

Lydney, Gloucestershire and the Bathurst Family

The birth of modern agriculture and the fight against ‘national starvation’

Written by Rachel Reeves in support of the
Lydney Community Orchard

March 2014

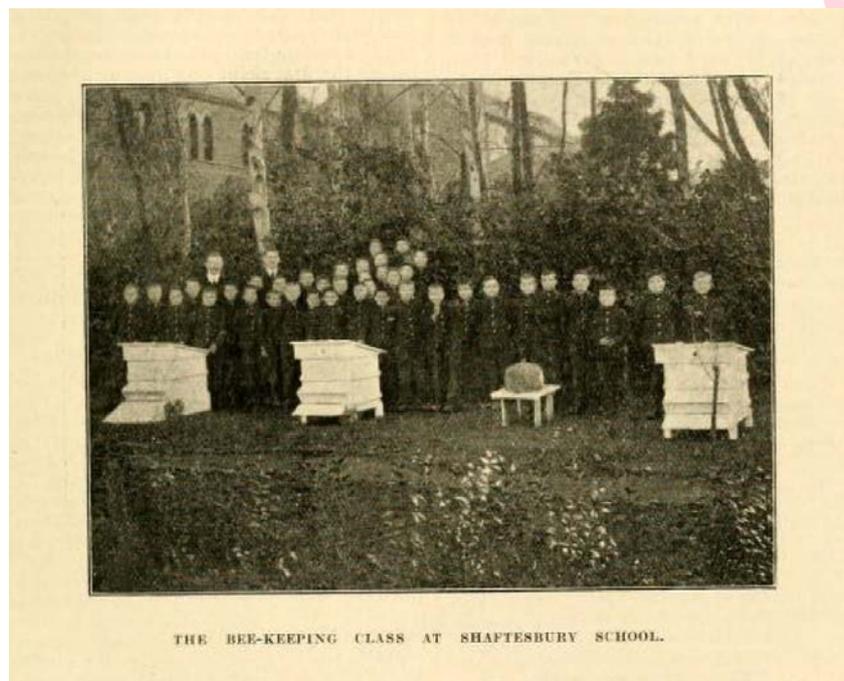


Figure 1 Apiary set up by school boys at Shaftesbury School, Bisley, 1911

“When we destroyed a stock infected by the “Isle of Wight” disease, we decided to keep the queen, and name her. “Cleopatra” was suggested. This sounded well—“classical” in fact, but after a heated debate, “Boadicea” was decided upon. Both were ill-fated, as was the queen bee, the fact of Boadicea being British decided it.”¹

George Steventon A.C.P, Master at Shaftesbury School, 1911

¹ STEVENTON, Geo. *Nature Study in Schools* British Bee Journal, October 6th, 1911 [8282]

TIMELINE: Charles Bathurst MP, 1st Viscount Bledisloe²

- 1867, 21st September, Born in London and educated at Sherborne School, Dorset and Windsor College, Eton
- 1883 Inherited his estate on the death of his elder brother William, who died aged 18
- 1888 University College, Oxford: Classics Moderations (Third Class) (age 19)
- 1890 University College, Oxford: Jurisprudence (age 21)
- 1893 to 1896 attended Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester (age 24-27)
 - Editor of College magazine
 - Dulcie Gold Medal winner (best student)
- 1897 Royal Forest of Dean Verderer (for life) (age 29)
- 1898 Married Hon. Bertha Lopes of Wiltshire (age 30)
- 1906 Defeat of Unionists unexpectedly with anti-landlord effects
- 1907 Walter Long forms the Central Land Association (CB age 40)
- 1907 Charles Bathurst recruited as first Secretary of the CLA
 - membership increased to over 1000 by 1909 when he resigned
- Jan 1910 MP for Wilton division of Wiltshire (age 43)
- 1916 Spokesman in the Commons for the new Ministry of Food and Parliamentary Secretary to Lord Davenport
- 1917 Chairman of the Royal Commission on Sugar Supply
- 1918 to 1919 Director of Sugar Distribution
- 1919 to 1925 was Chairman of the Board of Directors, Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester
- 1917 to 1920 Chairman of the Federation of county war executive committees
- 1918 Peerage – Baron Bledisloe (adhered to Lloyd George)
- 1921 to 1922 Chairman of the Central Landowners Association (age 52)
- 1922 Reconciled to Conservatives, being on the Government's Agricultural Advisory Committee (Baldwin) (age 53)
- 1927 Chairman of the Royal Commission on Land Drainage (age 59)
- 1928 Married for the second time to Alina (age 60)
- 1929 Ramsay MacDonald (Labour) appointed him Governor General of New Zealand (age 61)
- 1930 to 1935 served in New Zealand, gaining step up in peerage to Viscount Bledisloe as a result in 1935 (age 62-67)
- 1939 Chairman of the Royal Commission on the closer union of the two Rhodesias and Nyasaland (age 71)
- 1947 Goodwill tour of Australasia (age 79)
- 1948 Goodwill tour of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia (age 80)
- Died on 3 July 1958 (age 90)

² THOMSON, F. M. L. *Bathurst, Charles, first Viscount Bledisloe (1867–1958)*, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edition, Jan 2008

ABSTRACT

Charles Bathurst, 1st Viscount Bledisloe, was a leading agriculturalist of national and global importance. He was educated in the first modern, scientific and experimental agricultural college set up by his relative, Earl Bathurst, in Cirencester. This College, now the Royal Agricultural University (President HRH Prince of Wales) leads agricultural education around the world. Charles Bathurst, his extended family and allies lobbied for legislation to save the bees of Great Britain from a devastating bee disease, thus helping the vital growing of food at home during WW1. He also was the second in command of the Ministry of Food, responsible for encouraging all citizens who could to grow food, including school children and was probably highly influential in the teaching of skills such as fruit growing, bee keeping and taking care of chickens and rabbits through family connections in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire at the turn of the 20th century. He set up an educational trust for the young people of Lydney that enables them to access education in or emigrate to New Zealand to this day and gave land to the Maori nation as well as to the people of Lydney. Charles Bathurst should be more widely recognised (as he is in New Zealand) by his home town of Lydney as one of the fathers of modern agriculture and one of the key people who worked to prevent 'national starvation' during the Great War and proceeding years.

1. Family matters

The background to this amateur historical research is the planning of a Community Orchard for Lydney. Whilst searching for a portrait of Lord Bledisloe, who gave the Recreation Trust land to the community, I came across one held by the Royal Agricultural University at Cirencester. Once I did some more investigating, I found that the 1st Viscount Bledisloe was related to Henry George Bathurst, the 4th Earl Bathurst, Lord Apsley (1790-1866) of Cirencester who had given the land for the college and was its first President. Charles Bathurst was a student there, but also was Chairman of the Governing Body from 1919-1929.

