

Agriculture Carried On Under Difficulties of War

This is the 15th of a series of articles on conditions in wartime Britain and parts of Europe. Written for the weekly newspaper of Canada by their own representative, Hugh Tompkin, of The Vergus News-Record.

No doubt many readers of Canadian weekly newspapers would like to know something of agriculture in wartime Britain, and how the farmer fares. Travelling with a group of editors of the weekly newspapers, I had no such opportunity to study farming conditions as I would have liked, but I was able to pick up a good deal of information in trips outside London.

The farmers in Britain fill just as important a place as the soldiers or the munition workers. One hears that said sometimes of Canadian farmers, but while there may be some doubt in Canada, there is none in England and Scotland.

Before the war, more than half the food consumed in Britain was imported, either from Denmark and other European countries, or from Canada and other places across the oceans. Not only that, but some of the fodder for animals was imported and a large part of the chicken and hog feed.

The people of Britain must eat. All imports from Europe have been cut off, except occasional shipments of oranges from Spain and Portugal. All imported food must be brought from Canada or further away. That costs money and lives. Shipping space is precious. It cannot be used for animal products or bulky articles such as packaged breakfast cereals. And every ton of extra food that can be produced in Britain is desperately needed. Cost has become a secondary consideration.

Farmers Told What to Raise
A few months before the war actually started, a bonus of some \$300 an acre was offered to farmers for every acre of new land brought under cultivation.

A Canadian, travelling in England for the first time, gets the idea that every acre of land is in use. There are no unsightly fence-corner. For that matter, there are few fences. Evidently wood and fencing materials are scarce and so hedges are used. Most fields are smaller than in this country and the farms all look neat and tidy. But evidently there was much waste land, not only on large estates but on small farms. Swampy places have been drained; meadows that were in grass for hundreds of years have been turned over by the plow and actually millions of acres of extra land are cultivated.

What the farmer grows on his land in wartime is not left to his judgment. Every county has its War Agricultural committee, and these, in turn, appoint committees in all districts. These committees are not made up of politicians, but of working farmers, land owners and farm workers. The agricultural colleges have been closed, and professors and other experts serve as full-time advisers on these committees.

Every farmer is interviewed every year or so. He is told what he must grow. The committee may even go so far as to give him a plan of his fields, telling him what to plant in each field.

That sounds drastic, and is drastic. Actually, in practice, the system is largely voluntary, because nearly all farmers are willing and anxious to co-operate as a patriotic duty. They pride themselves that they still live in a democratic country and because their own neighbors are on the committees, the plan works largely as a voluntary co-operation. But to an outsider it looks rather different. If a farmer will not co-operate, the committee has power to force him to do so. If he is entirely uncooperative to produce more, he may be taken from his farm. A few rugged individuals have even gone to jail.

Essential Foods Come First
If the British farmer does not produce more, many people will go hungry and some starve. Therefore, the committees concentrate on the production of those foods which will go farthest toward feeding as many as possible, and they try to cut out waste of all kinds. Wheat and potato production seems to have soared. Oats are largely grown and alfalfa seemed to me to be a favorite crop. The growing season last year was excellent, with a damp summer and a long, sunny autumn. The second crop of hay and alfalfa was excellent.

I saw strange objects in many of the fields, which I took to be stacks of hay or grain wound around with what looked like tar paper and netting. I learned that they were temporary silos. Emphasis is being put on ensilage as the best method of producing the most cattle food.

There are other makeshifts. A process has been discovered for making a pulpy feed out of a straw on farms with sufficient water supply. Straw or chaff is cut up, soaked in caustic soda solution and then washed for a long time in running water. It takes the place of turnips. School children are paid to gather acorns to feed to the pigs.

Quality of Farm Stock Improved
Live stock is controlled by the committees as thoroughly as field crops.

