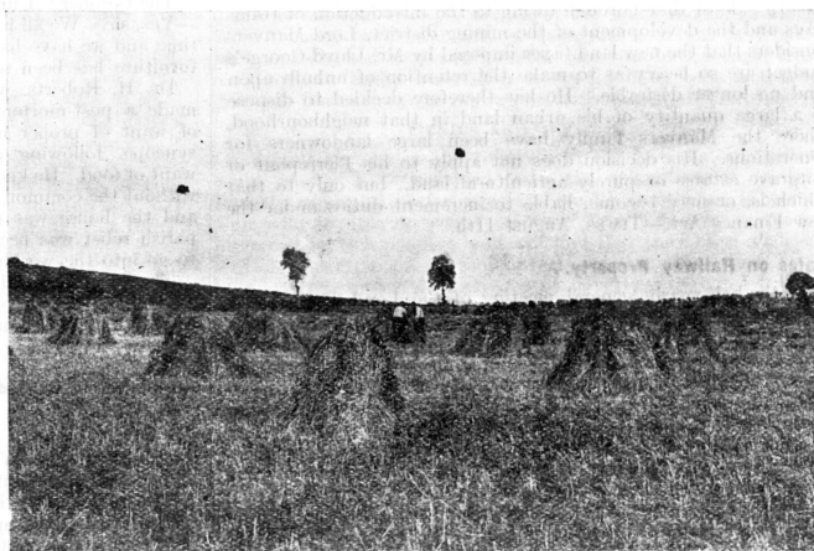
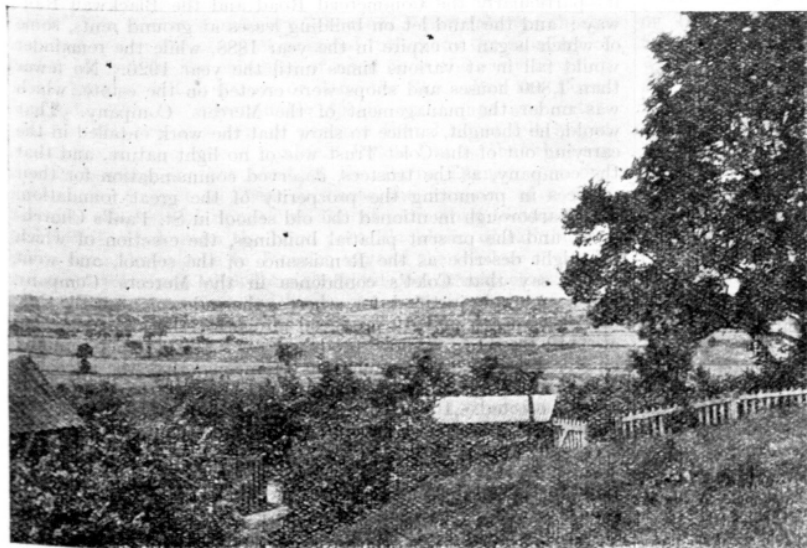


VIEW OF AN IDLE FARM OF 300 ACRES.

wet weather of last autumn and winter. The farm is well-managed however, and employs a considerable number of men. The third photograph takes in four fields of this farm and on the other side a farm of about 120 acres which is wholly unoccupied. As a picturesque view it is rather fine, since the coarse long grass now turning white, with the thorn bushes growing up among it, makes a sufficiently pleasing landscape. This farm formerly employed four men in addition to the farmer. An old workman in the harvest field on being asked if there was much vacant land in the district, replied: "Hundreds of acres—too much. Some men have bought it, but it's no good to them or anyone else. Sometimes horses are turned on to it, and get hung up in the bushes." Asked how many acres of unused land there might be within three or five miles of Laindon, he mentioned



REAPING A WHEAT FIELD.



CULTIVATED AND UNCULTIVATED FARMS.

## WASTE LAND IN ENGLAND.

We have often occasion to make the statement that there is much land in England lying idle, and that there is also much which is badly farmed. Criticism of this statement frequently comes from farmers in different quarters. Men who happen to live in a district which is fully occupied and moderately well farmed, are inclined to believe that the whole country is treated in a similar manner. The photographs on this page illustrate the conditions which prevail in the county of Essex. They give views of land at Laindon, 23 miles from London. The first photograph is of a field on a farm of 365 acres, which has been out of cultivation for some twenty years. The second photograph shows a harvest field on the neighbouring farm. The crop of wheat is not very heavy, partly owing to the

some seven or eight farms, extending to about 2,000 acres. He was fully alive to the loss which the district suffered owing to this unused land. He remembered when far more men were employed in working it, and had no doubt that an equal number could still be employed. Over a great part of Essex this method of using the land is common. A conservative farmer, who has had eighteen years experience, estimates that the county could produce three times as much as it does under an average standard of farming. It is not only the loss due to the want of cultivation which is wasteful and unbusinesslike, but when a cultivated farm lies beside one or two uncultivated farms that are given up to weeds, it is doubly difficult to keep the land clean. It is probable that within forty miles of London, in Essex alone, there are 25,000 or 30,000 acres in this uncultivated state.