

System 891

Chapter 891: The Summer Harvest Begins _6

Even if they have a large number of soldiers,

they absolutely cannot equip all their soldiers with armor as he does.

Even the archers, who perform long-range arrow barrages, are wearing partial armor.

Such a large-scale armored force is impossible for a lord without strong economic power and resources.

And this is precisely the advantage he holds when waging war against other lords!

As long as there are no powerful Extraordinary individuals,

the number of armored soldiers can significantly determine the direction of a war.

Fine equipment can greatly enhance the combat effectiveness of the army!

However, compared to those Great Lords...

they can casually summon a battalion, and the number of soldiers would easily crush him!

Just like last year, when Lawrence led those more than three thousand fully armed Sword and Shield Corps soldiers...

although his territory developed extremely rapidly,

there is still an insurmountable gap between him and those Great Lords!

The foundation accumulated by a family over generations

is naturally incomparable to his territory, which has developed for just over a year.

However, he is not in a hurry.

The Karedi Empire's struggle for imperial authority has nearly captured everyone's attention.

Any nobility or Great Lord with a certain level of power

is thinking of taking advantage of the imperial power struggle to grab a hefty piece from others.

His territory, located in a remote area, doesn't even attract the attention of those Great Lords!

Compared to the daily mining of salt mines, then processed into fine salt,

which needs to be transported by land and water,

often taking one to two months to be sold at a good price,

how could it be quicker than directly occupying a port, an economic center city, and collecting taxes?

The most critical point is,

any merchants wishing to enter the port or city must pay the corresponding taxes.

Otherwise,

even the most precious goods cannot be traded and therefore can never turn into commodities to gain their deserved value!

In other words,

the more chaotic the Karedi Empire becomes, the more time he has to continue developing!

He could even,

taking advantage of the war, gain more benefits from the surrounding lords' territories.

Of course,

it's still just a thought in his mind for now.

He wouldn't undertake any risky ventures for some petty gains.

Everything must be based on the premise of safety!

Just like Morgan Town, if a lord dispatched troops intending to seize it,

as long as the enemy's forces greatly outnumber his own,

he would not hesitate to redeploy the forces and farmers sent to the Manor Castle immediately.

Even if the crops in Morgan Town's fields have all matured,

he would not hesitate!

Reviewing the development progress in his territory, Lynn felt slightly relieved.

The most important task now is the harvest of barley and vegetables in the territory,

and waiting for Boer to employ Free People to start harvesting the crops in Morgan Town.

As for other things, they can be gradually produced and manufactured as long as there is time.

Lynn exhaled a breath of hot air and stepped towards the private chamber in the distance.

Earlier, Kuisi had already informed him.

The hot water for soaking had been prepared for him.

Today, he had been busy in the territory all day, organizing the townmen and entering the fields to harvest barley.

The clothes on his body were already soaked with sweat.

His body emitted a strong smell of sweat, covered with a faint layer of white.

That was from excessive sweating, leaving salt after drying.

After a comfortable soak and a massage from Janet in the private chamber,

Lynn returned to his bedroom and comfortably fell asleep.

...

On the other side at this moment,

under the night sky,

teams of figures walked on the gravel roads, illuminated by the torches' light.

They carried simple bundles on their backs, holding labor tools in their hands.

These could be used for work later or as weapons for self-defense.

Because they had heard in Kakasong City,

Morgan Town had always been a place overrun by bandits.

The surrounding manors and villages suffered greatly.

At this moment, an urging shout rang out from behind them.

"Everyone, speed up, we should reach Morgan Town before dawn!"

"You can rest assured, Master Boer is a registered merchant in Kakasong City."

"Moreover, engaged in commerce for so long, he certainly wouldn't deceive you."

Listening to the guard's words from behind, the group of Free People continued to feel nervous.

Not to mention what Master Boer, as a merchant, might do to them,

if they were attacked by bandits tonight,

they wouldn't even have a chance to run!

Even if they had farm tools and implements, being untrained and never having taken a life,

how could they possibly be a match for bandits?

Fortunately,

Boer had nearly fifty guards wearing chain armor.

As long as they didn't encounter a large-scale bandit corps, just these fifty guards could scare off ordinary bandits.

At the front of the convoy,

fully loaded horse carts were moving along.

Boer, riding on horseback, glanced back at the Free People troop behind him.

Their faces, full of dissatisfaction, were illuminated by the torchlight and reached his ears.

After scanning the group, Boer turned back and looked at the Guard Captain beside him.

He asked, "Has the number of this batch of Free People been tallied?"

"There are no issues of having contractual obligations with other Noble Lords and being rehired, are there?"

The Guard Captain nodded quickly upon hearing this, "Master Boer, it's already been investigated."

"They are all genuine Free People, awaiting the summer harvest to find suitable employers."

"After learning about the employment conditions you offered, harvesting one hundred pounds for ten pounds in payment,"

"these five hundred Free People immediately agreed to the labor contract."

Boer nodded in satisfaction, "Well done."

"However, just these few Free People are far from enough!

"Master Lynn requires a substantial workforce to harvest all the crops in Morgan Town."

In Boer's mind, he pondered briefly and then continued,

"At least... over two thousand people are needed!"

Chapter 892: Commander

Boer felt that the recruitment of two thousand Free People was only the baseline.

The land area of Morgan Town is at least over a hundred thousand acres!

Such a broad expanse of land, if it had been previously divided among a few Manor Lords for planting, would be fine.

Each manor has one to two thousand laborers, naturally capable of easily planting all the land in Morgan Town.

But now it's different.

Master Lynn has taken all of Morgan Town's labor force back to his own territory.

Now, to conduct the harvesting and planting in Morgan Town, and to develop agriculture.

Relying on just two thousand Free People is certainly insufficient.

The Guard Captain by his side responded, "Master Boer, you can rest assured."

"With the reputation you're gradually accumulating in Kakasong City, plus the incredible employment conditions offered by Master Lynn."

"Recruiting more Free People from Kakasong City shouldn't be difficult..."

Boer's mind also pondered slightly.