For instance, an attempt has been made to weed out inferior cows, lessening the number, while keeping up the milk supply. Sheep are also considered essential. Hogs have been reduced drastically in numbers. They used much imported feed. So did the chickens. Besides, it doesn't take so long to build up their numbers again. All owners of poultry flocks with more than 50 birds must sell their eggs to the Government. They get a certain wheat ration in return. Those with less than 50 hens can dispose of the eggs as they like. Many town and village families keep a few hens, or even a pig, feeding them the scraps. Or a pig may be kept by a "club," with several neighbors providing scraps and having a share in the hog.

The number of tractors in use in England surprised me. Many of them were made in Canada. In a country where gasoline and fuel oil are decidedly scarce, I did not expect to see so many tractors, but this was another evidence of the desperate need of food. Private cars have almost disappeared from the road but tractors are kept going long hours.

There is one handicap which those farmers close to airports or along the main roads suffer, which might not be thought of by one who had not seen their countryside. These fields are full of traps for planes and sometimes for tanks as well. These are of several types, but all take up space and it must take time and trouble driving around them in seeding, plowing and harvesting operations.

Farmers observe the same black-out regulations as people in towns and cities. I am not sure that this is compulsory, but it is the wise thing to do. There are many instances in earlier months where hostile pilots have seen a gleam of light from a farm and have dropped a bomb on the chance that it might be a factory. There have also been some instances where farmers were attacked in daylight raids and their stock machine-gunned from the air.

In many ways, the British farmer is probably better off than ever before. His hired man is in the same position. Prices of all kinds of farm produce are set by the Government high enough to ensure a profit. And wages of farm laborers are also set. When I was in England in October, the time was approaching when the minimum farm wages would be set for 1942. The hired men were asking for 60 shillings weekly, and seemed likely to get about 55 shillings, or about \$13.00.

Farmers, sons, if not entirely exempt from conscription, enjoy the same standing as munition workers. Farm help is scarce, of course. During the first months of the war, many experienced farmers, now with the Canadian Army in England, were sent to farms near their camps to help out. They did a good job. One farmer reports that they were far better than any hired help he could get in his own county, working far longer hours, uncomplainingly.

One of the Women's Auxiliary units in Britain is the Women's Land Army. It is not as popular as some of the other branches of the service, possibly because the badge and uniform does not look as well as the Air Force or the Women's Royal Naval Services. Their jobs may lack some of the glamor, too. But there is no doubt about their usefulness. I suppose that in some cases they take the place of hired men, but those I saw seemed to be working in threshing gangs, going from farm to farm in groups.

There is some grumbling and complaining, of course. We heard one poultry farmer say that he was almost out of business, in spite of the scarcity of eggs. He could not get enough feed for his rather large flock. And he didn't think the distribution of eggs was well-carried out, some of them going bad. In other cases, the county committees evidently guess wrong. As so often happens with farm produce, an article that is scarce one year will be overgrown the next. In the spring of 1941, onions were seldom to be had at any price. Last fall, there were too many onions and a danger that some would rot.

Vegetables were plentiful and they helped fill out many a meal in Britain in the past few months. Literally millions of persons were growing vegetables in their private gardens or "allotments." They had sacrificed many of their flowers, though nearly every garden still had roses, and the bloom in September and even in October must have cheered many English eyes, as they did those of a Canadian visitor.

About the time I left England, Prime Minister Churchill wrote to a mass meeting of farmers and farm workers.

Never before have farmers and farm workers carried such a heavy responsibility as you do in this struggle. Never before have you responded to the country's call as you have done in the last two years. It is due to your simple modifications in the operations in deposits and factories and by greater attention to detail, the quantities of milk and of milk products carried away in waste water could be greatly reduced.

The Care and Planting of Small Trees

Many residents of Ontario will be receiving small forest trees from the Ontario Division of Reformation in the next few weeks. A few suggestions on the care and planting of them will be given, as many trees die because they are not properly planted.

