

WHILE THE PEOPLE GO SHORT—1

HALF A HARVEST DESTROYED

Then comes the order: Stop

Express Staff Reporter: Sudbury, Suffolk, Tuesday

AT 11 o'clock this morning a ploughman, who had been busy destroying a crop of buckwheat — on the orders of the West Suffolk County Agricultural Executive Committee—stopped work.

He had received fresh orders after a protest by the National Farmers' Union.

When he stopped his tractor-drawn five-furrow plough he had ploughed in nine out of 20 acres, and destroyed eight tons of buckwheat worth £1,280.

Buckwheat (*Polygonum fagopyrum*) belongs to the dock family and is grown as feed for animals. It is off the ration and costs £4 for a 50lb. sack.

The crop being destroyed today is owned by Farmer Frederick Henry Dennis, of Peeringford Hall near Sudbury.

Mustard order

Tonight he said: "Last June the agricultural committee ordered me to grow mustard in the 20-acre field.

"But I knew that mustard was not suitable because the field was infested with charlock (a corn-field weed) and the two will not grow together.

"So I sowed buckwheat instead. Last Saturday I had notice from a committee official that the crop would be destroyed.

"If the committee's idea is to punish me for not carrying out the cropping instruction, they might at least have had it ploughed in when the crop was green. when it would have made useful green manure.

"Or they might have seized the buckwheat after it was harvested.

Mr. Roger Sayce chief executive officer of the agricultural committee, left a message for the Press today.

It read: "Mr. Sayce has no remarks to make about the buckwheat whatever. The matter is in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture."

'Act now' order

Mr. E. R. Benson, county secretary of the National Farmers' Union, said, "It is staggering that the Agricultural Committee should destroy badly needed animal food.

"Immediately Mr. Dennis told me today what was happening I telephoned headquarters.

"Headquarters gave the details to the Ministry of Agriculture who said it would act at once."

Said a Ministry of Agriculture official: "Proceedings will be taken against Mr. Dennis.

"You need a licence to grow buckwheat, and if you grow it without a licence you are being unfair to your neighbours who are obliged to grow less profitable crops.

"There will be an inquiry into why the crop was ploughed in."



BUCKWHEAT
Off the ration

*Class 284
Cochlearia area*

*- location
6 1/2 miles W. Long Melford
which is N. of Sudbury.
Suffolk.*