The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

Annual Report of Wide-spread Activities

Apart from the successful operation of this body, the most striking feature of the report is the widespread activities it undertakes. There are few problems of primary production that is not investigating, and there is a growing demand for its operations to extend further into the secondary industrial sphere. In addition to general funds, the Council received, into its Specific Purposes Trust Account, approximately £100,000 for the period of twelve months 1937-38, from 70 different groups—the dried fruits industry paying approximately £2900, made up of payments by the Export Control Board on behalf of growers, the Mildura District Packers, for special work, and the Nyah-Woorinen Research Committee.

There are 17 different scientific groups investigating many and varied forms of production problems and elimination of pests on land, sea and in the air, in every portion of the Commonwealth.

INVESTIGATIONS IN IRRIGATION AREAS

Dealing with its investigations in irrigated areas the report relates the extensive work of the Merbein Research Station in regard to soil types, drainage, and the general fundamentals to efficient production. It states:

The part played by the station in these works is to investigate the drainage potentials of the various soil types, to assist in the examination and location of unproductive areas, and to suggest remedial measures. In addition, the station is closely associated, through various State and local committees, in the planning of the drainage schemes suitable for each particular environment. The work covers a wide area, embracing the settlements along the Murray between Walkerie in South Australia and Kerang in Victoria, a distance of approximately 400 miles.

Viticultural studies have now advanced to the extent that reports have been issued covering the reactions of common routine practices such as pruning and shoot removal on the productive capacity of the vine. The latter study has necessarily proceeded for several years, so as to include possible residual effects, such as alternate cropping, which may result from the method of pruning. Yield results have shown that, apart from losses due to extraneous agencies such as disease, hail, or frost, it is possible to secure a fairly uniform annual crop on sultanas and Zante currant vines. This is obtained by controlling fruiting to the extent that the vine is not overloaded in respect to the fruit that it can carry, and also in respect to the fruited wood that it can develop satisfactorily.

The work on fruit processing is being continued, and the standard of the product in comparison with that of competitive countries on the overseas markets is being well maintained in respect to sultanas and trisas. The quality of the Zante currants is still satisfactory, as the industry is experiencing a cycle of unfavorable seasons, characterised by excessive January rainfall which damages the fruit.

The results of the investigations of the station, particularly in irrigation and drainage problems, are largely utilised by the States in administrative and constructive work. A close co-operation with State officials, particularly those dealing with horticulture, irrigation, and drainage, has therefore been maintained in recent years. The general procedure, before commencing investigations in additional districts, is to constitute a committee, consisting of the representatives of the Council, the State Departments concerned, and district settlers, to define the problems and to indicate necessary investigations.

The Advisory Committee of the Station, which functions as a link between the work of the Station and the practical requirements of the producers whom the station serves, has recently been extended to include all major settlements producing dried fruits in the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. The committee meets twice annually, and takes a very active interest in the work of the station.

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

The present dominance of investigations of drainage problems at the Merbein station is due to the extent of reclamation and drainage works constructed or projected in the various irrigation districts. The value of agricultural drainage in maintaining and restoring soil productivity has long been recognised. The present problem is to define the drainage responses and requirements of the varied soil types, and to design a drainage system suitable to the general environment of the irrigated lands requiring drainage. A close study of the soil type, and particularly the soil profiles is essential. In this connection, the soil surveys carried out in the irrigation districts by the Division of Soils have been utilised very fully in planning drainage works and in selecting sites on which the investigation will have the widest possible application. The soil surveys have limited geographical ranges of the investigations, as the drainage reactions obtained on a major soil type in one district are applicable to a similar soil type occurring elsewhere.
The Australian Dried Fruits News, June 8, 1939

Some Aspects of the American Prorate Schemes

THER EFFECT ON THIS INDUSTRY

The 90,000 tons of raisins that are held off the market under the Agricultural Adjustment Act in the U.S.A., vitally affects the whole position of the dried fruits industry. With this over-production we can appreciate the value of our preference markets, which is still unsold, and the benefits which could be gained from having us such an advantage over our foreign competitors. The future policy of the raisin producers in California is being reviewed during the process of a Bill before the State Legislators, but as it would deal mainly with machinery clauses, it is not of much concern to us. From the voting at meetings of growers on this matter, it appears that there is a general desire for the continuance of the scheme with certain amendments. It is of vital interest to our industry, however, to note that in the Federal sphere from whence comes the enormous amount of money that is the life blood of the immense scheme to bolster up the prices of raisins, to us also, and hence to have the whole policy in regard to meeting the problem of continued over-production reviewed.

The effect of any decision can have but little influence on our sales for this season's crop—when fortunate, or should we say, unfortunately, for many growers, the amount of sultanas available for London is 20,000 tons below that of last year, and sales to Canada are well in advance of expectation. There is every indication that the great bulk of our sultanas will be sold before this. However, should anything happen to minimise the operations of the "contracts" which cast their shadows" and the actual event could soon affect the latter part of our pack still unsold in September—October. But this is not so much a real matter for concern, as is the ultimate position of the dried fruits industry in California.

The present immense over-production problem has to be faced by the country, and until it is we are all, to varying degrees, in danger.

With this as a consideration, it is of value to have some of the experiences on over-production problems, taken from a report by the National City Bank of New York, which deal with the general principles involved, rather than in detail of the situations which have been in the Federal sphere from whence comes the enormous amount of money that is the life blood of the immense scheme to bolster up the prices of raisins, to us also, and hence to have the whole policy in regard to meeting the problem of continued over-production reviewed.

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These are the broad considerations which have interfered with the question of the success of the farm program. They indicate that in revising the program the changes should be in the direction of encouraging the efficient and discouraging the inefficient. And yet we have those in this country who would ignore the dangers and go on planting new areas were they not prevented by the decisions of the several States involved with dried fruits production.

The full report necessarily covers a big range of products, and the over-production figures are colossal, as are the financial consequences involved in Federal sphere from whence comes the enormous amount of money that is the life blood of the immense scheme to bolster up the prices of raisins, to us also, and hence to have the whole policy in regard to meeting the problem of continued over-production reviewed.

As the report asks—where is this to stop?

Yet and yet we have those in this country who would ignore the dangers and go on planting new areas were they not prevented by the decisions of the several States involved with dried fruits production.

It will be appreciated that the points of civic report quoted are from the angle of the commercial interests, and possibly from that of the Eastern States taxpayers who materially foot the bill—not always with idea parallel to those of the Western producers who are, in the main, satisfied with the present position. The optimistic attitude of the prorate commission is of interest in any consideration of future, and it is encouraging to note that the position will be held to the mutual interests of the American growers and ourselves, and that it will eventually solve the problem of excessive over-production that is always a menace.

A Red Cliff grower is said to have added to his will, a request that his packer be one of the bestriders of his funeral—on the basis that the packer has carried him for so long that he might as well carry him to the end.
The New South Wales Dried Fruits Board

**ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT**

The report, which covers the period June, 1937, to June, 1938, has just come to hand. It will be noted that its publication in this paper is almost twelve months after the end of the period covered. The report of the Victorian Board, in another column, is for the period ending December 31, 1938. The fact that the report is issued as an appendix of the annual report of the New South Wales Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission, which body, by arrangement, administers the intention of the Board, possibly explains the delay. In the new Act it is provided that December 31 will be the end of the official year.

A feature of the report is the low administrative costs, despite the fact that the board deals with 24 packing houses and 48 dealers, and contacts with a large number of growers in the State, spread over a wide area. As the report explains, however, substantial assistance towards the policing of the Act was rendered by the other dried fruits producing States. This is but the proper policy of the other boards, for it is not equitable that the board with the lower revenue, from a crop not sufficient to fully supply the needs of the State, should be expected to find the total cost of the policing of the Act which protects a large amount of the produce of other States that is sold in N.S.W. Ours is one big industry with no geographical boundaries as regards equity of return and costs to growers, and the arrangement recently made for some pooling of certain costs and a uniform levy, are a long needed corollary to this.

The board has been enriched by the experiences of its chairman, Mr. G. Evatt, who has returned recently from overseas with a very complete knowledge of the movements controlling the production and marketing of primary produce in other countries.

Some of the subjects in the report have been dealt with earlier, but there are many details that are of immediate interest to growers.