Indeed, just as his Guard Captain Art said.

Not to mention the food and lodging provided to townsmen in Master Lynn's territory.

Just the fact that Free People in Morgan Town can earn a tenth of the harvest from a hundred pounds of grain.

Such employment rewards, it's not just unexpected for him.

Even these Free People who've been farmers for generations have never heard of such a thing.

But Boer thought further.

Isn't this Master Lynn's usual approach?

Whether it's the internal development of his territory, or external economic strategies.

They're ideas he's never heard or seen, and cannot even imagine.

The most crucial thing is.

Master Lynn succeeded!

Successfully developing his territory from just a few wooden huts to its current scale.

Moreover, through continuous efforts, expanded the planting scale, engaged in external trade, forged weapons and armor, recruited soldiers, and built an army.

Step by step, he consumed and occupied Morgan Town outside his territory.

Eventually, becoming the sole Lord controlling Morgan Town!

Thinking about Master Lynn's development trajectory, Boer's previously calm heart began to stir.

Even if Master Lynn's expansion development halted at Morgan Town.

Once his achievements spread, they will certainly become a topic of praise and admiration!

Of course.

Boer knew clear in his heart.

With the land, labor force, armed soldiers that Master Lynn possesses now...

Plus his extraordinary wisdom.

Master Lynn's expansion development certainly won't stop here!

He even vaguely felt.

As long as Master Lynn continues to develop.

He might even create a legend that will make the Karedi Empire and even the Garonia Continent tremble!

No, to be precise—an Imperial Myth!

If Master Lynn really achieves this step.

Then Boer Hansen will be among the few who witnessed the process!

Until then.

Having cooperated and traded so many times with Master Lynn, what changes will he also undergo?

Suddenly.

Boer's heart was filled with anticipation, his eyes bursting with bright light.

Seeing Master Boer silent.

Guard Captain Art's tone turned somewhat hesitant, he said with some concern: "However, Master Boer..."

The awakened Boer glanced at Art and asked.

"However, what?"

Art no longer hesitated and directly said.

"If Viscount Jon Zack in Kakasong City knows that you're employing Free People in the city and taking them away from Kakasong City."

"As you know, the Viscount's calculative nature might likely incite his hostility..."

Boer's expression became solemn.

He naturally knew Jon Zuck's character.

Greedy and lustful, for a Noble Lord, it's quite normal.

But the difference with Jon Zuck is his strong control obsession over wealth.

As long as it belongs to him.

Even if it's [just] one penny, he absolutely won't compromise!

So much so that he intercepted a longboat carrying cargo on the Seine River just because a traveling merchant evaded a few pence in tax.

Took it back to Fisherman's Wharf, and imprisoned him in jail!

After a brief silence.

Boer said to Guard Captain Art: "The recruitment has already started, we can only take it step by step now."

"However, just in case."

"With the next batch of Free People recruited, arrange for them to leave the city gate in batches."

Art quickly responded: "Yes, Master Boer."

Boer replied, his mind rapidly pondering.

If it's just recruiting Free People on a small scale in Morgan Town, it's fine.

Given the size of Morgan Town, recruiting a few hundred Free People is not substantial.

However.

If according to his earlier thoughts, recruiting two to three thousand people.

That's different.

For any Lord, even unemployed Free People are their assets!

Nonetheless.

He still needs to inform Master Lynn about this matter in advance.

Suppressing his thoughts, Boer looked at Art beside him and spoke.

"Art, tell them to speed up, quickly return to Morgan Town."

"Master Lynn is probably waiting for them to harvest!"

Art's expression tightened, "Yes, Master!"

...

In the farmland.

Squads of farmers were laboring with all their might in harvesting.

Where the crowd passed, the waves of golden grains turned into stubble barley roots.

With the divided and cooperative efforts of the townsmen, trucks carrying bundled barley stalks were transported back to the small town and piled up in the Lord's Square.

Chapter 893: Commander _2

Assigned to the townsmen responsible for airing, to proceed with the next step of drying.

He had started dividing the townsmen for work assignments, beginning the harvest.

Three days have passed since then.

Under the enhancement of the Serrated Scythes produced at the Blacksmith Workshop.

The harvesting efficiency has visibly improved.

From harvesting six thousand acres on the first day, it has now increased to seven thousand acres.

Once the Blacksmith Workshop completes the production of all four thousand Serrated Scythes and deploys them for use.

Lynn feels that with such harvesting efficiency, perhaps it won't even take ten days.

At most seven or eight days, and the harvest will be completed!

As the lord, Lynn naturally hopes to complete the harvest of these barley and vegetables as soon as possible.

Only then can he arrange the next work tasks for these five thousand townsmen!

The harvested barley, besides processing the grains for food.

Can also be used for brewing beer at the brewery.

And further production of distilled spirits and alcohol!

Other parts also have different uses.

Barley straw, rich in cellulose and other nutrients, is excellent feed for poultry.

After processing through crushing, silage, and other treatments, it can be used as coarse fodder for cattle and sheep.

It can aid the digestion and growth of livestock and reduce breeding costs.

Besides being used as feed, the flexibility and strength of barley straw make it suitable for weaving various handicrafts.

Like straw hats, straw baskets, straw shoes, and even straw mats for sleeping.

These handicrafts have both strong practical value and can increase the living comfort of the townsmen.

Especially straw hats and shoes, which are closely related to the townspeople.

He pondered for a moment.

Perhaps he can have Yimini transfer two hundred women from the textile workshop to engage in weaving work!

Barley straw can also be used as raw material for papermaking and compost raw materials needed for future planting!

Barley husks, due to their lightness and softness, can be used as filling material.

Like pillows used by townsmen to sleep, cushions for wooden chairs, and so on.

If his territory had already developed to a certain height, possessing endless supplies of various raw materials.

He certainly wouldn't care about this straw and husk.

But his current territory is still in a newly stabilized development phase.

Every valuable item needs to be put to its corresponding use.

Suppressing the thoughts in his mind.

Lynn once again rolled up his sleeves and pant legs, stepping into the farmland.

