

THE secretary of the foreign bondholders corporation is quoted as saying: "Let us compare the quotations on some of these bonds a year ago with the prices ruling today. At the end of March, 1904, the Colombian bonds were quoted at 17. The present price is 40. Costa Rica bonds a year ago were 15, and are now 40; Guatamalas have advanced from 16 to 27 Honduras bonds from 5 to 9, and Venezuelan from 27 to 46. The foregoing debts are all at present and have been for many years in total default. The rise that has taken place appears to be largely due to the idea that the United States is going to intervene in some way, so as to make all these defaulting countries pay their debts."

THE Washington correspondent for the Chicago Tribune says that financial men in the east take Mayor Dunne at his word, and adds: "Surface railroads in New York, Cincinnati, St. Louis and San Francisco will be likely, I am told, to take the lesson of the Chicago election much to heart. This means that they will hasten to improve their service, give better cars, make better time and generally show more zeal for public comfort than previously has been the case. Fear of municipal ownership since Dunne's election has become a present one with every traction company in the country and one way in which they will be able to prevent local imitation of Chicago's example will be by removing the cause for complaint as far as

possible. There is a possibility that this may be carried to a point where there will be a slight reduction in the street car earnings for a year or two. It will be good policy for the traction companies generally to reduce the supply of water in their securities, and at the same time to spend more money in betterment, even at the risk of decreased dividends for a year or two. Chicago has a reputation for progressiveness all over the United States, and this fact has led many people to believe that Dunne's election and open and official declaration for municipal ownership will be selected by other cities as the progressive thing to do."

'I AM FOR DEMOCRACY BECAUSE I BELIEVE DEMOCRACY IS FOR ME'

(Continued from page 5.)

to sign and send you my pledge. You have sounded the key note to success. Every true democratic heart will beat in harmony and unison with your martial music and stentorian order, "To the front. Forward march." When I get well you can rely upon me to do everything within my power to further the good work in question.

W. C. Parham, Benton, Ark.—I herewith enclose primary pledge, as you request, with my signature and most hearty endorsement. A few days ago I interviewed our member of the National Democratic committee on this subject and he pronounces it a capital stroke of policy. I said that if it is generally carried out, it will insure the election of democratic candidates and a democratic platform in 1908.

J. H. Harden, Church Road, Va.—I enclose the primary pledge for which I have signed with great pleasure. I heartily agree with you upon this matter, and am ready at all times to render any assistance possible to advance the true and noble principles which you have so eloquently and faithfully advocated for over eight years.

John P. Kneubmann, Sumas City, Wash.—Your primary pledge is a step in the right direction.

J. H. Sutton, Bethany, Mo.—Enclosed find primary pledge with my signature. Any comments from me on the objects to be attained by complying with the requirements of the pledge, is unnecessary for the reason that it goes without saying that the Missouri democracy has always been and will be in line for the principles of true democracy, as exemplified in the platforms of 1896 and 1900, and other issues evolved from present economic conditions.

M. G. Myles, Falling Spring, W. Va.—I herewith enclose signed primary pledge. It gives me pleasure to endorse and approve your primary plan and I wish to say further that I heartily approve of all the reforms which you advocate through the columns of The Commoner. I shall be glad to co-operate with you and all other democrats in every possible manner to promote and promulgate the principles and teachings of true Jeffersonian democracy, and to these convictions, I am committed, and shall ever remain a steadfast and loyal friend.

Milton Curtis, Beckley, W. Va.—You will find enclosed two primary pledges. Had I signed this pledge 20 years ago, it would have been honestly kept, as I have never missed a primary and never intend to.

Jas. T. Strange, Elysian Fields, Tex.—I hope these pledges will be instrumental in securing a national platform in 1908 embodying the essential features of the Kansas City platform and emphasizing government ownership or control of public utilities, initiative and referendum, election of senators, postmasters and federal judges by the people.

James A. Tarlton, Jr., Indianapolis, Ind.—In regard to the primary pledge request published in The Commoner, I will say: I have, for one, always made it a point to be present at all primaries, whether I accomplish anything or not. I heartily approve of your plan and would like to see the primaries held open and above board, so that all democrats could take a part in same and would like to see them called far enough in advance, so that democrats generally would have an opportunity to attend. The primaries for the 1904 campaign were called in such haste that no one had an opportunity to do any work whatever, or in other words, it was a snap primary, pure and simple, and the reorganizers that secretly did the planning, had it all their own way. Will in future do all I can to prevent a recurrence of these tactics. Will organize the democrats in my precinct so that we will have a voice in shaping democratic policies, according to democratic principles as published in your most valuable paper.

John H. Cochran, Decker, Tex.—An organized,

concerted and earnest effort is the best way to ensure success in any undertaking. The greater the undertaking, the greater the necessity for united action. As your plan is the right move in the right direction, I cheerfully sign the pledge.

Albert L. Kneuss, Canton, O.—With the greatest of pleasure, I will fill out the primary pledge. I think your plan of organizing the democratic party is a good one. Through this way you get good, upright honest men at the head of organizations, men who are willing to pull off their coats and work for the greatest interest of the greatest masses of our people.

A. C. Blount, Baton Rouge, La.—It gives me great pleasure to have the privilege of participating in this great work. I am sure the democrats of this great country of ours will realize the principles for which you stand are right. Here is my pledge.