The elected members hold office for a period of three years. Those at present holding office were elected in February, 1937, and their term will expire on the last day of February, 1940, when they will be eligible for re-election.

The main duties of the Board consist of the recommendation, on the basis of production, consumption, and ascertain ability of the price, of the areas where the price of dried being dependent on seasonal conditions. The prices obtainable and the quality of the fruit was of good average. An abnormal percentage of prunes of small size was produced during the 1938 season, due principally to unfavorable weather conditions in the Young districts.

The varieties of prunes grown in New South Wales are principally Robe de Sargent and Damson. No acreage of other varieties is negligible. Experience during recent years has shown an increasing preference by consumers for the larger size prunes processed in tin. Marketing organizations also report a

**PRODUCTION**

Estimates of the production of dried vine fruits in New South Wales during the 1938 season and production in New South Wales during the seasons 1931 to 1937 are as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fruit</th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>1937</th>
<th>1938</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prunes</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apricots</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peaches</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>482</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nectarines</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pears</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2042</td>
<td>2027</td>
<td>2120</td>
<td>1823</td>
<td>1685</td>
<td>1940</td>
<td>2030</td>
<td>2101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details of the above figures for 1937 and 1938 seasons are as follows—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fruit</th>
<th>1937</th>
<th>1938</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prunes</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apricots</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peaches</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nectarines</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pears</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2042</td>
<td>2027</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The quantities of dried tree fruits produced in the various districts in New South Wales during the 1937 and 1938 seasons are as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>1937</th>
<th>1938</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray-</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brigdeee</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merribe</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pears</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2042</td>
<td>2027</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Estimates only—subject to alteration on completion of packing operations.

**PATENT NOTICE**

Co-operative Dried Fruits Sales
Pty. Ltd.

Persons interested in packing dried fruits or the sale of solutions for destroying insect life in dried fruits are advised that application No. 18751/34, on August 24, 1934, has been approved and Letters Patent issued which include the use of Ethyl Formate and other Esters, and the Patentees intend to assert their right to recover damages and prevent unauthorised use of their invention.

**ERANOL Z 3**

Packers are strongly recommended to treat all fruit at time of packing with an efficient insecticide. Eranol Z3 effectively disposed of grubs, bugs, and insect life. Supplies and full particulars obtainable from—

Co-operative Dried Fruits Sales
Pty. Ltd.
MELBOURNE AND ADELAIDE

---

**THE AUSTRALIAN DRIED FRUITS NEWS, JUNE 8, 1939**
New South Wales Dried Fruits Board

(Continued from Page 3)

preference for the D'Agan variety of prunes, particularly where small size grades are sought.

LICENSE AND INSPECTION

The Dried Fruits Act, 1933, provides that the expiry date certificates of registration to packing houses to treat one or more of the varieties of dried fruits specified in the Act, and to refuse issue of a certificate for a new packing house if the Board is of opinion that there are already in the district, whose the proposed packing house is to operate, sufficient packing houses capable of and even for dealing with the dried fruits produced in that district. Twenty-four packing houses were registered with the Board as at 30th June, 1938.

All licence fees are to be paid direct to the Board for the expenses of the Equalisation Committee and to defray the cost of inspection services of the Commonwealth inspectors to carry out the previous report to the board on the intra-state quotas be considered by this report. Previously an important amendments to the Dried Fruits Act and the regulations made thereunder were entered into as to the sale of dried prunes grown in and paid for in New South Wales on behalf of the committee.

POLICING THE ACT

The eighth general conference of State Dried Fruits Boards was held in Sydney in May, 1938. The Dried Fruits Boards of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia were fully represented thereat. Resolutions of mutual interest were discussed, and decisions arrived at which should be most beneficial to the industry. As a result of the general conference, and also of the reports read, a great deal of active work is undertaken by the Board in New South Wales on behalf of the committee.

During previous years the Board was seriously handicapped in policing illegal traffic in dried fruits in country districts of New South Wales owing to lack of financial resources. However, owing to generous subsidies made available by the Victorian and South Australian Dried Fruits Boards for joint inspections during the period under review, it was possible to appoint an inspector with the necessary transport facilities to combat illegal traffic in dried fruits in this State.

New South Wales is a market for dried fruits grown and packed in Victoria and South Australia, and such market is destroyed to the extent of any illegal traffic which takes place.

Eleven persons were convicted for breaches of the regulations as a result of the inspector’s activities. A number of these persons have been fined and even more at large. The Board has always strongly supported the elimination of small operators in the industry, through its organisation, has seen time to time approached the various State Governments to restrict as far as possible further plantings of vines for the production of dried vine fruits until such time as markets for additional production are assured. The Board has always strongly supported this request, and it was demonstrated at the general conference of State Dried Fruits Boards that the Commonwealth and various State Governments are sympathetic thereto.

Meetings of the Board have been avoided whenever possible in order to reduce expenditure.

IN 1937

PAPER

PRUNES

FRUITS NEWS,

JUNE 8, 1939

To Grocers and storekeepers - 2,364
To bakers - 903

The despatch of these circular letters very materially assisted the investigations and inspectorial work of the Board in relation to illegal trading.

In considering the grant of a prune bounty to the industry for the years 1935 and 1936, the Commonwealth Government drew attention to the necessity for a thorough investigation of, inter alia, the elimination of small prunes from the pack. This is favored by the New South Wales and Victorian Dried Fruits Boards. In South Australia, however, it was known that the solution to the small prunes problem is largely found in an attempt to improve the quality by growers paying more attention to cultural methods. Hence, the authorities of the various States, including New South Wales, are paying even more attention than formerly to experiments in cultivation, fertilisation, and irrigation, which are the most important methods of reducing the irregular cropping and other matters with a view to improving the size and quality of the Australian prune.

A resolution was unanimously adopted at the general conference of State Dried Fruits Boards recommending that uniform regulations be made in the producing States eliminating all varieties of all grades of small prunes and that such regulations be brought into operation in the 1939 season. The large percentage of small prunes produced is the paramount problem which the prune industry in Australia has to face.

The following Canadian Products are widely known to Australian Buyers:

1. RUBBER SAND SHOES
2. TYPEWRITER CARBON PAPER
3. SPARK PLUGS
4. OILCLOTHS

Ask Your Trader to Stock Canadian Products

Canadian Government Trade Commissioner

Box 9605 G.P.O., Melbourne, Vic.
Box 3982B, G.P.O., Sydney

BUY CANADIAN PRODUCTS

CANADA BOUGHT 15,966 TONS AUSTRALIAN DRIED FRUITS 1937

Empire Reciprocity is the Key to Empire Success

The following Canadian Products are widely known to Australian Buyers:

1. RUBBER SAND SHOES
2. TYPEWRITER CARBON PAPER
3. SPARK PLUGS
4. OILCLOTHS

Ask Your Trader to Stock Canadian Products

Canadian Government Trade Commissioner

Box 9605 G.P.O., Melbourne, Vic.
Box 3982B, G.P.O., Sydney

GENERAL

For many years it has been definitely established that there would be a great difficulty, in view of the competition from other countries, in finding markets for any larger tonnage of dried fruits, particularly dried vine fruits, than the present markets in this country. Hence, in this connection, the industry, through its organisations, has from time to time approached the various State Governments to restrict as far as possible further plantings of vines for the production of dried vine fruits until such time as markets for additional production are assured. The Board has always strongly supported this request, and it was demonstrated at the general conference of State Dried Fruits Boards that the Commonwealth and various State Governments are sympathetic thereto.

