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**Regional Types
of
British Agriculture**

ADVISORY PROVINCES OF GREAT BRITAIN



Regional Types
of
British Agriculture

by
Fifteen Authors

Edited by
J. P. Maxton
M.A., B.Sc., B.Lrrr.

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Preface

THE original conception of this volume of essays was to provide a brief outline of the farming in all parts of Great Britain, for the benefit of foreign visitors to the Fourth International Conference of Agricultural Economists, held at the University of St. Andrews, 1936. It is felt, however, that the collection of these essays into one volume is likely to prove valuable to a much wider public than that for which it was originally intended.

In the whole of a fairly large body of agricultural literature in Great Britain, there is no up-to-date volume which provides for the whole of the country an outline of the farming which one is likely to find in any part, and it is this gap which *Regional Types of British Agriculture* goes some little way to fill. A few articles about one or two, but by no means every county, are to be found scattered through the volumes of various journals of the past twenty years; a very few books, such as Sir A. D. Hall's *Pilgrimage of British Farming*, now nearing its quarter-century, and Professor Scott Watson's *Rural Britain*; these are all in this century's literature which one can turn to.

In this single volume, simple and unpretentious in its design, the whole of Great Britain is covered, and the main systems of farming to be found in every part are briefly described. The task set the authors was in many ways not an easy one. They had to proceed on the assumption that the readers had little or no knowledge of the distribution of farming in this country. They were faced with the mass of complex conditions which influence types of farming and the mass of variations in systems of management within even a short radius. They had to endeavour to reduce these complications to simple outlines, each for a province of upwards of two million acres, and they had to do so within a space of less than a score of pages.

A word is necessary on the method of partitioning the country. Under the advisory and research scheme financed by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, England and Wales are divided into eleven and Scotland into three "advisory provinces." The division of the country into these fourteen provinces is the method adopted in this volume. With one exception, the outline of each province is contributed by the agricultural economist who is, or has been until very recently, the head of the economics research department of the province.

The editor is very much indebted to the contributors for their willing co-operation in the work and for the trouble which they have taken to achieve a substantial measure of uniformity of treatment in the essays. Absolute uniformity is impossible in view of the very varied conditions from John o' Groats to Land's End and is perhaps undesirable on other grounds, but efforts have been made to furnish a general similarity of method while leaving the authors free to apply their own style, judgment, and emphasis to their own part of the work. In the case of the maps which go with each province, the editor holds himself responsible for the foolhardiness with which the boundary lines of the agricultural regions are drawn. An accurate dividing line between one type of farming and another rarely, if ever, exists and the lines drawn on the maps are provided for very general guidance only.

The editor is also indebted to his colleagues, Mr. James Grant and Mr. J. J. MacGregor for their help in very many ways.

Finally, acknowledgment is due to Mr. L. K. Elmhirst and Mr. J. R. Currie, President and Secretary of the International Conference of Agricultural Economists, for their support, and to Mr. Elmhirst and the Dartington Hall Trustees for providing facilities without which it would have been impossible to carry out the work.

J. P. M.

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