THE NEW SOUTH WALES STATE BOARD

NOW TO MEET TWICE A YEAR

Reserves To Be Drawn Upon Despite Extreme Economies

Any report of the above Board is of particular interest in view of its success, at a minimum cost, in a very large field of operations. This involves the contact

with some 5,200 storekeepers and bakery houses following the need to check illegal disposal of fruit, and the legislative supervision of a large number of

registered packing houses, together with a careful regard to the matter of illegal selling in the producing areas which are great distances apart.

The policy of the Board to meet as seldom as possible owing to the travelling costs involved by the long journeys necessary by Board members, has been one that afforded material savings, the total cost for this item being £46 last year.

The Board is empowered, under the Act, to make decisions by correspondence.

The procedure adopted places more onerous duties on the members and staff of the Board than these, be held.

A meeting of the Board was held in Sydney on May 15 and 16, 1940. There was a full attendance of members, viz., Mr. G. J. Evatt (chairman), Mr. E. J. Hudson and Mr. L. B. O'Donnell (representing dried vine fruit growers), and Mr. P. C. Cox and the Honourable Thomas Steel, M.L.C. (representing dried tree fruit growers).

The chairman, in opening the meeting, stated that he regretted that same was being held amidst the receipt of news of the tumultuous events and raging battles which were taking place overseas and which naturally have a distressing effect. Members joined him in the fervent hope that the present dark cloud would speedily pass, and in the firm conviction that it would, ultimately.

As the meeting in question was the first held since the general election of members which took place early in the year, the chairman took the opportunity of congratulating members on their return to office unopposed. He stated that it is more than a coincidence that at the last general election of members of the New South Wales, Victorian and Western Australian Dried Fruits Boards, the sitting members were, in each instance, returned unopposed.

The New South Wales election was held in February, 1940, and all four sitting members were elected unopposed for a further period of three years. The Victorian election was held in November, 1939, and all five sitting members were elected unopposed for a further period of two years. South Australia has not had a recent election. The Western Australian election was held in December, 1939, and all five sitting members were returned unopposed for a further period of two years.

The report states:

Board, but a considerable saving in expenditure of funds is effected.

Recently, it was decided that the Board should meet twice a year. In future, therefore, the Board will hold two meetings each year, at which the members will be able to personally interchange their views. Only in very exceptional circumstances will meetings, other than these, be held.

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The New South Wales State Board

(Continued from Page 1)

areas and in the rest of the State (mainly in the Murray Valley). In 1931 dried tree fruits were brought under the provisions of the Dried Fruits Act and subsequently an election, the fifth, was held for two additional members, representing dried tree fruit growers, respectively, in the Young and Koorawatha districts and in the rest of the State (mainly on the Murrumbidgee irrigation areas). The sixth and seventh elections were for four members, two representing dried vine fruit growers in the Murrumbidgee irrigation areas and the rest of the State, respectively, and two representing dried tree fruit growers in the Young and Koorawatha districts and in the rest of the State, respectively. Mr. E. J. Hudon, of Yenda (representing dried vine fruit growers on the Murrumbidgee irrigation areas) was elected at the second election held in February, 1930, and has continuously held office since. He was returned unopposed at the last two elections.

Mr. L. B. O'Donnell, of Curliwa (representing dried vine fruit growers whose holdings are situated in New South Wales other than on the Murrumbidgee irrigation areas), was elected at the third election held in February, 1931, and has continuously held office since. He was re-elected unopposed at the last two elections.

Mr. P. C. Cox and the Honourable Thomas Steel were elected at the first election for dried tree fruit grower representatives held in 1934, and have been re-elected at each of the two elections since. Mr. Cox was unopposed at both of these elections, and Mr. Steel unopposed at the last election. In 1934, the term of office of members was extended from two years to three years.

A comprehensive agenda, containing 30 items, a large proportion of which were of a purely domestic nature, was then placed before the meeting.

REDUCED LEVY INVOLVES RESERVES

Considerable attention was given to the Board's balance sheet as at 30th June, 1939, as published in the Board's annual report, the estimated expenditure for the calendar year 1940, and the estimated receipts for the same year. Statements submitted in connection with these items showed that on a basis of the contribution already decided upon at the rate of 4½ per ton on the dried fruits packed, the Board's estimated expenditure would considerably exceed the estimated receipts, notwithstanding the subsidy granted by the Victorian Dried Fruits Board to the New South Wales Dried Fruits Board towards the cost of policing illegal traffic. Under the circumstances, the three administrative officers of the Board were required to aim at the utmost economy with a view to reducing the estimated deficit so far as possible, seeing that it will be necessary to take such deficits from the Board's reserve funds. It was decided that the question of the Board's income and expenditure be further considered next year in collaboration with the Dried Fruits Board of the other States.

FINANCIAL YEAR ALTERED

The books of the Board will in future be prepared and audited once a year as at the 31st December. The audited financial statements and balance sheet will be included in the Board's annual report to be issued as early as possible in each calendar year. The annual report will be placed on the tables of both House of Representatives and copies thereof will be sent to all growers of dried fruits in New South Wales.

The foregoing procedure was adopted for the first time in respect of the year 1939. Previously, the books of the Board were prepared and audited in respect of each financial year ending 30th June. The financial year does not conveniently fit in with a dried fruits season.

ROLL OF GROWERS AND RIGHT TO VOTE

The secretary was instructed to keep the list of growers up to date by revising it each year. Although the election of Board members takes place every three years, and consequently the roll of growers for the purposes of the elections is only compiled every three years, the annual revision of the list of growers was considered desirable to ensure, in the first instance, that every grower will receive a copy of the Board's annual report. Quite apart from this, it would not be possible to properly compile the roll of growers every three years for election purposes unless some record of each grower's production for each season is kept, seeing that the eligibility of growers to vote at an election is based on their production over a period of years. Section 6 of the Dried Fruits Act provides:

"No grower shall have his name entered in the Roll of Growers unless:

(a) during the then current season or one of the two preceding seasons, he has produced more than 5-cwts. of dried vine fruits;

(b) during the then current season or three of the five preceding seasons he has produced more than 5-cwts. of dried tree fruits.

It is, therefore, necessary, especially in years of low production owing to adverse seasonal conditions, to ascertain, in respect of eligibility of growers to vote, their production in previous years when the growing of the species in the year of the election does not exceed 5-cwts. In connection with the matter, the secretary was instructed after consultation with the Board of the other States to submit a procedure which will enable the list of growers to be revised annually, with a view to the procedure adopted being uniform in each State.

Door classification is in operation at the packing houses in the Murray Valley. The Board gratefully acknowledged the assistance given in this connection by the Victorian Dried Fruits Board, which makes its graders and licensed classes available for the purpose. It was decided not to extend at present, door classification to the packing houses situated in the Murrumbidgee irrigation areas or in the metropolitan area of Sydney.

CONTAINERS FOR TREE FRUITS

It was noted that the new regulations under the Dried Fruits Act of 1939 prescribed that containers of dried fruits were to be marked with the words "Fancy Quality," "Choice Quality," "Standard Quality," or "Plain Quality," as the case may be. The previous regulations provided for the containers being marked with the word "Fancy," "Choice," "Standard," or "Plain," as the case may be. It was decided, in order to save packers cutting out new stamps and obtaining new labels, not to enforce the new regulations so far as the inclusion of the word "quality" is concerned, and to amend the regulations at first opportunity by omitting the word "Quality." This means that so long as containers are marked "Fancy," "Choice," "Standard," or "Plain," the existing regulations will be regarded as having been complied with.

STORAGE ON FARMS

Instructions were given that the new regulation in respect to storage on farms be strictly enforced. This regulation reads as follows:

"Dried fruits stored on farms shall be stored under hygienic conditions in places which will afford the dried fruits reasonable protection from adverse weather conditions and from contamination by vermin, insects, and foreign substances and will enable the dried fruits to be conveniently inspected by the inspector.

"If any dried fruits are found on inspection by an inspector to be stored in an unsuitable place so far as hygiene is concerned, the person who so stored the dried fruits shall be guilty of an offence and the inspector may order the removal of the fruits to a suitable storage place."

The inspector was requested to make frequent inspections of storage methods adopted on farms.

REGISTRATION

Enquiries made by a number of the Board to the Dried Fruits Board in respect to the registration of dried fruits packing houses were considered. The Board decided that it would not be advisable to request the Governor the granting of any of these three applications as the several officers in whose registration was sought are employed by the existing packing houses.

Applications by the "Lorden" Packing Company for transfer of location of premises at present registered as dried fruits packing house at Leeton.
SAVING PETROL

SOME VALUABLE TRIALS

The following interesting article is taken from "The Australian" the official journal of the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria, and whilst we usually confine the columns of this paper to dried fruits matters, the value of the lessons outlined is such that we set out the full text. Many of our grower friends, we believe, will find this saving can be made by careful driving at moderate speeds—"we make up our mind to do so, but!" The solution appears to be mechanical in the sense that limits of the mind, and the idea of a linkage fitted to the throttle as mentioned in the article appeals. This states:

The rising cost of petrol is adding to the already heavy burden of expense carried by the motorist.

The question in the minds of all motorists now more than ever before is: How can I obtain the greatest miles per gallon? Quite a simple answer to the problem was revealed in recent petrol consumption tests carried out by the Technical Department of the R.A.C.V.

The essence of the tests was that a com­ plem­ent was made to the vehicle and petrol con­ sumption when the car was driven in the usual manner and the consumption when more moderate maximum speeds, and less rapid acceleration were used.

In the first tests the carburator and its control mechanism conformed to standard specifications and the various cars were driven along the usual lines that is speeds ranging from 35-50 m.p.h. were maintained when traffic conditions allowed, all compulsory stops made, and the powers of acceleration used to reach the desired driving speed.

For the second tests a linkage was fitted to the throttle so that it could not open beyond the point giving a maximum speed of 35 m.p.h.

