Obituary - Mr E. T. Morgan

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Obituary

THE West Australian Department of Agriculture lost one of its stalwarts on May 2, when Mr. Edward Thomas Morgan, Officer-in-Charge, Vegetable Branch, died at his South Perth home after a brief illness. Mr. Morgan, who was 57 years of age, had been a member of the staff of the Department since 1928 and had been in charge of the Vegetable Branch for 20 years.

Born in Herefordshire, England, "Ted" Morgan came to this State as a youth and joined his brother at Burekup. His interest in potato-growing commenced at that period as the brothers were among the pioneer growers in the Benger Swamp, and the experience gained there proved invaluable when he joined the Department of Agriculture as a Vegetable Inspector.

During visits to farms he was always ready to doff his coat and give practical demonstrations, and growers still talk of his skill with a plough. He soon became Chief Inspector of the Potato Branch, and his keenness in augmenting the work of his predecessor, the late Mr. G. N. Lowe, resulted in the average yield per acre of potatoes in this State being increased by 25%, putting Western Australia's average well ahead of that of the other States.

He was the first to demonstrate a copper deficiency in southern soils, a discovery that led to widening of the areas of land available for potatoes.

During World War II he was an official adviser on vegetable production and was in constant touch with American officers responsible for the victualling of their Army and Navy units. Friendships established during those years endured till the time of his death.

As chairman of the Potato Marketing Board of W.A., and a member of the Onion Board since its inception, "Ted" Morgan did splendid work. He represented Western Australia in the Eastern States on all business connected with potato production.

A man of keen intellect and wide practical experience, Ted was a good mixer. He had a seemingly inexhaustible fund of good stories which he told well, and was a witty and interesting speaker.

As a relaxation he bred and grew gladioli and attained international repute in this field. His variety "Dark David" won a championship in a large American show and he achieved many triumphs at Australian shows. A past president of the Gladiolus Society he was a recognised judge of his favourite flower.

Ted has passed on but his influence will endure for many years in this State. He will long be remembered by many friends, young and old, in all walks of life.
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