

THE AGRICULTURAL BLOC

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649040490

The Agricultural Bloc by Arthur Capper

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ARTHUR CAPPER

**THE AGRICULTURAL
BLOC**

THE FARMER'S BOOKSHELF

Edited by

KENYON L. BUTTERFIELD

THE AGRICULTURAL BLOC

BY
ARTHUR CAPPER

Library of
Congress



NEW YORK
HARCOURT, BRACE AND COMPANY

EDITOR'S PREFACE

Not since the so-called "Granger movement" of the late '70's has there been so definite and widespread an agrarian movement in the United States as at present. The American farmers during the period from about 1895 to 1915 enjoyed in the mass a considerable degree of prosperity, although during those years there was a gradually growing feeling of unrest, rooted in the belief that the farmer was increasingly the victim of economic injustice. When we entered the war, the farmers soon came to feel that they had no voice in arranging matters that affected them, and that the men in charge of the larger affairs had inadequate knowledge of the farmers' problems or sympathy with their point of view. The post-war deflation affected the farmers more seriously than probably any other class of our people, in fact, so seriously as to be all but disastrous.

Meantime the organizations of farmers had been increasing in power. The Grange had

v

grown steadily. The Farmers' Union in some parts of the country had become quite powerful. The coöperative movement had made greater progress in the last half dozen years than perhaps in any two decades of our previous history. The rise of the Non-partisan League indicated that the farmers were prepared to resist, and even to fight politically, in order to obtain what they regarded as reasonable justice. Out of this general situation grew almost over night what is at present the largest and most powerful of our farmers' organizations, the Farm Bureau Federation.

Recently the pressure from all of these organizations has been for legislation to relieve the situation, and the "Agricultural Bloc" was the result. This book describes the causes, methods, and results of this political aspect of the present agrarian movement. The author has been identified with the group from the start. He comes from one of the great agricultural states, is a successful editor of farm papers, and is in close touch and sympathy with the agricultural leaders as well as with the rank and file.

The "Agricultural Bloc" may or may not

be a passing phase. Comparatively few farmers care for or believe in a farmers' party; but the farmers are determined to seek their rights. Whether they become aggressive continuously, whether they seek to maintain permanent political groupings, depends largely upon how they are treated. As Senator Capper says, a farm group should not be necessary. The American people should have such an understanding of the farmer's position and problems and such sympathy with his point of view, as to make an agrarian movement unnecessary. One cannot avoid the reflection, however, that historically the rural people have been either neglected or exploited, or the further remark that, the world over, there is at present more rural unrest than in any recent period of history. It may also be observed that in Europe particularly, the peasants have more political power than they have ever had before.

Consequently this book, while it treats of a particular phase of the agrarian movement in the United States, is after all dealing with the symptoms of something fundamental and widespread.

KENYON L. BUTTERFIELD.

