

that it will not be the vote of the people that will determine whether it shall be progressive LaFollette, or a standpatter of the Aldrich stripe, that will represent Wisconsin in the United States senate? When a man becomes as party bound, and narrow minded, as a man I talked to on the subject of party regularity, than we can begin to realize that we need enlightenment to put this country on a plane where the people do really and truly rule for their own good and for the good of their fellow men. This man stated: "I will vote for a monkey if he is a republican, rather than to vote for a democrat." The reason that the people do not get what they want is because some vote the republican ticket because their grandfather did; others because they do not make a study of the men they cast their vote for. They haven't got foresight enough to kick on election day, but wait until the poor grocer, butcher, etc., presents his bill. The only way to remedy this is to educate the people. Make them understand that God gave them a mind of their own; and that by using their mind for the betterment of humanity and independence of action, they will be measuring up the expectation of our beloved forefathers who fought and died for our freedom.

A. B. Newton, Winter Garden, Fla.—The people do not rule; they do not vote, but are voted. They still have the opportunity of ruling, but generally they are too indifferent or so poorly informed that they do not use it. So many let their personal advantage for the time being control their votes, hoping sometimes that others may defeat the thing for which they are voting. For example, one man thinks it best to vote with his employer against his convictions; the employer may be influenced by a good patron. These consider themselves honest; but the greatest number of people, honest of course, because I am not taking into consideration the common grafter who, from the nature of his business can not stand with the people, vote blindly. They are not sufficiently informed to prevent their being led by a press owned, controlled or subsidized. Occasionally conditions get so bad or the issues are so plain that the people assert themselves.

H. W. Frazier, Kimballton, Va.—In answer to Senator Owen's question will say that the people do rule and get what they want or at least what they vote for, but do they get what they need or in justice ought to have would have been, I think, a more appropriate question. It is not always what we want that does us the most good. We may want and contend for a thing that will do us harm instead of good. It was just so with the people in 1908; or at least, a majority of them voted for Aldrichism, Cannonism and republicanism; they got it pure and simple. The people may get what they want and vote for, but they will not get what they ought to have until they vote to eliminate from power the party of special privileges that has run this government for the last fifty years in the interest of the few at the expense of the many and put in power the party of Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan, the party that has ever been and, I think, will ever be a party of equal rights to all and special privileges to none.

A. J. Shively, St. Louis, Mich.—The reason the people don't get what they want is because they treat the government as something away off. They forget that every one, even they themselves, are a part of this government. They even won't allow political papers in their houses, nor let their boys read politics. Still they go to every election and vote. Now

how can a man vote intelligently with his boys brought up in that way. You say to the boys, "you ought to read politics, so as to know how to vote." They will sniff up their noses just because they have been taught that way. I know of families that are being brought up in just that way and you say anything to the head of the family, and he looks down his nose and grins.

G. W. Bemis, York, Neb.—The question may be answered by any one of the following combinations containing two words each: First, "campaign contributions;" second, "political graft;" third, "special privilege;" third, "party prejudice;" fourth, "money power;" fifth, "subsidized press;" sixth, "dishonest elections." All and each of the other reasons lead to the last one given and constitute a chain of colossal atrocities which thwart the will of the people.

Wm. Surman, Carlville, Ill.—Have read with a great deal of interest the many answers to Senator Owen's question. Here is my answer: Whenever a majority of the voters consider politics with the motive of how much good can we do and how much can we contribute in our efforts to make this a better government, a government by the people in fact, instead of how much is there in it for us. Then and not till then will the people get what they want and need.

A. J. Cone, Raleigh, Fla.—Have read all the answers to Senator Owen's question. I answer, the people do not rule. Why? Because there are too many "phools," and for this reason, they don't get what they want. As the years pass, it demonstrates the utter unfitness of the people as a mass to rule, hence I contend that government by the people is a failure. A large majority of the people prefer a boss, or a king, some one to think for them and act for them, for it is labor to think, and easier to let some one do it for them. I am in favor of a restricted ballot or franchise, that would exclude bribe givers and takers, the low, vicious criminal and all who are ignorant or indifferent or careless in the exercise of the great right of true citizenship, be he white or black, rich or poor.