With a Food Bank recently set up in Lydney an urgent necessity in these times of economic depression, and seeing the need in our own community for anything that can help people to have a healthy diet, we wanted to promote growing of fruit and vegetables alongside the growing of a new community on our housing development, Oakdale.

Land owned by the Lydney Recreation Trust was given to the town by Charles Bathurst, 1st Viscount Bledisloe, after a hugely successful political and diplomatic career that spanned the globe and took him to South America to form legislation for transportation of beef (1928), to New Zealand as Governor General (1929) and to Africa to chair a Royal Commission on combining Southern Rhodesia, Rhodesia and Nyasaland (1938). He was prepared for this by as an education at Eton, University College Oxford, the Bar and (on the death of his elder brother and inheritance of the estate), at the newly established Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester. He excelled here, editing the College newspaper and winning the Dulcie Gold Medal for his studies³.

Cirencester was the first of its kind, with an experimental 'model' farm and developmental ideas from leading scientists of the day such as Charles Dubeny, a contemporary of Charles Darwin⁴. It looked at training the sons of farmers and landed gentry in a modern approach to farming and its innovative conception drew on new discoveries in botany, geology and mineralogy⁵. The idea was to eventually have a similar establishment in each county, thus diversifying on different soil types. Gloucestershire was an obvious location, with its prime agricultural land and similar geology to Oxfordshire, where the Oxford Botanic Garden had become a hot house of botanical research attracting interest from the leading horticulturalists and agriculturalists of the day.

With support from Earl Bathurst, including the gift of a 400 acre farm just outside Cirencester - a natural gathering place for farmers-, the stage was set for the development of the modern farming industry and the College opened in 1845, around the time of the Irish Potato Famine when reports in the press⁶ provided graphic descriptions: "...vast numbers in Ireland evade starvation by poisoning themselves

³ THOMSON, F. M. L. *Bathurst, Charles, first Viscount Bledisloe (1867–1958)*, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edition, Jan 2008

⁴ Oxford Botanic Garden <http://www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk>

⁵ DUBENY, Charles; 1844, *Lecture at the Oxford Botanic Gardens*: Thomas Combe, Printer to the University/ Gloucestershire Tracts, Painswick House Collection Gloucestershire Tracts, Painswick House Collection, Series C Vol XXI [Misc 1823-1891]

⁶ The Spectator, Page 13, 15th August 1846

with noxious weeds picked in the fields...”⁷ (‘Jorrs of Tuam’ quoted in the Spectator, 18th July 1942.) Caused by potato blight, the famine killed swathes of Irish men, women and children, giving the agriculturalists good cause indeed to look at ways to prevent disease like this from wiping out the food supply.

The timing was crucial for the future wellbeing of mainland Britain as well. Farmers had been really struggling from 1879, with an epidemic of sheep-rot with millions of sheep destroyed, Foot and Mouth disease in 1883 and a drop in the price of corn, butter, cheese, cattle and sheep and wheat. Farm labour was hard to come by due to the Education Act of 1876, which kept children at school. Women were flocking to the cities to work in shops or into service as maids.⁸ This was the background to Charles Bathurst’s studies in his mid twenties. He entered politics as he turned forty, through recruitment by Walter Long into the Central Land Association in 1907.

REMOVED FOR ONLINE VERSION

Figure 2 Charles Bathurst, 1st Viscount Bledisloe; Alina Kate Elaine (née Jenkins), Viscountess Bledisloe. © National Portrait Gallery, London. Asset reference number: x151368 Charles Bathurst, 1st Viscount Bledisloe; Alina Kate Elaine (née Jenkins), Viscountess Bledisloe © National Portrait Gallery, London. Artist: Bassano Ltd

Reproduced with kind permission.

⁷ The Spectator, Page 1, 18th July 1942

⁸ FORDHAM, Montague, *A short history of English rural life from the Anglo-Saxon invasion to the present time, with a preface by CHARLES BATHURST, M.A., M.P. and a Plan*, George Allen & Unwin Ltd, London & New York

2. Bees, disease and the health of the nation

“I desire to support the hon. Member for the Wilton Division (Mr. C. Bathurst). We have been asking for this Bill for a considerable time in this House. I am a beekeeper myself. [**An HON. MEMBER: "In your bonnet."**] I keep bees in my hives, not in my bonnet.” **MARQUESS of TULLIBARDINE, House of Commons, 1912**

Through the establishment of the British Beekeepers Association and its regional branches, Britain had become a nation of beekeepers by the time Charles Bathurst had entered Parliament as the Member for Wilton (South Wiltshire). The Beekeepers Journal shows that this was a great leveller. Photographs of apiaries from country estates are shown alongside those at the back of tiny cottages and the captions only vary with the name of the apiarist. At the branch meetings, farm labourers who kept bees could sit with Peers of the Realm, Members of Parliament and County Council officials. The bees had back-up. This is how it came about that bees, the vital pollinators of flowering crops, were the innocent instigators of attempts at legal reform at the turn of the century. The bee population had crashed, with the infamous “Isle of Wight” disease. Branches that had members included leading political figures of the day, meeting at a parochial level, lobbied for the first Act of Parliament to prevent bee disease, giving powers of inspection to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

‘Mr Charles Bathurst MP’ enters into the debate on the Bee Disease Bill in 1912 with the authority of his education and upbringing behind him. The Bill was, "To provide for the prevention of the introduction and spread of pests and diseases affecting Bees." Presented by Mr. RUNCIMAN; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 292.]⁹ It was proposed in 1904, by a bee keeper, Mr Tickner Edwardes, in *Smallholder* and had met with favour but some reservation at the Andover District Bee Keepers Association as, “Legislation bee-keepers certainly wanted, and that badly, but we should be careful not to get an “overdose” of it.”¹⁰. At

⁹ HC Deb 26 July 1912 vol 41 c15171517, Historic Hansard

¹⁰ Andover and District B.K.A, The Bee Journal, Dec 21st 1911, page 501

the time, 'Isle of Wight disease' and foul brood had devastated the country's pollinating honey bees as far north as Stornaway (*The British Bee Journal Jan 1912*). Notes from the Gloucester Bee Keepers Association (*The British Bee Journal Feb 15th 1912*) show that Robert Bathurst's father-in-law, Lord Colchester-Wemyss, was elected President of the Gloucestershire branch of this national association and also shows their determination to lobby for legislation to protect bees, along with other branches of the British Bee Keepers' Association.

