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News in Brief

It is estimated that rejurns from tobacco grown in the Upper Hunter this season should be about £14,000

Victorian wheatgrowers have adopted the rules of the Victorian Wheatgrowers' Corporation, which has as its object the marketing of wheat in such a manner as to secure to the vendors the full benefit of co-operative marketing.

Colo Shire Council has decided to circularise all shire and municipal councils with a view to having the Gun Licensing Act amended as to concealed arms. It is urged that the Act was never intended to harass the man on the land as it is doing.

The Federal Cabinet has decided that it was a Commonwealth obligation to care for the maintenance of the graves of soldiers who died in Australia from causes either directly or indirectly connected with the war. Mr. Bruce stated that steps would be taken to see that these graves were properly looked after

At a stock sale at Bellinger Shire yards last last week cattle in prime condition were almost given away. One buyer secured seven head of of fairly good cows for 35/ the lot—5/ per head. Among them was an exceptionally fat beast. Cattle and horses are so cheap that owners will not trouble to pay a few shillings to release their animals from the pound.

In the past thirty years the reductions in the number of sheep in New South. Walas has been remember, Despite all the improvements that have been made—such as entting out timeer, conservation of water, bore-sinking, etc.—the number of sheep has declined from 61,000,000 in 1891 to 37,000,000 at the present day. At the end of the 1920 drought the flocks were down to 29,900,000. The impending drought might throw the State back to that position again.

The Government intends next session to revise the whole system of financing hospitals. The concentration of all the principal institutions of the State in Sydney also will be combated, and an effort made to establish a zone system, milar in a way to the organisation medical services on active service. The C.C.S. will have its counterpart in small district, hospitals where all classes of cases can receive first treatment. From there serious cases will be transferred at the first opportunity to a base institution, which will not necessarily be in the metropolis.

The Chief Inspector of Stock states that a grass, which if permitted to spread may prove to be one of the worst of pests, has obtained a footing in part of the Namoi Shire and in Manildra and Bathurst districts. Its scientific name is Cenchrus tribuloides or panciflorus, but it is commonly known as Burr Grass, and it may be said that it thoroughly deserves its name. It grows as bad a burr as can be seen anywhere.

The Commissions of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales and Baral Bank have forwarded a copy of prospectus of the first Bural Bank loan of £1,000,000, applications for which will be received from March 27 until April 24. The loan will bear interest at 5½ per cent. per annum, free of both Federal and State income taxes, and have a currency of 10½ years. All money raised from the loan will be applied towards the subdivisions of private estates for closer settlements and financing farmers and settless under the conditions of the Rural Bank Act.

A proposal of far reaching importance has been made by Mr. Wearne, Minister for Lands, in regard to the sale of Crown Land. He proposes the careful selection of applicants for land, and the elimination from ballots of the unsuitable. In a report to Cabinet on the matter. Mr. Wearne states that there is little check on the number who may ap ply for Crown lands. "A block of land is made available," he says, "nossibly close to a township. It "possibly close to a township. It would be worth probably £1,000 the day it was drawn to the man who was successful at the ballot. Consequently, hundreds of men and women apply who have not the slightest intention of settling, or in any way using the land, except for the purpose of disposing of it at a profit to some bona fide settler who was possibly de-feated at the ballot."

Addressing the Wellington Farmers and Settlers' Association district conference, Mr. Thorby, M.L.A. said that when Parliament met the Nationalist and Labour Parties would be divided among themselves The Progressives intend to take advantage of this fact, and not sit back any longer. If bills they wanted put through were not dealt with, the Government would feel the presence of the Progressives, for the party meant to see that such bills were passes. The time was not opportune for a new Government, but the Progressives were prepared to vote against the Government if it did not great their wishes in regard to certain measures to be brought forward. Progressives beld the balance of power, and they intend to let the Government know it.

Mr. Idsh, acting chairman of the Orange Land Board, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Day, chairman of the Wagga district. For Best Value and Cheapest Rate

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ARIAH PARK STATION

Through the courtesy of our much esteemed Stationmaster, Mr. McGrath, we are enabled to supply readers with figures that "speak for themselves." The increase of The increase of business has been enormous, thus giving further evidence of the progressiveness and stability of our town and district. The fact that an extra hand has been attached to the staff shows that the powers, that be realise we are a busy centre. Those who have dealings with the station appreciate the action of the Commissioners in appointing a man to deal with the wheat and chaff traffic. It is to be hoped that the appointment will be permanent, and that a "big noise" will be made if reduction in staff is attempted. In the present staff we have excellent officials, and it is up to our public men to see they are not overburdened with work and responsibility. Mr. McGrath is naturally very proud of the increase in traffic and goods, and despite his busy time, is always willing to give information and assist business people, farmers and the travelling public. Appended is a comparative statement, showing the monthly business for the last three

40.000			W. AMARIA	artra.
August	118	190		217
Sept.	119	203		251
Octobe	128	9	215	
Novem	. 131		301 -	193
Decem.	212		277	347
Januar	y 202		189	
February 154		301		402
March	155		257	173
April	154		187	
May	119	181		261 168
June	126		159	
Totals	1751	2	2623	
	Ge	ods Tra	FFIC	
	1919	1920	1921	1922
July	365	432	429	458
Aug	253	497	497	652
Sept	324	463	558	612
Oct	434	568	858	918
Novem	356	677	770	1036
Degem	337	816	502	543
Jan	624	629	614	558
Feb	658	588	591	696
March	564	810	713	1027
April	377	596	851	641
May	323	323	720	685
June	257	287	425	614

PASSENGER TRAFFIC

July

1922

8440

The chaff figure- from July, 1922, to February, 1923, are:—

July, 20 truc's : August

Totals, 4872