

RELATED THINGS CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

SONG FOR A DRIFTING SHIP.

(Pennsylvania.)

Dedicated to the Keystone Party.
For the Public.

Little they care for thee, O Ship,
The pelf-mad pirate crew,
Whose black flag flutters from thy peak
Where once Truth's ensign flew;
Little they care for thee, O Ship,
Or if thy course be true.

Thy voyage is by uncharted coasts
Where white-fanged breakers reel;
The barnacles of fifty years
Have fouled thy rotting keel;
A blind man from the fore-chains peers,
A knave is at the wheel.

Rag-rent thy sails by warring gales,
Thy cordage frayed and old;
On deck the drunken buccaneers
Are dicing for thy gold;
But they whose hope thou art, O Ship,
Lie shackled in the hold.

About thee clings the reek of death,
Thy planks are slimed with shame,
And from thy battered hatches come
The groans of want and pain,
Thy people clamoring for light
And liberty again.

Great men were they who wrought in faith
To make thee staunch and free;
Strong men and true the sturdy crew,
That took thee out to sea;
But now thou driftest derelict,
The pawn of piracy.

A storm wind charges from the west
Across the snarling shoals,
And portendwise across the skies
The angry thunder roils;
Say, canst thou breast the gale, O Ship,
And save thy shackled souls?

God send his pilot from the shore
To guide thee in from sea;
God send his flame-winged messenger
To set thy people free;
God make thee strong to seek, O Ship,
Thy mightier destiny.

GEORGE M. P. BAIRD.

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THE RULE OF THE DEAD.

From an Address By Herbert S. Bigelow, People's
Church, Cincinnati, May 27, 1911.

Ninety millions of people are ruled by nine old gentlemen.

Not in Germany or Russia, but in America and under the stars and stripes.

This is the greatest hoax in history.

A Constitution, practically impossible of amendment, was adopted before anyone had ever heard of the theory that the Supreme Court and not Congress was to interpret the Constitution.

Then straightway this theory was set up, and by assuming to interpret a document that the people cannot change, nine old gentlemen, or five of the nine, exercise a degree of sovereignty which has not been equaled among Anglo Saxon people since the days of the Tudors.

Behold our kings, our nine nice old kings!

What about them?

Some say, Make this office elective; elect the judges. Others say, Recall them; make them subject to immediate dismissal.

But why not recall their decisions? Why not apply the popular Initiative to amendments of the Federal Constitution. Why not let the ninety million people decide whether that judge was right when he went to bed, or when he got up,—that judge who changed over night his vote on the income tax and thereby overruled a unanimous Congress and a united people.

Suppose five of these nice aged persons should decide in the case now before them that the Initiative and Referendum in the States is unconstitutional? Would it not be handy to be able to start a petition for a popular vote on that decision?

Let the stage-coach, sail-boat, hand-cradle statesmen arise now and tell us why not. They will shed many tears about the sanctity of the past, and they will urge many arguments, but they will have but one reason. Their reason will be that they are royalists at heart, and like an irresponsible court and a rigid Constitution because they fear the people.

We have the Initiative and Referendum in ten States of the Union. We have it in over a hundred cities. In cumbersome form we are to have it now in every city in Ohio. Has not the time come to demand the application of this principle to Federal affairs? The popular Initiative on amendments to the Federal Constitution is respectfully suggested as our means of deliverance from the Rule of the Dead.

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THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

Synopsis of an Able and Brilliant Address on Land
Value Taxation Delivered at the Manitoba
Farmers' Convention at Brandon, Prov-
ince of Manitoba, Canada, January
24, 1911, by F. J. Dixon.

You farmers are deeply interested in the question of taxation. The recent delegation to Ottawa to protest against our protective tariff is sufficient evidence that you are alive to the injustice of taxing labor and the products of labor. Those among