

to be read Any person who will take the trouble to hunt up the story of the Equity Society or any of the defunct unions will very quickly unearth the actual weakness which finally brought about their downfall. Starting usually with a clean bill of health, organized by men of radical tendencies, no sooner do they reach proportions where they might be of use to the farm slaves than they are already undone. They make a false start, they engage to play the capitalist game according to the rules (and we have already seen that they are not capitalists), hence these rules, designed to protect the interests of their very worst enemy, can only be a hindrance to the farmers, are indeed used with deadly effect against them. Thus the aspirations of a director in the 1912 Convention calling on the farmers to make a "Combine, greater, more powerful, than any existing trust" although very fine sounding, ended merely in drawing the U. F. A. closer to the masters and away from their own interests.

The number of small capitalists and politicians who dominate the directorate have no interests in common with the poor working soil slave. There is a gulf between these would-be masters and those poverty stricken men who protested so vehemently against the raising of the dues from one dollar to two per year because they were so hard pressed, which no amount of polite patter or altruism can bridge over. The loyalty and votes of the mass are being exploited by these few, who hope to develop into Rockefellers or Morgans, by the simple method of clinging on the backs of those whom they feign to serve. That this hope is vain does not matter to the argument; that they were compelled to bow to the larger capitalist interest, indeed become its lackey, was their fate and we have seen that the famous Referendum Bill of 1913, which was to have been such a lever for the consummation of their dreams, was (as usual) carefully drawn to catch the electorate, and rendered absolutely innocuous by its framers, the servants,