer members and two Government nominees to the newly-constituted Navy Bean Marketing Board was gazetted on 5th July. The Chief of the Division is convening the first meeting of the Board, at which he will preside, and at which steps will be taken to elect a Chairman and to outline the modus operandi of Boards constituted under the provisions of the Marketing of Primary Products Act.

Representations recently made by the Minister to the Minister for Transport in connection with difficulties encountered in the transport of eggs from the Board's country depots, have resulted, after discussions with various interests involved, in approval being given by the Minister for Transport for the operation of motor vehicles for six months to carry eggs to Sydney from specified country centres, subject to further tests being made of eggs transported by rail. If possible, rail services will be used as from the beginning of 1947.

The formation of a body styled the "Institute of Fruit and Vegetable Industries of N.S.W." has been recommended by a committee representative of producers, wholesalers, retailers and others connected with the fruit and vegetable trade. This committee, which was appointed at a recent conference convened by the Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries, has met and discussed details connected with the setting-up of the new body and recommendations have been drafted for submission to a general conference to be held in a few months' time.

The Chief of the Division recently spent a week in Brisbane investigating various matters in connection with organised marketing in Queensland. In addition to conferring with officers of the Department of Agriculture in that State, contact was made with representatives of various marketing boards established under the Queensland Marketing Act and numbers of growers' organisations.

At a meeting of the Illawarra Regional Committee recently held at Nowra, a sub-committee was appointed to carry out an agricultural and dairying survey of the central parts of the region. The survey aims to assess the effects of irrigation on land use in an area stretching from Ulladulla through Nowra to Kiama.

Officers of the Division are making preliminary inspections of the site of the proposed Utungun domestic, stock and irrigation water supply, in collaboration with representatives of the Divisions of Dairying and Plant Industry. A report will be furnished in due course.

Cereal growers who suffered losses through last year's drought are to receive relief from the Government as a straight-out gift. Announcing this, the Premier, Mr. McKell, said that funds to the extent of £162,000 had been provided by the State and Commonwealth Governments on a £ for £ basis. In addition, the N.S.W. Government recently provided a further sum of £50,000 in the form of advances through the Rural Bank under the Drought Relief Loans Scheme.

Australia was Britain's third best customer for the first quarter of 1946. South Africa was the best customer and New Zealand occupied twelfth place.

Commission sales of Australian wool to the U.S.A. from 1st August, 1945, to 15th February, 1946, from the 1945-46 clip, totalled 1,113,890 bales. This volume for a six-and-a-half month period exceeds any previous record for a twelve-month period.

At the new rice-growing area at Wakool, 4,000 acres of rice are now being harvested. The yield is expected to be 7,000 tons, bringing the State's total output for the 1945-46 season to 56,000 tons.

The Department of Agriculture recently received a consignment of 100 White Leghorn eggs by Skymaster from the Bureau of Animal Industry, Bettsville, U.S.A. Only two eggs were cracked when received.

Legislation is now being prepared by the Commonwealth Government to provide an extra £843,000 for the elimination of marginal wheat areas. Of this amount £820,000 will be provided to enable the N.S.W. Government to complete its marginal area programme and £23,000 will be made available to Victoria.

Staff Notes.

Mr. G. S. Jolly, First Clerk of the Division, was recently selected for the position of Rural Officer at the Treasury, and terminated his services with the Department of Agriculture on 21st June.

The University of Sydney has announced that the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust has appointed Mr. K. O. Campbell, Economics Research Officer, to the Walter and Eliza Hall Agricultural Research Fellowship for two years' study overseas. Mr. Campbell hopes to undertake post-graduate study and research in agricultural economics at the University of Chicago and later at other research centres in the U.S.A. and Great Britain.

Messrs. H. G. Moon, R. E. Jones and T. R. Perry have resumed duty in the Marketing Branch after serving abroad for several years in the Armed Forces. Mr. B. O'Connell resumed duty late last year.

Mr. P. Vaidyanathan, who was attached to the Economics Branch for over three years, has accepted an appointment in the office of the Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Sydney.

Messrs. W. J. McCullough and W. F. Owen were recently appointed to the Division as Economics Research Officers; Mr. D. McGregor has joined the staff of the Marketing Branch.
