

Ex-Governor Folk truly says is the greatest danger to our republic. Once this is accomplished, we must learn that the bed rock of the great privileged interests—which already threaten to destroy us—lies in the monopolization of mother earth and her bounties. And when we have learned that the true and complete art of conservation of our natural resources lies in the suggestion of Henry George, the greatest of all democratic philosophers, to take the public fund ground rent for public use, and sacredly preserve the rights of private property by leaving all wealth untaxed in the possession and for the enjoyment of the producer, then the people will know what they want and how to get it.

Dr. J. A. Thomas, Pleasant Point, Tenn.—Senator Owen made a great speech, no sane man will deny, and by the publication of it, and others, it becomes apparent, that the limit of the human mind, while fettered with the mortal, is not capable, in any one man, at one and the same time to grasp the entirety of a majesty. That the people have, and have been having, for the space of forty-eight years, what they wanted, history confirms. In 1860 they wanted emancipation of the slaves, they voted for it and got it; in 1864 the people wanted special protection for all infant industries (but the baby). They also wanted Great Britain's controlling yoke in our monetary system; they voted for it, and got it. Yet in 1868 they wanted the money system of the United States embarrassed; they voted for it and got it in 1872, and on down to 1896, they incessantly clamored for the absolute committal of the entire money output into the banking gamblers' control, and the effective protective tariff of the same, asking that it may become the insatiate and undeniable burden upon the producer, laborer and wage earner, and with the quartet of chargers as candidates, Dingley, Hanna, Hobart and McKinley the people sallied forth, voted for, and got it to keep and got it bad. And for a finish in 1908 the people concluded that they wanted God out of their governmental affairs, that the light of justice, religiousness and common equity might no longer expose their iniquity, that any sharp deal that robs the victim can be called skilled financing and no shame. They voted for it and got it. And truly we are paying the debt. God is not mocked, whatsoever a man or a nation sows; that shall they also reap. Read Deuteronomy 28, then begin with King Saul's reign and come on down by the way of history, take every nation, every government that pursued this same course, reaped just the same, we are today, inevitable downfall. The only remedy, unfeigned repentance and change your vote.

C. A. Bouton, Boulder, Colo.—The majority of the people do get what they want, but the reason we don't get what is right is because a large part of the people are blind to what is right and part of the people don't want right when they see what is right. Money rules today with the consent of the people. We had an example of what the people wanted in the city of San Francisco when a man was fighting for the freedom of the city and money was furnished free of cost to fight the battle and a good start had been made, but a majority of the voters said stop and elected a man to undo what had been done for right. Is not this good proof of what we don't get right today? As long as a majority of the voters consent to wrong we will get wrong.

John B. Waddill, Springfield, Mo.—Why do not the people get what they want? Because, in the language of Carlyle, they are "mostly fools," or what amounts to the same thing; they are blinded by their prejudices; they do not consult their interests when they come to vote. Take the voter unawares, one at a time, and present to him the principles and the policies of the democratic party without any reference to party, and nine out of ten will agree these principles and policies are correct. Mention party and he is ready to fight; this includes republican and particularly the "fool farmers" as Colonel Medill, late editor of the Chicago Tribune, used to call them.

E. S. Schooley, East Orange, N. J.—The people do not rule, they allow themselves to be ruled. The bane of the age is lack of individuality, or the merging of one individuality into that of another. This is a condition of social life, of business life, and to a greater extent, of politi-

cal life. As man loses his individuality, he ceases to reflect God, spirit, and to such extent loses his identity. The people collectively can not manifest truth until the individual manifests it. Until the individual awakens to the fact that he must think for himself, and let the result of his thinking be manifested, else he will barter away his birthright, the people can not be said to rule, although they may deceive themselves in that regard. I believe, with Matthew Arnold, that "the few who keep insisting on the good of righteousness and the unprofitableness of iniquity, are the only real politicians," and individuality, not personality, is righteousness.

Martin Marshall, Central Point, Ore.—It is astonishing when you take a comprehensive view of legislation for the last forty years, how the people have been deceived. They were terribly deceived when the national bank law was established; when the legal tender (green backs) were destroyed and interest bearing bonds issued in their place. During these forty years there has been a perfect saturnalia of deception and crime against the people; all culminating in the results we see today. The people have thought they ruled all these years, but they have not. Herein lies our trouble and disappointment. The fact is representative government is a flat failure. We are forced to believe this. How else can the situation, as we see it today, be explained? Our republic is in great danger now—this minute. We must put in operation the principle of the direct rule of the people as soon as possible—the sooner the better. The people, at heart, are sound and honest, and they can be depended on in the main to do the right thing for all concerned. There is one principle pressing for trial—a principle millions of people have been longing for throughout the centuries. It is embodied in the word justice. Let us apply it to all people. In other words give the people a "square deal" and let that deal be true as steel and not the counterfeit.

