

Miss Redfern.

3. South View.

THE LAND GIRL



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OURSELVES

WITH the September number THE LAND GIRL will complete the first six months of its existence. It seems a good moment to start the second half-year with a little variety, the first sign of which will be a new front cover. Our title picture has had a varied reception—some people think it is arresting and original, provokes interest and shows that we can laugh at ourselves—a few regard it as a joke in at least doubtful taste. We now offer a prize of 10s. for the best design or suggestion for a new cover—a picture, a photograph or a lettering design. All entries must be received by *September 25th*.

This month we have extended the printed area of each page so that we shall be able to print more of the excellent contributions that readers send us without using any more paper than before. Another novelty is "Ask us Another," a column for all your problems and questions. We will try to answer them, and if we are defeated we will ask your help in finding the answer.

In September we shall publish the number of magazines taken in each county. The circulation has shown a satisfactory rise, but there are still one or two counties where the fact that THE LAND GIRL exists seems hardly to be known. All our readers can help by telling other members of the Land Army about the magazine.

Finally, we welcome all expressions of opinion and suggestions for new features. Please don't hesitate to tell us what you like, what you don't like and what you would like.

M. A. P.



E. Hodgkin.



Planting out brassicas.

HORTICULTURE

Mr. A. J. Cobb, who has written this article for the "Land Girl," has trained many members of the W.L.A. in Horticulture at Seale Hayne Agricultural College. He is a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, and was for twenty years Senior Lecturer in Horticulture at Reading University.

THE general acceptance of the title, "Women's Land Army," is, I believe, that it implies women for working on farms. In the wide publicity that has been given to the need for women in agriculture little reference has been made, so far as I know, to horticulture. To many engaged in the latter this is surprising, especially when it is remembered that thousands of young women are permanently engaged in horticulture against a very limited number on farms. We are all familiar with the phrase, "Dig for Victory," so aptly coined by the late Minister for Agriculture, Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith, which has become a slogan, and might well become historical. In response to his appeal immense quantities of vegetables will be grown, and women are wanted to help both in market gardens and in many private gardens where the gardeners have joined the Forces. A number of ex-trainees of the W.L.A. are, to my knowledge, engaged in this national work of food production, and are giving satisfaction to their employers. Trained women gardeners have been in demand for many years, and it is not improbable that many members of the W.L.A. who

take up horticulture during the war, and who wish to continue it after the war, will be able to do so, providing they have "made good," and taken advantage of the opportunity to gain experience.

WHAT THE W.L.A. ARE DOING.

Horticulture is a particularly wide subject. In this article I propose to deal briefly with some of the operations which members of the W.L.A. are doing in private gardens, market gardens, and commercial glasshouses, the latter mainly for tomatoes.

I recently visited a very large private garden where two young women of the W.L.A. were employed. They work in the kitchen garden on various jobs, including hoeing, forking, raking, cleaning away finished crops, planting, picking fruit, etc. These girls left a Midland town and are now in S. Devon. They told me joining the Land Army was a "shot in the dark," but their manner and faces clearly proved that their venture had turned out a very happy one. With the head gardener as guide we inspected the garden and, as an indication of the good fellowship

existing among them, we were most kindly invited to tea by the head gardener's wife.

An entirely different job is that of routine work in tomato houses, in which six young women are employed. An extract of a letter which I received from one of them reads as follows: "The work is becoming very interesting, as we get used to the heat. The nursery is a small branch of the main firm, which is about a mile from here. We have three acres of tomatoes under glass. There are five girls to an acre, which you can see means plenty of work. My particular block, of which another girl and myself are in charge (more by good luck than good management), was fairly well advanced when we arrived, all the planting and stringing having been done. There was, therefore, only twisting, shooting, cultivating and spraying to be done. In spite of the feelings of the firm, I must confess selfishly that I was quite pleased when I discovered a small amount of red spider, which I duly drenched, and also a few plants with stripe. These we gave nitrogen."

Others engaged in a market garden informed me that a lot of their time had been occupied in gathering stuff for market, vegetables mostly. More extracts from letters could be given, but the above will give some idea of the work being done by members of the W.L.A., and must suffice.

MARKET GARDENS—ALL VARIETIES.

Market gardens vary in size from a few acres to 1,000 acres. In all of them the work may be classified under four headings: (a) marketing crops, (b) attention to growing crops, (c) preparation for future crops, and (d) harvesting crops.

Under the first there is, or should be, something to market throughout the year, unless the occupier grows special crops only, for a very good reason, such as soil and locality. In such a case his marketing would be seasonal.

In the case of certain crops there is a link with the second heading, for instance, tomatoes and cucumbers. From the time the first tomatoes are picked or the first cucumber cut, the plants continue to grow, develop and ripen the crops for several months. During this time the plants obviously require constant attention.

THE CUCUMBER HOUSE.

To make this clear to beginners I will give an example of a cucumber house 50 ft. long by 15 ft. wide. A central ash path is flanked on each side by a border 4 ft. wide. On the flat borders narrow mounds, about a foot high, composed of good loam and strawy horse manure well mixed, run the length of the house. Seed was sown in

mid-February, plants set out on the mounds a month later, and the first cucumber cut on April 18th. Since that time 2,250 fruits have been cut and sold. The plants are healthy, and are expected to continue cropping well into September. Strict attention has to be paid to the temperature of the house, which never falls below 60° F. The borders, path and walls are kept moist continuously. Compost is added to the mounds in thin layers about once a month, or as often as fresh roots show on the surface; other important details are watering, stopping and regulating growths.

Cucumbers, when sent to distant markets, are packed in trays or flats—terms used for packages. Many are, of course, sold locally, especially by small growers. This saves expense of packing and transport. Tomatoes are packed in strong cardboard boxes, each weighing 12 lb. The fruits are graded for size and colour.

FRUIT—SOFT AND HARD.

