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- B** Give it on Christmas Day...
- C** He trades it in for the Stetson of his choice.



HENDERSON & CUDMORE
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Among The Farmers

Continued from page 3

cultural workers in Lincolnshire, which was held in Boston. It was a very interesting session, indeed. As you may know, Lincolnshire is known as the wealthiest agricultural area in England. Very little livestock is kept on the farms; potatoes are the main crop and they yield anywhere from twelve to fourteen tons per acre. They supply the rest of England and several of the near European countries with seed.

There are still some of the manor farms in existence and in this area, we are told, there is an average of seven hired men per one hundred acres of land. Mechanization is not as far advanced as at home although they have been making great strides in this direction during the last two or three years. This situation, however does not obtain in some of the other counties.

Last week I was out to two farmers' meetings with one of the economists from the Agricultural College here. Those meetings are similar to our farm forum groups. They call them discussion circles and they meet twice a month all the year round. At most meetings they try to have an outside speaker or film. The first group we met was in a dairy farming district just outside Nottingham City.

Of course all farmers have their problems, but their main one seems to be with labour and the hour problem. They are still required to grow a certain allocation of wheat which is not altogether a paying proposition. Generally, though, marketing is pretty well regulated by the producer boards and through the co-operatives. Over in the Derbyshire hills where we went Thursday evening to another discussion circle, we met a different situation. There the chief trouble is with the open mouthed coal pits, where, after the coal has been removed from just below the surface, the land is levelled off again, drained and allocated to agricultural purposes. It will not grow anything worthwhile for several years.

Many of the wartime rules and regulations affecting agriculture are being handed over gradually to marketing boards, although the Ministry of Food is still in control of the distribution of meat, feeds, grain, etc. In spite of the red tape

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involved most farmers seem to favour this system because they are assured of security and of a minimum price for their products well in advance.

Approximately only one-third of the farmers in Britain own their own farms. Many of the others have long term leases and are now given certain protection by legislation, providing they operate on the basis of efficiency and follow the general program recommended for their respective area.

I have been able to visit the main agricultural college serving the Midlands where the advanced courses are held, as well as a couple of the Farmers' Institutes; the latter is rather a new experiment. It is a small residential agricultural school based partly on the folk high school system and supported by the Ministry of Education, where young farm people between eighteen and twenty five are given a one year's practical course which commences in October and ends in June. This gives them a good deal of information on farm management, bookkeeping, elementary science, help developing leadership ability, and in many cases qualified them for entrance to the advanced course at the agricultural college.

The cost-accounting service of the college is a very interesting one and is operated as a free service to representative farmers in most of the outlying districts, and is used by the Ministry of Agriculture as a basis for estimating cost of producing, etc. of different crops. I am getting some more information on it and on the similar service of the National Farmers' Union and will send it along to you. The National Agricultural Advisory Service (N.A.A.S.), the field service, which is the new arrangement replacing the extension set-up which used to be administered through the universities and colleges seems to be quite an effective and practical system. There is one district officer or fieldman for approximately every one thousand farmers or large market gardeners. There are also

special committees in each county and district. These are appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture, after nomination by the Farmers' Union, the landowners and the business interests. There are also specialists in livestock, field crops, grassland management, veterinary officers, etc. at the county level to help with or investigate any special problems that come up. In this instance, I was to the Ministry headquarters recently and they were testing soil samples and sending out their recommendations at the rate of six hundred per week. These samples were all taken by the district officers. This rate is steady except for a short period in midsummer.

After looking a little closer at the livestock, I seem to be developing a greater liking for dual purpose Shorthorns. Some of the performance records both in milk and beef are hard to beat in the mixed farming areas.

In districts where they are prominent, the breeders tell me that ten thousand to sixteen thousand pounds of milk testing three point seven to four is a fair average. They grow a lot of kale in this part of the country, cabbage is fed to the cattle too, but very little corn. Grass dryers are becoming quite popular among the larger farmers and others are organizing machinery co-operatives to procure dryers and mills for grinding the grass into powder. Two, sometimes three, crops of grass are cut. There are pit silos on the farm very common.

The stone fences separating almost all the fields in some districts in Derbyshire fascinate me. They are about three and one half to four feet high and give an air of beauty and permanence to the countryside.

The Young Farmers' Clubs are similar to our Junior Farmers Groups, but of course there are more fieldmen to help them. There is a full time organizer for each county. I have been invited to attend and speak at their annual "County Ball" in January. We are going to Wales next week for a tour of their local farmers' co-operatives.

The tour to the continent is not coming off until April or May. I would like to have a list of the Farm Forum topics for this season and six copies of the handbook. Many of the boys are quite interested in making better use of the radio.

To a good sport

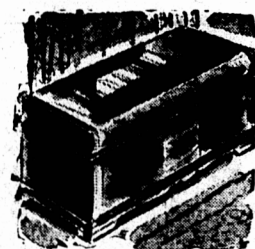
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