Meetings of the Board have been avoided whenever possible in order to reduce expenditure.
NEW SOUTH WALES DRIED FRUITS BOARD

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended June 30, 1938.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>£ s. d.</th>
<th>£ s. d.</th>
<th>£ s. d.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To Allowances</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>100 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>100 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Members</td>
<td>400 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspector</td>
<td>50 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recoup to W.C. &amp; I.G. for Proportion of Secretary's Salary</td>
<td>210 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Wages</td>
<td>304 12 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overtime—tea money</td>
<td>37 4 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fares (Rail. etc.)</td>
<td>38 10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling Expenses</td>
<td>108 10 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal and Telegraphic Expenses</td>
<td>53 12 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and Stationery</td>
<td>55 11 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspection Services—Department of Commerce</td>
<td>102 5 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Expenses</td>
<td>16 6 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Advertising</td>
<td>16 3 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry Expenses—Insurance and Periodicals</td>
<td>47 11 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to—</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultative Committee of State Dried Fruits Boards</td>
<td>10 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dried Fruits Equalisation Committee</td>
<td>50 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dried Fruits Publicity Committee</td>
<td>100 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus—Excess of Income over Expenditure</td>
<td>464 15 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: £2,553 12 8

BALANCE SHEET AS AT JUNE 30, 1938.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>£ s. d.</th>
<th>£ s. d.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Treasury</td>
<td>2,372 0 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry Debtors</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,290 18 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance of Inspectors' Balance</td>
<td></td>
<td>207 17 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance of Dried Fruits Publicity Committee</td>
<td>78 16 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>2,285 2 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>4,923 12 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liabilities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>£ s. d.</th>
<th>£ s. d.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sundry Creditors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railway Commissioners</td>
<td>50 15 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverina Packing Co.</td>
<td>4 13 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve—Department of Commerce</td>
<td>55 8 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Funds—</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at lst July</td>
<td>5,072 13 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less amount transferred to Reserve for Inspection Services</td>
<td>750 0 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>5,823 13 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Surplus—Excess of Income over Expenditure: 464 15 8

Total Surplus: 5,383 9 3

FINANCE

The secretarial work of the Board has been undertaken by Mr. G. A. Try, by arrangement with the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission, while miscellaneous duties are undertaken by officers of the Commission.

Statement of receipts and expenditure and balance-sheet are attached, from which it will be noted that the contributions which became due to the Board by growers for the period under review amounted to £2,190/18/1.

DRIED FRUITS FOR DISTILLATION

Excess Wine Grape Production Problem

At the Board of Management meeting held on June 1, the chairman, Mr. H. D. Howie, reported that, with Messrs. Malloch, Ruston and Sim, he had attended a meeting convened in Adelaide on May 18, to discuss what means should be taken to deal with the problem of excess wine grape production and the occasional quantities of dried fruit for which distillery outlet is necessary.

It was stated that the position is particularly serious, especially when it is the case that heavy stocks are being carried and storage problems are real.

Speakers for the wine industry emphasised these features, stating that, at June, 1938, there was enough spirit in bond to cater for the whole of the 1939 vintage. It was contended that if the A.D.F.A. was permitted to dump any desired surplus on the market it would result in a lot of fresh fruit being left on the vines. The grape growers did not want this, nor did the makers of spirit.

As an industry the wine messrs. said there was no desire to interfere with the use of the freezing tanks used in the fresh state, but they did object to the possible sale of this fruit to the wine industry at cut prices. It was acknowledged that, when the wine makers had been faced with a shortage of fortifying spirit, the dried fruits industry had been able to cooperate to the point of giving aid with considerable supplies of that fruit.

It was felt, therefore, that it was most desirable that the two industries should cooperate and that the wine grape interests did not want to see dried fruits shot into their industry at less than Government prices. It was asked of the A.D.F.A.:

1. Whether it would be prepared to scrap the whole of the surplus;
2. and, whether consideration should not be given to a scheme designed to process this surplus, and utilise it for industrial purposes, under an arrangement of bounty from the Commonwealth.

STATEMENT BY THE A.D.F.A.

Mr. Howie stated that he felt the wine makers were working under a misconception. The use of sub-type dried fruit in the wine industry was no sudden development, and there had actually been no increase in the supply of this fruit over the past thirty years. He felt that the embarrassment of the wine industry was just as much to be attributed to the increased plantings of wine grapes and the question, therefore, resolved itself into whether the course adopted over the past thirty years of using a certain amount of dried fruit to the industry was wrong.

His association was anxious to be helpful, in fact they considered themselves, as part and parcel of the wine industry, and not as an outside element. It was pointed out that the history of the sale of dried fruits in the United Kingdom was rather similar to that of wines, and the necessity for advertising had early (Continued on Page 8)
The Operation and Situation of the American Raisin Prorate Program

AN OPTIMISTIC REPORT TO GROWERS

The report submitted to growers by Mr. R. L. Miller, zone agent for the Raisin Prorate Commission of California, tells its own story—and it is a story that should be of definite interest to us all—for it is a very deciding factor in price stabilisation that means so much to our large preponderance of export. The article is taken from the "California Fruit News" of April 1. Mr. Miller states:

"I welcome this opportunity of meeting with you and reporting to you on the operation of your raisin proration program during the past year. The actual operation of the raisin prorate program began just a little more than a year ago. As you know, the Raisin Proration Zone was created and a program instituted by the Prorate Commission in October of 1937; a date so late that it was impossible to apply the program to the delivery of the 1937 crop. During the Fall of 1937 the field price for Thompson seedless raisins averaged a little better than 60 dollars per ton, but in December of that year the price dropped to less than 50 dollars per ton, with a substantial tonnage of raisins remaining in the hands of the producers.

"Early in January of 1938 it was estimated that at least 40,000 tons of raisins of the 1937 crop remained unsold in the hands of the producers and the field price for such raisins was less than 45 dollars per ton. Faced with this condition, in January of 1938, the Program Committee of Raisin Proration Zone No. 1 met to consider possible steps that could be taken to stabilize the market price to producers, and if possible to prevent the demoralizing effect of the movement into markets of this tonnage of raisins at a price substantially lower than the average price paid during the marketing period of October 1 to December 1. Your committee, after careful consideration, decided to apply to Commodity Credit Corporation of the United States for a stabilisation loan in the United States agreed to purchase for relief distribution the entire pool of 1937 crop raisins at a price that would liquidate the Commodity Credit Corporation loan elsewhere. This purchase program was started on July 1 and finally completed on October 15. During this period approximately 21,000 tons of raisins were delivered to the Federal Government and distributed to persons on relief throughout the United States.

"A careful survey of this distribution of raisins for relief showed that the raisins so distributed did not interfere with the sale of raisins in commercial channels. As a matter of fact, it is reasonable to believe that the distribution of this large tonnage of raisins to persons on relief will have a very beneficial effect on future distribution of raisins because, in many instances, raisins were distributed to persons who never in their lives had eaten California raisins. I believe that the distribution, in addition to aiding us in the handling of our surplus problem, will have a very beneficial advertising effect. The relief purchase program reduced the prospective carry-over of 1937 crop raisins to 75,000 tons.

"In addition to the Surplus Commodities Corporation purchase, the Government agreed to assist in the stabilization of the raisin industry by a Commodity Credit Corporation loan to raisin growers. This loan was conditioned on the industry carrying its own surplus under the Agricultural Prorate Law of California. In other words, without the California Prorate Law applying without our raisin program thereunder, it would have been impossible to secure Federal assistance for the raisin industry.

"Commodity Credit Corporation agreed that if the Raisin Proration Zone would apply a prorate to the 1938 crop that it would approve a loan of 5,000,000 dollars for the purpose of making non-recourse advances of 50 dollars per ton to producers on the security of standard or better quality 1938 crop raisins.

"As you know, this loan program was put into operation. Two thousand five hundred and sixteen growers entered into marketing agreements with the Proration Association for the delivery of free tonnage of raisins to the Association under the Commodity Credit Corporation loan program, and 43,726 tons of raisins have been received by the Association from these growers. This constitutes what we call our Commodity Credit loan pool.

"In order to obtain the Government loan and to carry out the provisions of the raisin prorate program, your committee applied a prorate to the 1938 crop by requiring that 20 per cent of all raisins delivered by producers be placed in a stabilization pool. Growers received no advance on this stabilization tonnage. On delivery by growers of prorated tonnage, a certificate was issued authorizing the sale by the grower of free tonnage, or 80 per cent. of his crop. Any grower who did not wish to sell his crop to commercial packers could take advantage of the Government loan and deliver his free tonnage to the Proration Association for an advance of 50 dollars per ton. In addition to the loan of 50 dollars per ton for advances to growers, Commodity Credit Corporation agreed to loan to the Association an amount not to exceed 4 dollars per ton to be used by the Association for the purpose of paying handling, selling, and storage costs incurred in connection with the loan pool and also the stabilization, or 20 per cent pool. It was therefore unnecessary for us to deliver any of our funds to raisin growers. In all, a total of 20 per cent. stabilization pool. The only deduction that was made from the 50 dollars advance to growers was a prorate fee of 30 cents per ton, the proceeds of which is being used to pay the administrative expenses of the program. This 50 cents per ton prorate fee was assessed both against raisins sold to inde-

Irymple Packing Pty. Ltd.

