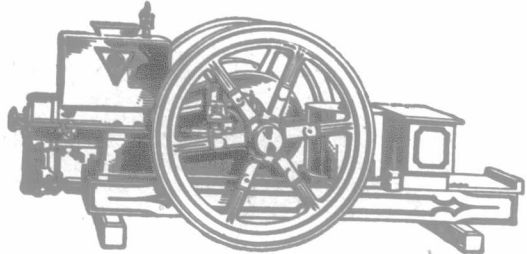


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Democracy Fighting For Her Life.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I sometimes wonder whether, after nearly four years of the greatest struggle in the world's history, a struggle in which blood has been poured out like water and the supreme sacrifice has been made by so many of our boys that justice and righteousness should triumph over brute force, we have shown very much of the spirit of sacrifice and generous giving, without which we may not expect a decisive victory over our foes. Some have gained financially, but have we gained in moral strength and nobility of character as have the men who have been fighting and dying for us on the shell-torn fields of France? If as a class we were better posted on the rise of democracy and knew more about the cost of the rights we now enjoy, we would perhaps be willing to do even more than we are doing for the world's freedom in this the hour of its greatest peril. When the writer was passing through the Tower of London some years ago, he placed his hands on the ancient block of wood from whence fell the heads of some of England's truest patriots. The men who say "Let England fight her own battles" do not realize or know what we owe to her as the mother of responsible government, or to the long line of patriots from Pym and Chatham to Gladstone and Lloyd-George. Of too many of us Whittier's words are true:

"Our hearts grow cold,
We lightly hold
A right which brave men died to gain;
The stake, the cord,
The axe, the sword,
Grim nurses at its birth of pain."

It is fitting, indeed, that the three strongest democracies of earth are welded together in a common bond, and bearing the brunt of this titanic struggle against autocracy. Think for a moment of what France has done and is doing. When we think of the wrong she has suffered and of how bravely and heroically her sons are fighting, we would say with Begbie, "Who would not succor France?" True,

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her great revolution was stained by excesses, but:

"Out of the whirlwind Truth that came
on France,
Rose the young Titaness, Democracy,
Superb of gesture, with the God-like glance,
Now still, now stirred with dreams of
things to be.

"She drew men to her as a lighted tower,
Strong mother of men, molded of iron
race,
Till all men's hearts were shaken by her
power,

The strange disturbing beauty of her face."
France, Britain and America have at one time or another had as their chief executives men who have risen from the ranks. The German system could never produce a Lincoln, Lloyd-George, or Gambetta. Our King himself is a democrat of the finest type, as witness some recent incidents in his life. His signing Lloyd-George's Bill curtailing the power of the House of Lords proved him to be a friend of the people. What German soldier would dare be as familiar to the War-Lord as was the wounded Canadian lying on the cot, who, stretching out his only hand to the King said: "I have often heard of you—put it there." And the King, like the good fellow that he was, "put it there."

The story of the rise of Democracy in our own land and that of our sister nations is a thrilling tale, and every man should be thankful that our Governments have "broadened down from precedent to precedent" till even women, long classed with idiots and Indians, have come to their own.

But with all we have gained, it must be clear to all right thinking citizens that there are still reforms needed, and battles to be fought and won not alone in Europe but in this our home-land, the land of our birth or the land of our adoption. Because of our system of holding elections and the lack of legislation whereby we could make known our will to the nominees of the two political leaders who are supposed to represent us, we have too often yet the form of representative government without the substance. Why, for instance, should we tolerate a Senate which is to-day, and