Those engaged on fruit farms, or where fruit and vegetables are grown, have been busy of late gathering the crops. The season for soft fruits—currants, gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries, and loganberries—is nearly over. Plums are ripening fast. Chip baskets are usually used for choice dessert sorts, and it often pays to pack high quality fruit in shallow trays, each tray holding one or two layers of fruit. For the bulk, however, including such as the popular Victoria and damsons, the returnable half-sieve holding 20 lb. is very convenient.

The picking of early apples, both cooking and dessert varieties, has commenced. The type of package used will depend on the grower. For choice dessert apples the 20 lb. box—non-returnable—is the most popular, while for cooking varieties sieves and half-sieves holding respectively 40 lb. and 20 lb. are much used. The grower of clean fruit of good colour, according to variety generally grades and packs in boxes of 20 lb. or 40 lb. Packing is largely done by girls, many of whom are experts at the job.

VEGETABLES—ALL SORTS.

In large market gardens during early and mid-summer, a lot of work is entailed in pulling and bunching such vegetable crops as onions, carrots, beet, turnips, radishes, parsley and mint. They are invariably sold in dozen bunches. Later when the crops are matured they are marketed in bulk, usually by weight. Lettuces, which are a big line with many growers, are usually packed in crates or boxes holding two dozen each.

With regard to attention to growing crops, hoeing is a most important operation. This is

necessary to keep down weeds, and for the purpose of forming a mulch of loose soil which assists in conserving moisture during dry weather. I would like here to emphasise the great importance of quickly learning the right way of using each garden tool. This generally results in less exertion and quicker work. Few things impress an employer more than this.

The preparation for future crops will include, among other jobs, the clearing away of finished crops and preparing the ground for others. Many important crops for the future must be sown or planted within the next month. Thought must

be given to the valuable spring cabbage crop, the seed for which will have been sown by now. The plants must be put out when large enough, ground which has carried an onion crop is usually ideal. Seed for winter and spring lettuces and main crop turnips must be sown; the roots from the latter will stand the winter in most parts of the country, and can be pulled when wanted.

This article gives a bare outline (all that space allows) of some of the many operations in a market or fruit garden in which the Land Army can and are giving useful help. A. J. COBB.

THE LAND ARMY HAT

AND HOW TO WEAR IT



Yes.

No.

Yes.

No.

The Land Army Uniform

Every member of the Regular Force receives:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 hat. | 1 armlet. |
| 1 pair breeches. | 2 pairs dungarees. |
| 1 pullover. | 3 pairs stockings. |
| 2 blouses. | 1 mackintosh. |
| 1 overall coat. | |

And may also choose two of the following three items:—

- 1 pair of gum boots.
- 1 pair shoes.
- 1 pair black leather boots.

(These are strongly made and come just above the ankle joint).

Should volunteers wish to have all three types of footwear, they may purchase the boots for 14s. a pair direct from Balcombe, using a special order form, which they can obtain from their county Secretary. In addition, volunteers may also purchase direct from Balcombe (again using a special form) a green windcheater for 8s. These garments are really windproof jerseys, and excellent in cold weather.

Because of the War!

Each day of the week I work on the land,
In fact, I've become a tough old cow hand.
I look such a sight when caught off my guard,
Most times I feel like that soft stuff called lard.
My hue, though, is different, it's odd to behold,
It's what they call "ruddy," at least so I'm told!

However, I'm happy, I'm carefree, and well,
Determined one day to see Hitler in H—I!
When I do, I will cheer and reform my rough ways,
And be a fine lady the rest of my days.

M. SCOTT, W.L.A. 15,396.
(East. Suffolk).

A County Secretary received the following letter, written from a neighbouring hospital:
"Seeing an appeal in the — Weekly, I should like to become a permanent Land Girl, as owing to an accident in the black-out, also a septic thumb, I think my day for domestic work is finished. I am very fond of gardening."

COOKING FOR VICTORY

Moir Meighn has written this article for us. She is the author of "The Adventure Book of Cookery," "The Magic Ring for the Needy and Greedy," "Simplified Cooking," etc. She has very kindly offered one of her books as a prize to the Land Girl who sends in the best cooking hint or most original recipe useful to members of the Land Army.

Heavenly Father bless us
And keep us all alive,
There's ten of us for dinner
And not enough for five.
—Hodge's Grace.

COOKING in a small cottage for a Land Girl daughter with a tendency to land her mates on me for unexpected meals has often made me echo Hodge's invocation though, thanks to the teachings of an old French chef who impressed on his pupils that "a clever cook should conceit herself on her ability to cook a dinner from a careless cook's pig pail," it usually happens that the pigs and not our guests have gone short, the foundations of most of such impromptu meals being *potatoes cooked in their skins*.

Admittedly, to quote a local farmer at a Red Cross Cookery Bee, "denyin' pigs their tater peelin's proper unpatriotic from the pigs' point o' view." Considered from the human point of view, it is an essential part of food production (as stressed by Sir Frederick Keeble in a recent lecture on "Food in War-time" at the Royal Institution) that the food produced should be put to its fullest use.

"We misuse and waste incredible quantities," said Sir Frederick. "We ask our farmers to grow another million tons of potatoes when we are already throwing not far short of a million tons into the kitchen bucket in the form of peelings, and the best part of the potatoes, too." Close to the skin of the potato, so close that it cannot be separated prior to cooking, lies the chief part of the tuber's nutritive value, its irreplaceable mineral salts, and the all-important vitamin B, without which people suffer from nervous debility and lethargy, otherwise cowardice, despondency and hysteria. No Land Girl I have met can be classed in such a category; still, with a hard winter ahead of us it is as well to realise the vital importance of well-balanced food for human beings, as well as for stock; to realise to the full that the issue of the war may well be decided on the home front, victory going to the nation that shows the greatest stamina and endurance, and to realise also that without giving way to peace-time fads and fancies only foolish cooks disregard the psychological effects of an appetising meal.

