



DAVE'S DAIRY

Introduction

Young farmers will not know the soul-destroying occupation of sowing wheat bags in the heat of January and the flies and the boredom of it all, especially before we had portable radios to hear the cricket. On one such a day in 1945, I wrote a silly little letter to the Editor of the Adelaide Advertiser complaining that I could not see the sense of a chap wearing both belt and braces in hot weather. This was not a matter that concerned me at all but it seemed to fill in the time. During the next two weeks there was a spate of correspondence on the subject until the editor, somewhat petulantly, closed the column down.

Encouraged by this reaction, I began writing a weekly column in the Stock Journal, our weekly rural paper. I called it "Dave's Diary". It was just a way of passing the time at the beginning until I realised that it could be made into a useful way of helping farmers, and particularly farmers' wives, better understand farming problems. What follows is a series of "Daves", the first appearing in May 1945 and continuing till May 1946, when I had a row with the editor.