

FARMERS ARE JOINING HANDS WITH WORKERS

Wolfe Finds Interested Farmer Audience

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE.

MT. VERNON, Wash.—(By Mail.)—The farmers of Skagit county, Washington, that gathered in this little town, which is the county seat, last Sunday afternoon provided one of the best and, certainly the most interesting of the audiences that I have addressed in my national tour for the Workers Party electoral campaign. They came from all over the surrounding country and promptly on the stroke of 2, the very minute advertised, Chairman Elbe opened the meeting. Yeoman's hall was well-filled and very few farmers drifted in late. It was the first meeting I ever addressed that started on time.

"100 Per Cent American."

The audience was as near to "100 per cent American" as any I have ever seen gathered anywhere for any purpose, farmers with generations of American farming blood behind them, nurtured in the traditions of "old-fashioned Americanism" and keenly awake to the fact that ours has become "a government of the corporations, for the corporations and by the corporations."

The Workers Party is surprisingly strong in this rural district. It has a central core of industrial workers from the big canning factory and a few miscellaneous industries of the county seat, casual laborers, etc., and the rest of its membership consists of small farmers, struggling under the handicap of mortgage and tenantry and with manifold experiences as workers in industry acquired when driven off the land or before starting their farming.

Skagit county cast 25 per cent of its total vote in the last elections for the Washington Farmer-Labor Party in spite of the rival LaFollette candidacy, and the state of Washington as a whole, thanks chiefly to the rural districts cast over 40,000 votes for the Farmer-Labor Party in the same election. The Workers Party forms the backbone of the Farmer-Labor Party in Skagit county.

Expect Large Vote.

This year they expect to poll a much larger vote than they did two years ago. If their expectations are fulfilled election is within the realm of practical possibility. They have nominated S. C. Garrison, a teacher, for state senator; G. R. Bever of Sedro-Wooley, Hollis Abbott of Mt. Vernon, and William Fisher of Mt. Vernon, all farmers, for representatives in the state legislature.

The head of the state ticket is J. L. Freeman, a farmer who formerly was active in the Western Federation of Miners, of Tonasket. He is running for the United States senate against Jones, republican, and Bullitt, democrat.

Farmers Are Workers.

There is a constant interchange of worker and farmer here so that the small farmers are forever being driven off their land and back into industry or getting odd jobs for the winter and in the summer between planting and harvest time. They have been miners, loggers, worked in canning factories, on state roads, on construction work and as casuals. Their farms range in size from about 5 or 6 acres to 160 acres altho the average farm runs from 30 to 40 acres. Their land is the old timber land after the lumber companies have gotten thru with it and they have a hard and bitter battle with the stumps a higher price because of the clear-cuttings.

Have Hard Struggle.

A hundred or two hundred dollars down gives them possession of the land and then the long weary tussle begins. Stumps are dynamited and plowed at and tugged on by teams and a bit of the land is slowly and painfully cleared for planting. In the meanwhile payments fall due on the purchase price, capital is needed for the long waits from spring to fall and for the implements and seeds. If they do dairying the big canning factory (in Skagit county it is the Carnation Condensed Milk company) dictates the terms and if it is apple raising (this is rich apple country) then they sell apples to the big fruit packing companies often for less than the cost of growing them only to learn later that they are selling for five cents apiece and more in the big cities. If they cannot meet the payments on their land when they come due the land is taken from them partly cleared, they get nothing for their long uphill battle but a few debts and the land is sold again at a higher price because of the clearing that has been done.

I found that an audience made up

1. Relief from the evils of the mortgage and tenantry evil thru the adoption of a land tenure system which will secure the land to the users.

2. The nationalization of the railroads, the meat packing plants, grain elevator combines and the control and management of these marketing organizations by the organizations of working farmers in co-operation with the organizations of city industrial workers who are employed in these industries.

3. The control and operation of the farm credit system by the organizations of working farmers, in place of thru capitalist banking institutions which now use this, the farm credit system, for their enrichment.

4. Relief for the farmers from the excessive burden of taxation thru levying higher income taxes, and inheritance taxes on the swollen fortunes of great capitalist exploiters and higher taxes on the profits of the railroads and great industrial combines.

5. Against the expenditures for a big army and navy, which serve no other purpose than to support the imperialist adventures of the great financial houses of Wall Street in other countries.

6. Fight against Wall Street. Dollar Diplomacy" and expenditure of the wealth produced by the farmers and industrial workers to support the capitalist exploiters in their effort to make profits out of the people of Cuba, the South American countries, China and the Philippines. Freedom for the Philippines. Self-determination for Porto Rico, Hawaii. Withdrawal of all American soldiers and marines from the Central and South American countries. No intervention in China.

7. Against the Dawes plan, thru which the American banking houses are securing control of European industries and paving the way for a new war.

8. Close co-operation with the farmers of other countries and particularly the farmers of Russia, who are so important a factor in the world market. The recognition and establishment of economic relations with the first workers' and farmers' government—the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

9. The alliance of the working farmers and city industrial workers to establish a workers' and farmers' government of the United States. Only a united struggle of all working farmers, together with the city industrial workers, in support of this program will win relief for the farmers from the conditions under which they now suffer.

of such farmers has a wide range of interest extending far beyond the limits of their community and their own work. They asked questions about the Canton "Red" army, when Russia would be recognized, why the P. I. (Seattle Post-Intelligencer) was printing news more friendly to Russia now, who would get Muscle Shoals, how soon our ruling class would plunge us into a new war, whether the ku klux klan was weakening in the country as a whole (it is fairly strong in Skagit county) and many similar questions. They also asked me my opinion of single tax, and what I thought of the internationalism of the International Bible Students. The adherent of the International Bible students remained with his organization but, needless to say, without their authorization, pledged their support to the Workers Party "in destroying the iniquitous powers that be in this world and clearing the ground for the world to come" whereas the single taxer, long prominent in the Farmer-Labor Party, professed himself satisfied with my criticism of the single tax philosophy and, when I appealed for members, joined the Workers Party.

Armour's "Castile" Soap Fake, Says U. S.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17.—So-called "castile" soaps made by Armour & Co. of Delaware, owned by Armour & Co. of Chicago, are in fact not castile soaps because animal fats including tallow are used in place of olive oil in their manufacture, says a complaint made public by the Federal Trade Commission. It quotes their advertisements as false statements.



Read it today and every day in The DAILY WORKER.

Coming!

The BEST Propaganda Pamphlet of the Youth!

THE CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

(Why Every Young Worker Should Join the Young Workers Communist League)

Watch for announcements

JUST ARRIVED

"THE WORKER"

The New Magazine For Workers
With Articles

BUCHARIN, ZAM, KRU
and International

Single copy—10c.

ORDER IMMEDIATELY

THE YOUNG WORKERS
1113 W. Washington