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RUMANIA

SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Farmers

HARDSHIPS OF RUMANIAN FARMERS

The hard living conditions of the farmers in the PLENITA commune, situated 65 km from CRAIOVA on the SEGARCEA-CALAFAT line, were recently reported.

The harvest was very good in 1951 in this region, but the farmers are gradually deprived of all they still possess.

For example, a farmer owning seven hectares of land must sell 4,900 kg of wheat to the state granary for 6.50 Lei per kg. Transportation is at his own expense and the wheat must be brought to the granary at a fixed date.

The owner of the seven hectares must deliver to the state 750 liters of milk a year for eight Lei per liter. This quantity of milk is fixed by the state regardless of the number of cows owned by the farmer so that if he has no cattle at all he must buy the milk at 35 Lei a liter in order to give it to the state, lest he should be accused of "sabotage."

The farmer get no food facilities or clothes ration cards; if they want to buy any of such items they must bring various commodities in exchange to the "state co-operatives":

- 60 eggs for one kilo of sugar;
- 30 kg of wheat for one kg. of caustic soda for making soap;
- six chickens for three meters of calico.

The farmers are in a desperate state. Great poverty can be observed in every home and they have never been so poorly dressed as in 1951. It is superfluous to say that the discontented population blames Soviets for all this.

DATE OF OBSERVATION:      October 1951

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source                    : fairly reliable  
Information : consistent with similar reports