“Feb 15th 1912

Editorial Notices &c

Gloucestershire BKA

The Annual Meeting of the Gloucestershire Bee-Keepers Association, was held at the Wessex Hotel, Gloucester on 29th January. The Hon. Secretary reported a considerable increase in the number of members, and the balance sheet was considered satisfactory, in view of the heavy expenses involved by the Honey Show. Mr W.M. Colchester-Wemyss, Chairman of the County Council, was elected President. Rev F.H. Fowler was reappointed hon Secretary and Treasurer. The following were appointed on the Committee:- Messrs G.A. Calvert (Lydney), H.E. Bailey, Norton), A.H. Bowen (Cheltenham), E.J. Burt (Gloucester), W.F. Pick (Dursley), F. Thomas (Cam.), W.A. Workman (Husslecote [sic]), G.C. Langston, W.J. Goodrich (Gloucester), J.W. Watkins (Cirencester Agricultural College).”¹¹

Interest in legislation to control “Isle of Wight” disease, the Bee Disease Bill, spread as far as New Zealand. The Wanganui Chronicle reported it under the heading ‘**BRITISH POLITICS**’ on 19th October 1912¹². New Zealand had stolen a march on the British Bee Keepers and were exporting top quality honey to the UK in 1911, having had their own Bill Disease Act passed five or six years earlier¹³ and sub-sequential success in honey production. Other colonies had followed suit.

¹¹ *Editorial Notices &c, Gloucestershire BKA, The Bee Journal Feb 15th 1912*

¹² Wanganui Chronicle, Issue 12856, 19th October 1912, Page 5
<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>

¹³ EDWARDS, Tickner *Bee-Disease Legislation* The Bee Journal 21st Dec 1911 [8317]
(Correspondance)

(United Press Association.—Copyright.)
LONDON, Oct. 17.
The House of Commons passed the second reading of the Bee Disease Bill, giving the Board of Agriculture powers of inspection.
The Right Hon. Walter Runciman said that the hives in England and Wales were valued at £1,000,000, and in many districts all had been destroyed.

Figure 3 Wanganui Chronicle, 19th October 1912

The Chairman of the Board of Agriculture, Mr Walter Runciman had reminded Parliament that bees were vital to Britain in terms of their contribution as pollinators: “It must be remembered that the benefit of bees is not confined to the production of money; they are the best fertilisers in this country.”¹⁴ There was an attempt to delay the second reading, opposed by the Honorary Member for Wilton, as the matter had been raised by so many bee keepers in his constituency. Presumably, his lobbyists elsewhere included his brother’s father-in-law, President of the Gloucestershire-Bee Keepers Association. He became a member of the Standing Committee¹⁵ for the Bee Disease Bill, a task for which he was well placed and well educated; the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester having had a representative on the committee of the Gloucester Bee Keepers’ Association and their own experimental hives. The passing of a Bee Disease Bill was however abandoned after much debate in the House of Commons between 1903 and 1918, even though the Bee Pest Prevention Act (Ireland) had been in 1908. It wasn’t until 1945 that English, Scottish and Welsh bee keepers were supported in legislation, with the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act. Bee-keeping was mentioned in the debate as an ideal occupation for ex-service men and women. Lord Bledisloe, who urged the government to prevent import of bees as a precaution against disease, was way ahead of his time. The Bee Act was not passed until 1980.

¹⁴ BEE DISEASE BILL.HC Deb 16 October 1912 vol 42 cc1367-781367 Order for Second Reading reading. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this Bill be now read a second time." Historic Hansard

¹⁵ HC Deb 22 October 1912 vol 42 c1890, Historic Hansard

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Figure 4 Advert for imported honey from the colonies, Collected Leaflets on Bee Keeping, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, HMSO 1922

Lydney Park, home of the Bathurst family, is the neighbouring manor to Westbury on Severn, the seat of Lord Colchester Wemyss. "Isle of Wight" and foul pest diseases in bees must have been a topical and urgent issue at the dinner table, on the farms and with fellow members of Gloucestershire County Council where Lord Colchester Wemyss was Chairman. Undoubtedly this would have been brought to the attention of his neighbour, related by marriage to his daughter Geraldine, who had connections to the highest authorities in the land. Local action in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and other counties, had successfully brought the problems facing bees into sharp focus in Parliament, where Wiltshire Bee Keepers Association, was mentioned in Parliament in May 1913.

Mr Peto asked the President of the Board of Agriculture whether his attention has been called to a resolution passed by the Wiltshire Bee Keepers' Association expressing their disappointment at the delay that has taken place in passing legislation dealing with bee diseases, and urging that a Bill should be passed at an early date making it illegal for persons to keep bees that are suffering 1844 from disease; and

whether he can promise that such a measure shall be passed during the present Session of Parliament?¹⁶

From January 1st this year, the Scottish government have passed legislation to ensure the protection of the Black Honey Bee, *Apis mellifera mellifera* on the Scottish Islands of Colonsay and Oronsay.¹⁷ In keeping with the tradition of local action having national and global import, this initiative was brought about by the determination of a local bee keeper, Andrew Abrahams, with help from a member of Gloucester Bee Keepers Association, amongst others. The islands were an experimental breeding station for the Black Honey bee as far back as 1941, so already had a small population. Abrahams gathered up a few surviving colonies and kept them in isolation on the islands so that it has now become a world heritage and biodiversity site akin to ‘Kangaroo Island’ in Australia. Lord Bledisloe would have been very pleased and bees still have friends in high places.

House of Lords, Lord Stevenson of Balmacarra, July 2013

“I am very enthusiastic about my bees. I am not very knowledgeable but I am quite good at talking about them, and that got me into trouble. I will indulge the House very briefly with a short anecdote. A few years ago, when I was working in No. 10, there was an initiative to think about ways in which we could look at environmental issues, including bees. I had been talking up my highs and lows in relation to bees and I got saddled with doing something on the bee front. I will not go through all the details, but eventually we decided that there was one thing that would be interesting and perhaps of long-term value. Chequers, although not owned by the Government or indeed by the Prime Minister but by a private and separate trust, had lost its bees some years ago and there were no bees there. It seemed a pity because such a wonderful estate—those who have visited it will know—could easily support a large number of hives. So I was charged with trying to get bees back into Chequers. It took a bit of time but, working with a local beekeeping association, I found a willing beekeeper, who helped with the negotiations with the trustees, who were very hard task masters. I discovered a

¹⁶ Bee Disease Bill. HC Deb 06 May 1913 vol 52 cc1843-41843, Historic Hansard

¹⁷ The Scotsman <http://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/colonsay-and-ornsay-to-become-honeybee-havens-1-3128377>

fundamental flaw, which was rather surprising for that part of Buckinghamshire: Chequers has no natural water.”¹⁸

Happily for hot or thirsty bees, the proposed site for our Community Orchard is by the Boating Lake and a tributary of the River Lyd. Other members of the House of Lords have childhood memories of bees, showing the value of oral history being passed on from one generation to the next.

Lord Selsdon:

My involvement in beekeeping is rather strange. All I can do is to explain what happened to me rather accidentally in my life. At the start of the war I was exported, to be kept out of the way so I would not be knocked off. I came back as a five-year-old to be put on my grandfather’s farm, and I had no coupons or sweets. I was told that my job was bees, and that I should move the beehive at night to put it near the chickens so that no one stole the eggs.

