

# British "Land Girls" Reap Harvest of Praise For Raising Record Food Crops Throughout England

## Over 10,000 Make Up "Army"—Reclaim Barren Land For Food

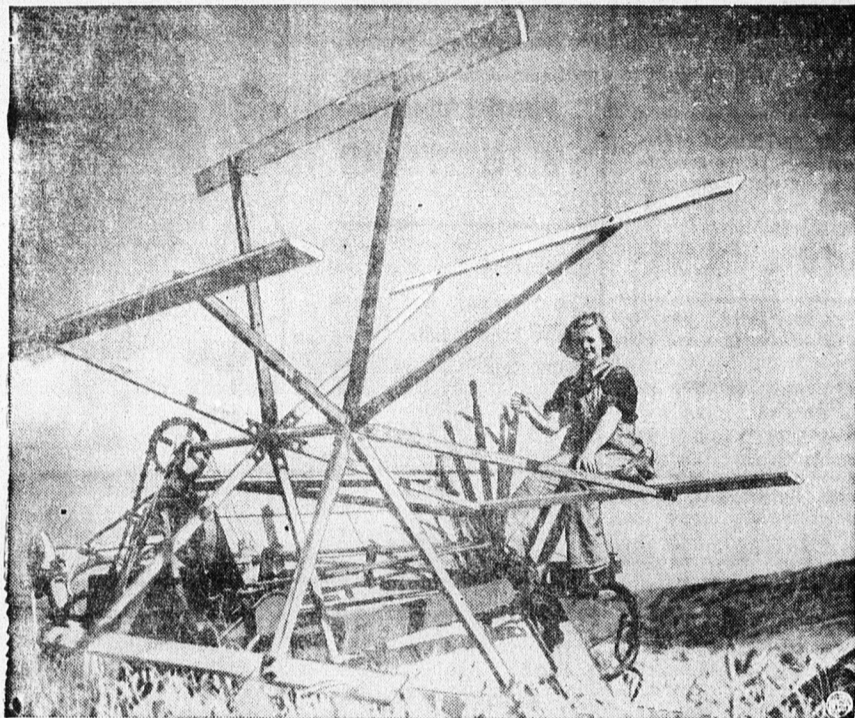
By ROSETTE HARGROVE  
NEA Service Staff Writer

LONDON—If Great Britain's prospects of a record harvest are fulfilled, she will owe it in a very measure to her army of Land Girls. Since the beginning of the war over 10,000 women have enrolled in this all-important army.

On the land, as in other branches given something to think about, some weeks back when 18-year-old Ruth Lloyd ploughed 22 acres of land from dawn to dusk. Driving a three-furrow tractor, it was estimated she had ploughed some 120 miles of furrow—no mean achievement, considering that an average farmer seldom ploughs more than 6 acres a day and even then thinks he's doing well. Although a husky,

### FOLLOW IN MOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS

There are daughters of land girls of the last war working on the farms where their mothers started. A mother and her three daughters are working together on a farm in Suffolk. The farmer owner gave them a caravan to live in and put them in charge of the traction-engine-driven haypress which he hires out to farmers in the district. Wherever the hay-press goes, there goes the caravan with Mrs. Ling and her three daughters, sometimes for three days at a time. Mrs. Ling, who is the wife of a London policeman, does the cook-



Typical of the non-agricultural workers who are winning Britain's acclaim as "Land Girls" is Renee Townsend, pictured above operating a binder on a 400-acre Sussex Downs wheat field, barren land until Land Girls reclaimed it. She used to be a cook.

of vital war work, women have proved their worth and their ability to do things which heretofore were considered men's jobs—riding tractors, ploughing, tilling, and sowing fields—besides tending livestock, dairy farming and market gardening. They work long hours, from grey, cold dawn or sundown, in all sorts of weather, sometimes even during attacks from the air while at work in the fields, and thinking nothing of it. In their ranks mannequins, shopgirls, artists, manicurists, socialites work side by side with farm women. Thanks to their untiring efforts, hundreds of acres of scrub and gorse have been reclaimed to produce foodstuffs.

healthy girl, Ruth Lloyd was not brought up on a farm but interrupted her B. A. studies at Oxford to become a Land Girl. Farmers are full of praise for woman labor. They declare that girls are superior to male farm hands for certain categories of work. They are far better with livestock, for example. Animals respond to their gentle treatment. On one farm, a girl in her early twenties is responsible for a flock of 500 sheep and carries on alone through lambing season without any losses at all. Again, girls are more amenable to instruction than men and "catch on" quickly to the work.

ing and cleans up the "mess" which the hay-press leaves behind. Dorothy, Mary and Joan, aged respectively 24, 20 and 18, feed the machine. Their employer declares that while it is a very tricky job, they have mastered it admirably and have proved themselves every bit as good and reliable as men. The 1941 Land Girl is slick and miles more attractive than her counterpart in the last war. Clad in workmanlike shirt and dungarees, slacks or jodphurs, there is no possible resemblance to her predecessors who flapped about in shapely skirts and blouses, complete with sunbonnets.

