

THE GREEN RISING

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The green rising by W. B. Bizzell

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THE GREEN RISING

*An Historical Survey of Agrarianism, With Special
Reference to the Organized Efforts of the
Farmers of the United States to Improve
Their Economic and Social Status*

BY

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"The well-being of a people is like a tree, agriculture is its root, manufacturing and commerce are its branches and its life; if the root is injured the leaves fall, the branches break away and the tree dies."

—A CHINESE PHILOSOPHER.

*"Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie,
Which we ascribe to heaven."*

—SHAKESPEARE.

"My own conviction has long been that the land question far transcends any restricted field of economics and that it is fundamental to national survival and national welfare. It is truly a problem calling for statesmanship of the broadest type."

—PROFESSOR FRANK A. FETTER.

"Under all is the land. Upon its wise utilization and widely allocated ownership depend the survival and growth of free institutions and of our civilization."

—PREAMBLE, CODE OF ETHICS, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF REAL ESTATE BOARDS.

PREFACE

In the spring of 1924, the writer visited Europe for the purpose of studying rural life conditions. It became apparent that profound changes were taking place throughout the rural sections of all European countries. The traditions and customs of centuries were being greatly affected. The equilibrium between population elements had been appreciably disturbed by the war. The farm labor problem presented new aspects. The peasant farmer was experiencing financial distress as a result of falling prices and financial depression. He had become thoroughly dissatisfied and discouraged, and was uniting his efforts with industrial labor to compel legislative bodies to provide relief from existing conditions.

It became increasingly apparent that the farm populations, from the Balkan States to the North Sea and westward to the Atlantic Ocean, were determined to improve their economic and social conditions. They were thinking much of economic inequalities. Adversity had aroused their consciousness of social solidarity and had caused them to realize their political strength. In most countries the farmers had become socialistic and had turned