1918

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Shorthorn B This looks like

tly dual purpose ers have gives a beef standpoin e summary int December 5, 1918,

FARM AND DAIRY



The Dairy Herds of America May be Called Upon to Supply Breeding Stock to Devastated Europe.

# Agriculture In and Near No Man's Land

Observations in France by a Former Associate-Editor of Farm and Dairy - By Sergeant A. B. Cutting, B.S.A.

THE agriculture of No Man's Land and of the country immediately behind the lines in France, is interesting and unusual. While not France, is interesting and unusual. While not so exciting as the war, farming over here is sufficiently distinctive to be quite exciting at times in the warfing areas, to say 'nothing of its qualitness and peculiarities where peace reigns. . . . few facts and fancies regarding it from one who a few years. ago was one of the assistant editors of Farm and Dairy may furnish a diversion from reports and

Dairy may furnisk a diversion from reports and sories of the war. I have had no time, while "soldering" here, to study the agriculture of the country in a commercial or scientific way. Conditions in the war zone and customs of the people in more peaceful districts, that i happened to observe at odd times and places, are all that I can tell at this time.

I happened to observe at odd times and places, are all that I can tell at this time. The agriculture of Ne. Man's Land is mostly pon-existent. By "No Man's Land." I redge not only to the area that at any moment less between the alled and Hun lines, but to all 'France that this year has been the scene of battle. Every foot of such and has been a No Man's Land at one time or another. Parming was carried on there this year in a few sections that remained quiet long enough for preparing the soil and sowing the seed, but the swaying of densives from March to Schreimber ao trandy characterized on the section of the source in the sections that remained quiet long enough for preparing the soil and sowing the seed, but the swaying of densives from March to Schreimber ao trandy characterized with holes the prom-values that the harvest with holes the prom-value, however, to make the work of harvesting worth wills. Everyone knows which olde did the harvesting after the middle of July. Let the readers of, Farm and Dair, ' picture in

harvesting after the middle of July. Let the readers of Farm and Dair picture in their imaginations going to one of their own grain, fields at harvest time and finding it full of shell holes, rifle plis and rever "dug in" by soldiers, of telephone wires on the ground and, perhaps, some harbed wire, to any nothing of trenches, even graves, and most of the grain trampled flat, and they may be able to realize the difficul-

ties, even at times usel ties, even at times uselessness, of cutting grain in fields that have been the scene of hat-ties in France. All degrees of these conditions prevailed, from crops completely ruined to fields almost free from amage. Near the old estab-lished tranch excitons the lished trench systems, the land has been so cut up by and has been so cut up by shell and trench and so cover-ed with barb wire entangle-ments that it is impossible to attempt farming in any way, even if ether conditions per-

Destruction of Orchards.

To agriculture in No Man's Land, the "unkindest cut of all" is the wanton destruc-tion of orchards everywhere that the Hup has been seen that the Hun has been. Neara gigantic blight over the once fair fields of northern France that I shall not further attempt to describe

It. In definite and delightful contrast to the desola-tion of No Man's Land He the fields of France, away behind the lines. Farming fractised peacefully and intensively. Every effort protocol towards as maximum production. And the wonds to first all is, to me, how they manage to till such large the first bar of the second maximum production. And the wonder of it and is, to me, how they manage to till such large areas and produce the floe-qualitied, heavy crops that they do by the practice of almost primitive methods--practices and implements like ploces in Can-ada-even on their poorest land, clayey, shaley, some of it half chalk. Eventian is a strain the canada, is not practised farming, as known in Canada, is not practised. Rural Community Life. Farming sections are not laid out with a home on every farm, as in America. The farmers, mostly peasants, live in community villages, many of them a considerable distance. With clurch, school and stores nearby, social could the almost time and labor are lost going to and from the land.

stores nearby, social conditions are used, but much time and labor are lost going to and from the land. While most of the homes are comfortable, coxy and clean inside, sanitation outside usually is bad. and clean mside, sanitation outside usually is bad. The buildings often are grouped with ccurtyard effect around manure piles, the front doors of the houses facing inwards, and drainage from and near the wells for generations has been on the surface, the wells for generations has been on the surface, umboxed and untiled, making that part of the yards wet and accumulate to any extent, however, being hauled to accumulate to any extent, however, being hauled to the fields as rapidly as other work will permit, but the manure pile thereby is not robbed much of its hyglenic menace or its aroma. The same might be said of conditions on many farms in

Canada. The Quaint Villages of France. Near streams and almost hidden by trees, these villages nestle quaintly at short intervals all over

the country. The red tile roofs and white plaster walls of the houses; the tile roofs and mad walls of the barns, with framework, seen to the laths, hewn by hand; the thatched roofs and sails of many smaller buildings; the old -mill with indica; the and dam; the isolated chateau on the hibids; the

and distribution of the blackbod roots and walls of many and of all sizes, the old-anill with its waterwheed and distribution of the poole themselves, the goats even the garb of the poole themselves, the goats even the sarb of the poole themselves, the goats even the sarb of the poole themselves, the goats even the sarb of the poole themselves of the goats was been bent and broken by the weight of centrative upon the backs. Three things strike the eye forcibly when view the target and the transmitter of the sarb of t

Where Poppies Grow.

Where Poppies Grow. The third thing that particularly strikes the eye in farming districts over here is poppies, poppies everywhere. In the grain fields, in alfalfa, clover and mixed grasses, basids the highways and in the byways, on hillside and in rai-byways, on hillside and in rai-

ley, in late spring and all summer, the scarlet of the poppy is seen mingling with the green and the gold of the crops. And where daisies and cornflowers abound, poppies cornflowers abound, popples run riot with them in patriotic . prisms of red, white and blue. prisms of red, white and brue. How the popples got their start, I do not know, unless it be that they were once grown for seed or oplum; but here they are, re-seeding and re-growing war, after year re-growing year after re-growing year after year, like a great spreading red rash on the farms of France. Up-to-date implements are seldom seen on formation

Up-to-date implements are seldom seen on farms over here. Old-fashlour plove, wooden-to-thed harrow plove, in heavy timbered frames, the side pleces of which are cury-ed and act as sled runners, when they touch the ground, no pole being used; scythes in eavy to hing used; scythes the side on a stone with a that are sharpened by beating the edge on a stone with a hammer, sickles, cradles and fiails are an ng the kinds of (Continued on page 16.)

