

## THE PRODUCTION OF FOOD.

The President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries has appointed a Departmental Committee to consider and report what steps should be taken, by legislation or otherwise, for the sole purpose of maintaining and, if possible, increasing the present production of food in England and Wales, on the assumption that the war may be prolonged beyond the harvest of 1916. The Committee will be constituted as follows: Viscount Milner (Chairman), Lord Inchcape, Mr. Francis D. Acland, M.P., Mr. Charles W. Fielding, Mr. A. D. Hall, Mr. Rowland E. Prothero, M.P., Mr. J. A. Seddon, the Hon. E. G. Strutt, and Sir Harry C. W. Verney, M.P.

The Secretary of the Committee will be Mr. H. L. French, of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, to whom all communications should be sent. D3287/94

The Committee has been appointed for the specific purpose defined in its terms of reference, and it has been asked, should it find that additional powers are necessary, to report in time for legislation to be submitted to Parliament during the present session. Its functions are quite distinct from those of the Agricultural Consultative Committee appointed by Lord Lucas on the outbreak of war. The Consultative Committee is a permanent Committee, to which the Board refer many subjects connected with practical agriculture, and no alteration in its work or constitution is contemplated; it will continue to advise the Board throughout the duration of the war.

D3287/94/1/12

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1915.

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FROM

## FARM HOLIDAYS.

NATIONAL SERVICE  
OPEN TO ALL.

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Where to spend our holidays is an im-  
portant question in many households,  
especially those where the stress of the war  
makes economy advisable if not imperative.

Farmers just now are calling out for  
labour. Many villages have sent practic-  
ally all their young and able-bodied men to  
the war. Yet the time is approaching when  
the fruits of the earth must be gathered  
up and stored for future use.

Many town dwellers in humble circum-  
stances have made use of this fact for years  
past to get long draughts of country air,  
while at the same time earning some very  
useful money.

### TIMES AND PLACES.

As a guide in this matter, the localities  
where work is to be obtained and the  
months in which there is the greatest call  
for labour are given:—

June.—Pea-picking in Essex; fruit-picking  
in the Home Counties; hay-making in  
most counties south of the Trent; lifting  
early potatoes in Kent and Bedfordshire.

July.—Hay-making in the more northern  
counties; fruit-picking in Cambridge-  
shire, Lincolnshire, and the Vale of  
Evesham; harvest work in the southern  
counties; lifting early potatoes in the  
northern counties.

August.—Harvest work generally; potato  
lifting; clearing up the remains of the  
fruit crop.

September.—Finishing harvest work;  
potato lifting; hop picking in Kent,  
Sussex and Herefordshire.

### SOME HINTS.

Much of the work connected with hay-  
making and harvesting is now done by  
machinery, and the town-dweller who has  
some knowledge of working machines  
might be very useful in managing the hay  
mowers, hay-tedders, sheaf-binders, and  
stack elevators which are used almost  
everywhere. Fruit picking means work  
very early in the morning, but it is over  
before noon, and expert pickers can earn  
a good deal of money. The pay for har-  
vest work varies according to the district.  
In Norfolk the workers receive so much  
for the ingathering—generally £7 or £8,  
the number of men depending upon the  
acreage to be reaped. In fine weather the  
job is generally completed in about 24  
days.

In other counties the work is paid for  
at piece rates—6s. to 7s. per acre for tying  
the corn into sheaves, and setting it up  
into stooks; 10d. to 1s. per acre for load-  
ing it on carts according to the size of the  
crop. Where sheaf-binders are used, from  
1s. to 1s. 6d. per acre is paid for setting  
the sheaves up into stooks.

If these programmes attract, why not  
try the Labour Exchanges?

The London clerical staff of the G.W.R.  
instead of taking their fortnightly holiday  
this year in the customary manner have  
decided to offer their services to farmers  
for that period. Mr. H. Smith, of 109,  
Milton-road, Hanwell, is booking engage-  
ments with farmers who want hands.



03287/94/1/13

2. 1915.

## THE WAR AND AGRICULTURE.

### ASSISTANCE FOR THE FARMER.

#### LORD SELBORNE'S APPEAL.

The Earl of Selborne, President of the Board of Agriculture, in an interview yesterday on the subject of the war as it affects agricultural labour, said:

I wish to appeal to the women of England and Wales of every class who live in the country to assist the farmer with their labour during the war. It looks as if the farmers will be able to get through their harvest operations this year—but with difficulty. The reports received vary according to different counties and districts. In some the want of labour does not seem yet to be acutely felt; in others it is; but I cannot help suspecting that in many cases farmers will not realise all their difficulties in respect of labour until the harvest is actually upon them. In 1916 the shortage of agricultural labour will be felt much more seriously and universally. When I was in France and Flanders a short time ago nothing struck me more than the complete manner in which agricultural operations had been carried out by the French and Belgian farmers right up to the British lines, and even within the zone of German shell fire, and yet there were no able-bodied men to be seen in the fields. The work had been entirely done by men incapable of fighting and by women and children. I am sure that in such a national crisis as the present the farmers of England and Wales will not fall behind those of France and Belgium in meeting war conditions, and that they will not only maintain but actually increase their output of agricultural produce. I know that this is to ask them to produce a larger—not smaller—number of agricultural bricks at a moment when the straw is shortest. But they can do it if they are assisted by all their neighbours who can assist, and by the women, to a degree and in a manner to which, in most parts of England and Wales, our fellow-countrywomen are not accustomed. The appeal I would make to the women is not to go and work because they want the money which they would earn, but because it is the special contribution they can make to the success of our arms in the present war. I would base my appeal to them to do this war work only on the highest grounds of patriotism. They can render great assistance in the harvest, and in many other ways in the ordinary course of the agricultural year. For instance, they can give great help in milking, in hoeing the roots, and in fruit-picking. The woman who helps to keep the farm going by milking or hoeing will be contributing to the defeat of Germany as surely as her husband or son who is guarding the North Sea or fighting in the trenches.

This is not a matter which can be organised by a Government Department from Westminster, nor is the appeal to patriotism one which is easily enforced by strangers. I would urge that this is a matter which every county should take up for itself and work on its own lines, without looking to the Government for direction or assistance. It should be possible in every county to organise a committee of women to take the direction and to arrange for branches in each rural district or petty sessional division, and so to get into touch with every parish. In this way alone can the needs of each farm and the local supply of women's labour available be known, or the appeal to patriotism be made, not by strangers, but by friends and neighbours. I know that much good work has already been done in this direction in some counties, but it has not been done in all.

To the farmers I would say, "Do not reject a form of labour to which you are unaccustomed, because you have not proved its value. If your need is not urgent now, it may very well become so next year, and the earlier the organisation of women's labour in each county is completed, the sooner will that labour become efficient."

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

##### RESULT OF COUNCIL ELECTION.

The annual election to the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons took place yesterday at the College. The following were elected: 1, Charles Ryall, Westminster Hospital, 449 votes; 2, C. J. Symonds, Guy's Hospital, 443 votes; 3, H. F. Waterhouse.