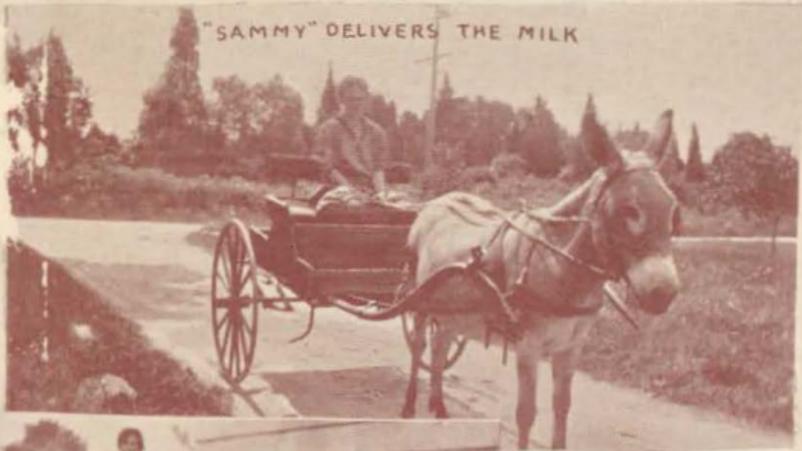


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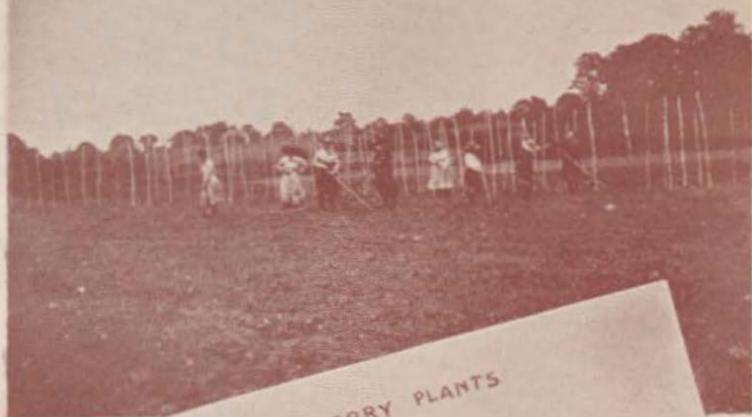
Cage



Connors St 2911/2



HOEING IN THE GARDEN



SETTING STRAWBERRY PLANTS



CUTTING SEED POTATO





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The Connecticut State Farm for Women

NIANTIC, CONNECTICUT

Established 1917 by Act of the
General Assembly
Officially opened July, 1918

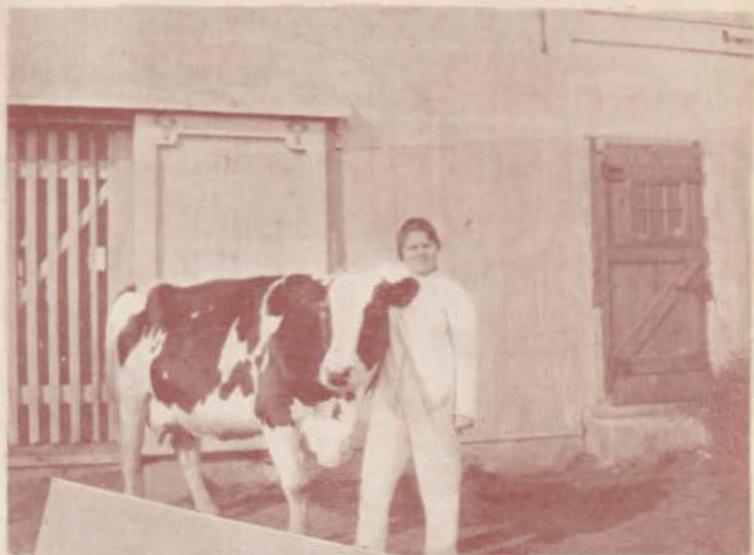
Connecticut State Farm for Women

BRIDE LAKE, NIANTIC, CONNECTICUT

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CONNECTICUT STATE FARM FOR WOMEN

A State Reformatory for Women, known officially as the Connecticut State Farm for Women, was established by an Act of the General Assembly of January, 1917.

For several years prior thereto there had been a steadily growing feeling among those well-informed that delinquent women and girls should receive care by the State, under some provision] other than that of the jails and the Prison where they were being committed. It was felt, indeed was demonstrable, that the association of the old and young in years, and of recent offenders with those of established criminal tendencies, resulted harmfully. The Judges recognized this fact and frequently placed on probation or gave suspended sentences to women who were brought before them.

