We are advancing in governmental education swiftly or slowly as the individual views it. I say rapidly, considering the advancement in the last fifty years. In Florida we nominate United States senators in the primary election. In substance as good as a direct election. Last month we defeated one of the present incumbents who voted for "Cannonism and high tariff," and nominated an ex-steamboat captain of the "Three Friends" fame. Not a lawyer, but a man of courage and back-bone, who saw to it that millions of acres in the everglades would not go to corporations without an equivalent. All democrats voting with standpatters should be so blacklisted, and will too if the people so desire it, nothing to hinder. We yet hold the reins, but some are not conscious of the fact. Let education come; after its arrival, but not before, will good government be permanent.

O. F. L. Amoreaux, Omaha, Neb.—The love of money is the root of every evil. The money power in this and every country is so organized that its power is absolute and invisible, and it has no conscience, nor care for the life and happiness of men. Care for the good of men is not "business" and business is the principal thing. How can the people get what they want when they know nothing of the power and nature of money? They have been taught by their Bible—the newspaper—that only bankers and money manipulators know anything about finance. God says, "My people have gone into captivity because they have no knowledge." The condition of the people is like what would be that of a community of horse traders who trusted to jockeys for their knowledge of their trade. The American congress and legislative bodies as a rule are made up of bankers and those interested in banks and their attorneys. The great knowledge of bankers generally consists in knowing how to pile up colossal fortunes out of other people's earnings by means of an instrument whose chief design was to effect exchanges, and which gets all its power from the fact of community. Never, while the money changer has his feet in the stirrups will the people get what they want. He who nineteen hundred years ago overturned the tables of money changers and poured out their money in the streets, calling their place of business a den of thieves said he would come again in the end of the world, original age, which is now at hand, when he will do what that type signified, which is the only hope of the people ever getting what they want or even what they greatly need.

George H. Phelps, Findlay, Ohio—They soon will. The people don't rule, and don't get what they want for this reason. After the near-socialists passed anti-trust laws in congress, and about twenty states, the system went into politics to prevent the enforcement of these laws. Ever since, they have succeeded in obstructing the enforcement of these laws through their control of the executive, administrative and judicial functions of government. The system and judiciary are now up the same stump in the supreme court of the United States in the Standard Oil and tobacco trust cases, where they will hang till after the November election. The storm center of reaction and insurgency will be fought out in Ohio in November. Garfield will stampede the Ohio republican state convention, and be nominated for governor on a near-socialist platform, and the standpat anarchists will line up behind Harmon, who is the first choice of the system for president in 1912. Garfield will defeat Harmon and that will be the end of system rule. It will then be only a question as to the nature of the remedy to restore the rule of the people. The progressive medical, or socialist surgical.

Arthur W. Clemo, Detroit, Mich.—In reading last week's Commoner, I have noted each article very carefully, and there is truth in every one of them, but I have especially noted the question of Senator Owen, to which I would reply that: The people do not rule at all, or else they would have what they wanted; we do not elect the proper men to office, and those that should have office have not the nerve to run for office, they are afraid of the corporations, and the corporations are hindering the people from getting what they want. Then another trouble is, the party leaders get off together in some club room and discuss party issues, without the majority of voters knowing their ideas, nor what they wish to do. It is the same with the democratic party as with the other parties; I know it is so here in Detroit; I do not know, for the life of me, who the democratic leaders here are, and every one I have asked does not seem to know, so there it is; there is only a certain clique that have all matters in hand, and the rest of us who want to have a hand in the game, have to keep mum and let things go as they will, and that is the main reason why the democratic party does not succeed as it ought to, because it has the true principles, and if once brought into action, they will hold good for all time. So for that reason we should work more in harmony together, and agreed on one thing and elect good solid democrats to congress who are not afraid to stir up things there and get things done in the right way. So hoping the democratic party will make a good showing this fall, and elect a majority of representatives.

J. H. Mankins, Orosi, Cal.—Your question should have read: What part, and what class of the people rule? The minority, the monied interests. Certainly they do rule. Do they get what they want? They get about everything, and the majority get left. It might be added, why is this so. First, because the people do not think enough for themselves. Second, because we turn down those who try to, and are able to help us. Third, because too many have gotten into the habit of voting the republican ticket. Wake up brothers! The republican party of today is not the republican party of Lincoln and of Grant. The time has come for a reckoning. Good men, stand together. Quit your quarreling about small matters. Put your shoulders to the wheel, and we can turn the tables on them.

J. G. Finley, Farmington, Ky.—In the first place there are many men elected to office who do not represent the people by whom they were elected, and the question is how shall they be made to represent their constituents. Now I believe that there should be a law enacted making it a penitentiary offense of not less than one year, nor more than twenty-one, for an officer to discard the platform or declaration of principles upon which he was elected to office. Now this is a borrowed thought and I can not afford to give it as my own. But I do believe a law to that effect would be of great value to the American people for it certainly would make our representatives more responsive to the wishes of their constituents. And, too, I believe our United States senators should be elected directly by the people and also I believe that our supreme judges should be elected the same way for it does seem to me that the final destiny of our laws is too far from the people.