I was introduced to the bees as a small boy by someone who today we would call a beekeeper but was actually a German prisoner of war, who had great knowledge of such things. We had a whole range of people on the farm. I got quite interested in honey but I had been brought up in Canada with maple syrup. I was not quite sure how you got honey, and I thought it was probably illegal to try to do so because I did not have any coupons. When I was introduced to the bees, they became my friends. It was one of those strange relationships that you have as a child; I could not quite understand why, but I had a feeling that they got to know me....When I was in the banking world...I was asked by Eddie Seaga if I could help with bees. I said, “I don’t know anything about bees”, but then I remembered Winnie-the-Pooh’s line, “Isn’t it funny how a bear likes honey?”

When I first met the bees on my grandfather’s farm, I had a small teddy bear called Marmaduke, and I thought that by using that teddy bear I might possibly get a larger allowance of honey. That stuck in my mind when I was in Jamaica, and I was officially asked to help to reinstitute Jamaica’s logwood honey business....Together with the high commissioner, John Drinkall....We formed the Wild Flower Honey Company of Jamaica and I managed to arrange export credit from Her Majesty’s Government, with the guarantee of the Wild Flower Honey Company of Jamaica,

¹⁸ House of Lord, 10th January 2013, Hansard

which had 10,000 Jamaican dollars. I did not know that I had put in half of that sum; indeed, at the time I had not, but I was soon asked to make the payment. So you arrive back here, and then Mr Seaga arrives here on a visit and you get invited to go to Downing Street for the first time for lunch because you are an important investor in Jamaica. The Prime Minister gets up and says, “We are very happy to have some big investors in Jamaica here, particularly Lord Selsdon, who has a substantial investment in the honey business of 5,000 Jamaican dollars”.

Table 1 Legislation on bees in the UK Parliament¹⁹

Year	Title
1969	The Foul Brood Disease of Bees Order
1978	The Importation of Bees Order
1979	The Importation of Bees Prohibition Order
1980	The Bees Act 1980 Commencement Order
1980	Bees (Northern Ireland) Order 1980
1982	The Bee Diseases Control Order
1997	The Importation of Bees Order
1998	Bee Disease Control Order (Northern Ireland)
2006	The Bee Diseases and Pest Control (England) Order 2006
2006	<u>The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Wales) Order 2006</u> <u>Gorchymyn Rheoli Clefydau a Phlâu Gwenyn (Cymru) 2006</u>
2007	The Bee Diseases and Pests Control Order (Northern Ireland) 2007
2007	The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007
2013	The Bee Keeping (Colonsay and Oronsay) order 2013

¹⁹Legislation.gov.uk <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/title/bees?page=1>

3. A nation of bee keepers

Wiltshire, whose nobility was so intricately linked with the Bathurst family, was also at the forefront of educating a future generation of bee keepers. The Bee Journal and Bee-Keepers' Advisor in 1913 told of bee-keeping becoming part of the curriculum of schools up and down the country over the previous fifteen years. As well as being the county where Lord Bledisloe gained a seat in Parliament in 1910, and the home county of his first wife, Bertha Lopes, her brother, Henry Ludlow Lopes, 2nd Baron Ludlow was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire in 1900. The prominence of Wiltshire in the education of children in bee-keeping was noted by a commentator in the weekly Bee Journal in 1913.

“The exigencies of modern conditions, which compel us to make money from every available source, has revolutionised education in our schools. Girls receive education in domestic economy, cooking, needlework, and even the nursing, feeding, and attention to babies, forms part of their education in every day. Boys are taught to observe the wonders of Nature, how to care for their gardens, poultry, rabbits and other live creatures; carpentering, fruit-growing, and gardening. In connection with the latter, bee-keeping occupies a prominent position. It is good for the country that this is done, and there is no doubt that such a common sense innovation will be invaluable to the rising generation, enabling them to take advantage of the natural resources of our country, which have been sadly neglected. If we can create a love for Nature in the young, then it will be possible to retain them on the land instead of their crowding into towns and cities, which is far too prevalent at the present time. The teaching of bee-keeping in schools has grown gradually for the last fifteen years, and is not a recent innovation, as some writers would have us believe. The credit of being the first County Council to take up this work belongs to Wiltshire, and today she holds the foremost position in this respect. It is almost a *sine qua non* that to obtain a post as a schoolmaster in Wilts, a thorough knowledge of gardening, poultry and bees is necessary.”²⁰

²⁰ Anonymous article in The Bee Journal and Bee-Keepers Adviser, Jan 1913 Page 18 to 19 (8638)

4. Home grown Ministry

With such a background it is not surprising that when a new ministry was created to feed the country during war time, the Ministry of Food, Captain Charles Bathurst was picked to serve as the ‘Lieutenant’ of Lord Davenport, a self-made man who had risen from the position of office boy to be the Chair of London Dock Board. The combination of the son of a progressive and well-educated land owner, himself the benefactor of scientists and agricultural students with a rich knowledge of cutting edge techniques in farming and Lord Davenport, helped create a Ministry that challenged the country to produce as much home grown food as Germany was doing, including school children who could garden on school playing fields²¹. (*Hansard*) The father of Charles Bathurst’s sister in law, Lord Colchester, was in no doubt as to the benefit of such a working relationship.

“It is an honour, & an education to serve under such a man, & Charles is very greatly to be envied. One branch of their department will deal with the subject I went with in a recent letter, the vital necessity of growing more food at home instead of being dependent for a very large proportion of our necessary food, on our own Colonies and on other nations.”²²

During the 1914-18 War, the number of allotments increased from 300,000 to 1,500,000 and under the guidance of the Ministry, led by these two men, it continued to climb after the Armistice to an estimated 1,750,000 in April 1920²³. Viscount Bledisloe continued to advocate for allotment holders and cottage gardeners and also for the inclusion of foreign nationals, with the benefits that they bring during the Second World War.

“My Lords, I hope I may be forgiven for speaking in this debate, as I took no small share in dealing with the food requirements of the nation during the most critical part of the last war....We have a considerable and growing number of very competent and experienced immigrants from agricultural countries. I can well remember during the last war how very useful indeed were some of those who came from Belgium, from Denmark, from Portugal and from other parts of the European Continent. Indeed I may say that two of them whom I secured on my own farms remained subsequently

²¹ FOOD PRODUCTION. HC Deb 08 February 1917 vol 90 cc109-233109 §, Historic Hansard

²² COLCHESTER-WEMYSS, *Letter to the King of Siam?*, Gloucester County Archives

²³ *Ideal Homes Exhibition Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries*, April 1921, pages 81-84 <https://archive.org/stream/journalofministr2711grea#page/n105/mode/2up>

on my farms for a matter of twenty years, and one very efficient Dane is working for me to-day. Here is a potential source from which you can draw really expert, hard-working, experienced labour of the kind we so much need. We shall need it all the more when we get to the corn harvest on the farms of this country.²⁴” (House of Lords debate 1940).