OPERA TING AT

MILDURA MEROBEIN RED CLIFFS

Packers of Dried and Fresh Fruits

I.P.C. Brand

QUALITY FIRST

Land and Insurance Agents

Suppliers of Vineyard Requirements

E. J. ROBERTS, Governing Director.

P. MALLOCH, Manager.
pendent packers and those delivered to Sun-  
Maid Raisin Growers’ Association.

"Fifty thousand two hundred and fifty-nine tons of raisins have been delivered to the 20 per cent. stabilization pool. In order to de-  
terminately ascertain the size of the 1938 crop of natural condition raisins, it is only neces-  
sary to multiply this figure by five. In other words, the 75,000 tons of natural condition raisins of the Thompson, Mustard and sultana varieties delivered to date has been 251,295 tons. In order to add to this the estimated tonnage of bleached raisins, Malaga and Zante cur-  
tants, which totals approximately 35,000 tons, it is evident that there was produced during 1938 in the district of 286,295 tons of raisins, or a crop at least 35,000 tons larger than 1937. If this very large crop, together with the 77,000 ton carry-over, had been allowed to move into markets without control, the result would have been complete demoralisation of the raisin industry and prices perhaps the low-  
est in the history of the industry.

"The loan program, together with the pro-  
rate surplus control, placed a

75,000

a crop at least

price of raisins averaged between

1938 crop is very low; but growers will
dominating raisin price, only

and

Subsequent years. It is important to

1938-39 it was 22 million tons. Amon­
g factors contributing to such an avalanche of
demand could be cited the following: An

equally spectacular reduction in the cost, due
to the successful fixation of nitrogen from
the air—a process developed on a large com-  
cmercial scale during and following the Great
War, limits set to the exploitation of virgin

soils in the newer worlds, and the realisation
first by scientists and then by farmers that
the per acre production could be substantially
increased by paying more attention to the
supply of what is, after all, the very bread of
life to all plants.

Nitrogen from the Air.—It is interesting to
note that of nearly three million tons of nitro-  
gen combined in various forms for fertiliser
purposes last year, no less than 2 million tons were extracted from the air.

Purity of Sulphate of Ammonia.—Nitrogen is presented to agriculture in a num-  
ber of chemical forms, the most important of which are ammonium sulphate, cyanide,
rates of soda, calcium ammonium nitrate, and

Calcium nitrate. There are also a number of
other products of the air nitrogen industry
like area. By far the most popular of all forms is sulphate of ammonia, 47-48 per cent.
per ton. Other products exist in the Australian
market, but are not nearly as widely used.

Increase of Consumption in Australia.—  
As might be expected in Australia, which has
been pulled up to sharpilly at the limit of vir­
gin fertility during the past 20 years, and
where probably no more enlightened body of
producers elsewhere in the world exists, the
realisation of the advantages of nitrogen in
the manurial programmes has been even more
spectacular than the world position indicated
above.

An Empire Product.—Sulphate of ammonia—bearing probably an even greater de­
gree of popularity in Australia than it does
in any other part of the world—is manufactured
by Australian industries like the Broken
Hill Proprietary and large gas companies,
whilst the balance of the supply, over local
manufacture, is imported from Great Britain.

ROAD (CURT) ESY

Two cars, one of them driven by a woman,  
came to a minor collision at Barmera—be­
lieve it or not—promptly said that the acci-  
dent had been due to her poor driving.

The man driver corrected her: "It was my
fault," he said. "I had to give you about 200 yards away. If I'd had any sense, I would
have turned into a side street at once."

Barmera Cooperative Packing Co.  
BARMERA, S.A.

DRIED AND CITRUS FRUIT PACKERS AND AGENTS

Suppliers of all Block Requisites

Local Agents: Lancashire Insurance Company, A.M.P. Society, Howard Tractors and

Rotary House, H. V. McKay-Massey Harris Implements.

P.O. BOX 37, BARMERA.

"PHONE, BARMERA 30 & 32

NEW SEASON PRICES

The following amended prices for currants

and sultanas have been decided by the Board of

Management, operative May 11th, 1939:

CURRANTS

Crown

84d.

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84d.
THE ECONOMIC POSITION OF THE INDUSTRY

The two shillings rise in the basic wage for this quarter, occasioned by the increase in the index figure for cost of living compilation, is of concern to this industry with its huge proportion of export. To those industries which market all, or practically the whole, of their output in the protected Australian market, the situation can be met by droughts and shortage of such commodities. The man on £3 5/- in England seems to be able to live as well as his fellow worker in Australia. The disadvantage being to the higher wage country which cannot hope to compete to any useful extent on the world's markets with its manufactured goods based on such high costs. The shorter working week designed to increase employment, further adds to the problem, especially when other nations, where not increasing hours, are certainly not decreasing them.

These are some of the features of the position as it involves us today. There are many arguments for and against the fiscal policy ruling in Australia, and often the best fruit is put on the top of each case. However, we do know that this industry must be concerned at the direction in which this policy is moving, and some thought is being given to the preparation of some plan whereby the programme of building up the Commonwealth does not re-act adversely to any established groups of its producers or workers in primary industries so often the case in other countries.

COMMONWEALTH SALES

Agents' figures as at the end of May disclose the following sales position:

VINE FRUITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1939</th>
<th>1938</th>
<th>1937</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>Tons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currents</td>
<td>2,445</td>
<td>873</td>
<td>923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sultanas</td>
<td>6,531</td>
<td>2,183</td>
<td>2,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexias</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>809</td>
<td>495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9,632</td>
<td>4,067</td>
<td>3,881</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TREE FRUITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1939</th>
<th>1938</th>
<th>1937</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>Tons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apricots</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peaches</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nectarines</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pears</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunes</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,099</td>
<td>911</td>
<td>1,067</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERSEAS SALES

The sales of Australian dried fruits overseas to date are:

CURRANTS

All 1938 crop has been sold and 237 tons of 1939 crop. Average price, 3/-12/4 per ton.

SULTANAS

1120 tons of 1938 crop sold, and 176 tons of 1939. Average price, 6/-1/3 per ton.
THE STATISTICAL POSITION

THE EFFECT OF QUALITY

The two outstanding factors affecting values today are the very high quality of the 1938 pack, and the lower average standard of the 1939 crop, of sultanas. With currants the position is reversed, much the same, except that there is greater difficulty in obtaining the larger berries due to seasonal effect on the growth. At the time of writing we have practically sold the 1938 crop, the latter part of the sultanas at enhanced prices, due to the stock position, and especially to the fact that it was practically all four and five crown fruit of very good quality. The excellent conditions of the 1938 harvest have thus proved of immense value. The present crop, whilst severely damaged, will permit of a considerable quantity of the higher grade fruit being sent to London, and from the opening rates of £40/10/- to £40/15/- for four crown sultanas and £30/10/- for five crown sultanas, the latterly mentioned are often being sold at smaller fruit of the early picking—at prices which can be considered satisfactory in view of the general standard as compared with the rich bath fruit earlier at up to £41. A tribute to the keeping quality of fruit harvested 14 months ago.

However, the proportion of the pack in the lower grades is likely to meet with strong competition from equivalent grades of Californian fruit. This must be, almost invariably, the fate of the lower grades and too much emphasis cannot be placed on the need to make every possible effort to meet the adverse conditions as experienced this year. In short, the matter is one which is more vital in London than in other markets, which generally prefer the darker fruits.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION

The present position is that sitting on a volcano, not knowing at what moment it may be blown, cannot be considered in all probability, in the best interests of the industry. Unless there can be some settlement of this problem it is thought that Turkey will not be inclined to enter into similar arrangements for the coming crop. The agreement was that Germany would take sultanas and in return supply machinery, transport and armaments. Apparently, Germany has been sending, in payment, quantities of out of date lorries, etc., which are, naturally, not acceptable to Turkey. Unless there can be some settlement this year, it is thought that the element of healthy competition within the present price should not be destroyed by any system of pooling results in that market. It can be said more can be said of the London position, except that there are reports of the potentialities of full crops in California—no reports being available from other countries. However, many things can happen before the crops are harvested, and comment at this stage is nugatory.

