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

Prof. J. L. Kellogg, Rocky Ford, Colo.—This question has elicited many articles with diversified opinions regarding the evils of a representative government. However, those who have contributed their opinions have pretty generally agreed that the people do not rule. The history of the past has demonstrated beyond all doubt the inability of the people to secure just legislation through representatives. The efficacy of any government is determined by the greatest good it brings to the greatest number. Since this is true, the irresistible conclusion—a representative government is not the best form of government. It is utterly absurd for one to labor under the delusion that you can delegate your power to another and receive thereby a true representation. The race, as a whole, has not arrived at that goal where all men are brothers and each is interested in the welfare of all as much as he is in his own, and until we have ascended the ladder of justice and equity to enter the portals of this higher type of manhood a representative government will be a failure in its true sense. This leads us to the conclusion that the only solution of the evils of our present system of government is by educating mankind so that they can see the inconsistency of our present economic and social conditions. We need to cite but one instance of the people's representatives legislating for the welfare of the nation and that is the last tariff bill recently enacted by the congress of the United States. A solution of this seemingly intricate proposition can be readily obtained if our legislators entirely eliminate those nefarious influences which have to do in shaping the present bills. It is startling, indeed, when one fully comprehends the magnitude of those Titanic combinations wielding unlimited power for their express benefit and at the expense of the masses of mankind who are persistently struggling against the inconsistency of such measures. The immense variety of interest included in the field of tariff legislation is strikingly evinced by the multiplicity of lobbyists present on the floor of our legislative halls, and the most striking feature of the whole drama is the absence of anyone lobbying in the interest of the people. We may talk of justice and her charms, but it is needless for us to hope to obtain any semblance of it as long as we permit one man or set of men to accumulate a million dollars. When we find a nation full of multi-millionaires we may rest assured that its economic structure is permeated with unsoundness, flagrant with untruth, and diametrically opposed to every known law of right. The logical archway leading into the field of pure politics is the initiative and referendum. This will give to the people a mighty weapon which can be easily wielded in the struggle to obtain the rights which have always been theirs. The time is coming but slowly when we will have done with our ancient and ill-devised system of obtaining what the people want. We need clearness, simplicity and brevity in the making of our laws.

party lines will they ever rule. You must vote for the principle, not the man. Any man running on a standard platform, of which ever party, has bad principles. He must be progressive to have good principles, and if the initiative, referendum and recall were in effect he would be compelled to carry out the good principles or be recalled. You talk to any man of average common sense and he will admit the people ought to rule. But why don't they? Simply because they go to the polls on election day and vote the same old ticket and for the same men that have been fooling them all these years. Oh, why be so foolish? Make a study of the different questions and decide your own case, don't let Teddy, Taft, Aldrich, Cannon or any other man who has had a chance to prove himself, but has failed, attempt to decide these questions for you. Vote for the men who will work for what you want, and then the people will get what they want and will rule.

H. L. Clark, Ottawa, Kan.—In the first place, do they really rule? Don't we remember how Mr. Sherman of New York, candidate for vice president in 1908, ranted, charged and foamed at the mouth, because Mr. Bryan, in his notification speech, dared to presume that possibly the people didn't rule in the strict sense of the term, because he used as a keynote the question, "Shall the people rule?" Well, after it was all over and a special session of congress convened to revise the tariff according to platform promise, what do we find—the people really ruling now? And are they getting what they want now? Or are the interests which contributed to the republican campaign fund ruling and getting what they want? Mr. Bryan said, "Shall the people rule?" Mr. Sherman said, "The people do rule, they always have and they always will rule." If the people ruled during the special session of congress called by President Taft, why is there now such widespread dissatisfaction with the new tariff law. Who, then, was the nearest right, Mr. Bryan or Mr. Sherman? Unquestionably Mr. Bryan was right. Granted then that the people didn't rule, the other question is easily answered. It is no wonder that they didn't get what they want. I have read a number of articles on this subject in The Commoner by subscribers, and would like to see one written by Mr. Bryan.

L. P. Palmer, Paducah, Ky.—The people don't rule. We know it, 'cep'n we be a fool. The trusts are in the saddle. If you kick, 'twere addle; So, please skeedaddle! O, people, skeedaddle; For your lives, skeedaddle!

W. H. Peel, Dolores, Colo.—The people do not rule. First, for the reason the majority of their representatives betray them; second, the people give the republican party the balance of power. If the people really want to rule themselves, why don't they read The Commoner and follow Mr. Bryan's teachings. How about the split in the republican party? Is it not reasonable to believe there is a joker somewhere, or a bait to catch the people's votes? If the insurgents are sincere in what they say, why are they advocating Mr. Bryan's teachings? If the insurgents have to advocate democratic principles in order to hold the balance of power, why not vote the democratic ticket straight? Can it be

G. W. Hollenbaugh, Fostoria, O.—The people don't rule and will not rule until they get the initiative, referendum and recall. They got what they want, so they must be satisfied. But the people that did not vote for what they got have to suffer too. Not until the people drop old