It was Napoleon's prize, offered for the preservation of foodstuffs for his troops, that led to the evolution of the tinned food industry, on which so many British lives in our island fortress depend. Every war has had immense and far-reaching influence on every nation's kitchen history, but never have any women at any time had a grander opportunity to influence the kitchen history of England than the opportunity offered the Land Girl to-day. Contrive to persuade the agricultural community of the folly of peeling root vegetables prior to cooking them, contrive to persuade them that throwing away the water in which greens have been cooked is tantamount to throwing away the baby with the bath water, and you will be doubling your already magnificent contribution to our national well-being. But remember it needs diplomacy, much diplomacy, to persuade farming folk to change their ways, even such minor ways as not using water vegetables have been boiled in for soup stock; though I did succeed last harvest in introducing all the farmers I knew to that admirable Canadian thirst quencher, so rich in all the vitamins, *Lemonorangeade, made from the uncooked rinds of the fruit*. Instead of throwing away orange or lemon peelings, or drying them for fire lighting, rinse them under the tap and leave them to soak for 24 hours in half-a-pint of cold water to every skin. Then use the water, after squeezing the skins as dry as possible, for mixing with ordinary lemon squash or orange crystal mixture—or drink it plain or with the juice of an orange added.

Have you ever tried potatoes in their jackets, scrubbed, tied in a bit of old rabbit netting (to lift them out of the pot when cooked), and boiled in an old tin or pail over a field weed fire or in an outhouse copper? Believe me, they are fit for a king, particularly if split when hot and sandwiched with a thin slice of salted cheese, and perhaps a tasty nibble of "gibboles" or "gibbons," as young onions are called down Somerset way.

POTATO SOUP OR PUREE.

The Land Girl doing her own cooking, and dog weary after her hard day, will often find a few spuds cooked according to the previous suggestion a grand stand-by for an evening meal, and the fuel economy of making "master's" fire

do the initial boiling for her is considerable. To make a quick potato soup or puree, peel the boiled potatoes, allow three-quarters to half a saltspoonful of salt for every pound of potato, mash it well, add a dessertspoonful of chopped parsley (cut with your nail scissors if you have no chopping board), and stir well into half-a-pint of milk until the milk is just on boiling. This mixture can also be used to eke out the contents of a tin of mulligatawny soup, or, if made a bit less moist, is grand mixed with the flesh scraped off a kipper after the latter has been brought to the boil from cold water and left to stand therein for three minutes off the fire after reaching boiling point.

COLD POTATO SALAD.

Instead of making your potato salad the ordinary way with cold potatoes, try adding the oil and vinegar to the sliced potatoes cooked in their jackets and peeled and sliced when they are hot. The hot potato laps up the oil and vinegar like a cat laps cream, and becomes twice as digestible as the potato to which the dressing is added after it has cooled down and has surrounded itself with a layer of potato starch. I usually add a tablespoonful of hot milk to my sliced potatoes after the dressing and seasoning are on, and then leave them several hours before serving them. Try your next Sunday salad this way with a sprinkling of fresh chopped parsley and, if you fancy it, a little chopped mint, with perhaps a tin of sardines removed from their tin and arranged wheel fashion in the centre with a rim of mustard and cress grown on your window sill.

M. MEIGHN.

HENS

YES, I said, "Hens"!

Now, please don't turn up your Land Army noses and say: "Hens—pooh! We go in for bigger game these days." Of course we do, but the strange thing is that hens are interesting.

I have just come to this conclusion after training for, and taking part in, a Poultry Judging Competition.

Once upon a time my knowledge of hens did not stretch beyond three points: (1) They lay eggs. (2) They have wish bones. (3) They wake at an uncivilised hour of the morning. Then I went on the land and added another fact to these amazing deductions—they eat! Even then I thought of them as silly clucking brutes, but was soon reformed.

We started our training with a lecture with lantern slides, on poultry in general; on how to handle the birds, how to test their laying capacity, how to look for faults and good points. The rest of the course consisted of visits to various farms for practical experience and tests.

The competition proper consisted of placing each of the four birds in each class in order of merit, and later giving the reasons for so doing; the breeds involved were White Leghorn, Rhode Island Red, Light Sussex, and White Wyandotte.

As the Land Army's only representative I very much regret that I did not get a score sufficiently high to take me into the Honours List, but the final test was delirium to me.

The hens all looked so exactly alike—hens, hens, and more hens! Keel bone? Yes, it's straight. Back quite broad. Eye? Now would you call that a perfect eye? Pelvic bones? Heavens, where are the brute's pelvic bones? And which breed has white earlobes—Leghorn, Sussex, Wyandotte?

When it came to giving reasons, it was simply a case of trying to convince the judge that I knew more than she did, whereas actually I seemed suddenly only to remember my four standard ideas about hens—they lay eggs, have "wish bones," rise early, and eat.

But, for all that, my short training was not wasted. Back in the friendly farmyard with our own hens clucking round me I found that I was looking at them with real interest. Subconsciously I was placing them—good, bad, or indifferent; noticing if they were in good laying condition or pining. Incidentally, I found myself looking at *people's* eyes from sheer habit and unconsciously thinking: "Now, if she were a hen that would be a point in her favour." But I keep these thoughts to myself!

I think I know what hens mean to most of us in the Land Army. They mean stopping some more engrossing and important work to dash out with grain in the middle of the afternoon. But the next time you go to throw some food at the creatures try picking one up; feel the width of its back and the space between the pelvic bones for laying capacity. Have a look to see if its eye is clear and bright; at its legs to see if they are pale from heavy laying.

After all, we won't be in the Land Army for ever. When we've done with Hitler and gone back to our old lives we won't likely want cows in our drawing rooms, or pigs dancing over our herbaceous borders, but if we have any gardens at all why not hens in the back green?

