

thinking; so many people let other people think for them instead of reaching and being informed enough to do their own thinking. Fourth, and last (but not least), they vote for party and not principle. We see this at every election and we know it is true or else the democratic party would have been in power. A vast portion are ignorant and careless, and those who are intelligent and do know have not the honor to put principle above party and vote for what they know is best, or else W. J. Bryan would have been in the White House today; hence the people do rule, and get exactly what they vote for, but not what they need, and certainly not what they need. I am a subscriber and lover of W. J. Bryan.

James Nutter, Pittsfield, N. H.—The trouble is the people don't rule; it is the money power that rules—the Rockefellers, the Morgans, the Aldriches and Cannons. If the people rule would they tolerate the Payne-Aldrich law that Taft calls the best ever? If the people ruled would they tax themselves a billion dollars a year to support a government that ought to be run in good shape for one quarter that amount? The tariff comes out of the consumer—the poor mostly; why not tax the millionaires a little? The fact is these millionaires do too much buying of laws and the voters. I was offered \$65 for my vote at one time. Whether that was the regular price or whether they wanted me I don't know, but I let them know I was not for sale. The fact is that all the money the republican party ever had or ever will have—Rockefeller's, Morgan's and all—could not buy me nor tempt me. The money power is getting what they want, not the people. Now I am going to tell what is in my heart. I believe Mr. Bryan is a man of the people and a very able man.

To the Editor of The Commoner: Senator Owen has asked the question "If the people rule, why don't they get what they want?" To compile specific evidence in answering such a question would be difficult; in a brief article, impossible. But here are some general statements with a few facts and reasons as evidence:

The people do not rule (with apologies to Mr. Sherman, et al). In speaking of the word rule we shall consider national and state governmental action (I omit municipal and other local government because here, with the exception of the larger and the middle size cities that are influenced by the public utility syndicate, a different set of special interests dominate public action). Waiving the fact that women, children, and disenfranchised men have indirect influence in determining the action of the voters, let us call the people that twenty million men and women of the United States who are legally qualified to vote. The people thus restricted are composed of capitalists, editors, farmers, day laborers, clerks, salesmen, doctors, lawyers, merchants, public officials, and many other groups, all of various grades of education, various activities and various stations in life.

Another view: The twenty million voters may be divided into classes. One we shall call wage-earners—factory and mill employes, farm hands, track men, street laborers, clerks, salesmen, janitors, teamsters, etc. Another class, the five million farmers, stock men and gardeners. And another, the two million skilled workmen—steam and stationary engineers, carpenters, master mechanics, plumbers, masons, etc. There are also about one and a half million business men engaged in small industrial and commercial enterprises—merchants, druggists, hotel keepers, shop keepers and own-

ers of small plants, factories and mills. And again there are one million professional men—lawyers, doctors, ministers, electricians, public officeholders, teachers, etc. Then there is a small group of so-called "capitalists" made up of millionaires, near-millionaires and "lesser lights." An accurate number of this group is not obtainable but it has often been estimated at a quarter of a million. We shall use that number for convenience and not accuracy. One element still remains, it is sometimes called the floating vote. It is made up largely of adult male citizens from the slum districts, the red light districts, the gambling dens, and the saloons. This group has been estimated from a quarter of a million to a million in number. We shall call it a half a million.

It should not be understood from the above analysis of the electorate that these classes are clearly divided. There are thousands of farmers who own shares in stock companies. There are probably as many merchants who are interested in rural real estate and there are many professional men who have investments in various enterprises. But, on the whole, the above classification is fair.

The capitalists are engaged in big business enterprises which are classed as industrials, franchise, and transportation undertakings, consequently, are affected by public action. For this reason these special interests are in politics, always have been and probably always will be.

The capitalists are divided into two groups, one is headed by the Rockefeller group, another by the Morgan-Guggenheim interests. These two groups, allied through holding companies and community of interests control the big business enterprises of the nation, namely, the transportation interests, the public utilities, the mining and lumbering enterprises, the iron and steel industries, malting and distilling industry, packing and milling interests, and others, together with the insurance and banking business. Combined they have a capitalized power of about thirty-five billion dollars. But this is not all. Controlling the banking interests, as they do, they control the action of Wall Street which is the financial brain of the economic activities of all the people in the United States. Through this center they can give the business world an electric shock of terror that passes from the largest city to the most distant prairie or forest hamlet, from the brown stone front to the most humble hut. But the special interests to control politically must have voters.

