

selves. Call them, therefore, liberals and serviles, Jacobins and ultras, whigs and Tories, republicans and federalists, aristocrats and democrats, or by whatever name you please, they are the same parties still, and pursue the same object. The last appellation of aristocrats and democrats is the true one expressing the essence of all."

Jefferson not only announced great fundamental principles, but he applied them to so many different questions that he can be read as an authority on all questions of today. He was opposed to imperialism and believed in self-government; he was for a republic composed of equal and self-governing states and entirely opposed to the colonial idea.

He was opposed to a large army and believed that a government was stronger when resting upon the love of the people than when tolerated only because of fear.

He was so opposed to the principle of monopoly that he only excepted copyrights and patents. Here is the amendment which he suggested to the constitution: "Monopolies may be allowed to persons for their own productions in literature, and their own inventions in the arts, for a term not exceeding _____ years, but for no longer term, and for no other purpose." At another time he suggested fourteen years as the limit for patents.

His hostility to monopoly was exemplified in 1787, in a communication to John Jay, in which he said: "A company had silently and by unfair means obtained a monopoly for the making and selling of spermaceti candles (in France). As soon as we (Lafayette assisted him) discovered it we solicited its suppression which is effected by a clause in the Arret."

He denounced as a fatal fallacy the doctrine that a national debt is a blessing.

He was the relentless enemy of banks of issue. At one time he declared that banks of issue were more dangerous than standing armies. At another time he said: "I hope we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations, which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength, and bid defiance to the laws of our country."

He warned his countrymen against the dangers of an appointive judiciary holding office for life. Of the freedom of speech he said: "The liberty of speaking and writing guards our other liberties."

On the freedom of the press he wrote: "Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press and that can not be limited without being lost."

He was the author of the statute of Virginia guaranteeing religious liberty and was also the father of the University of Virginia. He favored a free school system which would bring to every child an opportunity to secure an education.

He was an advocate of the jury system; and he argued in favor of freeing the slaves three-quarters of a century before Lincoln issued his emancipation proclamation.

His writings fill many volumes and cover almost every conceivable subject, but through all that he said there runs the evidence of a great heart as well as a great intellect.

ABOUT CONSTITUTIONS

In the light of some remarks made recently away down in Egypt land and upon the subject of constitutions and government, some of the things Mr. Jefferson said will be of special interest.

In his first inaugural address he said: "Sometimes it is said that man can not be trusted with the government of himself. Can he then be trusted with the governing of others? Or have we found angels in the form of kings to govern him? Let history answer this question."

In 1803 Mr. Jefferson said: "Our peculiar security is in the possession of a written constitution. Let us not make it a blank paper by construction."

In 1802 he wrote: "Though written constitutions may be violated in moments of passion or delusion, yet they furnish a text to which those who are watchful may again rally and recall the people. They fix, too, for the people the principles of their political creed."

At another time he described our constitution as "the ark of our safety, and grand palladium of our peace and happiness."

It will be remembered that the federal constitution was opposed by some because it did not contain a bill of rights, and the first ten amendments were immediately adopted to remedy this defect and provide additional guarantees to life, liberty and property. Jefferson was a firm believer in the doctrine which led to the adoption of the bill of rights. In a letter written in 1789 he said: "I disapproved from the

first moment the want of a bill of rights (in the constitution) to guard liberty against the legislative as well as the executive branches of the government; that is to say, to secure freedom in religion, freedom of the press, freedom from monopolies, freedom from unlawful imprisonment, freedom from a permanent military, and a trial by jury in all cases determinable by the laws of the land."

In a letter to James Madison, written in 1787, Jefferson said: "A bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth, general or particular; and what no just government should refuse, or rest on inferences."

At another time he defined his position as follows: "By a declaration of rights I mean one which shall stipulate freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of commerce against monopolies, trial by juries in all cases, no suspensions of the habeas corpus, no standing armies. These are fetters against doing evil which no honest government should decline."

Jefferson was a believer in popular government, but he also believed in the inalienable rights of individuals—rights which the government does not give and ought not to take away—rights which can not be safely intrusted to the keeping of any legislative body.

LAWYER AND EDITOR

Among the weekly newspapers on The Commoner's exchange list is the Richland Democrat, published at Rayville, La. The editor is Mr. T. H. McGregor, a lawyer of that county. Attention is called to the paper for two reasons: First, because it stands for tariff reduction. It presents a democratic protest against the protectionist doctrine that stealing is defensible if a part of the plunder comes into the district. Editor McGregor is not caught by the fallacies of protection. He knows that the benefits of the system go to the few while its burdens fall on the many. They have some saw mills in his section but he knows that but a small percentage of the people share in the profits collected under the tax on lumber.

