

independent, and had been so for generations, others would depend in part on wage work, normally on the land of the squire. Both yeomen and laborers with their families would supplement their farm-work by industry, e.g.: spinning, for a local market or home consumption.

The system was suited to a self-contained and self-supporting community but it had outlived its usefulness by the eighteenth century. It checked production, reducing all the holders of "strips" to the pace and farming level of the lowest and slowest. It limited the range of crops sown, e.g.: root crops, hindered improvements, wasted land between the strips and lost time to farmers in working detached pieces of land. Arthur Tarig, the great Agriculturist of this period, shows conclusively by figures the low production on such land compared with that on "enclosed" land. It stayed largely because of the difficulty of changing it.

In part of England the change had already come. Towards the close of the fifteenth and early in the sixteenth century land was enclosed in the south-east and (less) in the midland and eastern counties, for sheep farming. And the growth of farming for profit brought some enclosures in the first half of the 18th century. Political and social conditions stimulated a demand for landed estates and a desire for improvements in farming inevitably brought home the advantage of enclosed land. New crops—clover, turnips ("Turnip" Townshend in early 18th century,) new system of rotation, more attention to stock breeding for meat (Bakewell the outstanding figure) all worked in the same direction.

3. Changes brought about by the Revolution: The stimulus to production given by the growth of urban population and war completed the process of Enclosure. This is seen from the large number of private Enclosure Acts passed (from 1700 to 1760—248 Acts, from 1760 to 1820 over 3200 with a General Act in 1801.) Over six million acres were enclosed between 1760 and 1820. The face of the country was changed; the England of fences and hedges came into being.

The large landowner or capitalist farmer gained. His production increased. The price of wheat was high and rents rose. The war helped him and he was given tariff protection

down to 1846. The number of farms, large for England, of 150 to 200 acres increased. The demand for land as a means to social or political position by manufacturers continued.

The yeoman class of small farmer suffered, decayed, and, as a class, became practically extinct. Enclosures whether just or unjust, cost money for legal and surveying fees. Fencing had to be undertaken, time was lost during the process. Enclosure of waste meant for him, as for the laborer, loss of pasture or wood-cutting privileges. At the same time the supersession of the "Domestic" by the "Factory" system of industry struck a fatal blow to a supplementary source of income. The capitalist farmer or manufacturer wanted land. The yeomen disappeared into the towns, or sank to the position of an agricultural laborer.

The agricultural laborer also suffered. He lost the hope of becoming an independent farmer and the gap between him and the landlord increased. He was hit, too, by the decay of the domestic industry, his pasturage rights, when capitalized, were useless. Prices rose more rapidly than wages, and a vicious "Poor Law" (to 1834) helped to pauperize him.

Thus the Revolution brought about the Agricultural conditions of nineteenth century England, conditions unique in Western Europe. "In Germany, as a whole, between two-thirds and three-quarters of the land is still owned and cultivated by peasants. . . . In France . . . quite one-half of the whole land is still in the hands of peasant owners. In England, on the contrary, by far the larger part of the cultivated area has come to be owned by comparatively few 'landlords.'" (Ashley—"The Economic Organization of England, 1912," pp. 2-3.)

It is easy to criticize such a result. Yet it is necessary to bear in mind firstly that the Agricultural Revolution did vastly improve agricultural methods (French and German observers of the middle of the 19th century put English agricultural methods first.) Secondly, by so doing it greatly increased production at a time when this was urgently needed, during the last great struggle with France. And lastly the disastrous results to the yeoman farmer were in part due to causes external to the strictly agricultural development of the period.

## G. J. REEVE

### INTERACTION OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND THE ENGLISH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

What was the French Revolution?

It is generally agreed that the French Revolution is the most important movement that has taken place in Europe since the Reformation. Its importance lies in the doctrines that formed its philosophical basis. In the main these doctrines were three:

- (a) Sovereignty of the people.
- (b) Industrial liberty.
- (c) Nationality.

The first of these exploded the theory of the divine right of kings; the second gave the death-blow to the feudal system which still governed the relations of lord to peas-