

# For God, Calvin Coolidge, and the Law of Supply and Demand

By ISRAEL AMTER

(Israel Amter, Communist candidate for Governor of New York, and the author of this article, is at present on a campaign tour of the industrial and agricultural sections of the state.)

THE capitalist politicians are worried. They knew that not only the workers, but also the farmers in this country are turning Red. They know that the toiling farmer who is starving, is unable to meet his taxes and interest, is losing his farm, and is going to the city, represents a revolutionary force that they will have to deal with. They know that conditions on the farms of this country are getting intolerable for the poor farmer, and therefore, they invoke God and St. Calvin to frighten the farmers.

## Sham Fight

In Buffalo there is a man by the name of Robert Elmes, of the Chamber of Commerce. This capitalist is carrying on a **sham** fight against Fred Sexauer, \$40,000 a year president of the Dairymen's League. This is **no real** fight, but has the aim on the one hand of entrenching the bankers still more in the lead of this organization, and of making the toiling farmers of the state believe that Sexauer is a fighter in their interests.

What is the situation of the farmers of the United States and more explicitly of the State of New York? The farming population has dropped 5.2 per cent in a decade—from 26.6 per cent to 21.4 per cent, and today numbers only slightly over 26,000,000. More than 200,000 farms were abandoned in the past ten years. Farm property dropped from a value of 80 billion to 57 billions, representing a loss of 23 billion dollars. Farm income in 1931 declined 9 billion dollars, while the worker wages went down to 15 billions in the same time (10 billions in 1930). Farm mortgages have mounted to 15 billions.

## Farmers Hungry

Farm produce was never so plentiful as today—but the farmers are hungry. In the middle west and the south, the farmers march to the cities demanding and taking relief. The federal Farm Board Red Cross are furnishing the farmers with wheat. This is not a result of a flood or drought—it is the result of the production of **TOO MUCH** food. The Federal Farm Board, created to "stabilize the price of grain," promised to hoard again, take it off the market, so as to keep prices up. They promised dollar-a-bushel wheat—today it sells at 42 cents, or at less than the farmer can produce it.

Farmers are so poor that they cannot send their children to school for want of clothes and shoes. Poor farmers have asked the farm banks—for loans, but they get none, for they cannot furnish paper security. They are saddled with mortgages; they cannot pay taxes or interest. They cannot sell their grain—so they use it for fuel.

This is the result of the Hoover-Wall Street solicitude for the farmers, which is so admirably expressed in the Republican Party platform. But the same Wall Street Government has given billions to the railroad and banks, is spending billions for war, has loaned billions to bankrupt European governments, has raised a high protective tariff

## Bosses Try to Cover Up Responsibility for Starvation Conditions of Farmers

on commodities that the farmer does not suffer competition from. The Garner Relief bill, with its amendment in the committee, would give loans out of a fund of \$1,500,000,000 to the banks and corporations—but **nothing** to the poor farmers.

## Worse in South

In the South, the situation is even desperate. When the small cotton farmers—sharecroppers and tenant farmers—white and Negro are told not only to limit production, but to STP production; and when in the state of Louisiana, they are forbidden to raise cotton for one year—it means **STARVATION**.

In the state of New York, there are close to 700,000 rural population. The farmers of New York raise mainly chickens, cattle for milk, fruit. New York City furnishes the market. This city is important for the farmer, the farmer is of tremendous importance to the city workers. The dairy farmer of New York is under the thumb of the milk trust—Borden Sheffield. The New York farmers have their organizations—the Grange, Dairymen's League etc. They read all the capitalist farm papers and have radios; they listen to the chamber of commerce people, to their organization leaders. **But their misery continues to grow.** Workers pay in the city 12 to 14 cents for a quart of watery milk, whereas the farmer get one and three-fourths cent for a quart of milk of high fat content. Who gets the difference? The milk trust. Children cry for milk in the city, where their parents cannot afford to buy it. The milk trust dumps tens of thousands of quarts daily into the gutter to

keep up the price. Farmers produce first class eggs that they get little in the city for. They raise fruit and vegetables, but have to let it rot on the fields because it does not pay them to pick, pack and ship them to the market, because the workers have no money to buy it with. Thus the New York farmers, in the richest state of the country, with a big market in New York City, are in the same situation as the farmers in the rest of the country.