Sales in other markets and the Commonwealth are well advanced at enhanced prices. A further rise of 4d. per pound became operative on May 17, and there was a spurt of buying activity prior to the rise. Sales to Canada and New Zealand to date are well ahead of last year, and orders coming forward indicate that the expected crop of the season will exceed those of 1938.

CURRENTS

It is extremely satisfying to record a definite improvement in the situation for this fruit. A good season resulting in quality fruit, is making a favorable impression in London—the West Australian fruit being particularly good. The 1938 crop is sold, certainly at low rates, for the lower grade. The importance of quality can be gauged by the fact that the opening prices for 1938 were £34, with a gradual falling off to £24 for the final sales, as compared with the 1939 opening rates of £37. Western Australian currants are still selling at a premium over river currants, and continue to do so.

It is important to note that the stock position has little effect on price in view of the ever present Greek surplus. A further increase of 4d. per pound will effect a further rise, to £51 per ton last year. Other markets are at the same level.

Currant growers have a lot of leisure to make up, the chances of obtaining a bounty being very remote, and whilst the present prospects are better, due to the absence of generally demanded at present, the returns by the various companies to the growers give every indication of appreciable margins. Some companies had practically sold out their sultanas before the 1939 crop reports, and the general stock position brought about the recent rise of from £2 to £3 a ton for the latter part (to date) of the crop. Therefore, it will be realised that there is the likely position of one packer finalising differently to another in the various districts.

This is a situation that is a corollary to selling on consignment, but it must be realised that those who have missed the rise this year have quite likely missed a fall in prices at the end of other selling seasons, and that, over the years some degree of balance has been effected, and in the long run the grower is no worse off than in all other markets where these is fixed.

The A.D.F.A. arranges that every grower takes his proper quota of each market, and as the United Kingdom sales are subject to discussion this is the obvious method of an agreement in his final account sales from the packer can come about. This being the market for the higher grade fruit it is held thus it is in the best interests of the United Kingdom that the element of healthy competition within the present price should not be destroyed by any system of pooling results in that market. It can be said more can be said of the London position, except that there are reports of the potentialities of full crops in California—no reports being available from other countries.
the critical period, the product is a problem until the Greek situation alters. Efforts are being made to obtain further information in regard to the plan to minimize the emotional and heavy production in that country.

Growers are referred to notes on currants by A. V. Lyon, in this issue, having in mind the urgent necessity to prune for bigger fruit in an effort to consolidate the improved position brought about by quality in London today.

LEXIAS
The recent period of better prices that have helped the lexia growers to some extent, appears to be due for some drastic alteration. Definite information from Spain is to the effect that conditions are very favorable for a big crop, and that strict instructions have been issued to growers to take all precautions to ensure a high quality fruit. It is fully anticipated that normal quantities of Valencia will be available for the London market this year. The South African crop, which should be now on the market, is reported to be heavy.

We have a crop of approximately 7,000 tons this year, which will mean substantial shipments to London. Therefore, it can be anticipated that competition will be keen in that market and that returns to growers will be probably not as low as in previous years with similar competition when we were not sending any appreciable amount of seedling raisins to this market.

SUMMARY
From the above outline it might be considered that growers can expect better prices this year on the main fruits, but not necessarily better aggregate returns on account of the lower prices for the next year. This will compensate to some extent for the heavy losses and higher costs, but the 1939 season will be a bad one for many. The improvement in current prices will probably be offset by the lower values indicated for lexias. The claim for higher rates made by the A.W.A. in the present Arbitration Court hearing might result in some lower additional costs, additional to the 2/- rise in June. However, from the evidence, it is not anticipated that any drastic alteration will be made, as the industry is not in a position to meet any added costs of production.

“SISTERS UNDER THE SKIN”

The following is of interest. It indicates that somewhere in America reads Kipling. Approaching to the heading, the same applies to the two democracies—the matter of gender being metaphysical.

“A curious fruit is the nectarine. Though commonly believed to be a cross between a peach and a plum, it is not. It is ‘only a variety of the peach with a smooth skin, only a slight accidental variety.’ (Wickson, "California Fruits").

“Both fruits are old historically. The peach is mentioned in Chinese writings more than three thousand years ago, and the nectarine was recorded over two thousand years ago. But the fact that the nectarine originated as a variety of peach is proved by the fact that it originates in that way now. There are many and well-established instances of peach stones producing nectarine trees, of nectarine stones producing peach trees—of the same tree bearing peaches and nectarines—of peach trees suddenly producing nectarines, as well as fruit nectarine in part and in part peach, and lastly of one nectarine tree first bearing half and half fruit and subsequently true peaches.” (Darwin, "The Variation of Animals and Plants Under Domestication").

VICTORIAN DRIED FRUITS BOARD
A meeting of the Victorian Dried Fruits Board was held at Mildura on May 16. The chairman intimated that, in view of the considerable loss of revenue which the Board would experience this year, every possible avenue was being explored to effect economy. In the business before the Board, he noticed two typical illustrations. The regulations had been re-printed directly from the Government Gazette instead of being re-set in the usual form, thus more than halving the printing bill, and a senior typist who had resigned had been replaced by a junior girl, although this change will place more strain on the administration generally.

A report from Senior Inspector Walsh dealing with the purchase of unprocessed fruit from a grower by a city dealer, was discussed, and a prosecution authorised. The chairman intimated that, in view of the length of the season, it would be necessary to retain the services of the graders for an extra three weeks. This course had been agreed to by the Minister.

In a comprehensive report, the Chief Fruit Inspector of the Department of Commerce outlined the steps which had been taken to deal with the various classes of fruit being received by packing houses this season, and the methods adopted by the official graders. The Board decided that this question, from the point of view of its effect on the grading and grading regulations, should be the first matter to be discussed at the meeting.

Amongst the correspondence dealt with was a letter from a packing company regarding the cancellation of a classifier's licence, to which the chairman's reply thereto was sent. It was also decided that the Board should agree to a request from the Northern Weights and Measures Union for a contribution for the services rendered by the Union in inspecting the scales at packing houses.

An application from Milne Gibson Pty. Ltd. for the registration of their dehydrated apricots was approved.

PUBLICITY
Dealing with this aspect of its activities up to December, 1938, the Victorian Dried Fruits Board states that this year the Board allocated £1200 for publicity within Victoria, and also contributed £3500 to the funds of the Dried Fruits Publicity Committee. This Committee, which consists of representatives of the Australian Dried Fruits Association and the State Boards of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, is responsible for the general publicity of the industry in the Commonwealth. The Committee employs two representatives working on a definite itinerary, visit all the States with the exception of Tasmania and Western Australia, arranging window displays at grocers’ and street traders’ shops and showing a talkie film to the senior pupils of schools and at other gatherings in the towns visited. The committee also arranged for displays at the Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide Royal Shows, and at a number of country shows. These displays have attracted wide attention and favorable comment and, as a result, proved an excellent means of advertising dried fruits.

The committee has also distributed a considerable quantity of advertising and publicity material, and has arranged some hundreds of displays in grocers’ windows in the capital cities of every State. The money spent on publicity has proved its value in furthering the consumption of dried fruit in Australia and, whilst it is fully realised that it is not possible to increase, in any way, the present proportion of the Board’s revenue to publicity, the committee associated with the Dried Fruits Publicity Committee are of the opinion that, assuming the necessary funds were available to embark on a sustained intensive and comprehensive advertising campaign throughout the Commonwealth, the expenditure thus incurred would be more than returned to the grower in increased local consumption.

“WARATAH” BRAND
Star Steel Fence Posts
NOW 20% STRONGER AND HEAVIER
NO INCREASE IN PRICE—

FASTER TO ERECT—One man does the work of three compared with wooden posts.

BLACK VARNISHED OR GALVANISED
Made at Newcastle (N.S.W.) from B.H.P. Steel by RYLANDS BROS. (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.
Head Office, 425 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

SPECIFY “WARATAH” WIRE PRODUCTS FOR ALL FENCING REQUIREMENTS

FARMERS’ HANDBOOK SUPPLIED FREE ON APPLICATION.

