

Beware of the quack quacks

ONCE UPON A TIME a farmer had a fine flock of ducks. He fed them well, and in return they laid many eggs. The more they laid, the better he could afford to feed them. The more he fed them, the better they produced. They were the best-fed ducks in the world and he was one of the most prosperous owner-managers.

Then one day a strange duck flew in and joined the flock. He was against giving the farmer any eggs—"We should get everything we produce; the farmer contributes nothing." "But who would travel to town for our feed," asked the other ducks, "who would provide fences against dogs?"

"Capitalist-lover," sneered the strange duck.

And he was persuasive. In time he had all the ducks unhappy and half believing him. Egg production was slowed down.

That meant the farmer couldn't buy as much feed. Then the hungry ducks couldn't lay as well.

The agitator blamed the less feed on "the selfish" farmer, and still fewer eggs were laid. Finally there were not enough eggs to justify trips to town for feed. There was only one thing for the saddened, poor farmer to do . . . he took the flock into town for slaughtering. But the strange duck had fled.

In town he found he hadn't had ducks at all. Every one of them had been a goose.



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