

Agriculture Has Made Great Strides in England

This is another in a series of articles written by W. R. Leggett, C. W. Clouston, who represent The Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association in a recent tour overseas.

ARTICLE NO. 17 (By Walter R. Leggett)

Agriculture plays a leading part in the war program in every country, and especially in Great Britain which, in the most of necessity, imports much of its food, and the difficulties are able to make a brief study of what is being done to help raise as much food as possible.

We found it to be a fact that many of the former beautiful flower gardens are now converted into vegetable growing. One notable example that we saw was at Washley Castle where the flower garden in what was originally a moat is now devoted to vegetable growing. While at the castle, we noticed that the lovely terraced gardens at the rear of this Inn were now filled with vegetables.

Nearly all the Canadian crops are also growing all the vegetables they can in any odd corners of the land. At the camp of the No. 1 General Canadian Reinforcement Unit, they had a prize display of potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, cabbages, beans, and turnips which they had grown there. Last year they said they were thirty tons of potatoes alone grown on land in the camp.

At the several farms in potatoes, although it was difficult to see where they could find that much space.

Everywhere we went we saw vast fields of cabbages, potatoes, and in some sections, sugar beets, and some of these fields looked much larger than fields of similar products which are ordinarily seen in Canada.

We had a splendid opportunity to really study an English farm when we visited one day the Canon Court Farm in Berkshire. This farm, owned by Mr. Henry J. Purser, is probably the best farm in that section of England, as it has won the King George V prize for efficiency and the King Edward VIII for the best cultivated farm in Berkshire. This is said to be the only cup of such a nature ever given by King Edward VIII.

This farm is 500 acres in area, and four tractors are used on it. This year it produced among other things 3,200 barrels of oats, and the part planted in wheat produced 61 bushels to the acre. Mr. Purser was talking 41 cows when we were there.

It was interesting to learn that this farm was redeemed from tithes only five years ago. Up until that time tithes had been paid annually to Oxford University.

The farm buildings are extensive, well laid out, and built of brick, and even the partitions of the pens were built of brick. The barns were much more substantial than the usual ones in Canada, and when one of the Canadian editors asked how old these barns were, he was informed that "they are comparatively modern, having been built only one hundred and forty years ago."

Another of the editors remarked that it would be difficult to find a barn in Canada that was over one hundred years old, whereupon he was asked if the people of Canada did not know how to take care of their buildings.

Mr. Purser showed some extra fine cabbages and turnips which he had brought back from Covent garden market the previous day because he was unable to sell them. Apparently just at that season there was more produce than could be sold.

Although farmers in England are encouraged to raise pigs, they are allowed to retain only a certain portion for themselves. While the editors were in England there was a letter in the newspapers telling of a farmer and butcher, Stanley Flint, of Church Farm, Brighthelm, (Staffordshire) who was fined one hundred pounds for killing two pigs when he only had a license to slaughter one.

There were nearly ten thousand sheep there, all headed into pens about ten feet square. The average price that day for a sheep was said to be between fifty and sixty shillings. Workmen told us that the farmers try to replace their herds every two years.

Practically all the people of England are doing all they can to help by growing all the vegetables that they can. In addition to turning private gardens into vegetable patches, there are 1,750,000 allotments of land being tilled in Britain. People spend their leisure hours digging in these plots which are let to them at a nominal fee.

This past year there were good crops of apples, pears and peaches grown in Britain, and there is also a small quantity of grapes grown there. One thing that was strange to Canadian eyes was the training of apple trees on stone walls. A good example of this was seen on the walls around the Bishop's Palace at Winchester. Agriculture Committee functions in every county to try and increase agricultural production, and those committees strive to get every acre possible ploughed up and planted in vegetables. The reason for this is that ten acres in pasture will not support more than four people, but ten acres of potatoes will maintain 25 people, or in wheat will maintain 25.

This agricultural work is a big part of the war effort, and Britain was blessed last year with a splendid crop.