Amidst the curious gazes of some townsmen, he picked up a Serrated Scythe and joined the harvesting team.

[Collection Experience +1]

[Collection Experience +1]

[Collection Experience +1]

...

Bit by bit, the experience began to increase once more.

Given Lynn's personal ability, compared to the speed of three thousand harvesting farmers, it naturally doesn't count for much.

But it is precisely because everyone's power is pooled together, collecting bit by bit, that the harvesting efficiency can be accelerated.

While obtaining experience in [Collection] skills, it can also speed up the barley harvest.

As Lynn devoted himself entirely to the harvest.

Time was quickly slipping by.

Sweat-drenched Lynn completed the harvest of several bundles of barley in front of him.

He stood upright, wiped the large beads of sweat from his cheeks, and kept exhaling hot breath.

Working long hours with his face to the ground and back to the sky, under the blazing sun of over twenty degrees.

Even with his strong physical fitness, he couldn't help but be out of breath.

Let alone.

Those townsmen with ordinary physical fitness.

This was with the special peppermint water made by the cook, used to alleviate their feeling of sweltering heat.

He looked up at the gradually dimming sky, handing the Serrated Scythe in his hand to a farmer beside him.

Lynn shouted to everyone loudly: "Today's work ends here, let's head back to the town!"

The farmers, who had still been diligently working, were filled with joyful cheers upon hearing Master Lynn's words.

"Thank you, Lord!"

Lynn nodded slightly and addressed everyone: "Go back, have dinner, wash up, and continue tomorrow."

It's summertime now!

These townsmen have just undergone a day of physical labor.

It's no exaggeration to say that each of them is exuding a strong stench of sweaty sourness.

Coupled with their already strong body odor.

If they don't bathe regularly, the mix of odors...

The smell would be simply unimaginable.

In fact.

He even had Erin add a clause in the Territorial Law: in summer, take a shower every day, and in winter, every three days!

This is not only related to the living environment of the townsmen.

But also related to their own health!

Lynn does not want the townsmen's neglect of bathing to lead to the outbreak and spread of infectious diseases!

After giving instructions, just as the farmers began to orderly recover and organize their tools.

Lynn took the lead and set off, returning to the town.

Back at the Lord's Square, he sat on an exceptionally clean, polished long bench.

Lynn's gaze swept over the returning townsfolk from the town.

After a while.

A sound of footsteps resonated on Lynn's right side, approaching from afar.

Just as Lynn was about to turn and look, the voice of Yimini, the forewoman of the textile workshop, entered his ears.

"Master."

Looking at Yimini, who bent slightly in greeting before standing straight, with a look of confusion and nervousness on her face.

Chapter 894: Commander _3

Lynn began to explain: "Don't be anxious about anything."

"I called you over just to instruct you on one matter."

Upon hearing this, Yimini, who was somewhat nervous at first, relaxed slightly.

"Master, please feel free to instruct!"

Lynn nodded and said: "Withdraw two hundred workers from the workshop to make woven goods from barley roots."

"Primarily focusing on weaving straw hats, straw shoes, and straw mats."

With these three items, the farmers can be shielded from the intense sun exposure every day.

This will reduce their physical exhaustion and speed up the efficiency of barley harvesting.

Yimini nodded decisively, "No problem, Master."

"As soon as I return to the workshop, I'll proceed with the personnel withdrawal immediately."

Not long ago, Lynn had already pulled seven hundred people from the three thousand working on the expansion of the Red Brick House to her workshop.

Teaching them to embroider composite armor in a short period was somewhat challenging.

But getting them, mostly peasants, to produce woven goods was still achievable.

Lynn acknowledged with a response.

After inquiring about the progress of the composite armor production, he let Yimini leave.

The current time hasn't reached the closing time for the blacksmith and textile workshops yet.

Yimini still needed to return to the workshop and oversee the main affairs.

After resting on the bench for a brief moment.

Lynn took Red and returned to the castle.

...

The next morning.

Lynn woke up early.

Upon opening his eyes, Janet's back silhouette instantly entered his gaze.

Due to the increasingly hot weather.

Even at night and in the morning, the temperature was around twenty degrees at least.

Especially with Janet around.

The two of them were only covered by a thin layer of silk bedding.

Because of this.

Janet's curving body outline was fully exposed in his view.

The thin blanket seemed to barely cling to her body, accentuating the round and smooth curvature in front of her.

With each of Janet's breaths, that blanket kept moving.

Lynn's gaze shifted.

Her slender waist, tapering down due to her curled-up legs.

A rounded hip, even more prominent with a touch of smoothness.

Full and curvaceous, yet devoid of any excessive plumpness or heaviness!

Further down, her pair of long, fair legs, with their smooth lines.

Even when bent and overlapped, still irresistibly tempting.

After a moment of satisfying admiration.

Lynn rose from the bed, dressed in a clean robe, and walked out of the bedroom.

He went to the dining room, where he finished the breakfast prepared by Kuisi.

Lynn, accompanied by Red, left the castle and headed towards the Lord's Square.

Amidst the respectful calls from the townsmen, Lynn passed through a series of Red Brick Houses and arrived at the Lord's Square.

Behind him, Red's voice rose in reminder.

"Master, there's a carriage team coming."

Upon hearing Red's words, Lynn turned his gaze towards the outside of the town.

Just as Red mentioned.

Among the already harvested barley fields.

A succession of carriages was moving along the lime road, heading towards the Lord's Square.

Lynn acknowledged with a response, stepping forward steadily, standing at the Lord's Square waiting.

While Lynn was waiting, George also walked over from a distance.

Coming up beside Lynn, George greeted respectfully, "Master."

Lynn nodded slightly.

A moment later.

The carriages drove past the fields and entered the Lord's Square.

At the forefront of the carriage team, Boer dismounted from his horse with a swift movement, striding directly towards Lynn.

Before entering the Lord's Square, Boer had already spotted Master Lynn waiting for him.

Standing in front of Lynn, Boer performed a merchant's etiquette, his words filled with respect.

"Master Lynn, Boer has brought you another batch of goods!"

