

and met resistance coloured by repugnance, I declared that a hare is just a long-legged rabbit. Later I felt uneasy about that statement, and secretly consulted authorities, who gave it no support at all. Hares, they all seem to say, are as far from rabbits as goats are from sheep, and in some respects a little farther. They differ anatomically, and in some matters physiologically: they don't and can't interbreed; there are marked differences in their chemistry. I had met Mrs. Beeton's first requirement by catching my hare; but however faithfully I followed her instructions from that point on, our juggled hare would not have looked, smelt, or tasted like rabbit.

I NEED not have been so cautious the other day about the weather. The figures for January are now available, and prove that Canterbury had its driest January for 52 years. Last week it had its hottest day for 49 years, and the

drought is still with us. In other words, it had been a wonderful summer for holiday makers, but not so wonderful for any Canterbury farmer. Even the swamp farmers, one of them told me yesterday, are getting anxious, and wish they had not tried so hard to get the sun and air into their soil and the moisture out. "But you can't farm for freak weather," he added. "You must do what pays most years."

In his case it means deeper ditches as his land sinks, more and better feeder drains, filling up more hollows, throwing up higher and rougher furrows. Where his ditches carried three inches of water a few years ago they now carry six inches, and he looks forward to the day when they will carry nine inches. But this summer he is in trouble. His paddocks are not merely dry. They are baked hard and cracked, and he is as helpless as his sandy and dusty neighbours. "I know what to do," he assured me, "but it is not worth doing. We'll get a flood one of these days, and then I'll thank God I didn't take panic in the drought."

ONE of the features—I suppose it is a consequence—of the drought has been the activity of ground-feeding birds. When I was helping Jim recently with his grass harvest I was puzzled by the flocks of starlings that followed us—until Jim told me to look into the

bags. I did, and FEBRUARY 8 found the sight astonishing. In the bags holding the rubbish caterpillars were hanging in hundreds on the jute fibres and squirming in the waste seed and straw. It could not have been an exaggeration when Jim said that the starlings must be finding millions more in the stubble. What the caterpillars were neither of us knew at the time, nor do I know yet; but a note I have seen, today by Dr. Miller makes me wonder if they were army-worms. I found it easier to identify the black crickets swarming in the grass bordering the stubble.

The story, I imagine, is that more eggs are laid in dry, hot weather, and many more hatched; that there is a smaller mortality among the hatchlings, and an enormous increase in the cracks and crevices of the soil in which such creatures can shelter; that birds are hampered by crisp dry grass, and get a real chance only when a mower or some other machine takes away the covering. Whatever the facts, it was incongruous to see starlings and not sparrows following the mill, and moving through the short stubble in hundreds.

(To be continued)

# WAR ASSETS

**SEE** ONLY **7'6**  
a clear view of the Royal tour  
**Ex Army PERISCOPES**  
Complete with carrying satchel and spare mirrors. **POSTAGE 2'6**

**OUR POPULAR TOOL OFFER**  
PLANE, SAW, HAND DRILL, HAMMER, LEVEL, BRACE, SQUARE, VICE and SECATEURS. Post free and on approval. If you decide to keep them send us **ONLY £8/10/-**

**U.S. Army type PUP TENTS**  
  
FLOOR AREA 35 sq ft  
WEIGHT 7 lbs.  
BRAND NEW, MILDEW-PROOFED WHITE DUCK—COMPLETE WITH ROPES **ONLY £3**  
Post Free.

**WIRE CUTTERS**  
Army Commander Type. Ideal for farmers. Will cut No. 8 wire. **10/-**  
Post free.

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
English **COMMANDO KNIVES** - - - - - **15/-**  
**ENTRENCHING TOOL** - **10/-**  
**THE TWO** - - **£1.**

**GENERATOR**  
**JOHNSON IRON HORSE**  
  
One of the best-known charging and lighting plants sold in this country. Purchased, overhauled and boxed in England, these are exceptional value. Each plant guaranteed. Price **£41.** Will hold on **£10** deposit. Easy terms available. F.O.R., Hamilton.

