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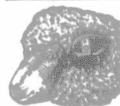
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Whither Are We Drifting.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

As straws indicate the way of the wind, or the drift of the current, so do the happenings of to-day tell us where we are heading and providing the current holds uniform proportion will tell us the approximate end.

The high cost of living: We hear it; we see it; we feel it; we dream of it. We listen to explanations; we are surfeited with remedies, but who is so blind as he who will not see; or who so deaf as he whose understanding is dulled by selfishness.

To my mind there is one remedy and one alone that will carry us back to normal conditions, but there are various steps to be taken. We have approached our present condition step by step, or a stage at a time, consequently if we can see that the path we are treading is leading us to destruction, for call it what you will social revolution looms in the not far distance, we must retreat along that path, and it will not be easy; not nearly as easy as it was drifting along letting scheming agitators think and act for us. I say we, for I mean all. I speak for no class, no organization, for there is where we are to-day. Organization has landed us in classes and class legislation.

We hear the expression: "Labor is coming to its own!" But, what is labor? The word has lost its meaning. Let us consider. Is it what we hear spoken of, expounded from hustings, from platform, from soap box? Ah no! these are but classes of labor that have been organized, ninety per cent. of whom can tell you but little about it, or what the other ten per cent. have made out of the situation. They know that their wages have been increased and their hours shortened. That is sufficient. But at what cost, at whose expense? Think it over.

No kaiser, no autocrat ever held more absolute sway over their subjects than the labor leaders hold over their unions. The individual stands in absolute fear, perhaps not so much of the leader as the power behind him. That weapon, "The Strike", has advanced step by step. Parties political and governments have pandered to the unions. It has been a point gained here, a recognition there, till the powers that be, or are supposed to be, are afraid to act, though if they would but stop to think, labor, as it is known to-day, is but an infinitesimal part of what is actually labor. What of the millions of tillers of the soil who are unorganized? Who never wish to be, but who from necessity, if present conditions continue, are destined to be. Then let the world beware. I say, "never wish to be," and I maintain I am right. For of all of the callings upon the face of the earth that of the farmer tends to independence, not only independence of the other callings, but of each other. It is imbibed from the soil he tills. He is in everlasting competition with his neighbor, be that neighbor whoever he will. Therefore, I say he does not desire union. He looks askance at it; but he sees no other road. He does not desire power. I speak of him as a class and refer to governmental rule; but who shall say what germs may develop in his system, if he decides to take a leaf from the book of organized labor! Organized labor with its shorter hours, is continually lowering production, not only in the trades, but through the exorbitant wages received attracting in a steady stream the young manhood from the farm.

Let the powers that be heed the writing on the wall. Take the organizer in hand and write his mission done. Cancel all legislation recognizing organizations and their right to strike, and rewrite in the dictionary the meaning of the word. Recognize the right of the individual to use the brains God has given him and his hands as nature has ordained.

Brome County, Que. E. C. BARNETT.

He Grew Up With "The Farmer's Advocate."

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I might say I began taking "The Farmer's Advocate" when it was printed twice a month. I was just a boy then. We have taken it ever since and intend to keep on taking it, as it keeps getting better all the time.

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