

SILVER AND WHEAT

A reader of The Commoner, referring to an editorial which appeared some weeks ago discussing the effect of falling silver upon the price of wheat, asks whether, if the price of wheat goes down in Liverpool, it does not go down in India, regardless of the kind of money used in purchasing it. This is a question that is often asked, and has often been answered. Before the suspension of the coinage of silver in India the silver price of wheat did not fall. As the gold price fell in Liverpool it required less and less in gold to buy the silver with which to pay for a given amount of wheat. For instance, when gold and silver were at a parity at the coinage ratio, it would require \$1.29 in gold to buy an ounce of silver. If that ounce of silver would buy a bushel of wheat in India, the wheat in Liverpool must sell for \$1.29 in gold, plus the cost of carriage. When silver fell to 80c an ounce in gold, then a bushel of wheat selling in India still at \$1.29 would bring in Liverpool 80c in gold plus the cost of carriage, and gold countries had to meet this competition. The Indian farmer who was on a silver basis did not suffer by the fall in silver except insofar as he bought imports, while the American farmer suffered, because his taxes, his debts and his fixed charges remained substantially the same, while the value of his crop decreased. When England suspended the coinage of silver in India and fixed a ratio of 24 to 1, the Indian farmer began to share the suffering visited upon gold standard countries by the fall in silver, although he still had a 50 per cent advantage over the gold standard countries.

The act suspending the free coinage of silver in India was passed by a counsel of Englishmen without authority from the Indian people and without consulting either the wishes or the interests of the Indian people. When Senator Wolcott, one

of the monetary commissioners appointed by President McKinley, returned from Europe he declared that the action of England in suspending the coinage of silver in India was the chief cause of the suffering that many attributed to the famine.

APPRECIATIVE FRIENDS

Every mail brings to The Commoner office responses by those who have taken advantage of the special subscription offer. It would be impossible to print all these responses, but the following will serve as samples:

J. W. Earnhart, Lebanon, Ohio, writes: "Find enclosed money order for \$7.20 to pay for the within list of twelve subscribers. This list was obtained in a few minutes' time, so great is the enthusiasm among democrats over the principles advocated by The Commoner."

J. A. McGuire, Gilby, N. D., writes: "Here-with find check for \$10.20 for enclosed list of subscribers at your 60c rate."

John T. Tansey, Albany, N. Y., sends \$3.60 to pay for six subscribers to The Commoner.

Wm. A. Griffith, Atwood, Kans., writes: "Enclosed find \$6.60 to pay for the within list of eleven subscribers."

J. E. Blattner, Mexico, Mo., writes: "Please find herewith list of twelve subscribers for The Commoner and money order for \$7.20 to pay for the same."

J. F. Conner, Albany, Okla., sends money order for \$7.20 to pay for list of twelve subscribers enclosed.

A Kansas City reader writes: "Herewith I hand you list of twenty-one subscribers and money to pay for same at your clubbing rate."

A. McLean, Bickford, Okla., sends list of thirty subscribers and money to pay for same.

A New York reader writes: "Enclosed please find list of 23 subscribers and draft to pay for the

same at your 60c rate, for clubs of five or more."

According to the terms of the special subscription offer, cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner, will be furnished in lots of five, at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Anyone ordering these cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign.

These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold. A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in this effort to increase The Commoner's circulation.

THE COMMONER'S SPECIAL OFFER	
Application for Subscription Cards	
5	Publisher Commoner: I am interested in increasing The Commoner's circulation, and desire you to send me a supply of subscription cards. I agree to use my utmost endeavor to sell the cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each, when sold. Name _____ Box, or Street No. _____ P. O. _____ State _____ Indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this blank. If you believe the paper is doing a work that merits encouragement, fill out the above coupon and mail it to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.
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# Failure to Participate in the Primaries the Cause of Misrepresentation in Conventions

The Commoner has received from Tom L. Johnson, mayor of Cleveland, O., a letter, one sentence of which should be posted in the highways and in the byways of democracy in order that he who runs may read. That sentence is: "Failure to participate in the primaries as the cause of misrepresentation in conventions."

Mayor Johnson's letter, written under date of April 4, is as follows: "I have read the editorial in The Commoner relative to organization, and am returning herewith, signed, the primary pledge. I endorse the plan as wise, and I believe one that will produce good results. The failure to participate in primaries is the cause of misrepresentation in the conventions. This plan strikes at the root of the evil, and nothing better occurs to me to do at this time. It is too late to talk about unwise declarations and nominations when the convention is in session. Representative conventions are those in which the people take the most interest in the election of the delegates."

