Shall the People Rule?

There is a great movement on foot to make the people’s representative more responsive to the people’s welfare.

Time was in this state when public officials looked to the railroads and other public service corporations for official guidance.

But the railway pass was abolished and the railroads lost part of their control.

The anti-lobby law was passed and the legislators were freed from that evil influence.

The Primary election law was passed and the people were given the power to nominate their candidates for office.

Then the civil service law was passed and official traffic was stopped at the state departments.

The Corrupt Practices Act was passed and cleaner politics resulted. But means of evading the Corrupt Practices Act have been found. Excessive sums of money are being spent. The law has been both eroded and violated. There are men, considered respectable, who would be in jail if it were enforced. The time is here when the people demand both amendment and enforcement of our election laws.

This movement has been led by La Follette against the political dictator and boss of the party machine. La Follette has ever sought to give the people greater power over their affairs.

He has favored and now favors the election of Senators by popular vote. The Senate is now known as the Millionaires Club. It is also a club representing the Interests. Staggersheen represents the Steel Trust; Aldrich, Standard Oil; steep, Railroads; Smoot, Sugar; Dryden, Insurance; and so on down the line.

Senator La Follette has favored and now favors the recall.

By the recall, a faithless public official may be removed, even without waiting for the end to be fully consummated.

Under such a law the public official will no longer betray his constituency.

Party platforms will mean party performance.

Downward revision of the tariff in the platform will not mean upward revision in accomplishment. The official will no longer rely upon the people forgetting before election day rolls around.

He will face the immediate disfavor he deserves.

A Roll Call will no longer reveal party prejudice and disfavor. The Roll Call will ring true.

The “Milwaukee Convention” plans to ignore the Primary and defeat the will of the people.

Would such known efficiency be thought of with the recall?

Candidates for the legislature, who have no intention of doing so, are promising to abide by the Primary.

Many of them have the money of the Interests in hand.

How about your candidate for the legislature?

Will he stand under fire?

Is he for the People, or for the Interests?

“Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good.”

The Primary is Sept. 6th.

Source: [http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm/ref/collection/tp/id/51998](http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm/ref/collection/tp/id/51998)