This control automatically reduced the volume of the discharge from the accelerating pump and the saving effected by the combination of speed and acceleration limits provided surprising results.

The improved performance obtained by the technical department can be duplicated by the private motorist without trouble.

In the tests the driving methods were made to show outstanding results, at all times the driving methods were such as approximated the methods of the average driver.

Ford V8 Sedan, 1938 model. Speeds, 22,714 miles:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speed (m.p.h.)</th>
<th>Fuel Consumption</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>29.63 m.p.g.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26.66 m.p.g.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>24.66 m.p.g.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>22.71 m.p.g.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>20.78 m.p.g.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>18.76 m.p.g.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus, as a matter of interest to the motorist who is anxious to use a maximum of miles for a minimum of petrol costs, the technical department submits the accompanying chart for perusal by motorists, together with the advice that for the duration of war maximum speeds of 35-40 m.p.h., and that when moving off from a traffic stop, etc., accelerate more gradually when once in top gear and do not stamp the accelerator to the floor in any circumstances.

Test Tirolette Consump.-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>m.p.g.</th>
<th>percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>23.31</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>24.24</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>24.38</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>24.48</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>23.31</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>24.66</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>25.57</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>23.53</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following results were obtained in tests of two typical modern cars on a dynamometer:

Vauxhall 6-cyl. 14 h.p. roadster, 1939 model.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speeds (m.p.h.)</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GENERAL PERFORMANCE

As a guide to performance obtainable from a restricted car, experience as one car used on the R.A.C.V. Test Course may be cited. The tester reported that a heavy cross-wind was encountered during the greater portion of the test. At no point on the restricted journey was 35 m.p.h. attained, except downhill. During the homeward journey, 39 m.p.h. on the level was reached on a few occasions when a little assistance was obtained from the wind.

Second gear was necessary for half the length of Anthony's Cutting, gradient 1 in 2, but Deep Creek Hill, gradient 1 in 3, was negotiated on top gear. There was rather an awkward turn at the foot of this hill.

The course is from West Melbourne to Gisborne, via Flemington Road and the Calder Highway. From Gisborne, undulating country with fair to good gravel roads, rough gravel, metal, and good metal is covered to Barcuma Marsh. On the return journey the hills and flat land above were encountered. The maximum height above sea-level which was attained is about 1800 feet. Much of the course carries considerable traffic.

The fact that average speed was less than six m.p.h. below that for the unrestricted test is a fair indication of what should be expected for average driving conditions.

ERANOL 23

The Recommended use of Eranol 23 is strongly recommended to treat all fruit at time of packing with an efficient insecticide. Eranol 23 effectively destroys a great many insect life. Supplies and full particulars obtainable from the

Co-operated Dried Fruits Sales Pty. Ltd.

Melbourne and Adelaide
Nyah-Woorinen Dried Fruits Enquiry Committee
(Incorporating Goodnight and Bungunyah (N.S.W.), Nyah, Woorinen and Tresco)

Excellent Effort Rewarded

PLOT 38H PAYING ITS WAY

The many who have watched the development of the bold action of a band of industry minded growers who organised a committee to take over an abandoned block at Woorinen for the purpose of demonstrating research value and what can be done by efficient working of a property, congratulate the committee on its attainment—to show some profit on the scheme and thus make the property self-supporting. A study of the financial statements as the progress of the project will show that, although subscribers have been made by interested bodies, particularly the district growers, who pay a special levy, a small profit is shown after allowing normal production costs. We have visited 38H several times—once it looked a hopeless task, now it is an outstanding credit. It is an example for all to see. The thought comes that there must be many blocks, if not ruined, seriously retarded by inefficient handling.

The committee was formed in August, 1933, by the dried vine fruits growers of Nyah, Woorinen and surrounding districts. Their object was to impel the most up-to-date information for the benefit of the growers, and to initiate demonstrations, lectures, and investigations by officers of the various State and Commonwealth Departments concerned, and by anyone with specialised knowledge of the dried fruits industry.

In the autumn of 1933, Lot 38H was acquired at a nominal rental for a two year term. It consisted of 28 acres, of which four were planted to sultanas, and included a small house and some racks. The whole place was neglected and the vines were in a very bad state, with a large proportion affected by salt and seepage. This committee proceeded to reconstruct the vines by drastic pruning, apply the best cultural and irrigation practices, and carry out such capital improvements as concrete channeling and erection of new racks.

At the time the venture was considered by many well-informed people as having only a very moderate chance of success.

The management of Block 38H was entrusted by the Enquiry Committee to the Block Management Committee, who meet regularly and arrange all routine work, and prepare a budget of cost of work to be undertaken. They also supervise the work and suggest improvements to the Enquiry Committee, who handle all finance.

In the first year the yield of fruit was 54 cwt., and the work was carried out at a cost of £75.

Early in 1935 the block was purchased from the Closer Settlement Commission for £200, terms of payment extending over 10 years, and trustees were appointed representative of all districts. A permanent man was employed to work the block. Difficulties were met in planting up additional acres, losses of young vines by hares, and the unfavorable season, necessitating replanting. By May 1935, the controlled irrigation had greatly alleviated the seepage problem on the old vines, but it was recognised that drainage was necessary for complete reclamation. The crop this season was very low (24 cwt.) owing to a heavy frost in October, 1934.

In 1935-36, the Commonwealth Bank granted £200 towards permanent improvements, such as trellising, concrete channel, and a new rack.

In 1936 the yield was nearly six tons from the four acres of old vines. The fruit was treated in a series of dipping and processing trials, and demonstrated to growers as a field day during harvest.

By 1938 the old vines bore at the rate of two tons per acre, mostly of very high grade. The three acres of young vines bore a ton with their first crop. A further grant of £100 from the Commonwealth Bank allowed the erection of a specially designed rack for harvesting individual vines from 400 vines of a memorandum trial conducted on another block.

The young sultanas and one acre of currants were trellised in various ways according to experimental design. A further area of four acres was prepared for planting in 1939. In 1939 the young vines bore their first main crop, but owing to losses through the heat wave in old vines and heavy rains during harvest, the total yield was 7½ tons from the block. This was increased in 1940 to 14 tons. Additional racks have been added and more vines planted, so that the present acreage consists of 4 acres sultanas (original old vines), 3 acres of sultanas, 5 years old; 1 acre of currants (same age); 4 acres of sultanas, one year old, to be trellised this winter, and one acre of table grapes and sultanas trellised last winter. When all are in bearing the yield in normal seasons may be expected to approximate nearly 20 tons of dried fruit, provided soil fertility can be maintained. This is doubtful without drainage.

The demonstrations and investigations carried out on the block include: Effect of burying cuttings; various green manure crops; various styles of trellising; sultanas, spacing and trellising of currants; various rates of gypsum; dipping experiments in several seasons; various spraying treatments, effect of minerals to test for deficiency diseases, drainage tests in short experimental trenches, use of flame-thrower in cleaning ditches of weeds, study of a disease called "dying vines".

The block has proved most valuable to the committee as a meeting place for growers on field days. The first field day was held in November, 1931, another in March, 1936, for discussion of dipping trials of dried fruit, and another in October, 1936. The field days were replaced by evening lectures during the next two years, but in February, 1940, another field day was held. At each field day 200 to 300 people attended. Various leading officials who have attended the field days include the late Commissioner Horsfall, Commissioners Robertson and Handlow, of S.B. & W.S.C., and Masters, Malcolm and Ald, of the Lands Department; Mr. J. M. Ward, superintendent of Horticulture; members of the State Dried Fruits Board; Mr. F. H. Wattson, of the W.C.I.C. (N.S.W.); Dr A. E. V. Richardson, and Mr. A. V. Lyon, of the C.S.I.R.; local State and Federal Members of Parliament and research officers of the Department of Agriculture and C.S.I.R.

In addition to direct grants to the committee by the Commonwealth Bank for capital improvements, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission have remitted water rates and drainage rates, and fertiliser firms have donated manures.

The block is financed by sale of fruit and by a voluntary contribution from growers, through the Nyah-Woorinen Enquiry Committee of approximately £30 per annum. During last season, 1939-40, all expenses, including experiments, but other than capital improvements, amounted to £307.

The future policy of the committee in regard to Block 38H is to improve the permanent fixtures of the block, and to carry out demonstrations and experiments designed to improve yield and quality and to preserve soil fertility. The results of the committee's efforts in these directions are to be made freely available to all interested.

The committee issues a monthly bulletin, regarding seasonal advice to growers.
### BALANCE SHEET AS AT APRIL 30th, 1940

(1939 Figures at Left.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>30/4/39</th>
<th>30/4/40</th>
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<tr>
<td>£ s. d.</td>
<td>£ s. d.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Capital Account</td>
<td>Leased Land</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Lands and Survey</td>
<td>Buildings thereon at 1/5/39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woorinen Fruitgrowers' Coop. Co. Ltd.</td>
<td>Less Depreciation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Profit and Loss Appropriation A/c.</td>
<td>125 6 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>76 2 9</td>
<td>141 5 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>140 0 0</td>
<td>14 2 6</td>
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<td>92 5 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>402 6 6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TO Unsold Fruit at 1/5/39</td>
<td>By Fruit Sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultivation</td>
<td>Sale of Hay and Crop</td>
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<td>Penning</td>
<td>Commodities, Co-op. Co. Ltd.</td>
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<td>Spraying</td>
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<td>Manures</td>
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<td>294 15 5</td>
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<td>Fire and Workers' Insurance</td>
<td>Less Depreciation</td>
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<td>Sundries</td>
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<td>Administration and Traveling Exes.</td>
<td>Back on Private Property at</td>
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<td>Harvesting Labor, Dip Materials, and</td>
<td>Bungunya, N.S.W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cartage</td>
<td>Less Depreciation</td>
</tr>
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<td>Treatment 1939 fruit</td>
<td>30/5/39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>26 18 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gross Profit Transferred to Profit and</td>
<td>Net Loss at 30/5/39 Transferred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss Account</td>
<td>Profit and Loss Account</td>
</tr>
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<td>18 18 7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED APRIL 30th, YEAR 1940.</strong></td>
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<td>30/4/39</td>
<td>30/4/40</td>
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<td>26 18 9</td>
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<td>18 18 7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT</strong></td>
<td><strong>PROFIT AND LOSS APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT</strong></td>
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<td>To Unsold Fruit at 1/5/39</td>
<td>Nyah Research Com.</td>
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<td>18 18 7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>117 14 5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13 18 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROFIT AND LOSS APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT</strong></td>
<td><strong>PROFIT AND LOSS APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118 1 1</td>
<td>By Balance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Profit and Loss Account</td>
<td>538 5 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121 18 11</td>
<td>Profit and Loss Account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>117 14 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121 18 11</td>
<td><strong>Balance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>520 0 11</td>
<td>520 0 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Audited and found correct.

