

owner being more or less scattered, which points to the importance of consolidating these tracts into compact units capable of more economic management. The question of whether the destroyed rural villages should be rebuilt on their old sites rather than to relocate them more advantageously is another matter of considerable importance. A rapidly growing sentiment was noted for the restoration of the devastated region by the invaders, rather than the mere payment of financial indemnity. The French government has already provided a credit of approximately sixty million dollars, from which allowances are being made to farmers who are ready to return to their land. For the most part the restoration of the fields did not impress the commission as being as appalling as might be expected, and was compared with the reclamation of stump land in this country.

Speaking of the Live Stock Conditions in Europe, Mr. George M. Rommel reported that European farmers had been quite successful in maintaining their supplies of breeding animals. Although they have suffered from a shortage of feed and some inroads have been made on certain kinds of stock by the military demands, the number of cows and heifers in Great Britain is fully as large now as before the war, and this is true of cattle generally. The milk supply has been reduced on account of the shortage of concentrated feed, and this has also cut down the number of pigs quite extensively. There was also a small falling off in sheep.

In France there are about two million less cattle than before the war, principally due to invasion. Since the close of 1914 the decline in number of cattle has been less than 2 per cent., the young stock having increased. A similar increase also applies to Italy. Sheep have declined nearly 40 per cent., due largely to labor shortage, and hogs somewhat more due to a lack of concentrated feed. The shortage of milk in France is more serious than in Great Britain. The heavy demand for horses for military purposes has reduced the available number by about a million. The record of the Percheron horses in the British

army has excited a good deal of interest among farmers and breeders in England and led to efforts to establish this breed of horses in that country.

Prices of breeding stock were reported as extremely high in both France and England. Breeders are anticipating a good trade after the war and have kept their stocks intact at great expense. Not much demand for live stock from the United States was looked for in the immediate future, although dairy cows may be needed and after the war American horses will doubtless be required in Europe, mainly of the commercial grades.

Mr. E. C. Chilcott, who went to the French colonies at the instance of the French High Commission, was to have described the agricultural conditions found there, especially in Algeria, but was detained by illness.

At the business meeting Dr. A. F. Woods, president of the Maryland Agricultural College, was nominated vice-president, and Dr. J. G. Lipman, director of the New Jersey Experiment Stations, secretary of the section, and these nominations were subsequently confirmed by the general committee of the association. Other officers for the year were elected as follows: Member of the general committee of the association, Mr. George M. Rommel, U. S. Department of Agriculture; member of the council of the association, Dr. A. C. True, U. S. Department of Agriculture; member of the sectional committee (for five years), Professor C. P. Gillette, director of the Colorado Experiment Station.

E. W. ALLEN,  
*Secretary*

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