Lynn nodded, praising, "Indeed, Mr. Boer is my most loyal partner!"

Compared to other traveling merchants who came to his domain once every one or several months.

Only Boer consistently delivered various goods to his domain.

Listening to Lynn's praise, Boer offered a humble smile.

He said, "Lynn, you really don't need to be so formal."

"Boer can say without exaggeration, it's thanks to Master Lynn's support that Boer is here today."

Lynn nodded slightly, sensing the sincerity in Boer's expression and words.

After the brief pleasantries ended, Boer looked back at the carriage team and began his straightforward introduction.

"Master Lynn, this time I've brought food for you!"

"Thirty thousand pounds of barley, and twenty thousand pounds of wheat!"

"However, there's one point I need to clarify to Master Lynn... These grains are last year's stored surplus."

Lynn raised an eyebrow.

Just as he was about to speak, Boer continued to explain.

"Perhaps because a certain lord stored too much grain, or maybe because the summer harvest is starting this year, with fresh grain appearing."

"The market is gradually seeing more grain, yet prices remain high!"

"Just like barley, the market price remains at two pounds for one penny; wheat is even more expensive at one pound for two pence!"

Lynn nodded, without saying anything.

With the grain market prices remaining unrealistically high, he was not surprised.

The assassination of the former Emperor of the Kaladi Empire, Charlemagne VI, had escalated the already tense internal situation in the Empire, causing further undercurrents to surge.

The power struggle between the two Princes could almost be described as imminent!

Chapter 895: Commander (Part 4)

Even if, for a short time, war has not yet begun.

Most Lords will still be cautiously selling grain.

That is why some regions have begun the summer harvest.

Some land with higher fertility or early-maturing barley and wheat varieties can be harvested.

Gradually more grain will enter the market.

Otherwise.

The market would never have such a large amount of grain.

Therefore.

Even if a lord is experimentally selling grain, the price of sale will not decrease!

Lynn nodded and said, "Mr. Boer, you needn't worry."

"As long as you transport goods and grain to my territory, I will still buy them all!"

"Thirty thousand pounds of barley, twenty thousand pounds of wheat, I can exchange for eleven thousand pounds of fine salt for you."

Boer bowed gratefully, "Thank you very much, Master Lynn."

"If possible, I also need to purchase forty thousand pounds more..."

Lynn replied, "Of course, Mr. Boer."

With the current daily production of four thousand pounds of fine salt at the Salt Factory, it won't take more than a dozen days to produce fifty thousand pounds of fine salt!

Unless merchants are transporting a large quantity of valuables and luxury goods.

Like Zod and Alan.

Sometimes transporting two hundred medium warhorses or magic ore.

For other goods, it's enough for him to exchange and use!

With Master Lynn's affirmative response, Boer's worries gradually dissipated.

He continued saying, "Master Lynn, apart from grain, I've hired a batch of five hundred Free People for you in Kakasong City!"

"Furthermore, I've handed over these Free People to Commander Earley and Agricultural Officer Gavin in Morgan Town."

"Since I happened to transport goods to your territory."

"They asked me to inform you that starting tomorrow, Free People will be arranged for harvesting labor."

Listening to Boer's account, Lynn nodded slightly.

He opened the [Holographic Map] for a look.

Up till now, he still couldn't see the scene of Morgan Town on the [Holographic Map].

However.

As long as there is no foreign invasion.

With Earley and Gavin managing together, he doesn't have much to worry about.

Lynn nodded and said, "Thank you, Mr. Boer."

Boer, upon hearing this, bowed humbly in response.

Boer continued saying, "Master Lynn, there's one more thing, which I'm not sure whether I should mention..."

Lynn said, "Mr. Boer, feel free to speak!"

Boer hesitated for a few seconds, ultimately he candidly began to explain.

"Master Lynn, as I just mentioned, everything I have now is what you've given me."

"As long as Master Lynn needs, I can do my utmost to assist you."

"Whether it's purchasing grain and goods for you, or hiring Free People, I have never had any objections."

"But this time, I want to remind Master Lynn..."

"Will hiring Free People on a large scale in Kakasong City lead to trouble?"

Lynn frowned slightly, "Tell me more."

Boer spoke without any superfluous words and continued.

"Viscount Jon Zack of Kakasong City is a man with small-mindedness."

"If large-scale hiring takes Free People away from Kakasong City, I suspect it won't be long before it draws Viscount Jon's attention."

"He might lead troops to press Morgan Town!"

"Or even... come directly to the edge of your territory!"

Listening to Boer's explanation, Lynn's brow furrowed deeper.

He remained silent for a moment before speaking to Boer.

"Have you explored the armed forces Viscount Jon Zack possesses?"

Boer's face showed some helplessness, he shook his head.

"Master, after returning to Kakasong City, the first thing I did after trading fine salt was arranging personnel to hire Free People."

"I also arranged personnel to investigate Viscount Jon Zack's armed forces."

"But Master Lynn, the time is so short that I haven't gathered any information yet..."

Lynn nodded, "I understand this matter."

"Even so, hiring Free People must not be stopped!"

The number of Free People hired in Kakasong City directly relates to the crop harvest efficiency in Morgan Town.

And it relates to subsequently establishing a garrison at the Manor Castle.

Thus cannot be halted!

Lynn's mind considered.

Half a minute later.

He asked Boer directly, "Mr. Boer, as a registered merchant in Kakasong City, is there a limit on the number of guards you can hire?"

Boer was slightly stunned, for a moment, he didn't understand the meaning behind Master Lynn's words.

However.

He still responded immediately, "Master, the Merchant Guild of Kakasong City stipulates that ordinary merchant caravans can't have more than twenty guards."

"But my caravan, having paid more taxes this year, can recruit up to a hundred guards!"

"And the caravan's guards can only wear chain armor, not standard plate armor."

"This is to restrict merchants from having excessively powerful armed forces, thus affecting the stability of surrounding areas."

At this point, Boer's eyes shone brightly.

Although Master Lynn hasn't explained, he has already guessed Master Lynn's plan.

