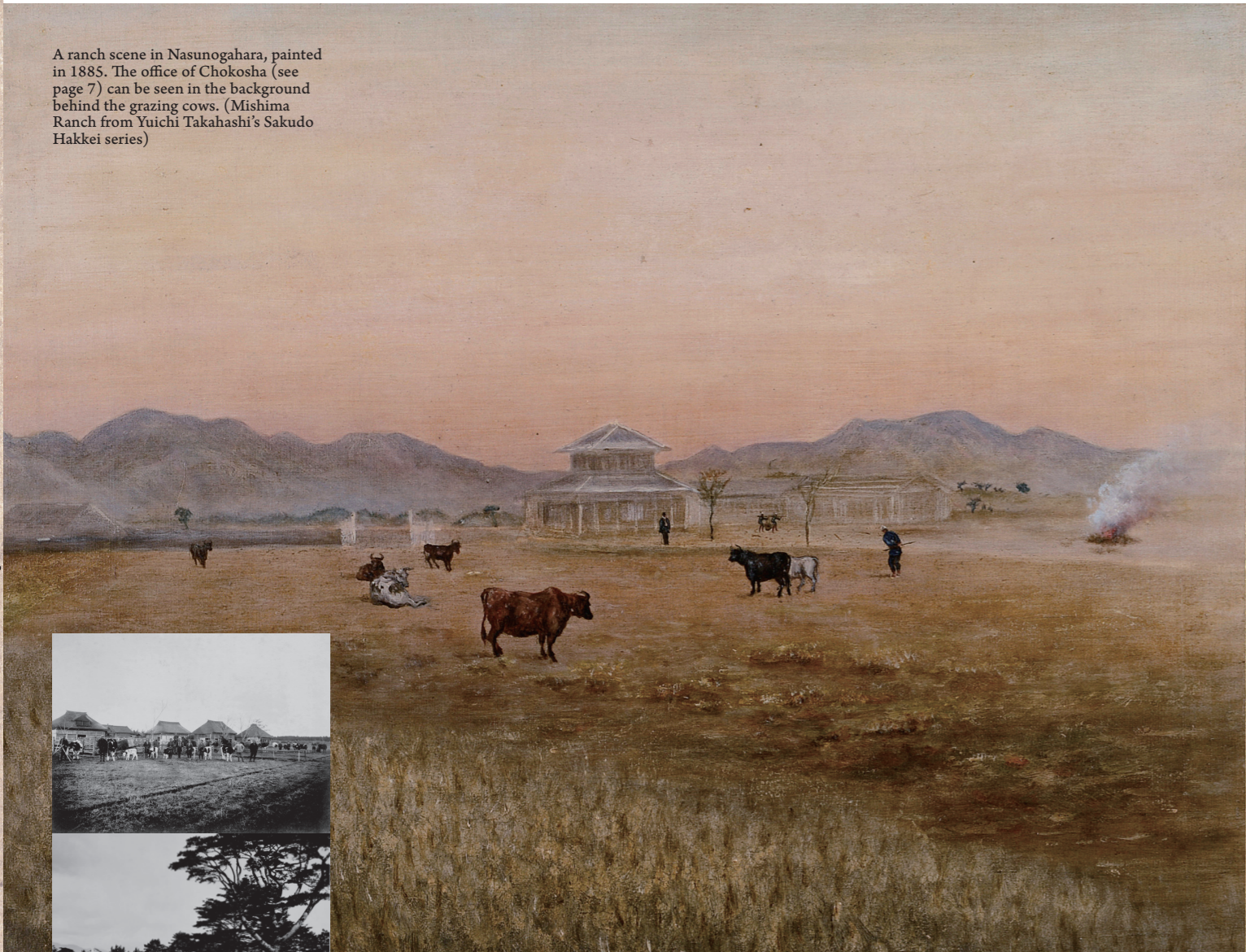


Reclamation and farming

It was about 140 years ago that farms were first established in Nasunogahara after reclaiming barren wildlands filled with grasses, reeds, and rocks. As many as 40 farms were established, including 19 operated by nobles.

A ranch scene in Nasunogahara, painted in 1885. The office of Chokosha (see page 7) can be seen in the background behind the grazing cows. (Mishima Ranch from Yuichi Takahashi's Sakudo Hakkei series)

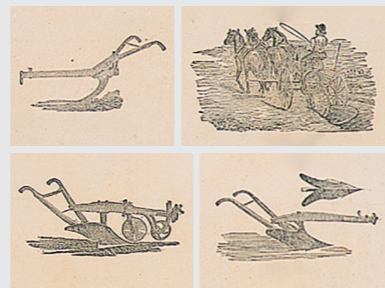


▲ Top: cows, ranch hands, and livestock barns on Oyama Farm (early Showa era). Middle: grazing sheep and Duke Matsukata's Villa on Senbonmatsu Farm (photo from a private collection, early Showa era). Bottom: a tractor on Senbonmatsu Farm (photo circa 1931).

Scenes from the nobles' farms of yesteryear

As agricultural development of Nasunogahara began, the prefecture-run Nasu Ranch was the first to be established in 1878. Association farms and individual farms founded by prominent locals followed. Cows and sheep were raised and grapes were grown as western agricultural products were produced. Many nobles also came to the region to operate farms, in part because of its proximity to Tokyo.

Agricultural equipment of the Meiji era



Agricultural tools produced by Tokyo Mita Agricultural Tool Manufacturing, diagram 1

Scenes from today's farms, 140 years after reclamation

Senbonmatsu Farm

This farm was once the Senbonmatsu Farm founded by Masayoshi Matsukata (see page 7). (It is currently operated by Horai Co., Ltd.) It began dairy farming and raising cows in 1946, and is popular today as a tourist destination as well. There are now multiple farms in Nasunogahara that retain vestiges of the ranches of the Meiji era.



▲ Spring scenery: soil conditioning



▲ Summer scenery: harvesting crops



▲ Fall scenery: mowing grass

Minamigaoka Farm

A tourist farm focused on dairy farming. Founded in 1948, it shifted to its current focus on dairy farming around 1964.



Nasu Communal Farm

A communal farm that aims to raise dairy cows efficiently. It was completed in 1968.

Grazing Farm of Oya in Ohtawara city



A city-run grazing farm. State-owned wildlands were developed in 1965 to create the pastures.