J. J. Cooney, Saginaw, Mich.—I wish to state the following in reply to Senator Owen's query. The question is somewhat illogical, as it assumes a condition that does not exist nor never has existed; nor starvation, famine, misery and want would never have existed if the people ruled. The war of the revolution would not have occurred if the people ruled. The awful war of the rebellion would not have been known if the people ruled. A million and a half of such subjects would not have starved to death under the reign of Queen Victoria, if the people had ruled. English statesmen should bow their heads in shame at the mention of the trouble record and our own statesmen of that day had no particular reason to feel proud of their public protest against such transgression. I could enumerate many such cases as the foregoing, but what's the use. The people have not and do not rule. The nominee for governor of the state of Michigan on the democratic side of the house will advocate the initiative, referendum and recall, he will be elected governor of this great state and our people will have a chance to know what it means to rule; and if the democratic party will adopt the initiative and referendum two years from now in their national platform they can elect some honest democrat as president of this great nation. Then the people will rule and they will get what they want.

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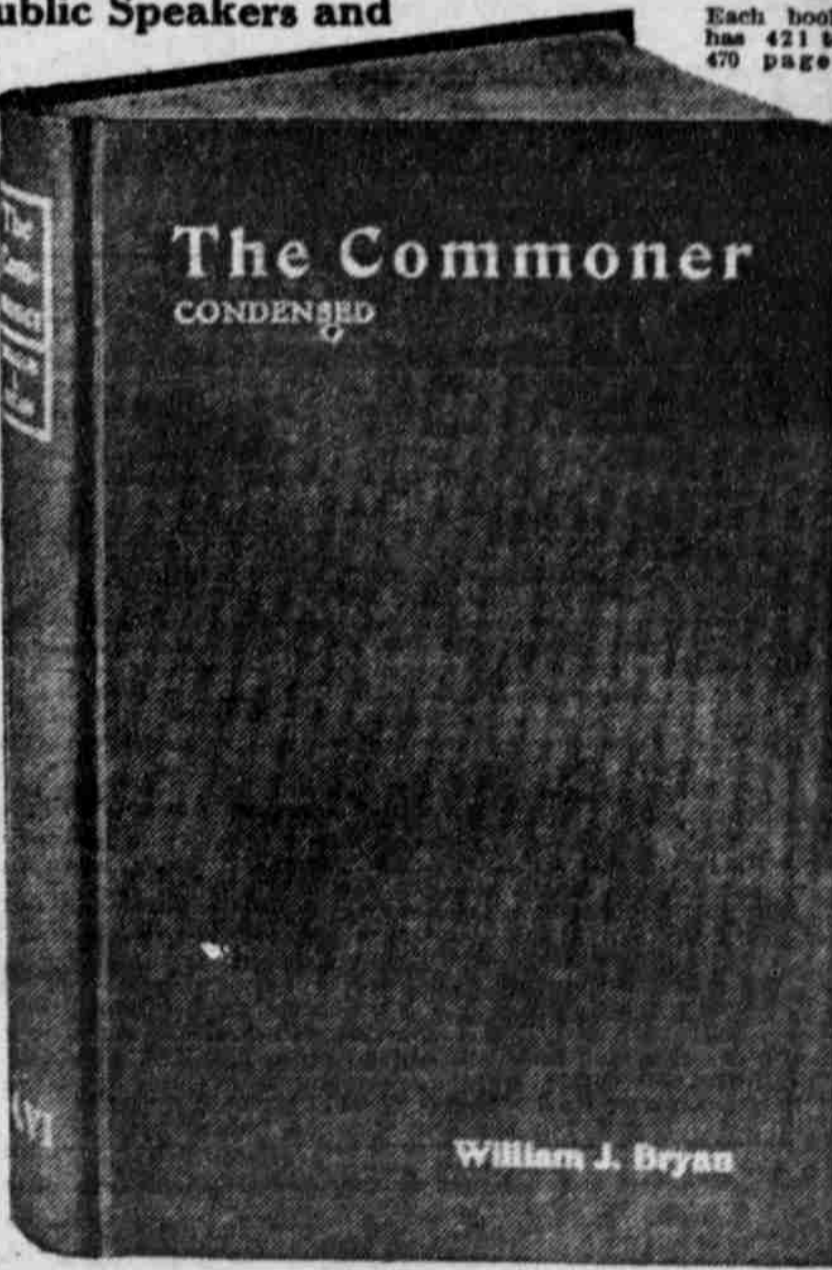
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