Boer tentatively said, "Master Lynn, do you mean to bring those Free People out of Kakasong City by hiring them as guards?"

Lynn nodded, "Yes, that's what I intend."

Chapter 896: Commander _5

"Bring them out as guards through small numbers, many times!"

Boer murmured to himself.

"The Merchant Guild limits the number of guards merchants can hire for their caravans."

"However, the Merchant Guild has never required merchants to report the specific information of the guards in their caravans!"

"As long as the team isn't too large, even the city guards in Kakasong City won't interfere."

"Even if they do, I can use some shilling pence to clear the way."

"I currently have a total of fifty guards in my merchant caravan..."

At this point, Boer's voice became clear.

"That is to say, I can reasonably and legally take fifty Free People to Morgan Town for agricultural development, Master Lynn!"

Lynn nodded.

Boer nodded in agreement as well, "If it's like this, Master Lynn, I don't think there's a problem!"

Lynn smiled slightly, "Then we'll have to trouble you more in the future, Mr. Boer."

Although Boer could only bring out fifty Free People at a time, which was almost pitifully few in number.

But, compared to the lack of labor that caused tens of thousands of acres of farmland in Morgan Town to fall into disuse.

Even if only fifty Free People at a time.

This situation is still much better!

Boer shook his head a bit sheepishly.

"I thought I'd be of great help to you, Master Lynn, but it turned out to be just a little bit of effort."

Lynn laughed: "Mr. Boer's kindness and intentions, I will remember."

"Besides, Mr. Boer has indeed been helpful!"

Boer couldn't help but shake his head again.

As Lynn and Boer chatted idly, under George's arrangement.

The barley and wheat on the carriage were moved off by the townsmen.

Then bags of tightly sealed fine salt were loaded onto Boer's carriage.

Until it was near noon.

Boer got on his horse, and after saying goodbye to Lynn.

He led the carriage team out of the Lord's Square, heading out of the town.

According to Boer's intention, what he has to do now is not just simple trading to earn price differences.

He needs to purchase goods for Master Lynn, hire Free People.

And more so, to scout the armed forces Viscount Jon Zack possesses in Kakasong City!

Standing at the edge of the Lord's Square, watching Boer's carriage team gradually disappear into the distant forest entrance.

Only then did Lynn walk toward the barley fields being harvested in the distance.

As he walked, he pondered in his mind.

Having Boer hire fifty Free People through the caravan guard method to go to Morgan Town for labor.

Can only be considered a temporary expedient.

He still needs to find a way to completely solve the labor shortage issue in Morgan Town!

Lynn's mind analyzed the root cause of the restrictions on hiring Free People.

The Free People in Kakasong City belong to the labor force within Viscount Jon Zack's city.

Whereas he, in fact, is the Lord of Morgan Town.

The territory of Morgan Town is within Kakasong City.

But these lands do not belong to Jon Zack, they belong to those manor lords whom he overthrew.

In other words.

Even if he recruits Free People from Kakasong City in the form of hiring, it is only infringing on Jon Zack's property.

To solve this problem, it can be both simple and complicated!

The simple way is to transport a large amount of Gold Pounds to Kakasong City to curry favor with Viscount Jon Zack.

Buying a large number of Free People from him as if buying slaves.

But if Jon Zack, upon seeing a large number of Gold Pounds, becomes covetous.

Not only wanting to seize the Gold Pounds sent to him but also desiring to take over Morgan Town and his territory.

Then the matter will become complicated.

A small town on the Southern Border Land with so many Gold Pounds.

Moreover, intending to covet the Free People within Kakasong City.

As a lord, this is not just a matter of property infringement, but also an insult to his dignity!

Upon thinking of this.

Lynn has made a decision in his heart.

For the development of Morgan Town, for the construction of the garrison, the plan to hire Free People cannot stop.

Because only in this way can he have more land, establish a garrison with a manor castle.

And then form a strategy with the garrison and Morgan Town supporting each other, controlling the entire Morgan Town.

Not only can he absorb the surrounding Free People, recruit soldiers, form a military to enhance military power.

He can also make it the first line of defense for the territory under his feet!

The current priority.

Is that he needs to clearly know the military strength of Viscount Jon Zack.

The number of armed soldiers he possesses.

And if a war breaks out, how many nearby manor lords will provide him with military aid!

A lord with the title of viscount means that Jon Zack has specific social standing, economic power, and political influence.

Although a viscount is only the lowest title among the nobility.

And is widely scorned and looked down upon by those with higher titles.

A viscount can still participate in various high-level social activities, having interactions with other noble lords and even members of the Royal Family.

In Kakasong City, as a viscount, Jon Zack also has local governance authority.

Possessing his own court and judicial system.

Most crucially.

Jon Zack controls the Fisherman's Wharf in Kakasong City!

Chapter 897: Commander

All the traveling merchants who come will be under his control.

Therefore.

The lords or manor lords around Kakasong City, in order to reduce or even eliminate tax.

Have no choice but to offer their support and loyalty to Jon Zuck, the ruler of Kakasong City, even providing military assistance!

Even if now, his combined armed forces are stronger than Jon Zuck's.

He still needs to obtain detailed intelligence and devise a meticulous plan before he'll issue the order to attack Kakasong City!

Of course.

This is just a setup of his own.

A lord with the title of Viscount is naturally not comparable to the few manor lords he has annihilated!

Not to mention.

Attacking the towering city walls of Kakasong City could cost him many troops.

The supporters offering loyalty behind the Viscount alone are enough for him to contend with.

However.

Lynn rethought.

Even if he does not attack Kakasong City.

Or rather.

Jon Zuck leads his supporters and their army approaches.

He can still rely on the walls and Weng City for defense!

Attacking and breaching his walls and Weng City won't be easy either!

Because within his walls and Weng City, there are numerous large-scale defensive mechanisms!

Ultimately.

The most fundamental and direct way to resolve this matter is — overwhelming military power!

If at this moment, he had tens of thousands of fully armed soldiers.

He wouldn't need to care about Jon Zuck's attitude towards hiring and taking away free people.

