

# The Commoner.

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## Mr. Wilson on Monopoly

Mr. Wilson's position with respect to monopoly was well described in an article written by the president and printed in the World's Work. This article is entitled "The New Freedom." In this article Mr. Wilson criticises Mr. Roosevelt's monopoly plan as "a partnership between big business and the government," the effect of which on the people would depend on the benevolence of the contracting parties, whereas the people want justice, not philanthropy. "Benevolence never developed a man or nation," says Mr. Wilson. "We do not want a benevolent government. We want a free and just government."

In clear cut language he declared the policy of this democratic administration, saying: "We purpose to prevent private monopoly by law." He sums up the attitude of the administration in this way:

"Our purpose is the restoration of freedom. We purpose to prevent private monopoly by law, to see to it that the methods by which monopolies have been built up are legally made impossible.

"We design that the limitations on present enterprise shall be removed so that the next generation of youngsters as they come along will not have to become proteges of benevolent trusts, but will be free to go about making their own lives what they will; so that we shall taste again the full cup, not of charity, but of liberty—the only wine that ever refreshed and renewed the spirit of a people."

There is no misunderstanding of the president's purpose. It is to so administer the trust committed to his care that this shall be a government of, by and for the people. So far as monopoly is concerned, the president's position is summed up in the declaration of the democratic national platform, that "private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable."

### A BIT OF PRIMER

Mr. Samuel L. Youtree, a St. Louis high protectionist, wrote to the editor of the St. Louis Republic, as follows: I will thank the Republic to analyze the following proposition from a free-trade standpoint, viz: We have in St. Louis a number of department stores that pay license and taxes to city and state. Suppose that in the interest of the consumer the city and state invite a new store to open business here with a guarantee that no license or taxes will be imposed. It appears to me that these results would follow, viz: The new store could undersell and compel the old ones to give up business; their employes would be thrown out of work, the city and state would lose the license and taxes which the public would be compelled to make up; the real beneficiary would be the new store. It looks to me that free trade would, in like manner make the foreigner the sole beneficiary.

In reply the editor treated Mr. Youtree to this bit of primer: The cases are not parallel. Here is a parallel case: Suppose we put walls and gates around St. Louis and impose a high tariff on all goods brought in from the outside

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## THE SEVENTEENTH AMENDMENT

The amendment to the constitution for the popular election of United States senators, is the seventeenth to be adopted. It reads:

"The senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, elected by the people thereof, for six years, and each senator shall have one vote. The electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branches of the state legislatures.

"When vacancies happen in the representation of any state in the senate, the executive authority of such state shall issue writ of election to fill such vacancies, provided that the legislature of any state may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct."

which this town can make for itself. Then suppose shoes, stoves, candy, hats, etc., to be advanced to prices much higher inside the wall than our manufacturers receive from outside customers.

## BUSINESS AND THE TARIFF

The very fact that a tariff is opposed on the ground that it disturbs business, is a weighty argument against the protective system. When industries rest, not upon their merits, but upon legislative favors, they are always in politics. They may advise others to regard the question as non-political, but they never do. They are for the party that favors them, and they are willing to purchase legislation by contributions to the campaign fund. When the election is over they are in a position to enforce their demands by threatening a withdrawal of contributions.

But the party now in power did not win through contributions from special interests. It is free to serve the people. As President Wilson said there may be errors of judgment, but our motive being above just challenge the results will certainly be for the public good. No finer tribute was ever paid to the high purpose of a party than was given by the New York World when in referring to the democratic tariff bill, it said: "Against the bill as a whole the World believes there can be little sincere and disinterested opposition. It is an honest measure. It is a reasonable measure. It is an intelligent measure. It is a progressive measure. It is not the product of intrigue and log-rolling. It was bought with no corrupt contributions to a campaign fund. It was framed by the representatives of the people and not by the representatives of privileged interests. It is a bill to promote the welfare of the many, not the profits of the few, and the democratic party can stand by it in all honor and in all good faith."

## PROGRESS IN MASSACHUSETTS

The people of the Thirteenth congressional district of Massachusetts have elected to congress John J. Mitchell, democrat. The contest was on the tariff. Only last November this district elected Mr. Weeks, a republican, who was later chosen for the senate. The election of Mr. Mitchell at this time upon an issue so clear-cut as was the tariff issue during this special campaign indicates that there is a growing element in support of President Wilson's tariff program.

## "KEEPING THE FAITH"

The St. Louis Republic says "keeping the faith" is good politics now. It was always good politics, only some of our public men were slow in learning the lesson which President Wilson has impressed so strongly upon the public mind during the brief period he has been in office.

## A Leader of Men

The American people have already discovered that they have in the White House a real leader of men. President Wilson has demonstrated his power in a winning way. Ralph Smith, Washington correspondent for the Nashville Tennessean describes the Wilson characteristics in the following interesting way:

Woodrow Wilson has demonstrated his purpose to be a real president. He has secured the power and responsibility, both of party and of national leadership. Having listened patiently, he has decided conclusively. He has smashed two precedents to press his views home and gives evidence of a fixed purpose to live with senators and representatives until he gets what he wants in tariff legislation. If he doesn't get it, he proposes to know precisely why and to put himself in position to inform the public and the constituents of recalcitrants.

President Wilson's determination to be a real leader is evidently comparable with that of Colonel Roosevelt. The colonel, however, had serious difficulty in handling congress. He got results by pounding, most of the time he was badly on the nerves of a large proportion of members of congress. Had he taken the chance of reading a message to a joint session, as did Wilson, he would have been greeted with a storm of protests and might even have precipitated a scene of violent opposition. Members of congress in considerable numbers looked upon the many Roosevelt messages as frank efforts to scold them and they didn't like to be treated that way.

But President Wilson has a winning way about him. He hides his determination under the sweetest smile and the mildest manner. His Rooseveltism determination is swathed in a more-than-Taftian courtesy. Senator Williams of Mississippi, jealous of traditions, assailed the president's purpose to address the two houses in joint session when he first heard of it. A few others may have shared his feeling, but when the president made his mild appearance and talked about being a human being like the rest, opposition was disarmed. When he said his purpose was to make it clear that the president was not a mere executive department, addressing congress from an island of jealous authority, the frown even of Senator Williams softened into a smile. The president took perhaps even more chance in going to the senate wing of the capitol to confer with the democratic members of the finance committee on the tariff. But he genially informed the senators that he thus showed himself perfectly willing to go to see them rather than to ask them to travel to the White House to see him. He put himself in a modest attitude to begin with. That broke the ice, and presently the atmosphere was so warm that there wasn't any ice.

The president's attitude thus far certainly has not begotten any serious opposition. Most of the democrats, not being seriously injured by his tariff proposals, are quite frankly pleased to have a genuine party leader. The few senators who would like to oppose features of the tariff bill don't know what to do about it. To them Woodrow Wilson is a new kind of president.

## A FINE OHIO DEMOCRAT

Governor Cox, that fine old democrat of Ohio, has endeared himself to men and women the world over by his hard and courageous efforts in behalf of the flood sufferers of his state. A Columbus, Ohio, dispatch to the Cincinnati Enquirer shows how Governor Cox gave an over-cautious and inconsiderate banker a taste of his own "medicine." The Enquirer dispatch says: When stories of flood disaster were flying around Governor Cox learned that the over-cautious cashier of a Columbus bank had demanded immediate repayment of \$15,000 de-