

President Wilson Truly Jeffersonian

Collier's Weekly has given its hearty endorsement to the following political principle enunciated by President Wilson:

"But I feel confident that if Jefferson were living in our day, he would see what we see . . . and that, therefore, law in our day must come to the assistance of the individual . . . Without watchful interference, the resolute interference of the government, there can be no fair play between individuals and such powerful institutions as the trusts. Freedom today is something more than being let alone."

Collier's suggests that this is antagonistic to the advice given by Jefferson to the effect that we should legislate as little as possible. But there is no conflict. What is possible, in the sense in which Jefferson uses the word, depends on the conditions that are to be met. It is wise to expend as little energy as possible in hauling a load, but the load has to be hauled and you must use the horse-power necessary, even if the moving of the load requires a mogul engine. So in legislation, Jefferson was right in saying that we should legislate as little as possible, but Jefferson never denied the right of the people, acting through government, to have as much legislation as is actually necessary.

A change has taken place since Jefferson lived—a change which he would be the first to recognize if he were alive today. He was opposed to the private monopoly—so much so that it was some time before he would consent to the giving of a patent. We all recognize at this time that the patent is wisely devised to encourage invention. The man who gives a new idea to the world confers a benefit upon society, and society would be ungenerous, if not absolutely unjust, to refuse such protection as would enable him to secure a compensation commensurate with the benefit conferred.

Jefferson's position is referred to only to show how carefully he guarded the rights of the peo-

ple. No one who is familiar with his views on the subject of monopoly would doubt for a minute that he would, if advising us today, urge legislation AND ALL THE LEGISLATION NECESSARY for the restraining of every hand uplifted for a neighbor's injury. It is entirely probable that had his life been prolonged until today he would have been able to save the country from some of the laws under which monopolies have come into existence. His maxim "Legislate as little as possible" would surely have been applied in the opposing of legislation which permitted the creation of corporations so little restrained that they have wrought great injustice to their weaker competitors.

It is mockery of Jefferson and dishonor to his name to suppose that he would object to legislation aimed at private monopoly or designed for the protection of the God-made man in his new unequal competition with the man-made giant called the corporation. It is the spirit of Jefferson that we should reverence. The application of Jeffersonian principles may differ from time to time, but the principles endure. Jefferson was a friend of the people and he fought all privilege and favoritism. His name can be invoked in support of all legislation, however numerous the laws and however wide the scope, if that legislation is necessary for the safeguarding of the rights of man. He would not be deceived by the special pleading of those who, having secured privileges to which they are not entitled, now cry "hands off" whenever an oppressed people begin the work of remedying abuses.

The president is Jeffersonian in his point of view, Jeffersonian in his intellectual grasp and Jeffersonian in the courage which he displays. He cannot be accused of heresy nor of departure from the beaten path which the great father of democracy laid out and in which the true democrats have walked throughout the years.

W. J. BRYAN.

CIRCULATING THE COMMONER

The following friends have joined in the plan outlined for the purpose of circulating The Commoner among the voters in their districts, and have ordered subscription cards in number as follows:

