SUGAR BEET GROWING IN ESSEX.

RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTS.

A report has been prepared in connection with the experiments which have been made under the auspices of the County Education Committee to ascertain "how beet produced in Essex would compare with that grown in other countries of Europe." The report states that "the results show that beets have been grown equal, and in some cases better, in quality, than those produced in sugar-making countries." The mean percentage of sugar in the beet used at the Lavenham factory in 1869, 1870, and 1871 was 10.0; the mean of over eighty samples from different plots grown in Essex in 1905 is slightly over 16½ per cent. of sugar. This striking illustration of improvement in quality is attributed to "careful selection along the right lines."

The experiments were started at five centres, where land was placed at the disposal of the Committee—Great Stambridge Hall; Boarded Barns, Chelmsford; Park Farm, St. Osyth; Great Yeldham: Bytaes Hall Farm, Maplestead. Five varieties of seeds were generally used and at most of the centres special varieties were also grown. The plots received, in addition to farmyard manure, 3cwt. per acre superphosphate, 1cwt. per acre of nitrate of soda, and half the plots received a cross dressing of sulphate of potash at the rate of 1cwt. per acre. The report points out that in considering the results of the experiments, it should be remembered that the value of the beet depends on two things—(1) the percentage of sugar in roots, (2) purity of the juice. As a result of careful investigation on the Continent and in the United States, it has been found that small roots contain the highest percentage of sugar, and are best adapted for manipulation at the factory.

At Maplestead, from a good crop of small roots, the percentage of sugar was 17.4, and this was the highest. Chelmsford coming second with 17.3. The percentage at Yeldham was 17.1, the average for all centres being 16.5. As the greatest yield per acre in tons, Great Stambridge heads the list with 23.1, Chelmsford having 21.4, Yeldham 19.8, Maplestead 15.4, the average for all centres being 15.2. The purity of juice, the third consideration, has the highest percentage in the Chelmsford return—viz., 86.4; Maplestead and Yeldham 85.0, the average being 83.1. According to the tables in the report, slightly the highest percentage of sugar and a good juice is given from the seed known as Klein Wanz Leben.

Interesting statements are given in the reports as to the cost per acre of cultivation of the beet. Mr. E. H. Brewster, of Maplestead, reckons the total cost (from October, [illegible]

[illegible] acre at £11 1s. 6d., not including rent, rates, etc. Here the yields of sugar were good, King's Special producing per acre 4 tons 12cwt. (no potash), 4 tons 15cwt. (with potash), but in the Dipper Klein Wanz Leben one finds the maximum percentage of sugar in the beet, viz., 18.5 (with and without potash), also the greatest purity of juice. At Boarded Barns, Chelmsford, Wilmore's Improved had the greatest yield of 3 tons 18cwt. per acre (no potash), 3 tons 18cwt. (with potash), Cooper's Selected Klein Wanz Leben, 3 tons 18cwt. (with potash), coming next. Wilmore's Improved produced the highest percentage of sugar in the beet, and Dipper Klein Wanz Leben the greatest purity.

TWO PAYING CROPS.

The experiments on the manuring of mangolds and oats on Mr. Parke's farm at Kineton, Warwickshire, have again yielded results showing the economy of judicious manuring. The season has been locally a very good one for mangolds, so much so that on the unmanured land at Kineton the mangolds (orange globes), although directly following mangolds last season, weighed nearly 31 tons per acre. Superphosphate alone (6cwt. per acre) increased this to 33 tons, while the addition to superphosphate of 2, 4, and 6cwt. of nitrate of soda per acre on three other plots raised the average yield respectively to 35, 42, and 45 tons, or 14, 21, and 25 tons more than the yield of the unmanured land. The average cost of producing this increase was well under 2s. per ton of roots—a cheap outlay for the increased stock-carrying power which it implies. In the oat trials (following wheat) the unmanured land yielded 29 bushels of oats and 14cwt. of straw per acre. Superphosphate (5cwt. per acre) and nitrate of soda (1cwt. per acre) raised the yield to 40 bushels of oats and 18cwt. of straw. When the nitrate of soda was increased to 2cwt. per acre, the yield was 72 bushels of oats and 23cwt. of straw, showing, as compared with the unmanured land, the very profitable increase of 32 bushels of oats and 10cwt. of straw, in return for an outlay on manures of about 32s. per acre.

SEEING LIFE'S BRIGHTER SIDE.

Depression of the spirits, the tendency to see nothing in the future worth living for, the feeling that one has no purpose in life, [illegible] have a physical origin [illegible] out of a hundred. We [illegible] liable to attacks of "the blues" [illegible] sedentary habits; they [illegible] which ties them [illegible] unhealthy atmosphere. [illegible] the taking of various corrective [illegible] a habit, which often results in chronic digestive and nervous disease.

The most dependable of our doctors have [illegible] the folly of taking [illegible] composition which, while [illegible] the symptoms, do not stop the [illegible] progress of the ailment, and the risk of being [illegible] such remedies is to-day so great that too much stress cannot be laid on the warning. A remedy that has for the past 100 years been heartily recommended by the leaders of the medical profession is Cockle's Antibilious Pills. For nervous depression there is nothing to equal them. They may be had of all chemists, from 1s. 1½d. to 21s.

NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL AT BRAINTREE.

