

**ALLOTMENTS AND SMALL HOLDINGS  
IN OXFORDSHIRE, A SURVEY MADE ON  
BEHALF OF THE INSTITUTE FOR  
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL  
ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

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Allotments and small holdings in Oxfordshire, a survey made on behalf of the Institute for Research in Agricultural Economics, University of Oxford by Arthur W. Ashby

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**ARTHUR W. ASHBY**

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BY

ARTHUR W. ASHBY

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## PREFACE

THIS survey of the allotments and small holdings of Oxfordshire, made in the latter part of 1913 and the earlier part of 1914, was to have formed a part of the Report on the agriculture of the county recently issued on behalf of the Institute.<sup>1</sup> But of late years public interest in this branch of the industry has been stimulated by the consideration of problems connected with the improvement of conditions of life among rural workers, the retention of the labourer on the land, and the increase of food production, so that a closer study of the history and present circumstances of the small agricultural holdings of the county seemed to be called for than their position in its rural economy would appear, at first sight, to justify. Thus, this special inquiry was undertaken with the object of determining, as far as possible, the conditions which have led to the creation of allotments and small holdings in Oxfordshire, and to consider how far these conditions are likely to prevail in the future. At the same time, the causes of failure and the circumstances necessary for the most successful development have been investigated.

The survey is the work of Mr. A. W. Ashby, research assistant in the Institute, and was carried out by him with the aid of a research scholarship of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. The work was greatly facilitated by the ready co-operation of a large number of interested persons,

<sup>1</sup> *Agriculture in Oxfordshire*, by John Orr, with a chapter on soils by C. G. T. Morison. Oxford University Press, 1916.



to whom the author and the Institute are very much indebted for their kindly interest and assistance. Many allotment owners, or their agents, allotment cultivators and small holders not only offered information with regard to their own holdings, but placed time at the disposal of the author to direct attention to other items of interest. Without the assistance, also, of numerous overseers, assistant overseers, and rate collectors, it would have been impossible to obtain some of the information. Thanks are also due to Mr. P. Elford and Mr. S. Heaton, for information on educational work on gardens and allotments, and to Mr. Lester Smith, the county land agent, whose willingness to supply information on many points that arose is greatly appreciated.

C. S. ORWIN,  
*Director.*

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN  
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,  
OXFORD.

*October, 1916.*

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