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**EDITORIAL.****MAPPING THE STATE'S AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.**

The pattern of agricultural production found in any area is the result of the combined judgments of farmers as to the most effective utilisation of the resources of that area. These judgments are based, in part, on the farmers' knowledge of natural environmental factors, in part on their interpretation of the economic elements which confront them.

Some of the natural factors, such as soil, climate and topography, are relatively fixed. Others such as the incidence of plant and animal diseases and insect pests are less fixed but may be at least partially correlated with seasonal changes. The economic environment, on the other hand, is much less stable. Prices, marketing costs and the availability of capital have varied irregularly over both short and long time periods. Long-term price guarantees and production quotas, such as some farmers have experienced in the last decade, reduce the need for frequent changes in production decisions. But such administrative intervention may lead to the retention of a pattern of farming, which, with the passage of time, does not represent the best use of the nation's resources.

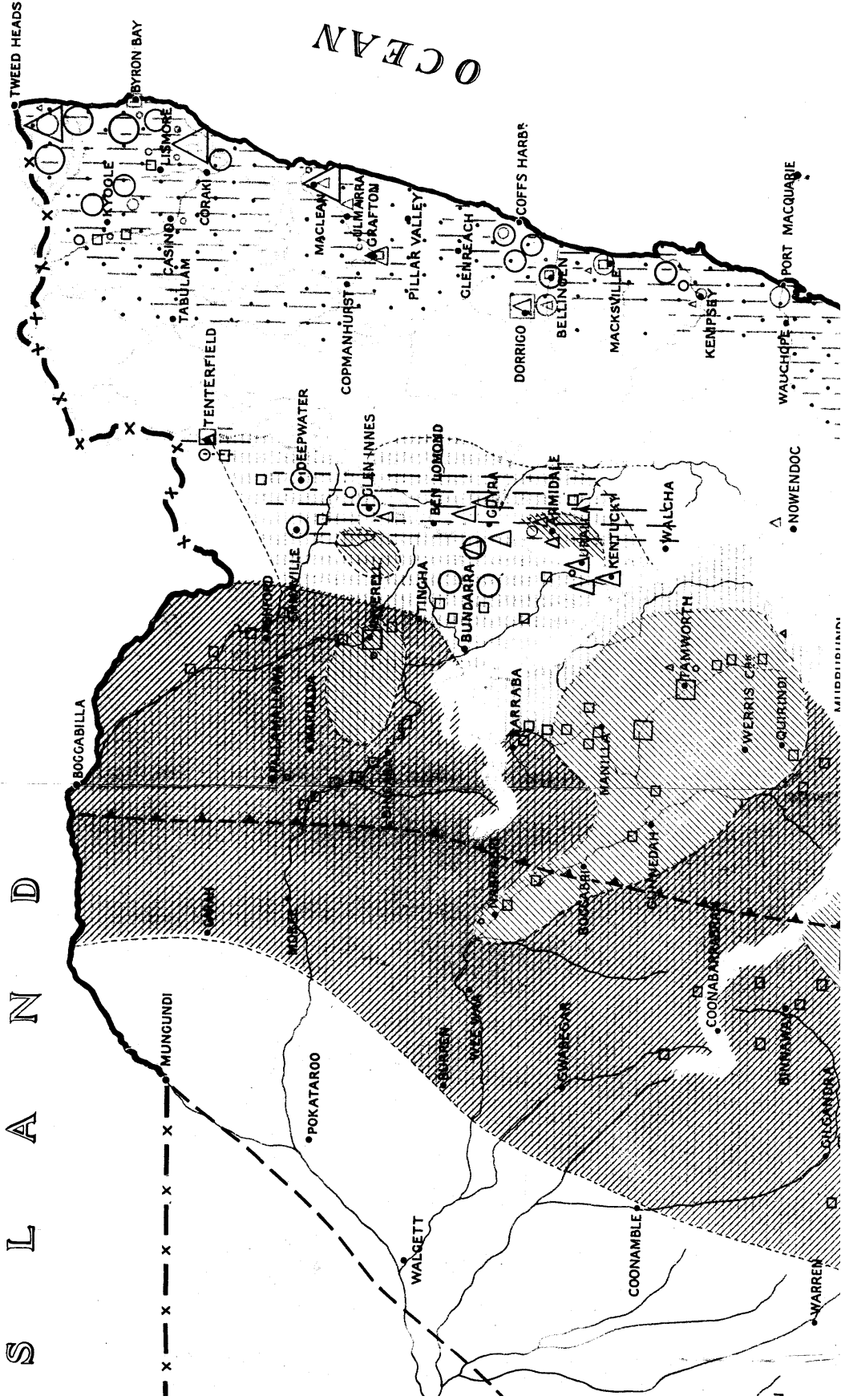
The environmental factors in any agricultural area, therefore, tend to mould the agriculture of that region into a characteristic pattern, which differs from the pattern of other areas where different factors operate. But the types of agricultural production in any one area are constantly changing, as the relative profitability of different enterprises change. Moreover, farmers, irrespective of changes of an economic nature, go on accumulating experience largely as a result of trial-and-error processes, and this affects their production plans.