### OATS GROW NOW ON SCRUB LAND

In Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire respectively, the country will harvest a heavy crop of oats from 700 acres of land which, until last March, had been under scrub. Again, in Staffordshire, 300 girls undertook to reclaim 200 acres of beet, thus saving many tons of sugar. Labor shortage endangered the entire crop and women came to the rescue. Many of them were voluntary workers, giving up their spare time and even annual vacations. The usual rate paid to agricultural laborers over to war charities after they had deducted their food and transport expenses. Montgomeryshire farmers were

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### Hunter River And Vicinity

Misses Margaret Smith and Helen Stevenson have returned to their respective homes from Brackley Beach.

Miss Lulu Champion R. N. Stanchel, has returned to her home from Baltic where she was nursing her sister Mrs. A. MacDonald who is improving in health.

Miss Marion MacDonald R. N. is at present visiting at her old home in Hopedale.

Major Don MacKenzie of Los Angeles California, who has been summering on the Island is at present guest of Mrs. J. D. Matheson Rose Valley.

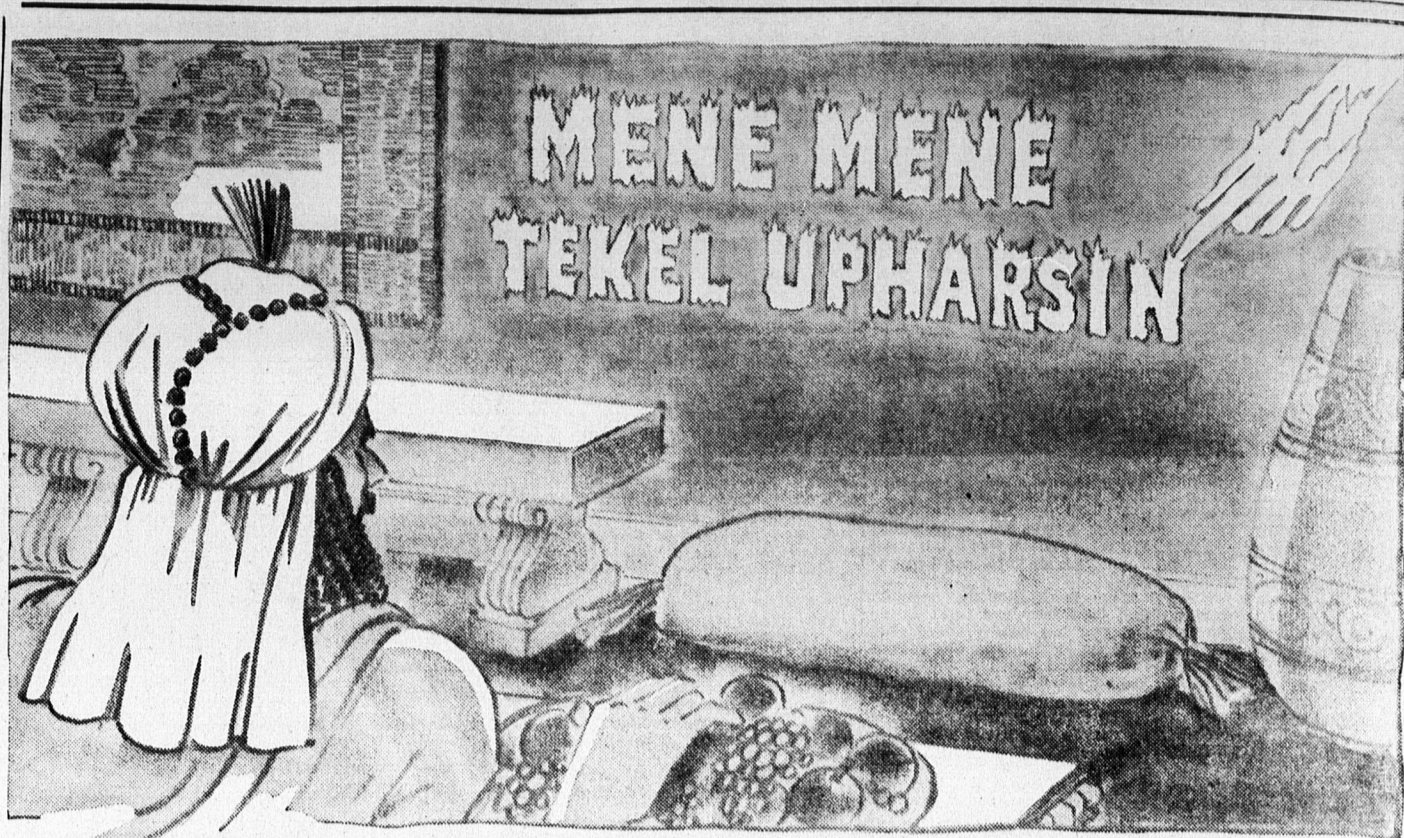
Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Granam, Stanchel have had as their well-come guests Mrs. Albert MacArthur of Enmore also Rob Roy MacGregor of Lawrence Mass.