LENNIE B. WILL,

No. 743, Scottish W.L.A.

“A LAND GIRL AT WORK”



Prize-winning photograph. From R. Knappett, W.L.A. 30627 (Lancashire).



From P. Boyce, W.L.A. 26965 (Essex).



From J. Johnson, W.L.A. 23841 (Warwickshire).

The Honorary Director, Lady Denman, has given a special prize to each of the above.

CALEDONIA CALLING!

THE main feature of the last month's activities in Scotland was the presentation of "Good Service" badges. This in several districts was made the occasion of local recruiting rallies, and very successful they all were.

In the Alford and Deeside area Mrs. Cook, the lady member of the district Agricultural Executive Committee, arranged a meeting at Alford in co-operation with the W.R.I. and the Young Farmers' Club. The capacity of the hall was so taxed that a number of people had to be turned away, so that it would seem that the Land Army has quite definitely been put on the map in Aberdeenshire.

A Ciné-Kodak film in colour was shown, in the course of which the girls employed on farms in the neighbourhood were seen carrying out their daily tasks with enthusiasm and, according to the farmers present, with great efficiency. Grateful thanks were expressed to Mr. Dason, of the Cambus O'May Hotel, for his excellent work in preparing and showing the film. All the girls concerned paraded in person, dressed in uniform, and their business-like bearing called forth many complimentary remarks from the large audience.

Charlotte Morrison, No. 1080, was then given her "Diamond" by Mrs. Cook, who said she hoped that she would soon have many more badges to hand out in the district.

In Banffshire, Marie Henderson, No. 1105, was given her badge by Sir George W. Abercromby, of Forglen, and in accepting stated how very grateful she was for all Mrs. Grant's help and encouragement. She even went the length of composing poetry about it.

In Ayrshire there were two ceremonies, one in the north district of the county, and the other in the south. In the former area Mrs. Kennedy arranged for the presentation to be made by Sir Neil Cochran-Patrick at a farmers' free gift sale for war charities, and the following members duly received their decorations, to the plaudits of the populace: Jean Littlewood, 1033; Christina McRiner, 902; Frances Moodie, 882.

In this district, by the way, a recruiting car with loud speaker tours the countryside, under the control of Miss W. Turner and Mrs. Knox.

In South Ayrshire, Colonel Kennedy presented the "Good Service" badge at a meeting of the Agricultural Executive Committee, the thrilled recipients being: Marion B. Kirk, 1326; B. M. McLeod, 990; Roberta M. Craig, 311; A. M. Maxwell, 353; E. Harvey, 1478; I. M. Cuthill, 1556.

M. M. MACLEOD.

ASK US ANOTHER

CAN you recommend some interesting books on farm work that would help a Land Girl to "go to it"?

The best book for this purpose is probably "The Farming Year," by J. A. Scott Watson (1/9, post free 2/3), from the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, Oaklings, Canon's Close, Radlett, Herts, from which you can also obtain "Notes and Illustrations," "Farm and School" (1/3, post free 1/6), and also booklets on special subjects (6d. each, post free 9d.). Then there are "A Farmer's Handbook," by R. C. Andrew, 3/6; "Practical Dairying," by Dorothy Saker; and "Elements of Agriculture," by Fream. There is a comprehensive tome called "Livestock on the Farm," if you can get hold of it, but it runs to six volumes. Lighter literature on the same subject are "Strawberry Roan" and "Farming England," by A. G. Street, and "The Call of the Land," by Nona Hermon-Hodge, who was a Land Girl in the last war. Some of these and other books can be borrowed from the library of the Ministry of Agriculture.

What can be grown now that will help supply hens with suitable food during the winter now that usual supplies are cut short?

It is rather late now to grow anything for the winter. Hens may be fed with potato up to 30 per cent or even a little more. Also carrots, and onions (smaller quantities or the eggs will taste); all these should be cooked unless put through a mincing machine. Swedes are good and need not be cooked.

The next door ducks are said to lay eggs with green yolks, possibly due to eating acorns. Can this be true?

Ducks do lay green-yolked eggs as a result of eating acorns, but there are no acorns at this time of year! Some weeds, like shepherd's purse, growing in moist land have the same effect on ducks, while oak sawdust litter will cause green or even black yolks, and in hens too.

What can I do to stop the terrible squeak in my L.A. shoes?

Ask your local cobbler if he can put some French chalk under the sole. Sometimes scoring the sole and standing the shoe in castor oil, leaving it to soak, improves matters. If the squeak continues Miss Doman would like to hear more about it.

(Continued at bottom of page 9).

Rhyme and Reason

If you have a little time
 Here you'll find some hints in rhyme.
 No job is bad enough to shirk,
 So never mind how hard you work.
 Remember when you have to hoe
 That plants must stay and weeds must go.
 And if you're put to picking 'tates,
 Try not to lag behind your mates:
 For the faster goes the spinner
 Then the quicker you'll grow thinner.
 When setting plants please concentrate;
 Remember you must get them straight.
 And if you stand upon a stack
 Just look around 'ere stepping back.
 No mucky plugs when on the tractor:
 You'll find this is a vital factor.
 And when you're asked to drive a dray
 Mind the gateposts on the way.
 Don't stay at home and mope away
 The time that's left for you to play.
 Make a call on Mrs. Brown,
 And ask if Lizzie's mumps are down.
 At night go to the W.I.,
 You will enjoy it if you try.
 And if you're fed up try to grin,
 Remember we've the war to win.

C. BULLOCK, 6919, W. LYONS, 3697 (Kesteven).

Photographic Competition

"A LAND GIRL AT WORK."

A large number of entries was received, illustrating a great variety of occupations and some very fine members of the Land Army. Unfortunately, the photography itself was not very good; composition and grouping were mostly neglected, backgrounds were disregarded, and in many cases the focus was poor. The prize-winning efforts are printed on page 7, and some other photographs have been retained with a view to publication when opportunity permits.

