

could, prohibition or local option included. May we have more Bryans come to the front.

C. E. McFall, Lakeside, Neb.—My answer to the question would be because the people do not think independently and for themselves. They allow others to do their thinking for them and thus the party who does the thinking governs the voters' actions in casting his vote. I would suggest that the voters take such papers as The Commoner and keep posted on the issues that are before the people and think and act for themselves. And thus when the voter goes to the polls to express his convictions of right or wrong we will have a ballot which will not be trammelled by the dictations of any man.

E. Eubanks, Cambridge, Neb.—As the question of Senator Owen is, do the people rule? I would say no, and would say they don't get what a large majority of them want, but I must say that they surely get what a large majority of them deserve. The great trouble is that so many people that don't seem to have an opinion of their own or don't seem to know what is their real interest, but are always ready to vote the other man's opinion. Well, I think I know my interest better than any other knows it, so will risk my own opinion. Old R. G. Ingersoll once said that every man was following the fife and drum of some party, but he said never follow the fife and drum of any party that isn't going your way, and that is the reason that the people are not getting what they want. There are too many people that haven't a mind of their own or are too easily led astray.

R. B. Allen, Denver, Colo.—First, because they rule in theory only, not in fact. They do not rule in fact because, for years past two powerful and corrupting agencies in this country, to-wit: The professional grafting politicians, directing their shrewdness and energies, first to the plundering of the municipalities of the country big and little; and, second, this same factor, together with the great trusts and corporations, that with one purpose in view, that of gaining great pecuniary advantages in the enactment of laws guaranteeing high tariffs to the trusts, and enormously valuable franchises, rebates and other privileges in the interests of the corporations, have been allowed to manage and control the political primaries and conventions, nominate and elect candidates for all offices, and are thus enabled to enact laws favorable to their interests, and regardless, to a large extent, of the interests of the people. This is the political Pandora box, the iniquitous combination, out of which so much inimical to the people, as distinguished from the privileged classes has sprung. The utter disregard of the wishes of the people by those elected to office to do their bidding, makes it absolutely necessary that we enact into law the initiative, referendum, recall, direct primaries, headless ballot and election of United States senators by direct vote of the people. If these reforms were put in operation it would put a leverage in the hands of the people that would enable them to control the legislation of the country, and "get what they want."

J. J. C., Ashland, O.—The people do not rule. The money power of this country have ruled for many years. They hire as many members of each branch of congress as they need to give them control, and the presidents, with very few exceptions, are very willing to do their bidding. Taft, Aldrich and Cannon are in complete control. A short time prior to a

presidential election the money power will give notice that shops are to be closed if their candidate is not elected. When a man or company makes a threat to close shop if the trust candidate is not elected he should be considered guilty of treason and dealt with accordingly. Almost all of our newspapers are managed in the interest of the money power or trusts. A few men calling themselves democrats own large interests in trusts, go to the election and vote the republican ticket. How many trust democrats voted for W. J. Bryan? Such democrats should not be allowed to say a word as to what should make up a democratic platform. When a candidate is elected to congress, and fails to do his duty by selling out to the trusts, he should be held guilty of treason and dealt with accordingly. I hope the party in power will enact a law that a man or company making a threat to close shop if trust candidates be not elected, shall be put to death.

W. J. Wimer, Waldo, Oregon.—The people do not rule; if they did it would not be so hard to get good laws passed by congress and the state legislatures; nor would the prices of living be at the war scale. The reason they don't rule is first, the graft which has spread all over our country like the itch or codling moth; second, the combinations of capital by unscrupulous men. The graft started during the civil war. When the writer was a small boy in Iowa he sat on the floor by the fireplace and heard Charles O. Lockard of the clothing firm of Lockard, Ireland & Co., of Cincinnati, tell his father how their business had gone. Mr. Lockard was a very honest, conscientious man and was known in the then west as such; and at first he resisted the terms laid down to him by the army contractors; but finally had to yield or go out of business. He said: "An army contractor will enter our store and ask us for prices on so many thousand blouses, pairs of pants, caps, shoes, etc. We give him our regular wholesale prices; he looks it over and says: 'Now you double these prices and I will divide the double with you.'" He added, "this is very dishonest, Jacob, but every deal we rejected was bought of our next door neighbor on these terms." The graft has been spreading ever since. The combination of capital, called trusts, was fathered by able but corrupt lawyers, some of whom at first traveled about the country charging big fees to teach business men the art of organizing a trust and how to make a success of it; the result being that hundreds of honest men who would not enter into such a villanous scheme were ultimately crushed beneath the cloven foot of greed and gain. The American people are very strong on imitation; hence the idea of combinations have spread from high finance down to every country town to a greater or less degree; the retail merchants have taken it up quietly, of course, but surely; they get together and agree to charge certain prices which are very much above competitive figures, they fix the prices at which they will sell and the prices at which they will buy of the producer; and right here we have one of the main reasons for the high cost of living. Thus the trusts and combinations, including the railroads with their unlimited wealth, aided by the unscrupulous element of the ablest legal talent in the United States have the busy and helpless masses at their mercy; and they have been known to down our presidents whenever they have made a determined effort to bring them inside of the lines of a government by and for the people. This they have accomplished by withdrawing their money from circulation on the threat

of it and thereby paralyzing every avenue of business. How can "the people" do the vast work of this great nation and at the same time cope with such vicious humanity entrenched as they are behind all the wiles of the devil and the whole unworthy mess hell bent on the maddest rush for greed and gain that the world ever saw. Such men as Bryan, Roosevelt, Folk and LaFollette have pointed the way and now let all honest men get in line for the final struggle which shall force the recognition of the Jefferson and Lincoln principles of government.

WHAT THE CAMERA SAW

Dr. Francis Clark tells an interesting story of a youth living in Maine who was out in the woods that day during his vacation with a camera, taking photographs of attractive bits of scenery. He came upon the mouth of a little cavern between the rocks, and he said to himself: "I will see what sort of a picture I can get out of that cave," and as it was a dark day he decided to take a "time exposure" instead of a "snap shot."

Steadying the camera upon his knee as well as he could at the edge of the cave, he gave the sensitive plate a long, deliberate look at the semi-darkness within. Then he continued his tramp through the woods, and after a few hours returned to his camp.

Several weeks afterward, when developing his plate, you can imagine his astonishment to see in the picture, in the very center of the cavern, with arched back and bristling fur, and within springing distance of the spot where he had balanced his camera, a huge Canada lynx, that might easily have torn his eyes out or destroyed his life. And yet he came and went and saw no signs of danger.—Christian Herald.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Tattered Timothy—"I've been trampin' four years, ma'am, an' it's all 'cause I heard that the doctors recommended walkin' as the best exercise."

Mrs. Prim—"Well, the doctors are right. Walk along."—Tit-Bits.

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