The Braintree Advisory Committee, on the instructions of the County Education Committee, have for some time past been preparing a scheme for providing their district with a Secondary School. The scheme is now complete, and has been approved by all the responsible authorities.

The school, which will be erected near the County Court, Bocking, will be a Mixed Secondary Day School for about 150 scholars, and will be easily capable of extension if it should become necessary. The building will be of two storeys, and will contain six class-rooms, two science laboratories, art room, workshop, cookery room, and a central hall large enough to accommodate all the scholars at the same time. There will also be accommodation for the staff, an office for the clerk to the Advisory Committee, a committee room, and the usual offices.

The course of instruction provided will be [illegible]

[illegible]

MR. W. W. GLENNY, J.P., C.A.

Mr. W. W. Glenny, J.P., C.A., has been vice-chairman of the Essex County Council since it was formed in 1889, having been returned unopposed as the representative for the Barking Division and elected as one of the first county Aldermen. The son of the late Mr. Thomas Glenny, he was born at Barking in 1839, and has been identified with the place all his life. The family has been settled in the county since the middle of the Eighteenth Century, when his great-grand-

father, Mr. Alexander Glenny, came into Essex from Scotland. This Mr. Alexander Glenny's eldest son, Mr. William Glenny, purchased the property known as Bifrons, Barking, in September, 1818. The estate was formerly the residence of Lord Somerville, who was noted in Essex as having been the owner of long-wooled Merino sheep. The mansion was in decay or already demolished when purchased by Mr. William Glenny, but the high-walled [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] man of the Essex Chamber of Agriculture, and he is deeply interested in the antiquarian history of the county.

Few men have done more solid and valuable work for Essex, in a quiet and unostentatious way, than Mr. Glenny, and no one is more highly esteemed alike by his colleagues, by public officials, and, in fact, by all with whom his public duties bring him in constant touch. Everyone who knows him will, we are sure, unite with us in the hope that he will for many years continue his good work for the benefit of the county he has served, and continues to serve, so loyally and so well.

MR. W. W. GLENNY AND GARDEN FARMS.

Mr. W. W. Glenny contributes to "Vinton's Agricultural Almanac" for 1906 an interesting and instructive article on "The Garden Farm: its possibilities and probabilities." He says:—

A farmer is one who cultivates ground, whether his own or another's. A horticulturist is one fond of or skilled in the art of cultivating gardens. A market gardener is one who has a small holding where fruit and vegetables are grown, and where the occupier prepares and grows his goods for sale, and then forwards them to market for distribution. Some farmers occupy extensive areas of land, perhaps comprising several hundreds of broad acres; then, if they devote a portion to fruit or to pot herbs, they hardly come within the limited definition of market gardeners, although their land is partly given to one method of cultivation and partly to another. Such may be described as garden farmers. They are with few exceptions comparatively small occupiers, though the capital engaged in their undertaking may be considerable, and their vans, implements, tools, glass-covered frames, and perhaps glasshouses, will probably represent more money invested than their neighbor has with four or five times as much land. They generally market their own crops, whereas a farmer who produces equally good stuff cannot always prepare it for sale in the precise way that custom and habit demand.

This is noticeable in the preparation of certain articles which call for particular dressing to show them at their best. As an illustration might be mentioned the case of white turnips, which London markets prefer washed and dressed. These roots are grown in big fields far away from town, then they are often carted many miles in bulk to villages near London, where jobbers trim, and wash them in approved fashion. Women throw out specky, wormy, or rough specimens, while other operations are in course; a man called a buncher ties them in bunches, subsequently he packs them neatly on a cart with the fair sides of the bunches outward to attract the gaze of passers-by. These turnip jobbers excel in their methods, and even market gardeners with mixed loads of various articles cannot get the turnips so bright and clear as those traders who in winter give special care to this branch of the business.

Again, to further emphasise this point, there may frequently be seen in market gigantic rolls or bundles of celery, of magnificent size and of heavy weight, yet rough, coarse, and unblanched, evidently raised on fertile land, where abundant moisture has promoted freedom of habit, and on soil quite suitable for the development of enormous stalks. But one matter has been overlooked in this enterprise, which is that the succulent stems have not been efficiently blanched; they are dark, red, ragged stalks, about half of which need to be stripped off before the edible portion is reached. Doubtless these exterior stems may be utilised for soup, but for table purposes they are lightly esteemed.

Celery cannot be whitened without manual labor; heavy labor, too, and labor which entails serious outlay and time. The better method leads to greater expenditure, but a finished product is the result; the other way, the raw material is dispatched for sale without attaining that degree of preparation and perfection which is desirable.

What is known as clean cultivation is very evident in a well-managed garden farm: the land under wheat this year may be potatoes next year, then onions, carrots, or parsnips the third year, and these future projects must be kept well in view during the life of the preliminary crops. If the land is allowed to become foul during the corn or potato crop, then there will be slight chance of justice and fair play for tiny seeds and seedlings which follow on: in fact, a garden farm implies superior tillage, which follows a closer and [illegible]

[illegible]

which disappear under able management, and they may be entirely extinguished if closely followed, though countrymen say the only way to kill a dock is to dig it up and tie it to a tree.

