

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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ruption or so marked by wisdom and public spirit as in the old New England town-meeting. Here we find one of the happiest and most convincing illustrations of an ideal democratic government in practical operation...

Mr. Flower then goes on to describe the government of Brookline, Mass., said to be the richest town in the world. He says: "Last year's assessment was levied on \$87,172,900. The population of the town is estimated by the municipal officers to be 23,500, which we think is a moderate calculation in view of the fact that the poll-assessment was on 6,134 citizens."

"No town offers such a demonstration of the elasticity and adaptability of town government as Brookline. It furnishes the clew to help solve the general municipal problem. Its solution will work an astonishing improvement in all public administration."

These facts are mentioned to reinforce speak-

ers and workers. Mr. Flower's entire article on Brookline should be at hand and frequently referred to. It adds in a most emphatic way to the force of the argument in favor of direct legislation.

From facts let us turn to fundamental principles. It is well for the people occasionally to review their rights as held by the founders of the government, and so take courage to demand them. Here are four articles in the constitution of Massachusetts which should be committed to memory.

"Art. IV. The people of this commonwealth have the sole and exclusive right of governing themselves, as a free, sovereign, and independent state; and do, and forever hereafter shall, exercise and enjoy every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not, or may not hereafter be, by them expressly delegated to the United States of America, in congress assembled."

"Art. V. All power residing originally in the people, and being derived from them, the several magistrates and officers of government, vested with authority, whether legislative, executive, or judicial, are their substitutes and agents, and are at all times accountable to them."

"Art. VII. Government is instituted for the common good, for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people; and not for the profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men. Therefore, the people alone have an incontestable, unalienable, and indefeasible right to institute government; and to reform, alter, or totally change the same, when their protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness require it."

"Art. VIII. In order to prevent those who are vested with authority from becoming oppressors the people have a right, at such periods and in such manner as they shall establish by their frame of government, to cause their public officers to return to private life; and to fill up vacant places by certain and regular elections and appointments."

In these articles every right is declared that the people may choose to claim—a right to reform, alter, or totally change their government. The only restriction is that they shall not infringe upon powers expressly delegated to the United States of America.

In article 8 the fundamental right of recall is plainly declared. All the people have to do is to so frame their government as to make recall possible when required in the interest of the public good. These great fundamental constitutional rights should ever be kept in mind. The times call for "men who know their rights, and, knowing, dare maintain."

THE BLAND FARM FOR SALE. Mrs. Richard P. Bland has decided to sell the farm of the late Hon. Richard P. Bland, near Lebanon, Mo. The farm consists of one hundred sixty (160) acres and is well improved. Mrs. Bland was awarded the premium at the St. Louis exposition for several varieties of apples and hay grown on the farm. The farm is brought to the attention of the readers of The Commoner in order that they may communicate with Mrs. Bland or with her agent, Mr. F. R. Currie, of Lebanon, Mo., in case they desire to purchase this very desirable property.

HELPLESS

The Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, a republican paper, says "If the Dingley schedules were left just as they are there is no reason to believe we would have to worry about revenues for many years to come."

It is dollars to doughnuts that those people who voted the republican ticket under the impression that the republican party would give them relief from the tariff graft would greatly prefer the Dingley law to one that increases the people's burden.

A GOOD AMENDMENT

New York, April 26, 1909.—Editor The Commoner: It may interest your readers to know that the American Watch trust is not only asking the government for protection against foreign manufacturers in the sum of 175 per cent; they are also asking the government to protect

them against themselves by levying duty on American watches that are bought by American dealers in foreign countries and brought back to this country, under the pretext that they have been advanced in value abroad, which in reality means an improvement to the value of about ten cents and that was done solely to keep them from being returned to this country; therefore I trust you will see your way clear to advocate the following amendment to the Payne tariff bill, regarding watches:

"Watches sold in foreign countries that are a whole or in part of American manufacture and bearing the name and trade mark of American manufacturers, should come into the United States duty free."

CHARLES A. KEENE.

DECEIVED

The Wall Street Journal remarks: "The American public is by no means so much opposed to a tariff revision as would seem to be the case." Surely they did not seem to be greatly in favor of tariff revision when they voted for a party that derives its campaign funds from the tariff barons. But, plainly, the people were deceived by republican promises. Just now they are talking pretty plainly. Sometime they may conclude to speak just as plainly on election day.

THE TAX IS STILL THERE

(Reprinted from The Commoner of October 16, 1908.)

(We promise to revise the tariff.—Republican party in 1908.)

There's a tender reminiscence that is surging through my soul As I gaze upon the doughnut with a thin ring 'round the hole; 'Tis a memory abiding of the halcyon days of yore When I hollered for "protection" and demanded "four years more," And kept up a campaign singing in a very lusty tone That just what the country needed was "let well enough alone." Now the captains have departed, hushed the loud, tumultuous din— And the dinner pail is empty—but the tax is on the tin.

Yes, the dinner pail is empty, but the tax is on the tin; And a tax upon my clothing, and the clothing wearing thin. There's a tax upon the cradle of the babe of which I'm proud; There's a tax upon my table—there'll be one upon my shroud. Yes, I cried out for "protection" till my throat was raw and hoarse, And I got it, O I got it—but 'twas in the neck, of course. Yes, the promise was as empty as the argument was thin, And the dinner pail is empty—but the tax is on the tin.

"Four years more," we gaily shouted; we'll "let well enough alone!" But the tariff soup was gobbled by the trusts—we get the bone. "Workingmen must have protection!" was our rousing battlecry, And the tariff barons cheered us as we marched so proudly by. Now the barons have departed to gay scenes in Paris, France, And the badge of our protection is the patch upon our pants, And we lift the lid and ponder as we sadly gaze within That although the pail is empty, still the tax is on the tin.

Rockefeller has his millions that he grabbed through tariff graft; Carnegie has just as many, and they're both of them for Taft. Morgan, Havemeyer, Dupont, and the whole protection bunch Live in fatness while yours truly only gets hot air for lunch. Once a pail filled to repletion, now a doughnut with a hole. And "protection" that's as scanty as a tariff grafter's soul. O, they fooled us good and plenty just as soon as they got in, For the dinner pail is empty—but the tax is on the tin. —W. M. M.