

41 pigs were marked in all. Those that are not up to bacon weight are left till the next weighing day in a fortnight. After lunch went cutting wheat on the binder - quite a good crop, near to the marshes, 6 acres with some rabbits in it (Fig. 8). They seem to grow all Yeoman Wheat here, despite the lightness of the land. Had a bath, read and wrote letters after tea.

The arrival of harvest time meant that the weather was critical and it is underlined in his journal.

August 15 Weather. A fine sunny day, quite warm. One of the transport wheels on the tractor was broken, so we got the transport wheel from the other tractor & used that. After breakfast went to see a stack being thatched - a pea stack. The stacker was working by piece work and seemed a very pleasant oldish man. Then on to the rye which we helped to finish cutting. I was on the binder and find it very simple really especially if the ground is not bumpy and the crop fairly uniform.'

After lunch mixed and bagged two tons of weaner rations at Butley Abbey with Peter. Also helped to load and unload 64 weaners. They were being moved from the Abbey to Neutral Farm - & more divided up according to their size. They seemed very unwilling to get out of the lorry - and had to be pushed, dragged or carried. After tea saw the seed kale being stacked. Much of the seed shells but sacks are laid down under the stack to save it from being wasted. The seed is for Suttons - but it is not a very paying proposition. Also saw some Wheat that had been cut. It looks as if the weather is set fair and warm. One hopes so for the harvest's sake.'

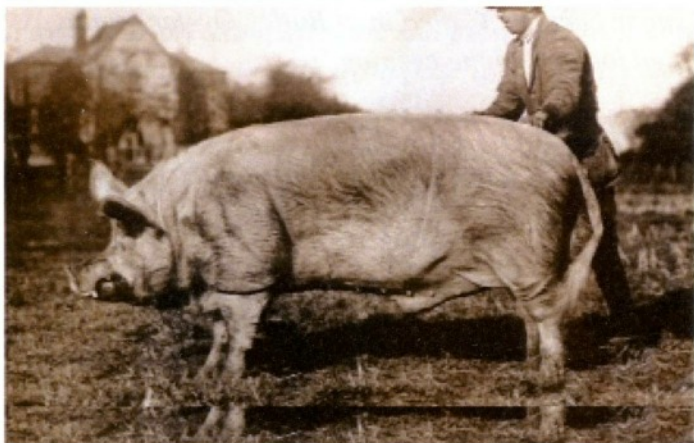


Fig. 9. A Large White boar kept in a sty at the Abbey was walked to nearby tenant farms when sows were ready for his attentions

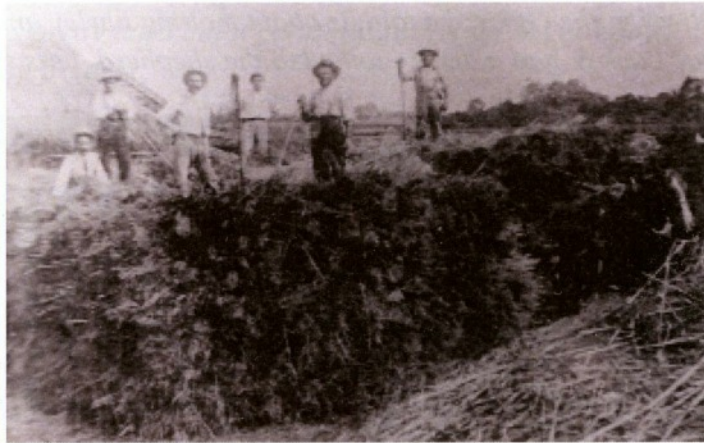


Fig. 10. Harvest required many hands to build the ricks and was thirsty work

August 16. Weather. Continued fair and fine. Before breakfast went down to the Abbey as usual - & filled a 50 gallon can with paraffin for the tractor. After breakfast Peter & I went cutting wheat. I drove the Fordson tractor round a rather foul piece of wheat (Fig. 8). We had constant trouble with it as the weeds tended to choke the mechanism. The Fordson is not such an expensive tractor as the Massey which I drove after lunch - but it is not so easy to drive or so cleanly kept. We cut a 9 acre field of wheat during the afternoon, taking our tea out with us. Although the string broke occasionally we had really very little trouble with the binder.'

August 17. Weather. Another fine sunny day with mist early. Before breakfast saw the thatcher starting work on the 2 stacks of Kale. Went on the binder cutting Wheat for the rest of the day after breakfast. All the Wheat on this part of the estate appears to be Yeoman - a wheat with white chaff and red grain. I am surprised in some ways that they grow this on such land, as it is supposed only to yield well on good land. We finished a 12 acre field - during the afternoon I went on the tractor. Quite a large number of rabbits were killed. There seem to be a surprising amount of them in the corn fields: 50 or 70 killed is not at all uncommon. Naturally this sandy land is ideal for them - and they are no doubt a real curse to the Estate. In fact two men are permanently employed in rabbit catching during certain months. Last year I believe about 10,000 rabbits were killed on the estate. After tea...visited the young pheasants - some of which were quite well grown.'