

# The People's Rule

BY  
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(Continued From Last Week.)

## REINFORCEMENTS FROM ORGANIZED FARMERS.

1. The grange is working for majority rule.

The people of Oregon have adopted a constitutional amendment for a people's veto and direct initiative. The state grange helped to install the system, which was approved, also, by the political parties in the state, and the vote was eleven to one—practically unanimous.

In neighboring Washington the state grange at its annual meeting last June (1902) adopted the following resolution:

"Be it Resolved, That our worthy master of the Washington state grange be requested to appoint a grange committee in each county where there is an organized grange. The duties of said committee shall be to interview the various legislative candidates and to persuade them to use their best efforts, if elected to the legislature, to secure the passage of a bill to amend the state constitution providing for direct legislation (the referendum and initiative), which shall be submitted to the people, as required by the state constitution."

Since last December six more state granges have demanded majority rule—the referendum and initiative—Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island, and in the other grange states hosts of county and local organizations are declaring for the system. It is suggested that each Pomona and subordinate grange adopt a resolution somewhat as follows:

"Whereas, The ineffectual control of trusts by congress and the domination of special interests in the legislatures of the country demonstrate the need for an improvement in our representative system of legislation (in the words of Governor Roosevelt in a message to the New York legislature, January 4, 1899: 'I invite the attention of the legislature particularly to the evils of overlegislation. The tendency to pass laws which are utterly unnecessary, even when not pernicious, or which are enacted purely to favor certain special private interests, seems to grow instead of diminish. . . . I advise that an investigation be made of the methods employed in other representative bodies for getting rid of the evil.') And,

"Whereas, The needed improvement has long been developing, namely, a people's veto through the optional referendum and a direct initiative (in the words of the governor of South Dakota, where the system has been in operation for several years: 'Since the referendum law has been a part of our constitution we have had no charter mongers or railway speculators, no wildcat schemes submitted to our legislature. Formerly our time was occupied by speculative schemes of one kind or another; but since the referendum has been made a part of the constitution these people do not press their schemes on the legislature, and hence there is no necessity for having recourse to the referendum.') And,

"Whereas, This improved system of representative government has been adopted by the people of Oregon, with the active co-operation of the grange; has been adopted by the people of Utah; has been approved by a five-to-one vote of the people of Illinois, where the grange is fully committed to it; is demanded by the grange of the state of Washington, which last year questioned the candidates for the legislature as to whether, if elected, they would vote to submit a constitutional amendment for the improved system; and since last November has been endorsed by six state granges—Illinois, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island—as well as by many Pomona and subordinate granges in other states; and,

"Whereas, Candidates for the next legislature in our state are soon to be nominated and voted upon; therefore,

"Resolved, That . . . grange No. . . of (name of state) heartily indorses the movement for improving the representative system of legislation by adding to our legislatures and congress

a people's veto and a direct initiative;

"That we instruct the master to name a majority rule committee whose duty it shall be to question the nominees for the legislature as to whether, if elected, they will vote to submit a constitutional amendment for majority rule;

"That our master, or one whom he may appoint, is requested to correspond with adjoining granges with a view to the introduction and passage of a resolution similar to this one."

To adopt a resolution for majority rule and questioning candidates is strictly in line with long-established grange policy, namely, non-partisan activity in the interest of the farmers. This policy has been effective, while third party politics have been disastrous. Through non-partisan action the granger uprising of thirty years ago restrained the railroad corporations, free delivery of mails in rural districts has been secured, laws prohibiting the imitation of dairy products have been enacted, an isthmian canal bill has been passed, the interstate commerce law has been amended, and the ship subsidy bill defeated. The four last mentioned successes have been achieved during the present year, and are a direct result of the determined attitude of the grange.

In state affairs the results are equally satisfactory. In Michigan the last report of the master of the state grange declares that the organization "is recognized as wielding the strongest influence upon public affairs of any power that exists within the state."

The source of this great political strength in state and nation is that the farmers are in both the great parties and constitute a balance of power, therefore when they unite upon a measure it wins. The farmers united against the imitators of dairy products and won; they demanded a rural free delivery of mails on the same permanent footing as the delivery of mail of the cities and won; they demanded a law for the curtailment of the extortions of the railways and won; and they fought the ship subsidy and won. Without organization the farmers could not have secured their rights. And it was the refusal to nominate candidates, thereby centering upon measures instead of men, that won out. By agreement upon measures and serving notice upon the conventions and candidates of both parties, it compelled them to accede to the farmers' demand or be defeated. Thus the farmers won their fight before public speaking began.

The grange, of course, is careful to push only such measures as are clearly just, and so plainly equitable that, if forced to an issue in the campaign, the opposition will surely suffer a defeat. In the words of the master of the Pennsylvania state grange, W. F. Hill, in his report for 1901:

"In the work of the legislative committee for protecting and advancing the interests of agriculture, care was exercised that only such decisions were taken upon the oleo tax and other questions as would by their fairness appeal to all right-thinking people."