F. T. Byrne, President.

N. C. Polkinghorne, Secretary.

P. T. BYRNES, President.

R. C. POLKINGHORNE, Secretary.

20th May, 1940.
Co-operative Companies Have Satisfactory Year

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE RED CLIFFS AND MILDURA CO-OPERATIVES

It has been stated by a prominent university economist that the history of co-operative effort in business operations shows that the greatest success is attained where the business is confined to the handling of primary products in the district or in close association with the producers of the district of origin. This is amply demonstrated in the successful operations of the two companies mentioned here, and the reports of the year's business are of exceptional interest as an indication of what can be attained under sound management.

We regret that, owing to limitation of space it was not possible to publish this outline of the operations, that are so much a part of the organisation of the industry, in the April issue. It is felt that, whilst Mildura growers have been informed through their own press, the activities of these organisations are of sufficient interest to warrant a full report in this growers' paper.

FINANCIAL POSITION

As compared with the previous year's figures, you will be pleased to note that the paid-up capital of the company has increased by £32,665 to a total of £72,849. This increase is partly due to the company's policy of allocating further shares against a proportion of the 1939 rebates in accordance with the decision of a previous annual meeting, and also to the direct applications from shareholders for additional holdings, as well as those allotted to a number of new shareholders whom we were pleased to welcome.

Reserves.—The general reserve stands at the same figure as last year, viz., £14,000; but in accordance with the decision of our last annual meeting the sum of £4000 was placed in a newly established growers' reserve, and your board recommends a further building up of this fund to the mutual benefit of subscribers in general.

We believe that, owing to the increased number of new shareholders, your board has been able to devote more time and attention to the affairs of the company, and that the result of this is shown in the financial statements of the company for the year ending 30th September 1939.
the total amount of fruit packed by this company the previous year, of its production, to 94,999 tons. The company paid over £45,000 in wages and railway freight last year.

Purchasing

In dealing with a general statement in regard to aspects of co-operative effort in continuous of a general policy of co-operation right through from the purchasing of requisite produces to the ultimate marketing of the product, Mr. Hammet gave the following outline of the interests in this regard held by the company. His resume covered the following features:

PURCHASING

The Murray River Wholesale Co-operative Ltd. is also another important connection. The primary objects of this company are to purchase the whole of the requirements of its members, including packing materials, hardware and general merchandise, and act as a shipping agent for all co-operative companies in South Australia; it also distributes dried fruits in the Commonwealth as a branch of the Co-operative Dried Fruits Sales Pty. Ltd. The trading development of the Murray River Wholesale Co-operative Ltd. has been very successful, and the turnover of goods supplied is well over a quarter of a million pounds per year. Its policy is truly co-operative, and although a large proportion of the sales is made to other co-operative associations, the magnitude of its business enables members to collect considerable rebates and allowances each year.

Selling

Commonwealth and Controlled Markets—This function is carried out by Co-operative Dried Fruits Sales Pty. Ltd. This company, whose head office is in Melbourne, also controls the Associated Dried Fruits Sales Pty. Ltd. in Sydney, a distributing agency in Adelaide through the Murray River Wholesale Co-operative Ltd. Its function is to receive, market and dispatch dried fruits for its members in Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Eastern markets, and also within the Commonwealth. The Co-operative Dried Fruits Sales Pty. Ltd. has made remarkable strides and now handles the majority of Australian dried fruit production, including that of Western Australia. It has given the utmost service and satisfaction to all the trade in all its markets, and commands the highest business offering. This company is run on co-operative lines and the proceeds of sales are distributed monthly to each of its members pro rata the tonnage supplied of each kind of fruit. The charges for marketing have been continually reduced in keeping with the increasing tonnage handled, while any surplus on the upset rate of commission is returned to members at the end of each year, together with a liberal rate of interest on the capital subscribed. The Co-operative Dried Fruits Sales Pty. Ltd. also acts as shipping agent for the other cooperatives, and practically all Victorian co-operative companies' consignments to Great Britain, and generally renders a valuable service to the industry in regard to advice on price regulation and other problems dealt with by the Australian Dried Fruits Association.

A few years ago the Murray River Wholesale Co-operative Ltd. and the Co-operative Dried Fruits Sales Pty. Ltd. decided to affiliate and this resulted in 100 per cent. of the co-operative companies' fruit in South Australia being pooled with that of Victorian companies for sale in all controlled markets, and providing a large nucleus to the mutual benefit of both States.

Prior to this the Red Cliffs and Mildura Co-operatives consigned their United Kingdom fruit to the Overseas Farmers' Co-operative Federation by virtue of their membership with the Murray River Wholesale Co-operative Ltd., who had shares in the Australian Producers' Wholesale Co-operative, Federation Ltd., but after the affiliation the Co-operative Dried Fruits Sales Pty. Ltd. became a shareholder in the Australian Producers and was entitled to appoint its own representative on the board of directors. This move gave satisfaction and independence, representation to both sections.

The Australian Producers may be briefly described as a board of directors representing co-operative bodies all over the Commonwealth, who have produce of all varieties to export. There is a similar body in South Africa who, in conjunction with the Australian Producers, own and control the policy of the Overseas Farmers' Co-operative Federation in London. The Australian Producers' directors representing dried fruits were previously Mr. Sluiter and Mr. McGregor, acting for Victoria and South Australia, respectively. Mr. McGregor now represents Victoria, and Mr. Shepherd, of the Murray River Wholesale Co-operative Ltd., will represent South Australia.

THANKS TO MANAGER

In a motion sponsored by Messrs. J. A. Lewis and H. J. Aldred, supported by Messrs. W. Wake and H. V. Davy, the manager was thanked for the very full and elucidating explanations he had given of the many matters brought forward by the shareholders present. A motion of appreciation of the manager and board for their services was also carried. The chairman and manager responded. In his response, Mr. McGregor referred to the secretary (Mr. F. Weatherburn), as his lieutenant, who was doing the spade work in an excellent manner.

THE MILDURA CO-OPERATIVE COMPANY

Increasing Turnover—Problems of War-time

A very sound position is shown in the operations of this large and progressive company. It is estimated that, within a few years, the annual turnover will amount to £1,000,000.

The chairman of directors, Mr. E. J. Casey, a member of the Export Control Board, in submitting the annual report, said:

"Owing to the vagaries of the season, with intense heat and then excessive rain, 1939 supplies were very severely damaged, and growers presented the company with a problem in how to handle the damaged fruit to the best advantage, and this was accomplished so satisfactorily that we ended the season with only 30 tons of fruit that we were not able to pack in boxes. Fruit which appeared to be quite impossible when received from the growers, after washing and dehydration, was packed as a plain grade and has all been sold."

REMARKS

"I would like to pay a tribute to our general manager and packing house managers and staffs, who tackled the problem from the start and worked right through the difficult packing season to make the effort a success.

"The outbreak of war in September last brings the second great European upheaval in the last 25 years, and it must bring problems to our industry.

PROBLEMS OF THE WAR

"The 1914 war found our industry with a production of 13,700 tons, of which 1019 tons had to be exported. This war now finds our estimated production round the 90,000-ton mark, of which 77 to 80 per cent. must find its way to export markets. Our export is almost entirely confined to countries of the British Empire. Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia have made a common cause in this war, and the future welfare of our industry during the war depends entirely upon our inter-Imperial trade. Therefore, it is very fortunate that our industry is thoroughly organised, especially from the export point of view, allowing our Export Control Board to take up the marketing of our exportable production with the Commonwealth Government, who are now ready to approach the British and other Dominion Governments.

"Since September 7 last all our dried fruit in warehouse and arriving in Great Britain has been requisitioned by the Ministry for Food, and our future marketing will be carried out under somewhat similar arrangements.

"What is ahead of us all in a war of this magnitude is almost impossible to forecast, but it must present its problems, which will have to be met as they arise.

"Supplies of some commodities will be difficult to obtain, therefore it behoves growers to do everything they can to despatch our available supplies. Recommendations will be put to you from time to time, and in this regard we can, I think, commend the work of the dipping committee, who have definitely proved that very substantial economies can be effected in the consumption of carbonate of potash. This must appeal to growers even in normal times, as it will mean reduced cost of production, but in war-time it may become vital.

"We seem very far removed from this war, but really it is very close to us, because our markets are all in countries of the Empire which are at war, and the question of freighting our fruit to those markets depends entirely on the freedom of the seas being maintained by the British Navy.

"The total fruit received for the year was 14,550 tons, the second largest tonnage ever handled by the company. The citrus crop showed a very considerable falling-off. I am

(Continued on Page 9)

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(Continued on Page 9)
Australian Dried Fruits News

Official Organ of the
AUSTRALIAN DRIED FRUITS
ASSOCIATION

All reports, correspondence, etc., should be addressed to The Editor, "Australian Dried Fruits News," Sturt P.O., Vic., Red Cliffs, Victoria.

For Advertising Rates, apply W. N. Sunner, Victoria House, 48 Queen Street, Melbourne.

Telephones: Mildura 5 and 78

All Branches of A.D.F.A. are asked to forward items of interest to the industry as a whole for publication in the "News."

