

# "THE FREE PASS BRIBERY SYSTEM"

The whole country is shocked at the disclosures of money bribery, but the author of this book makes the startling revelation that railroad pass bribery is even a greater evil than bribery with money. The influence of the free pass bribe is insidious that many are unconsciously entrapped by it. Like creeping paralysis it steals on the man and has him in its grasp before he is aware of it. It is shown that nearly every state has its free pass organization, that it is used as a police force to protect the railroads in their extortionate freight and passenger charges, low taxation of their property, and in all other matters in dispute between them and the people. In vivid and forceful language the author shows how this pass organization dictates nominations for office; how it sets up weak and pliant men and pulls down strong and independent men; how it controls legislatures and law-making. **That this Bribery System must first be destroyed before the people can get wholesome legislation touching the control of the railroads is the contention of the author in this book.**

## Astounding Disclosures

## The Issue in Nebraska

Mr. Berge was the Democratic and Populist candidate for Governor of Nebraska in 1904, and would have been elected by an overwhelming majority except for the Roosevelt landslide. He made the railroad question the issue of his campaign. In scathing terms he denounced the professional lobby and the free pass bribery system. He insisted that these were the instrumentalities through which the railroads procured the government away from the people; that by these means they maintain their extortionate freight and passenger rates and betray the people whenever railroad interests are involved. The campaign was without a parallel in the state. Mr. Berge has kept on battling since that campaign until this year all parties in Nebraska will declare against this vicious bribery system, and it is evident the next legislature will toll its death knell.



A New Book by Geo. W. Berge  
Candidate for Governor of Nebraska in 1904

## The Railroads and the U. S. Senate

To overthrow railroad domination in any state or at Washington the present railroad bosses with their machines must be overthrown. **By destroying the free pass bribery system we strike them at their most vulnerable point. This book strikes fearlessly and powerfully at this, one of the greatest evils of our time, and points out with unerring precision the political corruption which it begets.** It is the only book ever written on the subject and everybody will want to read it. The book contains more than 300 pages, illustrated and is bound in heavy cloth.

## A Few of the Chapter Heads From the Book

- The Free Pass-Holders a Policing Squad for the Railroads.
- The Most Powerful Weapon of this Policing Squad is The Free Pass Bribery System.
- Professional Pass Distributors and Pass Superintendents.
- The Seductive Influence of the Free Pass.
- Passes and Perjury.
- The Lobbyists Organize the Legislature.
- Pass Bribery leads to Graft.
- The Free Pass System Leads to Double Dealing in Politics.
- State Institutions in Grip of Pass Bribery System.
- The Betrayal of the People by Pass-Holding Officials.
- No Hope for Railroad Regulation From the National Congress Until the Free Pass System is Destroyed in the States.
- Serving Two Masters.

WHAT CAN BE MORE INTERESTING JUST NOW THAN THIS PHASE OF THE RAILROAD QUESTION?

# GET IT AT OUR EXPENSE No Money Required

UNTIL YOU HAVE SEEN THE BOOK AND DECIDED TO KEEP IT

## READ WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT THIS BOOK

### GREAT DEMAND BEFORE PUBLISHED

- Mt. Pleasant, Tex.—I want a copy of that book. Geo. M. Roberts.
- Parsons, W. Va.—I notice that you have published a book entitled "The Free Pass Bribery System," and I would like to read the same. Send to me a copy and I will return to you price for same. J. P. Scott.
- Greenville, Tex.—I wish to order a copy of your book. Please quote me price. J. P. Yates.
- Greenville, Tex.—Please send me a copy of your book with bill for the same and I will send you the amount. B. Q. Evans.
- Royalton, Minn.—Please find enclosed \$1.00 for "The Free Pass Bribery System." Most likely I will take the agency for it. J. V. Ragan.
- Lisbon, O.—When can I get your book and what is the price? W. G. Wells.
- Northfield, Minn.—I desire to obtain a copy of your book. J. S. Tripp.
- Bennett, Neb.—Enclosed please find \$1.00 in P. O. for "The Free Pass Bribery System." Gerhardt Kollster.
- Minden, Neb.—Find enclosed \$2.00 one for your "New Book," remainder to apply on my subscription to The Independent. J. S. Canady.

### THE REPUBLICAN, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

"The Free Pass Bribery System" is a book of Nebraska production and consists of various addresses, newspaper editorials and chapters in vigorous denunciation of the free pass evil. The author is George W. Berge, a lawyer of Lincoln, and editor of the Independent newspaper, who ran for governor of the state in 1904 on the fusion ticket. Mr. Berge speaks strongly, and his handling of the politicians who accept these little bribes is scathing as it ought to be. It is his opinion that the people will never secure through their legislative agencies an effective control of the railroads as long as the free pass control of politicians is tolerated."

