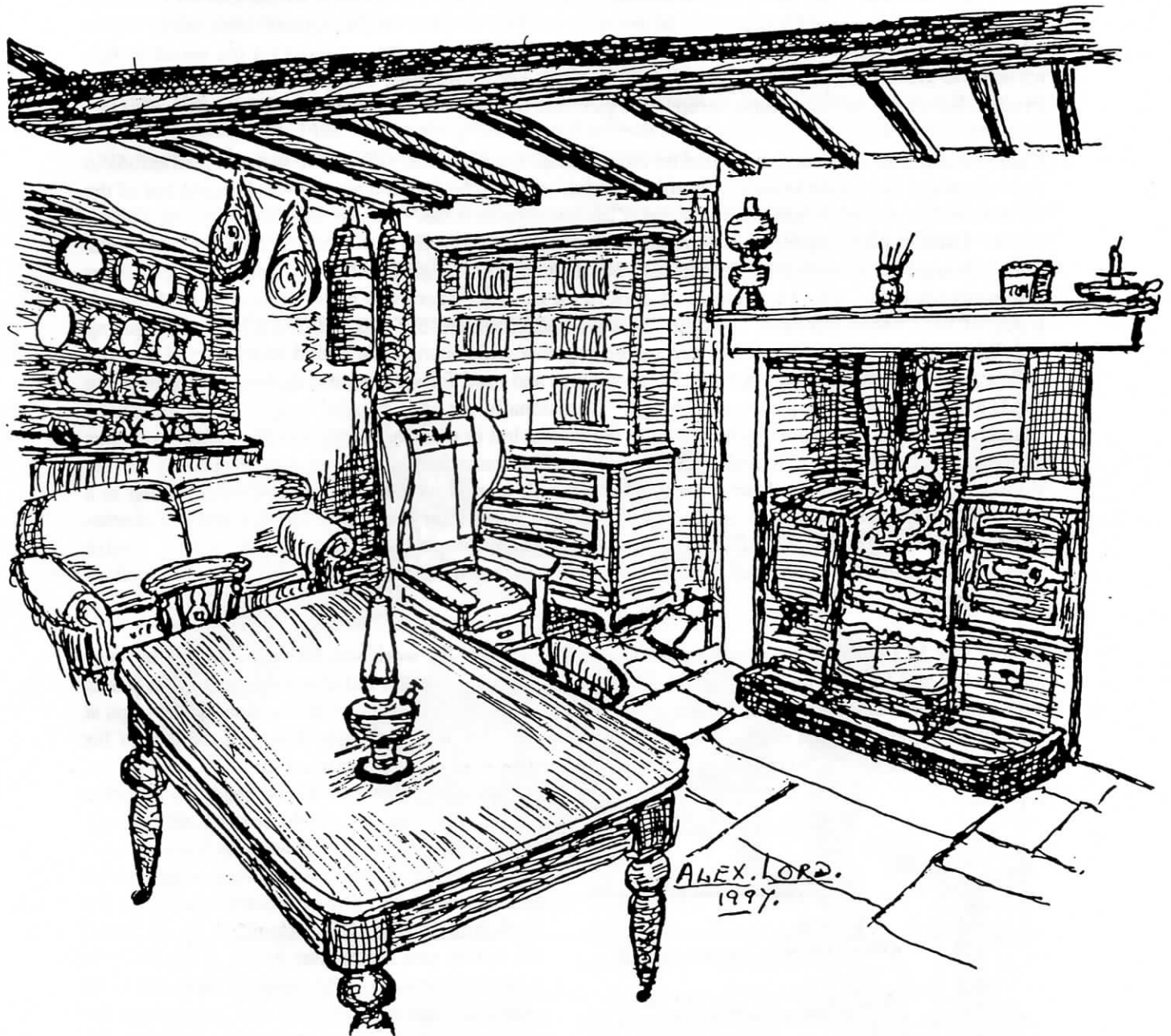


MEMORIES OF A FARM LAD AT CHIPPING, 1928 -- 1932.

by the Rev. Alex (Alec) Lord.

Two brothers and I left school during the great economic depression in the late 1920's when unemployment was especially bad at Whitworth in East Lancashire. It was decided that we three boys should learn farming, of which our parents had some experience. We had some time in Cheshire, then brother George went to Wardsley Farm in Little Bowland. Father took me to a farm behind the waterworks at Grimsargh. I was only 15 and rather small, in short trousers. The farmer thought I was too small to manage two shire horses, and I thought so too -- I was scared stiff at the thought! So I was taken to a pig and poultry farm at Dinckley. George was with Tom Whalley junior who had been born at Wardsley, and had recently married and taken over the farm when his parents moved to Nan King's. He found them a kindly family, and soon I moved from Dinckley to Chipping, to "Nankins", as it was called at that time, with Tom Whalley senior and his wife and three adult daughters. We lads stayed at our farms for five years until 1932, when our family rented a farm on the Hoghton Tower estate and I began training for the ministry.



At Nankins we lived in the old style, with no mod cons by present day standards. The front door opened into the one living-room. There was the open coal fire burning in the kitchen range where pans could be boiled and frying done. A chain in the chimney could support the kettle or the big copper jam-pan. A boiler on one side of the fire heated water and had to be kept full from the trough or water butt. On the other side of the range was the oven for cooking and baking bread.

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