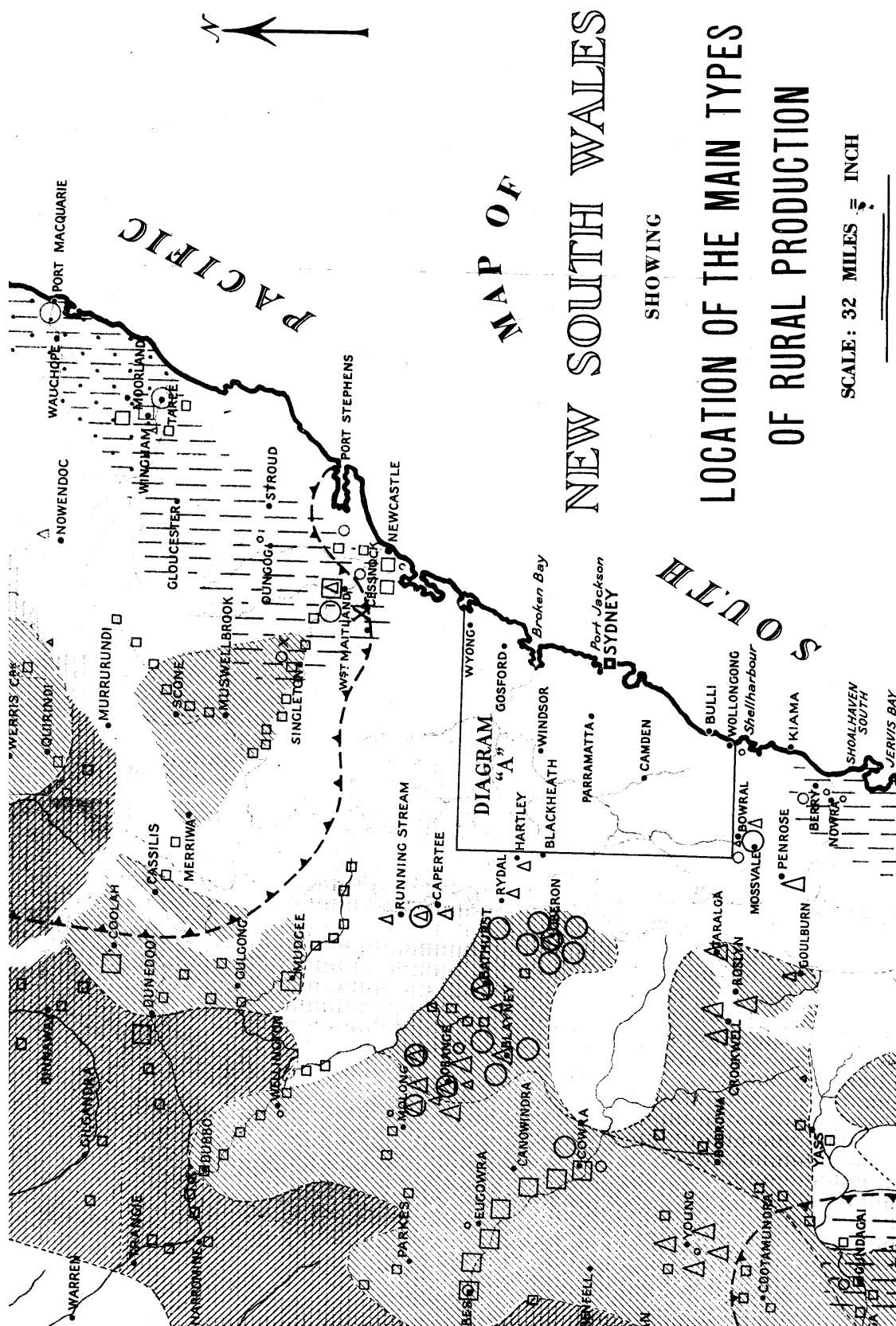
A knowledge of the distribution of farming types is important in many types of agricultural research and administration. To afford information of this type in a concise and authoritative form, agricultural economists are frequently called upon to undertake so-called type-of-farming studies. The objective of such studies is to map and describe the most important farming types in a region. The studies may be undertaken at varying levels of intensity. A thorough-going research project would attempt to evaluate the significance of the various elements—natural and economic—in each type-of-farming area, as a key to possible future trends and as a basis for the formulation of realistic agricultural programmes.

