

COMMUNITY'S PROSPERITY.

CONTINGENT UPON FARMING INDUSTRY.

That our primary producers really form the great market for the Australian manufacturer is evidence being only 4 per cent. of our total exports. A solution of the agricultural and country problem is thus a matter of national importance.

The foregoing formed the part of an address delivered by the Hon. Dr. Earle Page, M.P., at the Australian Country Party Association meeting held in Sydney on Wednesday evening.

Continuing, Dr. Page asked: How can we ensure the prosperity of the countryside? How can we stimulate the development of the country towns and maintain agriculture in its proper place in the community? The first step is by the initiation of a national plan of efficiency in production and marketing. This will ensure balanced development. The tariff is used to afford protection to industry generally.

Our failure to do so gives the rest of the world a chance for not fully assisting us in dealing with our surplus. We must organize our marketing system, and distribution, so as to ensure the maximum return from outside sales, and the smallest margin of cost between the producer and the consumer. The more direct we can make the road to market, the better will be the farmer's position.

BURDEN OF TAXATION.

Greater consideration must be given to the earning power of the land. The present tax system is still to impose land taxes. Redistribution of taxation burdens in this respect between local governing bodies, State Government, and Federal Government is overdue. An illustration of how this can be done is seen in the development of the Australian road policy. In the old days the matter of roads was more or less a local matter, and roads were constructed by means of local rates.

COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT.

These power systems whose capital is founded on the public credit must be prepared to sell electrical power at the same rate in the country centres as in the big cities. In Canada at the present time the rural power transmission lines are being built on a cost basis by the State Government.

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Association Courts Opened.

WORK COSTING £300.

E. F. MOON AND L. THURLOW AT NAMBOUR.

An event which will go down in the annals of history of the North Coast Lawn Tennis Association took place on Saturday afternoon when 300 tennis enthusiasts at the Association Courts, Nambour, situated on Currie Estate, last Saturday. Two courts, which have been thoroughly equipped and opened for play, were officially declared open by Mr. T. Currie, patron of the association, assisted by G. J. T. Lowe, chairman of the Maroochy Shire Council, Messrs. E. F. Moon and L. Thurlow, State champions, were also present.

THE OFFICIAL OPENING.

Mr. S. Baildon, N.S.W. S.L.T. Association, in introducing Messrs. Moon, Thurlow, Currie, and Lowe, outlined the undertaking by the association. He thanked Mr. T. Currie for the liberal terms extended to the association in purchasing the ground, and dealt with the work of the association from its infancy. Mr. Baildon said the cost of the work had been approximately £300, and stressed the need for financial assistance. A subscription list would be handed round later in the afternoon, and the speaker, in a joking manner, remarked that for several years past he had been a life member of the association, and for £1/11 an ordinary member. The president, in concluding, said he was exceedingly pleased to see Mr. Moon and Thurlow with them, and would demonstrate how tennis should be played.

Mr. Lowe, who, with Mr. Currie, had been handed a racket prior to the opening ceremony, said he did not know why the racket had been handed to him, when it belonged to such a distinguished player as Mr. E. F. Moon. Mr. Lowe said that the association president had put the case of the association very plainly to them. He hoped to see young tennis enthusiasts rally round them during the evening work, and now the "struggle" still, the officials had stuck at their task, and had succeeded.

Continuing, Mr. Currie said the association was formed in April, 1924, and had the affiliation of four clubs, with a membership of 40. To-day 17 clubs were affiliated, comprising 300 members. The objects of the association were to relieve as much as possible the congestion on private courts, and have suitable courts for members to practice. Mr. S. D. E. Bailly was the president, Mr. T. Currie was the secretary, and with the assistance of Dr. Short were mainly responsible for the formation of the association. Regarding the tennis courts, Mr. Currie had informed him that they played magnificently.

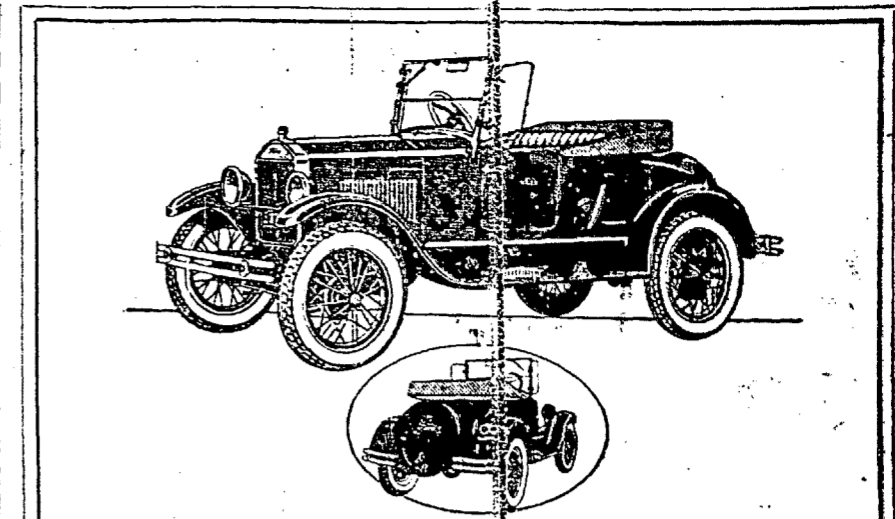
A "RISING MOON."

E. F. Moon and L. Thurlow gave an exhibition of singles. Thurlow was given the service. Moon served the first and second ball with little respect, driving with terrific pace. He won the first game. Moon's serve varied to some extent, one ball would be high, the next delivered to the top spin, though of only half pace, would "kick" when it lobbed. Another delivery would break away at right angles. Probably Thurlow was arrested by Moon's service action, and returned either forward or backward shots with splendid accuracy. Moon, however, seemed unimpressed. He stood in the middle of the court and gradually worked Thurlow out of position—a big asset in the tennis game—to win the game. The next two games went to Thurlow. Moon's game was going either into the net or out of play. Moon, however, seemed unimpressed. He stood in the middle of the court and gradually worked Thurlow out of position—a big asset in the tennis game—to win the game.

MARKETING RESTRICTIONS.

There is some talk of a scheme to be overcome in lessening the losses from surplus by marketing and distribution. The present marketing system is based on the crop pending its consumption during the year, along with the problem of the storage of the carry-over to meet the next season's requirements. It remains to be done; secondly, the problem of credit to enable this to be effected, and the marketing of the surplus of the stream of supplies to the consumers. The provision of credit has been made by the Rural Credit Department of the Commonwealth Bank. Collective action by the producers is necessary to deal with order. What is necessary is collective action on the part of the producers that will enable the whole product to be dealt with either by the co-operative societies with the State and Commonwealth Governments, or by the producers to do it themselves by collective action. The collective action by the producers in this direction can prevent wide variations in wholesale prices. These variations are very serious reflected in prices to the consumers, though they often spend the difference between bankruptcy and solvency to the producer. This provision of credit is a necessary indication of the necessity of a joint Commonwealth and State policy.

In conclusion, Dr. Page said industry and commerce were largely attributed to depression. "Prosperity—when everyone is satisfied, when there are more jobs than there are men, and instead of there being more men than jobs, is the greatest factor in producing increased harmony and goodwill. Real wages increase under these conditions, with increased production and improved standards. The policy of balanced development, and the country, country manufacture, and country restoration, differs in no respects from the present assistance given by tariffs and



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