Here's freedom to him that would read,
Here's freedom to him who would write;
For there's none ever feared that the truth
But those whose the truth would indite,

MILDURA, JUNE 14, 1940

THE INDUSTRY IN WARTIME

The rapid expansion of the dried fruits industry following the last war has lifted the Commonwealth production of all fruits from 14,000 tons in 1914 (with a Commonwealth demand of 8,000 tons) to a yield this year of some 94,100 tons of vine fruits, and a low crop yield of almost 4,000 tons of true fruits; with a local consumption aggregating approximately 20,000 tons. This development has been of great value to Australia, and it has not been attained without many serious problems that have called for the best in leadership and intense loyalty of the industry, together with sympathetic legislation, and Government backing at critical times.

Today, with danger threatening the Empire and Great Britain actually prepared for invasion and needing every ounce of her resources, we find our best customer not in a position to give us all those great marketing facilities that have been the salvation of this industry and have enabled it to consolidate its expansion. Rather must we help the Old Country more and more in her time of need, and expect less from the desperate situation. Here is the real problem—one that will call for that same leadership, loyalty to the organisation, and Government backing—if we are to meet it.

Our fortunes lie in the situation in England. What can she do in this trial to help her Empire producers—without detriment to economic and diplomatic policy, which inevitably embraces the buying of certain goods from neutrals. In the last war a considerable amount of dried fruits was locked up in the enemy territory—we were producing very little—and prices were high. This time the world's supplies of this product are outside countries held by the enemy; not a great deal is getting into Germany. There is plenty of it. It is cheap, and England must buy cheaply and, as stated, in places best suited to her policy. We have not much to fear in relation to the bulk of the 1940 crop, a good deal of it having been sold at reasonable prices. curenrs being the exception and we are to believe that there is every probability of selling a further large amount. The prospects for the 1941 crop of sultanas being sold are enhanced by the reported misfortunes of Turkey, where heavy loss is indicated. This, if real, will have some bearing on British requirements from our end. However, it is idle to forecast—greater things are at stake, and events are moving in drastic strides. We have the advantage of being collectively and effectively represented through the Export Control Board in the important negotiations that will be carried on.

THE availability of sufficient labor for the handling of the enormously increased tonnages as compared with 1914, is a real problem and one that calls for early action. The fighting forces are taking a great number of unskilled men from the ranks that our labor is drawn from. Skilled men and key workers are leaving our districts in ever-increasing numbers as the demand grows. Movements that are being discussed in regard to the labor problem should be speeded up so that we are not unprepared for the situation that can easily arise at a time when the industry needs such large numbers of workers to come to it over a five or six weeks' period when time is vital both to packer and grower. The suggested closer of schools during harvest time is being invertded in some of the larger centres—a typical instance where action long before is essential when dealing with red-tape of departments. Some comments by Mr. Carne, of Normant, in the April issue of this journal, are well worth consideration in the above regard. And so the war finds us. The big job of marketing can be left, as it should be, to those best able to handle it. In the growing centres there are many things to do. The young men—and a lot of the older—are giving their services and their welfare needs the constant attention of those at home in both ranges that their affairs are minded for and that the patriotic work on their behalf is not allowed to lag.

Sale of Rejected Fruit Brings Penalty

A case of unusual interest was heard recently in Mildura. A lyremlle grower was convicted and fined £2 with small costs. The court said that the fruit was of very poor quality and had little commercial value. The law looked upon this form of offer as being serious, but in view of the circumstances of the case, only a light penalty would be inflicted.

Details of the case are that the grower, feeling rejected fruit to his loss, was offered the chance of selling some of it, and allowed portion to be sold by another man. No mention is made as to whether the fruit was sold for human consumption as dried fruit, or whether it was used for wine or stock food. However, the point for growers to be aware of in regard to the sale of rejected fruit is that under no condition can it be sold for human consumption in that form. If it is desired to sell it in any other form the authority of the State Board should first be obtained.

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLIES

Addressing growers at the annual meeting of the Mildura Co-operative Company, the general manager, Mr. D. C. Winterbottom, said that during the last war the company had no problems worth talking about for the four years only 15,000 tons of dried fruits had been exported. Now, in one year, the industry had as much as 76,000 tons for export. The supply of para rubber from Malaya was stopped, and it would be difficult. He urged growers to carry out the recent recommendations of the dipping committee.

Mr. Winterbottom outlined the experiments which were being made with fruit stems to produce fruit suh for dipping purposes. The stems burnt would supply a respectable tonnage.

He said that the question of timber supplies was also one of importance. The dried fruits industry used 10,000,000 super feet in one season, but the supplies were being largely curtailed, and some was also being commandeered by the Defence Department. Efforts were being made to assure the 1941 supplies.

Commonwealth Prices For Vine Fruits

The Board of Management in making this adjustment has had full regard to marketing policy and the conditions ruling in relation to increasing costs of production. In the latter regard it will be remembered that on the case put to the Prices Commissioner recently, permission was given to adjust the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currants</th>
<th>Sultanas</th>
<th>Leyxias and Waltherams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Tons 100 Boxes</td>
<td>One Box</td>
<td>5/- 10/- 1/- 1/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Crown</td>
<td>9d</td>
<td>9d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Crown</td>
<td>9d</td>
<td>9d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Crown</td>
<td>1/3d</td>
<td>1/3d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Crown</td>
<td>1/2d</td>
<td>1/2d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Crown</td>
<td>1/-</td>
<td>1/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Crown</td>
<td>3/- 6d</td>
<td>3/- 6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Crown</td>
<td>6/-</td>
<td>6/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Crown</td>
<td>9/-</td>
<td>9/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.P.</td>
<td>1/- 2d 3d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/-</td>
<td>1/- 2d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/- 6d</td>
<td>4/- 6d</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/- 6d</td>
<td>4/- 6d</td>
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<td>1/- 6d</td>
<td>4/- 6d</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/- 6d</td>
<td>4/- 6d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These list prices are for Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle, and producing centres in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales—

For Fremantle, Perth, Albany: (a) Fruit produced in Western Australia, and apricots, nectarines, peaches and pears produced in all States—list prices; (b) currants, sultanas, leyxias, waltherams, seeded raisins and muscatels produced in South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales—add 6d per lb. to list prices.

For Brisbane, Hobart, Launceston, Devonport, Burnie—add 4d per lb. to list prices.

For Maryborough, Brisbane, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Bowen, Townsville (Qld.)—add 7d per lb. to list prices.

For Cairns (Qld.) and Geraldton (W.A.)—add 6d per lb. to list prices.

For ports north of Cairns (Qld.) and north of Geraldton (W.A.)—add 6d per lb. to list prices.

The Australian Dried Fruits News, June 14, 1940.
Red Cliffs and Mildura Co-operatives' Reports

(Continued from Page 7.)

pleased to be able to announce that, despite the very heavy costs of packing, your directors find they could reduce packing and commission costs by $1 per ton, which will be sent out as a special payment, together with a reduction of 1/4d per case on citrus packing and we can recommend the usual dividend of 7 per cent on the paid-up capital.

FINANCIAL PROGRESS

"The progress shown in the balance sheet is as follows—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>This Year</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid-up capital</td>
<td>$110,461</td>
<td>$100,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve A/c</td>
<td>12,100</td>
<td>12,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currency deposits</td>
<td>2,651</td>
<td>2,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank of N.S.W.</td>
<td>8,416</td>
<td>23,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry creditors</td>
<td>8,147</td>
<td>9,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit pools unallocated</td>
<td>16,612</td>
<td>23,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxation</td>
<td>1,269</td>
<td>1,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriation A/c</td>
<td>8,102</td>
<td>8,487</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"The credit of fruit pools, $66,612, is a large amount, and came as the result of a remittance of $41,000 arriving from London early in December, and $15,000 received in the reduction in packing and commission. The London remittance was distributed in December and January payments.

"The assets are—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>This Year</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>$3,410</td>
<td>$5,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>32,195</td>
<td>28,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery and Plant</td>
<td>16,270</td>
<td>18,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dehydrators</td>
<td>5,660</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railway Sidings</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Trucks and Cars</td>
<td>2,130</td>
<td>2,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry</td>
<td>4,400</td>
<td>4,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting Machines</td>
<td>1,130</td>
<td>1,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Furn.</td>
<td>4,505</td>
<td>4,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shares in Co's</td>
<td>5,410</td>
<td>5,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$66,490</td>
<td>$62,275</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"The expenditure on dehydrators was essential, proved by the difficulties of the season. Without these plants quite 2000 tons of surplus horticulture would never have been packed. The conversion of the lympole packing house into a concrete building cost £3000.

"Stocks on hand show a very considerable increase, being £66,033, against £38,021 last year. The increase is due to the forward purchase of goods owing to the war conditions.

SELLING

"The selling of our dried fruits is in the hands of Co-operated Dried Fruit Sales Pte. Ltd. in Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, and through Overseas Farmers' Co-operative Federations in U.K., and I wish to record your directors' entire satisfaction with the services given to us by both organisations. Their work is in entire accord with the Exporters' Board, the State Board and the A.D.F.A. in the respective markets, which all leads to the stability of the industry.

WORK OF DEHYDRATORS

"The decision to build a modern dehydrator at Merbein was taken before the weather broke in February, 1939, and construction was well in hand when the call for dehydration came. It was a most fortunate decision, because the plant was ready to meet the call, and altogether treated 3500 tons of fruit, much of which would have been lost entirely if this plant had not been available.

"A small Harvey dehydrator was erected at Mildura, and proved of considerable value during the unfortunate season.

CITRUS

"Owing to the tighter orange crop our citrus packing was 74,000 cases, against 114,000 in 1938. This fall shows how much lighter the citrus crop was, compared with the previous year.

"The company's three citrus dehydration units were kept fully employed during the season and, as the weather was not so favourable as the previous year, our operating costs were higher.