Annuals are more difficult to subdue; they bloom, ripen quickly, and the seed spreads around; besides, there exists an endless store of weed seed at varying depths in the ground. To extirpate this indigenous vegetation is impossible; in fact, poppies, charlock, mayweed, groundsel, shepherd's purse, chickweed grass, and nettles seem to thrive on stable manure, which is intended to profit the regular crop.

Where unrotted manure in a raw state is applied to the soil, doubtless weed seed is carried on to the land; imported hay carries with it imported seed, and strange plants from distant lands are at times observed.

Ruthless war must be carried on against these enemies by every possible device, and without they are decimated or lessened continually, there is little hope of an even plant. It is bad enough with onions, carrots, or such small seeds, and worse still with parsley, thyme, and sweet herbs, which are soon choked by millions of indigenous fry. Even if the ground is allowed to grow green, and a generation of weeds is turned under by the plough, infinite stores of seeds are brought near the surface which germinate in their turn in a few days. Where ground is turned over and rooted up an abnormal depth and allowed to lie idle a few weeks, types of weeds soon show themselves without any trace of parentage, and suggest to some minds the idea of spontaneous generation. Carpenter says on this subject:—"The seeds of most plants are endowed with a remarkable power of preserving their vitality for an almost unlimited time; if they are placed in circumstances which neither call their properties into active exercise, nor occasion the decay of their structure. The conditions most favorable for this preservation will evidently be a low or moderate temperature, dryness of the surrounding medium, and the absence of oxygen. If all these be supplied in the most favorable manner, there seems no limit to the period during which seeds may retain their vitality—that is, their power of performing their vital operations when placed in the proper circumstances. And even if moisture or oxygen be not entirely excluded, the same effects may result, provided the temperature be low and uniform. Thus the seeds of most plants may be kept for several years freely exposed to the air, provided they are not exposed to dampness, which will cause them to germinate or to decay. Some of those which had been kept in seed-vessels of plants preserved in the herbarium of Tournefort, a French botanist, were found to retain their fertility after the lapse of nearly a century.

"Instances are of no unfrequent occurrence in which ground that has been turned up [illegible]

[illegible] labors, there must be a light yield when the crop comes to scale.

Take, as an example, a crop of onions—what a difference must result at present prices between a crop of eight tons or a crop of ten tons per acre. The price of a bright, clear sample of onions to-day is about £5 per ton, or a variation between the two estimates of £10 per acre. Agreed that onions are a delicate crop to raise, and a crop that needs great care at many stages of its career, that only when the ground is very clean can a full crop be expected, yet the venture is a good one and worthy of attention, because the stake at issue deserves a struggle. From the day of sowing to the day of harvest this crop needs close watchfulness, for at many epochs in its life-history it may be jeopardised by an accident.

But when a really well-distributed crop nears maturity, when the field is neatly paved with round bulbs of a uniform color, it certainly is a pretty sight and reflects credit on master and men. These results are evidence of good feeling between employers and employed, for it often happens after continuous rain the workman is hindered by the damp condition of the surface from prosecuting his task with the vigor that he could desire. Whether the work is piecework or day work, the employer must confer with the workman and assist him, in order that the weeds may be checked, controlled—perhaps picked up and carried off to save the loss of crop. At times the identical moment is allowed to slip by, the weeds just hoed up strike new fibres, and what promises to be a fine crop is smothered; and in the desperate slashing and cutting which follows, all hope of saving a proper plant evenly covering the ground disappears.

The grower of garden crops cannot afford to let the weeds gain headway; once this happens, nearly all is lost. This is no new theory, it is as old as the hills, though often forgotten or ignored. Sir Richard Weston said as far back as 1645:—

"The more the husbandman thinks fit to imitate the practice of gardeners by turning the soil and keeping the earth free from weeds, the better tasted will his crops prove, and the more luxuriant to his own private emolument in particular, as well as the advantage of society in general."

Doubtless if vegetables are hustled by the weeds and are robbed of their food, they are longer in coming to maturity, then they are inferior in quality, as well as deficient in quantity.

Starved produce, or produce that makes slowly, is never equal for culinary or table purposes to quick-growing stuff.

There are, then, two main lessons in the management of the garden farm which must be learned, two cardinal rules which cannot be ignored or overlooked, because of their serious importance.

The first is—cleanliness of cultivation, accompanied by careful tillage at every step.

The second is—the due feeding of the crop, so as to induce rapidity and regularity of progress.

A crop planted too closely on the ground will often starve itself because of insufficient nourishment; in the Spring we frequently see crops that by their red or pale hue plainly show the poverty of the soil.

But superior cultivation calls for considerable outlay; hoeing and weeding through the summer make the wages bill very heavy for several months, while manures and their distribution also mean expense. Yet without capital is put in the ground, we cannot expect to obtain the receipts which fruitful garden crops bring in.

To insure a good revenue, the farmer must be prepared at the onset to do the land well; then he may be assured of success.

"LIVE STOCK JOURNAL ALMANAC."

A farmer and stock-breeder in want of a book to assist him in his important business could scarcely find one more suitable to his requirements than the well-known "Live Stock Journal Almanac," issued by Vinton and Co., Ltd. The calendar, diary, and breeders' table cannot fail to be of great usefulness, whilst in the 200 pages of reading matter which follow will be found information from the pens of experts upon nearly every breed of horses, stock, and poultry in Great Britain. Typical examples of the various breeds are clearly illustrated; and when to all this is added a list of the leading Agricultural Societies and their officers, a list of fairs, breeders' directory, and other information, it is not necessary to add that the Almanac is one of the very best shilling's worth on the market.

