

North Dakota Farmers Fighting

WHEN asked recently to explain the object of the Society of Equity, of which he is secretary for North Dakota, and whether or not the organization was trying to effect a corner on wheat in order to raise prices abnormally high, J. M. Anderson made the following statement:

"No. People who believe that, have failed to understand the object and mission of the American Society of Equity. The word 'corner' suggests the idea of a trust. Our society is not a trust, but simply a mutual organization, existing for the purpose of educating the farmers in the business principles connected with farming. The world has at last recognized the fact that the farmer, besides being a herdsman and a tiller of the soil, is also a business man. A systematic marketing of agricultural products, is, in fact, the most important phase of a farmer's vocation. Now, where can the farmer receive the knowledge or information required in this phase of his work? Business colleges can teach him bookkeeping. Agricultural colleges teach the science of production; but nowhere, except through mutual organization, can a farmer obtain knowledge as to where his products are in greatest demand, which markets are glutted and which are not, etc. It is information of this kind that the American Society of Equity will in the future endeavor to give.

"The present system of marketing leaves the farmer at the mercy of commission men and speculators. To illustrate the force of this I will recite the experience of a farmer engaged in berry raising at Baraboo, Wis. He shipped one day a consignment of blackberries to a fruit commission firm in Chicago, and with the first mail received the report that the berries were spoiled while in transit, and were consequently sold for 40 cents per crate—the old story so to speak. The day on which the Chicago consignment had been made, the farmer shipped also berries, of the same kind, picked from the same patch, to Fingal, N. D., for which he received, above extra freight charges \$1.70 per crate. In Fingal there happened to be an honest middleman, and a market that hadn't been glutted by over shipments. The experience of this man has been duplicated by thousands of farmers in the fruit growing districts. These farmers are now endeavoring to organize through the American Society of Equity, to the end that they may have representatives in all sections of the country to keep them informed on the conditions of the markets, with reference to the visible supply and demand, and also to see that the farmers are given a square deal by commission men and other merchants.

"We, in North Dakota, have been told that the price on grain is determined by supply and demand. A careful study of the markets reveal the fallacy of that doctrine. Take for instance the market report as given by the Minneapolis Journal yesterday. Under the heading, 'Duluth Grain' we read: 'Flax shorts got some relief today, the price being hammered down five cents under the pressure of heavy receipts.' In other words, had the receipts been higher the price would not have been 'hammered down.' How long must our farmers be at the mercy of such price juggling as that?

"We have, in the past, given no thought to the cost of production. The Society of Equity will guard against the sale of the farmer's wares at a loss to the producer.

"It is estimated that the farmers of North Dakota each year give away screenings to the value of \$150,000. They pay annually one million dollars to the old line commission firms for the privilege of having their grain offered for sale. It is estimated, too, that the grain dealers make an average of from 10 to 15 cents per bushel in the process known as the 'mixing of grades.' All this is at the expense of the farmers. By means of terminal elevators and proper organization these iniquities can all be done away with, and the vocation of farming placed on a higher and better plain.

CO-OPERATIVE DISTRIBUTING WAREHOUSE FOR REGINA

The Farmers' Co-operative Association has applied to the board of trade for four lots in the warehouse district for the purpose of erecting a large distributing warehouse, with the intention of making Regina their headquarters for the province. The association is now operating from Davidson, where they have had their headquarters for some time past. The business has grown to such an extent that larger and more central quarters are needed. The Farmers' Co-operative Association conducts a general supply business, but makes farming and industrial lines for farmers' trade a special feature. The application was referred to the finance committee of the city council and will be treated in the regular way by that body.—The West, Regina.

THE GREAT FIGHT

Written for "The Guide"

The farmers of Canada won the land,
And the price was the sweat of their brow;
And generations have come and gone,
But what better off are they now?
Hammered and hampered on every side,
For the gluttonous trusts take all,
Do you wonder they are filled with a
righteous wrath,

When their cups are so filled with gall?
Dark was the outlook! Dark indeed,
And they wondered how long it would last;
But help was at hand, and faintly they
heard

The Grain Growers' trumpet blast.

Now it is not so faint as it used to be;
Now it rolls all over the land.
Farmers, oh farmers, heed it well,
Come and take up your stand.
Thank the God that you live in the times
Of the men who have started the fight,
Fighting a battle of fearful odds
Against graft and oppression and might.
Farmers, oh farmers, rally around,
For the warriors are fighting for you,
And if they lose, then your all is lost;
Come, you've a duty to do.

Join your forces and give them help,
The help they so justly deserve;
Proclaim the glad tidings to one and all,
And produce a mighty reserve;
For when the battle is won and o'er
And your legions have had their say,
It will surely mean for you and yours
A brighter and happier day—
Gaining the price of the sweat of your
brow

And with Equity's banner unfurled,
Then your Canada must and surely will be
An example to all the world.

—D. T. Griffiths, Reston, Man.

The truths for which Henry George battled are destined to capture the world. The single tax martyr is really more alive than ever. What matters it to him whether he is conscious or unconscious, so long as the principles which he counted dearer than life, grow more and more.—Herbert N. Casson.

Whoever heard of a landless aristocracy? There is not a nobility or a privileged class on earth today that does not owe the whole of its power, privilege and wealth to the ownership of the land from which all the people must live. They have always owned the land, and could not have existed in any other way.—Lee Francis Lybarger.

Those that make private property of the gift of God, pretend in vain to be innocent; for by thus withholding the subsistence of the poor they are the murderers of those who die daily for want of it.—Gregory the Great.

Why should home-seekers be forced to the outskirts when there are hundreds of good vacant acres in the city?

The home is the safeguard of republican institutions and the land value tax would make it possible for all to have homes. The land belongs to all the people. Keep this in mind, whatever be the political expedient of the moment.—C. D. Blackhall.

A tax on land values would pay a proportional rental into a common treasury for the common good, and would stand half way between nationalism and individualism, and is only a method leading to equal rights. The common people do not seem to realize the power within their own hands to remedy the existing and growing evils of the day. We have the means within our own hands to make conditions as they should be, and if we don't avail ourselves of them, the fault is with the man behind the ballot.—Hamlin Garland.

One hopeful fact is that the truth left us by Henry George has never lost its vigor.—Stanley E. Bowdle.

Land monopoly stands between labor and the earth, absorbing all but a bare living for labor. The single tax will stop land monopoly.—C. D. Blackhall.

Evils do not die until they become intolerable. They are not put down until they burden the world's conscience and destroy its peace.—Bigelow.

Wherever there are in any country uncultivated lands and unemployed poor, it is clear that the laws of property have been so far extended as to violate natural right.—Thomas Jefferson.

Whenever the ownership of the soil is so engrossed by a small part of the community, that the far larger number are compelled to pay whatever the few may see fit to exact for the privilege of occupying and cultivating the earth there is something very much like slavery.—Horace Greeley.

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