INCREASE IN COSTS

"The outbreak of war has caused quite a big rise in the cost of hessian, from 7d to 1/3 per yard the latest landed cost. This means an increase from 29/2 to 62/6 per bolt, a serious increase in a grower's costs. To enable growers to carry on as much as possible in hessian your directors have opened a department for repairing hessianians, and to make up ground sheets. We find that hessianians which without repairs would be quite useless can be made quite serviceable at the cost of a few shillings a bolt.

BY-PRODUCTS FACTORY

"The turnover of the factory has again increased, and our products are finding outlets in a gradually widening market as they establish themselves. This department of the company's business is making steady progress, and affords a market for quite a considerable tonnage of waste fruits and by-products in the district.

"Again I wish to place on record the appreciation of the directors to the general manager and staff for their loyal and efficient service to the company during a very difficult packing season."

DIVIDEND OF 7 PER CENT.

"It was resolved that a dividend of 7 per cent. on the paid-up capital of the company be declared out of the profits for the year ended November 30, 1939. This is to be payable on February 20.

"Other resolutions carried were—

1. That interest at the same rate as the dividend on capital, 7 per cent., be paid on bonus deposits as at February 20.
2. "That the sweat-box value of the company's 1938 currant pool be as set out in the final account-sales rendered to growers on July 15, 1939." This motion was made to apply also to lemons.

The retiring directors, Messrs. A. W. S. Lochhead and E. J. Casey, were re-elected. There were no other nominations.

SUPPORT FOR RAILWAYS

Mr. Casey said that it was the policy of the company to support the railways, although road freighters were cheaper. If the railways were abandoned the fruit freighters would become much higher, which would not be in growers' interests. He said that the directors would explore the advisability of employing a purchasing agent.

SURPLUS RAISINS GOING INTO SCHOOL LUNCHES

The distribution of raisins recently purchased by the P.S.C.C. from the 1938 Government Loan Pool Company, U.S.A., is reported to be intended to be used entirely in relief and free school lunches on a basis of one pound per month to each person concerned.

ANOTHER AMBULANCE FOR THE A.I.F.

At the recent meeting of the Mildura District Council of the Association it was decided to make a gift of a fully equipped motor ambulance to the forces. After a short discussion an adjournment of the meeting was arranged and in a few minutes branch chairmen were able to announce that all the respective units were prepared to find sums proportionate to tonnage, and aggregating approximately £600 for this purpose. It was further recommended that the Board of Management be asked to organise a fund to enable another similar gift to be given on behalf of the industry. The branches represented at the Council were: The Merbein Growers' Union, The Mildura Dried Fruits Association, The Aurora Fruitgrowers' Association, The Red Cliffs Branch, and the Currawa and Coomealla branches (N.S.W.). A feature of the decision was the willingness of the smaller and less financial branches to devote all their funds to this worthy purpose.

COMMONWEALTH SALES

Agents' figures supplied to the end of May disclose the following positions:

VINE FRUITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>1939</th>
<th>1938</th>
<th>1937</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vines</td>
<td>2711</td>
<td>2445</td>
<td>823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sultanas</td>
<td>6788</td>
<td>6511</td>
<td>2385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levant</td>
<td>2712</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12,211</td>
<td>9632</td>
<td>4067</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TREES FRUITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>1939</th>
<th>1938</th>
<th>1937</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apricots</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nectarines</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peaches</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>106</td>
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<td>616</td>
<td>565</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1168</td>
<td>1099</td>
<td>906</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE STATISTICAL POSITION

Problems Being Faced With Confidence

DIFFICULTIES OFFSET BY OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

The statistical position has altered to some extent since our last issue, and we are a stage nearer to a more accurate estimate of what is ahead of us. Recent reports indicate that Britain, for various reasons, bought more fruit, and from wider sources, than was anticipated, thus making the sale of the balance of our 1940 crop a more involved problem. However, this is being faced with confidence, and only last week a further stage was reached in the negotiations, to an extent that we might expect an announcement very soon.

The 1939 crop is sold and final payment has been made by buyers. Analysis of the prices realised in the several markets for the various grades has to be made, and soon the A.D.F.A. will deal with the Over and Under Export Adjustment, and equalisation under the Export Controlled Markets Agreement. This should be done at the meeting in June, and growers can expect final account sales by late June or early July.

Meanwhile, the pools are in credit and the money is earning credit interest at the same rate as previously debited. The approximate estimated sweat box returns in the main centres are given under separate headings in a later portion of this statement. The position with regard to the 1940 crop is not yet clarified.

We know the prices and details for the first sale to the United Kingdom (D.F.N., April). The fate of the balance is the keystone of the position.

The negotiations for the sale of the balance of approximately 15,500 tons of currants and 9000 tons of currants to the United Kingdom are still in process. Growers would be wise to take a conservative view of the outcome of this situation, some of the features of which it is of interest to set forth. The stock position in Britain is very sound from the buyers' point of view. The purchase of a great deal of foreign fruit, in addition to Australian and South African, indicates a carry-over which is only being a possibility. The Government's policy of keeping down the cost of living indicates its interest in the dairying industry, or assisting the dairying industry, is creating an atmosphere of confidence in that country.

This is a matter of concern to our Government. It is true, that butter is on the "priority" list of commodities that may be shipped to Great Britain, but that favorable treatment should be followed by the United Kingdom reducing the price of butter, so that the workers and middle-class people of Great Britain may be encouraged to purchase butter. The position in regard to dried fruits is quite the reverse of that with butter. The Ministry of Food is overstocked with currants and sultanas, and has adopted the principle of reducing the price of this fruit. This may be a wise decision, but as we desire we must have the results of our efforts in efficiency and production.

We do not envy those who are negotiating on our behalf, the desperate position of the Mother Country urges them to do all within their power to help her and not to bargain. However, our war burden is real and is becoming heavier, and if we are to support it as we desire we must have the results of our efforts in the production of Empire foodstuffs. And so are the factors in regard to some of the difficulties, the greatest being the surplus held by Britain.

Nevertheless, features of a more favorable bearing are discernable in the reports available. In a private letter from London a large handler of dried fruits states that there is a remarkable increase in the demand for these fruits. This may be put down to several reasons. The advertising campaign for dried fruits as a wartime food by the Ministry of Food, the difficulty of importing fresh fruits (not our apple and pear problem), no purchases from America, and the establishment of self-contained food groups all over the country in preparation for the possibility of invasion, the peak of employment and supplies for troops. Reports of heavy rain damage in Turkey following the recent earthquake and the closing of the Mediterranean. Although this might not apply to food ships from that region, the added costs must eventually influence prices. An important factor is that the British Government is extending war-risk insurance in the contracts—it is not difficult to visualise what this would be costing us were we selling under the pre-war terms of trading and carrying the storage and insurance charges under present rates applicable to the vicinity of the Thames. The preceding outline of the more hopeful features cannot have a very important effect on the recent crop, but, in regard to the coming harvest, they can easily operate. However, as this article is being prepared, we note a suggestion in "The California Fruit News" regarding the moving of surplus currants and sultanas by the aid of long-term credits, probably extending to the post-war period. The result of this cannot be estimated, but it can have a serious effect if allowed to develop.

To take the several varieties in order of importance, it is of interest to examine the position of each.

SULTANAS

The excellent quality pack puts us in a far better position than had the same marketing conditions obtained for the 1939 fruit. This is something to be glad of. The recent arrangement for Great Britain to take 1500 tons of 5 crowns at £45 on the same contract terms as for the earlier sale, is of great value.

The savings obtained by the packing of 60-10s, to the box will assist to meet the higher freight rates, etc. There is little that can be added to the foregoing, except to indicate the confidence felt by those who are handling the negotiations that the 1940 sultanas will be sold, and soon, despite the serious developments in the past few weeks.

OTHER MARKETS FOR SULTANAS

Reports on the bountiful Commonwealth market were made in our April issue. Since then sales have been good, and at time of writing, show an increase over even date of last year at one half penny over 1939 opening rates.

This, together with a further firming of a halfpenny in May, should net growers an additional £32,000 or more on the 8000 tons that will be sold in the Commonwealth. The average of the 60-10s pack, this is approximately 10/6 per ton, and is a material help in meeting rising costs.

The early sales to Canada are at a rate of £1 per ton under those of last year, but as this market is taking 3 crowns at £29, the lower grades being in short supply, compared
THE MILDURA PATRIOTIC FUND

The success of this scheme of raising funds for Red Cross and other general charities for troops, with a minimum of effort, is so striking and solidly established. Some of the features are, whilst not strictly dried fruits news, of such interest to other dried fruit growers in other countries where the excellent organisation in industry matters lends itself for schemes similar to that of the Mildura area, that we publish them.

The cooperation of the packing houses at once makes for simplicity in collecting a form of subscription-levy from growers and the large numbers of employees in the packing houses. The great advantage of the plan is that one of the preliminary works of launching the scheme is done; it requires an absolute minimum of effort to maintain it. The absence of the need for constant organising of functions which oftentimes returns a minimum result from days of hard work by many whose time should be available to other urgent war work. A convincing instance of this is the absolute freedom from any need to take part in public meetings or public speaking.

The contraband control by the Allies destroyed a large extra world market for dried fruits that was supplied by our competitors, and this seriously adds to the already large world over-production. Our preferences in the United Kingdom are practically nullified by the vital need for Britain to buy as cheaply as possible from friendly countries. It is a striking and important fact that all the dried fruits producing countries are on a friendly standing with Britain and trade between these and the Homeland must at once be part of her wartime policy. We have every prospect of coming through for the 1940 crop, but there are real problems ahead; not insurmountable, but such that will place a heavy load on those whose duty it is to deal with them in the interests of growers.

