

POPULAR RULE THE CURE

GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THE PEOPLE

When They Re-establish Their Sovereignty They Will Be Able to Prevent Trust Usurpations Which Threaten American Institutions

The people's sovereignty can only be restored through the referendum system.

President Roosevelt in his message to congress presented the nub of the whole question of the control of the railroads, when he said: "The vital issue is the restoration of the sovereignty of the people over the corporations." How can it be accomplished?

How People May Rule

For years the great corporations have been growing more and more powerful and the question is, "Can the people re-establish their sovereignty over them and maintain it?" One thing is clear that this is greatly-to-be-desired and will be attained if there is established in the people a right to instruct by direct vote—the advisory initiative. No change in the federal constitution is required. And there is committed to the program the American Federation of Labor, representing one-eighth of the people of the United States. This organization

questions the candidates of all parties thereby preventing an evasion of the issue. The program includes the following declaration (resolution 39 of last year's convention):

Greatest of Issues

"Resolved, That the American Federation of Labor reaffirms the referendum resolutions of previous conventions which declare, in effect, that the establishment of the people's sovereignty is the dominant issue (resolution 270, Boston convention; 1221, New Orleans convention); and

"Resolved, That every voter is urged to agree with his fellow citizens that he will vote for such legislative candidates only as are pledged to the immediate establishment of the people's rule. Today, as in 1776, the establishment of political liberty is the dominant issue. Why should voters choose between rulers when they can at once become the sovereign power?"

Has Strong Backing

This clear-cut presentation of the issue is concurred in by the granges in Pennsylvania and in the state of Washington, and by referendum leagues throughout the country. The farmers' national congress has declared for the optional referendum, and eleven state granges have declared for the initiative and referendum. Last year four states virtually established the referendum system and this year two more states, Ohio and Massachusetts are in line. Last March President Roosevelt joined the people's sovereignty cause. In his inaugural speech he declared that self-government in the people must be re-established, and in a succeeding sentence describes self-government as "the freely expressed will of the freeman," which can only be accomplished by the establishment of a right to vote on public questions.

Guarded Government

Such a system is guarded representative government—the people's sovereignty is guarded. The people possess a veto power and a direct initiative which effectually check corruption and repeal special-privilege laws. Twelve of the sixteen congressmen from Missouri are pledged to a national system of this character, as also are other congressmen and a few senators. Watch for developments during the coming winter and in next year's congressional campaign.

SOUTH'S GREAT PROSPERITY
Agricultural Land Has Doubled in Value Within a Year

A recent hurried trip through the central south brought forth so many evidences of this prosperity as to almost daze even one long accustomed to the steady upward movement of the material interests of the south. Take but a few illustrations. One year ago the writer traveled south with a banker from a little town in Georgia who had been north to rediscount the notes of the bank's customers in order to tide over the situation in that community brought about by the fear of five cent and six cent cotton. The two banks of that town rediscounted their notes last year to the extent of a one-fourth quarter million dollars. The same two banks this year have over one million dollars on deposit and more than a quarter million dollars of surplus money now on hand for which they cannot find borrowers. A 1,000-acre tract of land a few miles from that town was offered last year for \$18,500 by the owner, who has now refused \$40,000.

Further investigation on this point led to hearing the statement made, not only as to South Georgia, but North Georgia, the Carolinas and other sections of the cotton growing south, that the value of agricultural land within the last twelve months had over a great section of the south

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The Free Pass Bribery System...

Nearly every state has its free pass organization. All the pass holders are organized into a political force. The people do not know it, but there is such an organization in nearly every precinct, ward, county and state in the entire country.

This free pass organization is used as a police force for the railroads. It is organized to protect the railroads in their extortionate freight and passenger charges and in the low taxation of their property. This pass organization dictates nominations. It sets up weak and pliant men and pulls down strong and independent men. It builds up or destroys cities and private enterprises at will. In other words, it is the real master of destiny both in politics and business.

That this bribery system must first be destroyed before we can get back representative government again and get wholesome legislation is the contention of the author in this book.

Mr. Berge, the author, was candidate for governor of Nebraska in 1904. He made the railroad question the principal issue of this campaign. He has given it exhaustive study and no one is better able to write upon this subject than he is.

Every man in office and every aspirant for office should read this book. Every voter should read it. Every student of politics should read it. Every taxpayer should read it.

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doubled. This in itself is the most startling important fact of the last twenty years connected with the material prosperity of the south. If it be true, as indicated at many points at which inquiries were made, that there has been throughout the south an advance, not of 100 per cent, but of even 50 per cent, in the selling value of farms, the south at one bound has added to its real wealth an amount too great to be grasped. And yet it is quite possible, quite natural, in fact, that this should be true, though it is one feature of southern activity to which attention has not heretofore been directed—Manufacturer's Record.

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