(Continued from page 8).

Could you ask if all or any of three land girls in the Army of 1914—1918 are with us again this time? I have forgotten their surnames, but their Christian names were Phyllis, Molly and Nelly, and they worked for Mr. Bartlett, at Dickerage Farm, New Malden, Surrey, in 1917—1918.—(From E. Barraud. W.L.A. 9600, Little Eversden, Cambs.).

Headquarter's Notes

The Long View

MOST things are cheap when they are plentiful, dear when they are scarce. Not so the Land Girl! Four and five months ago, before the rise in agricultural wages, the trained and experienced Land Girl was a rare commodity for whom farmers were competing. Now, when a sufficient number of volunteers have been recruited and trained, and are ready to meet the expected need, up has gone the price—down has gone the demand.

Taking the long view, the rise in wages must be in the best interests of the Land Army. The immediate effect has been to bring disappointment and anxiety into the hearts of many of its members. Some volunteers, even those who have been at work for several months, are now losing their jobs on account of the higher wage rates. An experienced volunteer with a good record should not take long, with the help of her county office, to find new employment. Still it is hard to have to leave a job in which you are happy—particularly hard if you have stuck to that job all through the difficult winter months and are now enjoying work under easier conditions. It is hard, too, on the girl who has volunteered for the Land Army, given up her civilian job and gone into training, to find no employment ready when her training is over. Not only must she wait till the employment demand revives, but she must yield first place to the experienced worker now out of a job.

We ask the farmers to help us—to look ahead—to take the long view. Soon they will feel the benefit of the better prices. The new wage rates will not seem so high then. The farmer who loses his experienced worker now will not get her back again if he needs her later on.

We ask the employed Land Girls also to help us. They have dug themselves in—their worth is recognised. Now is the time for them to lend a hand to the girls who are waiting for their first jobs. Now is the moment to remind their employing farmer that he will be needing another girl before long and that he had better get one quickly while he can have first choice. A word from "Land Girl number one" will do more than any Minister of Agriculture can do to make a place for "Land Girl number two"!

INEZ JENKINS.

A trainee, who had difficulty in remembering things, used to pin a daily memorandum on to her shirt. One morning the notice read "Heifer = miss cow."

BACK TO THE LAND

Words by
P. ADKINS. W.L.A. 28299
& J. MONCRIEFF

Music by
E. K. LORING. W.L.A. 2053

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It begins with a piano introduction in 4/4 time, featuring a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some chords. The piano part includes several chords and a steady bass line. The score is divided into two systems, each with a vocal line (1st SOP. and 2nd SOP.) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal lines are written in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The music is in G major, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Allegretto'.

1
Back to the Land, we must all lend a hand,
To the farms and the fields we must go.
There's a job to be done,
Though we can't fire a gun
We can still do our bit with the hoe.
When your muscles are strong
You will soon get along,
And you'll think that a country life's grand.
We're all needed now,
We must all speed the plough,
So come with us—Back to the Land.

2
Back to the Land, with its clay and its sand,
Its granite and gravel and grit,
You grow barley and wheat
And potatoes to eat
To make sure that the nation keeps fit.
Remember the rest
Are all doing their best,
To achieve the results they have planned
We will tell you once more
You can help win the war
If you come with us—Back to the Land.

The above, which is part of a Land Army opera by two Surrey members, should go with a swing at Land Army parties. Single Copies 1d. each, 2d. post free, or 12 for 1s., post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

Correspondence

DEAR MADAM,

I was very interested in the letters from Land Girls in the magazine. The best of luck to them all. This lambing season I got two pet lambs, and instead of rearing them on a bottle I reared them on a heifer. Here is a photograph of them. I hope you will find room for it in the magazine. I should very much like to get a pen friend. Good luck to the Land Girl!

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ANNE MACLEOD, 25341, Essex.

DEAR MADAM,

I wonder if I may make a suggestion as to how the W.L.A. may do still more to win the war. There was an appeal on the wireless a few nights ago for knitted comforts for the troops for the coming winter. There must be many like myself who are willing to knit, but find difficulty in getting wool. If we had a central organisation in the L.A. where anyone could contribute funds or wool for Land Army knitters I feel we could make a worthwhile contribution to the war effort. I know that some of us work too long to do much, but if we only did an hour or two a week it would help. Perhaps we could work in conjunction with the W.V.S. I also suggest that any contributions should be anonymous. I hope my idea meets with your approval.

Life on the farm is certainly different to what I expected. Up to March, 1940, I had spent exactly two weeks in the country. Since then I have spent three half-days in town. Works starts at 5 a.m. and goes on till 5 p.m., with two hours for meals. I have at last managed to milk twelve cows before breakfast, and, believe it or not, I am getting quite fond of my shorthorns. What I shall do when the war is over I don't know.

With best wishes for the LAND GIRL,

Yours sincerely,

DOROTHY MANSLEY, 24315, Hants.

[ED. NOTE.—Ask your local W.V.S. about getting wool.]

DEAR EDITOR,

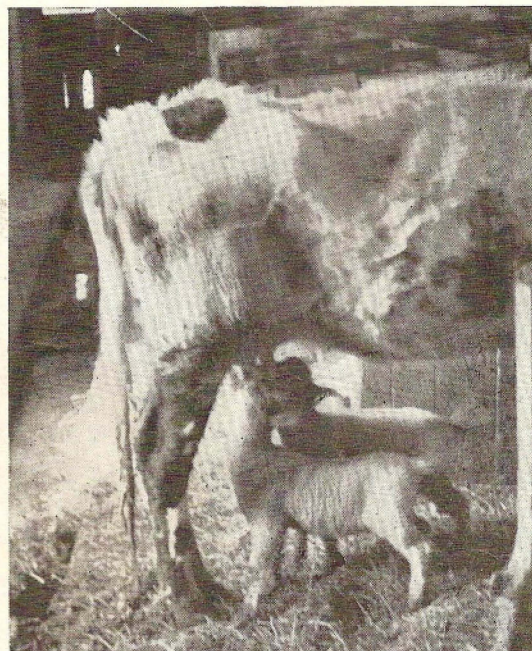
I thought you might be interested to know that Miss Tirbutt has generously asked me to keep her wages, due to her for overtime in haymaking and harvest time, and then to send the total to the Red Cross Fund. I thought it a very fine example and worthy of the Land Army, as she has no private means other than what she earns.

