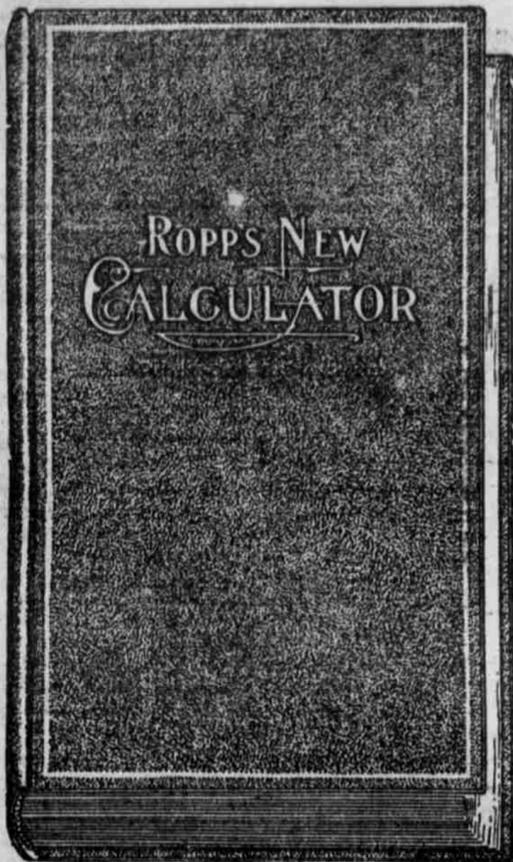


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"If the People Rule Why Don't They Get What They Want?"

E. G. Short, Sheldon, Mo.—When I read Senator Owen's recent speech it brought to life a hope that was well nigh gone from me; it had a true ring in it; it had the sound in it of the old liberty bell of 1776. When Senator Owen asked the republican senate if the people rule why don't they get what they want there was no answer from those senators nor will there be any true answer from them; they know that the people do not rule; they also know that the people are ruled by a conspiracy of laws which were enacted by them for and in the interests of a class of people whose interests are directly opposite to the interests of a people who want good and honest government. When we look back into the past, and up to the present we are compelled to believe that these lawmakers were also largely benefited by these laws which they enacted and we (the people) have been injured beyond repair. It seems to me that there now is sufficient evidence before the American people to cause them to call a halt before it is forever too late. The republican party now has the appearance of being a party divided against itself and again the question arises in my mind, is this really true or is it a part that is being acted by them for a future benefit to them. Senator LaFollette, Senator Cummins and others are not at the present time in accord with the administrative power. These men who, by the aid of the democrats in congress, have accomplished some little good for which we are truly grateful; their efforts showed a desire to benefit the people to some extent by defeating a great wrong which was intended and again the question arises, do these men, Mr. LaFollette, Mr. Cummins and others intend to go far enough in this reform movement to accomplish what is desired by the people and what is needed and will give justice to the people. I think not; they stand for so little that it will fall far short of being of any real benefit to a tax-ridden people. From what information I can gather they yet believe in protection and also fear a disruption of the republican party. I would ask the judge why it is the Taft and Aldrich tariff law is so much worse than the Dingley or McKinley tariffs. If they will look backwards I think they will find that they have not prospered overmuch under any of them. They were each a step on his ladder of infamy. If they will only consult their own interests they will find that the whole principle of protection is a wrong and was intended as one; there are only a few that are protected. The farmers are not protected through high protection and can't be protected by any kind of high protection. Other labor is not protected through protection; if they are why the need of labor organizations? I want to say right here if it had not have been for organized labor there would have been a revolution in this country years ago; labor would have been starved into a revolt, but as it is labor can do but little better than keep from starvation. Is there any solution of this question of "if the people rule why don't they get what they want?" There is. Robert Ingersoll once said, when speaking of prayer he said that people prayed for what they wanted and then went to work and got it. We may pray for what we want, but God only helps the ones that try to help themselves. First we must place only tried and true men to guard our in-

terests. Second, we must demand and stand for a principle or policy that will give us exact justice as near as human honesty and intelligence can accomplish it; to do this we must cause every one to be equally interested and equally responsible for good government; and the only way this great good to our people can be accomplished is equal taxation for all people according to the property they own. No man shall escape equal taxation. Those that vote and have no property should pay a government poll tax; he then, if he voted, would be interested in good government. Under this form of government it would be a question of only a very short time until the expense of government would not cost us one-third of what it does now; the taxpayers would see that we had just what we wanted and no more. Through the greed and dishonesty of man our constitution falls to protect our just rights, national and state. We must amend it so that it will destroy the opportunity for great wealth to wrong us ever again. We have witnessed that prosecutions through our present laws have and is costing us untold millions without any relief whatever. Under the principle and policy of equal taxation as an issue there may be some who claim to be democrats that will turn to protection for party; if so, let them go; their loss from our party will be a gain to us. We owe fealty to no one that are in direct opposition to our just rights. We ask only for justice, if they decline to be a party in helping us to obtain justice they are not the friends of a government by the people and for the people; they are the enemies of what every American citizen should hold to be a sacred trust to be handed down to our posterity. Let us make no mis-

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