### YORK, NEB., DEMOCRAT

"The contents of the book are highly satisfactory. As its title imparts, it is a discussion of the pass evil and is forcibly and clearly written. It shows up the methods by which the railroad companies defeat railroad legislation and maintain their dominion over the state through the instrumentality in the main by the railroad pass. The book strikes fearlessly and powerfully at one of the greatest evils of our time and ought to meet with a hearty reception from the reading public."

### THE COMMONER

George W. Berge, of Lincoln, editor and publisher of the Nebraska Independent and fusion candidate for Governor in 1904, has published a book entitled "The Free Pass Bribery System." Mr. Berge deals with the pass bribery evil in plain language, and points out with unerring precision the evils that follow in the train of this form of political corruption. He is not content with showing how politics is corrupted, but shows beyond dispute the demoralizing effect upon the great masses of the people. Railroad methods are exposed in scathing terms.

Mr. Berge made his campaign for governor upon the railroad pass issue and the fact that he ran many thousands ahead of his ticket shows in a measure the deep interest the people of Nebraska are taking in this phase of the railroad problem. "The Free Pass Bribery System" is a valuable contribution to current political discussion and should have a wide circulation among those who are interested in making the railroads the servants, rather than the masters, of the people.

### Eminent Educator Endorses It

Lincoln, Neb.—Hon. George W. Berge My Dear Mr. Berge: I have just finished reading "The Free Pass Bribery System," and I close it with the conviction that it will have a career. It is the clearest and completest explanation of current western politics that I have ever seen. Your style is terse, brilliant, and effective, you have avoided partisanship, and you have expressed yourself with great moderation and self-restraint. Although the book deals with Nebraska conditions, it will no doubt, attract attention outside the state. I hope you will not fail to send a copy to the Hon. James Bryce, author of "The American Commonwealth," who always appreciates realistic studies of American politics. With the best wishes for a hearty reception of your book, I remain, EDWARD A. ROSS.

### Ex-Lieutenant Governor Endorses It

York, Neb.—Hon. George W. Berge. My Dear Sir: I am reading your book, "The Free Pass Bribery System," and hasten to assure you of my high appreciation of it. It is an able, interesting and instructive exposition of the influence of the pass in defeating wholesome railroad legislation and in maintaining a most detestable railroad domination in this country. Your book is a timely and valuable contribu-

tion to the discussion of the paramount issue of the hour and will, no doubt, have great influence in centering attention upon the most potent and demoralizing agency of corruption in existence. Everybody ought to read it. E. A. GILBERT.

### Candidate Seeks Information

Jeromeville, O.—I have always looked upon the pass as a polite bribe, I am sure your book will interest me. Please send a copy to my address and I will remit you the price of your book whatever it is. We are hoping to elect our governor (Pattison) and we may have a majority in the legislature and I am hopeful of getting some legislation on this subject at the coming session if re-elected. DAVID ELEY.

### Values The Book Highly

Bridgeport, Neb.—I think that every voter in Nebraska should read it. I would not be without it for four prices of it. G. E. CADWELL.

### Former Land Commissioner's View

Normal, Neb.—I have scanned its pages with much satisfaction. It treats the subject in all of its phases and leaves no point unexamined. It ought to be read by every voter in the whole country. To all it will be found full of interest and to many it will prove a veritable revelation. J. V. WOLFE.

### Fighting the Pass Evil

Weatherford, Tex.—I am making a fight down here against this evil. R. L. STENNIS.

### Texas Legislator Needs It

Waxohachie, Tex.—As a member of the last two legislatures of this state I have striven for anti free pass legislation, and I desire to read what you have to say, inasmuch as I expect to renew my efforts next session. J. M. ALDERDICE.

# How We Offer You This Great Book

Because we are so sure of the merits of this book and so sure it will please you, we offer to send you the book without any money in advance and without any money at all if the book does not please you. We want you to see this book and examine it at our expense. Upon receipt of your order we will send you the book postage prepaid. Then in five days if you want to keep the book, you send us \$1.00. If you do not want to keep the book, then in five days from the time you receive it, you return the book to us and we will pay the postage even for its return. All we ask is that the book be returned in good condition. We can afford to take this chance because we feel sure you will like the book and because we believe thoroughly in the rugged honesty of the people. We can hardly see how this kind of a proposition can fail to interest every reader of The Commoner. Every one who reads this Advertisement should order this book at once on these conditions. The author is anxious that the fight against free passes be carried into every state.

### INSPECTION COUPON USE WHEN ORDERING

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GENTLEMEN:— Please send me postage prepaid, Free Pass Bribery System, by Mr. Berge, for which I agree to pay you \$1.00 at the end of five days after its receipt, provided I want to keep the book. In the event I do not want to keep the book, then within five days after I receive it, I will return it to you, postage to be paid by you, in which case I shall owe you nothing.

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