She does not know I have written to you, but I thought perhaps it might be of interest to the Land Army magazine.

I might add that she seems very happy here, and I have found her a great help.

Yours sincerely,

EDWARD M. SURMAN, Worcs.



DEAR EDITOR,

Before the war I had been teaching music in Surrey for two years, and now I am milking cows seven days a week at the local farm. I am very fortunate in being able to live at home.

Yesterday I made use of my previous career, and with the help of a friend, who is a singer, we gave an informal musical evening—just songs, duets and piano solos—to an audience of just over 30 people.

We had a collection at the end for the Red Cross Agriculture Fund, and to-day I am proud to say I am sending up a cheque for £6 6s. 0d. I thought you might be interested to hear of this.

The LAND GIRL is a most enjoyable magazine.

Yours sincerely,

JANET M. BENSON, 16596, East Sussex.

DEAR EDITOR,

Enclosed are a few snaps for the competition. I hope there is a winner among them.

I think THE LAND GIRL a jolly good magazine, and read it over and over again. It gives one the impression that we are a success. I've been on this farm since November, and like the work more each month, especially now harvest-time is coming.

Here is good luck to THE LAND GIRL and my snaps.

Yours sincerely,

PAT BOYCE, 26965, (Essex).

B.B.C. Programmes

August 17, 6.45 p.m.—Women in the Land Army.

„ 22, 3.30 p.m.—The Village Green.

„ 23, 10.0 a.m.—A visit to Brixton Market.

Talks for smallholders, and cottage pig and goat keepers, poultry, etc., are given every Saturday about midday.

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COUNTY NEWS

BERKS.—A competition has been organised which will give the Berkshire members an opportunity of showing what literary and artistic talent they possess, and it is hoped to compile an interesting record of Land Army activities in the county from the entries to this and other competitions.

ESSEX news takes the form of a letter from two volunteers: "We are getting along splendidly. The air-raids are horrid, but we just keep smiling. This is a very lonely and nasty place at times, but we are not complaining: it's all in a day's work. We are on the land now, doing all sorts of interesting jobs. We have done docking, sugar-beet singling, peeing, and we are now thistle dodging. It would be grand to have a rally and meet some other Land Girls. So far we have only seen each other. We would manage to get to Chelmsford somehow. Anything is possible if you only try, as we have found out with our work. . . . We have the magazine every month. It's so interesting. We always look down the list of employed volunteers in employment since the outbreak of war, and to our surprise Essex was not included in this month's magazine. Why? The weather is rather bad here at present, but will soon be better. It is up to us to be cheery. Then the weather doesn't seem half as bad. We are in grand digs, and I am sending you some snaps to show you just how happy we are."

* *Answer.* Because the Essex return arrived too late.—ED.

HANTS.—The volunteers living at the W.L.A. hostel in Lee are joining with women of the Services for singings and musical evenings. These are proving very popular, as all the girls thoroughly enjoy comparing notes on their various jobs and meeting other people who have given up their peace-time occupations for National Service. The evenings are very happy and informal, and are run by Miss Black, who before the war did a great deal of that sort of work with the Girl Guides. The Land Army girls were very pleased and surprised when they realised that their uniform was both admired and envied by the A.T.S. To a casual observer the difference between the sun-tanned and sturdy Land Army and those whose jobs kept them indoors was quite astounding.

At a party for the Lymington area seven New Milton members and one each from Milford, Hordle and Lymington were given their Good Service Badges by Mrs. Chute. A cinematograph entertainment given by Mr. Rampley, of Sway, and refreshments followed the presentation, the whole party being arranged by Mrs. T. H. Butler, Area Representative.

HEREFORD has started a scheme whereby every Land Girl working in the county knows that on the third Sunday of every month she is welcome at someone's house for two hours in the evening.

As more girls come into the county, more centres can be started, but at present there are still a few isolated volunteers whose nearest group hostess is really too far away.

The Y.W.C.A. in Hereford has offered honorary membership to every Land Girl in the county, and so has provided the Land Army with a meeting place which is much appreciated.

HERTS.—During the month the Land Army film has been shown in several cinemas in the county. In addition, slides were displayed in every area.

We hear that the Chairman and the County Secretary, as well as several members of our County



The writers of the letter quoted under Essex.

Committee, vie with each other in the cultivation of vegetables. Every spare moment is being spent in "Digging for Victory."

During the evenings one of our members, who is a dressmaker by profession, has been helping the Red Cross to cut out garments. Another girl, when the arduous day's work is done, hires a horse and goes riding.

The County Secretary and the Uniform Supervisor much enjoyed a visit to Balcombe recently. They found that half an hour of personal contact is far more satisfactory than dozens of letters can be.

HUNTS, CAMBS AND THE ISLE OF ELY.—Owing to the rise in wages, farmers are not only dismissing Land Army workers who have been with them throughout the long, hard winter, but are also cancelling their applications. It is perhaps paradoxical that we are receiving many more requests for enrolment in the Land Army at the present time than when farmers' applications were far in excess of volunteers.

After big recruiting drives in Cambridge and elsewhere for auxiliary members earlier in the summer, the demand is now practically nil, though we are hoping the fruit farmers will be wanting labour very shortly for the abnormally large crops.