“WARATAH” PRODUCTS INCLUDE—
Wire Netting, Fencing Wire, Barbed Wire, Hinged Joint Fence, Motor By-Passes, etc.

AND ARE 100% AUSTRALIAN
From the Iron Ore to the Fence.

Equal to ANY in the World—Rylands Stand Behind Their Products.
The Mildura Dried Fruits Association

Marketing Prospects Sound

At the annual meeting of this branch, which embraces the Irymple and Mildura area growers supplying fruit to the packing houses other than Auroras, and the Mildura co-operative companies, the chairman (Mr. E. J. Roberts) stated that prospects were quite good, and there was no reason for doubt regarding sales outlets for 1939.

During last year fears regarding Australia’s trade treaties with Canada and the United Kingdom were set at rest by the announcement being taken by the A.D.F.A. to the Commonwealth Government. “When we met last year the future was uncertain and full of concern; today we look forward with confidence on marketing prospects,” said Mr. Roberts.

The chairman referred to the measures being taken by the A.D.F.A. to give stability to price control in the Commonwealth. He stated that at the meeting of the Federal Council in October a full report was submitted and finally adopted unanimously. These measures, in conjunction with the new States’ Acts controlling the issue of licences, should ensure stability of price in the Commonwealth for some time to come, he said.

1938 SALES POSITION

In reviewing the sales position of the 1938 crop, Mr. Roberts stated that the sales of sultanas in Australia and New Zealand had been well maintained. Exports to Canada were lower than for 1937, but the shipments to the United Kingdom had increased by 21,000 tons to 40,600 tons. Sales were progressing favorably, with prices firm, and it was hoped that the bulk of the supplies would be sold before the new season’s fruit reached the market.

With such a heavy tonnage prices naturally fell below those of the previous year by an average of £5/15/ per ton. Prices in New Zealand and Canada were also lower by £3 per ton in order to meet competition from California. Sweat-box returns to growers would probably average £35 per ton as compared with £32 per ton the previous year.

Sales of currants in Australia, Canada and New Zealand had also been well maintained. Exports to the United Kingdom totalled 13,850 tons, compared with 10,030 tons the previous year, but the quality of the 1938 pack was again lower than average because of the January rains. It was hoped that this would be cleared at an early date. The average realisation had been £27/3/6 per ton, a drop of £3/10/.

The returns for river currants would be under £26 per ton, a drop of £1/15/. The sweat-box returns to growers would naturally be very low under these conditions, and was expected to be about £19 per ton.

CURRANTS UNPAYABLE

Mr. Roberts stated that at these prices currant-growing was definitely unpayable, and there seemed to be little prospect of alleviation of conditions unless the quality of the crop improved. During the year sponsored representations to the Federal Government for a bounty on currant exports to alleviate the position, but the claims of the industry were rejected.

The sales of lexias as seeded raisins had been developed to a greater extent than ever in Australia, and had been well maintained in Canada and New Zealand. The product had been well received by buyers, and sales for 1939 should be more than double this quantity.

Apart from seeded raisins 2245 tons of lexias were shipped to the United Kingdom, of which all but 105 tons had been sold. These would probably have to be cleared for seeding, as there were substantial stocks of Cape and Valencia raisins as well as lexias in dealers’ hands. The average price for lexias in the United Kingdom was £48/11/2 per ton, compared with £45/18/ last season. Sweat-box returns to growers should be about £31 per ton, an increase of £3. Payments to date had averaged £28/10/ per ton.

The balance sheet and auditors’ report was read by the secretary (Mr. E. R. Crowston) and adopted by the meeting. This showed that the income for the year amounted to £166, made up by A.D.F.A. levies (£312) and interest on fixed deposits (£14). The year’s expenses amounted to £111, and the surplus for the year (£55) was transferred to accumulated funds, making the total of this asset £584.

The retiring trustees, Messrs. J. A. Forbes and J. Schmidt, were re-elected unopposed, and Mr. E. J. Roberts was re-elected chairman for the forthcoming year.

New South Wales Dried Fruits Bill

NOW BEFORE HOUSE

In accordance with the resolution adopted at the meeting of the Agricultural Council, to the effect that all States should make their Dried Fruits Acts uniform and provide for the annual licensing of packing houses, expiring on December 31 each year, the granting, renewal or transfer of such registrations to be in the sole discretion of the Governor-in-Council, the Victorian and South Australian Governments have passed legislation materially along these lines.

The New South Wales Bill was presented to Parliament on May 17, 1939, and passed its first reading. The second reading may take place at any time now. There is a provision in the New South Wales Bill to the effect that, as early as practicable in each year, a report of the Board’s work for the preceding year be compiled and forwarded to the Minister. This will mean that when the new legislation is adopted in New South Wales the Annual Report will be issued for the year ending December 31, instead of for the year ending June 30, as formerly.

THAT

AVAILABLE NITROGEN

at Budburst

You can only be SURE of a supply if you actually apply it by means of

SULPHATE OF

AMMONIA

THE CHEAPEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE FORM.

Make provision now for your Spring requirements, either in a suitable Mixture or “Straight.”

EARLY SPRING’S “AMMONIA” TIME.

10/30
Board of Management Meeting

The Economic Position of the Industry

At the meeting of the Board held on June 1, the principal considerations were in relation to marketing and distribution problems, and the inviolate interest in quotas for the various markets. Some comment has been made that the minutes of the several Boards essential to the industry do not give a sufficiently wide range of matters discussed. This was discussed at the Board of Management meeting and it is desired to advise growers that the wish of the Board is that the Dried Fruits Board shall be more informative on such matters as possible, compatible with the best interests of the industry.

It is important that the industry realizes that the Board is a body working to the best interests of the growers, and that its members have some tolerance in the drastic and costly reorganization of the industry. The Board has been requested to state that it is essential that packers should be able to issue final accounts sales well before the new crop became available. It was decided to advise the agent concerned that if an application on the lines indicated was received, the board would be prepared to give consideration to the request.

MUSCATEL PRICES—SEASON 1939

Consideration was given to the fixing of muscated prices for season 1939, and it was resolved: That same be fixed on the same basis as last year, i.e., One-Box One-Box per lb. 1-6/ per doz. 1/6. First quality, in fancy boxes 35/6 9/5. First quality, in cartons .... 14/6 8/6, 6-crown, in cartons 15/6 7/6.

MARKETING PROBLEMS

A long discussion took place regarding a number of marketing problems, in view of the fact that a committee from the board was invited to attend a conference of the Federal Wholesale Grocers' Association of Australia on Saturday, June 3.

THE ECONOMIC POSITION OF THE INDUSTRY

Mr. D. C. Winterbottom, in giving an outline of evidence placed before the Arbitration Court, made an analysis of the figures submitted which indicated that, while costs were gradually rising for essentials to production, the net returns to the industry were falling. Much of this condition being brought about by the development of a policy of shorter hours and increasing wages in secondary industries not faced with large export obligations.

The matter was fully discussed by the board and it was decided, as a preliminary to any further action, to invite the opinions of a prominent economist on the problem.

THE OWNERSHIP OF FRUIT

In view of an inquiry regarding the position of growers' fruit in the event of the insolvency of a packing house or agent, the board gave further consideration to the question, and in view of the legal opinion given when this matter was fully investigated some years ago (fully reported in the Federal Council minutes of 1932 and 1933) it was considered that there would be a great difficulty in evoking any practical method of meeting the position without unduly endangering the principles on which the A.D.F.A. has been developed. It was pointed out that the history of the industry showed the danger of loss by growers to be negligible, and having regard to the recent consolidation the position today could be considered sound and not warranting any drastic and costly reorganization to meet an unlikely position.

Renmark Fruitgrowers' Co-operative Limited

A Company Owned and Controlled by the Growers of Renmark for the Co-operative Packing and Processing of Dried Fruits

Packers of the Well-known “ARK” Brand

Dried and Fresh Fruit

TIMBER, HARDWARE, PRODUCE and GENERAL MERCHANTS

GROWERS FINANCED AGAINST COMING HARVEST
THE VICTORIAN DRIED FRUITS BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

In commenting on the report for the 1938 season, the report, which covers the period ending December 31, 1938, states that it was the best drying season in the history of the industry. By April 14 over 50,000 tons had been delivered to packing houses, compared with 35,000 tons the previous year. Certain losses occurred from rain and diseases—which indicates that the recent record can be bettered under ideal conditions. The report goes on to deal with the year's work and many features involved in the operation and purpose of the Board.

VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT

The agreement (the details of which have been set out in earlier issues of this paper) was worked reasonably well for the 1937 season, but suffered from the defects invariably associated with voluntary agreements. It threw a considerable amount of responsibility on the Board, involving much detailed work on the part of its staff, and adjustments arising from it were not finalised until July of this year. Realising that the voluntary agreement to which some dealers would not subscribe, could not be regarded as a satisfactory substitute for the previous system of orderly marketing, the growers' organisation (the Australian Dried Fruits Association) set out to obtain a controlling interest in firms which had previously not adhered to the principles of equity between growers. No attempt has been made to unduly interfere with the general trading policy of these firms, the only condition which the Australian Dried Fruits Association has insisted on is that they will take a fair share of the unprofitable export market. This plan has cost the Australian growers a considerable sum, all of which is being met by a voluntary levy agreed to by the growers themselves. The Board takes this opportunity of paying a tribute to the effective work of the Australian Dried Fruits Association in completing these arrangements, and welcomes the fact that the growers' association—a policy which was considered increased, particularly with regard to the supervision of the observance of quotas and the suppression of illegal trafficking in dried fruits which have not been packed in a registered packing house. Although the majority of the Board is the determination of quotas and ensuring that these quotas are fully observed, this is just a part of the work imposed on the Board by statute. The Board ensures that fruit is dried on the grower's block in a hygienic manner, that it is taken to a registered packing house to be properly processed, graded, and packed, that the grower is given the correct grade to which he is entitled by his packing company, and that the fruit is packed, processed, and graded under the best possible conditions. When the fruit reaches the storekeeper, the Board sees that, in the interests of the consuming public, the fruit is correctly branded, so that low grade fruit will not be sold as "choice" or "best." As Mr. Justice Evatt said in Harley v. Wallich of the Commonwealth from the scheme of orderly marketing on account of the Privy Council judgment, the fundamental principle of assuring equitable and remunerative market for fruits is not only ensuring that the quota provisions are not finalised until much of the fruit has not been packed and processed under hygienic conditions.

SCOPE OF BOARD'S ACTIVITIES

Since 1936, owing to the enforced withdrawal of the scheme of orderly marketing on account of the Privy Council judgment, the responsibilities and duties of the Board have been considerably increased, particularly with regard to the determination of quotas and the suppression of illegal trafficking in dried fruits which have not been packed in a registered packing house. Although the majority of the Board is the determination of quotas and ensuring that these quotas are fully observed, this is just a part of the work imposed on the Board by statute. The Board ensures that fruit is dried on the grower's block in a hygienic manner, that it is taken to a registered packing house to be properly processed, graded, and packed, that the grower is given the correct grade to which he is entitled by his packing company, and that the fruit is packed, processed, and graded under the best possible conditions. When the fruit reaches the storekeeper, the Board sees that, in the interests of the consuming public, the fruit is correctly branded, so that low grade fruit will not be sold as "choice" or "best." As Mr. Justice Evatt said in Harley v. Wallich of the Commonwealth from the scheme of orderly marketing on account of the Privy Council judgment, the fundamental principle of assuring equitable and remunerative market for fruits is not only ensuring that the quota provisions are not finalised until much of the fruit has not been packed and processed under hygienic conditions.

INTERSTATE CONFERENCE

A conference of the members of the Dried Fruits Boards of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and representatives of the Commonwealth Department of Commerce, was held in Sydney on the 19th and 20th May. This conference recommended that the State Boards should confer as soon as possible with a view to securing uniformity in the Commonwealth. As a result of this resolution, a meeting was held of the State Boards' secretaries, who drafted a bill which practically constituted the new Acts now successfully passed by the Parliaments of Victoria and South Australia and to be introduced into the New South Wales Parliament early this year. On the question of further plantings of dried fruits, the Conference expressed the opinion that, as a Committee representing the Departments of Agriculture and the Irrigation authorities was being constituted to investigate the question as to the best means of utilizing the Murray waters, the proposed body should be a permanent one and should make a comprehensive economic survey of the position. A recommendation was also made that small plantings should be eliminated from the pack, and action was subsequently taken by the various Boards to give effect to this resolution. This is referred to later on in this report. The conference also expressed the opinion that the secretaries of the Boards should confer and draft uniform regulations. Many other matters of interest to the industry were discussed, and it is considered that a conference of this nature is of great value to the industry as it enables the growers' representatives of the Boards in each State to meet and discuss their problems. This conference also obtained information as to prices in the producing States—an objective which is extremely desirable.

ADDITIONAL PLANTINGS

Dealing with this, the report quotes an extract from the 1938 report of the Export standard and uniformity of quality in each package is insisted upon. All dried fruits must be delivered to the packing house in approved sweet boxes, and treatment of the dried fruits must take place between fixed hours, outside which they may not even be delivered to the packing houses. The whole "process" takes only a few hours, but its importance is sufficiently obvious. The purpose of the restrictions is to ensure that the quality of the commodity shall be purified and perfected, and that the difference in quality between fruits shall be clearly ascertained, so that, by guaranteeing the consumer against both impostion and danger to health, the reputation of Victorian-grown fruits will be enhanced.

The Board, also, by co-operating with the Boards in the other producing States, maintains uniformity throughout the Commonwealth. The Board prevents the illegal sale of fruits, thus not only ensuring that the quota provisions are observed, but that the public is protected from fruit which has not been packed and processed under hygienic conditions.
The Victorian Dried Fruits Board

(Continued from Page 18)

Control Board (recently published in these columns) summarising the position and the dangers of further expansion. This report concludes:

"Let it be frankly considered that if existing preferences are not continued in European markets there will be a radical alteration in the economics of the industry, and to that extent the industry rests on a somewhat dangerous basis."

ILEGAL TRAFFICKING

The Board has continued its policy of preventing illegal trafficking and of enforcing the correct labelling of dried fruits by retailers. Our inspectors, in the course of their investigations, detect at times many minor breaches of the Act. The policy of the Board, however, is to administer the regulations with the minimum amount of irritation, and only in flagrant cases will prosecutions be launched. However, it is constantly necessary to prove by the fact that each year some serious violation of the Act has been altered since 1928. Many changes have taken place in the industry since that date. Experience showed several weaknesses in the existing Act, and the Board found itself without power on occasions to take the necessary action in the interests of either growers or the public. As the Agricultural Council had recommended that each State should incorporate all provisions regarding packing houses, advantage was taken of this decision to submit comprehensive proposals to the Government for the amendment of the Act, and these have now been embodied in the Act passed in November, 1938. The new Act gives the Governor-in-Council complete power regarding the licensing of packing houses. The number of members on the Board has not been changed, but the growers in the districts of Swan Hill and Kerang have been given a representative, whilst growers in all other parts of Victoria also elect one representative. In practice, this actually occurred before, as the representative of vine fruit growers always came from the Swan Hill area and the major growers in the remainder of Victoria are tree fruit growers who are mainly situated in the Goulburn Valley, from which their representative came. Provision has been made for the filling of vacancies and for the Board to arrive at a decision without the necessity for a formal meeting. Packing houses may now be restricted to dealing with only certain varieties of fruit, whilst the regulation forbidding the sale of dried fruit which has not been packed in a registered packing house is now incorporated in the Act. The Board has been given power to licence classes and to have removed from a packing house dried fruits which are not in a fit condition for processing or packing. Many stringent provisions have been made to prevent the mis-description of dried fruits, and the subjects under which regulations may be made have been countered instead of being dealt with under a general regulatory power.

It is hoped that the new Act will help the Board to further improve the quality and increase the local consumption of Victorian dried fruits.

