

The regulations governing the exportation of Australian-made films are similar, with the addition that no film may be exported which in the opinion of the Censorship is likely to prove detrimental or prejudicial to the Commonwealth of Australia.

The Censorship consists of a Censorship Board of three persons and an Appeal Censor, the head-quarters being in Sydney. There is also a right of appeal to the Minister.

In addition to the censorship of moving pictures, the Censorship may refuse to admit into Australia any advertising matter proposed to be used in connexion with the exhibition of any film. Such control does not, however, extend to locally-produced publicity.

2. **Imports of Films.**—Imported films dealt with by the Censorship for the year 1944 were as follows:—1,553 films of 4,106,560 feet passed without eliminations, 34 films of 173,142 feet passed after eliminations, and 1 film of 8,178 feet rejected in first instance, making a total of 1,588 films of 4,287,880 feet (one copy). The countries of origin were as follows:—United States of America, 879 films of 2,999,039 feet; United Kingdom, 515 films of 1,039,078 feet; and 194 films of 249,763 feet from other countries.

The foregoing figures relate to standard size films (35 millimetres). There were also imported during 1944 891 miniature films (16, 9.5 and 8 millimetres) of 555,052 feet.

3. **Exports of Films.**—The number of films exported for the year 1944 was 613 of 716,154 feet, of which 431 films of 591,353 feet were sent to places in the British Empire including Mandated Territories.

## § 14. Marketing of Australian Commodities.

1. **Introduction.**—Particulars in respect of the various Commonwealth Acts and Regulations together with the operations of the Boards or Councils appointed to assist or control the marketing of Australian commodities are set out below. It should be noted that the particulars refer to the marketing of Australian commodities in the normal times of peace, and that no reference has been made to changes induced since the outbreak of the 1939-45 War. A brief summary of the war-time arrangements for the marketing and sale of Australian commodities is included in § 15 which follows.

2. **Dairy Produce.**—(i) *The Dairy Produce Export Control Act 1924-1938.* Introduced at the request of the dairying industry this Act was passed by the Commonwealth Parliament with the object of organizing the oversea marketing of Australian dairy produce. A Dairy Produce Control Board was appointed and was in existence from 1924 to 1935. It dealt with matters relating to the organization and supervision of oversea marketing of dairy produce. In the course of its functions the Board regulated shipments to ensure regularity of supply in the London market, controlled forward selling, obtained reductions in oversea freights and insurance rates, and participated in an advertising campaign in the United Kingdom.

Prior to the appointment of the Dairy Produce Control Board a voluntary body—the Australian Dairy Council—was established to advise and make recommendations to the Governments on problems connected with the production, manufacture and quality of dairy produce, pasture improvement and diseases of dairy cattle.

Following a recommendation by the Australian Agricultural Council the functions of these bodies were combined by an amending Act of 1935 under the Australian Dairy Produce Board and provision was made for the allocation of money from the Board's funds for research and investigation into pastures, diseases of dairy cattle and the quality of butter.

(ii) *The Dairy Produce Export Charges Act 1924-1937.* This Act provides for the imposition of a levy on all butter and cheese exported from Australia to cover the administrative expenses of the Board and for advertising and other purposes. The rate of the levy is fixed by regulation.

(iii) *The Dairy Produce Act 1933-1935.* In § 1 par. 3 of Chapter XXI. "Farmyard, Dairy and Bee Products" reference is made to the voluntary and compulsory plans introduced for the purpose of stabilizing the prices of dairy produce in Australia.

Under State legislation regulating authorities fixed the proportion of the States' output to be sold within the respective States, and the Dairy Produce Act was passed by the Commonwealth Parliament to protect these "quotas" from the effects of interstate competition. A decision of the Privy Council in 1936, however, held that the Commonwealth had no power under its Constitution to control interstate trade and the Commonwealth legislation is therefore inoperative. The industry is now carrying on its stabilization plan on a purely voluntary basis.

3. *Dried Fruits.*—(i) *The Dried Fruits Export Control Act 1924-1938.* This Act was passed by the Commonwealth Parliament at the request of the dried fruits industry to organize the oversea marketing of Australian dried vine fruits. The Dried Fruits Control Board, consisting of eight members—including five growers' representatives, two members with commercial experience and one Government nominee—was appointed to control the export, and the sale and distribution after export, of Australian sultanas, currants and lexias. In conjunction with its London agency, the Board has improved the marketing of Australian dried fruits overseas, and has increased the demand for the product. Its system of appraisement has resulted in more satisfactory realizations. Its methods of ensuring continuity of supply and regulating shipments and its participation in the advertising campaign of the Australian Overseas Trade Publicity Committee have benefited the industry considerably. No dried fruits may be exported except by means of a licence, which is issued subject to conditions recommended by the Board.