**PIONEER COMPASSES**  
New condition, complete with adjustment, liquid filled, vertical reading (tank type). Will operate accurately in any car or truck - - - - **£3/10/-**. Post Free.

**NEW ARMY CIGARETTE LIGHTERS.** **7/6**  
**KITBAGS**—brand new. Two sizes, **12/6** and **£1**

**MARCHING COMPASS**  
  
From R.A.F. Surplus.  
Brand New **MK.I** Pocket Marching Compass, Luminous Dial.  
**MEASURES 2 1/2" x 2 1/4" x 3/4"**  
**ONLY 50/-**. POST FREE

**LIQUID COMPASS**  
  
Grid Steering. Type P 12. 6in. diameter anti-vibrational suspension system. Dead beat return, lubber line and grid markings luminous. Supplied in new condition in transit case. **£5.** Post Free.

**GAS MASK SACHEL**—all-purpose small haversack - - - - **7/6**

**MOSQUITO NETS**  
Brand new, American, single bed size - - - - **35/-**. Post Free.

**WIRELESS SET**  
Mk. 9 Canadian transmitter-receiver, 40-watt output, brand new, 12-volt operation, complete with genemotor. These magnificent sets will shortly be offered to licensed operators, on easy terms and at a ridiculously low price. Write for further particulars.

**HEAVY DUTY GENERATORS**  
Delco-Remy, brand new, suitable for charging 6, 12 or 24-volt batteries. Ideal for home charging sets, boats, etc. **£15.** Two and three-flange Pulleys available at **£2/10/-** and **£4.**

**Ex Army MOTOR CYCLE GOGGLES**  
  
The perfect daytime and night-time Motor Cycle Goggle  
**NUPRONITE Type**  
**10/-** POST FREE  
Supplied in Carrying Case

**Army DIXIES**  
  
**£1**  
FREIGHT FREE  
IDEAL CAMPERS, SCOUT GROUPS, ETC.

**AGAIN AVAILABLE THIS POPULAR WINCH**  
  
Ex R.A.F. **WINCH**  
Will lift 1500 lbs.  
FIT ONE TO YOUR TRUCK  
**£12/10/-** F.O.R. HAMILTON

**HIKERS' PACK**  
  
Brand new de luxe pack, made of heavy waterproof Birkmeyer canvas. Four extra pockets. American web equipment.  
**£3/10/-**  
Post Free.

**DE LUXE TENTS**  
  
All ready to erect, steel pegs in separate bag. Metal clipped wooden slides, 8ft. 6in. centre pole, reinforced roof seams. 12oz. English green duck roof. All English mildew-proofed white duck walls. All freight free to your nearest station. This is a real De Luxe Tent. Absolutely no calico used. Prices:  
8 x 8 x 5, **£21**    9 x 9 x 5, **£23**  
10 x 10 x 5, **£26**    12 x 12 x 5, **£31**

**TARPAULINS**  

WAXED DUCK		WAXED JUTE	
6 x 8, <b>£4 10 0</b>	6 x 8, <b>£2 17 6</b>	6 x 9, <b>£3 5 0</b>	6 x 9, <b>£3 5 0</b>
8 x 10, <b>£7 10 0</b>	8 x 10, <b>£5 15 0</b>	10 x 12, <b>£7 0 0</b>	10 x 12, <b>£7 0 0</b>
10 x 12, <b>£11 0 0</b>	12 x 14, <b>£10 15 0</b>	12 x 16, <b>£11 0 0</b>	12 x 16, <b>£11 0 0</b>
12 x 16, <b>£17 10 0</b>	15 x 18, <b>£15 10 0</b>	15 x 18, <b>£15 10 0</b>	15 x 18, <b>£15 10 0</b>
15 x 24, <b>£32 10 0</b>	15 x 24, <b>£20 0 0</b>		

**MOTOR-CAR COVERS**  
White Duck, De Luxe type. The best we have ever offered.  

9 x 12	<b>£5 0 0</b>
12 x 15	<b>£7 10 0</b>
12 x 18	<b>£8 10 0</b>

All Post Free.  
Order one on approval.

# VALINTINES

**P.O. Box 483 • HAMILTON**