

"Back to the People"--For From the People All Good Government Must Come

O. J. Cook, Lincoln, Del.—Herewith find the primary pledge. This is the very best thing that has ever been thought of. I could give a long and dark history of the errors of the party in democrats neglecting to attend the primaries.

Jack Quayle, attorney, Moberly, Mo.—You will please find enclosed my primary pledge to be diligent, and faithfully attend all the future primaries of the democratic party.

T. K. Farr, Forkston, Pa.—You will find enclosed the primary pledge, which I have always followed since I was a voter and expect to as long as I live.

J. S. Taylor, London, Ark.—I believe the primary pledge is the right plan to pursue. Push the work and let us see to it that there shall be true and tried democrats sent all the way through from township to the national convention.

George L. Hayes, Roseburg, Oregon.—I have signed the pledge and now give my hand to W. J. Bryan and my soul to God, and my best efforts to advance the cause of democracy.

Henry F. Husman, Nokomis, Ill.—Let the good work move on. The primary pledge will give new life to the party and put it in excellent trim for the battle for good government in 1908. Principles first, party success next. Let every democrat send in the pledge.

Walter C. Graves, attorney, San Francisco.—I fully agree with you that we can not get too close to the people. We have always believed in precinct representation, and large conventions. If we would make our state and county conventions little mass-meetings of the people, they would never be corrupted or controlled by corporate influence. We sign the enclosed primary pledge more as an evidence of our appreciation of your good work and heroic and patriotic efforts in behalf of the common people, than for any other reason. As a rule we are opposed to pledges, but this one merely pledges a voter to do that which every lover of his country ought to do without a pledge.

S. S. Bagley, President Iroquois Club, San Francisco.—It affords me pleasure to sign the primary pledge. Just such a movement, in my judgment, is all that is necessary to organize the democratic party. Owing to the numerous bribe-takers, and the corruption among republican office-holders, the common people are becoming alienated and will rally to the honest democracy for self protection.

M. M. Herrington, Grain Valley, Mo.—Find enclosed the pledge.

Charles E. Vasaly, mayor, Little Falls, Minn.—I take pleasure in sending my primary pledge. I believe this movement to be a wise one, because it is honest and fair. There is no taint or snap judgment in it, no attempt to pervert the will of the people. It means a plebiscite of democracy. The events of the recent past have shown what the democratic party ought to be. It only remains for the rank and file to stand by real democratic principles, and the party is saved. A democratic party which is simply a shadow photograph of the worst phases of republicanism does not deserve victory. The democratic party must be honestly and wisely radical, or perish. Not without a struggle will those who have perverted the mission and the name of democracy, relax their grip. Every true democrat must be vigilant and true. For this reason, among others, it seems to me that the movement inaugurated by The Commoner will be productive of much good.

Henry Kirk White, attorney, Birmingham, Ala.—I read every issue of The Commoner, and I have observed with great pleasure and renewed hope for democracy, the widespread response to your primary pledge suggestion. I am now forty, and have never failed to participate in every democratic primary, state, county or city, since I commenced my law practice here eighteen years ago, so the pledge on my part personally is mainly useful by way of example. It may move slowly, but the people's will, like the ocean over Holland, is always in sight. I believe that this primary pledge plan of yours will serve to open the dikes which have been closed by the representatives of class interests wearing the insignia, but not imbued with the spirit of our party, and in the next national election the voice of the people will cover the land.

B. J. Hughes, Dover, Okla.—With pleasure I sign the pledge, and would like my name enrolled.

E. B. Thorne, Hennessey, Okla.—Your plan for

inducing democrats to attend the primaries is a move in the right direction, and will in my opinion be productive of much good. It shall be my endeavor in the future, as it has been in the past, to attend all primaries and conventions possible, both in my county and territory.

Andreas Nissep, Osmond, Neb.—The primary pledge plan has my heartiest support. Please enroll my name.

J. B. Vifquain, Bennet, Neb.—I have always deemed it an important duty, as well as a privilege to attend primaries. All good democrats should. It is the only thing that will keep the government with the people and for the people. Please find enclosed pledge, signed.

F. S. Culver, Port Clinton, Ohio.—The work of the individual, directed toward true reform, can best be made effective by insisting upon clean nominations of clean men, on a clean platform, in which the right of every man to an equal opportunity with every other man is clearly set forth in words of such burning earnestness that none can mistake their meaning. Let us be earnest, sincere, honest and active in politics. Then success will come. Let us scorn victory unless it comes to us by an honest heritage. The public conscience is awakened at last. I can pledge you my word that I can count several former republicans who have lately—thanks to Lawson and other reformers—seen the light for the first time.

W. B. Applegate, Branch Hill, Ohio.—I am heartily with you in your efforts to induce democrats to attend the primaries. Since a boy it has been my determination to attend all primaries in my precinct. I want to be enrolled as one who will always try to do his duty in organizing my fellow-democrats for the right.

Amos Gillig, Decatur, Ind.—Find enclosed primary pledge, signed, which I heartily approve of. The plan in my opinion is correct—commencing at the foot of the ladder, step by step, as the top is reached with success.

A. J. Ruffington, Eminence, Mo.—Sometime ago I sent to The Commoner office primary pledge signed by thirty democrats. I did not at that time express my opinion, but I want to tell you now that in my judgment that is the only way that we will ever win. I think this is the time to begin the next campaign. If we can get well organized we will make it hot for the other side.

