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Fleecing the Farmer.

Every Socialist should ponder well the following article by Comrade Crandell. It is the best and most convincing article I have seen for a long time as to the necessity of the social ownership of the land for the prevention of the exploitation of farmers.—Ed.)

they are undergoing a beautiful fleeceverything they have to buy. While, on the other hand, there are in a few cases seemingly fair prices paid for of-sight figures he is compelled to pay in his business. Farm machinery is out of sight entirely. Coal is high; lumber is higher; groceries and provisions, such as products of the canning and packing companies, are high and still going up.

Almost every farmer knows that private ownership of the various industries is responsible for the high prices he is forced to pay. Most farmers believe in public ownership of the ever owning a farm in the land of mines, the railroads, the elevators, the express companies, the banks, etc. You start and talk to a farmer about public ownership of all these things, and he is for it from the word go. He would like to borrow money at one or two per cent. He would like to buy his coal at two or three dollars a ton, and a railway ticket for one cent per mile. But if you want to get a bird'seye view of a farmer's back, just say "public ownership of land."

Now I wish to say to the dear farmers that I happen to be a turf tramper myself. And I am like the rest. I stand ready to support any party that will agree to look for the interest of the farmer and the common public ownership of the mills, the mines, the banks, elevators and steamship lines. The Standard Oil Company, the International Harvester works, the telegraph companies and many others, we would like to see owned and operated in the interests of the public after the same manner as our postoffice, our public schools, our parks, our roads, bridges, fire departments, experimental farms, libraries and our light-houses. All these things are today owned by the public; or, in other words, they are socialized lines of industry. Every farmer sees that the socializing of these are good for him and good for the public in general. We also see that the socializing of many lines of industry would be a fine thing for us all. But few farmers are able to see where the socializing of the land would be of any advantage to the farmer. Yet the truth is that it would

be the first thing in the world that would benefit the tillers of the soil. The most common, most ignorant and blinded of the farmers will have sense enough to see this, if they will only stop a moment to think.

The price of land is steadily advancing, the homesteads and free lands will soon be a thing forever passed away. The march of progress is com-Almost all of the farmers know that pelling the farmer to invest in modern machinery, such as binders, drills, ing. They realize to-day that there is disks, mowing machines, etc. All of a very high price attached to nearly these things have high prices attached to them, and require the investment of considerable capital. With all of these things necessary on the smallest the farmers' products, they are after of the small farms in the middle west, all nothing to be compared to the out- the farmer finds himself in need of an other quarter section in order to use for such things as he finds necessary them to good advantage. Of course, to get the other quarter section will cost him from \$16 to \$40 per acre, which means several thousand dollars.

Here we find that the private ownership of land with the high prices is a great hindrance in the farmers' road to success and happiness. Many boys reared to manhood on eastern farms are forced by the high prices of land in the East to abandon the hope of their childhood. The plucky ones come west, only to find that the extensive manner in which farming is carried on here closes the door of opportunity. Some of the boys give up hope and return to different lines of employment, while others invest their scanty savings in the land. Others of the more honest and neighborly class go down to defeat in the course of a few months or years.

All this, you very well know, would be different if the land was all held by the government or the public, and each farmer be allowed to settle on any unused tract of land and work it as long as he liked, without payment of a dollar to any one, and also allowpeople in general, and bring about the ed to move off at any time he liked, without turning the land over to some real estate company.

I am a young farmer located right here in the great wheat growing belt. of Southern Satkatchewan. The real estate men will tell you this is a place where a farmer can't go wrong. But each year I see a number of farms pass into the hands of some loan company or thrashing machine company. I see farms bought to-day, broken up and improved by some Easterner, only to fall back into the hands of some real estate company.

Private ownership of the land closes the door of opportunity to thousands, and it keeps other thousands struggling all their lives to pay for a small farm, only to lose it again in old age or die and leave it to a dozen children. The children dispose of it to a land man or speculator, who in

(Concluded on last page.)

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Fenelon Falls Branch, W. A. Bishop, Manager