

How may the good people of Ohio know how to vote? In Nebraska the democratic party seems now to be dominated by the liquor interests and the standpatters have the republican organization. If the sincere people vote one ticket they will "vote for the interests" of the state; if they vote the other they help to continue the grafting at Washington, D. C. How shall the people get a chance to rule? I believe that the majority of the people of Nebraska want county local option; they also want a reduction in the tariff. But how can they get it? My home county (Adams, Ind.) went dry under the county local option law by a big majority. Our state representative, a democrat, voted with the temperance people. In the next primary the liquor "interests" got hold of the organization, and a liquor man defeated our representative. If I vote for the liquor man he will help in the attempt to repeal our county option law; he will also vote for Mr. Kern, a man who, if elected, will help to make it hot for the "interests" down at Washington. But either way, one's vote will be in favor of some selfish interests. Give us the initiative, the referendum and the recall and then the people will have a chance to get what they want.

C. H. Beale, Baxter, Kan.—I have been reading the different articles in reply to Senator Owen and, while I will not undertake to answer his question, I will give you my views as to a method of correcting some of the evils of bad legislation and it is this: Reduce the cost of the Congressional Record down to actual cost of publication and mailing, so that the voters may know what their congressmen are doing. Then we would know whether it was to our interests to send them back or not. The voters don't know any more about what is being done there than we do of the house of commons in England. The people will never rule until they can know what their rulers are doing. (Although it is a fact not generally known, provision is made for the free distribution of the Congressional Record. Send your request to your representative in congress.—Ed.)

J. C. Hill, Kingfisher, Okla.—The reason the people do not rule is because they will not go to the conventions or primaries and vote their honest sentiments. They go as a rule and vote for machine made candidates. These "candidates" are generally "brought out" in the rear end of some saloon, and are known to stand for the "interests" before they are "brought out." If the people would honestly stay with an honest conviction, and eternally pound at it, they would rule. Good, straight men are too cowardly; they are afraid to stand—a battle was never won by being afraid to "shoot." The motto should be "Eternally stand and shoot."

S. A. Little, Pontiac, Ill.—There are two classes of people in this country that get what they want, and they are the thousands who sell their votes to the equally dishonest rich for a small sum or a drink of whisky to elect men to congress to run the government. Those are the ones that are running this government now, and they are getting what they want. But the great majority are not getting what they want. I guess that the devil will try to be on top most of the time. I am done voting the republican ticket. Have voted twice for Mr. Bryan, but have found that he is too far in advance of the American people in his moral and religious principles ever to be president. As he is, he is doing more for the people of this country than any other living man. I hope that the people of Nebraska will nominate

and elect the associate editor of The Commoner to the United States senate. I have read his letter in The Commoner and like it much.

G. R. Dilbert, Willow River, Minn.—The people elect representatives to do their business, but they don't make their wants known to them. The trusts make their wants known through an individual representative to the representatives of the people, and the representative of the people becomes a traitor to those who elected him and he rules and governs them. This applies from road boss to president of the United States, yes, and to Speaker Cannon. If the people want anything they can't get it. If they don't want it, it is forced onto them. For an illustration will refer to the "Nebraska Battle" in issue July 15, of The Commoner. Will give the following for a definition to the word trust. A certain number of men banded together to rob the people by law and the man that takes the oath of office takes oath to support them, as all trusts are made constitutional. The people don't rule; they are ruled.

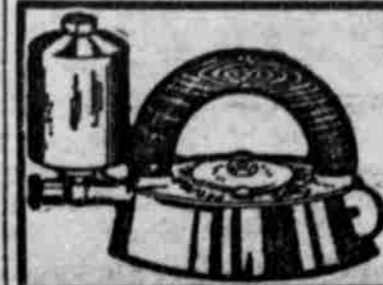
B. C. Jones, Bridgeport, Ala.—The reason the people don't rule, too many of them are like the Irishman's pig. A party met an Irishman driving a pig and said: "Hello, Pat, where are you going with your pig?" Pat said: "Hush, he thinks he is going to Dublin to the fair, but I am taking him to Kilkenny to the slaughter house. If he knew where he was going, devil the bit would he go." Now if the great mass of people who are voting for the interests knew they were going to the almshouse as the result of penury and want, instead of to wealth and happiness as they think, devil the bit would they go. Too many persons believe that the more a man is taxed by the tariff the better off he is. But just how they arrive at the conclusion that the great masses are better off with a high tariff on what they eat, use and wear and the rich and lordly which constitute the interest, as better off with a low tariff on what they eat, use and wear is something I fail to comprehend. The art of language is such that it can be used so no one can tell what is meant when either spoken or written. During the agitation of secession a judge in this state said we can whip the Yankees with pop guns. After the war on being reminded of what he said, replied: We could, but the fools would not fight that way. The republican platform in 1908 was for the immediate revision of the tariff. Mr. Taft construed it to mean revision downward. The interests construed it to mean upward revision and upward revision we got. Mr. Taft being as clay in the hands of the potter, we got what the interests wanted. The financial plank in the democratic platform promised the repeal of the Sherman law, the purchasing clause was all that was repealed, and the interests got what they wanted. The republican party in 1860 said all must be either slaves or free. That pledge is the only one made to the people it was ever carried out, and it was fulfilled by making all slaves—slaves to the interests. After the war the northern soldiers were told to vote the way they shot, towards the slave owners. Now they ought to vote the way they shot, towards the slave owners, the interests. I favor the initiative and referendum and recall, the guaranty of deposits in national banks by the government and the guaranty of deposits in state banks by the states. I am opposed to electing any to any office who has failed to keep sacred a pledge made to the people.

L. H. Duxstad, Omaha, Neb.—In the first place the people do not rule.

They do not rule because the people have not been represented to their interests in the senate or house of representatives in either state or nation, but special interests, through special interests candidates for office, have had tab on what laws they got and what once they wanted to their own interests, taking care that the people as a whole should not get a ghost of a show in any kind of a wholesome law to control. Because the people have no such laws as election of United States senators by direct vote and not such measures as initiative and referendum, the recall, also bank guarantee and such others to like effect. Why don't the people get these? What reason is there that they should not be enacted? Is it because your senator or representative says these laws are no good that because of their judgment you have to fall in line with them? Is a senator's or a representative's judgment any better than any common individual citizen voter? Why don't the people vote for candidates with principles, stating and working for them? Like county option here in Nebraska, who is it that is doing the shouting against it but the special interests, through special interest officeseeking, duping. Why should not the people of a county have a right to vote on the liquor question? Besides every little hamlet, village or city in a county voting

on license, why should not farmers and others living outside have a vote? These hamlets, villages and cities depend on support from outside, on farmers, etc., yet they have the audacity to say to the county, you farmer voter, you outsider outside of hamlet, village or city, you shall not vote. We, the special interests, shall control you; shall say for you, county option is not in the issue. Our democratic and republican party will lose at the polls. Our special interest officeseekers will fail to be elected for office; therefore, you people in the county, the special interests want to deny you a vote. You can get leave to pay taxes the special interests say, but the right to vote you are denied a plain taxation without representation. I would like to know whether a democrat or a republican or any other: Why everybody qualified to vote in any county should not have a right to vote on any question as well as this one, abiding by majority and enforcing what majority wants.

Levi Ferguson, Chetopa—My answer has always been, that the people as a mass do not get laws passed so they can keep what they rightly already do possess. Of course the people at the start own most of the gas and oil. I think they ought to retain as much as they need to grease their own bread. I know I am right.



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