The question of a Reformatory for Women was brought to the attention of Governor Baldwin who in 1913 appointed a Commission, which, after investigating conditions in Connecticut and visiting institutions in several eastern States, recommended the establishment of such a Reformatory. The Act introduced and passed



in 1917 has been generally considered the best of its kind in this country. Under it, girls of sixteen years and over may be committed to the State Farm for Women for a period not exceeding three years in all cases except felonies, for which commitment for a definite term may be made. The Bill carried an appropriation of \$50,000.

In July, 1917, Governor Holcomb appointed a Commission consisting of four men and three women to select a site, construct or remodel buildings, and begin to operate such an institution. After visiting about twenty sites, the Committee selected the present location at Bride Lake in the town of East Lyme. Land containing about seven hundred acres completely surrounding Bride Lake, a beautiful body of water of about seventy-five acres, was purchased. Upon the property were several houses and farm buildings. These were remodeled and furnished, and in July, 1918, the first group of women was received. These women did pioneer work and assisted in preparing the farm houses for occupancy.

When the war came on the need for segregating and treating diseased women residing near army camps and naval bases became imperative, and at the instance of the Federal Government, acting through the State Board of Health, a hospital was erected for the treat-



ment of his class. This work delayed to some extent the development of the original purpose of the Farm. At the close of the war commitments through the courts were resumed, and the capacity of the institution has been constantly overtaxed, so that recently it has been necessary to set up cots in the Superintendent's office. At present there are eighty-six women and sixteen babies in the institution, with an actual capacity of not more than fifty. Housing for babies has of necessity been extemporized.

War prices of maintenance and construction of new buildings have seriously interfered with a program for adequate increase of accommodations. A receiving building to accommodate about thirty women is nearing completion, but this will be filled to capacity almost as soon as it is built. The principal need of the institution at present is for additional cottages to house distinct groups of girls, for efficiency of the work depends on a proper classification to insure successful training from a mental, moral, and physical standpoint. On admission each girl is given a thorough mental and physical examination, and as full a history as is obtainable is gathered by a parole officer. This makes possible early classification as to individual needs and requirements. It is the hope of the Commission that at the coming session of the Legislature the over-crowded condition may be

relieved by sufficient appropriation, and provision made for further growth which is certain to follow.

The institution, having tripled its population in less than a year, on November 10, 1920, Governor Holcomb, on information from the Commission, issued a proclamation restricting further commitments to the Farm until accommodations could be made available by parole of inmates.

It is the policy of the institution, first, to provide nutritious food and plenty of out-door life; second, to awaken and develop normal social responsibilities; third, to educate along domestic and vocational lines; fourth, to awaken and develop spiritual impulses; fifth, to encourage and morally sustain each inmate when returned to the world, principally through the efforts of the parole officers, whose function it is to keep under supervision those who are placed out in various vocations, usually in domestic service, and to see that they are fulfilling conditions under which they are paroled, thus assisting them toward becoming self-supporting and useful members of society. The girls have, as a rule, shown an appreciation of the efforts of the parole officers in their behalf, and generally have given their co-operation. Indeed, the conduct of the inmates in their relation to the management has in the main been remarkably

good from the outset. Individual interest is now actively shown in a plan of self-government that is being instituted. It is anticipated this will serve as a stimulus to further well-doing. In developing policy of care, delinquency is not overlooked or condoned, but corrected in the best possible way. It is recognized that nothing is gained by merely punishing. Loss of liberty is in itself one of the greatest punishments that can be meted out to any human being. Therefore to bring a delinquent to the consciousness of laws broken, to the point of repentance, is a long stride forward in the process of reformation.

The aim of the Commission is to give to the State of Connecticut an institution the best of its kind in modern equipment and service. Equipment should include cottages to house not more than twenty-five inmates each, a receiving building, a hospital, a school, an industrial and recreation building, and a chapel. Service should comprehend a staff, competent and well-trained in their special departments, a superintendent, hospital nurses, teachers, matrons, and a dietician, with the necessary aid of oculist, dentist, psychologist and physician.

[Senate Bill No. 599]

CHAPTER 276

An Act authorizing the Connecticut State Farm for
Women to Receive Gifts.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in
General Assembly convened.*

SECTION 1. The Connecticut state farm for women is authorized to receive, hold and use real estate, and to receive, hold, invest and disburse money, securities, supplies or equipment offered it for the purposes for which said farm is established, by the federal government, or by any person, corporation or association, provided such real estate, money, securities, supplies or equipment shall be used only for such purposes, and provided such purposes are not contrary to the laws of this state.

SEC. 2. Said department shall include in its annual report, as provided in section 1723 of the general statutes, an account of the property so received, the names of the donors, its location, the use made thereof and the amount of unexpended balances on hand.

SEC. 3. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved, May 21, 1919.

Gaylord Bros.
Makers
Syracuse, N. Y.
PAT. JAN. 21, 1908

