

AUSTRALIA'S OUTBACK

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The standard of housing depends primarily on income, yet often a mere increase in income alone does not result in good housing; much depends on the outlook of the farmer and especially of his wife. Some women are content to put up with inconvenience and even discomforts for the sake of the security which they hope will be gained in the future, if the greater part of the income is returned to the farm. In very many instances the farmer is apt to consider the building of a new shed, or the purchase of a prize bull or ram, or the installation of a new machine, of much greater importance than the comfort of his wife. In some cases farm houses are inferior to the shed and other buildings and the housewife has to wait years for her comfort.

It has been observed that women who have come to the farm from town or city, and those who periodically visit other homes, generally aim at a better standard than women who remain on their properties from year to year.

The idea still persists that good light and ventilation are not essential to the rural home, as "the farmer spends so much time in the open air." Good natural light with ventilation sufficient to air the house thoroughly is essential in adequate housing; yet many country homes, hemmed in with low verandahs and equipped only with small windows, tend to be dark and badly ventilated. It was estimated that from 40 to 50 per cent. of the farm houses in the New South Wales dairy districts mentioned were inadequately lighted or ventilated.

Some day we may have a similar report for New Zealand. It is understood that investigation is proceeding.

We asked Professor Wadham about radio talks to farmers, in which he has had a good deal of experience. "Radio plays its part in keeping farmers in touch with things. There is a special Director of Rural Broadcasts. He has a short session in each State programme every day. Some are technical, others chatty. In my opinion the latter are far more successful than the former. Farmers and their wives do not want to be talked at, but they rather like being talked to—always provided the speaker really understands their personal problems."

We reflected that probably farmers and their wives are not the only people who feel like that. —Staff Reporter

All Fools' Day

NEXT Thursday is April Fools' Day, the one hilarious day of the year when children can play their pranks with impunity on parents, teachers, and anyone else who happens to get in their way, and when many adults too give way to the hidden tendency to practical joking that exists in all of us. This year, as well as featuring their usual breakfast session jokes, the Commercial stations will broadcast a special *All Fools' Day Programme*, which will tell something of the origin of the occasion, together with the stories of some of the more famous hoaxes that have been perpetrated in its name. The narrative parts of the programme are interlarded with musical selections by (appropriately enough) Spike Jones. The times of broadcast are: 2ZA, 3.0 p.m. on Sunday, March 28; 4ZB, 6.0 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31; 2ZB, 8.45 p.m. on Thursday, April 1; 3ZB, 7.45 p.m. on Friday, April 2; 1ZB, 2.30 p.m. on Sunday, April 4.

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