(ii) *Dried Fruits Export Charges Act 1924-1929.* This Act provides for the imposition of a levy on all sultanas, currants and lexias exported from Australia for the purpose of defraying the administrative expenses of the Board and the cost of advertising, etc. The rate of the levy is fixed by regulation. Under an amendment made in 1927 provision was made for the exemption of sultanas, currants and lexias from the levy upon recommendation by the Board.

(iii) *The Dried Fruits Act 1928-1935.* In previous issues of the Official Year Book reference has been made to the Dried Fruits Act and its provisions outlined (see p. 894 of Official Year Book, No. 28). This legislation is in a similar position to that for dairy produce referred to in par. 2 (iii) above.

4. *Canned Fruits.*—(i) *The Canned Fruits Export Control Act 1926-1938.* This legislation was introduced at the request of canners and representative organizations of fruit-growers with the object of organizing the oversea marketing of canned fruit. The original Act referred to canned apricots, peaches and pears only, but canned pineapples and canned fruit salads consisting of not less than 75 per cent. of specified fruits were subsequently brought within the scope of the Board's operations. The personnel of the Australian Canned Fruits Board consists of one representative each from proprietary and privately owned canneries, co-operative canneries, State-controlled canneries, pineapple interests and the Commonwealth Government. No canned fruits to which the Act applies are permitted to be exported except under a licence issued in accordance with conditions recommended by the Board. The system of marketing adopted by the Board, including the fixation of minimum selling prices overseas, the appointment of a London agency and the engaging in oversea trade publicity, has resulted in the satisfactory disposal of the annual exportable surplus of canned fruits. The distribution of canned fruits has been widened and the exporting side of the industry placed on a sounder basis through the Board's operations.

(ii) *The Canned Fruits Export Charges Act 1926-1938.* This Act provides for the imposition of a levy on the export of canned fruits to meet the administrative and other commitments of the Board. The rate of the levy is fixed by regulation from time to time. An amendment in 1929 provided for certain exemptions from payment of the levy when recommended accordingly by the Board.

5. *Wine.*—(i) *The Wine Overseas Marketing Act 1929-1936.* This Act was introduced at the request of the viticultural interests in Australia with the object of placing the overseas marketing of Australia's surplus wine on an orderly basis. The Wine Overseas Marketing Board was appointed to supervise the exports, and the sale and distribution after export, of Australian wine.

The name of the Board was changed to the Australian Wine Board in 1936. No wine may be exported except by means of a licence, which is issued under conditions recommended to the Minister by the Board; these include the withholding of shipments as directed by the Board. The Board has a London agency which advises on marketing conditions. The methods of marketing adopted by the Board have resulted in the widening of the distribution of Australian wines overseas.

(ii) *The Wine Grapes Charges Act 1929-1937*. This Act provides for the imposition of a levy on all grapes used in Australia for the manufacture of wines or spirit used for fortifying wine. The proceeds of the levy are used to defray the administrative and other expenses of the Board, and provision is made for such exemptions from the levy as the Board may recommend.

6. *Meat*.—(i) *The Meat Export Control Act 1935-1946*. This Act was introduced following a decision of a conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers with members of the Commonwealth Meat Advisory Committee, held in October, 1935, to set up a Meat Board with defined statutory powers. The Australian Meat Board, which was appointed under the Act in January, 1936, consists of eighteen members, representative of producers, processors, exporters and the Commonwealth Government. Provision is made for the appointment from within the Board of an Executive Committee and a Beef Committee. Export of meat is controlled by licence. The Board has power to regulate shipments of meat and to arrange contracts in respect of freights and insurances; to promote oversea sales by advertising and to foster research into meat problems; and to supervise the issue of export licences. The Board also has power to appoint a London representative. During the 1939-45 War the control of meat exports was under National Security Regulations which ceased to operate with the expiry of the National Security Act on 31st December, 1946. Control then reverted to the Board.

(ii) *The Meat Export Charges Act 1935*. By means of a levy collected on all meats exported from Australia, funds are provided for the purpose of defraying the expenses and charges incurred by the Australian Meat Board in the course of its business. The customary provision is made for exemption from the levy when recommended by the Board.

