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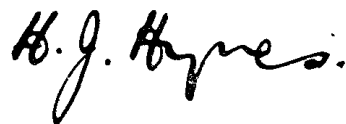
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Editorial.

THE SYDNEY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

WHATEVER may be said of the service rendered by the Sydney Municipal Markets in the distribution of fruits and vegetables to the consuming public, the fact remains that the facilities for those engaged in selling, buying and transporting these products are quite inadequate and out-of-date. The market enjoys the distinction of being the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, the annual turnover amounting to something of the order of £15,000,000. But to visit this business centre during peak hours on, say, a Monday or Friday serves to emphasise the need for vastly improved conditions in what is a most essential institution to the State. The market place covers a total area of 18 acres, this being made up of $2\frac{1}{4}$ acres in No. 1 market (vegetables), 1 in No. 2 (vegetables), $2\frac{3}{4}$ in No. 3 (fruit and cold stores), $\frac{1}{2}$ in No. 4 (poultry), $\frac{1}{2}$ in No. 5 (fish), $4\frac{1}{4}$ in No. 6 (grower-sellers), $1\frac{1}{2}$ in No. 7 (temporary) and $5\frac{1}{2}$ for road space. The number of licensed farm produce agents trading at the markets totals 239, but this does not take account of those engaged in business as merchants; nor the large number of growers who convey their produce by lorry to sell in the No. 6 market, where the stalls occupied on busy days run to 400 or more. It is impossible to assess the number of buyers visiting the markets regularly, but included in this group are the city and suburban greengrocers, barrowmen, restaurants, hospitals and hotels—the number of fruiterers alone in the metropolitan area totalling over 2,000. Added to the congestion created by so many buyers and sellers operating at the same time for a few hours daily in the limited market area, is the constant blockage of lorry traffic on the inadequate road space adjoining the markets—all of which has created a difficult problem for the City Council which is the controlling authority. Suggestions have been made that the fish and poultry markets should be removed elsewhere, or that the whole of the present site should be abandoned in favour of a large area (50-60 acres) to be equipped with modern buildings and cold storage plant reasonably near an aerodrome. It will take time to find and develop a new area. This is clearly a long range project that can only be considered in relation to a plan for Greater Sydney. It may even be desirable to retain the present market on a reduced scale, and build a second one in proximity to the expanding areas of the metropolis. Sydney's population of roughly $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions is increasing rapidly and it may well be that two wholesale markets could be justified in the years to come. The urgent need, however, is for some amelioration of conditions as they exist at the present market, where trading obviously must go on for some years ahead.



Chief, Division of
Marketing and Agricultural Economics.