

rocketed with the War. He had to decide the value of the farm as it was with all the traces - and considerable ones at that - of its wartime occupation. He had been informed by the authorities of the amount of the lump sum that would be paid to him by way of compensation, which was intended to cover the cost of reclamation.

Looking at the ruins of hutments, hundreds of yards of disused roadways, trenches and other earthworks, he wondered if it was really worth the trouble of carrying out such a mammoth task, even with the considerable sum of compensation. But with the post-war conditions of agriculture apparently favourable, he decided to do his best to bring the land back to its pre-war condition. He obtained professional advice as to the amount to tender, and this being accepted, he now became the owner-occupier of East Farm Fovant, with all the remnants of the training camp included. With so many ex-officers now wishing to buy into agriculture, he felt he was lucky to have his offer accepted, the demand being so great for farms of that size.

#### ~~Throughout the war~~

Throughout the war, he had been able to keep one dairy herd only on his reduced acreage at Fovant, and the farm staff consisted of old men over the age for military service and young men not yet old enough. Now some of his pre-war employees, on being de-mobbed, asked to come back to their old jobs, and Father was naturally only too pleased to re-employ men on whom he could rely. The Camp Stores shed its counters and tea-room accessories, and reverted to cowstalls, with a herd of fifty cows, all of course to be milked by hand. There was no possibility for the time being of re-starting his flock of Hampshire Down sheep. But he always hoped that once he got the camp land back into cultivation, it might be possible, sheep being a greater love of his than dairy cows.