A. C. Karrick, Cynthiana.—Please find enclosed my primary pledge, with thirty-four others. I secured these signatures in about one hour. Am very busy and regret that I have not the time to secure more pledges.

J. J. Simpson, Guthrie, Ky.—Enclosed find primary pledge. I not only promise to attend all the primaries, but to do all I can toward getting more subscribers to The Commoner.

S. P. Benadon, Lincoln, Neb.—I am as anxious to have my name enrolled and pledged for democratic principles as enunciated by Jefferson and Bryan, as I was to cast my first vote for James K. Polk in 1844. Stand up and be counted.

George W. Knight, San Marcos, Texas.—Your proposition to organize by a pledge to attend all primaries is excellent for all those states where there is independent thought among the rank and file.

W. R. Carrigan, Petersburg, Tenn.—I feel that I am in good company in signing the primary pledge. I sign and forward the same, hoping that every good and true democrat in the nation will do likewise, that it "may be known of all men" where he stands.

J. C. Donahue, town clerk, Ne. 7 Auburn, Wis.—I hope our next national convention will be controlled by democrats, for in my opinion there is one thing worse than the republican party carrying the country, and that is for the republican party to carry the democratic party.

S. L. North, Gerrillos, N. M.—I believe in organization (not reorganization) and think the primary pledge just the thing. I should rejoice to know that seven or eight millions of voters had taken the pledge.

C. B. Coe, Wyandotte, I. T.—Find enclosed primary pledge, signed. Probably it would have been more appropriate for me, situated as I am in the Indian Territory, to have marked my pledge with a heavy black line around the border and sent it in blank—not that I am not in sympathy with the plan (for I believe this the only plan to get the sentiments of the voters in ad-

vance of the assembly of state and national conventions) but because we are disfranchised in the Indian Territory from voting or holding office except municipal offices, and can not participate in state or national conventions.

J. D. Fincher, Randolph, Texas.—It is with pleasure that I sign the primary pledge. I think it is the only means of getting the great common people to take part in choosing our national platform and candidates. The democratic party can not be successful without the hearty support of the plain people.

J. H. Hudelson, Fayetteville, Ark.—Our cry from now until the next national election must be Organize! Organize! Organize! With a democratic platform victory will be ours.

G. W. Baird, Opolis, Kans.—Good work at the primaries is our best assurance of success at the ballot box.

M. E. Kelley, Prattville, Mich.—I am a farmer and attending the primaries on the farm is the only thing that brings a successful agricultural harvest. So with a political-harvest, the seed must be sowed at the primaries.

H. A. Replogle, Anthony, Kans.—I am in complete sympathy with your primary pledge plan and believe it is a good way to get the expression of the voter, from whom we usually hear nothing until the candidates are named and platforms made.

I. S. Hallam, Vice President Abilene State Bank, Abilene, Kans.—I gladly sign and return this party pledge of my loyalty to Mr. Bryan or any party policy he may advocate.

A. E. Mills, Minong, Wis.—Enclosed you will find primary pledge, which I gladly sign.

B. R. Pounds, Tenaha, Texas.—I endorse the pledge in full, and appreciate the privilege of co-operating in the plan The Commoner has inaugurated.

Chas. E. Talbott, Osgood, Ind.—With all the earnestness and sincerity that I can summon, I promise to use whatever ability and influence I may possess in the furtherance of the cause of true democracy.

J. C. Wells, Princeton, Kans.—I herewith send names, trusting that it will advance the cause of justice and truth and good government. It is going the sure way.

F. M. Morgan, Lonaconing, Md.—Enclosed find primary pledge. I trust it can be made a power for good.

Port Burge, Alva, Okla.—Enclosed you will find pledge, signed. I heartily endorse this plan, and will do all I can to help true democracy get "Back to the People."

C. C. Chapman, Clerk Common Pleas Court, Ashland, O.—I am certainly glad for the privilege of signing this pledge.

L. Napoleon Evangs, Templeville, Md.—I heartily endorse the primary pledge plan, and am ready at all times to render any assistance possible to advance the true and noble principles of democracy.

J. M. Stanley, Galveston, Ind.—I heartily endorse your method, which I think all true democrats should.

Geo. S. T. Bliss, Dorchester, Mass.—I sign with pleasure the primary pledge. I have always when possible attended the primaries, but in the past we have been able to vote only for those whom the machine chose to put up. Am sorry to say the reorganizers rather have the call with us. I have always been a democrat, but have taken more interest in democracy since 1896, when we got a policy that meant something.

A. E. Lamp, Beatrice, W. Va.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed. I hope that every democrat will see to it that the people are represented in the national convention of 1908.

L. W. Bascom, Farmdale, O.—Enclosed please find the primary pledge filled out according to instructions. I have been greatly interested in the doctrine taught by The Commoner ever since its first issue, and have given away a great many papers to my neighbors.

J. H. McCauley, Dayton, Wash.—I am very much in favor of the plan as outlined in your editorial, and shall give it my hearty support. I think it will be a great help in getting the better class of our democratic citizens interested in our primary elections.

T. C. Kasson, Tunnel, N. Y.—With my pledge, let me say that R. E. French of Medina, Ohio, voiced my sentiments in full.