But there is another reason for calling attention to the Richland Democrat: The editor is a lawyer. He finds that he can take time enough from his profession to prepare the necessary editorial matter and his legal training helps him to analyze republican arguments and expose their sophistry.

We need more democratic weeklies; we ought to have at least one in every county in the nation. If there is only one democratic paper in any county and it is tinctured with protection or stands in with the special interests a new democratic paper ought to be established. A lawyer is a very proper person to make the start. The editorials will give vent to his enthusiasm and need not interfere with his practice. We need more lawyer-editors; may their tribe increase!

CONGRATULATIONS

The Commoner congratulates President Taft upon the fact that the tariff war with Canada has been averted. Whenever it is announced that tariff reform in any particular has been obtained even through the mild method of a republican reciprocity agreement, men of all parties congratulate themselves and the government. Why may not the republican party give the people genuine relief on the tariff iniquity? Why wait until after another presidential election?

There never was a time when tariff reform could be more easily entered upon, for the manufacturers by selling abroad cheaper than at home, as many of them do, have not only shown their ingratitude toward those who built the tariff wall for them, but they have demonstrated their ability to sell in competition with the world. The high tariff has long been a burden to the consumers in the United States and it is growing more and more a menace to our foreign commerce because it arouses resentment and provokes retaliation.

UNTIMELY

At the very moment when Senator Daniel of Virginia was making his most gallant fight for life and the members of his family were faithfully cultivating high hope for his recovery, this newspaper dispatch was printed generally throughout the United States:

"Friends of Thomas Fortune Ryan, the traction financier, declared today that in all probability he will be put forward as a candidate for the United States senatorship from Virginia, to succeed Senator John W. Daniel, in the event of the latter's death. Senator Daniel is critically

ill at Daytona, Florida. Mr. Ryan was born in Nelson county, Virginia, and owns a magnificent estate there, Oak Ridge. His only public position of prominence in politics was that of delegate from Virginia to the democratic national convention in 1904."

It is bad enough for a man who has devoted his life to the building of private monopolies and who can have no sympathy with popular government as Jefferson understood it, to aspire to a Virginia senatorship. But something more than a mild protest is due when the campaign in behalf of such a man is instituted before a vacancy has taken place. All Virginia is praying for the recovery of the excellent gentleman who serves the Old Dominion in the United States senate.

God grant that Virginia's prayer may be answered!

COST OF LIVING

New York World: Bradstreet's has compiled two tables showing that the cost of living on January 1 of this year was higher than ever in the history of the country—even higher than on January 1, 1907, when the previous high mark was reached preceding the panic which came a few months later.

In its lists the commercial agency has taken ninety-six articles which enter into direct, daily consumption by the people, and have made "index numbers" by taking a pound of each one of these commodities. The index numbers are based on wholesale prices per pound, averaged over a wide area of markets. The index number of the first day of this year was \$9.2310. This means that a man buying at wholesale one pound each of the ninety-six commodities would have to pay \$9.2310.

Following is a table showing the cost of these articles since January 1, 1892:

Table with 2 columns: Date and Cost Index. Rows include High/Low for various dates from 1892 to 1910.

The ninety-six articles are tabulated into thirteen groups for purposes of comparison. These general groups are breadstuffs, live stock, provisions, fruits, hides and leather, textiles, metals, coal and coke, oils, naval stores, building materials, chemicals and drugs and miscellaneous. The first seven of these are more directly concerned in actual living and the following table is compiled to show the increase in cost in the last fourteen years:

Table with 4 columns: Item, July 1 1896, March 1 1907, Jan. 1 1910. Rows include Breadstuffs, Live stock, Provisions, Hides and leather, Textiles, Coal and coke, Oils, and Totals.

ALL BOSTON STIRRED

An Associated Press dispatch from Boston says: "The price of Boston's favorite and noted edible—baked beans—has increased more than 33 1-3 per cent during the past two years and caused a decrease in the consumption of nine per cent. Two years ago beans retailed at seven and eight cents per quart, while they now cost ten and eleven cents. Boston's bean bill in 1909 was nearly \$5,000,000, an increase of about \$1,700,000 over the previous year, notwithstanding the decrease in the amount used."

No wonder Massachusetts is stirred. The republican party has trifled with Massachusetts' affections for many years. That party's leaders should have known that there is a limit to all things and that the Massachusetts limit is—beans.

The American Homestead, a monthly farm journal of national scope, will be sent to all Commoner subscribers, without additional cost, who renew their subscriptions during the month of April. Take advantage of this offer at once and send in your renewal.