This strikes a chord with the Oakdale Links team as we have representatives of four different nationalities: Polish, Zimbabwean/ South African, Canadian and British. Two grew up on farms, one in Wales and one in Canada. One grew up on a 104 acre estate in Zimbabwe, with a game park next door and terrorists active in the vicinity. One spent her childhood between the city and the Polish countryside and has also lived as a member of the Camphill community, growing organic vegetables. Two of us have degrees (two each) in Biology and related subjects. This is just a small section of our community. There are many more skilled people here who are willing to get involved once we have permission to go ahead with the project and space to run a children’s gardening club. This is a rich community that will be able to draw on friends from around the Forest very willing to add to this project.

²⁴ **FOOD SITUATION.**

5. Women in the Civil Service: settling the land

“[My husband] doesn't think that you can right wrongs with philanthropy. He realises that you must go to the bottom of the causes of wrongs and not simply gild over the top...I found out the wrongs and he tried to right them. It was a wonderful and happy combination... I don't say that women are going to change the world, but I do say that they can if they want to.”²⁵

Lady Nancy Astor, first woman MP (1879-1964)

Growing up in Gloucestershire and living amongst farmers and farm workers ensured a transcendent approach that was modern in its inclusivity and broke down barriers between classes and between men and women. The Agriculture Club, formed by members of the Agricultural Wages Board included Lord Bledisloe and was a meeting place for informal debate and lectures and became a great place of levelling between classes and sexes after WW1²⁶. Conservative politics were strongly influenced by the ideas that were forthcoming. Andrew Fenton-Cooper writes that, “Throughout Britain, state supported farm colonies would be established, under the direction of trained technicians, on tracts of land large enough to be economically viable. Concurrently, a national co-ordinated drive for village reconstruction would be initiated. The aim of this program would be to bring about a more rational use of land in the village and market centres through the development of commons, recreation grounds and allotments. In other words to try and restore a co-operative milieu in local life and hence provide a basis of common action.”²⁷

Women gave some of the lectures and were active members of the Agriculture Club. Their role was changing as they became trusted to take on more responsibility in

²⁵ ASTOR, Nancy Wicher Langhorne, *Viscountess My Two Countries, Before the League of Women Voters*, New York Garden City New York; 1923, University of Massachusetts Amherst Library <https://archive.org/details/mytwocountries1954asto>

²⁶ REW, R.H. *The Story of the Agriculture Club (1918-1921)* by R Henry Rew, President of the Club with a foreword by Lord Bledisloe, K.B.E., P.S. King and Son, London, 1922, Cornell University Library Collection

<https://archive.org/details/cu31924032398137>

²⁷ FENTON-COOPER, Andrew *British Agricultural Policy 1912-1936: a study in Conservative Politics*, Manchester University Press, 1989

policy-making. During the War, the Minister of Food and his Parliamentary Secretary, Charles Bathurst MP, enlisted the help of women to set up National Food Kitchens²⁸:

[Mr Clynes replies to a question from Mr Rendall] The Food Controller has constantly sought the assistance and advice of women in forwarding his policy of setting up national kitchens. The actual administration of these kitchens is in the hands of local authorities, who are already employing women in administrative work. The National Kitchens Branch of the Ministry are training both women inspectors, supervisors, and cooks, and, generally speaking, the whole of the staff of the kitchens will be women.” With the centenary of WWI, Pathé news clips have been made available for viewing on the Internet. One of them shows a new National Kitchen being opened. (<http://www.britishpathe.com/video/opening-of-national-kitchen>).

The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (1903-1919, followed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 1919 to 1955, then Ministry of Agriculture, Fish and Food until it was merged with the Ministry of Food to become the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs in 2002), was progressive in their support of women employees. In 1916, the first woman inspector was Dame Meriel Talbot, who was able to attend conferences for training purposes. In 1920, it was women who led a fact-finding mission to Denmark to find out why the Danes were so happy and settled. The answer according to Bertha Bayne who led the expedition, was that the Danish government had lifted its people out of a war-induced poverty (Danish-German War 1883-86) by making it very easy to obtain credit for purchasing land. The Danes were great small holders and were satisfied with their life, with excellent rural schools and co-operative ventures at the forefront of building a stable, happy and prosperous population. Although the Danish men were the main labourers on the small holdings, Mrs Bayne said that, “It is difficult to understand why this should have been so, as to work on a small holding on Danish lines presented nothing that two *skilled* women, exclusive of any housework, could not advantageously undertake, without having recourse to paid labour, except at busy times.”²⁹

²⁸ NATIONAL KITCHENS HC Deb 17 April 1918 vol 105 c397397

²⁹ BAYNE, B.M, *A Woman's Impression of a Danish Smallholding*, Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, April 1920 pages 52-56

After the War, the Government had a policy of settling soldiers on small holdings as well and promoted allotment culture with lectures as well as a ready-grown model allotment at the Ideal Homes Exhibition, 1920, with plants looking as though it were June instead of February³⁰. Apple, pear and plum trees were given to County Councils to plant on small holdings, in return for a small increase in rent to the small holder. The varieties included in our orchard plan include some of these. During a time of economic depression between the wars, the life of a small holder must have held out hope for many and prepared the nation for growing food prior to the Second World War. Health and wellbeing agendas began to make an appearance in the Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1920.

“The allotment movement has been responsible for a greater consumption of vegetables amongst the working classes....All this has tended to the national good and helped to build up a healthier and more independent population. The social and moral influences of the allotment movement may possibly prove incalculable, for no man can cultivate properly a piece of ground without being brought face to face with the problems of nature and being made to think, and in the majority of cases the effect of the environment of the allotment will be to make him a better man intellectually and socially³⁰.”

In 1940, with his wealth of experience in promoting home-grown food, Viscount Bledisloe once again came to the aid of the nation with innovative ideas for how the Women's Institutes could help save food being wasted. We would also like to do this and have a community-led composting scheme on a fenced area next to Cambourne Meadow, the proposed site for the allotment. The Dean Heritage Centre has just purchased two Gloucester Old Spots for their WW2 garden, which would have met with his hearty approval. When I was at primary school (1974 -1981), we used to save scraps from school dinners for the local pig farmer. This could explain why, as some of our teachers were the same age as our grandparents, born during WW1.

“I see in an announcement made, I think, this morning, that the women's institutes are having allotted to them the special task of encouraging allotments. I wish them all success. No one has a higher opinion of the women's institute movement than I have; but I cannot help thinking that if in the smaller urban districts, where there are industrial workers 633normally employed upon allotments, the urban district council

³⁰ *The Ideal Homes Exhibition: The Ministry's Model Allotment*, Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, April 1920, pages 81-

was allotted the task of organising the collection of potential pig foods, it would be of very great advantage to many of those who are doubtful to-day as to whether, in spite of the Government's appeal, they ought to keep a pig.²⁴”(See Appendix III for more of the debate.)



