

system of production for profit instead of for use must be completely wiped out. The food speculators must be put out of business just like any common parasite. (I do not use the word "parasite" in any offensive sense.) The middlemen must go, and public ownership of distributing agencies and public utilities must take the place of private ownership and grasping combines.

Why are the people of this city paying fifteen cents for each quart of milk they use? Not because the farmer gets too much, or because the milk is scarce; but simply because the ridiculous manner of handling the milk by the city dairies piles up the cost of getting it to our homes. Some time ago the Fraser Valley Farmers' Association wrote the City Council that they were prepared to deliver it to the city homes at ten cents a quart if the distribution were properly managed. But the City Council had neither the insight nor the foresight nor the nerve to accept the challenge and put the thing through in the interests of the people. What this city needs is less talk and more brains and initiative put into its management. The fact is we have had eighteen dairies tumbling over each other all over the city where one delivery man in each district would do. About \$100,000 could be saved each year to the people of Vancouver if a municipal system of delivery were instituted and properly managed.

If Vancouver established a real Municipal Market, owned and controlled by the city itself, into which farmers could ship their products direct, and where the buyer could meet, where the grocer could get his supplies and the householder go if he or she wished, the produce "ring" on Water Street would soon be eliminated. This is done in Denmark, it is done in Australia, New Zealand and in many places in Great Britain. In Denmark, Australia and Germany the governments own and control the railways and operate them not for the profit of a few millionaires, but for public service. The Australian farmer can send his butter 12,000 miles to England for one cent a pound; and his meat at a cost of three-quarters of a cent for each pound, because the Government owns the railroads and ships that carry it.

Let the Canadian Government do as other countries in Europe have done for years—let them open the parcel post to food distributors and carry parcels of any size at a rate sufficient to pay for cost of handling and the eggs we eat will not be double the price that the farmer gets because they have had to pass through ten to fifteen middlemen's hands. When butter and poultry and other products come straight from the farm to the table by parcel post in a few hours the price of food will come down to where it should be. And this is done—has been done for years in other countries. In some parts of Europe the parcel post will carry a ton of coal or a piano if the shipper desires, and it is done at cost. All the Government needs is to acquire the cars—refrigerator and express cars—and increase its staff and let the people do the rest.

The labor governments of Australia and the farmer gov-