

Banana Growers Criticise Migrants

The Minister for Immigration (Mr. H. E. Holt) was criticised at the monthly meeting of Woolgoolga Banana Growers' Federation branch on the types of migrants being allowed into Australia.

Members were indignant that migrants were taking the place of Australians on the land, and were being given initial financial assistance while Australian returned men were given nothing.

Mr. S. Holloway said Australians should have preference in selecting farms. He thought that if the North Coast was watered and irrigated as it should be, there would be plenty of good farm lands for all.

The money spent on immigration was a disgrace to the Australian people.

to the Australian people, said Mr. A. Puho. The farms given Australian ex-servicemen were useless land. The displaced persons given financial aid were totally inexperienced for farming in this country.

Mr. J. Yapp: If the money spent on migrants was used to expedite the water schemes on the North Coast, this country would not be found wanting.

It was moved the branch ask the Federation to inform the Department of Immigration that members consider Australian farmers' sons and returned men should be given financial aid in preference to migrants. It suggested the policy of careful selection of displaced persons be reviewed, and a restriction be placed on the number of types of migrants coming into the country.

The motion was carried.

Folding Case Loan

The branch instructed Mr. G. Holloway to seek a loan of £500,000 for production of folding collapsible

of folding collapsible banana cases. Members said the loan could be paid back within one year.

Mr. J. Mather said the overall price of cases should be fixed. Some mills were charging £16 a 100 cases, some £20 and others even obtained £24 a 100.

It was stated that the Federation mills this year would cut cases at a profit, and this should show the way to cheap boxes.

Mr. Holloway said the scheme should not be difficult, and if the Federation refused to go ahead with it, there should be a change in directors.

The president (Mr. R. Creighton) was empowered to seek cases in Grafton at the lower price.

Concern over the open mill sawdust fires were expressed by Mr. G. Gordon.

He said a spark from one of these fires could cause a bush fire, and with the scrub in its present condition there would be little hope of stopping it.

The branch will notify the Chief Secretary of the matter and ask him to treat

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it as urgent