

"I am for Democracy Because I Believe Democracy is for Me"

From every section of the United States come assurances that democrats are in hearty sympathy with The Commoner's primary pledge plan.

Among the many interesting letters so far received is one from Wellington Hiatt of Noblesville, Ind. Mr. Hiatt encloses his primary pledge and says: "I am for democracy because I believe democracy is for me. I always voted the republican ticket prior to the memorable campaign of 1896; believing that democracy had come into her own that year, I cast my lot with it."

Following are extracts from other letters:

M. H. Meeks, Nashville, Tenn.—"Herewith enclosed is pledge signed. I hope the democrats throughout the country will show their interest in public affairs by signing the pledge, and living up to it when signed. Mr. Pendleton also sends his signed.

W. W. Fanner, Sunshine, Colo.—It is with pleasure I sign the primary pledge. Believe me interested in your every move. From the start yours has been a battle for the uplifting of humanity. I have been a reader of your paper since the first issue.

S. S. Momand, New York City.—Enclosed find my primary pledge. I agree with the editor of The Commoner in the importance of the democrats who believe in the principles enunciated in the democratic platform of 1896 and 1900, attending the primaries and seeing to it that real democrats only are selected as delegates to all conventions.

Alex. H. Leitch, Dayton, Ohio.—Enclosed please find primary pledge. I have always attended our primaries and shall continue to do so and use my influence so far as I can to promote the true democracy of which you have been so true and able an exponent.

Thomas R. Allen, Austin, Tex.—While it is hardly necessary for me to obligate myself by signing a pledge to attend the primaries and assist in perpetuating the principles of democracy, I am willing to have my name enrolled, hoping it will encourage others to do likewise.

Hiram Pettey, Stewartville, Minn.—Add my name to the pledge. It is all one great campaign to me. I never ceased to espouse the cause of Jeffersonian democracy. While it looked for years as though my labors were in vain yet I can see they are bearing fruit—the tide has turned. Heretofore unconditional republicans now confess that existing conditions force them to accept democracy. Too much New York World and those of their ilk is what ailed us in the last campaign.

Milton A. Miller, Lebanon, Ore.—Enclosed please find primary pledge filled out and signed. I have always believed in "letting the people rule this country," and the primary pledge plan seems to me a step in the right direction. I trust it will prove a grand success.

A. J. Beal, Cythiana, Ky.—I have been a voter 34 years and have never during that time, missed an opportunity of attending and voting both at primaries and regular elections. I never weary of well doing.

J. M. Tadlock, El Reno, Okla.—I heartily approve of Mr. Bryan's primary plan. The people are intensely democratic—the politicians are not always so. I print the pledge in my paper, The Globe, and will do all I can to see every democrat in Canadian county pledge himself. If the rank and file attend the primaries, the Wall street would-be leaders in our party would be relegated to the ranks of the republican party where they belong, and where they may be fought openly. The democratic party will surely win in 1908, if the people make the platforms and name the candidates.

A. B. Deans, Wilson, N. C.—Your primary pledge plan of organization seems to be the only means of avoiding the wreck of the party managers. It is a pleasure to aid in the good work. I trust that the record will be so kept that we may get a list of the pledgers in this county when needed.

John Aubrey Jones, Fruitvale, Cal.—The Commoner's pledge plan is admirable, bringing together and holding together, the democrats of the country, as an effective political organization to do its part in determining the policies of the party in consonance with the principles of true democracy, to the end that the confidence of the masses may be inspired in the sincerity of the party as the party through whose administration can and will come the much needed political and economic reforms about which so much is said, but in effecting which so little has been done.

Jacob Ohlsen, Durant, Iowa—I am heartily in favor of your primary pledge plan and all American citizens who believe in good government and the welfare of the democratic party should sign

this pledge. Enclosed find pledge signed by myself and I will do all I can for the cause.

G. W. McBrayer, Matinburg, Tex.—I heartily endorse the primary pledge and enclose the same herewith. All true Jeffersonian democrats should and I think will sooner or later, by act if not by signing the pledge, fully co-operate with us in placing the party demands back to the true old-time honored principles.

F. P. Renger, Wausau, Wis.—Your plan of organization for the campaign of 1908 has my approval. It should procure for us a truly democratic platform, a platform that will have the support of every lover of justice and fair play.

Samuel Bartell, Forest City, Ill.—I take pleasure in signing the primary pledge.

J. L. Bittle, Shiloh, Ark.—It gives me no small pleasure to share in this great plan of organization. Let the good work go on.

J. P. Heinz, Shelbyville, Ill.—Your plan of organizing the democratic party has my heartiest support. Find primary pledge enclosed.

J. S. Upton, Fargo, N. D.—I am with you. Please enroll my name on primary pledge. Am but a plodding farmer but will do what I can for democratic democracy.

L. A. Scott, Hillsboro, Tenn.—I desire to express my approval of your plan of re-establishing the principles of democracy. I consider it an honor to have my name written on the pledge list.

Perley A. Hill, Salt Lake, Utah.—Your primary pledge in my opinion is the keynote. What we need out our way is organization.

Isaac McClellan, Sheridan, Ark.—I gladly sign the pledge and trust all loyal democrats who want to make our party democratic will sign.

John W. Berry, Verdi, Va.—Enclosed you will find signed pledge for attending primary elections. I have always attended all meetings that the party ever held in my county, and nearly always a delegate from my county to conventions. Am willing to aid the party in every way possible. You can depend on me to do my best.

Walter H. Mudford, Sidney Center, N. Y.—Enclosed find pledge duly signed. I will do what I can to promote the principles which are set forth in The Commoner.

