

PRUEBA DE INGLÉS

At the beginning, when the laws of Animal Farm were first formulated, the retiring age had been fixed for horses and pigs at twelve, for sheep at seven, and for hens at five, and liberal old-age pensions had been agreed upon. Meanwhile life was hard. The winter was as cold as the last one had been, and food was even shorter. Once again all rations were reduced, except those of the pigs and the dogs. A too rigid equality in rations, Geese explained, would have been contrary to the principles of Animalism. In any case he had no difficulty in proving to the other animals that they were not in reality short of food, whatever the appearances might be. For the time being, certainly, it had been found necessary to make a readjustment of rations (Geese always spoke of it as a "readjustment", never as a "reduction"), but in comparison with the days of Farmer, the improvement was enormous. Reading out the figures in a shrill, rapid voice, he proved to them in detail that they had more potatoes, more hay than they had had in Farmer's day, that they worked shorter hours, that their drinking water was of better quality, that they lived longer, that a larger proportion of their young ones survived infancy, and that they had more straw in their barns and suffered less from fleas. The animals believed every word of it. Truth to tell, Farmer and all he stood for had almost faded out of their memories.