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The Reformation of Japanese Agriculture Since Land Reform

—On the Transfer of Farm Land—

by Motoyuki Koike

The transfer of farm land, that is to say, change in ownership and or management of farm land is in itself the process of division in class strata of peasantry. With the enforcement of the *Farm-Land Law*, Land Reform in Japan is more or less considered to have been completed, and restriction in general upon the transfer of farm lands have been relaxed except the farm land established by Land Reform. In result, the number of cases in transfer of farm land seems to be on the increase. This present study is therefore an analysis of the aspect of the class strata of peasantry through such farm land transfers.

According to available data, transfer of farm land is chiefly changes in ownership of self-cultivated or tenanted farm lands, and also the cancellation or refusal to renew lease contracts or lands. Very few cases have been recorded for the establishment of new lease rights or transfer of existing lease rights. To neglect some slight regional variation, the general trend is toward a diminishing scale of farm management with poor peasant inflicted with hardship and some even forced out of farming, while there is a gradual concentration of farm land into the hands of the middle-class peasant, as a trager of agricultural productivity.

According to the process, on one hand, petty landowners, lose their propriety or are out of farming by selling or leasing self-cultivated land or selling tenanted land; on the other hand, some landowners expand their cultivating area by dispossessing tenanted land or buying mortgage land etc. On these facts, some one say that landowners now have two opposing and conflicting characters, parasitic and managing, that the former has been overcome by the latter. And for this reason it is observed that the Land Reform has

weakened the power of the landowners.

However, it should be mistaken to consider a system of the domination based on the semi-feudalistic landownership merely in term of the parasitic character of landowners. At present, peasants in general have not possibility to develop into farmers, while landowners are becoming farmers employing surplus family labour. Furthermore, according to the analysis of farm land transfers, the concentration of land into the hands of landowning farmers, mainly achieved through dispossessing tenanted lands, is being forcibly carried out against the precarious position of the tenant with measure from land ownership, for instance, black market rents and exorbitant price of land.

When these facts are given our attention, the trend in which landowners are becoming landowning farmers can not be interpreted as the precedence of management nor as the weakening of the domination of landownership.

This trend represents nothing but a pattern of the reformation in which the system of the domination based on the semi-feudalistic landownership has conformed to the development of capitalism in Japan since the Land Reform.

Input-Output Analysis (2)

—Computation and Stability—

by Masao Fukuoka

Succeeding to the previous part, we shall treat here the following three problems: (1) Computational methods of solving the open Leontief system—the Gaus-Doolittle elimination method and the iteration method; (2) Decomposable-indecomposable and cyclic-acyclic properties of the system as influencing the mode of convergence; and (3) Some algebraic theorems of nonnegative matrices and their implications for the Leontief system. In treating the third problem, the firm link between the dynamic stability and the existence of a meaningful solution is shown. Also examples of the “Correspondence Principle” are given.