J. Coleman Alderson, Charleston, W. Va.—The people do not rule. Any one with ordinary intelligence knows why they do not rule. If they ruled they would certainly get what they want. Mammon, the god of riches, rules. The millions and billions of the 400 robber trusts rule with the aid of their subservient corrupt machine and political bosses. The power of money as used by trusts and monopolies is destroying this great country. Listen! Last week the Messenger, a prominent republican paper, published at Beckley, W. Va., said in its leading editorial: "Both of our United States senators are open and defiant representatives of the trusts, their seats

in the senate being openly purchased and no substantial denial made of the charges that the money to purchase these seats comes principally from trust sources. In the present contest Senator Scott admits having spent more than a quarter of a million, if the newspapers are to be credited, and some of them place the amount at double that figure, in an effort to secure a nomination." This was done in a primary election, a few weeks ago, of members to our next legislature. It may cost him and the trusts double that amount to control the legislature. This republican editor, who has just seen the light, goes on to say: "His (Scott's) senatorial career has been one of servile subservience to the trust interests, and should he be returned, the money they have invested in his seat will be repaid tenfold, every solitary cent of that payment being wrung from the pockets of wage-earners—the ultimate payers for all this profligacy and political debauchery." Why, then, should not every honest republican rebel, insurgent? A few years ago, in a heated contest of a Standard Oil millionaire, for a seat in the United States senate from this state, a prominent democratic member of the legislature, said in a speech before the joint assembly of both houses, that "the time will soon come when it will be written in golden letters over the doors of the United States senate chamber that none but millionaires can enter here." It seems that that time has come, especially in the north and northwest. The people can and will rule, if they will go to work earnestly and agitate, educate, get together and organize in each state and then adopt and enforce the splendid Oregon laws, which were first advocated by Mr. Bryan. They were conceived in wisdom and born in justice to the people." Adopt the Australian ballot, the registration law, the direct primary, the initiative and referendum, the recall and the corrupt practice act to prevent the abuse of all of these features of popular government. Both the giver and receiver of money or other valuable considerations for votes should be made equally guilty of felony. I will add also, the publication of all campaign contributions before and not after the election. The adoption of these laws will unquestionably insure absolute government "for the people, by the people and of the people."

W. G. Thomson, Vale, Ore.—It has been said that every man has his price. This statement might be made more nearly true by amending it so as to read, every professional politician has his price. Too many of these have become representatives of the people, and predatory wealth is paying too many of them their "price." That is why the people do not get what they want.

## The Commoner's Million Army

In the campaign of 1908 The Commoner's Million Army rendered distinguished service to the cause of democracy and it may well be believed that a similar organization will even be able to do better work in the year of 1910 now that men who were heretofore indifferent are aroused to the importance of action.

If half of the readers of The Commoner would take active interest in the organization of this Million Army plan, the results would be immediately noticeable and the contribution to the

welfare of popular government would be enormous.

Many individuals are willing to help in a patriotic movement but find it difficult to know just what to do to make their efforts count. In a struggle such as the one we are now engaging in, the efforts of every man, woman and child on the side of popular government will count and in The Commoner's Million Army a practical plan is presented whereby the efforts of many individuals may be aggregated and used with telling effect.

<p><b>Recommendation for Membership</b></p> <p>The signer of this enlistment blank is personally known to me, and is in every way worthy of membership in The Commoner's Million Army.</p> <p>Signed.....</p> <p>Address.....</p>	<p>APPLICATION BLANK</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">The Commoner's Million Army</h2> <p>I hereby enlist in The Commoner's Million Army, and pledge my assistance to secure the nomination of only worthy and incorruptible men as democratic candidates; that I will attend democratic primaries and nominating conventions, and assist in promoting the great democratic campaign of education by devoting a reasonable share of my time to the distribution of literature. I will recommend worthy persons for membership in The Commoner's Million Army, and in any way I can assist to increase the usefulness of this organization.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Signed</b>.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Address</b>.....</p> <p>With the understanding that Mr. Bryan agrees to accept annual subscriptions to The Commoner from members of this Army at a net rate of 65 cents each, and that each subscription to The Commoner shall include a subscription to The American Homestead (a strong home and farm paper)—thus leaving The Commoner free to devote its undivided efforts to political matters and current events—I enclose herewith 65 cents for one annual subscription to The Commoner (including The American Homestead).</p> <p>If you are already a subscriber to The Commoner and do not care to extend your expiration date at this time, the last paragraph above may be disregarded.</p>
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