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GENERAL NOTES AND NEWS.

At a Conference representative of the various sections of the fruit industry held on 12th September, it was decided to form a State-wide fruit growers' organisation to be known as the N.S.W. Fruit Growers' Central Council. The Council will comprise representatives of citrus, pome, stone, dried, canning, tropical and grape-growing interests and will not interfere with existing organisations.

A sub-Committee appointed by the Potato Growers' Association to examine the position with regard to post-war production and marketing of potatoes recently forwarded a form of questionnaire to some 3,000 growers in this State. An analysis of the completed questionnaires disclosed that producers favored regulated production and regulated marketing in order to ensure the future stability of the industry. The need for coordination of arrangements at the Commonwealth level was also indicated.

Arrangements have been made for the Division to prepare a map of New South Wales delineating the areas devoted to stock raising and the main crops grown, based upon statistical data obtained from the records of the Bureau of Statistics. Similar maps dealing with selected regions have already been prepared but the need for a map of the kind covering the State as a whole has evidenced itself.

The Chief of the Division, together with other members of the Deep Sea Port Committee, made a second trip to the North Coast and Northern Tableland areas during the first week in September to inspect proposed rail routes and ports and also to meet local groups, representative of Shire Councils, Chambers of Commerce and Regional Development Committees. It is anticipated that the preparation of the Committee's report for submission to the Premier will begin at an early date.

A comprehensive survey of the regional divisions of the State and the features of the agricultural industries of these regions, together with an assessment of market prospects for frozen meats, has been prepared for Army Headquarters. The Army's request was dictated by problems associated with the rehabilitation of soldiers into civilian life.

Reports from all districts indicate that early crop potato plantings this season will be substantially below last season; the reduction is particularly marked in the Bellingen and Dorrigo districts.

Conditions recently have been very favourable for the development of cereal crops. Especially in the northern portion of the wheat belt, where some record yields are anticipated, early Spring weather has brought crops on well. It is likely that the serious fodder position may now be relieved very shortly, as crops are so advanced that haymaking should be well in progress by the end of September.

Due to shortage of water in the Burrinjuck Dam, it has again this season been necessary to impose a limit on individual growers' rice acreages. The maximum for which water is guaranteed for the 1945-46 crop is at present 60 acres, but this limit will be raised should the storage position improve.

Available statistics show that the usual seasonal increase in egg production in Spring has been greater than usual this year, and the peak rate of intake of the Egg Board late in September or early in October is likely to be at second high level.

The normal lambing at this season is greater than usual this year. This is the result of a second mating by many lamb-raisers as soon as a first break in the drought occurred some six months ago.

Australia's contribution to American troops in the Pacific under Reciprocal Lend-Lease to March, 1945, totalled £245,000,000, of which foodstuffs accounted for £61,800,000. Amongst the foodstuffs provided up to March last were:- meat, 142,000 tons; potatoes, 56,000 tons; butter, 27,000 tons; processed milk, 34,000 tons; and eggs 48 m. lbs.