FIG. 1.—Model 10-rod Allotment, fully cropped, according to the Ministry's plan. The crops appear in February at the stage of growth usually obtaining in June.

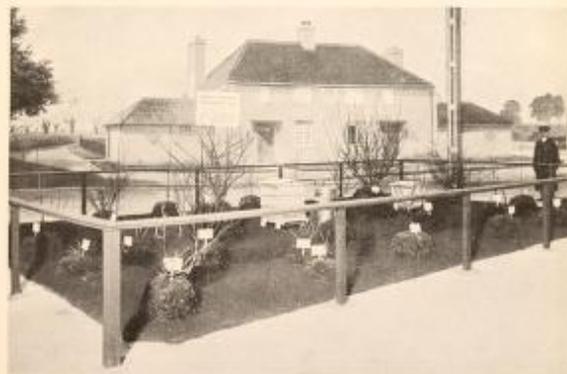


FIG. 2.—Fruit Tree and Bush Fruit Exhibit at Olyntho, February, 1920. (Illustrating correct and faulty methods of pruning.)

Figure 5 Model Allotment with fruit trees and vegetables, Ideal Homes Exhibition, 1920

6. Diplomacy Down Under: 1930 to 1935

Lord Bledisloe's fairness and respect for his fellows is still recognised today in New Zealand, where he was appointed as Governor General in 1935.



Figure 6 Page 1 Lord Bledisloe's swearing-in ceremony as Governor General of New Zealand at Parliament House, Wellington³¹

“His deep knowledge of agriculture gave him an understanding of New Zealand possessed by few Vice-Regal representatives and he did everything possible to widen his appreciation of the country and its history....

...There were few towns that he and his wife did not visit at some time or other. His friendly manner and natural dignity enabled him to mix with all classes of the community and to gain their respect and admiration...Few Governor-Generals have entered more fully into New Zealand life, and it is true to say that during the early thirties the country was more aware of its Governor-General than at any other time in its history.

Bledisloe naturally came into intimate contact with the farming community. He did not hesitate to give his opinion on all phases of agriculture, and did everything possible to emphasise the importance of science in agriculture. He warned producers

³¹ NZ Truth, Issue 1296, 27 March 1930.

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&d=NZTR19300327.1.1&e=-----10--1----0-->

to maintain and improve quality and to ensure that their goods met fully the customers' requirements.

At all times his generosity was marked, and the years in New Zealand were no exception. The gift for which he will always be remembered...is the Waitangi estate. The Treaty of Waitangi had been signed at the British Residency near Russell which was the private property of Busby.... Recognising its importance in the history of the country, Bledisloe arranged to purchase the property and, on behalf of his wife and himself, to present it to the nation as a national monument. The gift was accepted by the Crown and handed to the Waitangi National Trust, established by Act to care for the estate.³² (*Wilson 1966*)

³² WILSON, James Oakley, *Biography of Charles Bathurst, 1st Viscount Bledisloe*, Te Ara New Zealand Dictionary of National Biography, Wellington
<http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/1966/bledisloe-charles-bathurst-pc-gcmg-kbe-first-viscount>

7. “And is there honey still for tea?”

Lord Bledisloe is quite rightly recognised and fondly remembered in New Zealand to. And that affection was reciprocal. He can be heard addressing the Young Farmers of New Zealand during a good will tour of Australasia in his later years. There is also a window depicting mountains, New Zealand rain forest and a Maori warrior in the Bathurst chapel at St Mary’s Church. This chapel is used during services as a place for young children to play and to gain an understanding of the Christian faith. From the church, a walk to the bottom of the churchyard takes you to St Mary’s Halt, which is a station on the line owned and run by the historic steam railway, Dean Forest Railways. A short walk through woodland crossed by the River Lyd and tributary brooks, leads to the Boating Lake, with Cambourne Meadow at the other end and Oakdale, our new development just beyond that. We live in Bledisloe Way.

One of the first community projects we undertook was to involve children and adults alike in planting daffodil bulbs, which are about to bloom for the first time as I write. Lord Bledisloe grew flowers on Lydney Park Estate and raised funds for the Red Cross as part of his outstanding contribution to the War Effort. Raising daffodils to sell for cut flowers was one of the ideas proposed by the Oakdale Links team. Profits could go back into the orchard to help preserve it for generations to come.

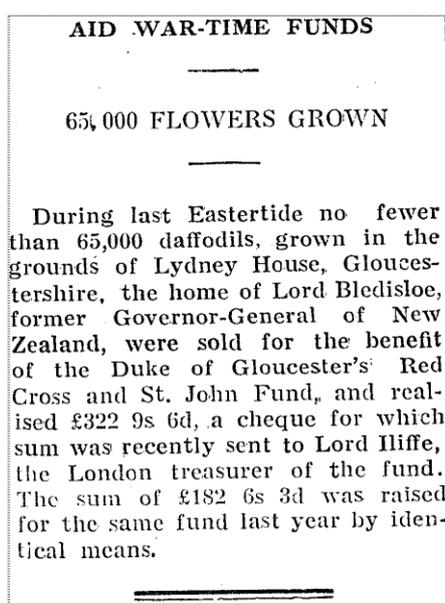


Figure 7 Growing for a good cause: daffodils from Lydney Park for the Red Cross³³

³³ Bay of Plenty Beacon, Volume 7, Issue 85, 27 June 1944, Page 7

A Community Orchard for Lydney on the land in question with a 'Peace Garden', places to sit, sculpture and poetry from the period of the First World War would be an ideal way to do this. F.W.Harvey D.C.M., Ivor Gurney and the Dymock Poets all wrote about gardens, orchards and the beautiful Gloucestershire countryside as well as cosy evenings around a kitchen table becoming slightly worse for wear with the effects of scrumpy cider. They had seen the horrors of war, but the memories of home helped them. Some were killed in the war, one, Ivor Gurney, was afflicted by mental illness that he died far from his home on the shore of the Severn in Gloucestershire in an asylum. They saw beauty in their minds' eye in the middle of the battle field. There's a lesson there for all of us.

Educational projects with downloadable resources, including teaching children about bees, gardening, fruit trees, poetry, history and social concern could be the link between generations and involve members of the public going into their schools. In 1911, the British Bee Journal has an article describing how school boys were involved in an exercise to build their own hives, a craft requiring a great deal of skill and accuracy(1)1 above. The enthusiasm of their schoolmaster is evident, with some ideas for curriculum that would be entirely in keeping with the educational aspects of the Lydney Community Orchard, including planting 'bee-plants' around the apiary, team and confidence building exercises such as the hive construction and the use of apparatus such as microscopes. All these techniques are taught today by branches of the British Bee Keepers' Association such as the Dean Forest Beekeepers' Association, who are happy to go and talk to local children in schools about bees and how we depend on them for survival.

