

one should be able to understand the nature of these relations, so that he may know what are his rights and what are his obligations in relation to his fellowmen. He should not only understand his duties to men of other callings and their duties to him, but he should be wise enough to discover some just and efficient means of asserting his rights in case they are encroached upon. Not to be able to do this is to leave himself helpless in the hands of anyone who finds it to his interest to crowd him to the wall, while to be able to do it, will oftentimes tax the utmost resources of wisdom that the wisest man can command.

That there is a sad lack of this wisdom amongst the multitudes of people who have learned their business and have learned little or nothing else is manifest enough. Coxe and Debs ought to be sufficient to point out the moral. Fortunately Debs has repented, and now, of late, Powderly has advised his men not to engage in strikes but to study the question. Yes, that is the proper thing doubtless, but how much more easy it would have been for the poor fellows to study it, and how much more probable that their study would lead to some sound conclusion, if they had learned how to study while they were young.

Then look at what is going on amongst agriculturists in this country and in the United States. For years past farmers in New England and in some parts of Ontario have been selling their farms for a song or abandoning them unsold and going West to buy new farms or taking up some other line of business. It is also said that farmers all over the country are growing poorer, getting in debt and increasing the mortgages on their farms. Meanwhile millionaires are multiplying. That so large and important a class of society should become impoverished while another class is becoming enormously rich, is certainly not a healthy sign. It may be that the two things have no necessary connection with each other, and that the fact of their occurring simultaneously is a mere coincidence, but it may also be that the one is in part at least the cause of the other. But whatever may be the explanation of this condition of things, the condition should not be allowed to continue. We may possibly be able to look on complacently while the millionaire rolls up his millions, provided he gets them honestly and does not use them as a means of oppressing his fellows. But we cannot regard the country as prospering if it be true that the agriculturists as a class are becoming poor, and are coming more and more into the grip of the rich men who hold the mortgages. About the worst use that can be made of a farm is to use it to carry a mortgage. But how can the matter be remedied? Evidently the first thing is to discover the cause, and then to look for a remedy. Whatever may be the cause, the agriculturists ought to be capable of searching it out, and they must find a remedy if a remedy can be found. They have no right to expect that the lawyers and doctors and bankers whom they are in the habit of electing to represent them in parliament, will be greatly distressed by their condition, or will seriously tax their brains to devise a cure. But unfortunately farmers are apt to think, and to train their boys to think, that all the culture that is necessary for their business can be obtained in the public school. This supplemented by the knowledge that a boy can gain by working on a farm and seeing how his father does things, is all that the average boy really needs; or if that does not satisfy him, a term or two at an agricultural college, should give him an ample equipment for all the duties of his calling. If any one of a farmer's sons is brighter and more intelligent than the others, especially if he shows any fondness for books, his father is likely to think the boy was not meant for a farmer,