H. C. Bell, attorney at law, Marshall, Ill., writes: "The democratic party defending democratic principles can win in 1908. The plan of organization, as announced in The Commoner, is heartily approved of. You can command me at any time to do all in my power to help in this work of organization and in any other work which seems to be for the good of the country in general and the democratic party in particular."

James R. Bennett, Jr., attorney at law, St. Cloud, Minn., returns with his signature the primary pledge and writes: "This plan is admirable and I wish the pledge might fall into the hands of every democrat in the country. After signing it there is a moral obligation to attend the primary that would appeal strongly to all democrats who have signed and mailed it to you."

Frank B. Stephens, attorney at law, Salt Lake City, Utah, writes: "I take pleasure in handing you my primary pledge, and heartily endorse the movement as a step in the right direction. No reform is possible unless the individual voter takes interest enough in his country and party to attend the primaries, and I believe that every voter who is so indifferent that he will not take the trouble to attend a primary election, should be by law barred from voting at the next succeeding election."

A. B. Choate, attorney at law, Minneapolis, Minn., writes: "I desire to heartily endorse the plan suggested by the primary pledge editorial of

March 17. Loyalty to the party demands all that the pledge requires, because party management can be safely left to none but the rank and file. Since democracy means rule by the people, the plan proposed is based upon the fundamental principles of democracy. No one, therefore, who is a loyal democrat, should hesitate to make the pledge and I accordingly herewith enclose my own."

Roy E. Stafford, president of the Oklahoma Publishing company, which company publishes The Oklahoman, at Oklahoma City, writes: "It is scarcely necessary for me to pledge myself to attend democratic primaries and contribute my mite towards obtaining an honest expression of democratic sentiment in the next national platform, because I will do that anyway, yet I am glad to be enrolled among the number who will do this. The plan is plain, simple and easily carried out, and ought to appeal to every democrat. I am deeply impressed with its feasibility and shall take an interest in furthering the same."

Francis G. Newlands, United States senator from Nevada, writing under date of Washington, April 11, says: "I heartily endorse the editorial appearing in The Commoner of March 17, urging all democrats to pledge themselves to attend all the primaries of the party between now and the next democratic national convention, and to use their 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. The source of all party action is at the primaries, and this fact is too often overlooked. I trust that the democracy of the entire country will not only take up your suggestion but will supplement it by urging appropriate legislation that will simplify the primary election and make it more responsive to party requirements than it has been."

Nathan Cole, Jr., of Los Angeles, Cal., writes: "Permit me to heartily endorse the plan outlined in The Commoner for the organization of the democracy for the campaign of 1908. This plan and the suggestion of a 'primary pledge' meets with my full concurrence. I enclose the pledge duly signed. I believe in organization of the most thorough kind and that such organization is always effective is demonstrated by the remarkable success of the silver republican organization in the county of Los Angeles in 1896. In that campaign, with every precinct organized, we worked

a political revolution here by carrying the city of Los Angeles for Mr. Bryan by a good majority, the first time it has gone democratic in a presidential election in nearly twenty years. In the absence of organization and also living principles, Los Angeles city and county gave nearly twenty-five thousand majority for Roosevelt last fall. If the people of America ever expect to accomplish great reforms they must speedily get together and take just such a pledge as The Commoner advises.

John W. Kern, who, as the democratic nominee for governor of Indiana, made such a gallant fight, writing under date of Indianapolis, April 7, says: "I am highly gratified at the progress being made in the work of arousing the democratic masses, to the necessity of taking an active interest in the affairs of their party, by attending primaries and conventions, voting their sentiments, and thereby exerting the great power they have in the nomination of candidates, and the making of platforms. As expressive of my views on this subject I give you the following advance quotation from a speech which I propose to deliver at the Jefferson banquet in New York next week, my subject being 'The Rank and File': 'It will be well for the men who assume leadership in the democratic party to study the character and characteristics of that great body of men who constitute the real voting strength of the organization, and to take the rank and file into their confidence, to the end that they may have the confidence of the rank and file. The work of organization in future campaigns must commence with the voters, and proceed upwards, rather than commence in a so-called conference of leaders and work downward. If we would have victory the masses of the party must be given full opportunity for a fair expression of their opinion as to issues and candidates, in primaries and local conventions, so that the state and national conventions will be composed of men who truly reflect the popular will. We may as well make up our minds now that the day of the 'boss' in democratic politics is at an end, and that 'gavel rule' in conventions will be no longer tolerated. The hope of the democracy is in the people—the great rank and file—and if they are to be relied upon to bear the burden of the battle they must have the privilege of choosing their leaders, and formulating their platform of principles. There must be no attempt at party government without the consent of the governed.'"