CHELMSFORD—ALWAYS CHELMSFORD.

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THE LITTLE CANFIELD BURIAL CASE.

The Rev. T. E. Hill, rector of Little Canfield, has addressed the following letter to the Bishop of St. Albans in reply to the letter of his Lordship, previously published in our columns:—

"Little Canfield, Dunmow,
"Dec. 19th, 1905.

"My Lord Bishop,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst., and very much regret its contents, and that I have not been able to reply to it before, owing to the necessity of having to take legal advice on the matter.

"I am advised that, having read the service of the Church without addition or omission from beginning to end, I have committed no offence in anything I said before the commencement of the service; that the discretion as to whether or not the priests and clerks shall go before the corpse into the church or towards the grave is vested in the minister and not in the Ordinary; and that that discretion is not limited to cases of infectious disorders.

"I very much regret that the exercise of that discretion has met with your Lordship's disapproval, and deeply regret that you think that I am not prepared to render you obedience in all legal and honest commands, which, I assure your Lordship, I am prepared to do and to do fully.

"I am, my Lord, obediently yours,
"T. E. Hill.
"Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of St. Albans."

CAPT. J. R. B. NEWMAN, D.L., J.P.

CONSERVATIVE CHAMPION FOR SOUTH-EAST ESSEX.

Capt. John Robert Bramston Newman, of Newberry Manor and Kilshannig House, County Cork, and 58, Eaton-square, London, is the eldest son of the late Mr. John A. R. Newman, D.L., J.P., High Sheriff County Cork, 1874, and Elizabeth Matilda, daughter of Col. Bramston-Smith, D.L., J.P., of Penrhos Hall, Anglesea. He was born in 1871, and educated at Charterhouse and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1893. Capt. Newman, besides being a Deputy-Lieutenant and a Magistrate, was High Sheriff of County Cork in 1898; and he served in the Royal Munster Fusiliers from [illegible]

Tower, of Weald Hall, near Brentwood, and cousin to Col. Edward Tufnell, M.P. Capt. Newman was among the first Irish landowners to give his tenants the advantages of Mr. Wyndham's Land Act, and they think most highly of him, both as a landlord and a friend. He still maintains two residences in Ireland, is a farmer, and a known breeder of hunters. He is also a good sportsman, a motorist, and, when at Cambridge, was an enthusiastic footballer. Mrs. Newman, like her husband, is a keen politician, and has been for years a working member of Primrose League Habitations, having served as Dame President. She is also well known for her charitable work amongst the poor of London.

Capt. Newman was one of the earliest members of the Tariff Reform League, and has worked hard for it, having made a special study of the subject, he being convinced that it is the only way to safeguard the interests of British industries and British workers; indeed, his main plank is Tariff Reform, and on that he is prepared to stand or fall. He is also most strongly opposed to Home Rule, and, being a member of the Church of Ireland, is in sympathy with the Irish Nonconformists on this point. He is prepared to give the whole of his time to Parliamentary work. For two years he worked in the Brigg Division of Lincolnshire, giving that up to come into South-East Essex to assist Col. Tufnell, who was then in ill-health and ordered away. His withdrawal from Brigg occasioned much regret to the Unionist Party there, he and Mrs. Newman having made many friends during their connection with that constituency. Capt. Pretyman, late Secretary to the Admiralty, who is a large landowner in Lincolnshire and Suffolk, interested in Brigg and the neighboring constituency, which he represents, is a cousin of Capt. Newman's.

Prior to the great Civil War the Newman family possessed the Manor and estate of Fifehead, near Gillingham, Dorsetshire. On the restoration of Charles II. Col. Richard Newman was granted by the Crown the Castle of Dromineen in County Cork and lands which were formed into the Manor of Newberry, in commemoration of the battle of that name, in which Col. Richard Newman had distinguished himself.

Capt. Newman, although not yet formally adopted as the candidate, will, it is practically certain, carry the Conservative and Unionist flag in South-East Essex at the pending election.

CONSERVATIVE MEETING AT BURNHAM.

CAPT. NEWMAN WANTS NO HALF MEASURES.

A meeting of the Burnham Conservative and Unionist Association, called for the purpose of meeting Capt. J. R. B. Newman, was held at the Star Assembly Room on the 21st inst. Mr. A. B. Croxon, J.P., presided, and Capt. Newman, on entering the room, was received with hearty applause. The meeting first appointed a committee of 25 members to work during the coming election.

The Chairman then introduced Capt. Newman in a brief speech, remarking that they had heard very good accounts of him and were very pleased to see him among them. [Applause.]