THE AUSTRALIAN DRIED FRUITS NEWS, JUNE 14, 1940

with 1 crown last season at £26, the aggregate return will be correspondingly higher. With the movement of the dollar on sterling from 3.50, to today's rate of 3.18 to the £, there seems little danger of the embarrassed Californian industry being able to sell in Canada, and also a prospect of a firming in our rates for that market on the later sales in July-August. It is estimated that some 15,000 tons of sultanas will be sold to the Dominion, but it is possibly to estimate sweeter box values. The prices for New Zealand and the East remain unchanged from those of last year, and the 1000 odd tons that will go to these markets should not, for a 3-4 crown average, be less than £25 per ton.

Estimates for 1939 finals from the main packing centres indicate that, apart from packing and trading rebates, 2 crown sultanas, approximately £31 per ton.

Currants

Currant growers have a record pack, estimated at over 24,000 tons, and the quality is good. This is a good start in meeting a hard task—to obtain cost of production out of ruling rates. Those who have other fruits to market, who have high yielding land might be able to balance their budget, but it is the growers with normal yields on large areas of currants, particularly in the non-irrigated areas, who have a real problem. The position for the Commonwealth and the controlled markets is satisfactory, and the firming of prices in the former market is of some help. On the 4000 tons that should be sold in the Commonwealth, the growers will receive as in sultanas, a premium of some £16,000 being obtained, which, spread over the total pack is approximately 1.5/4 per ton; a striking instance of the A.D.F.A., through its grower control, in meeting market conditions. The other controlled markets should take 3000 tons at the same prices as last year. The position in regard to the United Kingdom market is not very bright. According to reports, Great Britain has taken 90,000 tons from Greece, and this, together with the 9000 tons taken from us in the first sale of 1940 fruit, would make up her annual requirements of some 69,000 tons. As we still have 8000 tons, it can be appreciated that there are difficulties in the way of quieting this parcel. However, as stated earlier, there are some factors that afford some hope of an increased demand in the United Kingdom. The Mediterranean situation is one that can have a tremendous influence on the availability of future supplies from Greece. The future is present too uncertain to forecast probable sweet box prices for 1940. The disposal of the balance must always remain a serious problem while Greek high quantities remain.

The 1939 finales, taking 2 crown average, are generally estimated to work out at £22/10/- per ton sweet box, apart from rebates. LEXIAS

The latest estimates indicate an 8000 ton crop, which is already assured of sale. The Commonwealth should take approximately 3500 tons at one halfpenny per pound over last year's rates, plus a further halfpenny on the amount to be sold since the May rise. The excellent sale to the United Kingdom of 3000 tons of the balance of the pack indicates that the markets at prices equal to those of last year make the lexia position very sound, and it is estimated that this fruit should return a sweet box value of £12 or £13 a ton. The 1939 returns, based on a 3 crown average, should be approximately £31 per ton.

Summarising the position, it can be said that the war has created many marketing problems that must result in lower aggregate returns for our fruit, and these, added to the factor of increasing costs, call for very careful budgeting. The contraband control by the Allies destroyed a large extra world market for dried fruits that was supplied by our competitors, and this seriously adds to the already large world over-production. Our preferences in the United Kingdom are practically nullified by the vital need for Britain to buy as cheaply as possible from friendly countries. It is a striking and important fact that all the dried fruits producing countries are on a friendly standing with Britain and trade between these and the Homeland must at once be part of her wartime policy. We have every prospect of coming through for the 1940 crop, but there are real problems ahead; not insurmountable, but such that will place a heavy load on those whose duty it is to deal with them in the interests of growers.

WARATAH Brand
Star Steel Fence Posts

NOW 20% STRONGER AND HEAVIER

NO INCREASE IN PRICE—
10jd. Each, F.O.R. Newcastle, Sydney or Melbourne.

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, 422 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
out result. The employees of these houses are contributing.

BASIS OF CONTRIBUTIONS
The several avenues and details of collection can be set out as follows:-
1. Dried Fruits Growers.—Packers circularising growers asking them to notify the respective offices if they did not desire to contribute one shilling per ton. This was followed by a further reminder to the effect that, not having received in the interim, the amount would be deducted from fruit proceeds. This was considered a better and quicker way of getting the job going. When the money came, the first to admit that he was in common with a great many other growers, puts letters away with the best intention of attending to the matter—until suddenly there is a period of inactivity. The few who were not prepared to contribute lost no time in writing a reply. And so the plan worked in the desirable way that was anticipated. No more was good news—for the fund. An important value of packing house-operation, through the centralisation of growers' affairs, is of great service to such a scheme.
2. Other Growers.—Growers of grapes for delivery to packing houses are paying 3d per ton on the fresh weight. The same avenue and system of collection applies as in "1." Citrus growers are contributing in proportion to the amounts received by packing houses in a ratio of 1-10 of a penny per case. Those who pack their own fruit have their own conscientiousness to arrange a system of contribution. This applies to other categories such as self-employed people, who are difficult to maintain contact with. This aspect is dealt with under "Miscellaneous." The very active co-operation of citrus officials is an important and proved asset.
3. Business Houses and Employees.—With the few exceptions mentioned business houses are contributing in proportion to the amounts subscribed by their employees. Packers are agreed on a basis of £ 1 for £ 3 employees. Are, in the main, and this includes public offices, contributing 6d per week on a basis of a 54 week's wage, suitable differentials being arranged with collectors. In this regard, the firm of accountants who are generously making their services available, have preferred union scale. With this the good of checking records is maintained. In this regard, the firm of accountants who are generously making their services available, have preferred union scale. With this the good of checking records is maintained. In this regard, the firm of accountants who are generously making their services available, have preferred union scale. With this the good of checking records is maintained.
4. Miscellaneous.—These are mainly residents within the town areas and adjacent groups of workmen's homes, and in the self-employed class, such as carriers, commission agents, boarding houses, etc., together with the permanent men on blocks or block contractors. In the case of areas in or close to the towns, generally includes those who are already contributing the arrangement of groups can be made with small effort. The permanent men on blocks and contractors can be collected through workmen's channels and the matter of collecting being mutually arranged with the employees. Lists of the above categories have been made available by packing houses.

CONTROL AND ALLOCATION OF FUND
The control and allocation of the fund is an important matter. There are several essentials to note:
1. That those contributing shall have direct representation on the committee of allocation. That a firm of accountants should, if possible, handle the accounts and sit on the executive to the committee. That those bodies entitled to draw from the fund should have representatives on it and, finally, that the municipality has a representative preferably as chairman.

It might be considered that the committee raising the fund should, with the addition of certain personnel, do the allocating after having received applications for funds, and on the basis that those who were receiving monies should not have a vote. However, the procedure set out at the beginning of this section is working well and can be recommended.

MACHINERY
The scheme is carried out under a clause of the Victorian Patriotic Funds Act which appoints a committee in the form of patriotic purpose, in the Mildura areas. The plan is subject to audit, under the Act, and in accordance with this requirement receipts are issued to contributors, groups, etc., and returns made on prescribed forms to the accountancy firm keeping records for the purpose of audit, and paying accounts on the instigation of the allocation committee. The procedure in regard to growers' contribution has been set out. In the town areas zones were allotted to organisers who, having canvassed their territory established a system, dependent on the degree of co-operation, whereby a group collector was appointed to do the collecting at stated periods and hand the results directly to the district collector. If the collector finds he is doing too good a thing, he might have to keep on keeping. However, there is a real co-operation and by this much is attained with small effort and the fund goes smoothly along. Such is the efficiency of the scheme that the committee is working so well. The District is proud of it. People all over the country are asking "What can we do?" If effort is being wasted in other centres on cumbersome methods of raising funds, here is a chance to do something by having a closer check up on the possibilities and making use of them.

TREE FRUITS
Statistical Position Sound
Those growers of tree fruits who have been able to maintain their yields over the past few years have done well on the firm prices that have been obtained. Those less fortunate, particularly in the non-irrigated and fruit areas, have had a series of difficult times and have not been able to fully enjoy the sound marketing position brought about by the comparative shortages in the various markets. A close study of statistics will reveal the fact that this year we have not produced enough of certain varieties to ensure continuity of supply to the markets that we have developed. This has had the unfortunate consequence in certain instances. Tree fruits growers who have experienced lower crops have been considerably compensated by the fact that, in this year, practically all their fruit has been sold on the Commonwealth market at improved rates, over those of the previous year. The vine fruits grower, on the other hand, who have preferred a less advantageous rate of selling, is finding little hope for the future.

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1. That those contributing shall have direct representation on the committee of allocation. That a firm of accountants should, if possible, handle the accounts and sit on the executive to the committee. That those bodies entitled to draw from the fund should have representatives on it and, finally, that the municipality has a representative preferably as chairman.

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"The Great Australian Loneliness"
By ERNESTINE HILL (Author of "Water Into Gold")

After reading this truly remarkable book, the early English first edition of which was beyond the reach of the average person's means, the decision is the more surprising that we, Australians, and particularly dried fruits growers who do not take that annual $100 trip to see a bit of our own country, should not know it is Australia. The decision is immediately to tell a "summer" who is missing by not having gone around Australia for nine "bobs" with this remarkable little wisecrack of womanhood, already a lifelong friend of the author.

"Never more than nine bobs. I've been there, boy. It's only nine bobs for the young £100's. We, the others, are missing that 100,000 miles of seeing Australia, her courage and her ability to battle on her own and come through with the job done. The title, if we might express a reaction to the book, is a "summer" for its pages simply emanate kindness and friendship that is the antithesis of that loneliness that can be experienced in that part of this continent where, as the author puts it, "the people listen to these milk-soldiers and miles live their lives and watches to the clanging of tram-bells and train-whisites."

The Australian edition, at 9/- net, is published by Robertson and Malless, Melbourne.

CORRECTION
Owing to a typographical error, the lexia differentials on Page 14 are incorrect. The correct figures are:

LEXIAS
4 crown over 3 crown £ 4
Sealless over 3 crowns £ 3
5 crowns over 3 crown £ 2
4 crown over 3 crown £ 1
3 crowns—basis.
2 crown under 3 crowns £ 5

PATENT NOTICE
Co-operated Dried Fruits Sales Pty. Ltd.

