

# EVILS FROM WHICH WE SUFFER and THE REMEDY

By George W. Guthrie, Chairman Pennsylvania State Committee

The principal evils from which this country suffers to-day are:

1. Impairment of the power of self-government.
2. Increased cost of living.
3. Unfair and unequal taxation and extravagance and dishonesty in administration.
4. Failure to afford adequate governmental agencies for the control of evils which are so great that correction by individual effort is impossible.

The personality of the candidates and their active supporters are important chiefly as it indicates their respective capacity to understand and correct these evils.

In considering this all important question, the people must remember:

*First*—That these evils have grown up within the last fifty years during which time the Republican party has had absolute and almost uninterrupted control of the government of the Nation.

*Second*—That the greatest increase in them has occurred in the last sixteen years, during eight of which Mr. Roosevelt was President and four of which Mr. Taft was Chief Magistrate.

The development and growth of these evils have not been unnoticed. Complaints have been loud and frequent and appeals for relief incessant.

That practically nothing has been done could be due to only one of three causes: INDIFFERENCE, INCAPACITY, or WANT OF POWER.

No just man who has heard the just complaints which have been made year after year, could have remained quiescent if he had the capacity to appreciate, the intelligence to know what to do and the power to act.

Whatever the cause of their inaction, neither Mr. Roosevelt nor Mr. Taft can escape their full responsibility for present conditions.

## IMPAIRMENT OF POWER OF SELF-GOVERNMENT

Part of this impairment is due to the development of the "Boss and Machine" in our political system, part to the failure of the states to provide adequate protection and facilities for the exercise of the right to vote and for the expression of the popular will made necessary by changed conditions, and part to cunningly devised laws which greatly impair the liberty and equality of election, without which real popular government cannot exist.

But much of it is due to the *corrupt use of money* to control both primary and general elections.

These evils must be corrected.

The "Boss and Machine" must be eradicated from our political system.

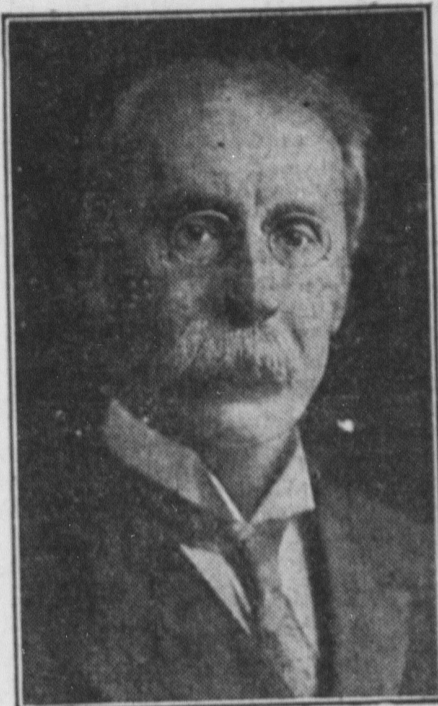
The corrupt use of money in elections must be stopped.

Laws must be passed which will restore to the people the fullest and freest opportunity for the expression and enforcement of their wishes and to prevent corruption and fraud in elections.

Neither Mr. Roosevelt, Mr. Taft, nor their active supporters can avoid their responsibility for present conditions, the disclosure of which has shamed the country and roused the people to resentment.

## Corruption in 1904 and 1908

The vast sums of money raised for use in the election of



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Mr. Roosevelt in 1904 and of Mr. Taft in 1908, and the sources from which they were drawn, have terrified and enraged every one who loves his liberties.

Think of it, two hundred and fifty thousand dollars raised and spent in the state of New York a few days before the election of 1904! And the man who raised it boasted that it turned 50,000 votes.

How could it be spent in that time and how could it have produced that result unless it was used for corruption?

And this money was raised at the request of the President of the United States, and was furnished by five men.

Mr. Roosevelt says that this money was raised to affect the state election only. Suppose this be true, what difference does it make?

It is as corrupt to buy a Governorship as the Presidency.

## Corruption in Presidential Primaries

Think also of the vast sums of money raised and spent by both factions to control the Presidential Primaries in the great and controlling states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Massachusetts.

What chance have the honest people when such practices prevail?

Mr. Roosevelt says that the nomination was stolen for Mr. Taft.

That is apparently true and should assure his defeat.

But would Mr. Roosevelt's nomination have been any more honest?

Can the people think so when they consider the money spent by Mr. Hanna to carry Ohio, by Senator Flinn to carry Pennsylvania, and by Mr. Perkins and one or two others to carry New York, Illinois and Massachusetts.

The action of the Taft Bosses in the National Committee was indefensible; but was it worse than the bogus contest set up by the Roosevelt Bosses to deceive the people and the money spent by them to corrupt the primaries?

Was the convention of 1912 which Mr. Taft's friends controlled any worse than those of 1904 and 1908 which Mr. Roosevelt's friends controlled?

"*Par nobile fratrum.*" They have both forfeited the confidence of the men who love their liberties; let them go down to merited defeat together.

The citizens of Pennsylvania are particularly concerned in this issue.

## Roosevelt an Endorsement of Flinn

A victory in Pennsylvania for Mr. Roosevelt will substitute Senator Flinn as the head of the Machine, with his personally selected candidates in the State Treasury and Auditor General's office, for Senator Penrose.

The Machine, with Senator Flinn as Boss, could not be worse than it has been under Senator Penrose; can any one familiar with the past think it would be any better?

If he does, we must credit his capacity for credulity at the expense of his intelligence.

The misgovernment of Pittsburg stands as the memorial of Senator Flinn's boss-ship.

On the other hand a victory here for Mr. Taft means the ultimate restoration of Senator Penrose.

## What a Vote for Flinn Means

There is another matter to which sufficient attention has