On Friday evening, Sept. 12, under the auspices of the L.O.B.A. Mr. MacGregor delighted a very appreciative audience at Hartsy's with a long and arduous program ranging from the ridiculous to the sublime. Several of Laurier's old-time favorites, were given then "Annie Laurie", sung with a depth of feeling and sweetness seldom heard. Then several splendid numbers among which were "My Task", "There's Somebody Waiting for Me", and "Smilin' Thru". Mr. MacGregor's kindly yet vivacious personality seems to set his audience at ease, and despite the sound of the falling rain outside, which was anything but cheerful inside, all were enjoying a pleasant evening. The ladies served lunch to the visiting artist and his friends.

Miss Doris Smith has resumed her duties as night operator at the telephone exchange, after having spent a pleasant vacation, part of which was enjoyed visiting her sister Miss Ruth Smith Moncton N.B.

Mr. George Cairns son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Cairns, Stanchel who has been employed for some time with the Civil Service has been visiting his parents and expected to leave on Saturday 13th on return to Ottawa.

Miss Mary Callaghan, North Wiltshire was a recent visitor to Hunter River. A host of friends will be glad to hear that Dr. J. R. Murchison has returned to his practice here after his recent illness.—"B"



## CAN THAT BE WRITING ON THE WALL?

**POOR BELSHAZZAR!** Perhaps he just didn't want to read! Or he might have been one of those who like to keep their eyes shut and pretend all is well. We don't know. But we do know he was a man who wouldn't be warned until it was *too late!*

So many people are like Belshazzar! They are warned. Then they are warned again. And in the end they complain—"But how was I to know? I couldn't tell what it was all about?"

### But You CAN read the signs . . .

If you *will!* Today millions on millions of once free people grope in the darkness of complete and intentional misinformation. But here in Canada, except for strategic secrets, your newspapers give you the **FACTS . . .** the facts of *both* sides, for you to draw your own conclusions, form your own beliefs. **But you must READ,** for all those facts to do any good.

**Democracy, if it is to survive, must be the rule of responsible people who really know what is happening around them—who think about what they read—and who are alert to hidden dangers!**

It is from *facts* published in the papers that you can decide how you wish to cast your ballot, where to

look for a job, what investments are sound, or which merchant offers you the best values.

These facts are all important if we are to preserve our way of life. Without them, rule by the people becomes *mob* rule. Ignorance breeds dictatorship.

### It is up to YOU

"But I look at the papers every day," you complain. "I don't think it's up to me to worry about what's being printed. That is the newspaper's job!" And in one way it is. We accept our share of the responsibility. But whether you like it or not, *you* are the voice of public opinion. Newspapers cannot do the job *alone*. If you don't value your *right* to get all the facts, or don't care enough to protect your rights, then some day you'll wake up to find it is *too late!*

**COMPLACENCY** is our greatest danger. Which makes your part so simple. Begin to read your newspaper still more carefully. Use the facts it gives you. Help us keep the press truly free. Keep an eye open for any story that seems to have been "doctored" at the source—then *protest!* Write your editor. Arouse your friends.

Democracy just won't *work* without *all* the facts. Let's put complacency aside now—so we won't find the writing on *our* wall!



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### SPRINGFIELD W. I.

The August Meeting of the Springfield W. I. was held at the home of Mrs. Walter MacKenzie. In the absence of the President the Vice-president presided and opened the meeting with the Club Women's Creed. Seventeen members answered to Roll Call and there were five visitors present. Minutes of July meeting were read and adopted.

Miss Evelyn Matheson who had

visited the school reported that new drinking cups were required and it was left for each parent to get them for their children.

Correspondence was read from P.E.I. T. B. League, W. I. Dept. and Health League of Canada. It was decided on motion that members contribute not less than 10 cents towards the purchase of Mobile Kitchens.

Bills were ordered to be paid and it was decided to purchase more

material for quilts and that a quilting would be held in the hall the following Thursday afternoon. Material donated by a member was distributed among the members for same. Mrs. Irving Haslam was appointed to visit the school in September.

Place of next meeting, Mrs. H. B. Haslam's.

Program committee, Misses Winnifred Haslam and Evelyn Matheson, Lunch Hostess, Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Norrie Sinclair. Roll Call

### "Some Common Mistakes in English"

Program consisted of two articles "Points to Remember in Red Cross Work and Just a Friendly Call" read by Mrs. J. E. Haslam and Mrs. John Hickox and a contest, "Jumbled place names" by Mrs. H. B. Haslam. Prize won by Misses Winnifred Haslam and Evelyn Matheson.

The meeting closed with the National Anthem and lunch was served by those in charge.

### STRICTLY FATTENING

Do you want some nice, long cool drink that's "strictly fattening"? Here it is: Add vanilla ice cream to freshly made coffee and beat until creamy. Pour in a glass of three-fourths full and fill the rest of the glass with ginger ale.

A little candied ginger, finely chopped, gives zest to a fruit cocktail salad or sherbet. It also is good added to whipped cream and used to top puddings. Be careful to use just a little of it, however.

### Thimble Theatre—Starring POPEYE



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