A Balanced Diet For People, Too

Now that we have learned how to feed dairy cattle properly and ration the hay according to the best information the nutritionists can compile, after we have learned how to feed hens and chicks what is best for their health and the pocketbooks of the poultryman, and after the nutrition of rats, dogs, foxes and everything domestic has been settled to the satisfaction of the scientists and nutrition experts, attention has at last been focused on the men and the women, the boys and girls, who keep the race alive and somehow or other manage to maintain a most complex organization called the state.

If indigence, inebriety, illiteracy, illness, hospitalization, and absenteeism did not cost so much in taxes and if the weaker race of people were not preyed upon and destroyed by those mentally and physically stronger it might be just as well to let every man dig his own grave with his teeth. But that cannot be permitted in these terrible times. Health in a people is of such vital importance now that it must be safeguarded, and to be healthy a people must eat right and live right.

Health of humans is more important than the health of live stock. We had better get started!—Farmer's Advocate

See Small Town Salvation Hope For Peace Days

Planning for Living Conference in British Home Experts' Predict Big Migration from Great Cities

BY FOSTER BARCLAY
Canadian Press Staff Writer

CANTERBURY, England, (CP)—After this war it may be a "small town Britain" with great armies of present populations of London and the larger cities permanently migrated to smaller centres already on the map and perhaps 50 new and as present un-named new towns, each with a population of 40,000 or up, to be established as a post-war development.

This was the view of British architects as outlined by W. E. Davidge, post president of the Town Planning Institute, at a "Planning for Living" conference in this cathedral town.

The agenda of the meetings featured discussions on the gigantic task of building a new Britain after the war. He said the ruins of bomb-shattered buildings; the "planning" took on a grim but intensely practical aspect.

The architect's spokesman estimated that from ten to 30 per cent of congested populations would be able to migrate permanently from the present homes when peace comes. "Planning, whatever its form, must affect the whole future of the nation and include all activities, great or small," he said. "Nothing can safely be omitted."

On the broad principle of the greatest good for the greatest number there was a great deal to be gained by a measure of decentralization, but there was a "limit of absorption by the countryside as well as to the number of ratepayers who could be spared from old centres."

Discussing agriculture, industry and commerce, transport and planning and building—described as the four principal interests—he said the first objective was to put land to its best use, having regard to raw materials and markets. Mr. Davidge advocated a central register of available industrial sites and overhaul of railways, including removal of hundreds of stations and extension of the tube railways. Motorways of the future, he said, should include high-speed highways, serving as many towns as possible, through the length and breadth of the country.

The double highway, free from buildings, cross roads or roundabouts was essential for a new Britain.

Quick Transport
F. J. Osborn, Secretary of the Town and Country Planning Association, said it was indisputable that the over-concentration of Britain's population in a few great "man-beeps" had sadly depreciated family living conditions held back advances in physical health and was positively injurious to life whether regarded socially or politically.

Quick transport to new housing estates had proved a delusive remedy and the only solution was a movement to small and medium sized towns, he said.

Besides suggesting establishment of about 50 entirely new towns, he thought London should have about a dozen daughter-towns or satellites; Birmingham three or four; Manchester and Liverpool two or three; Bristol, Portsmouth and Southampton one each.

Old "ACK-EMMA" Has Gone West
This Modern War Has Brought New Phonetics for Anglo-Saxon Allies

LONDON, (CP)—After a bit of delicate diplomacy and compromise, a new phonetic pronunciation, alphabet has been adopted by the British Empire, including Canada, and United States forces serving in the United Kingdom. It's no longer "B for Beer" and "N for Nuts" and there are several others changed.

It all came about because of different pronunciation of letters and because it was considered necessary to have a unified system where forces of the United Nations were engaged in the same operations. When the landings were made in North Africa, for example, the British personnel had to learn the United States code because it was an American-controlled operation.

