

The development of the milking parlour in later years meant that a lot bigger herds of cows could be milked and looked after with less labour. With all this development the dairy industry has become more efficient and today the herds bigger but fewer of them.

Agriculture was the first industry to start modernisation and mechanization to any great extent. By so doing they found they could slim down their labour force as machines could do the hard work quicker and easier than manpower. This in turn meant a lot of men who had done little else, but farm work up to now had to leave the farms and find employment elsewhere, often going into the town to find it, very often into the building trade as labourers. By this time after the war the building industry was booming rebuilding war damaged towns and more housing estates.

By this move a lot of farm cottages became vacant and they were sold off from the farm to generate more capital to further the modernisation of the farms. A lot of small farms were amalgamated to make bigger farms, thus a lot of smaller farmers who had kept their families and often a workman and his family were closed down. Several of these farmsteads had the farmhouse turned into private houses and the farm buildings made into barn conversions and sold as private houses.

Roads in the past had been kept up locally as well as could be expected, by spreading cracked stone on them and from about the 1890's rolled with a steam roller, then spreading a little layer of quarry headings which would be a mixture of very small stones and earth, sprayed over with water and rolled in, which would bind the stones in. They called it a water bound road. Then in about 1920 stone was covered with hot tar and rolled in this process was gradually developed into tarmac later to be called tarmacadam. The roads have improved over the years with modern methods. Several road improvements have been done and dangerous corners taken off. I think the biggest improvement has been the link road linking Barnstaple to the motorway the other side of Tiverton. It passes through Tawstock parish from the river Taw by passing Lake through to Roundswell.

As small children in the early 1930's we would run out to see an aeroplane. I remember in 1933 or 1934 there was an air display at Braunton, I believe Sir Alan Cobham was there. There were stunt men standing on the aeroplane wings as it was flying. A biplane came up over our place and there was a man standing between the two wings of the plane, holding on to the wing stays, he waved to us, we could hardly believe it. Then during the war we heard and saw a lot more aeroplanes. When the jet planes first came you would not run to see them as we did in earlier years.

Travel on the roads has gone from pony and trap, and a few cars, to cars by the thousand. In the earlier days travelling on the road, the most you would meet would be a pony and trap around the next corner, but today who knows what you might meet.