

PREsident TAFT, in his letter of acceptance, fears
 will tire the people "into sulh indifference ns to
urther remand the control of political affairs ninority.

Experience has not demonstrated the truth of this
tion. It is true that most ssertion. It is true that most of our governmental ill lave been due to the failure of the people to devote the
necessary time to political duties required, but with the assumption of a more direct control, has come an awak
cned public interest. Indeed the chie value of the ini cned public interest. Indeed the chief value of the ini
tiative and referendum has been the arousing of interes
in the masses to study if Progatives If President Taft's contention is true, popular gov
erument is a failure and an absolute monarchy the logical solution, Then
but prayed for.
The nation, thinks Mr. Taft, attaches too mueh im-
ortance to governmental affairs. The president remarks "Constitutional amendments are not work. Referendums do not pay rent and furnish houses. Recalls do not fur
nish elothing. Initiatives do not supply employment and nish clothing. Initiatives do not supply employ
relieve inequalities of conditions or opportunity. Perhaps they do not, but they are intended a
remedies for injustice caused by unjust government. They semedies for injustice caused by unjast government.
suppes and regulations against admitted abuses. They make possible the elimination of evils which have
perverted government into a machine for the cration
of special legislation to benefit the few at the expense of the many,
apportunity.
 noving munciossal amendments are not work, but by re as in the case of Oregon's good roads probiem.
Referendums do not pay rent, but they sometime nd so help pay the rent.
Recalls do not furnish clothing, but they stop pros
Rother titation of govertment by public ooters and they end
reign of corruption and rank injustice, and make it easier for legitimate endea vor to buy elothing.
Initiatives do not supply emplovment
mes make possible emply employment, but they some inequalities of conditions and opportunity.
Popular

Popular government is not a cure-ali for human ills -it is merely a corrective for the caluse of many govern-
mental itlls. Its chief benefit lies in its educational value in awakening popular interest and so assisting the peopte
to become capable of governing themselves better.


## whit we hils, ale tirsty"

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