

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

D. L. Thompson, Tacoma, Wash.—It is their own fault that they do not rule. They possess the power. The majority, however, support the "robber tariff" and have deliberately kept the republican party in control so many years. The majority turned down that great democrat, Tom L. Joanson, protected the grafters of San Francisco, and threw down

the brave man who undertook to purify San Francisco politics. The majority elected Taft to office, and it gets just what it wants.

John James, Winterset, Iowa.—Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. We have lost our rights as freemen through lack of vigilance. Get busy and win it back in 1912.

J. H. Redington, Redington, Ariz.—Because they are subject to so many restrictions and checks. There are only two parties to choose from, and both are open to graft, from a petty justice of the peace to a United States senator.

C. B. Coe, Wyandot, Okla.—Because the federal courts of this country have deprived the people of legislation that was enacted for the benefit of the common people. Review the actions of the federal courts for the last twenty years and see what they have done. Note particularly the decisions on two-cent fare and guaranteed banks.

Robert M. McKee, Greenville, Tenn.—Senator Owen's inquiry, with its point blank pertinence, pierces deeply into general public conditions. A comprehensive answer, briefly stated, would run something like the sentimentousness of the question itself, viz., The people don't dutifully see to the running of the machine.

William C. Findley, Butler, Penn.—Because they listen to the siren songs of officeholders and politicians. If the people did their own thinking they could easily discriminate; and having done so, they would vote for their own interests.

Jesse T. Brillhart, Omaha, Neb.—The people do not rule since we have had a packed supreme court and an American house of lords (senate) and they never will until we elect the supreme court judges, the president and the senate by direct vote of the people and make our national law-makers more responsive to needed reforms.

J. Granville Heaps, Streat, Md.—The people do not rule because they do not want to rule; or we might say, because it is impossible for a master to be less learned than his servants and still remain the master. We have a majority of dollared voters, i. e., men who do not vote for principle but who are influenced by someone who has selfish motives.

Levi Cochran, Effie, Minn.—Because the trusts rule, and until the people change their way of voting, they never will rule.

L. L. Kantz, Fayetteville, Ark.—The people don't get what they want. First, because the powerful interests of the country are controlled by the men who do not believe in democracy at all, and they could never be brought to trust the plain people, of whom this nation is mostly composed.

H. K. Stephens, Winslow, W. Va.—Because the masses are divided. That gives the trusts a chance to bribe enough of the people to control this government. If the people ever do rule they will have to come together and vote for men who stand for the public interests.

L. J. Raymond, Jackson, Miss.—They never did rule and they never can rule under the present inter-

pretation of the constitution which, as history records, was framed as a compromise with the aristocrats who were loyal to the British crown and who strongly objected to the people ruling themselves. So they provided for the American house of lords, elected in Wall Street and ratified by the different state legislatures. The only way they can rule is by abolishing the United States senate and electing the president and the federal judges by direct vote, together with the adoption of the initiative and referendum and recall and the abolition of the present despotic military laws.

Frank Carroll, Creighton, Neb.—They do not rule for the same reason that made P. T. Barnum say that the Americans, more than any other people on earth, love to be humbugged.

Arthur Callaghan, Northwestern, Calif.—Because a large number of voters take very little interest in their government.

Joe Buie, Hillsboro, Texas.—The reason the people do not get what they want is on account of the greed, graft and trusts.

Ralph Rogers, Verona, Ore.—One word answers the question. It is ignorance.

Russell F. Collins, Spokane, Wash.—Because the special interests have volunteered to bear the expense of elections and the people have consented. The people's money alone should defray the expenses of nominations and elections. The remedy lies in an aroused public conscience—

the conscience which shall look upon the public grafter as a more dangerous enemy to public safety than any other class of criminals.

J. W. Whitney, Malvern, Kan.—The very fact that the people do not get what they want is proof sufficient that they do not rule. The important thing is to find some way whereby the people may rule. In the first place they must be in complete control of their government, and to accomplish this we must elect United States senators by direct vote, also federal judges and postmasters. We must have the initiative and referendum and the right of recall; then in my opinion the people will get what they want.

Virgil L. Penland, Orange, Calif.—They do not rule and never will rule if the tendency to concentrate the wealth of this country into a few hands is to be continued. The people's government has drifted away from them more rapidly during the last twelve years than at any other time in the history of this country. There has never been a period in the history of our country when the need of a true Jeffersonian party was greater than it is today.

Jules LaForest, Thibodaux, La.—As a matter of fact the people do not rule, and they do not rule because this is a purely representative government and population has increased to a point where the natural law of self-preservation makes it impossible for representatives to be honest. As conditions now are the people themselves have no power to enact any law, nor under any cir-

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