

I knew of one such a case where the farmer refused to plough nine acres of old pasture, and his land was taken from him for the duration of the war.

The farms suddenly became alive again with all the extra ploughing and cultivating to provide home grown food for the nation. More tractors than had ever been seen before began to arrive on farms. Henry Ford's Standard Fordson became the most popular tractor around the area. Horse teams were still working the land, but with the introduction of more tractors the heavy jobs on the land were gradually being taken over from the horses.

Grain, potatoes and vegetables were some of the main crops to be grown. The grain was also feed for the live stock to produce meat and milk for the nation. Even cattle cabbage, which was known locally as flat poles were grown, cut and put into nets and transported often by train to various parts of the country for human consumption. I had some experience of this cutting the cabbage, netting and hauling them to Chapleton Station by horse and cart and stacking them into the goods trucks standing on the side lines.

One day we were down at the station with 5 horses and carts all loaded up with netted cabbage. The horse I was driving was a young horse called Prince he had not been broken in very long. As the railway station was all a bit strange to him I did as my boss Mr William Pugsley had said "Tie him up to the fence boy" and suddenly down the line from UMBERLEIGH came the train and on the approach to the station the train driver blow his whistle. Then the train screeched to a halt the other side of the fence where Prince was tied. It frightened him, he reared up, I was afraid he would brake his tether, and they were all shouting, "hold on to the horse boy". We managed to calm him down and I was glad he did not break his tether. Eventually we unloaded the netted cabbage into trucks without any more alarm.

The Woman Land Army was formed to help on the farms. In a lot of cases all the younger men had been called up into the forces. Throughout the country the Woman's Land Army worked on the land. It must have been very tough going for some of these girls especially as many came from towns and cities, but they mastered it well.

During the war food rationing was introduced over the whole country, to make sure all the food available was distributed equally to all people. We had ration books issued it stated the amounts of various foods allocated per person per week. A lot of foods were allocated in ounces per week, much of it as 2 ounces per person per week, especially in the butter, lard and margarine section. There were coupons for clothing the amount was 26 coupons a year per person. As a matter of interest a man's suit required 26 coupons. So you can see it was a case of make do and mend in those days. Furniture was on docket I forget the amount now and all new furniture was called utility furniture and labelled accordingly.