## Enemies Rewarded

Mr. Sexauer is the president of the Dairymen's League. He receives \$40,000 a year from getting the farmers 1 3-4 cents for a quart of milk! There are several directors of the league at \$10,000 a year. These people are not only bankrupt as far as helping the farmers is concerned; they are tools of the Chamber of Commerce, the bankers in the city, to keep down the conditions of the farmers, to fill them with bunk.

The poor farmers in New York and throughout the country have not yet learnt that there are class interests also among the farmers; that the big rich farmers and bankers use the small, poor farmers to put through schemes of advantages to the bankers and rich farmers. The poor farmers have not yet learnt to draw up their own program, form their own groups within these capitalist organizations, have their own leaders and make a fight to throw out of power these capitalist and their henchmen. This the Communist Party must do for them; give them program, policy and leadership, making them understand that Sexauer and all other representatives of

the bankers are **NOT** working in the interests of the poor farmers, but of the banks and the rich farmers.

## A "divine law"

Mr. Robert Elms of the Chamber of Commerce of Buffalo, knows the discontent of the farmers—but he also knows that as long as he can invoke religion, God, etc., he will for a time continue to fight a winning battle. But when Elms declares that the law of supply and demand is a "divine" law, that it was designed by the "creator," and that Calvin Coolidge was his greatest prophet on this field, then the limit of hypocrisy, Swindle and demagogery has been reached—or perhaps not. In a folder distributed among the New York farmers, Elms shows what the Republican regime has done for the farmers. But it just is what the Wall Street government has done for and to the farmers that has helped to bring them into their present plight.

After stating that "the world cannot be forced to consume more wheat than it is now doing," and that the "exchange value of farm produce for the goods which farmers usually buy is now only 50 per cent of the 1910-14 average"; after damning the veterans for demanding their bonus; and quoting Coolidge's veto of some legislation, Elms declares "To insure success for the farmer requires that we repeal the Creator's natural law of supply and demand....That would indeed be a miracle....This would upset the economic and spiritual law as established by the Creator expounded by that clear thinking Yankee, Calvin Coolidge. Supply and demand is one of the spiritual laws and our agricultural heaven can be reached only by absolute compliance with it." AMEN.

This is the answer of the farmer who has been suffering for 11 years and today is in the worst crisis. God St. Coolidge and the spiritual law of supply and demand! Using the farm organizations, the church, the radio and press, using the 4 H organizations among the youth, Wall Street still manages to keep the poor farmers under its fist.

## What Do We Propose?

In this crisis, the Communist Party puts forward its program of struggle: **Emergency relief for the impoverished farmers without restrictions by the government and banks; exemption of impoverished farmers from taxes, and no forced collection of rents or debts.** This is the platform for the election campaign. It is one of the planks in the program of struggle against starvation, misery and war which the Communist Party puts forward for the organization and mobilization of the workers and farmers for the revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist system and for setting up a revolutionary Workers and Farmers Government, a Soviet Government in the United States. Only through this program will the "divine law" of supply and demand be upset, the poor farmers as well as the workers be freed from the power of Wall Street and of the leaders of the chamber of commerce, farm and reactionary labor organizations. The farmer must organize to struggle together with the workers in the city. **VOTE COMMUNIST!**

## Mass. Bosses Give Official Approval of A.F.L.

### Look Upon Leaders to Discourage Strikes

By ROBERT W. DUNN

THE labor leaders of the A. F. of L. "should be called together to discuss these problems and form committees in their own interest and receive the assistance of the commercial and industrial organizations of the State in creating such support as the active leaders of labor find desirable for their constituency." This is the recommendation of a report made for the Massachusetts Industrial Commission, and called "A Brief Study of Industrial Massachusetts."

This survey of the industrial plight of that state pays special attention to textiles and looks upon the labor leaders, particularly those in the textile cities of the state, as a stabilizing force that will discourage strikes and work for "better relations" with the employing class.

The above recommendations were made after an unnamed "representative of Organized Labor" appeared

before the investigators and emphasized the fact that:

"Organized Labor in Massachusetts has always maintained a conservative policy. . . . Organized Labor in Massachusetts has never attempted to extend its position to the control of industry; it is not a political organization bent upon capturing the reins of government. . . . It desires to establish relations of confidence and good will between itself and Industrial Management."

The entire implication of both the labor statement and the official report is that the A. F. of L. should be dealt with more closely by capitalists or else "irresponsible radical agitators" (mention is specifically made of them in Lawrence, New Bedford and Fall River strikes) will come in and organize the workers for militant struggle. This would be bad for the capitalists and the labor leaders who support them and their industrial and political policies.