

REFLECTIONS ON FARMING.

BY GEORGE PATON.

As we are carried around by our little sphere we view the different aspects of Capitalism as we move along. Dark and Abyssmal is the stage we have reached and the deep sounding toll of the bell rings the warning of the approach of the closing years of human slavery. While the highest expression of Capitalism is striving to maintain its power by its numerous continental gatherings and invitation feastings the whole social fabric is rocking upon its rotten foundation. Every year brings its difficulties, and all modern nations find it harder and harder to surmount the obstacles that each year brings forth.

We can recall the time during the great war when the genteel friends of patriotism interrogated platform speakers as to what they would do if a foreign foe entered their mother's home and threatened to drive her out. Canadian mothers by the thousands are now being driven by Capitalism from their homes and not a single Hun has taken any part in the project. Bankers demand the signatures of mothers and fathers to chattel mortgages, denying them exemption rights and, in default of payment of a little borrowed money to keep the wolf from the door the bank forecloses, then seizes all chattles, even the very milk is snatched away from the mouth of the child.

Wage earners from the centers of industry who were wheedled into settling on the land by the paintings of Canadian farm homes showing roses climbing up the pillars of the verandahs are sorely in distress. Instead of roses climbing up the pillars of the verandah the victims discover mortgages equal to \$200 per head for every man, woman and child, rural and urban, in the three western provinces decorating the verandah.

The Calgary "Herald" Jan. 16th, 1923 reports the farmers' government rendering help to the needy by strengthening the hands of the mortgage companies. Capital is required from outside to help the farmers, or more correctly to chain them tighter to their endless task. The farmers' government must comply with the demands of capitalism or go out of business.

To expect any government to better the conditions that infest the farmers and wage workers and still maintain Capitalism is out of all reason.

Wage workers and farmers frantically rushed their representatives to power, but contrary to expectation the enemies of the working class are strapped firmer to the saddle of exploitation. The latest moves of the Alberta Farmer's Government proves the deception. To rescue the perishing farmers of the South, legislation favours the migration of the victims to the North of Alberta. Capitalist missionaries report that we have perpetual daylight during the summer months in the North. Southern farmers found it hard to live in normal times with the product of sixteen hours labor, but in the North the product of 24 hours may meet the demands of the Capitalists that are called upon from outside by the farmers government to "help the farmers out." The farmer's journalists are behind the government and say that if immigrants cannot make both ends meet where perpetual daylight reigns throughout the summer months they can revert to barbarism and start rat catching. The "farmer trapper" will not require lamp oil; hides can be stripped from the muskrat in the light of the Aurora Borealis.

Capitalism demands the human pelt, then compels the peltless human animal to skin and wrap the pelt of fur-bearing animals up with his own hide and fork it over to the capitalist, encouraged and protected by a farmer and labor government.

Again, we are told, in order to restore peace and prosperity, we must have a large population and more capital. The painter must get busy again. More capital means more wage slaves and farm slaves will be set in motion. With the influx of labor and capital we will have a further accumulation of surplus value, taxing the power of the country to get rid of the burden. So soon as Capitalism is bound up by the burden of its own creation it bel-

lows through the nostrils of its flunkies for more room for expansion.

Another Capitalist move and the farmers will be clinging to the axis of our planet at the North Pole.

Why monkey further with reform governments? Get in touch with the Socialist Party of Canada, and study Socialist literature that will inform you what you should do when Capitalism enters your mother's home and throws both her and the family out.

THIS "BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS."

As the Statistician Sees it.

A CIRCULAR, printed by a large insurance corporation contains the following interesting statistics, which, it says, are obtained from government reports: "Out of every hundred men at the age of 65, 54 will be dependant upon charity, public or private, 36 will be dead, 6 obliged to work for a bare living; 3 will be well-to-do, and —one will be wealthy."

Nothing could, from our point of view, better prove our contention that this world of ours is not quite altogether perfect. A social system that produces the results stated above is not such as to merit our unstinted praise, for we are inclined to think that in such a glorious age as we are supposed to be living in, the results ought to have been somewhat more pleasing.

"Fifty-four will be dependent on charity." Why? Because they have been unable to bear the strains of our inhuman industrial system for a period of forty years. And so they have broken down to become a source of burden to their friends, relatives and the state. It may be argued that several of them were shiftless, lazy and indolent or they would have been better off. The blame for this, however, should not be laid at the door of these unfortunates, but at the system of society that takes such little concern in human welfare and places such great importance on individual gain.

"Thirty-six will be dead," almost before they have began to live. Why? Simply because they could not stand the terrific strain of the struggle for existence until they would have reached the age of sixty-five. And many are the victims of the system who die, not only before sixty-five, but before twenty-five, and even in childhood or in infancy, all on account of the fact that capitalists in order to flourish must of necessity exploit the individual as well as the resources of Nature. Thirty-six per cent of the population dying before the age of sixty-five is one of the outstanding achievements of our glorious civilization. With the aid of science and a better social system the industrial diseases and the social diseases so rampant in the world to-day would soon disappear, and the average span of human life would be lengthened greatly.

"Six will be obliged to work for a bare living." A glorious prospect for the young man starting out in life to know that, after having worked for forty years, he will still be obliged to toil in the traces until the end of his life in order that he may exist. "But," we are told, "if these men had been thrifty, and sober, and wise, and had invested their money instead of spending it aimlessly as they no doubt did, they would have been far better off, and possibly well-to-do." A cheering argument, indeed, when the wages paid under our inhuman industrial system never exceed the cost of subsistence. We claim that the fault does not lie with the individual, but with the society that produced the individual. Against the social system the individual, acting in that capacity, is more than helpless.

"Three will be well-to-do, and one will be wealthy." That is what we have been contending all the time: that 95% of the people are dominated by the other 5%. But according to this report it is 96%. And soon it will be 99% dominated by 1%, and our chances to become wealthy or well-to-do will be even less than they are now. But, were the wealth of society not controlled by the capitalist class, who constitute so small a portion of the population, the disinherited of this earth might be a little better off.

But as it is, the vast majority of people are condemned to poverty and toil, starvation, dirt and disease and early death, while a few aristocrats lord it over them in ease and luxury.

The report further tells us that out of every hundred estates of men, eighty-two leave nothing, and that out of every hundred widows, thirty-five are dependent on charity and forty-seven must work in order to exist.

Nothing we could say ourselves could condemn our social system to a greater degree than do these facts (and the circular emphatically claims that they are facts), published by this large insurance corporation as an inducement to get people to buy policies as a sure remedy for all the above enumerated evils.

Again we say that a system of society that condemns the vast majority of the people to poverty, toil, starvation and premature death, is not a system that should be tolerated by those sorely oppressed therein, and that the only way they can attain freedom from these conditions is to strike themselves the blow which will set them free and allow them to live decent lives such as real men and women should live.

But while they themselves must find the way out they can do that only if they understand the forces bearing upon their present condition. The lack of understanding holds them in thralldom. The task of spreading the doctrine of working class education is not spectacular and it can hardly be considered to be popular, but it strikes directly at the foundation of working class misery: working class ignorance.

J. B. GOLDSTONE.

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Socialist Party of Canada PROPAGANDA MEETINGS

STAR THEATRE, 300 Block, Main Street

February 18th. Speaker, ROBT. KIRK.

February 25th. Speaker, J. D. HARRINGTON.

New Westminster, Edison Theatre:

February 25th. Speaker, W. A. PRITCHARD.

All meetings at 8 p.m.

MEETINGS EVERY SUNDAY.

Questions. Discussion.