Capt. Newman said he had received a letter from Mr. Pettit, who conveyed to him the unanimous wish expressed by the Conservative and Unionist Associations at Southend, Burnham, and Grays, that he should stand for the Division at the next election. He need hardly tell them that he was extremely honoured by the request. It was a great honor to a man in his position who had not fought an election yet to be asked to fight a seat which hitherto had been and, he thought always would be, a Conservative one. [Applause.] As they knew, he could not claim to be an Essex man. Mrs. Newman, his wife, was an Essex lady, so perhaps he was half at Essex man himself. [Laughter and hear, hear.] They had not got a very long time before the General Election, and of course this heads [illegible]

[illegible]

measure of Home Rule such as was proposed by Mr. Gladstone. How the Radical candidate was going to square the outspoken declaration of his the other day with the equally outspoken declaration made by the present Prime Minister passed his (the speaker's) comprehension. If Mr. Whitehead were returned to Parliament and a Home Rule Bill were brought in, he took it that he would resign his seat and fight again. Mr. Whitehead also took a moderate view of the education question. When he was electioneering three years ago he (Capt. Newman) said he considered the Act was a good one if properly administered, with give-and-take on both sides, and would give the youth of our country a chance of standing up, as far as education was concerned, against the youth of Germany, France, and the United States. After three years' experience the Act had been proved in the main to be a good one. He admitted that the Act placed extra burdens on local ratepayers, and expressed the view that education ought to be made an imperial charge. While he would not countenance a policy of spoliation or plunder with regard to non-provided schools, he was willing to consider a compromise to meet any genuine grievance resting on Nonconformists. He remarked that Mr. Whitehead also appeared to be in favor of a compromise. The Liberal candidate said that the Licensing Act was a measure which was not calculated to promote temperance. As a matter of fact the Act provided a fund for the suppression of licences where they were not wanted, and the fund came out of the pockets, not of the British taxpayer, but of the brewer and publican. If his memory was correct, during the last two or three years 800 houses had had their licences taken away and received compensation under this much-abused Licensing Act. Here was an Act which was called by the Radicals "a brewers' dole," "a sop to the publicans," and yet it had been responsible for the suppression of nearly 800 licences without a shilling or a penny or a farthing cost to the public. If that was not temperance reform, he would like to know what was. [Applause.] He next dealt with the fiscal question, on which Mr. Whitehead and himself certainly differed. The former said he stood for Free Trade. So did he (Capt. Newman); but we as a nation had not got Free Trade, and had not had it for the last 50 years. As things were at present we never should have Free Trade. We might be called free importers, but free imports and Free Trade were two very different things. Turkey was the only country which had followed our so-called enlightened example of Free Trade. It was on the fiscal question that the election in South-East Essex was going to be fought. Their opponents wanted to fight them upon it, and he should be very pleased to do so. He was what was called, in a vulgar way, [illegible]

[illegible] to put 10 per cent. [illegible] going into your country, we will put 10 per cent. on your rails coming into our country." [Applause.] It would be most useful to have that power in our hands, and it was ridiculous to think we had not got it already. He also wanted to have a free and unfettered Colonial Conference, at which they should try to hammer out some scheme which would benefit the colonies and ourselves as well. Such a conference was what they had got to fight for. In conclusion Capt. Newman said that during the short time he had been in the Dengie Hundred he had been very gratified with the way in which he had been received. He meant to work very hard indeed. He was a man without any business ties, and he promised them that, if elected, he should do his best to be up and down among them and make himself pleasant to his constituents.

Mr. John Hawkins, J.P., moved a vote of thanks to Capt. Newman; and Mr. J. Cook seconded the motion, which was carried.

FATHER CHRISTMAS ON FIRE AT DUNMOW.

A sad mishap occurred to Mr. G. F. Clapham, of The Croft, Dunmow, whilst entertaining a number of young folk at a Christmas gathering at his house. Mr. Clapham was acting the part of "Father Christmas," attired in the orthodox garb prescribed for that benevolent character, with a covering of cotton-wool to represent snow, when on taking a present off the Christmas-tree for a youngster, his arm came in contact with a lighted candle and instantly the cotton-wool ignited. In attempting to extinguish the blaze with the other hand he conveyed the flames to that arm also, and before he could divest himself of the inflammable material he was wearing his head was also enveloped in fire. Fortunately Mr. Clapham had the presence of mind to fall down flat on the floor, and was able to remove his headgear before he was badly burnt. It was a very narrow escape, and emphasises the danger of wearing highly inflammable materials where there are unguarded lights. Mr. Clapham's face and hands were much scorched, and he had to wear bandages for a few days.

EMPLOYEES ENTERTAINED AT HEYBRIDGE.

Mrs. E. E. Bentall gave her sixth annual tea and entertainment to the employees of the Heybridge Iron Works at the Headquarters on the 21st inst. Between 500 and 600 employees, with their wives, sat down to tea. Mrs. Bentall presided, and was assisted by the following:—Mrs. Bawtree, Mrs. Beaumont, Mrs. Belsham, Mrs. Bright, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. N. Lott, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. and Miss Oakes, Mrs. Ward, Miss Baker, the Misses Bentall, Miss Bland, Miss Clark, Miss Deane, the Misses Eve, Miss Eyre, Miss Hall, Miss Hogg, the Misses Krohn, the Misses Miller, Miss McKerrell, Miss Perkins, Miss Swainson, the Hon. C. H. Strutt, M.P., Mr. E. E. Bentall, J.P., Mr. C. E. Bentall, the Rev. T. H. Clark, Mr. T. L. Eve, Mr. Oldaker, Mr. Lott, Mr. N. Lott, Mr. Middleton, Mr. Selly, and Mr. Sevan. Among the visitors in the course of the evening were:—The Revds. H. T. W. Eyre, L. Hughes, and T. W. Ward; Mr. and Mrs. Krohn (Mayor and Mayoress of Maldon), Dr. Bawtree, Mr. B. Bland, Mr. Bright, Mr. R. H. Eve, etc. The Heybridge Band (consisting entirely of employees of the Works), under Bandmaster J. C. Clarke, played selections of music, which were much appreciated. There was a very pleasing and varied entertainment, including humorous songs, dialogues, instrumental solos, burlesque, conjuring, etc., by Messrs. Cuthbert and Collins, the artistes being supplied by Messrs. Maskelyne and Cook, of the Egyptian Hall. At the close Mr. F. Anderson (engineer at the Works) proposed, and Mr. C. J. Last seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Bentall for her kindness, which was carried with acclamation.

