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*Editorial.*

### **PRODUCER CONTROL IN MARKETING.**

A STRIKING feature of the considerations that have been given to the post-war stability of our primary industries has been the need for placing the marketing of commodities on an organised basis. That has been evident in discussions between Government officials and primary producers ever since hostilities ceased—when it seemed to dawn on most people that, in spite of the somewhat irksome nature of war-time controls, organised marketing had at least something to offer in the way of stable prices and assured markets that could not lightly be swept aside in favour of an open and free market with all its pitfalls. Hence it is not surprising that for some of our principal products schemes have either been finalised or are approaching finality, viz., wool, wheat, eggs and potatoes, and whether the plans have originated at the official or producer level there is no gainsaying the fact that in each case a sense of satisfaction and security is apparent amongst those most vitally concerned in the proposals. A special enactment was necessary in the case of wool, and doubtless the wheat plan will also require this to be done once details have been examined more closely. But in the case of eggs and potatoes—and possibly other commodities now receiving consideration—the Marketing of Primary Products Acts of the various States have been invoked in an attempt to set up a company or co-ordinating committee at the Federal level to stabilise marketing. The plan for eggs is considerably advanced, and for both eggs and potatoes it is proposed that the Federal Board of Directors should comprise a representative from each State Marketing Board, together with a Commonwealth delegate, and that the rights and privileges of each State Board should be preserved, distribution of the commodity interstate or overseas being by agreement between the several boards as determined by the Federal Directors. This is producer control in what might appear to be a mass of detailed organisation in which the grower can have no voice. But as outlined in the article in this issue dealing with the Marketing of Primary Products Act of N.S.W., each commodity board can only be brought into being at the expressed wish of the growers and it is they who elect the men to define the marketing policy. At the Federal level, producer control obviously would still be maintained.

It is clear that growers have no desire to return to the vagaries of the open market with its inevitable instability, and the State Acts provide a ready means of dealing with the problem in still other commodities, and of ensuring to producers control of their own affairs.



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