7. *Apples and Pears*.—(i) *The Apple and Pear Organization Act 1938*. This Act, which was passed by the Commonwealth Parliament at the request of the Apple and Pear industry, provides for the establishment of an Australian Apple and Pear Board for the purpose of organizing and controlling the export trade in fresh apples and pears.

The Board consists of one member to represent the Commonwealth Government; eleven members to represent the growers of apples and pears on the basis of four from Tasmania, two each from Victoria and Western Australia, and one each from New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia; and four members to represent exporters of apples and pears on the basis of one from each of the States of Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

The Board has power to regulate the shipment of apples and pears from Australia by licensing exporters and issuing permits to export. Power is also given to determine export quotas, and to allocate the consignments from each State. The Board may appoint persons to represent it overseas.

(ii) *The Apple and Pear Export Charges Act 1938*. This Act provides for the imposition of a levy on all apples and pears exported from Australia for the purpose of providing the funds necessary to meet the administrative and other expenses of the Board.

(iii) *The Apple and Pear Publicity and Research Act 1938*. Under this Act, the Australian Apple and Pear Board is empowered to expend moneys, specifically collected and appropriated, for the purpose of increasing and extending the consumption of apples and pears throughout Australia by publicity, research or any other means.

The fund for this purpose is to be created from the proceeds of a tax levied on all apples and pears sold for consumption in Australia as fresh fruit. Apples and pears exported or to be exported, or processed or to be processed, are exempt from the tax.

The related taxing measures are :—The Apple and Pear Tax Act 1938 and the Apple and Pear Tax Assessment Act 1938.

8. **Wheat Industry Assistance Act 1938.**—This legislation, which came into operation in December, 1938, supplements legislation of a uniform type passed by all the State Parliaments, and is designed to enable the operation of a home consumption price scheme for the wheat industry on an Australian basis.

The legislation is based on a home consumption price of 5s. 2d. a bushel, free on rail, Williamstown, equivalent to 4s. 8d. at country sidings. When the price of wheat falls below that level the returns of growers will be supplemented by payments from a fund established from the proceeds of a flour tax which varies inversely with the price of wheat. When the export price rises above that level provision is made for a tax on wheat sold, the proceeds of which are to be applied to ensure that the cost of wheat grieved for home consumption shall not exceed 5s. 2d. per bushel.

Out of the general fund a sum not exceeding £500,000 per year will be reserved during the first five years for special purposes including the transfer of producers growing wheat on marginal lands to other areas where they will be able to engage in mixed farming or to enable them to increase the size of their holdings to make wheat-growing worth while.

A Wheat Stabilization Advisory Committee has been established to determine the appropriate times for a variation in the rate of tax which will be fixed on the basis of a rigid formula.

The State legislation undertakes to ensure that prices charged to consumers are reasonable and the Commonwealth legislation contains provision that no State shall be entitled to receive payments where that undertaking is not carried out.

With the acquisition of wheat by the Commonwealth Government after the outbreak of war and the payment direct to them by the Wheat Board, the provision for payment of flour tax to growers was varied by the Wheat Industry (War-time Control) Act, 1939. Flour tax proceeds under this Act are paid into the Commonwealth Bank for repayment of advances made and in this way are incorporated with the receipts of the wheat pools.

9. **Export Guarantee Act.**—For a considerable time this Act has not been invoked directly to provide for assistance in the marketing of primary products. The Dried Fruits Advances Act, disbursements under which were made for the appropriation pursuant to the Export Guarantee Act, has ceased to operate. The Board of Trade, which was formed to advise and recommend on expenditure proposed under the Act, has not functioned for some years. The only recent expenditure under the Act has been in respect of special oversea trade publicity, but since 1st July, 1934, expenditure under that heading has been made the subject of a separate appropriation. The total assistance granted under the Act during its period of operation amounted to £670,574 which included substantial payments on account of both the Dried Fruits Advances Act and oversea trade publicity. Although the Export Guarantee Act has not been repealed, it is not proposed that any further payments shall be made under it.

## § 15. War-time Marketing of Primary Products.

1. **General.**—Prior to the outbreak of the 1939–45 War an understanding had been reached by the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth which enabled exports from Australia to proceed normally even before any contracts for the sale of commodities had been concluded.

On the outbreak of hostilities, the existence of Statutory Boards for the meat, dairy produce and fruit industries facilitated war-time organization. The experience already gained in marketing control enabled the Commonwealth Government to proceed quickly with the formation of committees and/or boards in those industries where Statutory Boards or organizations had not been established previously, namely, the Central Wool