They have two sources of securing votes. One through the political bosses, another through their business dealings. Consider the bosses; they should be classified into two groups. Those who have been made by the Big Business for the Big Business, and those who own initiative enabled them to build up a machine and with the power of their machine to sell their influence to Big Business when the occasion demands. But for our purposes, we shall simply call them all bosses who hold the balance of power between the people and the special interests.

The bosses must get the votes. To do this they have an efficient machine organization held together with rivets of public office and spoils. In this machine are found many so-called respectable citizens—business men, intelligent public officials, retired farmers, and others. But the machine is not all good; it has some sharks and the sharks usually control. They collect the big fees from the special interests, they say to Big Business: "We want so many thousand dollars, what do you want?" They organize the saloon vote, the slum victims, the toughs, the red

light vote, and other floaters. They study the three million illiterate voters. They hunt for the foreign born vote which numbers six million, over half of which comes from southern Europe where despotism has killed the appreciation of civic duty in representative government, where oppression has bred a hatred for the government, where illiteracy is prevalent. They secure the services of "padones" and the "leaders" who in turn corral this foreign vote for the bosses. Men are brought to the polls in droves and are voted like cattle. The slush fund, blackmail and misrepresentation secure this vote. The term "republican or democrat" means nothing to them. They vote as they are told.

Five million of the wage-earners receive an annual income of less than five hundred dollars. Many of these have families and the ghost of the bread line is ever near. Many of them belong to the illiterate class above mentioned, a large percentage come from the southern European vote and because of their illiteracy, of their low civic ideals, and of the ever-present economic pressure they make a fertile field for the bosses.


Just how large a vote all of these elements make is not known, not even the bosses know, but if it were possible to combine them into one solid vote they still would be in the minority. So much for the bosses, now for the special interests and the rest of the field.

Of the one and a half million men engaged in small industrial and commercial enterprises thousands of them are working fifteen hours a day to keep their business out of bankruptcy. Many have financial obligations with the special interest group, some of them are naturally petty aristocrats with standpat ideas. So the threats of a panic and the pull of economic and social strings gather in a goodly harvest from this group.

The remaining twelve million voters, namely, the farmers, the independent business men, the professional men, the skilled workmen, and the better paid wage earners, are still to be secured. Their first handicap is that they are divided into two camps; one called republican, the other democrat. Inheritance and dead issues keep them thus separated. With this situation the special interests stack the cards.

How is it accomplished? The capitalists work in solid phalanx. They are organized for business and a part of their business is to control the government for their own special benefit. To do this they secure the strongest minds of the country and through these minds they rule. Captains of industry are skilled in the management of men and they, with hired professional talent, constantly note what the people are thinking. They study the psychology of the public mind—the prejudice, the pride and the selfishness of certain types of people. The social, religious, and political whims of particular groups and then with the skill of a Napoleon they create through their various avenues of influence, a situation that bewilders and befogs the public mind. They succeed in making what should be friendly groups, warring groups. False and insignificant issues are magnified to mislead. To mold public opinion they work through the "ninety per cent bad" press, through lodges, labor unions, churches and hundreds of other avenues. Just now they are waving the party "regularity" club. They play the game fast, but not fair. When real leaders arise to fight for public interests these master minds first use money and influence to control the people's leaders. If that fails, then their whole machinery of destruction is set in motion. "Unsafe," "demagogue," "disturber," "chautauqua orator," are the epithets applied. Motives are falsely "played up." Lies and

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A RUN-AWAY BOY—WILLIAM JENNINGS Thompson, of Bluffs, Illinois. Age, 13; height, 5 feet; weight, about 90 pounds; fair complexion, dark hair, light brown eyes; has slight scar at outer corner of left eye and a deeper scar under point of chin; left home on August 30th, 1910, and was then dressed in blue overalls and dark coat with black stripe. Last heard from was at Moberly, Missouri, on September 3rd, 1910. Address all letters of information as to whereabouts to his father, Lew T. Thompson, at Bluffs, Illinois.

LOST—LEO L. VALLIERE OF CEDAR Rapids, Iowa, left home on August 18th, and has not been seen or heard of since. Description: Age, 17 years; 6 feet and 4 inches tall, weighs 150 pounds, auburn hair, blue eyes, fairly good looking, good maner and habits, fairly good education; upholsterer by trade. When last seen wore dark trousers, brown coat, black shirt, light felt hat, size 7. Write J. H. Valliere, 942 18th Ave., W. Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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