

MOVE AS A MAN WITH A PURPOSE==

Every democrat is asked to pledge himself to attend all of the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented and to use his influence to secure a clear, honest and straight-forward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak. Those desiring to be enrolled can either write to The Commoner approving the object of the organization and asking to have their names entered on the roll, or they can fill out and mail the blank pledge which printed on page 16 of this issue.

It will require time to cover the entire field, but if democrats co-operate, the desired result will be accomplished.

Send The Commoner your own primary pledge and then ask your neighbor to do likewise.

Many willing hands in all sections of the country are taking hold of The Commoner's tow line. The success of the primary pledge plan is assured. Not that the work is by any means completed—it is hardly begun—but it is plain that democrats who want their party to be the party of the people are co-operating for the organization of the rank and file along the lines of the primary pledge plan.

William F. Sapp, chairman of the democratic state committee for Kansas, writing from Topeka under date of May 13, says: I herewith enclose nineteen primary election pledges, received at democratic headquarters this week. I believe this is going to awaken a great deal of interest among the young voters in this state.

J. H. Downey, dealer in agricultural implements at Mt. Jackson, Va., asks that two hundred primary pledge blanks be forwarded to him, adding: "I think it the proper plan of organization."

R. L. Morgan, Lawyer, of Bloomington, Ind., has been doing vigorous work in behalf of the primary pledge plan in his county. Under date of May 18, Mr. Morgan writes: "Enclosed you will find the names of 235 democrats who have pledged themselves to attend the democratic primaries, I have about twenty petitions circulating in this county, and adjoining counties, and expect to enroll several hundred democrats. Circulating the enclosed petitions has brought me in personal contact with nearly all the representative democrats in this county, and I wish to say, they are much interested in this plan of organization."

W. L. Eagleton, Lawyer, Pawnee, Okla., is making an earnest effort to obtain the signature of every democrat in his vicinity. Mr. Eagleton has sent to a large number of Oklahoma democrats the following letter: "William J. Bryan has suggested a plan for reorganization of the party, which I deem to be in the best interests of the party and for this reason am anxious to do all I can in helping the matter along, and am urging my friends to give the matter their consideration, and if they can do so to assist in the work. I want to personally urge a careful investigation of the plan, and bespeak for the effort your assistance. I would also

be pleased to know that the offer of The Commoner, 60 cents per year, for clubs of five or more is taken advantage of at your postoffice. I do not believe that we can do better than to carefully organize and see to it that the people are given an opportunity through the primary pledge to control the next national convention, both in its declaration of principles and in its nominees for office. Please let me hear from you along the lines suggested."

James Vance, of Ironton, Mo., sends pledge with 19 signatures.

Charles J. Skaggs, Pekin, Ill., sends pledge with 20 signatures.

J. J. Curran, City Hall, Birmingham, Ala., sends pledge with 20 signatures.

D. A. Merrell, Kerrville, Tenn., sends pledge with 28 signatures.

D. S. Maynard, Gaston, Ind., sends pledge with 26 signatures.

Sam T. Jones, Kenton, Okla., sends list of twenty signatures to the primary pledge.

C. L. Andrews, Lone Wolf, Okla., sends primary pledge with 12 signatures.

J. I. Phelps, El Reno sends primary pledge with 20 signatures.

Herman Decker, Pekin, Ill., sends primary pledge with 40 signatures.

George Beamer, Lamar, Mo.—Please send 100 blank pledges, will have them signed and sent in at once. This is a move in the right direction and will surely be productive of great good.

Extracts from other letters, every one enclosing primary pledge follow:

Sam Singleton, R. F. D. No. 2, Richland, Ia.—Enclosed please find primary pledge. I was born in a republican family and rocked in a republican cradle. I have five brothers.

Three of them are still voting with what they call the republican party. I got my eyes opened at the St. Louis convention of 1896 when those old standard bearers went out of the convention with tears in their eyes because they had been contending for a principle that had been defeated. You republicans remember what happened. When I read their statement I found myself in sympathy with those old fellows who walked out. I think I was the first of what they call a "free silver republican" in Richland. I told my republican friends that the element which controlled that convention wanted to permanently fasten on us the gold standard, and that they wouldn't stop at that, but would want to make the silver dollar subsidiary. They said they believed that I was honest in my belief, but they pitied my ignorance. I supported Parker in 1904, not because he suited me, but because it was a step in the right direction. When I vote on a platform that Mr. Bryan would frame or heartily endorse I think it is near what "old Abe" as we call him, would put out. That's good enough for me. Yours for success, body and breeches.

H. M. Smith, Loreda, Texas.—I filled out and sent in my primary pledge sometime ago. I am nearly seventy-five years old and can not stand much, so not much can be expected of me in the way of traveling around looking for signatur

Noah Dawson, Bridgeport, W. Va.—Enclosed find primary pledge. I supported democracy in 1896-1900. That of 1904 was a nauseating dose. Many democrats in my community would not support Parker, not that they considered the platform altogether bad, by any means, but did not wish to abet or encourage the reorganizers in any way. Therefore would have none of their company. I favor the primary pledge or any other means that

will enhance good government.

Henry Roeder, R. F. D. No. 7, Evansville, Ind.—How I will vote in 1908 is for the future to decide, although I can sign the primary pledge. I followed the republican party until I got left, and now I don't know but what I might have to say the same thing of the democratic party in the near future. But I will follow it until I get left, and in the meantime I will do what I can to see that the principle of public ownership of public utilities succeeds.

