

nevertheless, behoves the British public to be watchful that Northern Rhodesia remains a British Protectorate under the Colonial Office, until we are certain South Africa has learnt that the black man will achieve equality of status with the white man, and that you cannot keep any race perpetually in subjection. I have kept to a main point in Professor Macmillan's letter. I am not, however, at all certain there is not serious racial discrimination in the matter of land and public distribution of revenue in Kenya, and other forms of colour-prejudice against the educated African wherever he may be, which will be as dangerous as any colour-bar that might proceed from South Africa, via Southern Rhodesia, northwards.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,  
H. M. GRACE.  
Edinburgh House, 2 Eaton Gate, S.W. 1.

**LORD WOOLTON'S LOAF**

SIR,—The only question that matters about "Lord Woolton's Loaf" is whether the "85 per cent. wholemeal" does or does not contain the germ of the wheat. The germ is only about 2 per cent. of the wheat. The official instructions to millers leave this vital matter to the millers. The millers may please themselves as to whether they take out all the germ or leave some or all of it in the flour. As most bakers have lost the art of baking bread of flour with the germ in it, most millers will take out the germ and sell it separately, leaving a germless "85 per cent. wholemeal" for bread making. All the play with the words "85 per cent. wholemeal" is a typical bureaucratic deception of the public. The words ought to be "wheatmeal containing the whole of the germ." Those who care for real bread will seek out the miller who grinds the whole wheat with stones and who sells what is best called "Whole Wheatmeal," and if possible a stone miller who bakes bread with his own flour. Those who do not care will continue to eat imitation bread. It is most unlikely that a "Lord Woolton's Loaf" will be real bread with the germ in it.—Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY BOWLES.  
25 Catherine Place, S.W. 1.

**"THE PLIMSOLL LINE"**

SIR,—One views with alarm the outcome of a rise in the "Plimsoll," as recorded in your issue of July 18th. I have seen steamers still "down to the mark" on arrival at their port of discharge, and have comforted myself with the reflection that some special circumstance had necessitated a relaxation of the regulation. It would seem, however, that the practice of overloading is becoming general and that a further deadly peril is thereby added to those now endured by our men of the Merchant Navy. Is this a fair war-risk? and will it be accepted without question as another call on the Service? I know of many cases where consideration for those in the Merchant Navy is lacking, and am forced to the conclusion that the printed and spoken eulogies on the gallantry, endurance and willing service of these men are, in the main, merely lip-service.—Yours faithfully,  
"Ormesby," Bromborough, Wirral. F. STEVENSON JONES.

**"TALK ABOUT THE LAND"**

SIR,—In writing a brief reply to Mr. Bates's remarks on my symposium, *England and the Farmer*, I am concerned as editor, not contributor. It is not the first time that Mr. Bates has scoffed at my "sentimental" old-fashionedness: let it pass. But, so far as I can gather from Mr. Bates's covert and ambiguous belittlement of most of the contributors without in a single instance informing the reader what it is they have to say, and, in the case of Mr. Rolf Gardiner, quite shamefully distorting his presentation of a most original set of ideas, he suggests in his evasive manner (1) that the farmer is not represented in it, (2) the small-holder is not, (3) that the book recommends a return to the conditions of 1830, (4) that it is anti-conservative and (5) that it is an attack upon the townsman. There is no substance whatever in any of these innuendos, for that is what they are rather than definite charges. Of the seven authors, three are or have been farmers. Mr. Adrian Bell's essay is specifically concerned with the small-owner. The book advocates certain principles of mixed self-sufficient farming without selecting any particular period. It is in no sense political, and the first essay is by an extremely well-known Conservative. Lastly, it criticises our present economic system in its repercussions upon farming conditions without in any way or in any place "stigmatising" the townsman. I think these instances are sufficient to reveal the disingenuous character of Mr. Bates's review, and it is my business as editor to point them out.—I am, Sir, &c.,  
H. J. MASSINGHAM.

**THE JOURNEYINGS OF EGGS**

SIR,—Mr. Bates in "Country Life" is right. Our rationed eggs now come from Maidstone, and behind Maidstone from America. Heathfield is the leading market for East Sussex poultry. I conjecture the Food Ministry's idea to be as follows. Townsmen are five-sixths of the population and should have five-sixths of the British eggs, countrymen to have the remaining one-sixth and to make up with imported eggs. The transport and the wastage must be horribly expensive. The idea seems to be equality run mad. In other spheres the townsman has advantages over the countryman. But the latter is less clamorous.—Yours faithfully,  
F. C. GATES.  
Cade House, Heathfield, Sussex.