The roots should be kept moist until planted and it is advisable to unplug them inside or in the shade. Fill a tub with water and place the trees with the roots down in the tub. They will be all right for several days and can be transported to the planting site in the tub. The trees may be held several weeks by digging a trench and covering the roots well and firmly with three to four inches of soil.

The earlier the trees are planted in the spring, the more likely they are to live.

The trees should be carried in a pan with the roots completely immersed in water when being planted. Take one tree out at a time and be sure the hole is ready before the tree is taken out of the pan.

It is usually advisable to plant the trees in their permanent location rather than placing them in nursery lines for a few years. This saves the labor of transplanting and there is almost sure to be a heavy loss when the trees are moved. Deciduous trees live to ten feet in height can be moved successfully, but it is difficult to transplant evergreens over eighteen inches in height unless particular care is taken.

The trees are not usually watered when planted or later, but watering both when the tree is planted and later in periods of drought is worthwhile.

If the land has been plowed and cultivated, the trees may be planted in the same manner as cabbage or tomato plants. Cultivation will benefit the trees as it tends to lower the mortality and increases the yearly growth of small trees.

Soil land may be spot planted or the ground may be furrowed. Do not dig a hole for a tree from one to two foot square and the tree is planted in the centre of the square. Make one side of the hole straight (perpendicular) and be sure the hole is deep enough so the roots should not be turned up. Place the tree against the perpendicular side and be sure to have the tree the same depth as it was in the nursery. The ground line may be seen on the stem. Put the loose soil around the roots and firm it well by pressing the foot with weight behind it on the loose earth. Do not put soil back as grass around the tree takes moisture that would otherwise soak around the tree roots. Leave a depression around the tree to collect water.

A woman, small boy or girl can take the tree out of the pan and hold it properly in the hole, while the man with the spade or shovel places the earth back around the roots.

Planting in a furrow eliminates a lot of hard labor and speeds the planting considerably. A single shallow furrow is plowed every six feet if the spacing is six feet, which is the spacing recommended for evergreens. The trees are planted in the bottom of the furrow. Do not heap earth around the tree, but dig a hole in the bottom of the furrow. Leave the furrow open, because the filled furrows would not collect the moisture, and it is also unnecessary work. Do not plow up and down, but around a hill.

The trees do not require to be in straight lines unless they are to be cultivated.

Milk In Rivers

Saved for Britain's Mothers and Children

Britain's nursing mother and children will have another 3,000,000 gallons of milk a year as the result of a new method of dealing with waste water in dairies and milk-receiving depots.

An enormous quantity of water is used for washing out churns, lids and troughs, as well as for cleaning down milking machines. This water, which is often polluted with milk, has been spilled away from 0.5 to 1.0 per cent of the milk handled. Thus, if the quantity of washing water is about the same as the quantity of milk dealt with, a milk depot handling 10,000 gallons of milk a day may also discharge each day 10,000 gallons of waste water containing from 50 to 100 gallons of milk.

In addition to this wastage there is also the trouble caused by the effect of the polluted water on streams into which it has been discharged. Experiments carried out in the laboratories and on a large scale show that these waste waters can be purified by filtration in percolating filters.

During the investigations, milk depots in Britain and in other countries were visited and experiments were carried out in the laboratories of the Rothamsted Experimental Station. It was soon found that, by simple modifications in the operations in deposits and factories and by greater attention to detail, the quantities of milk and of milk products carried away in waste water could be greatly reduced.

Canadians Are Undernourished In Midst of Plenty

Eighty percent of children in Canada suffer from physical conditions and defects that are associated with malnutrition, according to Dr. J. J. Heagerty, Chief, Executive Assistant in the public health division of the department of pensions and national health, writing in a recent issue of "Canadian Welfare." He continues: "The rejections that have taken place among applicants for enlistment indicate that malnutrition is general among the younger generation. Medical services were shown to be inadequate and an unduly large percentage of the population did not receive the minimum health of the youth of this country, as indicated by physical defects, leaves them open to communicable diseases."

