

one, as all good laws have come from the Bible. I am like Mr. Bryan, when I am puzzled about what we should have, I always refer to the Bible. I will find it there; it shows us how to have a republic for the people, and by the people and not by the monied interests, who are the few that are living on the fat of the land at the expense of the many. To educate the people in good government is a great missionary work and will take lots of time and work to educate them so they will take an interest. One man or a few men can not do it, but if we all work, can accomplish something and secure by legislation what we should have. It is the duty of all good citizens to work for the good of our nation, and not trust to the politician alone. As a rule we are like the church people, they depend upon the minister of their church to do it all when it is the duty of every member of his church to work for the saving of souls, much so as the minister; therefore it is the lack of interest in good government by the people why they do not rule and get what they want. It is not hard to understand when we mix with the people, and know something of human nature, why they do not rule and get what they want, as I think what I say fully explains it.

John Aubrey Jones, Oakland, Calif.—“If the people really rule why don't the people get what they want?” queries Senator Owen. And The Commoner asks its readers to “try your hand” at answering “this question.” When the people elect men to official positions as their representatives, the people think they rule because of this fact. But they are deluded and deceived, because “the interests” rule the peoples' representatives (not in all cases, however), and through such representatives the people are ruled by “the interests.” This is ascribable to the fact that the people are more potent than principle to influence and control the official acts of the peoples' servants. Because, furthermore, too many of the peoples' electees owe their election primarily to “the interests,” and while the people whose votes elect do not at the time know this, yet those elected do know it, and when in office their official acts are shaped accordingly. Wherefore it is “the interests” and not the people that “get what they want,” because “the interests,” and not the people rule. Which is due to the fact that too many of the peoples' representatives have no principle in office, save self-interest and this is most subserved by their serving “the interests.” This is convincingly shown by the passage of the last tariff bill; the enactment of the asset currency law, the railroad rate regulation law and the abortive amendment of the latter by the present congress. If the people did really rule none of these laws would have been passed, for none of them the people want, but all of them “the interests” want. Wherefore it is not the people, but “the interests” that “really rule,” for “the interests” get what they want.

C. F. Brown, York, Neb.—A large majority of the twenty million voters of this nation do not do their own voting, neither do they do their own reading and own thinking, but use the mind and thoughts of a bunch of political whippersnappers that seek office and position, using methods often beneath the dignity of a decent dog. Anything to win, regardless of the wants of the masses, but to cater to the interests and the classes that have the money to use it to control a weak, trifling congress in which a majority always stands ready with their mouths wide open to swallow Aldrich and Cannon money or position or place. Anything under God's heavens to keep themselves before the people and be in the swim regardless of the wants of their constituents. This writer is now past seventy years of age and saw four years of the civil war and voted the republican ticket for twenty-five years straight (yellow dogs and all), worked New York politics for five years under a trained boss and have bought and paid for many democrat votes and have helped to elect the same class of men to congress and have known as high as \$15,000 to be paid to one man in the New York state legislature for his vote and by a good republican at that in order to get to the United States senate, and while in the senate was a power in himself, not for the people as a whole, but for the interests and that was back in 1867 and 1868. Today that same vote in that same state would be cheap at \$40,000. While I have lived in Nebraska thirty-seven years and done much dirty work for the old gang that once conducted the politics of Nebraska, there came a time when my conscience would no longer allow me to be a tool for a set of political shysters, and in

1886 I commenced to be a free American and to use the little ability I had to better conditions of the farmers and laborers as I saw it and from that time (1886) I have allowed no strings to be placed on my vote, for it is the principle and the man behind it that makes the people free Americans. Party should and must be a second consideration except for those men that must have office, can't live without it, and have nothing to offer in exchange. While I am an old G. A. R. man, I feel that I am an exception to the large majority and have lived to learn that political conditions have met many sharp changes in the past forty years and men's minds and votes must change with conditions, for this is a world of conditions and all at the bottom of evolution and if man is to evolve upwards he must occasionally change his mind in order to keep up with the band wagon. In closing this letter, let me say to any G. A. R. man that may chance to read it that the writer has been in eleven conventions in state and county in Nebraska and can truthfully say that at all times those conventions did not fairly and rightfully represent the best interests of the masses, but did both directly and indirectly represent a class of men and interests not for the common good, especially so for the farmers and stock growers, of which I am of that number. We as the common herd of voters think we help to make the nation's laws at Washington. Not much. Of course we help to elect a member of congress and think him honest and will fulfill all pledges if elected and he thinks he will until he gets to the nation's capital. But what then? What does that man come in contact with? I will tell you. He there comes face to face with the sharpest set of men (or rascals) that this nation has produced. They are diplomats of the first water. They are mind readers. They can tell to a fraction how much and how deep the new man knows about the hidden things in and under the nation's capital and before the new man knows where he is at those paid lobbyists have so woven the new member into their net that he will eventually work and vote directly

