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Miaration Plan

FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR DAIRYING

From Our Staff Representative
CANBERRA, April 2.

Federal Government proposals for a new five-year price stabilisation plan for the dairying industry were announced today.

The Minister for Primary Industry (Mr. McMahon) said these were —

- The plan to cover a five-year period from July 1.
- The guarantee to cover all butter and cheese consumed in Australia, plus 20 p.c. of that amount.
- The method used in the previous agreement to determine the level of returns to dairy farmers would be continued.

Subsidy
Mr. McMahon said in the present dairying year 1956-57, the subsidy was £13m., which would not be reduced next year. At the suggestion of the industry, any subsidy would be a fixed amount in any dairying year, determined by the Government at the beginning of each year.

There would be no hardship as the rate of the subsidy must be reduced each year. The new proposals would note that productivity would determine the costing formula, so that producers could share in the benefits of increased efficiency.

The cost of efficient production in butter fat would be estimated annually by the Dairy Industry Investigation Committee of three independent members.

The Government reserved the right to determine the owner-operator allowance, the interest rates on an owner's equity and the land values. Any increase in the Federal basic wage would be automatically added.

The cost of butter manufacture would be assessed by the Commonwealth Dairy Produce Equalisation Committee, in consultation with the Department of Primary Industry.

Subject to the concurrence of State Governments the Minister would determine the ex-factory prices for butter and cheese in Australia to operate from July 1 in each year for the plan.

These prices would provide an estimated return to dairy farmers at the recognised level, after taking into account factory manufacturing costs and the subsidy.

Price Effect
Mr. McMahon said he would discuss with dairy representatives the influence of price on local consumption and competition from substitutes before determining the ex-factory price.

The dairying industry employed about 106,000 people, including owner-operators. The 1956-57 estimates for the industry placed milk production at 1,400m. gallons, with about 600,000 tons of butter and 45,000 tons of cheese. Value of butter was estimated at £83m.

Third Plant For Uranium In 1959

Australia's third big uranium treatment plant would be completed early in 1959 at the Mary Kathleen mine, north-western Queensland, Mr. J. Webb, principal field engineer of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission, said in Adelaide yesterday.

Output from this plant would be road-transported 40 miles to Glenoreddy railhead for freighting to the coast and export.

Mr. Webb reached Adelaide yesterday after a three-week tour of Australian uranium fields with Mr. J. B. Richardson, Australian representative of the UK and US atomic energy authorities.

The tour included visits to the Radium Hill, Rum Jungle and Mary Kathleen mines and the Port Pirie and Rum Jungle treatment plants.

Memorial Hangar



Airport Hangar

A scale model of the Vickers Vimy plane in which Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith made the first England-Australia flight attracted keen interest at a conference yesterday on the construction of the memorial hangar, at Adelaide Airport to house the famous plane. The group comprises (from left), the chairman of the special committee (Mr. R. M. Rechner), Mr. Henry Wilkens, representing the contractors Wilkens and Burnside Ltd., and Mr. Douglas Michelmors, the architect. The committee is appealing for a further £7,000 to complete the memorial.

Radio "Will Share Field With TV"

From Our Staff Representative
CANBERRA, April 2.

Continued development of the Australian sound broadcasting system is advocated by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, despite the advent of television.

The commission, in its annual report to Parliament today, says that in the foreseeable future sound broadcasting will remain the major means of electronic communication for a great part of the Australian community.

The ABC was determined that whatever organisational changes were required to introduce the national TV service, they should not prejudice the sound system, which had been built up with such care over the years.

Conjecture
The final place in our community life of TV and sound radio is still a matter of conjecture only.

The commission says it is grateful for the continuation by Parliament of its discretionary powers on political and controversial issues.

"TV will prove even more powerful in influencing community attitudes and beliefs than the sound medium," the report adds.

It is of first importance that a service which is operated for and financed by the whole community should represent both majority and minority opinions, and not be subject to sectional pressures.

"We feel that the carrying forward of these principles in the new TV field is both practicable and wise."

Integration
The commission says there were a number of good reasons why the national TV service should be integrated as closely as possible with the national sound system. They include:

- Use for economic reasons of as much as possible of the existing broadcast-

ing administration to serve both media.

• Experience gained in the handling of news and political, religious and economic issues is directly pertinent to the use of TV.

Costs of operating the national services totalled £3,249,913—an increase of £548,418 on the previous year, the commission says.

The report says the ABC news service in 1956-56 cost £409,000 compared with £340,000 the previous year, an increase of 20 p.c.

Costs of producing the "ABC Weekly" rose by 5 p.c. from £58,819 to £60,632. Sales declined from £58,322 to £51,218, leaving a deficit of £9,422.

French Quartet Delights

By JOHN HORNER
The ebullient young Parrenin String Quartet from France—Jacques Parrenin, Marcel Charpentier, Serge Coliot and Pierre Penasson—delighted a large audience in the Town Hall last night at the Musica Viva's first subscription concert.

They played three quartets—Haydn's B flat, Op. 76, No. 4, Beethoven's F major, Op. 135, and Bartok's No. 5.

The most spectacular was the Bartok which displayed the quartet's virtuosity in fitting many string tricks of modern string technique into a genuinely musical design.

In the Bartok slow movements, the Parrenins successfully tossed wicker little

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