

to hold a primary, I suppose I shall not be inconvenienced much by attending them, and again I might be thrown out if I did attend one, as the only vote I ever cast here was for Roosevelt. However, I believe in the general trend of Mr. Bryan's ideas and have voted for them twice. Think the pledge will do the trick. Now if some of the influential republicans will get up a pledge for republicans voters and have it universally signed the reign of the Plute will be short for one-half of the people are no better than the other half. If the will of the republican voters had been carried out eight years ago at St. Louis there would have been no gold platform and Mr. McKinley might have realized his ambition without going back on his principles, Mr. Bryan could not have made his "cross of gold" speech and the country been spared eight years and then some, of the "Bryan peril." (This as a sop to the Plutes.) There is one thing that should be added to both pledges. It is this: "I promise to go as a man, with a purpose, not as a sheep following a bell."

H. A. Meyer Hooper, Neb.—Will enclose primary pledge. Yours is not always the first paper that I read, but when I read it I know that I am reading the truth. Best wishes for The Commoner, and true democracy's success.

St. McAllister, Carthage, Mo.—I am greatly in favor of the primary pledge. I was born a democrat in West Virginia in 1864. Voted for Cleveland twice, Bryan twice, Judge Parker once. Will do all I can to keep democrats in line in my ward on any and all occasions from now on until we win in 1908.

Wm. Henton, Miami, Mo.—Enclosed find pledge with 49 names. Please send me another pledge. When I have time to spare from my work I will try to secure more signers to the primary pledge.

James Conklin, Marlboro, N. Y.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed. I have been a democrat all my life and a firm advocate of the Chicago and Kansas City platform. I believe in the principles of Thomas Jefferson.

B. F. Baker, Charlotte, Mich., R. F. D. No. 2.—Enclosed please find the primary pledge that you sent me with 19 good and true democratic signatures attached.

L. M. Manzer, San Francisco, Calif.—Enclosed please find the primary pledge signed by me. Not that it will in the least affect my action, as I am now 75 years of age, and have attended every primary of my party and every election at which I had a legal right to vote. This in my youth was taught me as a religious and civil duty. It is not enough that we go to the primary and vote. We should see that we have men to vote for who will represent the right. It is far more important that we have an honest primary system through which the voter can express his choice and sentiments on all matters, than a lofty declaration of principles with a dishonest primary system, or a platform imperfect in its provisions. We can never have a true democratic party until we have a truly democratic primary system for its expression and government. Nor can we have a respectable burlesque on a government of the people until we have a genuine primary system just and democratic in all its machinery. As well attempt to purify the waters with a putrid carcass in the fountain by filtering as to purify government by legislative safeguards of the general election which are but ratifications of something done at the primary source of power too often neglected and quite often misunderstood by those claiming to represent it. I would have every candidate for office nominated by a direct vote of his party, at all times requiring a majority vote to nominate. I would

have all officers elected by a majority vote. In each case when a majority was not obtained on the first ballot, drop all but the two highest and have another ballot. Religiously and politically I believe in a government of the people, and am at all times willing to abide by the fairly expressed will of the majority. As far as we can get at this time is the primary pledge and you have my support and commendation in your present effort for the truth, as you have had it in the past.

D. W. Batchler, Winter Park, Fla.—Here is my pledge; also my son's. I believe it is a move in the right direction. Now is the time to get busy and prepare for the future, to work for the rights of the people and give to them what they demand. Best wishes for the success of The Commoner.

A. C. Snyder, Easton, Ill.—Find enclosed my pledge duly signed. I am glad to do what I can to help the good cause you advocate. If you will send some blank pledges, I will make an effort to get them filled out.

J. K. P. Duncan, Ash Grove, Mo.—I heartily endorse the primary plan as set forth in The Commoner of March 17, because it is right. It appeals to the voter of every precinct to come out and be heard. It is in keeping with the basic principles of democracy as enunciated by Jefferson; by that plan we will get the consent of the governed. I have not talked with a single democrat but what endorses it.

C. E. Bilderhach, Huntsville, Ill.—In signing the accompanying pledge, will say I do it for the influence it may have as I never miss a primary. Your plan is a good one. Success to it.

John Lynch, Albany, Ind.—I never missed a primary since I was old enough to vote. I am well pleased with the plan you have taken to get out the vote at primaries. If this plan is carried out all over the United States we will send a democrat to kill bears after the 1908 election.

A. M. Gallagher, South Omaha, Neb.—I enclose you herewith primary pledge duly signed. I consider the pledge an excellent one. I have never missed a primary since I cast my first vote, fifteen years ago.

John L. Karns, Ridgeway, Ill.—Enclosed find my primary pledge duly signed. I at first thought it was not necessary for me to sign since I had done this all my life, having never missed an election since I had been a voter, but I came very near not voting last fall. I finally concluded to vote for local candidates. I could not swallow Parker. May the good Lord deliver me from anything that savors of Grover Cleveland.

Hubert Boehmer, Lodi, Wis.—I take pleasure in signing the primary pledge and hope that this good work will continue until victory is won.

Commodore Smith, Lawyer, Chilli-cothe, Mo.—I enclose you herewith the primary pledge. I have been intending to send this for some time, as it meets with my hearty approval. I have always thought and do yet, that the proper place to begin a reform or to build a foundation is at the bottom, that is among the rank and file of the party. I think your theory of "going back to the people" is a correct one. When the masses attend the first and subsequent meetings of our party, they do not only demand, but get what they want and what the masses want is what the rulers should want. I am with you heartily in your efforts to keep the party together and to build up such an organization that by the time the national convention meets, we will have such an organization that the plutocratic members will not attempt to decoy us from our principles and to foist upon the people an uncertain and ambiguous platform. Keep up the good work and we are with you.

Rev. W. J. Blankenship, Look, W. Va.—With the greatest of pleasure I sign the pledge and hope that every

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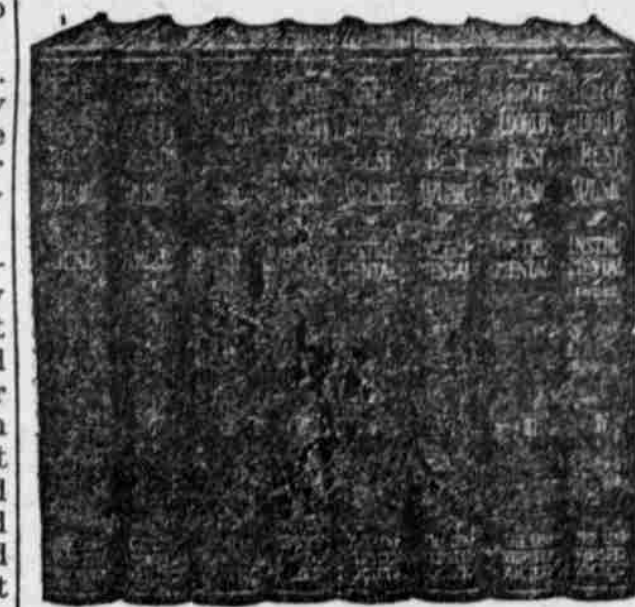


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