

South Coasters Explain.

Since the district exhibits were introduced five years ago, the South Coast and Tablelands District has achieved the remarkable record of obtaining four firsts and one second prize. Even though the South Coast is "a land of green hills, fair, fertile vales, and silvery sounding shores," as the committee remark in their illustrated booklet, some other reason is wanted before such a run of success can be explained, says the "Sun."

The secretary of the district, Mr. J. A. Beatson, of Wollongong, says that it is because of the whole-hearted enthusiasm of the people who live in the district, and because the end they work for is victory.

"We owe a lot to the generosity and kindness of the producers," he said, "and to the earnest methods adopted by the manager, Mr. East, of Kiama, and the big-hearted and determined delegates who think no trouble too great in order to achieve success. Each locality has to be written to and asked to supply the goods in which they excel, so that it entails a big mass of correspondence. It is work all the time, however, because from the time the last sheaf of wheat leaves the Agricultural Hall the work of organising the next exhibit commences. The detail work is set in motion.

"The exhibit is staged under the auspices of the South Coast Agricultural Union, an organisation which has been formed on the South Coast as a sort of Upper House to which the South Coast Association—Wollongong, Kiama, Berry, Ulladulla, and Kangaroo Valley send delegates. We also receive assistance from Dapto and Albion Park, in the staging of the trophy, but these societies do not take any further interest in the union. The Moruya people also give us help, but they are too far distant to have representation at the meetings.

"Three or four months before the competition takes place each portion of the district is canvassed by delegates—all practical farmers, who know how to handle, class, and sort the exhibits. They are at a table, which shows at a glance where the exhibit will be weak and where strong. There is no trusting to chance. If the exhibit is not up to the standard, out it goes. Only the best is retained. The manager is a splendid judge of all kinds of produce, and he can tell quality at a glance.

"When we have all the exhibits in, and we have strengthened the weak parts as far as possible, we think of the arrangement of the trophy, and in this we are indebted to Mr. C. Weber, C.E., of Wollongong. Mr. Weber gives his ser-

are indebted to Mr. C. Weber, C.E., of Wollongong. Mr. Weber gives his services free in designing the court. He makes a trip to Sydney a week before the show opens, and, with the carpenters, he works out the details, so that the exhibits can be shown to the best advantage. Then the ladies do their part in decoration, and the services of the Misses Weber, particularly in the wool-lettering, cannot be sufficiently praised."

Each agricultural association on the South Coast sends along £5 to a general organising fund, but this, even when added to the amount given by the Royal Society and the prize money, does not allow of much being distributed among the different associations participating in it.

"All our delegates are workers. We are a happy family, and though we like to win we would not begrudge victory to others. They, no doubt, have their own system, and it may be as good as ours. But I don't think so."