Geo. L. Putnam, Calif., 5; H. C. Beard, Texas, 10; P. V. Malm, Minn., 5; W. W. Brannin, Wash., 5; Robt. E. Truax, Ohio, 25; W. C. Phelps, Mich., 5; Barton Darlington, Calif., 5; Z. T. Gerndon, Calif., 5; A. M. Fisk, Ind., 5; G. B. Ficklin, Mo., 5; Henry McCarty, Mich., 5; R. H. Arnold, Ill., 10; L. Bledsoe, Calif., 5; J. L. Babcock, Pa., 5; B. D. Clark, Ky., 5; Richard Denton, Mont., 5; J. C. Lickliter, Pa., 5; A. W. Lugg, Pa., 5; Jas. Masterson, Calif., 5; A. B. Price, Mo., 10; K. K. Runnells, N. Mex., 5; Jos. N. Scott, Ore., 5; Ralph R. Rice, Calif., 25; J. R. Stark, Calif., 5; A. J. St. John, Mo., 10; Sanders Smith, Ind., 5; J. W. Whitehurst, Ore., 25; M. L. Quinn, Calif., 10; B. D. Aldridge, Ia., 5; Leighton Newcomb, Calif., 15; Edgar Apperson, Calif., 10; C. W. Sherman, Ore., 5; N. N. Thompson, Calif., 5; Jas. G. Stuart, N. Mex., 5; Chas. Berth, Pa., 5; G. W. Hall, N. Dak., 5; Wm. Van Delinder, Calif., 5; John P. Moran, Calif., 5; J. E. McLain, N. Dak., 10; Cornelius Gerber, Mich., 5; Hon. B. H. Lein, Calif., 10; Henry B. Weiber, Calif., 10; J. C. Lewis, Calif., 5; Mrs. Ida Zaspal, Calif., 5; A. J. Marquis, Mich., 5; John Daly, Calif., 5; Henry Hansen, Mich., 5; K. C. Bartlett, Neb., 5; Adam C. Davis, Pa., 5; R. C. Dulin, Pa., 5; R. E. McBride, Neb., 10; N. Espeland, N. Dak., 10; W. H. Trotter, Calif., 5; Thos. J. Kelly, Minn., 25; B. F. McManus, Mich., 10; Clyde C. Jett, Ore., 25; Hugo A. Hornlein, Calif., 5; H. A. Humphrey, Minn., 5; F. P. Young, Mo., 5; W. E. Robinson, Mo., 5; I. F. Ellington, Mo., 5; Jesse Macbeth, Ind., 5; Dr. John C. Ferbert, Calif., 5; Frank J. Burns, Ill., 5; F. W. Orchard, Minn., 10; Frank Moneyer, Pa., 25; Glen C. Vance, Pa., 25; A. E. Scott, Neb., 5; M. D. Salyards, Pa., 5; McClellan Curry, Pa., 5; Jas. E. McCurdy, Pa., 10; Harry A. Miller, N. Y., 5; Hugh Brown, Fla., 25; W. H. Graham, Ill., 5; John Womble, Mont., 10; Silas Wilkinson, N. Y., 10; Wm. E. Cherry, N. Y., 10; Jas. B. Stonesifer, Pa., 5; D. B. Scott, Ohio, 10; Richard Gerritt, Mich., 10; Andrew McCauley, Ia., 5; Wm. A. Wood, Mich., 5; D. E. Bridges, Texas, 5; Wm. P. Gregg, N. Y., 5; J. A. Webster, N. Y., 5; W. E. Crone, Ohio, 5; Morris Gorin, Pa., 5;

Geo. G. Brown, Mo., 5; Jno. M. Smrlker, Pa., 5; Rev. B. F. Addis, Pa., 5; Andrew Anderson, Pa., 5; John Fletcher, Mo., 5; F. R. Cookran, Pa., 5; S. J. Brown, Kans., 5; Mary Wilson, Mo., 5; H. H. Landis, Pa., 5; J. W. Fisher, Pa., 5; A. W. McFadin, Mo., 5; D. Bartlett, Mo., 5; H. C. Taggart, Mo., 5; W. W. Locke, Mo., 5; J. C. Watson, Mo., 10; Wm. A. Mayfield, Mo., 5; F. P. Gibbs, Mo., 5; T. H. Gleason, Utah, 5; John Bayne, Ore., 5; U. G. Sheets, Mo., 5; John M. Kenley, Mo., 5; Albion R. Ream, Mo., 10; Henry Kemp, Mo., 5; Jas. A. McKell, Mo., 5; W. R. Speer, Okla., 5; W. C. Kilgore, Okla., 5; Thos. Lane, Mo., 5; Henry Marsch, N. Y., 5; Geo. W. Lewis, Mo., 10; J. A. Carson, Pa., 10; John Hill, Okla., 5; W. C. Zerbe, Pa., 5; Amanda Beecher, N. Y., 5; Jno. E. Wilson, Mo., 25; P. W. Wieland, Pa., 5; C. C. Cox, Wash., 10; W. S. Brown, Calif., 5; J. F. Wisecarver, Ore., 5; M. P. Sutherland, Va., 5; R. C. Benton, Mo., 10; R. B. Houghton, Mo., 5; R. E. Colley, Mo., 5; J. C. Burchet, S. Dak., 5.

