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

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B. W. Day, Hutchinson, Minn .- I | a cinch on a vast number of things have read with interest and profit which belong to the public. In some most, but not all, of the answers to states the intelligent, discriminating Senator Owen's pregnant question, voters predominate and there the and have failed to find the true solu- people frequently "get what they tion to the problem. Here it is: The want." For instance, Minnesota and voters, casting their ballots blindly, states, elect democratic governors demand two cent passenger fares and four per cent railway gross earnings tax laws and get them. The legislature of North Dakota has passed laws of like importance to the public COMMONER'S and equally objectionable to Big Business. In both of these states Business. In both of these states the percentage of illiteracy is low and the foreign population is comare pretty independent in their votwhen in such states the people will issues, which every illiterate or selfevident puddin' head must answer or be barred from the polling place and the residue of alert, intelligent, progressive, citizens, whose votes are now offset by a lot of incompetents less qualified for voting than the average high school boy, will rule; and the rulers, in getting "what they want," will get that which will best promote the well being, not only of the toiler but of him who lives in luxury from profits unjustly wrung from toil. Lincoln said of emancipation that in giving freedom to the slave we ensure freedom to the free. So the true reformer is seeking justice and equal rights for the oppressed seeks to save the oppressor from the penalties which must inevitably find him out.

> ply to Senator Owen's question, will publican machine dictated by the insay. Each class is against the other terests give them. Bryan's ideaclass; if you make laws good for one Education is the keynote. The people class the other will cry don't do that, need reforms, and will get them soonthat would ruin my business. Each class wants things all their way. the two old parties, a new party will That is one reason another money spring up and will give perhaps only shark and gamblers make the people a partial relief. Why not educate the head of the government everything would go to the dogs. If hon- the following: Money, or circulating have to take their hands out of the money good has to stand behind it, above the man and above truth and it and govern the volume of it, injustice and the teachings of the stead of private individuals and solittle hungry children just so long as they can fill their pockets with the almighty dollar. They preach Jesus but don't do anything He other reason they are party blind; world.

nation to self-seeking politicians and public servant must either serve his Lincoln, Nebr., Dept. 30.

advantages for themselves. They money, then the people would get a revenue only; but all men have a garment in a Mexican bull fight, to selfish streak in them, and the poli- create enthusiasm, every presidential ticians, supported by the special in- election, and all the time the tariff terests, find it an easy matter to per- goes higher and higher, the people great mass of ignorant or indifferent North Dakota, strong republican suade the democrats of a particular pay the debt in costlier garments, locality to favor a tariff on certain higher building materials and leather against their own and public inter- but choose republican presidential local products, and thereby forsake goods, a few individuals get rich at ests, give another kind of "interests" electors. The people of Minnesota the principle of tariff reform. The the expense of the many. And all democrats of other localities, influ-this time Mr. Bryan is almost alone posed largely of intelligent Germans tors in elections. It is the same way ly upon them the people would in a and Scandinavians who received good in other reforms in which the people very short time be able to get what educations in the fatherland and who are interested. They are divided they want. As it now is private coramong themselves. The special in- porations endeavor to keep the peoing. The time is not far distant terests are not fighting for principles, ple divided so as to continue to reach hence their appeal is to local preju- their pocketbooks as they have for get everything they go after. Give dice, to personal avarice and to party years past; for thirty years, although us an educational qualification for spirit. But what the people are supvoting; prepare for every election a posed to be interested in are certain set of questions relating to important great principles, the enactment of which into law will be for the greatest good to the people at large; and as long as they lose sight of those reforms, which are for the betterment of their condition, and listen to local, personal and party appeals, so long will the people fail to get what they want. Party spirit is all right as long as the party is contending for the rights of the people, but is all wrong when it degenerates into the idea of regularity alone, without thought of those principles which serve to distinguish it from those who are opposed to, and whose interests are antagonistic to the rights of the great common people.

> Frank L. Wood, Vallery, Colo .-The people don't rule, they do not get what they want. They get what Oliver Shanks, Bowen, Ill.—In re- a majority of the Aldrich-Cannon reer or later, if not through either of believe that if honest men were at the masses upon all the economic questions. Paramount at present are est men get in they know they would medium-If the government to make peoples' pockets; that is the reason even to the extent of shouldering the they fear Bryan. Another reason the musket to protect it, then why people have is they put the dollar should not the government handle Bible. They care not for the cries of called financiers hitched up to the Aldrich-Cannon band wagon and democratic go as you please gold brick assistant. Second, Government ownership of all public utilitiestaught; they forget the golden rule The people pay the bills. Why should and the sermon on the mount. An- a few men be allowed to carry off the surplus; give the people these they would vote for a yellow dog if necessities at cost. Where there are he ran on their ticket-anything to at present fifty employed by corporget my man in, even if he does rob ation methods, seventy-five would me. How long, oh Lord, how long, be employed if controlled by the govwill the people be fooled? Just as ernment at only eight hours instead long as human selfishness rules the of twelve; this additional money paid employers would be left in circulation, instead it is now taken to L. N. Burnett, Gentry, Ark .- In re- Europe. The Gould heirs and many ply to the query of Senator Owen, I others married to foreign titles tell will say that the people, while clothed the story of millions taken out of with the authority of rulers, and circulation in this country by heirs while exercising that authority to of these private corporations and some extent, in the small concerns that mentioned is only a small item of life, are so engrossed in their lo- of the saving to this people. Third, cal affairs that they are disposed to The initiative and referendum, the leave the government of state and recall of public servants, thus any

special interests who, while loudly people or get down and out for all claiming to be the champions of the time, that would make them consider people's interests, are only seeking well before they accepted tainted make a great noise about party loy- voice in steering the good old ship alty and party regularity in order to of state. Fourth, Tariff for Revenue keep the people blinded to their own only. Bryan is correct, Jefferson interests, and to cause them to lose democracy. This is an old one and sight of the principles they are fight- one that both the democrats and reing for. The great body of demo- publicans have held up to the public cratic voters believe in a tariff for very much as the Mexicans did a red enced by the same considerations, in this fight for education of the lay aside their principles and con- people. If all the democrats that tend for a tariff on local products, are not hanging on the republican thereby giving the lie to their pro- band wagon, and all the republican fessions of faith in state and national insurgents that believe in reforms. platforms, and losing the confidence would take hold of these few paraof all intelligent independent voters mount questions and educate the who after all are the controlling fac- public so they could vote intelligentraised a good republican, I have voted for these reforms whenever I

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