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Unique poultry field day

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UNIQUE POULTRY FIELD DAY

PILOT FARMS DEMONSTRATE THEIR VALUE

OVER 1,000 people were present at Gosnells on April 29 to attend the first poultry pilot farm field day ever held in Australia. Weather conditions were ideal and, thanks to some excellent preliminary organisation, the visitors gained an enjoyable and highly instructive insight into modern poultry husbandry.

The pilot farm scheme is believed to be unique in Australia. It is a complete and courageous answer to those critics who suggest that many farming practices recommended by Departmental officers—though theoretically sound—would not stand the acid test of commercial application.

The scheme originated in 1949 when a young War Service Land Settlement poultry farmer encountered serious trouble when his flock developed laryngo-tracheitis. He agreed to act upon the somewhat drastic eradication measures suggested by Mr. R. H. Morris, Officer-in-Charge of the Poultry Branch of the Department of Agriculture, and later undertook to manage his flock entirely according to Departmental recommendations.

His whole-hearted co-operation paid handsome dividends and soon there were five other pilot farms whose owners undertook to operate them according to schedules drafted and supervised by the Poultry Branch. The Poultry Branch had faith in its own recommendations and guaranteed success if they were followed.

That their guarantee was no empty boast was effectively demonstrated at the field day which

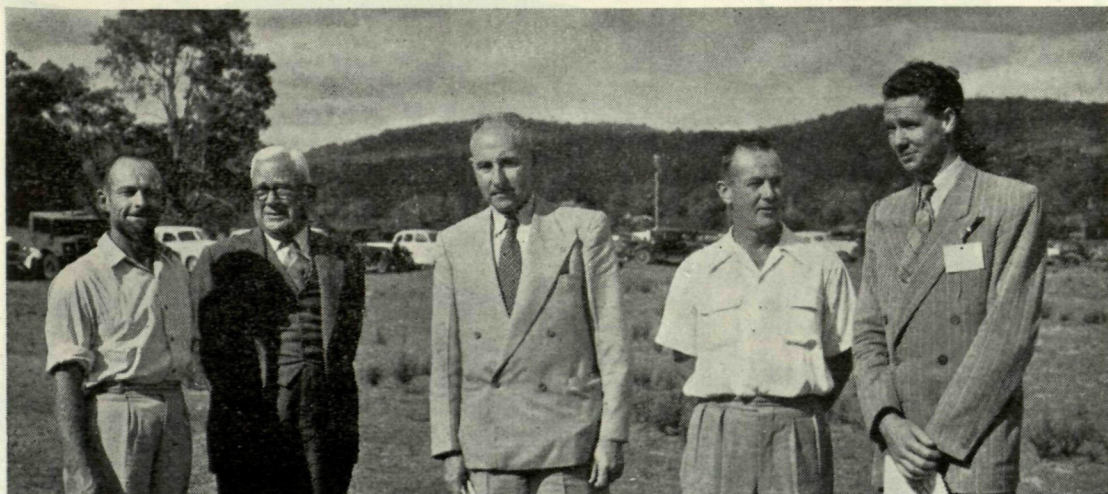
took place on two of the properties at Gosnells—those of Messrs. A. C. N. Butcher and G. Dolman.

Visitors were given ocular proof of the soundness of the various recommendations. They saw flocks which had originated as chicks hatched at the right time, brooded, de-wormed, vaccinated and fed in accordance with Departmental advice.

In the laying sheds, constructed under Departmental planning and supervision, these birds which were housed on deep litter and fed and watered on modern lines as recommended by the Poultry Branch, provided convincing proof of the benefits accruing from such practices as artificial lighting of birds and community nesting.

Carefully-kept records of egg production, food consumption and other important details were readily available and personal conversations with the owners of the pilot farms provided visitors with further evidence as to the success of the venture.

Great interest was shown in the large intensive laying shed on Mr. Butcher's property, the most modern building of its kind in the State.