PERSONS interested in packing Dried Fruits or the sale of solutions for desiccating purposes are advised that Application No. 18781/34, dated 3rd August, 1934, has been approved and Letters Patent issued which include the use of Ethyl Formate and other ethers, and the Inter-state Gold law. Women are advised to assert their right to recover damages and prevent unauthorized use of their invention.
THE WEST AUSTRALIAN STATE BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT INDICATES GREATER STRENGTH OF INDUSTRY

Request That Pool Accounts Be Kept Separate From Other Business

The report of the W.A. Board, extracts of which are set out below, is of particular interest to that great bulk of the industry situated in the Eastern States of Australia, in which it has been urged that uniformity with the legislation affecting the industry in those States, that has meant so much to all in the great Australian dried fruits industry, has only been made complete by the full co-operation of all producing states, and when it is considered that the State of W.A. is at a distance from the main centre of production equal to that of Eastern Russia from London, it gives great satisfaction to appreciate the progress made in the proper control system that has been brought about by our Western Australian growers and their leaders.

Twelve regular monthly meetings were held in 1939 and were fully attended, except that the chairman was unable to be present at three of these meetings. It is gratifying that Mr. Dickson was able to resume duty at the October meeting.

The amount levied on growers for the 1937 season was 5/10 per cent, and for the purpose of the Act by the other State Boards, the Board's finances admitting of the action, such was reduced to 5/- for 1938. For a similar reason the levy for 1939 was fixed at 6/5 per cent.

DOOR CLASSIFICATION

Following requests that adequate provision should be made for acceptable classification of growers' fruit at packing houses, the registered agents appointed Mr. H. E. Farmhill to undertake this work on their behalf with a view to uniformity. It is understood that this arrangement is proving satisfactory and shows a considerable improvement on former practice.

INFORMATION REQUIRED BY GROWERS

Arising from a request from the Viticulturists' Union of W.A., the Board requested the registered Agents to make available monthly the quantity of fruit and the prices realised overseas and within the State, and the Board is eager to close up and prevent any would-be purchasers from the illegal acquisition of such information. A newspaper agent has been appointed to make available the register of prices and news from time to time.

The report concludes with an assurance that the Board will do everything possible to protect the interests of growers compatible with the smooth running of the industry and an appreciation of the work of its secretary.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1939.

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<th>INCOME</th>
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<td>Scrutinising Imports</td>
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<td>Investigations A/o</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Auditors Fees</td>
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<tr>
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BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1939.

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fees paid in advices</td>
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<td>Excess of Assets over Liabilities</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of Assets over Liabilities</td>
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<td>Current</td>
<td>865 5 2</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Fixed</td>
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<td>1265 5 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry Debtors for Growers' Contributions</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Furniture</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>1156 19 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1156 19 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I certify that the above Balance Sheet is correct according to the Books and documents produced.

(Signed) S. A. TAYLOR, Auditor General.

February 21, 1940.

PUBLICITY

The Board has given careful consideration to appropriate and effective publicity in an endeavor to increase the consumption of dried vine fruits within the State in particular and the Commonwealth as a whole.

Mr. A. E. Watt assisted the Board in making a display of fruits at the Royal Agricultural Show in October last, and the Board greatly appreciated his help. Literature and publicity material were supplied for the purpose, these having been forthcoming from the Joint Publicity Committee, Melbourne.

The committee has generously continued its undertaking with W.A. Window Display Experts to provide dried fruit exhibits in the windows of district shopkeepers.

A supply of new cookery books has also been sent to the Board for distribution.

During the early part of the year the Universal Pictures Ltd., in conjunction with the Grand Theatre, at the request of the Board showed in Perth for one week a very comprehensive film in relation to the production and marketing of dried vine fruits.

GENERAL

Other matters dealt with concerned the illegal trading in dried fruits, and the Board has under consideration the question of the appointment of an inspector for the purpose of ensuring that the Act and the regulations are complied with, and that no illegal trading by growers, and purchase by shopkeepers and other traders occurs, the voluntary agreement between registered agents and the A.D.F.A. for 1938 was renewed for the following year, and although certain difficulties were met, the steps taken by the Board to meet them were satisfactory to all parties.

The report concludes with an assurance that the Board will do everything possible to protect the interests of growers compatible with the smooth running of the industry and an appreciation of the work of its secretary.
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

WAR NECESSITATES WIDER PUBLICITY

Interstate Charges Fund Increased

At the May meeting of the Board a considerable amount of time was devoted to matters affecting sales problems. As these are largely of a machinery nature and involve close knowledge of the many features involved in the control by the Board of the association, they are not of general interest to growers. Sufficient is it to say their proper administration and the strict observance of their intention is of paramount importance to this growers’ organisation and it is the duty of the Board of Management to maintain the proper balance between the trade and the producer to the equitable interest of both, compatible with our duty to the consumer.

The important question of interstate charges was a matter dealt with and we set out below the decision of the Board on this, together with the outline of the effect and purpose of the provision in the Rules. In a review of the position for 1939 and 1940 it was found that, in the case of 1939, the Victorian fund showed considerable loss, and in respect to 1940 season, interstate freight and war risk makes it imperative that the deduction for Interstate Charges should be increased. It was therefore resolved:

“That in respect to the Victorian Interstate Charges Fund, the 1939 rate be increased 2/6 per ton, and with regard to season 1940, the rate be increased 7/6 per ton, making same 21/- per ton. Regarding the South Australian Interstate Fund for 1940, it was decided to increase live fruit charges 5/- per ton, making same £2/11/6 per ton, and tree fruits 6/6, making same £2/14/6 per ton.”

In an amplification of the above it should be stated that the purpose of the Interstate Charges Fund, to quote the rules of the Association, is “that to ensure that growers in the respective States may receive the same net returns for their fruit in the respective grades, a Freight and Interstate Fund may be established in each producing State, and the charges for freight, insurance, exchange, and delivery of fruit sold, may be levied in each separate locality.” It will be noted that the charge is in proportion to the distance of the producing State from the main centre of population, and to the consumption in proportion to production within the State of origin. For instance, South Australia, being furthest from the main markets, has the highest fund to build up, producing much more than local consumption. This applies to Victoria in regard to production and consumption and the distance factor is not as great—hence the lesser charge.

The New South Wales charge is the least, the crop in this State not being enough, having regard to intra-State Commonwealth quotas for the several fruits, to supply that market. The fact that most of the N.S.W. fruit is produced in areas adjacent to Victorian settlements along the Murray Valley makes the cost of getting fruit to the main markets of the mother State much greater than might otherwise have been the case.

The extra charges to buyers for Queensland and inter-State produce parts of the country are credited to the fund. Thus it will be seen that the fund which is established should cover the cost of freight for each State’s sales to other parts, the agent paying the amount fixed for each State, and where difficulties of grades arise in regard to supplies, arranging proxy sales, subject to internal adjustment between the agents concerned.

As the production and/or consumption, and the consequent proportions for interstate vary from year to year, so is the Interstate Fund adjusted periodically by the Board of Management, the above being an instance. Monies held are placed in a special account of the Association.

DRIED FRUITS FOR DISTILLATION

This matter has caused the Association a good deal of concern. Much has been published on the question, and growers will be aware of the problems involved. At the last meeting the chairman reported that, since the April meeting, correspondence had been changed between himself and the Federal Viti-cultural Council, and it was decided to endeavour to have Representatives of this Council at an early date as possible to discuss the question of dried fruit for distillation, with the object of making a recommendation to the Minister of Customs.

This matter was taken a further stage very recently when the chairman, Mr. Howie, and Mr. Malloch interviewed the Minister on the matter and the full facts of the developments were placed before him, the position regarding currants being particularly stressed.

FINAL ACCOUNT SALE DIFFERENTIALS SEASON 1940

Following the ruling of the Association that “During the progress of realization, selling organizations shall issue progress payments instead of final account sales on fruit sold, such progress payments shall be nearly as possible be on a grade differential basis, and such differential payments for the various grades shall commence not later than June 30 of each year. Interest shall be adjusted between such progress payments having been made at a higher rate than finally determined for account sales, the poster or agent shall have the right to recover from the grower any sum so over-paid,” consideration was given to the question of fixing these differentials in respect to the 1940 season, upon vine and tree fruits at the April meeting of the Board, but it was felt that the position had not reached a stage when reliable statistics were available, it was decided that “a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Malloch, Winterbottom and Jones be asked to review the vine and tree fruit position for season 1940, with a view to recommending final account sale differentials to be adopted for the season.”

ACCOUNT SALES DIFFERENTIALS FOR 1940

The following differentials have been fixed by the Board of Management of the Association. In the case of the tree fruits they are final, these varieties having been allotted to markets from which returns are based on fixed prices.

VINE FRUITS (TENTATIVE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Differential Basis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CURRANTS</td>
<td>£1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SULTANAS</td>
<td>£2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEXIAS</td>
<td>£4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONSULT CANADA'S TRADE COMMISSIONER

COMPANIES and individuals desiring information about imports from Canada to Australia can secure such from the Canadian Government Trade Commissioner, Offices in Sydney and Melbourne. These offices are maintained to encourage Canadian trade with Australia and every possible assistance is extended to importers and prospective importers.

THE AUSTRALIAN DRIED FRUITS NEWS, JUNE 14, 1940.
VINE ASH IN DIPPING SUTANAS
By E. C. ORTON, B.Sc., A.T.C.

During the past season trials were conducted at the Research Station, Merbein, and elsewhere, with the object of studying the use of vine ash in the dipping of sustanas. It has been shown that a properly prepared extract of vine ash is suitable for dipping purposes, and is almost as satisfactory in regard to the preserving and drying rate as a potashing solution of equal Baume.

Samples of ash derived from various portions of the vine have been examined, and it has been found that vine ash from was deep apricots has the highest potash content, followed by that obtained from apricots and, while that derived from the trunk contains the least. Since the quality of the was deep ash is available is relatively small, was deeps (from all varieties) removed during pruning provide the main potential source of potash.