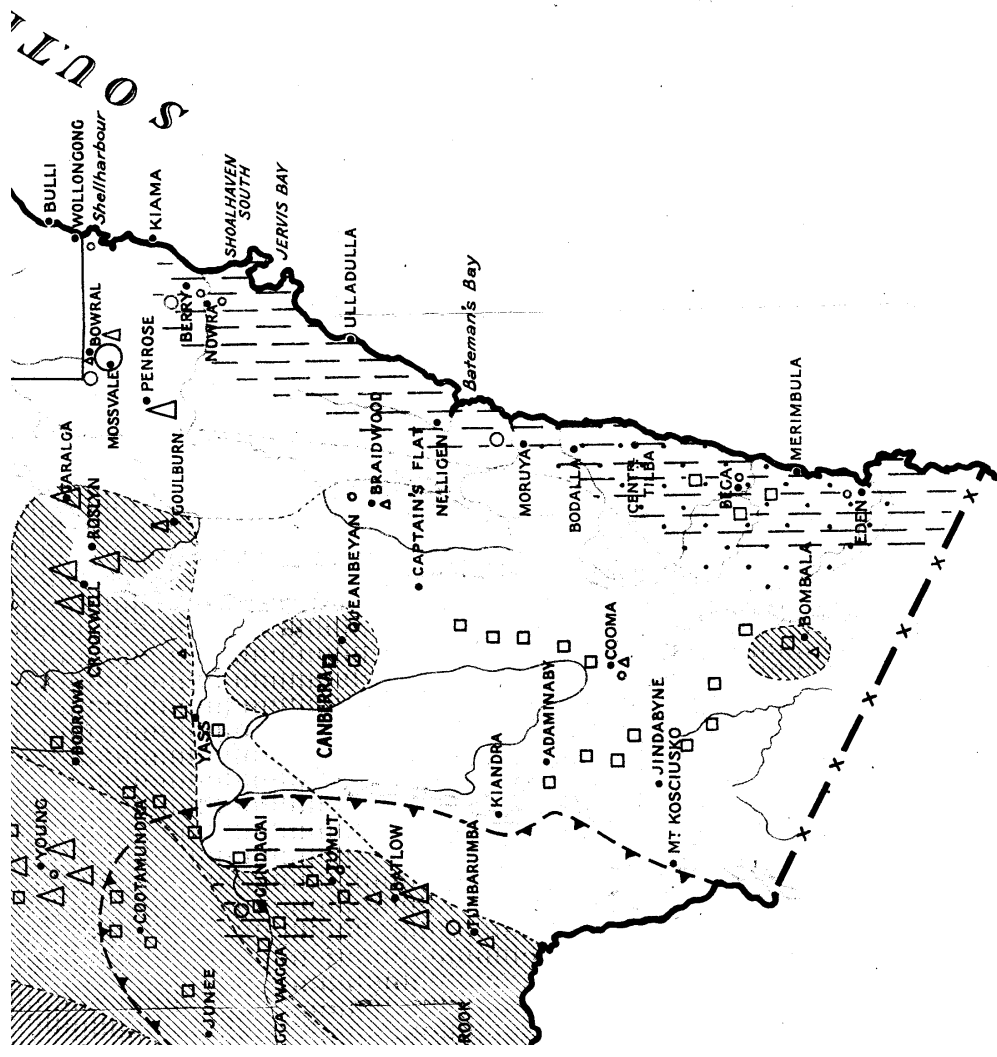
The map reproduced in this issue represents a more modest undertaking. It depicts the location and limits of distribution of important farm enterprises in the State. The significance of the combination of enterprises in a particular area is indicated by the superposition of individual types. Such a pictorial device gives no indication of the quantitative importance of particular enterprises and the system of management followed. In the accompanying text there is an attempt to make good some of the shortcomings of the map in this regard.

Irrespective of any administrative uses to which it may be put, the map should prove of material value to students and others who are desirous of getting a factual picture of the present distribution of agricultural production in the State.

S L A N D







# LOCATION OF THE MAIN TYPES OF RURAL PRODUCTION

SCALE: 32 MILES = INCH

KEY			
	MERINO WOOL		1,000 acres, GRAPES
	2nd CLASS FAT LAMB COUNTRY (Ewe flocks, mainly merinos)		500 acres, CITRUS
	1st CLASS FAT LAMB COUNTRY (Ewe flocks, mainly crossbreeds)		5,000 acres, TROPICAL FRUIT
	WHEAT (GRAIN) and OATS		1,000 acres, POME and STONE FRUIT
	OATS (GRAIN) ONLY		500 acres, POTATOES
	MAIZE (GRAIN)		1,000 acres, VEGETABLES
	BUTTER		5,000 acres, SUGAR CANE
	WHOLEMILK		5,000 acres, RICE
	THE MAJOR BEEF PRODUCING AREAS OF THE STATE LIE WITHIN THESE BOUNDARIES		5,000,000 lbs., production at BACON FACTORIES
	WESTERN LIMIT OF AREAS WHICH SUPPORT BEEF CATTLE TO ANY GREAT EXTENT. BEEF PRODUCING AREAS ARE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THIS REGION OF THE STATE. WEST OF THIS LIMIT, BEEF PRODUCTION IS ALMOST NEGLIGIBLE.		5,000 acres, LUCERNE, HAY and GREEN FEED

Q U E E N S

