

IRRIGATION RECORD



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Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas

The Chance for Thousands of Land-Seekers.

The Orchardist, Dairyman, Pig Farmer, Lamb-Raiser, Viticulturist, Vegetable Grower, Tobacco Grower, Ostrich Farmer, Poultryman, Bee Farmer, and general agriculturist has the opportunity of his life to secure an irrigation farm adapted for the purpose he has in view.

- No anxiety as regards drought.
- Freedom from many of the hardships which usually beset the pioneer.
- Liberal State assistance.
- Farms reserved for returned soldiers.
- Practical results, as shown by Exhibits, now to be seen at the Agricultural Pavilion, Show Ground.

This paper is published fortnightly by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission as an instructive medium for settlers to whom it is supplied free of cost.

Irrigation in New South Wales.

A REVIEW OF THE YEAR'S WORK.

The issue of the "Irrigation Record" published each year about the date of the holding of the Royal Agricultural Show, partakes largely of the nature of those special numbers issued by many journals at the Christmas and New Year season. It is fitting, therefore, to review in this issue the work done during the past year at Yanco, Mirrool, Wentworth, and Hay—the four irrigation settlements controlled by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission in this State.

As years go on the review will become more and more comprehensive as schemes at present "in the air" materialise, and further areas are irrigated or placed "under the ditch," as an American would have it. Solid preliminary work on a number of projects is now being done, and it is hoped it will not be many years before notes on the Murray, the Warragamba, the Namoi, or maybe other schemes have to be added to the annual review.

MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION SCHEME.

Land Settlement.

Although the progress of the scheme during the past year has not been so rapid as formerly owing to the effect of the war and other causes, the development of the Irrigation Areas has proceeded steadily. The total number of farms granted to the 24th February last was 885, comprising 40,755 acres, 31,160 acres on the Yanco section of the scheme, and 9595 acres at Mirrool. The bulk of the future settlement, particularly as far as the intensive cultural land is concerned, will be at Mirrool, where further areas are being thrown open from time to time as construction work is completed. A large number of new farms are now nearly ready for gazettal. The soil on many of these is of the very highest quality.

Considering the large number of farms now held, the number of surrenders and transfers effected has been small, particularly when it is remembered that surrenderers obtain from incoming tenants the value of tenant right in their improvements. About 30 lessees effected transfers during the year 1915, and there were 10 surrenders. Some of these have departed for the front with the Expeditionary Forces; others have suffered sickness or some other misfortune, constituting adverse circumstances; the desire to take up a larger or a smaller farm has actuated others, and there have, of course, been a number of lessees who have found that irrigation farming is not their vocation. The other causes specified, however, account for a large proportion of the cases. Lessees have been found for most of the surrendered farms.

Quite a number of recent applications for farms are from people from outlying places in the Commonwealth, who have been attracted to the Areas by the social conditions which exist there. The prospects of working in close association with others engaged in similar vocations and under conditions where comforts and modern conveniences of all kinds are at hand, has an irresistible charm for many men and women who have spent years in the "never-never land," where contact with their own kind has been infrequent.

Another matter of interest is the number of applications received from sons of settlers. Several cases of this kind have lately occurred. These young men have been working with their fathers for two or three years, and having learnt the rudiments of irrigation farming, are launching out for themselves. It is a good sign when men on the land have sufficient confidence in a place to allow their sons to also become blockholders.

Burrinjuck Dam.

The building of Burrinjuck Dam has proceeded without any important inter-