

LETTER No. 3.

My Dear E.:—

You are now fully aware of the position we have been trying to establish, that the coming of the great machine industry "dealt the death blow to freedom for the time being," and that, nevertheless, the farmer, long since dispossessed from the rude but plenteous position of small owner, still hangs on to the ideals of that happy period.

The reason for his degradation we place at the door of capital, of machinery of production functioning as capital, and now it is time to explain just what we mean when we speak of capital, and who are its possessors, for the farm slave, comical as it may appear to you and I, fondly imagines that he is the owner of this "key to all things desirable." "Have I not land," he will cry, "and machinery? Is not this capital?" And indeed it is, but alas for him, he is owner of neither. The benefit of capital comes to its owners; that is why the capitalists are wealthy beyond their wildest dreams. The beautiful things of the earth are theirs, the choicest of labors' creations, the servility of the Courts, the subservience of the press; the parliaments are but their executive committees; the soldiery, police and judges, their obedient slaves.

Can this be said of the Western Farmer? Absolutely, no! All these are arrayed against him. Even from his own mouth is the absurd notion refuted, for we read in page 7, Resolutions submitted to the United Farmers of Alberta Convention, January 1914, at Lethbridge: "Whereas the farmers do not have sufficient time to dispose of their grain between threshing time and October the first, in order to raise money to meet their implement notes, which come due on said date; and Whereas a great hardship is imposed upon the farmers by being COMPELLED to haul their grain out so early in the Fall, thus depriving them of any time for fall plowing."