

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

John Wineland, El Paso, Texas.—There are several reasons, all traced back to corporation money directly or indirectly. As an illustration the owners of a large corporation, assisted by the higher officials, get together and decide on what they want and who they want to represent them. It is then silently passed down through petty officials of that corporation until it reaches the employe or voter. It is then passed to the trustees first who, through a little personal adulation or favors, spread it like chaff from a separator. It falls upon the just and unjust alike, some being stronger than others, shake it off; but others, through fear of jeopardizing their position, remain silent and allow that portion that has fallen upon them to remain and follow along rather than take any chance of losing their position and depriving the dear ones depending upon them for

a living, and expense and sacrifice that naturally follow in the wake of a lost position. Others are not posted in the matter and the story presented looks plausible and they drop in line and there are still others who gather up what has been shaken and fallen from the rest in order that they might receive an extra supply of adulation and favors from the powers that be. In the meantime proper influence has been brought to bear upon the owners of certain newspapers and occasionally it becomes necessary to acquire them outright in order that the voters that are not posted may plainly see by reading those periodicals and editorials in those papers that they are supporting the right man. The election is held, their man is elected by a large majority and the people think they really rule but they have been deluded and deceived; he is then passed up from one corporation to another until he reaches the United States senate. An extraordinary session of congress is called for the express purpose of an unequivocal reduction of the tariff downward and other necessary legislation for the benefit of the masses, and the voters are surprised and even dumfounded when they learn that their beloved representative is always lined up on the side of the classes; if his constituents had a life line around his neck in the form of a recall it no doubt would have some effect. Those are my reasons why we are compelled to enjoy that unequivocal reduction in the Payne-Aldrich-Taft tariff and other unequivocal legislation that has been passed.

Frank R. Starr, Dehesa, Cal.—I am a little late getting in my answer to Senator Gore's question, so A. B. Choate of Minneapolis, Minn., has forestalled me, in the only direct and sensible answer and it won't hurt to repeat the gist of it: "It is said of President Taft that he is an amiable, good man, surrounded by men who know just what they want. The people, because they don't know just what they want, are contending among themselves about what they ought to have and thus give public officials an excuse for giving them nothing."

Wes Mayfield, Santa Rosa, Cal.—The people never have ruled. They never will rule until we have the initiative and referendum. Any one official or otherwise, opposing the initiative and referendum is opposed to the people being in control of the government. In my opinion, any one who endorses Mr. Roosevelt, is opposed to a government by, for and of the people. What person of ordinary intelligence has said during the past thirty or forty years at least, that the people did rule?

T. S. Kirby, Chicago, Ill.—The true answer to Senator Owen's question will be found in an article by William Marion Rudy of the St. Louis Mirror and published in The Commoner of September 17, 1909. That article, if republished at this time, would be very interesting to Commoner readers, especially as it gives a remedy "The Pamphlet" which may be available amongst the many unions. More power to The Commoner; it is doing great work for the people.

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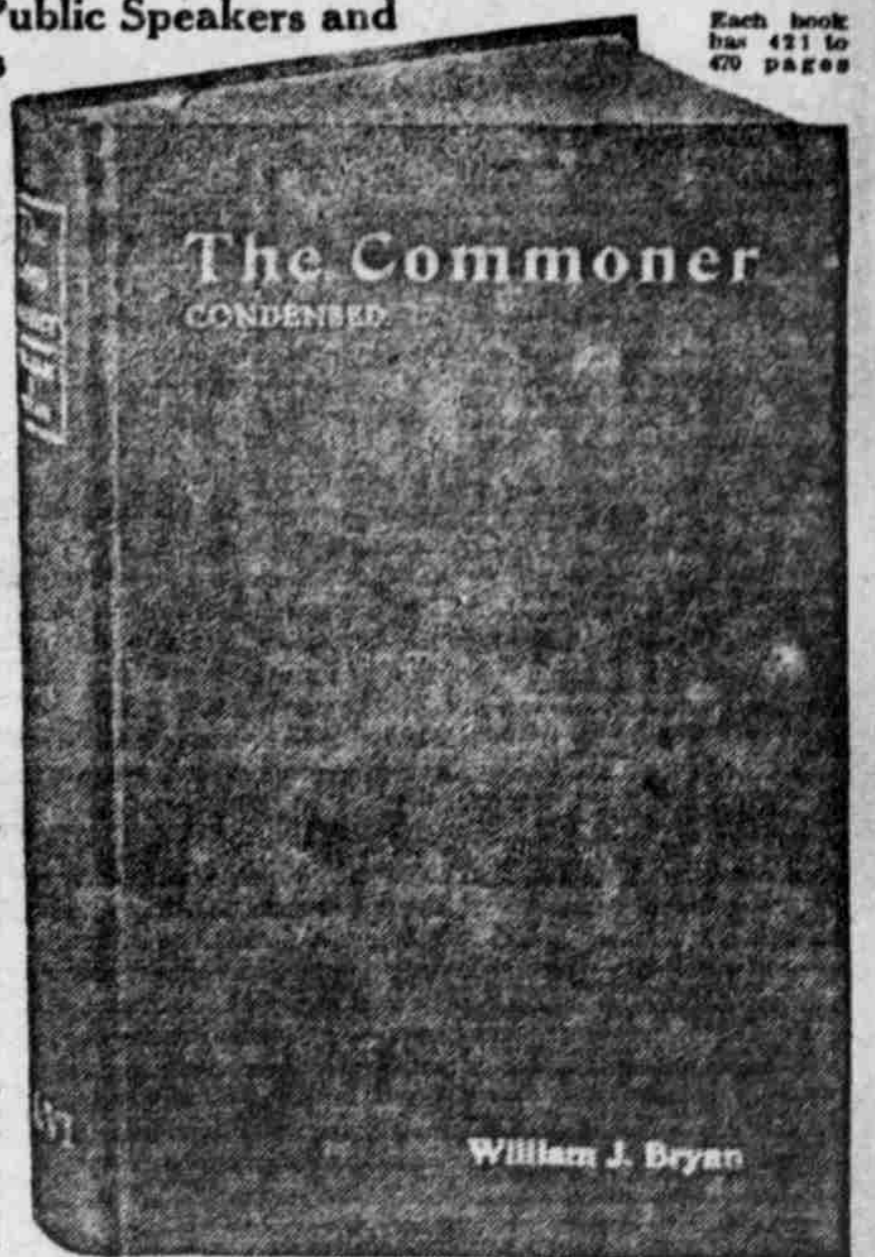
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