

\$6,000,000 STASHED IN SACKS



Part of the 1965 harvest of almost 28,000 bales of cotton stacked outside the Namoi Cotton Co-operative's Gin at Wee Waa. Gross sales of last season's crop returned more than \$6 million.

FROM TRADE COMMISSIONER TO COTTON FARMER

One morning in early 1961, Australia's Assistant Trade Commissioner in California, Mr. Ben Dawson, was sitting contentedly in his office in San Francisco with nothing further from his mind than the Namoi Valley and cotton growing.

Little did he know that his first callers of the morning were to change the entire pattern of his life.

They were Paul Kahl and Frank Hadley, who, having read with interest of successful trials of cotton growing at Narrabri, had called to seek further information.

During his investigations on behalf of Messrs. Kahl and Hadley, who later pioneered commercial cotton growing along the Namoi, Ben Dawson became enthused with the possibilities of the Namoi for cotton growing.

Today Mr. Dawson with about 1,000 acres of cotton under cultivation at "Weetawaa" Merah North, has one of the district's largest farms.

"The cotton men of the Namoi" came from all walks of life. They now boast in their ranks former woolgrowers, wheatgrowers, almond farmers, a bank manager, and of course a former trade commissioner.

CLASSING! JOB FOR EXPERTS



Classing the crop is indeed a job for the experts. The gash in the bales (shown in top photograph) allows classers to take samples from each bale. Mr. C. V. Gresham (right) of California, has been brought to Wee Waa to grade the cotton for the past two seasons. Jim Prendergast of Narrabri (left) has "served an apprenticeship" under Mr. Gresham and is now a recognised authority on grades.