his power for good is lost. He then becomes merely another bel-
ligerent.

The one outstanding problem before the world today, as men
and women assuming some measure of social sanity and looking to
the future, is to see that justice is assured before the situations be-
come so bad that we are called on to remedy injustice. Any sys-
tem of ex post facto remedies, of locking the stable after the horse is
stolen, is a pitiful exhibition of inefficiency and impotency. What
is the purpose of government in this latter time if it is not to set
the house in order, to anticipate conflicts of the classes, to establish
a form of oversight that will maintain continuous investigations
into the relations of opposed interests and to remove the injustices
and dangers? Shall we nurture the seeds of selfishness and not ex-
pect to reap the harvest? Must the contestants make war on so-
ciety that grievances may be heard? Is the old Anglo-Saxon
remedy by petition dead amongst us? Are there no prophylactics
in politics? Are we still children playing with public affairs?
After twenty centuries, have we not yet learned the lesson of the
foolish virgins?

I trust that the American Association for Agricultural Legisla-
tion will have a long and fruitful history.

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