Nor would he need to inquire about Jon Zuck's military strength.

He wouldn't need to concern himself with how many supporters Jon Zuck has, or how much military force they have!

He could pressure with a mighty army, march directly into Kakasong City.

And replace Jon Zuck directly!

No matter if he's a Viscount or what title he holds.

Absolute military power can crush everything!

However.

Now he only has just over four thousand soldiers in total.

He can only advance step by step slowly.

The worst-case plan.

Is to abandon the land of Morgan Town and recall all the farmer-soldiers back to the territory.

But even if he has to abandon it, he still needs to harvest the crops in Morgan Town's fields as much as possible!

Only with more food can he feed more townsmen and recruit more soldiers!

Putting aside his thoughts temporarily, Lynn had already arrived at the edge of the farmland where barley was being harvested.

Under the gaze of a team of farmers transporting barley, he joined the barley harvesting team.

[Collection Experience +1]

[Collection Experience +1]

[Collection Experience +1]

...

Bit by bit, the experience once again increased.

Lynn, with a thought, opened the Heavenly Artifacts panel and took a glance.

[Collection: Level 3 (376/1000)] (+)

Several days of continuous harvesting had significantly increased his Collection skill experience.

The distance to leveling up is indeed somewhat far.

But as long as he keeps at it every day, the Collection skill will surely level up someday.

As Lynn was leading the farmers in the barley harvest.

Time passed quickly.

In the blink of an eye, it was already evening.

After all the townsmen finished work, Lynn blended into the crowd of farmers.

Under the glow of the golden sunset, they returned to the small town.

Perhaps due to Lynn's presence, waves of idle chatter continuously arose.

Of course.

The farmers' conversations always revolved around food, children, and women.

The thing they most loved to talk about, naturally, was what they did with their wives after dinner and night school's literacy campaign.

Lynn didn't mind this at all.

At present, the territory is still in a high-production development mode.

The core of everything remains ensuring that the townsmen have enough to eat and drink, ensuring the safety of the townsmen, and ensuring that the territory's development isn't hindered.

...

Compared to the quiet development in Lynn Territory.

At this moment, on a road through a mountainside forest.

Soldiers in standard plate armor, wearing bucket helmets, with greatswords at their waists and a large black iron-wooden shield on their backs, were marching in step.

As the marching troops passed, the sound of solid footsteps and the clattering collision of metal between the plate armor components nearly melded into one.

Whoosh whoosh~

Clang clang~

Even though the sun had set below the horizon.

The golden light still dyed the clouds in the sky a shade of red-orange.

The clouds looked like clusters of flames igniting the sky.

Amid this fiery sky, the lengthened marching troop in plate armor and the shields on their backs, and on the fluttering flags...

There was the emblem of a crossed greatsword and shield!

That is the family emblem of the Ducas Clan!

At the front of the troop.

Several hundred cavalymen were advancing on horseback.

They, too, wore the specially tailored standard plate armor of the Sword and Shield Corps.

With urging calls, a young man on a warhorse moved to the front.

Slightly slowing the pace of his warhorse, alongside, Danke spoke to Godfrey.

"Commander, after inspection, the marching state of the 30,000 Sword and Shield Corps soldiers is all normal!"

Hearing Danke's words, Godfrey's brows furrowed for a moment.

He turned his gaze to the burly man on his left side.

Before Godfrey could open his mouth to remind, Danke immediately remembered something.

He quickly spoke again: "Please instruct us, Lord Lawrence."

Lawrence, riding a purely white pure-blood warhorse, upon hearing Danke's words.

With eyes fixed forward on the road, he casually remarked.

"Knight, I believe you've asked the wrong person?"

"For this campaign, Godfrey Harvey is the commander."

"I am merely a battlefield advisor."

Listening to Lawrence's indifferent tone, both Godfrey and Danke furrowed their brows.

However, Godfrey's frown only lasted a moment before returning to normal.

He respectfully bent slightly to Lawrence and said.

"Lord Lawrence, I think you might have misunderstood..."

"The Marquis appointed me as the commander, but as a battlefield advisor, you still hold direct command over the Sword and Shield Corps soldiers."

"Because you, like the Marquis, are a descendant of Lord Donovan Ducas."

Chapter 898: Daydreaming

Despite Godfrey's deliberate attempts to curry favor, Lawrence's expression remained tense.

He tilted his head slightly, his gaze once again directed forward, and said coldly, "Commander Godfrey, increase the marching speed."

"Otherwise, at this marching speed, not to mention capturing Spirit Reef Port within half a month, whether we can even reach it is questionable!"

As his words fell, Lawrence suddenly squeezed the sides of his warhorse.

The warhorse, slightly pained, neighed before picking up its pace and galloping forward.

Leaving the group of soldier commanders looking at each other in disbelief.

Godfrey's gaze followed Lawrence Ducas, who had already galloped tens of meters away, and his eyes narrowed slightly.

In the next instant, he withdrew his gaze and looked at a nearby messenger.

"Relay Lord Lawrence's order, the entire army is to increase marching speed!"

The messenger quickly responded, "Yes, Commander."

He pulled the reins in his hand, turning the warhorse to head toward the soldiers who were marching behind.

After giving instructions, Godfrey wasted no more words and spurred his warhorse to catch up to Lawrence in front.

Danke and a group of soldiers also hurried to follow.

Behind them, the soldiers who received the order increased their pace to run.

However, because they were wearing standard plate armor, running quickly was nearly impossible.

They could only march with large strides.

Accompanying them.

Was the sound of footsteps and the clashing of plate armor pieces, echoing continuously through the forest.

Under the light of the setting sun dipping below the horizon, they headed toward the distant Spirit Reef Port.

...

Three days passed in the blink of an eye.

Standing on the limestone road, Lynn surveyed ahead.

What was once a vast sea of golden barley fields had now largely vanished.

Exposed was the land left with the stubble roots after the barley had been harvested.

Given enough labor force and relatively advanced harvesting tools.

The efficiency of the barley harvest was much faster than the time he had estimated!