**COUNTRY LIFE**

**Potato Loss**

Kent, though a southern county, has only a comparatively small acreage devoted to early potatoes; Ayrshire, hundreds of miles farther north, produces an earlier and far larger crop. Kent growers alone, however, are complaining of a loss of £60,000 on the season's working. A diminishing scale of price-control, coming into force on May 10th, and lasting until July 27th, had been worked out by producers and Ministry of Food officials. Admirable and fair in itself, it unfortunately took no account of the effect of a late season. It could have occurred to no one that the spring of 1941 might be the coldest and most disastrous for a hundred years. It was almost July, instead of late May, before early potatoes were being lifted; the crop was an average of twenty-five days late. This disastrous state of affairs obviously called for a readjustment of the schedule: a fact that was pointed out to the Ministry in early June. The Ministry rejected the request for an alteration in the scale of prices, so that by the time the first potatoes were being marketed the prices low in the scale were in operation. This official obstinacy has resulted in an enormous loss to growers, and will, as one important Kent agriculturist has pointed out, have a further disastrous effect in the very deep discouragement of the farmers concerned. It is quite clear that we cannot afford idle land; it ought also to be clear that we cannot afford discouraged farmers.

**More Fruit**

The shortage of fruit has probably set many gardeners speculating on the possibilities of growing more of their own. August is certainly not too early to begin catalogue-dreaming; September not too early to think of preparing the ground. By late autumn, I think, there is just a chance that there may be a run on fruit-nurseries, especially perhaps for the smaller soft fruits. Remember that these can be grown as trained trees, against wire-supports; that magnificent and very early crops of gooseberries can be had from trees on walls. Remember that there are other fruits than the loganberry: the King's Acre Berry, sweeter; the Himalaya Berry, a strong blackberry from the Himalayas; the Laxtonberry, a hybrid of raspberry flavour; the Veitchberry, combining the flavour of a raspberry and a blackberry; the Wine Berry, bright orange, ornamental, distinctly flavoured; the Worcester Berry perhaps the most interesting of all, a cross between a blackcurrant and a gooseberry, with purplish grape-like bunches of fruit that hang into late autumn. Remember that some apples, and many pears, are self-sterile; that cherries, except the morello, cannot flourish in celibacy. Napoleon and Bedford Prolific need each other; as do Early Rivers and Frogmore; Elton and Napoleon, and so on. Remember that Myrobolan plum-stock is cheap and will be the basis of cheap trees; that there are other apples than Cox, which will not flourish everywhere. After Cox (the Yquem of apples), E. A. Bunyard gave Orleans Reinette (the Lafitte), Claygate Pearmain, Gravenstein, Ribston Pippin and Blenheim Orange as the five apples most notable for flavour.

**Preserving Beans**

Fellow-sufferers of the salted bean have kindly sent many suggestions. Unfortunately few improve on the methods I already knew. The secret for one is very large quantities of salt; for another a jar per day, tied down immediately. But a really practical series of hints comes from Somerset. First, beans should always be picked dry; never in the evening; second, the pickling jars should always stand on wood, never on stone, cement, tiles or slate (a good rule for home-made wines, too); third, great care should be taken to put ample salt between the edges of the layers of beans and at the sides of the pickling jars in order to exclude air. The fact that this correspondent originally had nothing but failures with beans, and now has consistent success, is encouraging. French beans, by the way, seem to be preferred to runners. Unfortunately, the season has been extremely bad for beans of all kinds and for French particularly, and it is worth remembering that it is still not too late to sow both kinds as a gamble for a late crop.

**In the Garden**

It is a trick of old professional gardeners to display a very large plant, covered with an enormous number of flowers, in a very small pot. The secret is mainly liquid feeding; in a smaller way, top-dressing. It is a sound rule that pots, especially of tomatoes and chrysanthemums, should never be filled up at first. An early August top-dressing of good loam or rotted compost will stimulate surface root-action, with very quick results; another may be given later. Regular tying will stimulate growth; and nothing, in my opinion, has yet superseded raffia for the job. Buy it by the pound and compare the quantity with the sixpenny bundle of the chain-stores. For feeding, a liquorice mixture of sheep-manure and soot is the gardener's heart's delight; bonemeal for the particular. Be very careful of artificials; take no notice of those who advocate a pinch of nitrate of soda on cabbages and onions. Soot, old, never fresh, can hardly be bettered as a dressing and a pest-control combined.

H. E. BATES.