

A LESSON FROM RUSSIA

The Democrats of Russia are demanding a voice in the affairs of government. They are opposed to centralization; they are opposed to taxation without representation; they are opposed to one-man rule; they are opposed to "administrative arbitrariness."

that "self-reliance is the chief condition of the proper and successful development of the political and economic life of a country" and therefore they are in favor of the greatest possible liberty to the individual consistent with good government, law and order.

To state it all in a sentence they are

asking for themselves those "inalienable rights," which the Democrats of the United States enjoy, and there is a lesson in this plea of the Russian Democrats for the Democrats of the United States.

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them for granted. But it is always to be remembered that these blessings will remain to us only so long as we ourselves maintain them.

BOTH

Isidor Raynor, the new senator from Maryland, has been a leading lawyer in that state for thirty years. He was in congress while the McKinley tariff bill was under discussion. One day, while arguing an amendment, he casually remarked that "everything is either a luxury or a necessity."

The Primary Pledge==Organize Now.

From The Commoner, Lincoln, Nebraska, March 17, 1905

Newspapers favoring the plan outlined are requested to reproduce this editorial together with the primary pledge as it appears below. They may request their readers to sign this pledge and forward the same either to The Commoner or to the office of their local democratic paper.

The Pledge Outlined

The following editorial appeared in The Commoner of March 17:

"Mr. Bryan has been in receipt of a multitude of letters since the election urging organization for the campaign of 1908. The rank and file of the party are ready to begin the fight; they only await a plan of co-operation.

"Let each democrat 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 straightforward declaration of

the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak.

"This plan does not involve the writing of a platform in advance of the primaries; it does not rest upon the paramount importance of any one issue. It recognizes the right of the democratic voters to control the policy of the democratic party, and to determine its position upon public questions.

"This proposition will appeal to all who believe in the rule of the people—to all who are willing that the majority shall govern in party management and in the nation. It does not mean that those who exert themselves to secure a good platform will be bound to support a bad platform—that is a question which each must determine for himself—but it does mean that the democratic platform shall give voice to the prevailing sentiment of the democratic party, and that the party shall take the country into its confidence.

"When the work of organization is

sufficiently advanced, a time can be set for the meeting of the members in their various localities. The members of this organization, while pledged to but one thing—namely, attendance upon the primaries—are urged to co-operate among themselves for the support of every effort put forth to eliminate corruption in politics.

"The Commoner will do its part in aiding every movement that has for its object the ascertainment of the will of the people and the scrupulous enforcement of that will.

"The Commoner will also furnish all the information that it can upon the questions which are before the public to the end that its readers may be prepared to render the maximum of assistance to every worthy cause.

"Who will be the first to make this pledge? A record will be kept in The Commoner office of the name and address of each person who enters into this movement. Those who desire to be enrolled can either write 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 which is printed below.

"The Commoner will be pleased to publish a limited number of brief letters on this subject. Mr. Bryan is encouraged by his correspondence to believe that there will be a prompt and hearty response to the above proposition."

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

I promise to attend all the primaries of my party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to use my influence to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak.

Signed.....

Street..... Postoffice..... State.....

County..... Voting precinct or ward.....

Fill out blanks and mail to Commoner Office, Lincoln, Neb.