The following named friends have signed pledges and subscribed the sums opposite their names for the purpose of placing The Commoner in the hands of doubtful voters in close congressional districts:

Ralph R. Rice, Calif., \$1; Fred Barr, N. Y., \$5; A. P. Man, N. Y., \$5; David Sharp, Minn., \$1; Henry Diener, Calif., \$5; Dave Rorick, Calif., \$5; O. P. McGinnis, Ohio, \$1; G. S. Broen, Calif., \$1; Jas. E. Denison, Mass., \$1; Wilber Miller, Ia., \$4; F. B. McClung, Calif., \$5; W. Campbell, Ore., \$1; E. J. Hearn, Neb., \$2; E. A. Purdy, Minn., \$3; H. A. Hornlein, Calif., \$5; Chas. O. Wyman, Minn., \$1; A. Anderson, Minn., \$3; E. C. Duncan, Kans., \$2.40; Thos. J. Howell, Wash., \$1; Chas. Branagan, Wash., \$1; Geo. Peabody, N. Y., \$5; E. M. Dixon, N. Y., \$1; J. W. Craig, Ore., \$1; G. W. Cornish, Okla., \$3; Miles R. Sisson, N. Y., \$3; Mrs. F. J. Markham, Calif., \$1; C. C. Cox, Wash., \$3.

Sugar planters in Louisiana have started a campaign to induce the reconsideration of the determination to give the people of the United States free sugar in two years. They say it will destroy their fifty million dollar investment. On the other hand free sugar will save the consumers of the nation \$125,000,000 a year. Some persons cannot understand that the nation has adopted a new policy that comprehends the interests of the many rather than of the few.

AS THE FLAG GOES BY.

Off with your hat as the flag goes by
And let the heart have its say,
You're man enough for a tear in your eye
That will not wipe away.

You're man enough for a thrill that goes
To your very finger tips.
Ay! the lump just then in your throat that rose
Spoke more than your parted lips.

Lift up the boy on your shoulders high,
And show him the faded shred—
Those stripes would be red as the sunset sky,
If Death could have dyed them red.

The man that bore it with Death has lain
These fifty years and more.
He died that the work should not be vain
Of men who bore it before.

The man that bears it is bent and old,
And ragged his beard and gray,
But look at his eye-fire young and bold,
At the tune he hears them play.

The old tune thunders through all the air,
And strikes right into the heart,
If ever it calls for you, boy, be there
Be there and ready to start.

Off with your hat as the flag goes by,
Uncover the youngster's head,
Teach him to hold it holy and high
For the sake of its sacred dead.

—Tom Moore.

"Never before has the United States sunk so low in its relations with other countries," shrieked the Hon. Curtis Guild of Boston just before Latin America offered its services as a mediator and Germany and England began putting pressure on Huerta. The New York World left nothing more to be said about critics of the administration diplomacy when it commented thus: "Mr. Guild cannot be proud of a country in which he no longer holds public office."

A lull in the Mexican news enabled the newspapers to get Vincent Astor and Miss Huntington safely married. The young man's principal claim to front page position is that his father's sudden death burdened him, at an early age, with more money than any one man ought to have. It is still an open question whether the newspapers devote so much space to our home aristocracy because the news editors are snobs or because they think their readers are.

The Rock Island railroad defaulted a few days ago in the payment of its semi-annual interest on a four per cent gold bond issue. The fact that the announcement came on the same day that the request of the railroads to increase their freight rates was submitted to the interstate commerce commission is looked upon in some quarters as being something more than a coincidence. There is more than one way of getting evidence into the record.

The remarkable unanimity of public sentiment behind President Wilson in every movement made in handling the Mexican situation is another proof of the fact that the politicians and the sensational newspaper editors have lost their old hold on the people. Supremely confident that the president's judgment and patriotism could be trusted, they have signed blank approvals of his course and gone about their every day business.

The announcement that the administration had perfected its plans for curbing the trust evil must have been a sad blow to those cocksure Washington newspaper correspondents who were sending out the information some weeks ago that nothing would be done with the question at this session of congress. They were so certain of it that they seemed to have deceived the same Wall street fellows from whom the story first emanated.

The administration has once more proved that the best way to secure peace is to indicate that it is peace that is really wanted. Mr. Wilson gave no stronger proof of his real desires than when he accepted the mediation of the A.B.C. confederation at the very hour that he was busiest in his preparations for war.