

IF THE PEOPLE RULE
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tives of the saloon interests. The saloon people long ago have laid aside all party politics. They go

early, they select their friends, they stand by them clear through to the end. They combine with everything and anything, and anybody and anywhere, at any time, in order to se-

cure control of the machinery of the government. We believe there are more good people than bad people, but it is a notorious fact that the better class of citizens and business men do not get in at the beginning where candidates are started and the machinery is set in motion.

The rule of the people will be a fiction—they will never get what they want until they get in on the ground floor where the candidates are nominated.

B. F. Johnson, Poseyville, Ind.—Because the republican party is both father and mother of every combine and trust in the United States and no parent ever was known to go back on its child. Get the republican party out, then you can have what you want.

Gunnar Nauman, Nucla, Colo.—There is a difference between what the people really want and what they think they want to make them prosperous and happy. The majority of voters are, or are supposed to be republicans, and they are fooled to think that a high protective tariff will promote their social and economic interests, when the fact is that free trade always has promoted and always will promote the interests of all the people. It is not protection against foreign competition, but next to the vast natural resources of the country and its free institutions, it is the element of free and unrestricted commerce between all the states of the union that has built up this great republic. Just think what the effect would have been, had the states been permitted to set up barriers of protective duties against each other, as they did or tried to do before the adoption of the constitution. If this law of free and unrestricted trade between individuals and between the smaller social bodies holds good, why not between the larger associations or men; between the nations? It is the same regarding other economic questions. Insofar as the people rule they often rule blindly or unwisely, promoting the interests of their oppressors instead of their own. They want free trade but they vote against it. They want a system of taxation that would place the burden where it belongs, on privileges and monopolies, and not on labor and its products; that would make all other sources of revenue superfluous, including the tariff; that would give to labor and to all, on equal terms, free access to all the natural and social advantages and opportunities for production; and that would abolish the present system of forced competition and instead establish natural free competition between all the members of society. They want direct legislation and a just voting system but they are just beginning to open their eyes to this much needed reform. If the people rule? Do they rule? The majority rules, yes. But under our present system of voting the minority has no representation at all in the legislative bodies. The votes of democrats, socialists and others in republican states and voting districts count nothing for law-making. It is the party in power that rules, or rather the "big business" interests through the bosses and leaders of that party. When the people learn to know the truths of social economy and justice they will get these truths enacted into law and will enjoy the consequent blessings. They will get what they want.

W. J. Archbold, Decatur, Ind.—There are two answers. The first answer is they do not know what they want; and the next answer is they do not rule. The reason that I think they do not know what they want is because they have been supporting a government that fosters

and practices paternalism for the rich that they may in turn help the poor. During the last presidential election one of our foremost campaign orators said that the laboring man of this country was better taken care of than the laborer of any country of the world. Did that senator think that the laboring man was one of the rulers when he said that? Oh no! He placed the laboring man in a humiliating position of receiving blessings of their earthly fathers as their earthly fathers say they were in need. Great rulers we are, and I am one of those rulers who help to pay tribute to these earthly fathers that they may in turn take care of me. A short time ago when McKinley made his race for president, we were told that if we voted to keep up his system of government we would get full dinner pails. We sold our birthright for a full dinner pail. The ruler's crown is not on our head. There is nothing on our head but hair. Our name is Esau. Isaac rules. Isaac is a predatory leader and has the wealth of the nation at his command. Hear what Isaac says when one of our citizens talks about depriving predatory

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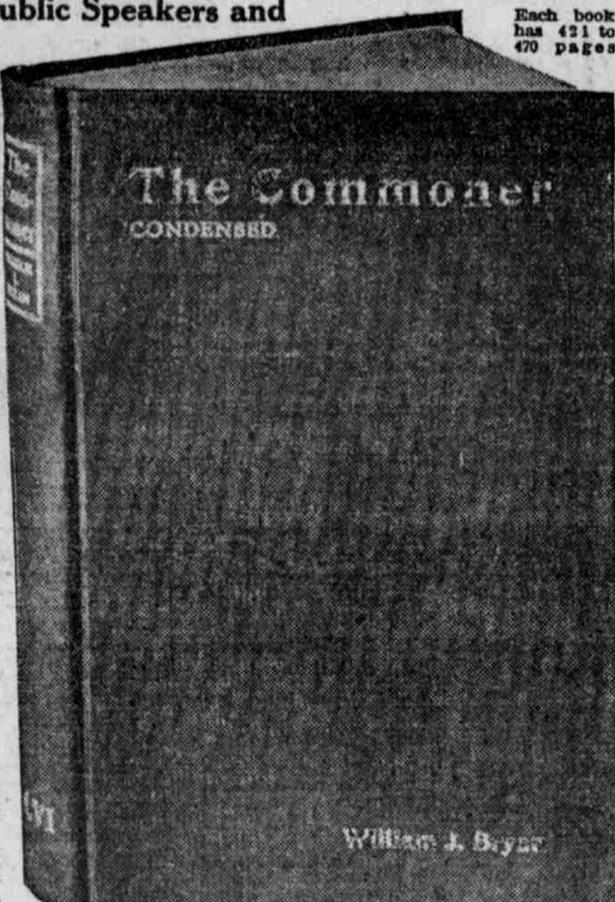
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