

The industries with the highest employment figures are as follows:—

	No. Employed	Per cent of whole
Professional Services	640	12
Agriculture	557	11
Distributive Trades	524	10
Building and Contracting	522	10
Clothing	283	5
Chemicals, Paint and Oils	178	3
Transport and Communications	172	3
Food, Drink and Tobacco	152	3
Engineering	145	3
Vehicles	112	2
		—
		62
		— (89)

As previously stated, Harpenden is not, and ought not to become, an industrial town; it is essentially a residential one. Notwithstanding this fact the planned expansion of the town does presuppose some expansion of existing industries and the provision of facilities for new light industry. An anomaly is apparent in the preference for light industry in that the deficiency in the existing industrial structure is in capital goods manufacture, *i.e.* not a light industry. The solution is, therefore, essentially a regional one and not local. (90)

From the regional standpoint, Harpenden is conveniently situated in relation to either existing industrial centres like Luton, Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City or to existing towns like St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead, which are planned to provide considerably improved facilities for industrial employment. This fact will inevitably contribute to the solution of any problem there may be relating to industrial employment in the town. (91)

Proposals

With the overall regional proposals for industry in mind, for the next five years it should be sufficient to stabilize several of the existing larger undertakings on their present sites by allowing reasonable expansion schemes to proceed and to encourage a more concentrated development of other industrial sites together with adjoining vacant lands in the Lee Valley. Beyond the next five years, it is possible to meet any need then arising by bringing in agricultural land to the north-east of the town and lying between the main railway line and the branch line between Dunstable and Hatfield. (92)

AGRICULTURE

General Historical Background

Agriculture held a dominant place in the original village and, in fact, continues to do so today as can be seen from the employment figures. Many of the farm units now encircling the town, some of which still cover large areas, have experienced several changes in composition and extent through the centuries. (93)

Pre-eminent amongst these farm units is the Rothamsted Experimental Station which owes its origin to Sir John Bennet Lawes who began experimenting there before 1840. The site of the barn which was the first laboratory is understood to be now occupied by a cottage near Hatching Green. The present laboratory buildings on the west side of the Common were built between 1914 and 1939. The Imperial Bureau of Soil Sciences—one of several Bureaux of Agricultural Science formed by agreement among all the Empire Governments—is accommodated in adjoining property known as "Red Gables." (94)