Left to right—Mr. A. C. N. Butcher; the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Mr. A. L. McKenzie Clark); the Minister for Lands and Agriculture (Mr. E. K. Hoar, M.L.A.), who officially opened the field day; Mr. G. Dolman; the Officer-in-Charge, Poultry Branch (Mr. R. H. Morris).



Portion of the large crowd of visitors who attended the field day.

"Linley House", as the shed is called, measures 60 ft. by 40 ft. and is 16 ft. to the ridge. It houses up to 1,000 birds and is fitted with a sprinkler system, automatic waterers, self-feeders, community nests, broody coops and specially-designed perches. It was constructed from a design recommended by the Department.

During the day, demonstrations of pullorum testing, de-worming, fowl pox vaccination, chicken rearing and post-mortem examinations of poultry were given by officers of the Department of Agriculture and the day concluded with a "Brains Trust" session in which questions on poultry husbandry were asked and answered.



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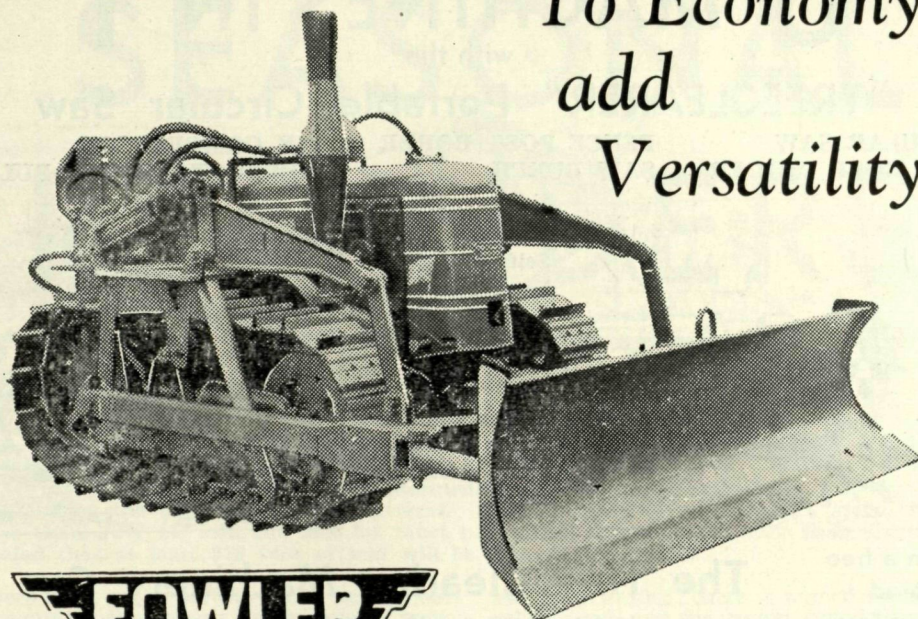
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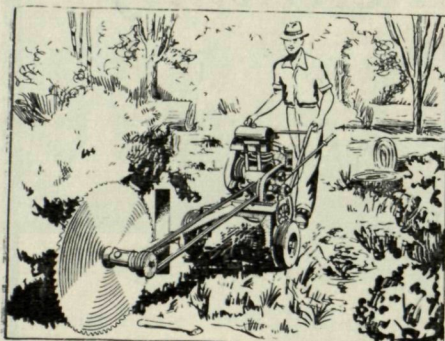
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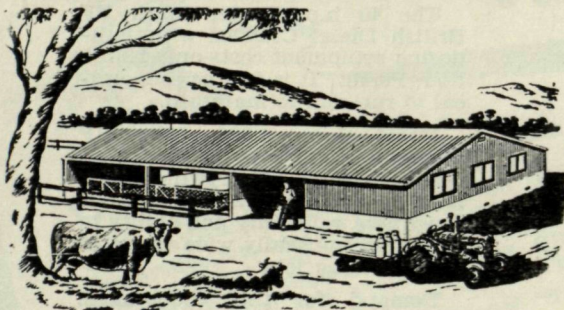


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