Dr. T. J. Dunbar, Portsmouth, O.—We can win in an honorable way if every one signs the primary pledge. I will do anything honorable to get the chance to vote for righteous principles in 1908.

H. W. Thurmond, county judge, Licking, Mo.—Enclosed find primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

Ben V. Smith, Lawyer, Somerset, Ky.—We have thirty-five precincts in our county. If you will forward me that many pledges I will take pleasure in sending one to each precinct, secure list of names and then return all to you. I feel very much interested in this plan of work, and will do what I can to make it a success. I was a delegate in 1896 to Chicago, and feel interested in the cause advocated by Mr. Bryan.

A. E. Gramsie, Minneapolis.—I am only too glad to do anything I can in this movement, and think we will win next time.

Isaac N. Boggerly, Birds Eye, Ind.—I heartily endorse this movement. I herewith send a few pledges signed by strong believers in your plan.

W. N. Stringfield, Cario, I. T.—We are with you. We read The Commoner and expect to continue. Can't do without it.

J. A. Garner, Nickerson, Neb.—Enclosed you will find a list of signers. Where Bryan leads we will follow.

Cyrus Hotchkiss, Delancy, N. Y.—I am in sympathy with you, particularly in your primary pledge plan. Send me some blank pledges.

M. A. Winter, Traskwood, Ark.—I was born in Morgan County, Alabama, June 11, 1823. I left there September 15, 1839. I now live at Traskwood and will do all I can for your good plan.

T. A. Roy, Perry, Okla.—Find enclosed twenty primary pledges. I am pleased to send them. I wish every democrat would do the same. If we do not attend our primaries we need not expect to elect a ticket that will give the common people any relief. In my judgment that is the reason we were defeated last fall.

J. L. Hall, Honey Grove, Tex.—I think the primary pledge is a good idea. I have always considered the primary the place to get reform. If the people don't speak out in the primary they can not hope to have a "government of, for and by the people."

A. C. Cox, Danville, Ind.—It certainly affords me great pleasure to get a chance to sign a primary pledge like that of The Commoner. Every honest democrat and all the penitent republicans ought to sign it forthwith. Everybody get ready for the battle of 1908, and let's reaffirm the Kansas City Platform. "No compromise" should be the slogan until every honest democrat is solidly united in the old faith.

W. T. Shepard, Houston, Mo.—Enclosed you will find primary pledge with forty-two signatures. We heartily endorse your plan. We would like to go further and pledge everyone to support the nominee.

J. E. Venard, Wilmington, O.—Please send me primary pledge blank.

Yours for the betterment of mankind.

Ira Stout, New Richmond, Ind.—I send you my pledge with the assurance that I am with you, heart and soul, in the war you are waging against plutocracy and organized wealth. You have fought a good fight, you have kept the faith, but you have not finished your course.

Jacob Dunbar, Guthrie, Okla.—Enclosed find primary pledge, signed by as many as I could conveniently reach.

Z. B. Garrison, Garrison, Tex.—I have all my life closely attended the primary election. I am seventy-six years old, and have voted the democratic ticket from constable to president (except for Greeley). I am heartily in accord with your plan, and hope God will spare my life to participate in the campaign of 1908. I received the first issue of The Commoner, and I don't think I have ever missed a number or failed to read it.

C. L. Bridgewater, Little York, Ind.—I have been a voter ever since 1860. I voted for Greeley, and also for Parker, but I afterwards felt that I had nearly committed a great sin. I endorse the primary pledge plan. I have taken The Commoner for a year, and will continue it. I value it very highly.

Leonard Martin, South Hero, Vt.—Enclosed find primary pledge, signed by seventeen. I could get fifty signers if I had time, for they seem to take to it like hot cakes. My friends of the south and west, don't be discouraged, for the tide is turning and the money power begins to see "the handwriting on the wall."

W. H. Fortner, Kingston, O.—I send my primary pledge to assist in organizing the democratic party for the campaign of 1908. I never miss a primary, and think it is the duty of every democrat to attend regularly. My first vote was cast for George B. McClelland or, as we called him in the army, "Little Mac." I voted for every democrat nominated for president since, and expect to hereafter.

Dr. Mary E. Walker, Oswego, N. Y.—Please send me some of the primary pledges that I may present to callers.

F. A. Panlow, Clear Lake, Wis.—Enclosed find my primary pledge. I was a republican until 1896. In my opinion the principles of Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln and Bryan democracy will live after both or all parties are dead.

George W. Jordan, Pettigrew, Ark.—Unless the people are allowed a voice in selecting a candidate and making a platform, democracy is doomed. But if the masses are allowed a voice in those matters, victory will perch on the banner of democracy in 1908.

W. G. Needham, Teutopolis, Ill.—Enclosed find twenty-three primary pledges. The best thing to do is to get the democrats out to the primaries. I have no doubt but success will crown your efforts. Go on in your good work, and God will grant success.

James Pope, Orlando, Fla.—Enclosed find primary pledge with fourteen signatures.

G. T. Stone, Cashion, Okla.—I am in sympathy with the primary pledge plan, and will do all that I can to carry it through. I enclose your primary pledge with forty-three signatures.

Wm. H. Smith, Seward, Neb.—Enclosed find my primary pledge, and one other. It seems to me that every western democrat, especially, and all eastern democrats in sympathy with the spirit of the western, or new, democracy, should sign these pledges.

F. R. C. Campbell, Pickel, Tenn.—I like the idea of the primary pledge