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The principles enumerated are those which are considered to cover the essentials of a good terminal market for almost any city.

The planning of a market to meet the needs of the changing times will require a concentrated piece of co-operative planning based upon the pooled recommendations of the widest and most disinterested experience that can be obtained. No effort has been made in the present article to evaluate the relative merits of centralised, as compared with decentralised, marketing. The analysis of the U.S.A. Department appears to favour centralisation. It is proposed to make the points in favour of decentralisation the subject of a further article.

R. N. SMITH.

GENERAL NOTES AND NEWS.

The poll of potato producers in this State on the question of whether or not a Potato Marketing Board should be constituted under the provisions of the New South Wales Marketing of Primary Products Act, resulted in an overwhelming affirmative vote. Of those eligible to vote, 82 per cent. returned their ballot papers, and of these 90 per cent. voted in favour of the establishment of the Board. Preparation is now being made for the conduct of a poll on 12th March, 1947, for the election of producer representatives to the Board. It is proposed to divide the State into five electoral districts, each electing one representative.

As the result of negotiations conducted by the Division it is now expected that the Navy Bean Board will be able to acquire the necessary facilities for the conduct of its operations, *i.e.*, the land, buildings and seed cleaning machinery at Guyra Pool Headquarters.

Representations have recently been received from several producer organisations favouring Governmental action towards ensuring greater freedom for unlicensed barrowmen as a means of promoting better distribution of produce. From the nature of their operations and their mobility barrowmen, especially in times of glut supply, are particularly well equipped to serve as a medium for the speedy distribution to consumers of perishable produce which has reached such a stage of maturity as to make quick sales the only alternative to destruction at the tip. It is agreed, however, that there are other factors warranting consideration and the problem appears to be that of reconciling, to the greatest degree possible, the more or less conflicting interests of the various parties concerned.

Officers of the Economics Branch recently inspected irrigated farmlands at Narromine, gaining considerable information regarding the economics of irrigation in the Lower Macquarie Valley.

Negotiations are being conducted with the Railway Department with the view to formulating some scheme whereby the quantity of produce in transit to the City Markets could be ascertained. It is also proposed to take the matter up with the Vegetable Growers' Association, as advance information of quantities consigned by rail would need to be supplemented by details of produce transported by road, if the service is to be made fully effective.

Arrangements have been made to enlist the aid of the field staff of the Division of Plant Industry in connection with the Markets Advisory Service recently established by the Division. The Service has proved most useful to growers in enabling them to improve the market get-up of their produce, and under the new arrangement it will be possible for first-hand advice to be tendered to producers through visits from field officers.

An appreciative letter has been received from the Rural Economist, Roseworthy Agricultural College, South Australia, congratulating the Division on the useful service which it is providing in issuing this Review, and on its work in pioneering the use in Australia of a satisfactory farm records system.

PRODUCTION TRENDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR DECEMBER, 1946.

The favourable turn to the season which came with the good November rains has not been maintained since, except in a few isolated areas. The rainfall for December was below normal, and such storms as occurred were of a scattered nature. As a result pastures vary in condition from one locality to another, but the drought still remains unbroken over large areas, particularly the West and North-West.

In the main dairying districts of the Far North Coast, conditions are now serious; cattle are dying and hand-feeding is being carried out wherever possible. Comparative production figures for the whole State are as follows:—

						Butter.	Cheese.
						tons.	tons.
December, 1945	...	...	...	...	...	3,936	305
December, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	2,844	269
July-December, 1945	...	...	...	...	...	16,088	1,193
July-December, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	10,950	945