Ecological management of the project using bee hives and chickens would be a great way to teach children about looking after the planet and would help today's honey bee population, gardeners and farmers. A hundred years on, the problems facing bees and the subsequent consequences for British farming continue.

“2012-13 winter losses were very high at 87 colonies, compared to 33 in 2011-12 (and there were 64 returns this year and 82 last year). Poor queen fertility was given as the main reason following the very wet summer in 2012 when it was difficult for queens to mate successfully. The long cold spring in 2013 exacerbated the problem, with colonies taking a long time to build up their strength. Hot weather in June

produced a lot of nectar but many colonies were not sufficiently strong to make good use of it. A number of members had colonies destroyed by wasps this summer – a problem every year but perhaps especially in 2013 because colonies had not reached their usual size and strength. As a result the survey respondents have not been able to fully replace their 2012/13 winter losses, having a total of 180 colonies in October 2013 compared to 219 in October 2012.”

With the benefits to growing on farms, gardens and in orchards, supporting the local bee population and sustaining a Green Corridor that stretches to the Welsh border westwards and eastwards to farmland with hedgerows along the A48, is our reason for including an apiary in the plans for Lydney Community Orchard, which will be organically managed, pesticides being one of the main contributors to bee death. As we have seen, bee-keeping was not a hobby to people preparing this country for war in 1911, but a vital part of the war effort, led amongst others by Lydney’s own Charles Bathurst, his friends, family and neighbours.

At Shaftesbury School apiary, Special attention was been paid to the quality of the pollen nearby, with heather, ling, white clover and many fruit trees supplying a range of food for the bees throughout the year. Bees were important enough to form the main nature study curriculum of the Fifth form at Shaftesbury School. They pollinated the crops for the country and the country was about to be plunged into a conflict that would make home grown production of food so imperative that the Ministry of Food was set up to encourage it. Lydney Community Orchard apiary is also planned with the same considerations. There are plenty of early blossoming trees around the Boating Lake and the areas of Lydney Recreation Trust land formerly used as a tip have been left for nature to take its course, creating a rich and diverse habitat. The apiary is shown in the middle of an extensive bramble patch not just for inaccessibility and ease of disguise, but for the foraging potential of the bramble crop for the bees. If bee disease and pests are kept at bay (in modern day, two of the main threats are Varroa mites and the Asian Hornet), the honey should be just as good as that of the schoolboys of Shaftesbury School in 1911, and our own local boys and girls may take up the challenge of building hives, with a little help and direction. We have already undertaken a number of projects with children on the Oakdale development, including making insect houses.

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Figure 8 Children making insect houses, Oakdale Community Day, October 19th 2013 with Oakdale Links

DRAFT COPY

CONCLUSION

We want to take a piece of land given to the town for 'healthful recreation' that is currently only accessible to a minority of people and create somewhere beautiful that reflects the stature of person who donated it and his role in building communities here and round the world, supporting agriculture and promoting educational opportunities for young people. Such a peaceful, reflective place in a beautiful and historic setting next to Lydney Boating Lake which has the Dean Forest steam railway and St Mary's Church nearby, would be ideal for a 'Green Gym' (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) or 'Ecominds' (Mind, the Mental Health Charity) project and for many and diverse purposes. Community stories could be told, with a performance space and poets from the WW1 era could be made more widely known through sculpture and carved features such as benches. All generations would benefit and skills in building community could be planted in the younger generation by the older members, rather than leaching out of collective memory like minerals lost from eroded soil. We want to create our own living tribute to veterans of all wars with poppies, lavender and daffodils in a peace garden, designed and prepared with the help of local school children and their teachers. We want to create online resources that can be downloaded by anyone in the world, but especially relevant to the children attending schools in Lydney, built on land also given by the Bathurst family. This is their culture and heritage. Let's give it back to them, ready for their own unique contribution.



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Figure 9 Winners of Oakdale Links' Poetry Competition 'Home is Where the Heart Is'
Oakdale Community Day, October 19th 2013

APPENDIX I

This letter is in a bundle of letters currently in the World War One collection at the Gloucestershire County Archives (finding reference D37/1/137) and is letter 122/137. It is possibly addressed to the King of Siam, a friend of the family.

13.12.16

Sire,

We have a remarkable political change here in England since my last letter was written. Askwith [sic] is no longer Prime Minister and Lloyd George has formed a Ministry which no doubt will prove a very strong one.

My daughter Geraldine married one of the Bathursts of Lydney Park, & his brother Charles is a member of the new government. A new office has been created for the period of the war, whose duty it will be to investigate & regulate & organize all matters connected with the provision of Food.

Lord Devonport is Head of this, and Charles Bathurst is his Lieutenant, and will speak for his department in the House of Commons.

Lord Davenport is I suppose one of the clearest headed of our own great Business men. A man who has carved out his own career. He began life as an Office Boy & today holds one of the most important business positions in London, Chairman of the London Dock Board.

It is an honour, & an education to serve under such a man, & Charles is very greatly to be envied. One branch of their department will deal with the subject I went with in a recent letter, the vital necessity of growing more food at home instead of being dependent for a very large proportion of our necessary food, on our own Colonies and on other nations.

Yours most obediently & sincerely

MW Colchester Wemyss

APPENDIX II

NATURE STUDY AT SCHOOLS

[8282] The accompanying photograph represents one of our classes at Shaftesbury School, Bisley. I also send another of the woodwork class with two “Cowan” hives which they made co-operatively during the last few days. The average age of the boys is just over thirteen, and they have been at wood-work just over eighteen months. I have never seen them so delighted as when they were making the hives. I found it an excellent exercise for various reasons.

The best “workman” of the class had the hardest work to do— for instance the stand with the floor-board— with its tongue and groove joints, while those not so clever with tools had the simpler parts —the lift, &c. Then again it required absolute accuracy. Further it was a real thing, a thing to be used, and which will be used in their apiary, for their education, and we hope for their ultimate benefit.

