

own citizens by removing monopoly barriers to the use of their own land, trade, both internal and external, will, without any forcing by governments, develop of itself in a perfectly natural way to the lasting benefit of all and bring to our doors the world co-operation so ardently desired by every true reformer.

W. R. L.

## A DANISH VIEW OF BRITISH FARMING

By Jakob E. Lange

Warden of Smallholders' School, Odense, Denmark

This is the title of an unusual little book.\* Something has happened in Danish agriculture during the last thirty years which has drawn writers from ever so many countries to go and see it. Books on Danish farming have appeared in embarrassing numbers. Authors of every kind have visited Denmark, have inspected farming practice there, have admired it, and have come back to urge their fellow-countrymen to imitate it. Mr Lange has made a beginning in the other direction. A Dane, he has come to England and spent some time going over a great part of the country with a friendly but critical eye. He has brought the Danish point of view along with the broadest outlook on the political and economic relationships of men and nations. With the most sympathetic attitude in the world he sees little in British farming which he can commend to his countrymen for imitation. This was inevitable, because there is a wide difference in the achievement of Danish and British farmers.

People are apt to see as the cause of the Danish success what they wish to see. Shrewd and observant men will attribute it to the invention of the machine which separates cream from milk, which, they say, alone made possible the great butter and bacon industry. Others, and they are the majority, see the cause of success in the remarkable development of co-operation; others, again, in the system of education; and fewest of all in the systems of land tenure and taxation. Co-operation has been the lesson generally inculcated in British farmers until they have grown tired of it.

Mr Lange visited England forty years ago. He is disappointed that British agriculture has made so little progress in the interval, that in certain respects it has stood still, or even gone backwards. To one familiar with the far more consistent development of the soil in Denmark it is a shock to see the absence and patchiness of development in England. Mr Lange notes some of the causes. They resolve themselves mostly into one. In spite of the reputation which Britons enjoy as lovers of freedom, they have retained in their national economy restrictions which hamper freedom more than they are aware. Industry does everything for them, but they exalt above industry obstacles which are hostile to it.

The Dane is not only the freest trader in the world; he is the freest producer. Since he reformed his land system years ago to give himself room and scope to work, he has not stopped. He has used the separator, adopted co-operation, stuck to free trade, developed his education, and now when he has felt his land system and taxation cramping him and restricting his freedom, he has set about modifying them in order that they may serve his purpose and not defeat it. For reasons which are always an interesting study British farmers have loved privilege more than freedom. Protection, doles in the form of subsidies and of relief from rates, are

what they demand as a class. They have no desire as a class to remove the restrictions and burdens imposed on agriculture by land speculation, and by the other operations of landlordism.

Mr Lange has allowed himself too little space to deal with these and other aspects of British farming. What he says about the demoralization which follows when the once diligent tenant farmer becomes an owner and tastes the fruits of land speculation is illustrated in thousands of cases. We hope Mr Lange will visit England again very soon, and that he will use some of his own sentences as texts for enlarged treatment. His book is one which gives more the more it is studied. We hope also that other Danes will follow Mr Lange's example, and fortify themselves and us in the devotion to freedom.

BETA.

## WHAT THE JUDGE SAW

In his book, *What the Judge Saw*, being "twenty-five years in Manchester, by one who has done it," his Honour Judge Edward Abbot Parry (page 227) writes:—

"And another thing that seems to me to bear very hardly on the workers, and makes it increasingly difficult for them to keep out of debt, is the heavy proportion of their income that goes in rent. If a man with £1,000 a year spent two hundred or two hundred and fifty in rent he would be regarded as extravagant. But that is what a working man has to do out of his slender income before he can find food and clothing for his wife and family. And the curious affair is that wherever you go, whether it be Manchester, Salford, Lambeth or Dartford, the problem seems to remain the same. Where, as in London, wages are rather better, rent is very much higher, as though in some weird economic way the fact that a man earns more money in London than he does in Manchester at the same trade entitles his landlord to a higher rent for even worse accommodation. And how this is going to be remedied is for those professors of social economics who have studied the question to say, but one who has discussed with many thousands of poor folk their ways and means, and the burdens of their life, may at least point out what seems to be the fact, that in increasing the wage of a man, you do not make him necessarily a citizen with a better chance in life unless you can manage to stop the automatic increase of his rent. For the landlord, like the daughter of the horse-leech, on hearing of a rise in wages, cries, 'Give! Give!' and there is nothing for it but to obey."

## THE UNEMPLOYED

"And now another army of the unemployed!  
What's the matter with the world, anyway?"

[Nearly every Editor.]

Dogs in the manger, lying on the hay,  
Are perfect prototypes of men who play  
The self-same role with land they cannot use,  
And will not sell on any terms. They choose  
To strangle progress in the awful fear  
The land might yield a fatter price next year!  
Thus progress halts, and enterprise destroyed,  
Creates the army of the unemployed.

When idle land is taxed for all its worth,  
Dogs in the manger will release the earth,  
Vouchsafing industry a fairer start  
To speed prosperity. Then every mart  
Shall ring with trade reviving and erase  
This army of the unemployed disgrace!

HORATIO.

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