NECESSITY FOR UNIFORM ADMINISTRATION BETWEEN THE STATES

Owing to the fact that dried fruits are produced in four States of the Commonwealth under almost similar conditions and have to be marketed both in the Commonwealth and overseas likewise under uniform conditions, it is essential that there should be the closest uniformity in administration between the producing States. To a large extent, this is achieved by the meeting of the Consultative Committees of the dried fruits industry, which consists of the chairman of the several State Boards. As explained above, the Acts of the producing States have now been made uniform, and all that now remains is to ensure uniformity in the Regulations. Those engaged in the industry consider such uniformity to be essential and it is hoped to achieve it during 1939. Victoria, as the largest producing State, is vitally interested in this subject. It has long been realised by the growers that uniformity can only be attained by a policy of "give and take" which recognises the difficulties peculiar to each of the States and their Boards. It is evident that a breakdown of the system in any one State means serious repercussions in the other States and, therefore, it has been necessary at times for the Victorian Board to so order its actions as to fit in with the requirements of the other producing States, rather than solely consider its own circumstances. So long as it is recognised that a policy of compromise is necessary, uniformity can largely be achieved. The Consultative Committee, by meeting when necessary during the year, ensures that quotas are uniform and that all matters affecting the industry in a whole are fully discussed and dealt with.

ACCOUNTS

It will be seen from the statement of receipts and expenditure that, although the Board this year had to find over £300 additional to last year's expenditure for the employment of graders to inaugurate the system of classing at packing house door, savings made on other items have kept the Board's expenditure below that of 1937.

It should be noted that, although at December 31, 1938, the Board's cash in the Treasury amounted to £2,277/6/10, this is not an actual surplus as the Board receives no further revenue until August 1, 1939, and the cash amount referred to is required to meet expenditure until then. However, owing to the production having exceeded the estimate supplied by packing houses, the Board received a revenue of £1,700 more than was anticipated. This will be utilised to reduce the levy for 1939.

There is no charge upon the consolidated revenue of the State for any of the Board's operations; in fact, the industry contributes to the State revenue as all packing house registration fees are paid to consolidated revenue and not to the Board's funds. The majority of the Board are elected representatives of the growers and every effort is made to ensure that full value is received by the growers for the money which they contribute towards the maintenance of the industry.

THE MILDURA CO-OPERATIVE FRUIT CO. LTD.

MILDURA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOMINAL CAPITAL</th>
<th>£150,000</th>
<th>PAID-UP FUNDS</th>
<th>£20,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Packers of All Classes of Dried and Fresh Fruits and Citrus.

Packaged under the well-known "PADLOCK" Brand.

Packing Houses: Mildura, Irymple, Merbein, Currawa (N.S.W.)

All Classes of Insurance Risks undertaken. Life Assurances Effectuated.

Growers' Requisites Stocked at all Branches.

Agents for Absentees. Valuations Made.

Licensed Land Salesmen and Sworn Valuers.

---

**The Australian Dried Fruits News, June 8, 1939**

(Trust Fund—Dried Fruits Fund Account)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
<th>PAYMENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>£ s. d.</td>
<td>£ s. d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>By Chairman’s Allowance</td>
<td>450 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travelling Expenses, etc.</td>
<td>483 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff salaries</td>
<td>1,323 9 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inspection costs</td>
<td>1,613 3 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
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<td>Postage, telephones, etc.</td>
<td>165 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Advertising</td>
<td>15 18 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveys of Department of Agriculture</td>
<td>150 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special inquiries, illegal trafficking</td>
<td>1,671 15 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To adjust sales of fruit on Commonwealth market</td>
<td>1,348 17 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorian publicity</td>
<td>1,288 8 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to Dried Fruits Solar Publicity Committee</td>
<td>540 0 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Expenses</td>
<td>27 12 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidents</td>
<td>229 16 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance at December 31st</td>
<td>15,317 6 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In addition, £25,405 4 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, £25,405 4 10 was paid to Consolidated Revenue as registration fees for registration of packing houses.

(Sgd.) PARKER J. MOLONEY, Chairman
(Sgd.) W. CREMOR, Secretary,
Fruits Board.

Audited and found correct.
(Sgd.) S. Y. MORRIS, Auditor.
26th February, 1939.

VICTORIAN PRODUCTION

The quantity of 1938 season’s Victorian dried fruits harvested, processed, and packed up to January 31, 1939, was—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fruits</th>
<th>Currents</th>
<th>Subtans</th>
<th>Irians</th>
<th>.cells</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dried Vine Fruits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milward District—</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milward City and</td>
<td>5,479</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>16,828</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>20,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irmeyale</td>
<td>3,894</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>9,068</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>12,962</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Cliffs</td>
<td>1,528</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>16,828</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>18,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10,891</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>36,543</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>47,434</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nyah West</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>2,288</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>2,609</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woorree</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>2,858</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>3,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tresco and Lake Boga</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodburn Valley</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8,592</td>
<td></td>
<td>50,935</td>
<td></td>
<td>59,527</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CARRY-OVER FRUIT IN THE COMMONWEALTH

Association Policy

Comment has been made recently in regard to carry-over fruit that has to meet new season fruits and is, therefore, at a disadvantage. The main complaint has been in the case of lexis, where it has been contended the carry-over could have been placed in the United Kingdom at a slightly better return to growers. (Actually there was no carryover.)

The markets offering overseas have little bearing on the position, which is one that the industry has to cater for as part of its selling policy, and the protective tariff that it enjoys.

Every effort is made by the Board of Management, through close contact with agents and merchants, to gauge as closely as possible the probable requirements of the trade throughout the length and breadth of Australia. The terms and conditions of sales provide for the date, after which no cancellations of orders will be accepted, and as a means of getting an indication, some months before the end of the season, of what portion of the reserve held for the Commonwealth shall be exported out of the way of new season’s fruits. An estimate has to be made of the aggregate of the small weekly orders that continue to come in from the many widespread units, despite the earlier intimations of the trade. With our Commonwealth sales of over 15,000 tons, it will be appreciated that the small tonnage held for the above purpose is not high, nor is the actual loss any appreciable amount.

The danger of not holding this reserve would be much greater, for if we should be short supplied we would be that many tons short at the Commonwealth premium. The trade would be disturbed, and we would leave ourselves open to criticism from the angle of failing in our obligation to maintain full supplies in our protected market.

Over a period of years, during which the carry-over is merged into each new season, it is doubtful if any real loss occurs. The annual adjustments are made to conform with the declared quotas.

River Murray Broadcasters Ltd.

Station 5RM

LISTEN IN TO YOUR OWN STATION

Special A.D.F. Session, 7 to 7.15 p.m. (South Australian Time) every Monday Night

Oversea Sales and Market Reports

and other items of interest to Dried Fruit Growers.

Wave Length, 533 Metres. Frequency, 850 Kilocycles. Registered Office: 29 Rundle St., Adelaide. Local Manager: Box 231, Berri, S.A.
SEASONAL NOTES

By A. V. LYON, M.Ag.Sc.

PRUNING NOTES

Currants.—The currants produced in the River Murray settlements have come in for a great deal of criticism in recent years. The loss of quality due to a run of unfavorable seasons is recognized very generally, and it is not proposed to review this aspect at present.

At a recent meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Merbein Research Station, members were in general agreement that, quite apart from rain damage, there were other contributing causes to lower yields and poor quality.

Trellising.—The trellis is usually a fixed factor, and is altered only when the vines are being reconstructed or re-made. The T trellis is recognized as giving the best distribution, the next best being a system of well developed secondary arms which take the spurs away from the main arms. This subject, however, is of seasonal interest only for the limited number of growers who re-making the vines. In such cases a study of trellising methods is most important.

Pruning.—The pruning of currants has been reduced to a very low standard, partly because of the unfavorable seasons, during which roughly pruned vines have frequently given the best results. Assuming a return of more favorable seasons, the first step towards greater yields and better quality undoubtedly lies in improved pruning. In this connection there are three general requirements:

(a) Selection of strong spurs as fruiting wood.

(b) Careful cleaning of twiggjy growth.

(c) Reduction of spurs to the number that the vine can satisfactorily carry.

The growth and fruit on currant vines was carefully examined again last year, in connection with the pruning classes at Red Cliffs, on commercial vineyards, and also on the plots which were disbudded. On most commercial vineyards the outstanding point was the variation in quality and size of the shoots, and consequently in the bunches. An additional difficulty in such cases is that the bunches ripen unevenly, with a big proportion of white factor, and is altered only when the vines are apart from rain damage, there were other cases only half the shoots were spur borne, the and red berries on the strong vines. The de- variation in quality and size of the shoots, and vineyards the outstanding point was the vari-

...continued...