Not all our volunteers take THE LAND GIRL, and we hope those who do will recommend this excellent threepennyworth to any other Land Girl they meet. Cannot one of you send up an entertaining account of your life on the land?

The office is now permanently established at Lawrence Court, Huntingdon, and we hope all volunteers will remember we are here to advise and help in any difficulties that may arise.

Good Service Badges so far earned and presented amount to forty, and several other volunteers have now qualified for this proof of their good work and honest toil.

KESTEVEN.—The main item of news for this month is the opening of a hostel for W.L.A. Auxiliaries by the Y.W.C.A. at Manthorpe House, Bourne, where accommodation has been provided for fifty members. The staff comprises Miss Grimer, the warden, and a friend, with trained cook and kitchen maid. W.V.S. representatives from the five neighbouring villages bring helpers one day a week each to prepare the girls' picnic lunches, and pupils from a Domestic Science School in Bourne help with the morning housework. The hostel is simply but attractively furnished as a sort of holiday camp with piano, table tennis equipment, etc., for use during recreation.

The War Agricultural Committee have signed an agreement to employ fifty girls from July to

November, arranging work for them with the local farmers.

LANCS.—In June Messrs. Lewis, of Liverpool, held a recruiting display for the Services and other war organisations. The W.L.A. was represented and had a bureau where a Land Girl in uniform and a member of the County Committee were present each day to answer enquiries, of which there were a large number, and many volunteers were enrolled as full-time or auxiliary workers. Great interest was shown in *THE LAND GIRL*, and all available copies were soon sold out. Enrolment in the Auxiliary Force is embarrassing in numbers. On their recent visit to Liverpool University, Lady Worsley-Taylor and Mrs. Robertson enrolled 87 volunteers. There are now in the county about seventy W.L.A. workers who are eligible for their Good Service half-diamond. One of our recent recruits came all the way from Australia to join the Land Army and was placed on a farm the day after she enrolled.

LEICS.—The chairman, Lady Martin, gave a party at her home for all the Leics. girls, and Good Service Badges were presented by Sir Robert Martin (44 in all for Leics. and ten for Rutland). Girls came from all over the county, some coming in a horse-box, and members of the committee very kindly brought as many as possible. A terrific trade was done in magazines, and there are very few Leics. girls who do not see it now. Some of the Land Girls collected over £6 selling flags at an Agricultural Red Cross Sale at Hinckley.

LONDON Auxiliaries are returning from their land work with a fixed determination to do it again.

In one of the big shops it was quite easy to pick out the temporary Land Girls who had just returned to work after a month on the land, they looked so brown and well. One girl in a stocking department was finding that weeding cabbages had ruined her hands for "sheer silk;" she did not mind about the stockings, she only wished they were cabbages.

MERIONETH.—The Merioneth W.L.A. Committee (chairman, Lady Haydn Jones, Towyn; secretary, Miss Hughes, Erw, Bl. Festiniog) has been very busy recruiting. One recruiting effort attracted much attention in an annual spring fair held in Dolgelly, the county town. Several girls have had training at Llysfas Farm Institute, subsequently going to farms in various counties of Wales. 25 Liverpool University students, in residence at Coleg Harlech, enrolled for seasonal work and are variously employed.

OXON.—There will be a distribution of Good Service awards after the harvest, and we hope to have a rally. By that time some of our Land Girls will

have completed twelve months' service—the period that must elapse before a whole diamond is given for good work and conduct. There ought to be a creditable number qualifying for the half-diamond for six months' satisfactory service. So nice to know that there is nothing competitive about these awards, but that they are given to every Land Girl who honestly deserves them.

One Oxfordshire Land Girl, at any rate, will write a happy "finis" to her Land Army career when she is married to the young farmer for whom she worked through the long, hard winter. It should be the occasion for a topical "guard of honour." But, alas for our good intentions, the wedding will take place in Devon. So we must content ourselves with wishing them good fortune and great happiness together.

A former Group Leader deplores the absence of a snappy designation for Land Girls. "We have 'Waafs' and 'Wrens' and 'Fannies,'" she wails. "Why not 'Lams?' 'Land Army Maids, of course!' 'They be the maids us wants, more'n more of 'em.'" And if you do not recognise the quotation, you deserve never to be allowed to read *THE LAND GIRL* again.

PEMBROKE.—The Army now numbers 115, and the County Committee give good reports of the work and behaviour of its members. The rise in wages has been received with joy and is being well earned.

The Stackpole hostel had a gay evening of entertainment and dancing, with 150 present; visitors included members of the Forces resident in the district. Admission was free to the Land Army, amongst whom much talent was found; others willingly paid 1s. 6d. for an enjoyable evening. Over £7 was made for the Red Cross Fund. Recreation at this hostel includes tennis, riding, bathing. The Land Army at Little Milford gave a concert, presided over by their employer, in an adjoining village, followed by a dance, and raised £7 for two local knitting parties. The programme included sketches and dances. At week-ends the girls are seen hiking, cycling, boating and bathing.

Some who signed on for a month's work have left, and write regretfully that they are not still potato-picking.

One member who is so anxious to stay on has sent for her husband who, when he sees for himself the happy healthy life being led, it is hoped will allow his wife to remain at her work and perhaps himself take up land work. His wife and another member set off in a pony cart three miles to the station to meet him and brought him safely to the hostel.

We have three weddings to report of girls from our ranks, and wish them every happiness.

SALOP.—We have little news this month. With regard to the overtime mentioned by Glos., we can easily beat this, e.g. two of our volunteers worked 29 hours overtime weekly for three weeks, and probably others have done even more.

STAFFS reports that the Social Service Centre at Birmingham gives free cards of membership to members of the Land Army, admitting them to dancing, discussions, handicraft, canteen, etc.