against the interests of his constituents and all the time with their promise to see that he gets something for his home people, which will be of little value if at all and this answers in part Senator Owen's question, “Do the people rule?” Comrades take the advice of one that knows the whole political story since Jackson's and Lincoln's time and take a long leap of forty years and light on top of the band wagon and get the side the majority are now making, or trying to make, to God and to glory and once more come to the battle line and help save this nation from the fate of Rome and Greece. Do you ask for a remedy for the cure. Here it is: Let us aim to elect men and statesmen to congress first, last and all the time, and give them to understand they must keep their ear close to western ground and not to Wall Street. Nebraska has of late been doing well and we have mostly good men in congress today. Let us send them more help this fall so as to keep the insurgent ball in the air and eventually bury Cannon and Aldrichism so deep that the sound of Gabriel's horn will not reach them in that day which all shall be brought forth. For we have enough of them.

C. B. Pogue, Joplin, Mo.—I heartily thank The Commoner for according the wealth producers the right to be heard through The Commoner. Did not one man nominate the candidate for president on the republican ticket for 1908? Did not one man write the democratic platform for 1910? Give us the initiative and referendum and right of recall, and we will elect all officers by direct vote. We will have public ownership of public utilities, the officers will be elected to manage public business instead of being appointed by one man. Let the people have what they want, the full products of their labor.

The American Homestead, a monthly farm journal of national scope, will be sent to all Commoner subscribers, without additional cost, who renew their subscriptions during the month of July. Take advantage of this offer at once, and send in your renewal.

## THE DRAMA OF LIFE

### PART I—AN ALLEGORY

Man has asked of Time unending,  
“Whither is existence tending?”  
Time replied, “My youngest child,  
Out of agitation wild,  
Out of restless stir of motion  
On the land and in the ocean,  
In the canopy of sky,  
And above the stars on high,  
Grew a pow'r of transformation—  
Crown'd with glory all creation  
From this power Life by name,  
Earth's transcendent beauty came.”  
“Time! For many who still strive  
By useful labor to survive,  
The gift of life means poverty,  
Toil, disappointments, misery.  
Oh, the millions who are weary,  
Of their struggle vain and dreary,  
Better far, if they could be  
Happy like the brutes, and free!  
Free to take of nature's cheer,  
Where no owners interfere,  
Playing, dreaming, free from sorrows,  
Free from dread of dire tomorrows.”  
“Children ye of Life and Time,  
Know ye not your pow'rs sublime?  
Mysteries in sea and land  
You by science understand.  
By your work and intellect,  
You can master and direct,  
Force and matter in their going,  
Mighty currents in their flowing.  
Life to lengthen, joys to gain,  
High ideals to attain,  
And cause beauteous forms to spring  
From the lifeless, shapeless thing.”  
“Father Time! Oh! Father Time,  
Well we know our pow'rs sublime,  
But with justice far away,  
Hardly hope remains today.  
Brutish passions in high places!  
Virtue? Oh! how few it graces!  
Wretched millions suffer, weep,  
In their degradation deep.  
Those in power, self but seeking,  
Rulers with corruption reeking,  
Selfish cunning still prevails,  
And the nobler manhood falls.”

### PART II—AN ARRAIGNMENT

Ye, who rule by trick and terror!  
Foster poverty, crime, error!  
Shelter hypocrite and knave,  
Dig for liberty a grave.  
Through ye! the cruelty of one  
The lives of millions has undone;  
The machinations of a few  
Through ye, can millions still undo.  
Through ye! does greedy cunning take  
What industry and genius make;  
And while your pow'rs of hell prevail,  
Must justice tremble, freedom fail.  
  
Can mankind rise to moral order  
With twenty millions trained for murder?  
While tainted wealth and rulers high  
Justice and decency defy?  
While pulpit platform, press, school, state,  
Pervert the truth to suit the great?  
While ye profess, oh, greatest shame,  
To do these things for Jesus' name?  
In such a world goodness will die,  
And evil doing multiply,  
And right must hide, while truth to live  
Must wrong and falsehood tribute give.  
  
Where rulers organize to kill,  
That greed and lust may take their fill,  
Though heroes die, to stem this tide,  
Peace and good will can not abide—  
Not till the strong refuse to gain  
By others weakness, loss or pain;  
Not till its powers mankind employs  
To lengthen life and increase joys,  
And wisdom leadeth industry,  
Can this our earth that Eden be,  
Where truth and justice never fails,  
Where noblest manhood e'er prevails.

—T. W. HEINMAN.

Pasadena, California.