"There are two problems that confront us at this time: the correction of physical defects and the general improvement of the standards of health by adequate diet."

Last June, a meeting of public health officials and representatives of the medical profession was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Pensions and National Health to discuss present deficiencies in the field of public health and the adoption of measures to raise the standard of public health and medical services. This meeting, Dr. Heagerty hails as one of the most important public health conferences ever held in Canada, and declares that from it was emanating a long-term program in the prevention and control of disease that should be of particular value during war-time and the post war period.

The individual housewife, too, has a role in solving this national problem. It becomes her duty to be sure her meals are well balanced and nutritious. Her objective is to get as much nutritive value as possible for the money available. Every homemaker should endeavor to include in the daily menu: 1. A pint of milk for each adult, a quart for each child. 2. One daily serving of meat, liver to be included in the menu once a week. 3. One egg. 4. Two servings of vegetables, besides potatoes, one vegetable preferably raw. 5. Two servings of fruit, preferably one raw or a suitable situation of tomato juice. 6. One serving of whole grain wheat or whole wheat bread. 7. Butter three times a day. Nutrition experts name these as the essentials of an adequate diet.

Germany's birthrate fell like a waterfall to a record of 14.7 in 1938, spurred upward to 18.0 in 1939 and 1933. It moved up to 17.6 and in 1938 and in 1941 showed a marked increase to 19.0, said to be largely due to wartime marriages and business upswing. England's birthrate has shown a very small decrease since 1938, when it was 15.1 and provisional records show still more decline to about 14.2 for 1942.

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Record Refinery Output

Production of Canada's petroleum refining industry set a new record in 1940, when the output reached a value of \$21,012,497 compared with \$103,194,238 in the previous record year. During 1940 Canada's refineries operated at about 63 per cent of rated capacity, handling 1,443,258,451 gallons of imported crude oil and 302,235,830 gallons of crude oil and absorption gasoline from Canadian wells.

Canadian refinery production of gasoline in 1940 amounted to 779,983,106 gallons with a refinery selling value of \$71,226,944. The gallonage made was the greatest on record. Absorption plants in Alberta furnished 82,828,070 gallons of natural gasoline during the year. Imports of gasoline amounted to 105,586,068 gallons, and the apparent Canadian consumption for the year was 896,528,828 gallons.

Production of fuel and gas oils (excluding any made and used for cracking processes) totalled 598,913,302 gallons, of which 537,628,161 gallons were made for sale and 61,284,685 gallons for use as fuel in the producing plants. Imports amounted to 101,806,725 gallons. Refinery stocks at the end of the year stood at 227,718,889 gallons or about 21.5 million gallons more than in 1939. The apparent consumption of fuel and gas oils in Canada for 1940 was 676,586,326 gallons.

The output of tractor and engine distillates was 23,797,763 gallons in 1940, and the apparent consumption was 27,339,810 gallons.

About 96 per cent of Canada's domestic crude petroleum production comes from the Turner Valley field in Alberta. The Department of Mines and Resources reports that 176 wells were in operation in this field at the end of 1941, of which 39 were brought into production during that year.

There's Some Use For Every Crumb

Every scrap of bread can be put to some good use.

Cut dry bread into cubes or fingers, toast, sprinkle with melted butter and salt, make nutritious partners for soups and salads. To give youngsters an extra treat for breakfast, spread toast made from leftover slices with butter, dark brown sugar and a dash of cinnamon. Heat and serve with hot cocoa. This also goes well with afternoon tea. To dry bread, place it in paper sack and place near stove until very crumbly, or spread a thin layer of bread in a shallow pan and place in oven after heat is off. Let stand for several hours.

World's Births Ups-and-Downs While War On

Japan's Birthrate Has Been Highest With U. S. Lowest and Canada Putting in Fair Average

TORONTO, (CP) — With national leaders in many countries calling for an increased birthrate to meet the drain of war, let's see how many babies are actually being born, particularly in the warring nations.

