

**Weekly Newsmen
Tells About Coronation**

R. G. Simpkin

RURAL ENGLAND TOUR

On Sunday afternoon vehicles from all parts of London and farth- away brought loads of visitors to the area where the Coronation par- ade has been. They came to see the decorations and later in the evening the special lights which illuminate the route.

We endeavoured to get through the traffic jam which around the Marble Arch was something like of which we had never seen, let alone been part of.

Double decker and sight seeing buses, private cars and taxis, motor cycles and bicycles together with those on foot were jammed four abreast for miles in all directions, only a few feet at a time each direction progressed as gaps were made



to allow streams of pedestrians to cross either way.

Our direction for getting on the road to the open spaces took us past the Marble Arch. By the time

we were clear of the jam the after- noon was spent.

However, before darkness fell we had fields and farms on either side and were heading north on great North Road. After a week at sea and another week in London it really was good to smell the fresh country again.

Haying in Progress

Although this is only the second week in June — haying is general in the counties we have been thro- We have seen very little of the old strong-arm methods being used. Some forage harvesters are in use placing the green hay in pit silos, using a tractor to pack it down.

Baling is predominant and usually the square bale as they are very careful in packing the stacks that little or no space is left between the bales. In most cases the square bales are stood in the fields in fours with their ends leaning together. The weather during the past week has not been haying weather as we prefer it as the sun has not been too generous. However, the farm- ers seem to be optimistic and cut a large acreage ahead of the baling.

The crop per acre, judging by the number of bales on the field seems exceptionally heavy. Most of the grasses are mixtures of a type of orchard grass and legumes.

Grain Crops Headed Out

Harvest will be earlier here than we would normally expect in On- tario as the spring crops are well advanced and mostly headed out. However, some later crops have not reached that stage yet and the gen- eral occupation with farmers, who are not haying is hoeing their sugar beet crops. We have seen as many as six men in one field at this work.

There seems to be sufficient labor on most farms. One farmer we talked to had sixty acres and kept two men. "Of course," he told us, "we used to have more when more work was done by hand."

Although nearly every farm has tractors there are still horses used.

Saw a Village Sold.

Noticing signs advertising a vil- lage for sale, also including several farms we made enquiries. A large Manor Estate was being split up and sold off. The farms which had been leased for years to farmer ten- ants were to be put on the market. The present tenant if he was suf- ficiently well-fixed could make the purchase or be outbid by a new owner who might or might not de- sire to lease the property.

The Estate known as the Airewas Manor is owned by the Earl of Litchfield and has been an estate of three families since mentioned in the Domesday Book by King William the Conqueror, the present family being descendants of Lord Anson who acquired it in 1752.

The purpose of the sale is to ac- quire funds wherewith to pay the enormous death dues which are gradually diminishing these hold- ings.

Farms and Villages Included

The total acreage offered at auc- tion was 2,656. Also included were homes in the village of Airewas, which is made up of homes of ten- ants and farm workers and might be compared to similar corner ham- lets in Ontario. These offered 15 arable dairy and general farms in- cluding their buildings, two free- hold large houses and fourteen cot- tages, also the fishing rights of three rivers.

One tenant whose family had oc- cupied this farm for four genera- tions, Joseph Shaw, is a member of

the Parish Council. The house in which he lives dates back to the 15th century. We listened to the bidding of a couple of properties and gathered from conversations heard that a new "money holder" was in the field. His bidding would indicate he was intending to take over many of the properties and be- come the new landlord.

Not many of the present tenants seemed to be trying to outbid him. The sale was in Derby County to which we went from London and where we spent the first three days of the week.

Driving north to the Highlands of the Matlock district, famous for its mineral wells and its scenic beauty, one would follow county roads along the tops of hills and look across the distant valleys where patchwork fields hedged in every shape and size with their farm buildings among groves of trees and the winding roads between the hed- ges criss-crossing over the hills.

Roads All Hard-Surfaced

We have yet to drive on other than a paved road even though our wanderings took us back off the numbered thoroughfares. County roads where one would only meet the occasional vehicle and where hay was taken from remote fields to farm buildings, although some- times narrow are always hard-sur- faced. They are all county roads.

Hedges Hide Fields

One objection we have is the hedges. They prevent one seeing across the fields and many times one can drive for miles without knowing what kind of country is along the way. In many places they have cut these down to a three-foot height. Then there are the walls. These are mostly en- closing the estate of persons who do not farm the land and who do not want outsiders trespassing on their property, hunting or fishing.