The demand for an opportunity to vote upon a constitutional amendment for majority rule appeals to all right-thinking men. The details of this demand are shown in the following suggestion for the letter to be mailed to candidates by the committee on questioning:

"To . . . candidate for election to the legislature.—Dear Sir: The bill of rights in our state constitution declares that 'all political power is inherent in the people, therefore they have the right to amend the constitution whenever they so desire.'

"Do you promise the electors in your district who may vote for you that, if elected, you will, in conformity with this provision, vote to give the people of the state an opportunity to ballot upon an extension of the people's veto, through the optional referendum and the adoption of a direct initiative in addition to the indirect system which now exists, the details to accord with the specifications prepared by the national federation for majority rule, copy of which is enclosed?"

"Please answer on inclosed duplicate sheet.

"Bear in mind that the question is not as to the merits of the proposed system of representative government, but only the plain question, Will you recognize the long-established right of the people to decide for themselves the question of adopting or rejecting it?"

"Should you refuse to recognize the people's right to decide this question for themselves, our organization will inform every non-partisan organization in the district, will assist in call-



\$500. Reward to any one who will prove we do not do as we advertise.

## Piano-Free.

We want you as our agent in your neighborhood to introduce our household remedies and are doing some sensational advertising. The piano shown here is a Piccolo STEINWAY—remember it is not a second-hand broken down piano but a "STEINWAY," with name stamped on it and guaranteed.

We want you to particularly note our guarantee: this piano is sent to every one who sells ONLY eight boxes of our remedies at 25c. per box; you positively do not have to sell a single box more than eight boxes, and positively not a single other condition. On receipt of \$2.00 we send this piano packed, shipped and addressed to you free of charge. There is no advertisement of any kind on it.

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HOME REMEDY COMPANY, Dept. A D, 1358 BROADWAY, N. Y.

### Interesting—If You are Going Anywhere.

These rates will interest every man and woman who is figuring on an autumn outing. Details as to trains, stop-overs and return limits will be furnished on request.

- \$25.00—One way to California and Oregon points, Sept. 15 to Nov. 30.
- \$16.75—Colorado and return, daily until September 30.
- \$50.00—California and return, October 8 to 17.
- \$33.65—Baltimore and return, September 16 to 19.
- \$22.40—Detroit and return, October 14 to 17.
- \$16.75—Denver and return, October 4 to 8.



F. H. Barnes, C. P. A.,  
Lincoln, Nebraska.

\$25.00

—TO THE—

# PACIFIC COAST.

# DAILY

Sept. 11th to Nov. 30th.

Helena, Butte, Salt Lake and Ogden, \$20.00.

Spokane and Ellensburg, \$22.50.

Nearly all California, Washington and Oregon points \$25.



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it is high time that the organized farmers should join with organized labor in dethroning the trusts and other monopolies. The granger uprising of thirty years ago is being duplicated in Oregon, Washington, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and other states. Every one of the county and local organizations should join in the work. You who receive these pages are urged to introduce the resolution above quoted. In the words of the last annual report of the master of the national grange:

"Farmers should press their claims from year to year until the legislation sought is secured, and hold their representatives in state legislatures and in congress officially and personally responsible for their action on all measures affecting agricultural interests. The road to success in legislative matters, as in all other matters, is found only in remaining courteous, persistent, and firm and unyielding in demands, and emphasizing them with all the power we possess as citizens."

The worthy master also said: "The laws of our country must express the will and maintain the rights of the majority of the people."

(Continued Next Week.)

### Nance County Farm

160 acres, new 8-room house, two granaries, one new, one that will hold 4,000 bushels of grain, 2 cow sheds, 2 corrals, barn, chicken house, hog house, hog lot, well and wind mill, milk house, running water, wagon scales, corn crib, orchard, nice grove, 75 acres in pasture—would all make splendid meadow if not pastured; 85 acres under plow—black loam soil with clay subsoil; all fenced, in good shape. Quarter of mile to school, same distance to church, 8 miles from Silver Creek and seven and a half miles from Clarks. Rural mail delivery. Price, \$40 per acre. There is a mortgage on the place that runs for five years of \$1,800. Will take second mortgage for \$1,000 and balance cash. This is an excellent opportunity for a man with a small amount of money. Write Weber & Farris, Lincoln, Neb., for further information.

The democrats and populists of the Ninth judicial district have nominated Judge Douglas Cones for district judge. The campaign committee is as follows: Fred H. Free, Pierce, chairman; Geo. H. Bayha, Knox; M. B. Foster, Madison; P. H. Kohl, Wymore.

The democrats of the Second judicial district have endorsed Judge Paul Jensen, the republican nominee. No populist convention has been held.

### \$1.00 BIG STOVE OFFER.

If you can use the best big 500-pound steel range made in the world or the best coal or wood heating stove ever made and are willing to have either stove placed in your own home on three months' free trial, just cut this notice out and send to SEARS, ROEBUCK & Co., Chicago, and you will receive free by return mail, big pictures of both stoves, also many other cooking and heating stoves; you will also receive the most wonderful \$1.00 steel range and heating stove offer, an offer that places the best steel range or heating stove in the home of any family, such an offer that no family in the land, no matter what their circumstances may be, or how small their income, need be without the best cooking or heating stove made.