The Week at OTTAWA

Specialty Written for The Acton Free Press
BY DOUGLAS GREEN
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The extent to which the labor needs of Canada's farmers are met through other sources may determine whether or not it will be necessary to close some industries temporarily during such seasons where this can be done without impairing the Dominion's war effort.

This was indicated to the House of Commons by Labor Minister Mitchell when he described the Federal government's national farm labor policy for 1942. Mr. Mitchell did not say definitely that industries would be closed during periods of greatest agricultural activity, and it appeared that such shut-downs would be effected only if other measures planned by the government failed to relieve the shortage of agricultural labor about which members of the House have expressed concern ever since the present parliamentary session opened.

Possible Sources
The government still is investigating two possible sources of farm labor. These are the use of prisoners of war as farm laborers and the employment of conscientious objectors in agriculture.

Conscientious objectors are engaged in forestry work, though the government has indicated that where such men are experienced farmers they will be encouraged to return to the land rather than continue in forestry work as an alternative service.

Mr. Mitchell made it clear that the plan of using high school and university students, school teachers, towns people and others on farms would be extended to include all provinces in 1943. This plan, by arrangement between the Federal and Ontario governments on a dollar-for-dollar basis, has been operated successfully in Ontario since 1939.

Other sources upon which the government proposes to draw in meeting agricultural labor requirements include the manpower provided by treaty Indians, the recruitment and

training of women, men discharged from the armed forces, civilian internees and Japanese; the temporary release of men and women from certain industries and the direction to productive farms of unmarried men called for military service but found unfit.

Return From Factories
The government will also take action to ensure the return to farms by spring of some 125,000 agricultural workers temporarily employed in other seasonal work, the "freeing" of farm labor and the postponement of call-up for essential agricultural workers.

Further, the national farm policy provides for the payment of transportation in farm labor movements between provinces and assistance for movements within a province. Officials of provincial departments of agriculture will discuss the plan with representatives of the labor department.

Estimates covering the federal Department of Agriculture's requirements in the coming fiscal year reflect the government's desire to spur production to meet Canada's food commitments to Great Britain.

Agricultural Health
Though these estimates total \$17,407,326—a decrease of \$24,243,690 compared with last year—later supplementary estimates probably will wipe out much of this decrease.

Largest increase in the present estimate over those of a year ago is for health of animals, which jumped from \$1,733,680 to \$1,818,000. Most of this is for salaries for inspectors examining livestock going through packing plants. One of the reasons for the employment of more inspectors is an anticipated heavy increase in hog production to enable Canada to meet her undertaking to supply huge quantities of bacon and bacon products to Great Britain.

The estimate covering botany and plant pathology has been increased from \$282,582 to \$312,500. This branch of the department deals with plant diseases, and it has been decided to augment it so that any situation arising out of the drive for greater production can be met.

MOSCOW, (CP)—For "valor, heroism and firmness" in fighting the German invader the Russian Seventh Cavalry Corps under Maj.-Gen. Sokolov has been "reformed into the Sixth Cavalry Corps of Guards."

NOW SERVES BRITAIN

A BRITISH PORT, (CP)—A trawler which served in the German navy in the last war is taking part in British minesweeping operations. She was loaned to Britain at the end of the First Great War and later sold to the Netherlands.

MOTHER SENTENCED

LONDON, (CP)—Violet Butler, 22, a soldier's wife, was sentenced to three months for maltreatment of her two-year-old daughter. Welfare officers found the child had been kept in a filthy bed in darkness in a room permanently blocked out.



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Picture shows two gliders descending after a flight.

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BARBED WIRE and enemy guards "do not a prison make" for Canadian soldiers captured by the enemy. Their thoughts, winging across the sea, meet Red Cross parcels on their way to them. Last year, the enemy said "pass" to 2,000,000 such parcels. They were packed with 22,000,000 pounds of food and comforts welcomed by men to whom the barest necessities have become luxuries.

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