The apiary is seen in the school illustration. It is not large yet, but will most probably grow. We have taught apiculture for over a year now, but have had bad luck, having to destroy our crops on account of “Isle of Wight” disease. We hope to stock it again in the spring and make a flourishing concern of it within its limits. It is well situated, being protected on three sides by a shrubbery, a thick hedge, and another shrubbery, while in front of it is an orchard of about 200 good fruit trees in addition to 300 fruit bushes, currants, &c. The heather and ling pastures are within a stone’s throw and there is an abundance of white clover close at hand. In close proximity to the hives we are making as complete a collection of bee flowers as possible with a view to making it a corner of beauty as well as a corner of instruction, a principle capable of extension in most small apiaries. Half the glory of bee-keeping to my mind is missed if we do not study the exquisite adaptations of the bee-folk to plant life, and learn to love them, because they have such a great role to play in nature. It gives an excellent opportunity for the correlation of horticulture and apiculture. It is the nature study syllabus for the fifth form and has proved the most interesting. The boys look upon a sting much as a Crimean veteran would look upon his scars —a judicious way of taking things. It takes the boys out of doors in summer, and in winter they are engaged in more theoretical branches of the subject— the principles of making hives, the external anatomy of the bee from microslides and specimens in the museum, comb

foundation, candy making, winter work in the bee garden, disinfectants, &c....When we destroyed a stock infected by the “Isle of Wight” disease, we decided to keep the queen, and name her. “Cleopatra” was suggested. This sounded well —“classical” in fact, but after a heated debate, “Boadicea” was decided upon. Both were ill-fated, as was the queen bee, the fact of Boadicea being British decided it.

GEO. Steventon, A.C.P, Bisley.



Figure 10 A plate from 'Beneficial Insects' by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

APPENDIX III

FOOD SITUATION

HL Deb 19 June 1940 vol 116 cc600-50

Viscount Bledisloe:

I made an appeal the other day on behalf of what we call the Gloucestershire Home Food Production Society, which has been set up during the war in order to help small-scale food producers. I made an appeal to the City Council of Gloucester, and they are going to see what they can do. I felt all the time, however, that if only there was a drive from the centre, with some help in the matter of organisation, a large amount of this waste food, not merely in large cities but in small urban areas, could be rendered available for the feeding of both pigs and poultry.

I see in an announcement made, I think, this morning, that the women's institutes are having allotted to them the special task of encouraging allotments. I wish them all success. No one has a higher opinion of the women's institute movement than I have; but I cannot help thinking that if in the smaller urban districts, where there are industrial workers [633](#) normally employed upon allotments, the urban district council was allotted the task of organising the collection of potential pig foods, it would be of very great advantage to many of those who are doubtful to-day as to whether, in spite of the Government's appeal, they ought to keep a pig. I notice that the Minister of Agriculture in a message issued only, I think, a fortnight ago to the Small Pig-Keepers' Council, said quite definitely: A little time ago my predecessor appealed for a further 500,000 allotments. To that appeal there has been a most encouraging response. Incidentally I may say that we ought not to be content with 500,000 allotments; we ought to be content with nothing less than a million allotments, which would approximate more nearly to the number of allotments in cultivation during the last war. I hope that my noble friend opposite will not under-estimate the potentialities of the allotment movement. Nothing was more encouraging in the later stages of the last war than the large and increasing amount of food which was won from the allotments of this country, particularly, by the way, on the outskirts of London. Although it was rather difficult to make an estimate, we estimated that something like one-fifth of the augmented food supply of the country was in fact coming from allotments and cottage gardens.

The Minister of Agriculture, in the message to which I have referred, went on: I want now to suggest another way in which those with allotments and small holdings or even suitable gardens can help to produce more of the food we need. I ask you, if you can, to keep a pig. If you already have a pig, then perhaps you can keep two—and

encourage your friends to follow your good example. Remember, the pig is the most efficient machine we have for converting waste into wholesome food. Join your local Pig Club; and if there isn't a club—well, it might be possible for you to start one. In the last war about 400 new clubs were formed. This time we must aim at many more. My comment on that is that those who are seeking to form pig clubs, including members of the women's institutes, are asking to what extent they can rely upon some modicum of cereal food being available for the pigs if the pig club is formed. They can get no very definite answer. I have communicated with the Minister of Food on this subject, however, and I am bound to say that he has—and I thank him for it—given a much more definite [634](#)reply than anything which we had up to about three weeks ago. If he can give some confidence to these people that if they proceed with the formation of pig clubs there will be at any rate some modicum of food available to feed the pigs, then they will take upon themselves the risk which some of them fear they would be taking by accepting the Minister's advice and forming a pig club.

I should like to ask that careful consideration should be given to the question of what particular plants it is advisable to grow in allotments and cottage gardens during the period of emergency. I notice that in an article in *The Times* this morning there is a heading: "Guidance on What to Sow." If we had only had guidance on what to sow about five months ago we should be in a much better position to provide the food that is wanted from these small areas of cultivable land than we are in to-day, but better late than never. What I do want to say, however, in this connection is this. Whereas during the last war we put a great premium upon potatoes, as the chief source of starchy food, energy-producing food, and an almost equally great emphasis upon peas and beans and other leguminous crops, as a great source of proteins, or muscle-forming foods, now the policy—no doubt in the light of high medical authority—has very materially altered. If you look at the model plan of a "Dig for victory" garden as issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, you will find that a very large proportion of that garden is to be given to what are called brassicae—namely, cabbages, brussels sprouts, and the like, which contain over ninety per cent. of water and are very perishable, in preference apparently to those leguminous crops which of course form a very much more valuable substitute for meat.

I am told in answer to my criticism on that subject that it is thought by the medical authorities that those plants of the cabbage tribe are valuable as providing vitamins and minerals, and thereby as ensuring what may be called the optimum health of the community. I cannot help feeling that, though under normal conditions we may do all in our power to provide for an optimum condition of health, particularly among the poorer classes, there is something even more important than that, and that is to do all in our power from our own indi- [635](#)vidual resources to save ourselves and our neighbours from possible starvation; in other words that we should provide what is

essential to the maintenance of energy and flesh production, rather than in a time of emergency put a premium even upon the vitamins and the minerals which are deemed advisable for an optimum condition of health. At any rate I submit that suggestion for what it may be worth.

But, having said all this, I want to make it perfectly clear to my noble friends that I have no doubt whatever as to their competence and their determination to make the food position better than it has been in the past, and I venture to hope—what I am afraid was at times a defect in the administration in the last war—that the two Ministries of Agriculture and Food will work in the closest possible co-operation and co-ordination together and, above all, will give the farmers of this country every possible encouragement to produce what the nation wants, indicating, as the noble Viscount opposite said, in the clearest possible way what is expected of them, helping them with guidance and, as he said, if possible also with inducements, to provide what the nation requires in this time of grave emergency. I am sure that any appeal to them will be met with a welcome and patriotic enthusiasm which the farming community in this country has always shown in times of grave emergency.

APPENDIX IV

Online resources for schools

Video project for a competition run by the New Zealand Bee Keepers Association

Stonefields School <http://vimeo.com/70075238>

Limehills School

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQTU7R4b4Dk&feature=youtu.be>

Opuia School

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ju2Eut4EWkI&feature=youtube>

Friends of the Earth

The Bee Cause

- Online petition
- Bee identifier chart
- Wildflower seeds
- Web resources including interactive map you can add a pin to

http://foe.co.uk/what_we_do/bee_cause_petition_to_lord_de_mauley_40967.html