PRIZE DAY AT WITHAM SCHOOLS.

On Friday the scholars attending the Witham Council Schools, Maldon-road, gave an entertainment. A number of parents attended, and several of the managers, including the Chairman, Mr. F. P. Bawtree, and Rev. E. M. Edmunds were present. The youngsters had been carefully trained by Mr. Quick, the headmaster, and his staff, and the various [illegible]

SIR WALTER GILBEY, BART.

We are glad to learn that Sir Walter Gilbey, whose health has been far from satisfactory of late, is feeling better, and that a few days ago he was able to go out driving. It is to be hoped that he will soon regain his accustomed health and continue to render good service to all matters connected with the breeding of horses and agriculture generally. It was stated the other day as an illustration of what Sir Walter has done in this direction that he has himself spent £30,000 in promoting

the welfare of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

In publishing the portrait of the genial and popular Baronet, some particulars of his career will be of interest. He saw the light at Bishop Stortford on May 2, 1831—over 74 years ago, and in a biographical sketch of his early days which he contributed some time back to a popular journal he said the first thing he could remember was being taken [illegible]

[illegible] Excitement in England was great, resembling the martial fever of a few years back, and thousands volunteered for active or civilian service. Among the number was Sir Walter and his younger brother, Alfred. They obtained from Sir Benjamin Hawes, one of the high officials at the War Office, permission to go to the front as civilians attached to the Army Pay Department. On reaching the shores of the Dardanelles they were for some weeks stationed at Abydos, and afterwards at the convalescent hospital at Renkioi. Although they saw no fighting, they had their share of hardships, and lived in a section of a large wooden building, standing about 200 yards from the waters of the Dardanelles.

After the war they both returned to England, and on reaching London, each with the proverbial half-crown in his pocket, they started to look round for something to do. On the advice of Mr. Henry Gilbey, who, as already stated, had a wine business of his own, they began to supply wines and spirits direct to the consumer. Describing this period of his life, Sir Walter has said:—

"The wines of the Cape, our own colony, were then admitted into England at half the duty on wines from France, Spain, and Portugal. It occurred to my brother and myself that a business might be done in making clear to the consumer in this country the advantage of these colonial wines over those of foreign countries. With this idea in view, Alfred and I decided to open premises in the West End of London.

"The scene selected for our venture was a great cellarage below premises at the corner of Oxford-street and Berwick-street. The entrance was in Berwick-street—only a few doors from my firm's present head-quarters at the Pantheon; and I never pass the corner of that street, and look at the crane—still existing—which we put up 47 years ago, without recalling those early times, when I spent every day from eight or nine in the morning till six or seven at night in the cellars, and when I enjoyed life with a total annual expenditure which did not exceed £100."

But the business gradually expanded and became so prosperous that for many years the firm paid a million sterling per annum to the Revenue.

Sir Walter Gilbey received his baronetcy in recognition of the great services he rendered to agriculture, having devoted himself to improving the breed of shire horses, hunters, hackneys (of which he has the finest stud in the country), Channel Islands cattle, and so forth. Elsenham Hall, Sir Walter's Essex seat, is a delightful country residence, which has become the Mecca of all who wish to see for themselves horse-breeding under model conditions. Sir Walter has the honor of being included in King Edward's circle of personal friends—a friendship which has existed for a great number of years. There is probably no figure more familiar than that of the popular Baronet, who has long been known everywhere for his distinctive style of dress and his equipages drawn by high-spirited horses, ridden by postilions. Sir Walter Gilbey is undoubtedly the most picturesque figure in English society to-day, and he maintains to the full all the best traditions of the English country gentleman of the old school.

FARMS AND SMALL HOLDINGS.

EFFECT OF ENCLOSURES, MARKETS, AND FAIRS.

Sir Walter Gilbey writes in the "Live Stock Journal Almanac" upon the subject of "Farms and small holdings as affected by enclosures, markets, and fairs." He says:—

Apart from the repeal of the Corn Laws, to which I do not propose to refer, various causes have combined to bring about altered conditions of agriculture since the beginning of the last century. Some of these were more far-reaching in their effects than is generally understood, and it will be well to state them concisely at the outset:—

1st. Enclosure of Commons, Forest Lands, Waste Land, and large tracts of ground bordering on the highways.

2nd. Abolition of many of the ancient fairs and markets.

3rd. The establishment of stock auction marts and the increase of agricultural shows.

COMMON, FOREST, AND OTHER LANDS.

[illegible]

consolidated, and the legal process of reclaiming lands for cultivation was considerably simplified and cheapened.