Figures on the birthrate (the number of live births per 1,000 population) show there has been a steady decrease in the birthrate in all civilized nations since 1890 until the last few years.

Canada's Showing
Birthrate statistics move slowly. Canada's rate for 1930—subject to minor revision—was 21.4 per 1000 of population, 243,835 living births being registered that year. The rates for the three previous years were: 1929, 20.3; 1928, 20.4 and 1927, 19.8. The average rate per-year for 1931 to 1935 was 21.2 and for 1926 to 1930, 21.1.

In the United States (after a long decline) which hit a low of 16.6 in 1933) it moved up to 17.6 and in 1938 and in 1941 showed a marked increase to 19.0, said to be largely due to wartime marriages and business upswing. England's birthrate has shown a very small decrease since 1938, when it was 15.1 and provisional records show still more decline to about 14.2 for 1942.

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NEWBRIDGE LENDS A HAND



Newbridge, the up and at 'em town which is fast becoming a household name in every Canadian home, is setting a fine example in several departments. The people of Newbridge are busy bolstering morale, rounding up enemy aliens, promoting the local war services and generally behaving in a steady fashion. Now Tom Brown, J. J. son, is going on the farm in the summer vacation just like thousands of other youngsters all over the country who want to help win the war. Here is a typical rehearsal scene with most of the cast and John Duncan, the well-known harpist, whose melodious chords sound the invitation to "Newbridge" each week-day evening at 7.30 p.m. EAST 8.30 p.m. A.D.T., from the Toronto studios of the CBC.

Don't Let Your Liver Make You an Invalid

People who are 27 or older say they're healthier or their liver is better. Do you know how yours is? That it may lead to permanent ill health — your whole system poisoned and broken down? Your liver is the largest organ in your body and most important to your health. It supplies energy to muscles, tissues and glands. If unhealthy, your body lacks this energy and becomes enfeebled — youthful vim disappears. Again your liver pours out bile to digest food, get rid of waste and allow proper nourishment to reach your blood. When your liver gets out of order proper digestion and nourishment stop — you're poisoned with the waste that decomposes in your intestine. Nervous troubles and rheumatic pains arise from this poison. You become constipated, stomach and kidneys can't work properly. The whole system is affected and you feel "routen," head-achy, back-achy, dizzy, tired out — a ready prey for sickness and disease. Thousands of people are never sick, and have won prompt relief from these ills with "Improved Fruit-Aives Liver Tablets." The liver is toned up, the other organs function normally and lasting good health results. Today "Improved Fruit-Aives" are Canada's largest selling liver pills. They must be good. Try them yourself NOW. Let "Fruit-Aives" put you back on the road to lasting health — feel like a new person. 25c, 50c.



LOYAL CITIZENS DO NOT HOARD!

Hoarders are people who buy and store away goods beyond their immediate needs.

They want to be in an unfair position over their neighbors.

Hoarders are traitors to their country and their fellow citizens, because by creating excessive and unnecessary demands for goods, they slow down the war effort.

There is no excuse for "panic buying" and hoarding. Everyone will have enough, if no one tries to get more than a fair share.

Hoarding must stop! Every unnecessary purchase makes it more difficult for Canada to do a full war job.

THERE'S A LAW AGAINST HOARDING

It is against the law to buy more than current needs. Violation of the law is punishable by fines up to \$5,000, and imprisonment for as long as two years.

AVOID ALL UNNECESSARY BUYING — AVOID WASTE MAKE EVERYTHING LAST THE LONGEST TIME POSSIBLE

In cases where it is advisable for you to buy in advance of your immediate requirements — such as your next season's coal supply — you will be encouraged to do so by direct statement from responsible officials.

THE WARTIME PRICES AND TRADE BOARD

OTTAWA, CANADA