



## **Auction of Midsummer Tithes**

### **“Villagers shocked by “Scotch”**

On a plot of church land behind the village church of Wishford, Salisbury, 2-year old foals are munching the grass. They are thoroughbred racing foals and they benefit the church coffers by £14.

Members of the congregation shake their heads when they realise that these youngsters will soon be on the race tracks. But, as the rector, the Rev. T. G. Morres, told the “Daily Mirror” last night, nothing can be done.

#### **Let by Auction**

Four and a half acres of pasture land behind the church must be let annually by public auction. The land is known as the Midsummer Tithes and the rent goes to church funds.

This week the ceremony took place and after starting at £5 the bidding went to Mr. W. J. Abernethy, owner of the two racing foals. “One of them is called Scotch and Soda.” He told the Daily Mirror. She is the daughter of Scottish Union, St. Leger winner, and half sister to Scotch Mist, who won recently at Windsor. The other a colt, is by King Salmon. I got the land fairly. This auction is a time-honoured custom, and there are no restrictions. There were about forty bidders this time. The Midsummer Tithes are let annually on behalf of the church by the Earls of Pembroke.”

The Rector said: We are very reluctant to have the racing foals graze on this ground, but there is nothing we can do.

A Wishford churchgoer said that it was “nothing short of sacrilege.

**Daily Mirror, Saturday, 1 May 1943**

#### **OPC Note:**

The Church key is used as a gavel in the auction.