Robert, first Lord Carrington, and Sir John Sinclair were amongst the foremost agricultural authorities at that time, and clauses in the Act (41 George III. cap. 109) display their foresight and knowledge of farmers' requirements; for example, there is a proviso to the effect that small allotments might be set apart and fenced for the grazing purposes to which the whole area of common had been devoted.

Broadly speaking, the terms of the Act of 1801 and subsequent Acts required the small holders of common rights to lodge their claims with the commissioners who were appointed to enclose the commons, forest-lands, and waste-lands, make roads, drains, etc., and prescribed the manner in which such lands should be fenced off into areas of suitable size.

At this time the waste lands of the kingdom were of little use, save to afford rough pasture to horses, cattle, and swine.

In the report on enclosures issued in 1803 the quantity of waste lands is estimated at 22,107,001 acres, of which 6,259,470 acres were in England, 1,629,307 in Wales, and 14,218,224 acres in Scotland—and the enclosing of these was looked upon as the only means of rendering the country independent of foreign supplies of corn.

LANDS WHICH SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ENCLOSED.

Lands were enclosed which had been better left in their original state; and in 1836 the unwisdom of carrying the policy of enclosure too far was recognised. In that year an Act was passed excluding from the operation of previous statutes, common lands situate within specified distances of large towns. For example, lands lying within two miles of a town of 20,000 inhabitants might not be enclosed; and the larger the population, the greater the distance round it, over which common rights might not be disturbed.

This Act of 1836 provided that open and common lands, other than those about the large towns, might be enclosed and divided, if the step were desired by persons representing two-thirds of the number of holders of common rights, or representing two-thirds of the value of the rights; and under the new arrangement, some 2,000 Enclosure Acts were passed before the year 1845.

GENERAL ENCLOSURE ACT.

An Act was passed in the autumn of 1845 which is known as the General Enclosure Act; it brought within its scope all the commons, greens, waste lands, such as roadside wastes and uncultivated tracts, excepting manorial waste lands, to enclose [illegible]

[illegible] for notice. It was very fairly described at the time as an Act rather for the preservation, than the enclosure, of commons. This is not remarkable, as the quantity of waste land remaining in England, which could profitably be cultivated, was very limited.

DECAY OF FAIRS.

The enclosure of commons was, to some extent, a factor in bringing about the disappearance of the old Fairs, which were formerly a feature of life in English country towns. It had been the custom to hold these on common land outside the town or in the public street, and the ploughing up of a long-established fair site naturally created a difficulty. To how great an extent the old fairs have been abandoned is not generally known. The lists of these, published in the Journals devoted to agricultural matters, might lead the reader to suppose these institutions numerous, but such lists are misleading.

The local authorities of a town which possesses a charter authorising the holding of a fair are bound to appoint a day for its observance, on pain of losing their right to hold one at all. For this reason the fair is appointed to be held upon a specified date, though, in the vast majority of cases, the appointment is the merest formality, no fair or market being held.

A return given as an appendix to the report of Messrs. Elton and Costelloe shows clearly the extent to which fairs have died out within the last century. This report contains a complete list of the fairs which existed in the several counties of England and Wales in the year 1792 as set forth in Owen's New Book of Fairs. I give selections from it, with the fairs of 1888 for convenience and comparison:—

County.	Fairs in 1792.	Fairs in 1888.
Essex	95	15
Hertfordshire	51	10
Kent	130	13
Norfolk	76	27
Suffolk	69	13
Sussex	119	41
	540	119

The decay of the fair in some counties, as shown by these figures, is startling: in Kent we see that for one fair held in 1888, ten were held in 1792; while in Essex, for one fair held in 1888, more than six were held in 1792. The decrease in other counties has not been so great, but there is sufficient evidence in all of advanced decay. Driven off the commons, in many cases the fair was held instead in the streets, and assumed the more business-like form of a market.

The characteristic features of the fair—cheap amusements and stalls for the sale of cheap trinkets and finery—gradually disappeared in the more serious bustle of a weekly market-day. Now the market-day threatens to follow the fair.

DECAY OF MARKETS.

In many towns—in the Eastern counties particularly—the market-day is a thing of the past; the old market houses in some cases have been pulled down, and in others converted into dwelling-houses.

An example is the old Market House still existing at Thaxted. Thaxted has little use for such a building now, when it has dwindled to a mere village of about 1,500 inhabitants. The size of the Market House and of its beautiful church, which was built at different periods of the fourteenth century, shows that in its more prosperous days it was a large borough town. History tells us that in former times Epping Forest extended as far as Colchester. At this time Thaxted was surrounded by forests, and was one of the principal seats of the cutlery trade in England, the abundant supplies of timber to convert into charcoal being a chief cause of the prevalence of that industry.

AUCTION MARTS.

Auction Marts have, to a very great extent, taken the place of fairs, more especially in the North of England and in Scotland; the advantages these offer for the conduct of business over the often ill-conducted fair were noticed in an article contributed by me to the "Live Stock Journal Almanac" of last year.

One example of the more business-like methods of the Marts may be noticed; at many of them the live weights of the animals offered are ascertained and notified when they are put up for sale; in the old days of the fair, the weight had to be estimated by the eye.

Better and cheaper facilities for the conveyance of live stock have contributed to the [illegible]

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS.