The ash obtained from one was deep is roughly 2 per cent, and the average weight of prunings removed per vine is approximately 7 lbs. Assuming there are 480 vines per acre, it should be possible to burn in all about 67 lbs. of was deep per acre. If the canes are burned correctly this ash should contain approximately 33% per cent. extractable potash (as estimated by Baume). Assuming it contains 25% to 33% extractable potash it should be possible to obtain an extractive equivalent to 17-22 lbs. of potash per acre of sustanas. This is more than sufficient to temper dip the whole of the crop and should be sufficient to cold dip the major portion of the crop.

METHOD OF BURNING CANES

It has been found that the manner in which the canes are burned has a marked effect on the yield of extractable potash. It is essential to burn the canes at a low temperature as possible in order to reduce the formation of insoluble silicates and water and was deep ash. Otherwise an appreciable amount of potash will be lost.

The canes should be laid out and burned in the green or half green condition on a reasonably clean piece of headland, preferably in heaths which are not too large. A certain amount of unburned carbon is not harmful, but it is better to burn completely than to use more heat than is necessary. When cool, the ashes should be baled and stored. In some cases portable incinerators may be available for burning the canes. These should provide a satisfactory if provided with a suitable tray for retaining ash.

METHOD OF EXTRACTING THE ASH

It is necessary of was deep ash a matter of some time for this operation. One satisfactory method is as follows:

1. Fill a tank (such as an 8-gallon round) about one-third to a half full with was deep and add water until nearly full.
2. Stir thoroughly, allow to stand for an hour or more, stir again, and allow to stand over night.
3. Syphon off the clear liquid by means of a hose.
4. Fill again with water, stir thoroughly, allow to stand until clear, and syphon off again.
5. Repeat this operation until the Baumé of the liquid syphoned off is less than 1 deg. It is usually necessary to extract about three times altogether. Two extracts can usually be combined and adjusted to the desired Baume (say 3 deg. Baumé). The last extract if too weak to be included, should be used in extracting the remaining portion of ash. If cold dip 3 deg. Baumé, the ash can be extracted before the dipping season and the resulting extracts stored in tanks until needed.

With cold dip 3 deg. Baumé (or higher) is recommended.

The South Australian Board

Variations in Australian Crop Estimates

A point of immediate interest in the matters dealt with at recent meetings of the Board is in relation to the Board's figures. These figures, which were compiled to study the effects of the war on the crop, are now being used to study the effects of the war on the crop. A comparison of the estimates made in January and the later crop figures shows a considerable variation in the estimates.

In view of the very definite requirement of the observance of quotas there is an imperative need to have more reliable estimates and this is a matter in which the methods of estimating are likely to be of great importance. The report mainly deals with matters of routine, but several items of legislation have been developed.

The Secretary (Mr. W. N. Twist) submitted the Board's find for the year ended 30th September, 1940, to the Committee for the year ended 29th February, 1940, bearing the certificate of the Auditor-General, who had made no observations or queries on the accounts. The statement was adopted, and incorporated in the Board's annual report, which is now completed.

In connection with the Royal Agricultural Show's display of the Board's figures, in January and the later crop figures, the Board's ability to estimate the various categories of crops was demonstrated.

It was agreed to increase the allowance of draft washers to 20 lbs. to growers with the new arrangement. A further 40 lbs. was added to the present estimate of the pack figures to May 1940, and it was noted that there were some variations in the figures from the preliminary estimates taken in January and the later crop figures. The statement was adopted and incorporated in the Board's annual report, which is now completed.

The opinion of the Crown Law Officers on the obligations of growers in the matter of delivery of their fruit to packing houses was considered, and it was noted that in those instances where delivery of dried fruit was made on the premises of the grower, the packer or person taking the fruit was bound to comply with the regulations under the Dried Fruits Act.

It was agreed to make the usual donation of $50 to the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society for prizes in the competitive cookery section in connection with the Royal Show in September, 1940.

Canners who think first and then express opinions have long contended that frozen vegetables would necessarily compete with the fresh variety more than with canned. Results of a recent survey in Madison, U.S.A., indicate that their contention is sound.—The Chicago Canner.
Fertiliser Experiments on Vines

By D. V. WALTERS, M.A., B.Sc.

NITROGENOUS MANURES

The outcome of manurial experiments conducted by the Commonwealth Research Station is that only one fertiliser element (nitrogen) shows any direct result on vine yield. Furthermore, soluble nitrogenous fertilisers such as sulphate of ammonia provide the maximum increase in yield. Mixed fertilisers, including phosphates and potash, have shown a value only in regard to the quantity of nitrogen applied.

Since the time when modern methods of experimentation were adopted, trials have been conducted at most centres throughout the Murray Valley. Trials at Red Cliffs and Renmark included sulphur and ammonia in various quantities, and showed for the first time in this industry that phosphatic manures were of no direct value for vines. The next trials to be laid out are at Woorinen and Marbela, including all combinations of super, sulphate of ammonia, and green manure, as well as green manure alone.

After six years' unmanured and super plots look and yield similarly, and appear in bad shape. Plots treated with potash appear better, but are low in yield. Sulphate of ammonia and green manure alone show any substantial increase in yield, and the vines show a most healthy appearance, especially in the green manure plots.

RED CLIFFS TRIAL

A trial commenced at Red Cliffs two years ago to test the relative values of blood and bone as against sulphate of ammonia and super, also includes green manure. In this trial the green manure is applied to every row, instead of every third row in other trials, and there has been remarkably quick response, there being an 8 per cent. increase in yield in the second year. Sulphate of ammonia gave 18 per cent., and blood manure containing the same amount of nitrogen gave 15 per cent. more dried fruit this season than no nitrogen. Superphosphate alone, and ground bone gave no increase over plots receiving no phosphate. Other trials at Goodnight and Coomealla have confirmed these results.

INCREASE IN FRUIT

A series of 12 simple trials in the South Australian settlements from Renmark to Wairakei showed that plots treated with sulphate of ammonia gave in the third year 18 per cent. increase in dried fruit, in comparison with plots not fertilised with sulphate of ammonia.

Growers may wonder at the complicated layout of these trials, but until such layouts were adopted it was not possible to prove that the increases in yield were due to the manurial treatments applied or to differences in soil fertility. In fact, in most trials, blocks of plots to which all treatments are applied show variations in yield similar in value to the variations obtained by the most outstanding treatments. That is, soil fertility gives as much variation in yield as do the treatments. Growers who "give a try" to a particular fertiliser over part or all of their blocks, and claim an increased yield in the following year, simply do not conceive of the difficulties attending experimentation. In the first place, manures applied one year seldom have any effect in the following harvest, although they may have an effect on the next. Then again, at least five, and preferably eight, repetitions of the treatments are necessary to satisfactorily prove any effect of these treatments. Finally, it is particularly difficult to alter the yield of sultana vines by any cultural treatments, even after a number of years. Moreover, very high or very low yields, due to favorable seasons or damaging rains, may influence over several successive seasons.

EXHAUSTIVE INQUIRY

In the course of these trials, every conceivable factor having a bearing on the final dried yield has been recorded and analysed. Such measurements include the number of buds and the proportion of buds that burst, the fruit showing in the spring, the number of bunches at harvest, maturity of fruit, weight of fresh and dried fruit at harvest, quality and analyses of this fruit, the number of bearing canes available for wrapping down, and the weight of prunings. While the foregoing discussion has referred to dried yields, the later measurements have shown that nitrogenous fertilisers increase dried yield by an increase in the number of bunches and the size of the bunches, without any substantial reduction in the level of maturity. While quality is reduced wherever quantity is increased, this amounts to an increase in dried fruit. There is no evidence that super in the autumn, giving 4-crown, and no difference in a 3-crown season, by the application of 4-crown, per acre of sulphate of ammonia. Analyses of fruit show that while super and potash do not affect yield, they do affect the composition, proving that they are absorbed by the vine.

It cannot be conceived that any system of vine-growing is permanently successful without due regard to the fullest maintenance of soil fertility, and it must be stressed that the manure that best maintains fertility — green manure — also provides a profitable increase in dried fruit. There is no evidence that super, or indeed any phosphates, are necessary to the vines, although it is recognised that super must be used to grow the thick bunches. Thus there does not appear to be any argument in favor of spring applications of mixed manures such as super and ammonia or blood and bone; the phosphate profits the vine nothing. Potash has had no effect on yield as yet, although it is quite possible that in the course of time there may arise a potash deficiency in our soils.

The Research Station manurial programme, now followed by many growers, is based on the results of fertiliser trials and consists of tick beans sown with super in the autumn, followed by a dressing of a purely nitrogenous fertiliser in the spring. The nitrogen fertiliser should be at least 2-cwt. of sulphate of ammonia or its equivalent, and it is obviously unprofitable to purchase this nitrogen in a mixed fertiliser.

Growing Sultanas at $10 a Ton

The following extract from the "California Fruit News" is set out, simply to indicate the result of two features of a real problem. The first is one that could be overcome — lack of growers' organisation; the second is involved in over-production, and the Americans are trying to mend this position.

When it is considered that the, what might be called basic, wage in that country, is approximately $4 a week, it will be realised what the prices mentioned in the extract mean to growers. The statement reads:

Accounting for 1938 crop Thompsons received by Sun-Maid, bringing average payments to growers on their entire deliveries of this variety to 41.71 dollars per ton. This payment represents an earning on the free percentage of 1938 crop Thompsons of 12.13 dollars per ton, it is stated.

The settlement is termed "conditional" because of the fact that due to war conditions a reserve has been established in connection with profits reported by the London company for the period commencing September 1, 1939, and further due to the fact that Sun-Maid's entire equity in the prorated portion of the 1938 crop is carried at the nominal amount of one dollar. Officials state that if money is subsequently received from either of these sources additional payments will be due to members.

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16 THE AUSTRALIAN DRIED FRUITS NEWS, JUNE 14, 1940.