E. Lee Brown, Chicago, Ill.—I enclose The Commoner's primary pledge which I am glad to sign, thereby placing myself on record and agreeing to do all I can toward making the democratic party representative of the will of the people. "The free and uncorrupted voice of the people" has just been heard in Chicago, and it has sounded the deathknell of private ownership of public utilities.

W. A. Ramsey, Wilbourn, Wis.—I heartily endorse the plan of The Commoner and now is the time to get ready for 1906 and 1908. We can look for no relief from the republicans. The tariff and other trusts have to form a grip. See Garfield's report.

Lewis S. Record, Bangor, Me.—Am heartily in favor of the primary pledge plan outlined in The Commoner.

Vincent Zmunt, Iowa City, Ia.—It is with great pleasure that I sign this pledge, for "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." The cardinal principles of democracy enunciated in the democratic platforms of 1896 and 1900 are but the echoes of the freemen gone before, which principles we must perpetuate and maintain if we are to be revered of men and ages.

B. H. Caldwell, Tyler, Tex.—I pledge myself to do all I can for democracy from now until 1908.

John Walter Tenah, Gainesville, Fla.—It is with much pleasure I sign and mail the pledge. If The Commoner could be read by all the people, the yoke of the trusts would be thrown off, legislators would learn that they are the servants of the people, and not their masters. The door of opportunity would indeed be thrown open to all and the "square deal" in fact and not mere talk would be established.

J. H. Parson, Wayne, W. Va.—I will not only attend the primaries, but I will work and do all that I can to help the cause of democracy and bring about reform.

M. C. Mann, Sumpter, Ark.—I have signed the primary pledge which came out in the county paper. I am heartily in favor of the plan.

John W. Hull, San Francisco, Cal.—I heartily applaud your plan to arouse democracy to duty of organizing. It's a clever idea. Every true democrat worthy of the name, even the most humble must put his shoulder to the wheel and with earnest, energetic, personal effort and determination, insist that the great and glorious democratic principles of our fathers must prevail and continue throughout the land. I take my hat off to the wide-awake people of Chicago for their great

achievement on April 4. Their work was done in thorough and splendid style. The powerful influence, great joy and encouraging hope inspired by this great victory of the common people is proudly cherished and shared in full by every member of the great party your splendid paper so ably and faithfully represents. With pleasure I herewith hand you my primary pledge.

H. W. Bracken, San Francisco, Calif.—The grand old imperial guard will follow their leader and would rather suffer defeat nobly fighting for the right, that come out victorious in the wrong; true to every trust, faithful whenever tried as one of the Old Guards, ever struggling for public rights, place me in their ranks at all times, either at the head or hub of the list. Let this, the public cause, derive its just powers from the whole party and not from the Wall street hirelings. The people should be honorably used not shamefully abused by such powerful trusts.

W. B. Clarkson, Minneapolis, Minn.—I am proud of my record as a voter, having never missed my vote at any election where any question of principle was directly involved and only two or three times have I missed my vote at any election in my home precinct. I have always been in sympathy with the fight for pure democracy that The Commoner has been waging since its birth, and stand ready to do anything that I can in my limited way to help in this warfare.

Breck Ornbaun, Lewistown, Mont.—Herewith enclosed find the primary pledge, which I take pleasure in signing, and desire to further add: I will not only attend all primaries, within the time specified, but will employ all honorable means to have such men chosen as delegates to conventions and nominee for office placed on the democratic ticket that at heart represent the wishes of the masses, and believe in the ennobling and elevating principles constantly espoused in the columns of The Commoner. No thoughtful student of our country's needs can help recognizing the fact that that we are face to face with the crisis in America's fight for the perpetuity of our freedom and love of right.

Fred M. Huddleston, Arapaho, Okla.—I heartily endorse your late move of primary organization. We need strict diligence in Oklahoma and especially among the close counties, of which Custer is one.

J. B. Milam, Hazleton, Kans.—I heartily endorse your method.

R. E. French, Medina, Ohio.—It is with pleasure that I step into the ranks of The Commoner's primary pledge army. It is an army composed of men who are not after the loaves and fishes, but who are willing if need be, to sacrifice as the founders of our government did, to maintain our glorious republic. It is an army of God's true noblemen, men who dared to stand by principle rather than party in 1896 and 1900, men who dared to stand with their peerless leader in two campaigns, and dared to stand with him after his second defeat because they believe he was right, men who dared to rebuke Wall street at the polls. I desire to step into the ranks and march shoulder to shoulder with such men whether to victory or defeat under the leadership and council of the grandest leader of this present time.

A. J. Conlu, Whitehall, Ill.—Please find enclosed pledge and will say that I endorse the plan, and to every democrat will refer them to the third chapter and 15th and 16th verses of Revelation: "I know thy works that thou art neither cold nor hot. I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth." Let's all be hot and stay in.

J. L. Huffman, Gladstone, Ohio.—Find my pledge enclosed. I heartily concur in the sentiments expressed by the legions of democrats. In the battle of 1908 on? If so, right about face, the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong.

A. D. Epperly, Huggins, Mo.—I wish to join all good democrats in regard to the primary pledge. I heartily approve of the plan and am more than glad to give my support. We need some plan to give the backslider a chance to crawl in line. I think all the prodigals ought to sign the pledge.

John A. Walton, Lima, O.—Please record my name as being heartily in accord with the proposed plan, enclosed with this letter. Once a democrat, always a democrat.

F. G. Flower, Seattle, Wash.—I was too ill last week to sign the primary pledge, though my wife read it to me. I tried to sit up and sign it, but could not accomplish it. Today is the first in three weeks that I have been able to sit up in bed and I hasten to take advantage of my strength

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