

West Sussex Gazette 31st July 1919 page 2SMALL HOLDINGS FOR EX-SERVICE
MEN.

Quite a large sum is being spent in placing ex-Service men on the land. The following is a summary of the particulars relating to prices and acreage of the farms to be acquired for small holdings: Crouchers Farm (175 acres), £19,500; Brick Kiln Farm (120 acres), £5,028 15s.; Ham Farm (162 acres), £19,581 12s.; Middleton Manor (396 acres), £19,800 12s.; a field at Barnham (54 acres), £3,390 15s.; Choller Farm (211 acres), £7,250; and Barnham Farm (116 acres), £6,150; making a total of £63,661 14s. To this must be added estimated sums of £2,290 (32 applicants at £100 apiece) for adaptation, and £50,000 for buildings, making a grand total of £119,981 14s. In each case, the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries has approved of the properties at the prices stated, and the Council now agree to apply for sanction to borrow £59,200 for their adaptation and equipment. The County Architect was also authorised to appoint an architectural assistant and a typist, at yearly salaries of £160 and £100 respectively, to help with the work.

"How is the money to be found?" was a question put to the Chairman of the Finance Committee by Mr. Rigg, who thought the ratepayers would be rather astonished when they saw "these enormous figures—£122,000." Mr. Yoward replied that the amount would probably be raised by a loan. A great part of the money would come back; but, in the first place, the County Council was liable.

A further application is to be made for sanction to borrow £12,640—the amount required to purchase Kingsham Farm (158 acres), which is to be adapted for training purposes. They had gone very carefully into the question of acquiring this farm, said Lord Leconfield, and they had decided that it was very suitable for the purpose for which it was required. The buildings were in an extremely good condition, the position was central (it was situated close to Chichester Station and Market) and the exceptionally good kitchen garden would be invaluable for holding horticultural classes. The Board of Agriculture had impressed upon them the need for such an institution in the county, and he did not think they had paid too much money for it.

Asked by Mr. Riley whether it was proposed to establish experimental farms in other parts of the county, Lord Leconfield replied that there was no doubt that in time demonstration centres would have to be started elsewhere, but at present they had no land in view for such a purpose.

When the proceedings of the Small Holdings and Allotments Committee came up for approval, Mr. Riley asked how many holdings had already been let under the scheme for ex-Service men. Up to the present, replied the committee's Chairman (Mr. J. Rapley) the Council had acquired 1,341 acres, of which 799 were already let to ex-Service men. This week a further 60 applicants would be interviewed, and approximately the whole of the land would then have been taken up. That meant that probably more land would have to be purchased in the near future. Of the 211 applicants who had so far been interviewed, 168 had been approved. Incidentally, Mr. Rapley mentioned that they were acting merely as agents for the Board of Agriculture in this matter. They had to find the money in the first place, but much of it would be refunded by the Board.

The Council owed a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Rapley for the way in which he had handled this most important work, declared the Rev. E. D. L. Harvey, who also referred to the "sympathetic way" in which the Chairman of the Small Holdings Committee treated every applicant. (Applause.) This was endorsed by Lord Leconfield.

Points from the committee's report were: (1) The appointment of Capt. Russell Coppock, of Stockport, as county land agent, at a commencing salary of £400 a year, rising in four years to £500; (2) the appointment of Mr. H. Grayling Palmer, of Hove, as his temporary assistant, his salary to be at the rate of £208 a year; and (3) the acceptance of more than an acre of land at West Wittering as a free gift from Mr. H. P. Allen. The County Land Agent had reported that he considered the field in question suitable in every way for a small holding.