

RECORDS OF R.G. STAPLEDON (1882-1960)

Accession no: D77/29

Catalogue mark: D77/29

List compiled March 1996

Introduction

R.G. Stapledon's main interest in agricultural science was the improvement of grassland and the development of improved grass and clover varieties. He joined the staff of the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester in 1910. In 1912 he was appointed Adviser in Agricultural Botany at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, subsequently beginning a systematic ecological survey of the grasslands of the Welsh hills. At the outbreak of the First World War he was appointed to the newly established Food Production Department, advising on the ploughing up and reseeded of old grassland. On the establishment of the first official Seed Testing Station he was appointed its director. In 1938 with William Davies and others, he made a comprehensive survey of the grassland of England and Wales. The Grassland Improvement Station at Dodwell near Stratford on Avon was established by the Ministry of Agriculture at his suggestion.

Stapledon retired from the Seed Testing Station at the end of World War II; he subsequently joined a large commercial seed producer in Wiltshire as scientific adviser, later becoming director.

Among his many achievements was the foundation of the Grassland Society. His publications include *Land, Now and Tomorrow* (1935), *Hill Lands of Britain* (1937), *Ley Farming* (1941), *Way of the Land* (1943).

Record Types

A1-10 Reports and memoranda

B1-5 Lectures, speeches and articles

C1-3 Biographical

A REPORTS AND MEMORANDA

A1-8 FILE of papers concerning Sir Donald Ferguson's Grassland Improvement Committee, Ministry of Agriculture 1939-1940

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|------|---|---------------|
| A1 | MEMORANDUM on the Supply of Vegetables in the Aberystwyth District | (29 Sep) 1939 |
| A2 | REPORT General Summary of the Meeting of the Grassland Committee, Ministry of Agriculture, Friday 10 Nov 1939 | 1939 |
| A3/1 | DRAFT REPORT of the Grassland Improvement Committee Preliminary draft, annotated
Typescript | [1939-1940] |
| A3/2 | DRAFT REPORT of the Grassland Improvement Committee
Typescript | [1939-1940] |

- A3/3 DRAFT REPORT of the Grassland Improvement Committee [1939-1940]
Draft, annotated
Typescript
- A3/4 REPORT of the Grassland Improvement Committee [1939-1940]
- A4 MEMORANDUM on Discussions with Advisory Economists, [1939-1940]
Grassland Improvement
Typescript, annotated
- A5 MEMORANDUM on Methods of Dealing With Newly Ploughed [1939-1940]
Permanent Grassland
By William Davies, W.R. Peel, Sir R.G. Stapledon, S.J. Watson
- A6 REPORT Condition of Fences [1939-1940]
- A7 MEMORANDUM On County Allocations and Quotas with Notes [c1940]
on the Several Counties With Rather Particular Reference to the
Sowing Season 1939-40
By William Davies, W.R. Peel, R.G. Stapledon, S.J. Watson
Concerning allocations of and methods of dealing with newly
ploughed up grassland
Typescript
- A7/1 MEMORANDUM Appendices to A/7 [c1940]
Appendix 1: County balances
Appendix 2: Rotations
- A8 MEMORANDUM on the Utilization of Grass in 1940 [1940]
By W.R. Peel, S.J. Watson
- A9 REPORT Progress of Grassland Survey in Wales [c1920]
In connection with the BA course at Cardiff
By R.G. Stapledon
Typescript, annotated
- A10 REPORT on Visit to the Island of Skye (3 Mar) 1938
By Professor R.G. Stapledon, Director of the Welsh Plant
Breeding Station, Aberystwyth

B LECTURES, SPEECHES AND ARTICLES

- B1 PRESS CUTTING Report of speech by R.G. Stapledon on (23 Feb) 1943
permanent grassland at conference of Worcester WAEC

- B2 LECTURE Modern Collaborative Lectures, Farmers and Scientists [c1953-1954]
Address to Kent NFU
By R.G. Stapledon
Manuscript
- B3 SPEECH Presidential Address to the 4th International Grassland Congress [nd]
By R.G. Stapledon
Typescript, duplicated
- B4 ARTICLE Hill Grazings: Marginal Land [nd]
By R.G. Stapledon
Manuscript
- B5 ARTICLE Improvement of Hill Land [nd]
By R.G. Stapledon
Typescript

C BIOGRAPHICAL

- C1 PRESS CUTTING *The Listener* (7 Oct) 1943
Biographical information on R.G. Stapledon
Duplicated
- C2 NEWSLETTER *Breeders Digest: Magazine of the Welsh Plant Breeding Station Social Club* (Dec) 1960
Contains quote from Stapledon's talk Points of View Relative to the Study of Grassland given at Harper Adams Agricultural College, Newport, Salop 11 Nov 1932
- C3 DRAFT SCRIPT for radio broadcast on the life of R.G. Stapledon on the BBC Home Service 1961
By Robert Waller
Typescript, annotated