G. C. Hendrick, Huntington, W. Va.—Please place my name to the list of those pledged, as set forth in The Commoner entitled, "The Primary Pledge." I wish to say that I think this to be a good step and I intend to lend a helping hand in getting our party into line of battle again.

Geo. W. Acker, Toledo, O.—The plan is a good one and should interest every man who loves fair play, for this is what democrats will demand for the people. A platform founded on the principles of equal rights for all and special privileges for none, and while this is the prevailing sentiment there is no danger of the party dying. True democracy prospered while in power, and has kept the germ of liberty alive while laboring under temporary adversity.

W. A. Taylor, Murray, Idaho.—Please find enclosed my primary pledge. I will try to secure the pledge of all those in my precinct and at the same time extend the circulation of The Commoner. The primary pledge is the real start toward reform.

James McNabb, Editor Gazette, Carrollton, Ill.—In view of the fact that political issues are primarily made by the people whose wishes should be carried out in state and national conventions, I most heartily endorse your plan of pledging all democrats to attend all primaries to be held between now and the next democratic national convention. This is certainly the plan to get an honest expression from the people.

Samuel H. Lapp, St. Vincent, Minn.—Find pledge signed by me enclosed. I am glad the movement has started.

B. A. Enloe, Nashville, Tenn.—The plan of organization suggested through the columns of The Commoner, should meet with the approval of every democrat who believes in the right of the majority of the party to rule in the party councils. Parties are the agencies through which governmental policies are inaugurated and finally crystallized into laws, and those who neglect the primaries, not only lose the opportunity to be heard in shaping the issues upon which the battle must be fought, but they forfeit all right to complain of the result. As a Jeffersonian democrat, believing in majority rule in the party and in the government, I cheerfully subscribe to the pledge to attend the primaries of my party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, 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 may desire to speak.

John W. Alphonse, Stamford, Conn.—Please place my name on record as one of the members in favor of the primary pledge plan.

The Editor of the Enterprise, Mahiston, Miss.—Your letter with enclosure relative to primaries and organization pledges has been received. We are heartily in favor of the plan and have been in our feeble way trying to get our people to take a hand in formulating the party's policies for a number of years. We wish you success.

R. J. Ball, Publ. Gallatin Democrat, Gallatin,

Mo.—"Back to the people" is a slogan well worthy of democracy. It stands for sincerity and honesty in politics and strips bossism of its power. The masses of democracy are for majority rule, first, last and all the time, and a platform declaration emanating from the people with candidates named by the people, as the primary plan insures, cannot fail of victory. Yours for a triumphant democracy representing the will of the masses.

H. L. Freeman, Newtonia, Mo.—I have been reading the list of subscribers to the primary list. You can put four new names to that list, Hughly L. Freeman, and three sons, John M., W. R., and H. L., Jr.

E. Allen, Danville, Ky.—It gives me a distinct pleasure to have the privilege of participating in the good work. I am a Kentucky democrat and am also a Gobel democrat.

Whitfield Tuck, Winchester, Mass.—Enclosed is my pledge which I gladly sign.

J. W. Whitney, Rosemont, Kansas.—You will find enclosed my primary pledge, together with my hearty approval of your plan of organizing the party, and truly hope every democrat will heartily respond.

J. H. Martin, Palmyra, Va.—Find herewith primary pledge. I believe in organization (not reorganized). I think the primary pledge plan just the thing. I should rejoice to know that seven or eight millions of voters had taken this pledge. Everybody who can endorse the principles as enunciated in the democratic platforms of 1896 and 1900 should take this pledge.

D. W. Smith, Maysville, N. C.—Please enroll my name as one in the midst of an organized fight for the success of true democracy.

D. E. McEllinney, Dryden, N. Y.—I send pledge signed hoping I may assist in at least a small measure in the good work of swinging the old ship back in line.

Andrew J. Conner, Rich Square, N. C.—Yours of the 28th ult. received. I approve the primary plan and will publish editorial from The Commoner next week.

C. M. Englert, Laurens, Iowa.—I am very well pleased to have the chance to go on record as one who will attend all primaries from now until the next democratic national convention. This great work started must be kept up for, in my opinion, a man is never useless until he loses his courage, and there are very few which have lost their courage, still loyal and faithful, ready to work for real democracy.

Wm. Arrison, Ross, N. D.—With pleasure I state that my zeal has not yet abated, even in a small degree for the democratic cause, I feel as if our prospects are brighter than usual, from the fact that I hope we are clear of those "gold bugs" whose influence was continuously working to our hurt. My only regret is that I can do so little but that little I can do shall be done when surroundings admit.

Charles A. Fearnault, Lee, N. H.—I am a veteran 66 years old and a democrat and a Bryan man, through and through. I believe in the pledge and will keep it as near as I can. I wish every democrat would sign it.

Wm. H. Duncan, Jr., Brainard, Neb.—I heartily endorse the primary pledge for reorganization of the democratic party for the election of 1908.

O. L. Chapin, Malone, N. Y.—Enclosed find primary pledge duly signed. I hope all democratic papers will co-operate with you in the primary pledge organization. If democrats would attend the primaries as generally as they attend general elections, even, they could easily send delegates to county and state conventions who would represent them and not the trusts. Every democrat who desires honest government and equal rights must attend the primaries. Sign the primary pledge and catch onto the "towline."

Joseph Furling, Attorney-at-Law, St. Louis, Mo.—An honest primary means an honest candidate—one who will enforce the laws.