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"If the People Rule Why Don't They Get What They Want?"

J. Perry Snyder, Basalt, Colo.—I have just finished reading The Commoner. From the first of Genesis to the last of Revelations, I have read the many answers to Senator Owen's question. All have shot wild of the mark, save J. J. C., Ashland, O., who

hit the outer edge of the bull's eye. To me it is easy answered. The people do rule but do not get what they want, because they do not meet such men as violate public pledges and their like at the depot, and place a card on the dangling form this warning to your successor: "The people rule and will have what they want." Which is the worst, to have little children go hungry, half clad and out of school, or to put from among us such liars, thieves and traitors?

T. L. Minier, Nebo, Ill.—The republicans rule, and as they are under obligations to the interests that furnish money to carry elections, the special interests know the republican party shape and control legislation.

S. T. Kirtley, Fredericksburg, Va.—If the people rule the people for the people, and don't get what the people want, it is the peoples' fault. People that believe that the people rule the people, are like the fly that sat on a wheel while it turned, and thought he caused it to turn. He that would rule himself is like the ass that tries to vault into the saddle on his own back to ride himself. He that says I can't rule myself and no one else shall rule me, is like the lost or wild ass on the mountain top, that sniffs in the east wind from the desert. He serves nobody and nobody serves him. Such half starved idle wild asses, should have masters to respect that would teach them to do service in return for kind treatment. Their riders or masters should be highly improved asses themselves, that they may know how to treat their less fortunate brethren. After Jesus made his grand entry into Jerusalem the Jewish rulers became frightened and held a council meeting to devise means of safety for the people and city. Let us be content with what we get rather than fight about what we want. If we would remember that the voice of the people is the voice of God, then we would know who rules the people by the people for the people, according to his own will and wisdom.

R. O. Strehlow, Omaha, Neb.—The people do not get what they want because they do not know what they really do want. The people have their own conditions. If they did not, they would change those conditions. Is anyone so light as to think that the American people can not have anything that they really want? Many demagogues denounce corporations and wealth. The existing evils are not to be attributed to capital; the monied interests have simply done what these demagogues and others would have done under like conditions. The trouble is to be found with the voters themselves. The great majority of voters are such donkeys that they allow their wishes to be foiled by their own blunders. The only remedy is better citizenship. When the voters bring themselves up to the standard which the founders of the constitution expected, then they will get what they want. In order to do this they must come to a realization of their duties and responsibilities; they must throw away their partisanship, and not allow politicians and demagogues to fool them, or follow blindly in the footsteps of their party machine; they must seek for truth on all political questions and not vote for an unscrupulous scoundrel in preference to a man of high character simply because the latter differs with their views in some minor particular; and

lastly they must be filled with interest and enthusiasm for their share in the government of so great and glorious a nation. If the voters comply with these demands, they will get what they want.

Henry L. Fillman, Osceola, Neb.—The people do rule, but they do not exercise that power for the betterment of themselves, but vote according to the dictates of men of superior mentality—and men who can play the game for the interests of predatory wealth. Who will dare to say

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