A Staffs Land Girl recommended to work on the land as a sure cure for worry writes: "My first experience of the Land Army was to be sent out with a pickaxe to break the ice, which was inches thick, on the various cow ponds, and shovel snow away. For about six weeks there was nothing to look at but snow; many a time I had to dig my way through 10 ft. drifts to reach the sheep, but life was never dull. My spirits were often kept up by the old man

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who worked on the farm. When milking he would sing to me and offer me a pinch of snuff. The birds got so tame during the cold weather that a little brown owl sat beside my milking stool and blinked solemnly at me.

"At my next job I was sent out with horse and cart to collect paraffin tins from various fields. Just when I had loaded the last lot there was a terrific crash—a portion of the harness had broken, the shafts jerked into the air and all the tins fell out. Dilapidated implements were common on this farm, requiring my frequent efforts to repair broken harrows, etc., in order to carry on. All of which keeps one's mind off the war or any other trouble."

EAST SUFFOLK.—Our county has always been divided into districts under committee members. We are now sub-dividing these and hope quite soon to be able to say that wherever we place a Land Girl there will be a responsible person ready to help and advise her within bicycling distance.

Good Service Badges.—By the end of this month fifty Good Service Badges will have been awarded. Whenever possible our chairman, Lady Cranworth, visits the proud recipients, and she has been delighted with their good spirits and obvious enjoyment in their work, also with the satisfaction expressed by their employers.

We read with envy of all the meetings and rallies held in other counties, but here volunteers are so scattered that it has not been practicable to emulate them. However, we have notified all our recruits of others employed in their neighbourhood, and two of our most energetic members spend some of their rare leisure hours scouring the countryside on their bicycles making contact with their fellow workers. We hope that this companionable practice will spread.

The wages for women agricultural workers in this county have risen sharply this month, particularly for those of 21 years and over. The Land Girls in this class will, therefore, have to keep up a very high standard of efficiency and keenness to remain "worthy of their hire."

WEST SUSSEX.—We are starting a club for members of the Land Army in Horsham to be run by the girls themselves. Subscription, 2s. for six months. We hope to get kind friends to lend table tennis and a dart board, and challenge other "area" or parish clubs to matches. Refreshments, such as coffee, lemonade and biscuits, can be obtained at reasonable charges. Midhurst have started stoolball matches, and Shipley village, which boasts of sixteen members of the W.L.A., hopes to start a social club of its own. Horsham area held a party for its members this month; over sixty invitations were sent out, and between forty and fifty Land Girls turned up. They obviously welcome any opportunity of "getting together" and making friends, and if more social clubs could be started they would surely help the Land Army to keep smiling and give them a little much needed relaxation.

WARWICKS.—Typical of many volunteers are the writers of the following letter to the County Secretary: "We are just a couple of Land Girls who wish to thank someone (we don't quite know who) for sending us to college for training and then to Mr. P. to work, and hope that we shall continue to do so as long as we remain in the Land Army. Perhaps I should, first of all, tell you how much we appreciated the trouble and the patience which all the instructors, instructresses, farm workers and so on used when showing us different jobs. Most of us were girls with little or no knowledge of farm work, but at the end of four weeks we had had an insight

into many aspects of farming. I doubt if it was possible to teach us any more in such a short time, but I think I can safely say that we were all genuinely sorry to leave. We are doing our very best to please now that we are actually employed as workers. Mr. P. is teaching us many things, and we hope that he is satisfied with our progress. We have a nice room and good food, which gives us not the slightest cause to grumble."

WORCESTERSHIRE.—The hostel at Charlton Manor has now been open six weeks to accommodate eighty Auxiliary Land Girls to do market gardening work in the Evesham Vale.

Most of the recruits stay one month, though there are quite a number who have volunteered for the whole of the summer. Each month forty girls who work at John Lewis and Co., Oxford Street, replace those who have returned to London. The rest of the number is made up chiefly of University students.

The lack of rain has made less work than was anticipated, but the recruits have been busy hoeing, picking peas and beans and some soft fruits. The hostel is run on the lines of an indoor camp, and the recruits are showing an excellent team spirit in doing their share of washing up, etc.

The employers have been very generous in giving vegetables to the hostel and fetching the recruits to and from the station and to their work on lorries. We hope the hostel will continue to be a success.

YORKS, EAST RIDING.—Nineteen Good Service Badges have been awarded. One farmer who has had labour difficulties has "placed all his eggs in the W.L.A. basket" and is employing four girls. The eyes of the district are upon him and we feel sure he will not regret his decision to make the experiment.

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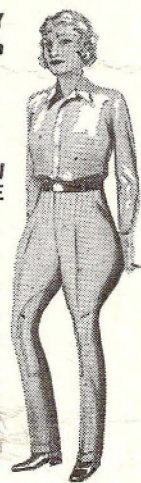
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County Employment Returns

COUNTY.	Number of employed volunteers placed in employment since the outbreak of war.
Kent	495
Hampshire	423
Wiltshire	333
Gloucestershire	284
Cheshire	279
Surrey	276
Worcestershire	256
Somerset	241
East Sussex	241
West Sussex	239
West Suffolk	222
Berkshire	219
Warwickshire	209
Lancashire	200
Oxfordshire	185
Essex	184
Shropshire	166
Glamorgan	165
Devonshire	163
Norfolk	161
Lindsey	160
Dorset	144
Hertfordshire	143
Staffordshire	133
Northamptonshire	132
Leicestershire	123
Nottinghamshire	112
Buckinghamshire	111
Northumberland	108
Yorkshire, West Riding	106
Cornwall	102
Monmouthshire	96
Herefordshire	94
Yorkshire, North Riding	93
Huntingdonshire	81
Isle of Wight	81
Kesteven	76
East Suffolk	76
Derbyshire	71
Flintshire	66
Yorkshire, East Riding	65
Cambridgeshire	60
Denbighshire	56
Bedfordshire	55

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