Over fifty thousand acres of barley farmland were nearing completion after just six short days.

Barley stalks bearing ears were transported cart by cart to Lord's Square.

It was still morning now.

By evening, the three thousand farmers responsible for harvesting would be able to complete the final stages of the barley harvest.

Awaiting the transport group of farmers to finish moving all the stalks.

The winter barley planted last year would be completely harvested!

Over fifty thousand acres of barley farmland had three thousand farmers for harvesting.

On average, each person harvested three acres of barley per day.

This harvesting efficiency was considered quite fast!

However, it was only considered relatively fast.

We must understand.

Despite having fifty thousand acres of barley fields this time.

He had invested as many as five thousand laborers.

Furthermore, he had specifically divided each stage of the harvesting process into specific tasks.

Take the harvesting group, for example.

They only needed to harvest and pile up bundles of barley before them.

The tying and transporting were unrelated to them.

This simple method of harvesting was naturally much faster than normal harvesting.

While the transport group, drying group, and screening group of farmers were engaged in subsequent processing steps.

He could deploy the harvest group farmers into the harvest of linen and vegetables!

Once the harvest group farmers complete harvesting all crops.

The barley that has been dried and screened will be nearly ready for storage.

The five thousand farmers could be redirected toward the upcoming summer planting.

Lynn had also considered whether to implement a two-field or three-field rotation with fallow for the cultivated lands in the territory.

But soon.

He dismissed the idea.

The arable land area available for farming in his territory was only about one hundred fifty thousand acres in total.

The fifty-five thousand-acre winter barley field about to be harvested.

The fifty thousand acres of spring barley and over ten thousand acres of vegetable land.

And the forty thousand acres of newly cultivated land led by Gavin with three thousand farmers.

With crops already planted, adopting a rotational fallow system isn't easy.

He can only wait for the farmers to finish cultivating nearly three hundred thousand acres of arable land in the territory.

Finally implementing a rotational fallow system for unified planning and planting.

However, before the summer planting.

He needs to deal with the leftover barley roots in the fields.

For small-scale barley planting, he could assign the farmers to manually dig out the barley roots using hoes and pitchforks.

Stack them by the field edges or in corners, allowing them to naturally decompose and dry, which could then be used as fertilizer in the fields.

But manual clearing is too slow in efficiency.

Or he could drive all the livestock from the ranch into the fields.

Let them trample and press the barley roots into the mud.

While the livestock manure also serves as a covering and fertilizing effect.

However, this leads to compacted soil, requiring further loosening labor afterward.

Comparatively, the best method is naturally burning!

Burning quickly clears the roots, and the resulting ash increases the mineral content in the soil, providing some fertilization.

In the midst of Lynn's contemplation.

Two figures stepped forward from a distance.

Unanimously, shouts full of reverence reached his ears.

Chapter 899: Daydreaming

"Master."

"Master..."

Lynn turned his head at the sound.

He saw Wilbur and Avery, a few paces to his right.

Lynn glanced at the two and asked, "Is there something you need?"

Upon hearing Lynn's inquiry, Wilbur and Avery exchanged a glance.

Wilbur was the first to explain, "Master, the barley harvest is nearing its end."

"By this afternoon at most, it will be completed."

"Please assign the farmers their next tasks."

Lynn acknowledged, "The farmers in the harvesting group will continue to harvest the vegetables and linen in the fields."

"After drying and sifting, store them in the warehouse, and then have 5,000 of them continue opening up new land."

"Once the barley roots in this field have dried and been burned."

"5,000 farmers will begin planting peas!"

Leguminous crops like peas have a nitrogen-fixing ability that can effectively enhance soil fertility.

The most crucial point is.

In a warm climate, peas grow very fast.

Planted now, they can be harvested at the latest by October to November.

The harvested peas can either serve as a staple supplement for protein intake.

Or they can be used as feed for poultry and livestock!

Upon receiving Lynn's instructions, Wilbur did not hesitate and quickly responded.

"Yes, Master."

Lynn turned his gaze towards Avery nearby.

Without waiting for Lynn to inquire, Avery bowed slightly and started to explain.

"Master, the production of the stone rollers has already begun."

"At the workers' pace, three rollers weighing a thousand pounds each can be made in a day."

"By evening, the first batch of ten rollers can be transported back to the estate."

Lynn pondered slightly before speaking to Avery, "Twenty stone rollers will be enough."

"Once they're completed, you will lead everyone to start constructing the Outer City."

The area of Lord's Square roughly converts to about twenty acres.

With conventional drying methods, one square can dry fifteen pounds of barley.

An acre is six hundred and sixty-six square feet.

Which means.

Lord's Square can dry roughly around two hundred thousand pounds of barley in one day!

Using draft horses to pull the thousand-pound stone rollers, pressing until the barley grains are separated from the chaff.

It requires repeated pressing to achieve separation.

With this method, working eight hours in total, the rollers can process an area of at most two acres.

Twenty stone rollers are more than enough for this barley harvest to be pressed and threshed.

The main point is, the area of Lord's Square is only so large.

No matter how many rollers there are, they can't be used all at once.

Lynn continued, "Once twenty stone rollers are made, you can take the workers from the Stonemason Workshop and start on the construction of the Outer City."

"If you need anything, you can find me or Steward Kuisi. I will arrange things for you immediately."

"Any other questions?"

Upon hearing this, Avery bowed and responded, "Yes, Master, Avery has no further questions."

After instructing Avery, Lynn dismissed the two men.

Watching them leave, Lynn retracted his gaze.

Wilbur's cultivation and planting work were going fine.

With the experience from several rounds of cultivation and planting, both Wilbur and the farmers had more or less acquired their own expertise.

Additionally, there is now an ample workforce and sufficient farming tools.

With fifty days left until the end of the summer crops in late August.

There is plenty of time for the farmers to complete this year's summer harvest and planting.

What worried Lynn was Avery's construction of the Outer City.

Whether it was the war of Imperial Authority, or Viscount Jon Zuck of Kakasong City.

They posed significant threats and dangers to his territory.