There are still large tracts of these holdings but death dues, which take eight million of a ten million estate by the second generation usu- ally cause them to be offered for sale, either like Lord Litchfield's before his death or by the execu- tors afterwards.

Attend Three-County Show

Leaving Derby County we headed south and west towards Hereford- shire and town of Hereford where we had learned of a three-county show, Worcester, Hereford, and Gloucester. This was a three-day show and would compare with Ot- tawa exhibition in volume of displays and livestock although most of the show was under canvas as it rotates each year to one of the three coun- ties.

Being interested in Hereford cat- tle we wanted to see these in their original home county. There was a splendid display on hand.

The world-wide interest shown in these cattle may be judged by the fact that attendance at the show in- cluded persons from Denmark, Aus- tralia, Queensland, New South Wales, New Zealand, Greece, USA, Rhodesia, North and South, France also Kenneth Holt of Carven, Sask. and James and Marilyn Bell of Al- vinston, Ontario. These names were among hundreds entered in the vis- itors' book. I am enclosing a page from the Hereford News, a weekly paper whose agricultural editor Mr. T. Court really excels in his space in describing agricultural events. Most of the large weeklies have an agricultural editor. They depend on the rural areas for a vast amount of their circulation as usually they have a daily within the town.

While there we were interviewed by the agricultural editor and photographed as an interest- ing visitor. However, in Here- ford we were only one of the dis- tinguished breeders of Hereford cattle and from Canada. They were quite aware of what is being done to advance the big family. We en- quired about the Polled Hereford for which our own stable is famous (plug) but Hereford breeders here had heard of them but could not direct us to where any might be seen.

Of course there were other cat- tle at the show. Dairy herds pre- dominate in this thickly-populated county. Next comes the dual- purpose cattle but these are fast be- ing replaced by Friesians and Ayr- shires.

Sheep are on every farm appar- ently and many special varieties were at the show.

Hogs were limited owing to a ban on inter-mixing owing to an outbreak of disease which is being brought under control.

Next week we will write you from Stroud in Gloucester.

**BARBER'S OPEN NEW
GIFT SHOP AT BALA**

A branch shop in Bala has been opened by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bar- ber.

The new store, located on Pine Ridge Road overlooking Bala Bay, features the same line of jewellery, china, and gifts which are carried in the main Georgetown store.

Mr. and Mrs. Barber intend to operate the store during the sum- mer months only. Gretchen Brad- ley is working in the store for the season, and other members of the Georgetown staff will be there for varying periods this summer.

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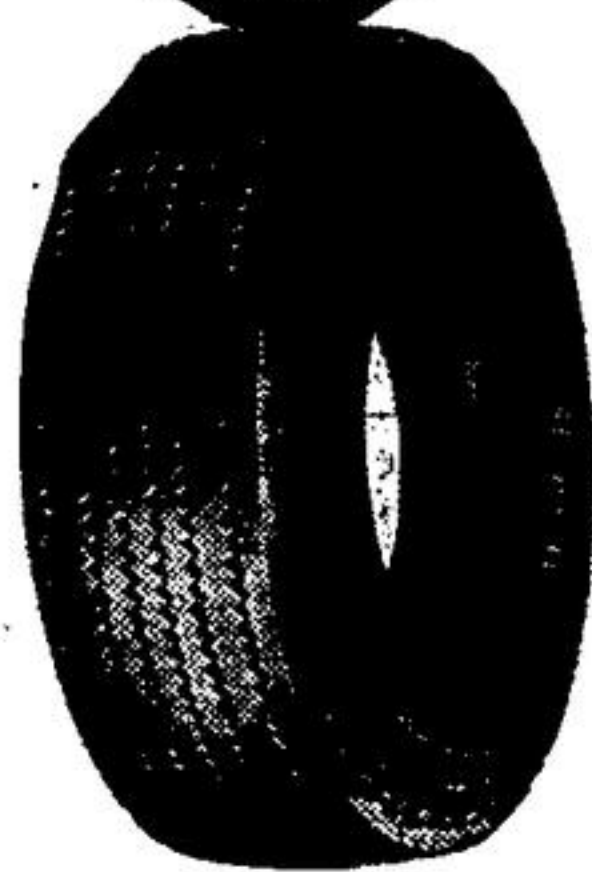
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