[illegible]

ACTS PASSED FOR ENCLOSING LANDS.

[illegible]

1821. This was the first agricultural show held in Great Britain under the auspices of the Government, and it may be of interest to note the following summary of the prizes, which amounted to £685:—

To the several breeders of the best
Six Bulls, £30 each;
Six Cows or Heifers, in calf or with calves by their sides, £20 each;
Six Rams, £15 each;
Six Pens of Three Breeding Ewes, with or without lambs, £10 each;
Six Boars, £10 each;
Six Breeding Sows, £10 each;
Draught Stallion, £30;
Draught Mare, £20;
Steer of any breed, 1st, £30; 2nd, £20; 3rd, £15.

Some thirty county or local agricultural societies came into existence in England and Scotland between the years 1797 and 1833, and shows were established by several of these; but for the reason already given, the show found little favor until the forties, and only in more recent times have live stock shows become numerous.

The repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846 marked a new era in British farming. It was thought that growing wheat would become less profitable, owing to the importation of increased supplies from abroad, and land that had been devoted to the cultivation of wheat was laid down to grass to maintain cattle, of which the farmers began to realise the importance.

With increased attention to cattle, the live stock show came into vogue; and, cordially supported by the farming interest, it rapidly gained the popularity it has hitherto enjoyed.

SMALL HOLDINGS.

The steady progress made in enclosing forest, common and waste lands, from the time of George III. until late in the Victorian era, the abolition of the fairs, which afforded peculiar facilities to the small farmer to dispose of his produce, and the altered conditions of our laws, among them have practically made an end of the small holding.

When the cultivation of wheat became less profitable, the small holder could not fall back on cattle. The common lands, which would have afforded pasture, were no longer available; they had been cut up into fields, fenced, and parcelled out among the holders of common rights. Depending, as he then had to do, entirely upon his harvest, a few bad seasons sufficed to ruin him.

When wheat was at a high price, the farmers were clamoring for more land; and in their desire to encourage this class, landlords in the Midland and Eastern counties converted many holdings of twenty and thirty acres into large farms. This consolidation of small holdings into large farms [illegible]

[illegible] "town-bred man." Those who have once known town life care but little to return to our villages.

DECREASE OF SMALL HOLDINGS.

The common lands system, which has been gradually abolished by the Enclosure Acts, no doubt had many disadvantages, but by affording the small farmer pasture for his few cattle, it made farming on a small scale at least a possible means of livelihood in the pre-Corn Law days. Those who advocate small holdings as a means of inducing the people to remain on the land must bear in mind that in the old days, when these small farms were numerous, the occupants had the right to graze a certain number of cattle on adjoining forest, heath, common, or waste land. And while cattle are now one of the mainstays of the agriculturists, the old facilities for pasturing them are gone for ever.

Only by the exercise of rigid economy and the application of strict business principles can farming on a large scale be made to yield a livelihood. Farming on a small scale nowadays does not return the farmer a living. This is regrettable, but the truth must be faced, and statistics tell us that farmers themselves recognise it.

Small holdings, in a word, are institutions of the past under existing laws; history is said to repeat itself, but altered conditions point to the fact that holdings of large acreage are yearly increasing and small holdings decreasing. Statistics show that those who have held out against the altered state of affairs grow yearly fewer in number.

The special Government return for 1905, which shows the number of holdings in England, classified by area, may be quoted in this connection:—

	1895.	1905.
Hldgs. over 1a. & under 5a.	117,968	110,974
" 5a. " 50a.	235,481	232,479
" 50a. " 300a.	147,870	150,050
" 300a.	18,787	18,084

Thus we see that the only increase since the year 1895 has been in the number of holdings of from 50 to 300 acres, farms, that is to say, which require a certain amount of capital to work them, and of a size the farmer can manage himself without the aid of a bailiff.

The decrease in the number of small holdings, and the increase of larger farms is further evidenced by the fact to which Major Craigie, in the Government return for 1905, draws attention. Since the year 1903 the actual number of holdings has decreased, while the average size has increased from 63.1 acres to 63.2 acres per holding.

In Essex, where is some of the finest corn-growing land in England, there are plenty of examples of the policy of merging the small holding of ten and twenty acres into one large farm of from 200 to 300 acres.

On many a large farm can now be seen the old farmhouse, once occupied by a man working ten or twenty acres, converted into two or three cottages and occupied by the laborers working on the large farm.

There is a general impression that the number of small holdings has increased of recent years, and this mistake seems to have given an impetus to the cry that the surplus population of our cities should "return to the land" and take up farming on small holdings, to be made for them by carving up large farms into suitable areas. The impossibility of making a living out of the small holding, found by men who have spent their lives in mastering the complex art of husbandry, relieves us of the necessity for considering whether those who have failed in the towns are likely to succeed in the country.

In connection with the facts given in this brief article, it will be interesting to read the report to be issued by the Committee which has been taking evidence on the question of Small Holdings.

The space placed at my disposal by the Editor is necessarily limited, and these notes are proportionately brief, but I hope to deal more fully with his subject, under the same title, in a pamphlet to be published shortly.

SCHOONER ON THE GUNFLEET SANDS.

Shortly before midnight on Friday flare signals of distress from the direction of West Gunfleet Sands were observed on the Essex coast, [illegible]

[illegible]

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