His only hope now was that the flames of war would spread to Morgan Town and his territory more slowly.

Suppressing those thoughts, Lynn stepped onto the farmland.

Joining the team that was transporting bundles of straw and ears of wheat.

[Collection Experience +1]

[Collection Experience +1]

[Collection Experience +1]

...

After Lynn loaded a cart with bundles of straw and ears of wheat until it was fully packed.

He pushed the cart towards the Lord's Square.

Under the surprised gaze of a farmer responsible for unloading, Lynn began to unload on his own.

Only after a while did he finish unloading a cart of barley.

He took a few large gulps of refreshing, sweet well water handed to him by Red.

Letting that well water wet his robe slightly, he didn't mind at all.

On the contrary, found it cooler and more comfortable.

Handing the water bottle back to Red, Lynn walked over to sit on a bench in the shade not far away.

His gaze wandered around the entire Lord's Square.

One by one, the carts loaded with barley were transported by pairs of farmers, one pulling and the other pushing, to the Lord's Square.

After parking, they awaited the farmers responsible for drying to unload, allowing them a brief rest and water break.

Once unloaded, the carts were pulled back to the fields to continue transporting barley.

The drying farmers spread the barley evenly on the ground.

Using sunlight and air circulation to dry the harvested barley.

During this, tools like wooden rakes are used to turn the barley, ensuring every part is fully exposed to sunlight.

Chapter 900: Daydreaming _3

While speeding up the drying process, it can also effectively prevent the barley at the bottom from becoming moldy due to moisture.

Even though the barley harvest is nearing its end.

However, to immediately enter the threshing process still requires time.

Barley needs to be sun-dried for about five days in sunny weather to reach the appropriate level of dryness.

Only then.

Using the stone rollers made in Avery's Stonemason Workshop will make crushing and separating the grain more efficient!

Watching the farmers working in an orderly manner, Lynn felt slightly relieved.

With the barley harvest complete, half of his worries have been eased.

To be completely at ease, he must wait for all the barley to be processed and stored in the warehouse.

Considering the current weather, storing all the barley in the castle warehouse is just a matter of time.

After resting on the bench for a while.

Lynn got up and headed to the cafeteria, ready to continue grinding on his [Cooking] skill experience.

Thud Thud Thud~

[Cooking Experience +1]

[Cooking Experience +1]

[Cooking Experience +1]

...

Amidst the dull sounds of knives hitting the chopping board.

Lynn's [Cooking] skill experience began to increase.

Whether it is his currently grinding [Cooking] skill, or any of the other eight skills.

As the level increases, the experience required also becomes more substantial.

For Lynn, it's not a difficult task, but it requires constant perseverance!

As long as enough time is invested, leveling up is bound to happen.

Even if the leveling is slow, as long as action is taken, rewards can be seen.

This is why Lynn can tirelessly grind on experience.

Compared to those tasks that show no results yet still require endless repetition.

The sense of accomplishment he feels now is quite intense.

As Lynn immersed himself in exploring the kitchen and grinding experience, time quickly passed.

Before he knew it, it was already evening.

Having spent most of the day grinding experience, Lynn walked out of the cafeteria with slightly heavy steps.

Feeling the sticky sensation on his body and the smell of grease on his clothes.

Lynn shook his head with a bit of helplessness.

Perhaps no one could imagine.

As a lord, he not only engages in tilling and planting, harvesting and gathering but also plunges into the kitchen to cook food for the townsmen!

Moreover.

No one in the territory engages in as many kinds of labor as he does!

Exhaling a hot breath, Lynn glanced at the Lord's Square.

As the sky dimmed, the townsmen returning from their work also headed back to the territory.

However.

As they passed the Lord's Square and looked at the barley that had been spread and dried on the ground and then piled up.

Their eyes were full of brightness.

With barley, there will be more food.

With a large supply of food, they no longer have to endure hunger like before!

They even acted cautiously as they passed the area where the barley was piled up.

Fearful that a single action might damage the barley and cause waste.

Only those who have truly experienced hunger know the value of food.

After standing still for a moment, Lynn turned his gaze to Red behind him.

"Let's head back to the castle."

Red slightly raised his eyebrows and responded, "Yes, sir!"

After taking a few steps.

Lynn vaguely sensed that Red seemed somewhat different.

Turning back to Red, he said, "Lead the way."

Upon hearing this, Red looked a bit puzzled.

But without saying anything, Red obediently replied and quickened his pace to walk in front of Lynn.

Lynn looked up and down at Red, finding no significant changes in his physique and appearance.

What was different.

Was the aura Red exuded, which felt noticeably more steady and confident than before.

Despite wearing composite armor, it didn't hinder his agility and nimbleness at all.

Every move was extremely smooth and natural!

Lynn's thoughts shifted, opening Red's personal attribute panel for a look.

[Name]: Red Harper

[Age]: 27

[Abilities]: Hunting Level 3, Planting Level 2, Construction Level 2

[Seven Skills of the Knight]: Hunting Level 3, Horse Riding Level 1, Swordsmanship Level 1

[Attributes]: Attack C-, Defense D, Speed D+, Constitution D+, Energy D-

[Talent]: Wind Element Affinity—has a special resonance with the natural wind element, able to sense the flow of elements more keenly and harness the power of the wind element

Focus—provides accuracy when using bow and arrow, calming the heart

[Skills]: Precise Shooting—can hit targets with extremely high accuracy, whether stationary or moving

herbalism—knowledge of the properties and uses of various herbs, able to collect and concoct herbal potions

Tracking Technique—able to track a target's whereabouts through subtle clues such as footprints on the ground, broken twigs, and animal hair

...

Surprised by the stream of information before him, Lynn felt a bit amazed.

Last time he asked Red, Red mentioned that the symbols from ancient texts had entered his body.

How much time has passed since then?

Red's attribute panel showed that all five main attributes had increased by two levels.

He even gained one new [Talent] and three new [Skills]!

Apparently.

The Ranger's [Special Promotion Book] directly transformed Red's physical attributes.

And infused him with the knowledge and memories of a Ranger.