Thomas Tally, Burlington, Kan.—The people of the United States do not rule under the present administration because we have voted it so. The republican party has used flattery and incentive to force us into a political slavery, and we are under political task masters that whip us into obedience with the injunction and bayonet, as the white man whipped his African slave into obedience with the cat-'o-nine tails before the civil war. That is the reason we do not get what we want.

Thomas J. Parsons, Lents, Oregon—I will answer the question in this way: The people do not rule. The supreme court and the United States senate are the ruling power and they are not elected by the people. They rule by the system for the benefit of the big monied interests and not the people. A government of the people, by the people, for the people has become a failure and there is no relief in either of the old parties. The leading democrats stand for the money system the same as the republicans. The only relief for the people is to vote the socialist ticket. But The Commoner won't print this because I speak a word in favor of the socialist party, and The Commoner stands for the money interest. It's a pity the people don't wake up before their hands are tied. Any party is better than the republican or democratic; they have out-lived their usefulness.

W. Floyd Cochran, Stettler, Alta.—It is an almost universally accepted statement, the people don't rule. Which is why they "don't get what they want." A lack of democracy in our government. It is almost an impossibility to get a measure through congress favorable to the masses. The "big business" of the country have representatives to take care of their interests. The peoples' servants (?) represent some one else. They are traitors. The senate is often referred to as the millionaire club. Now don't blame the "interests" for this; every one, more or less, works for or protects his own interests first (self preservation). The fault lies in private ownership of public utilities. Also our monetary and judicial systems are wrong. Notice the difficulty getting convictions of grafters and bribers. Also the repeated failures of the noted trust busters. We want government by enacted law and not by judicial acrobats that can and will twist a decision over or around justice to bring it down directly in front of a technicality. Judges elected by the people. Money that doesn't rest on a precious metal which expands and contracts with each discovery and panic. Take power to issue money from banks; increase the amount in circulation. Now why mention industries, money, etc., because men vote according to their economic eyesight. The dollar is too important, make it so the earning of a dollar isn't a nerve-racking chase of a lifetime and men will pay more attention to their political liberties. Direct legislation, meaning the mandate of initiative and referendum and the recall, sexless suffrage and other things not at present thought of will help to solve the problem of government of the people, by the people and for the people. The poor, poor people, betrayed by their political servants, robbed by their economic servants, they are as far from an ideal government as daylight is from dark. But there will be a day of reckoning as sure as there has been a time of sin. Soon let us hope, "the people will rule," then let us pray "they will get what they want." Hoping this solves, at least partially, the problem, I remain yours for good government.

Samuel H. Smith, Joplin, Mo.—The question involves a contradiction. "If the people really rule," they do "get what they want." If they do not get what they want then, by the simplest principles of logic, they do not rule—others rule. Assuming it to be true that the people do not get what they want, and answering the "Why?" it may be said in a broad and general way that the people do not get what they want because: First, there is not unity and clearness and fixity of purpose and effort among and by the people. Second, they do not "go after it" in earnest. Prejudice, ignorance, fickleness, deception, coercion (fear of losing employment; fear that creditors may call for payment of debt, that banker may call in loan; fear, yea threat, of the "business interests")—all these destroy unity among the people; and this lack of unity of purpose and of effort "spells" defeat for the people—divided they fall, and "the interests" smile and wax fat. If and when the people, speaking through majorities having clearly defined and firmly purposed objects, "go after" those objects in earnest, they will get what they want; they will then rule! Education, development of wide, prudent thought and action by the citizen, close watch upon and rigid accounting from those put into office and prompt political annihilation to the unfaithful, will be found most helpful means to that end and the more lightly and loosely party ties are held the more quickly will that end come.

F. M. Somers, Beulah, Colo.—The people do not rule, partly by reason of their own indifference to the function; partly because their representatives are indifferent, or actively opposed, to their wishes. The indifference of the people and their passive submission to the treachery of their representatives gives the government to those who form it for gain—the corporations. Because franchises and other public crops yield abundantly only when cultivated through the exertions of the hired men we call representatives, the corporations, with a serpent's wisdom "tip" the hired men more than the people pay them in wages and the result is that the people do not rule and corporations haul off the crops. For long years this abdication of rule by the people, through indifference, and usurpation of rule by the corporations through "tips" and for the crops, has been going on until a habit has been formed—and "habit is twice nature." What we now need is a moral awakening—and it is coming—that will arouse the people from their sleep of indifference and cause the hired men to sign a pledge to be honest and refuse "tips."

Milton Mays, San Angelo, Texas—My answer to Senator Owen's question is: Simply because they can not agree as to what they want.

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