

of oil the Standard cuts the price before it arrives, so it must be sold at a loss, and the buyer of independent oil will not repeat his action." The St. Paul correspondent for the Chicago Tribune, referring to Mr. Hull's declaration, says: "It was developed that the oil, which costs 7.28 cents a gallon when the tank car reaches the company's station here, is sold in St. Paul at 8 cents, leaving a margin of only .72 of a cent to pay the state inspection fees and all the expenses of the business. On the higher grades of oil, however, the margin is not so close, but it is still smaller than the advantage in rates given to the Standard Oil. The latter gets from railroads three times the margin on which the competitors have to run their business."

An interesting story was printed in the Cincinnati Enquirer under date of Cleveland, O., March 31. The story follows: "The spirit of true christianity permeated the police court today while the case of John Almond was on trial and was the means of saving him from punishment and a police record. Almond, aged 74, was charged with depositing poison in the premises of Rev. B. W. R. Taylor, rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, to kill the pastor's dog. His twelve-year-old daughter Dorothy testified that she had seen Almond drop a piece of meat in the rectory yard. The meat contained sufficient strychnine to kill several animals. Judge Wheelan imposed a sentence of \$25 and costs and five days

in the workhouse. When the sentence was pronounced Rev. Mr. Taylor asked permission to address the court. 'I am a christian man,' said the rector, 'and as such I do not wish to prosecute Almond. Although I am fully convinced of his guilt, I'll give him my hand and forgive him, Judge, if you will suspend the sentence. I want him to be my friend.' Judge Whelan granted the rector's plea and after shaking hands Almond and the minister left the courtroom together."

THE Des Moines Register and Leader, a republican paper, finds food for thought in Judge Dunne's election. The Register and Leader says: "There are several suggestive hints for republicans in Judge Dunne's remarkable victory in Chicago. The people are getting away from their former dread of anything that savors of socialism. Public ownership is no longer a bogey to frighten them with. Governor Larrabee's alternative of public ownership of railroads is not an impossible issue even as early as 1908. The vote for the minor parties fell off. This disposition of the radicals of all complexions to unite on one candidate, while each conducting his own campaign, may be an important consideration in 1908. The voters of the minor parties are a factor in many states. If there are any republicans who are convincing themselves that it is not important to make good on the reforms President Roosevelt has promised, there is food for thought for them in the Chicago election returns."

DR. J. M. HURTY, secretary of the Indiana state board of health, recently declared that nearly 42,000 infants had died during 1904 from poisoning, due to impure food put upon the market by unscrupulous manufacturers. This statement was made before the members of the executive committee of the national association of State Dairy Food Departments in session at Chicago. Newspaper dispatches say: "In support of his claim Dr. Hurty produces figures to show that 6 per cent of the total deaths of infants in America last year was due to poisons administered in impure foods and the ready concoctions placed on the market by fraudulent manufacturers. He produces statistics to show that more than 700,000 infants died in the United States last year."

A REMARKABLE statement was made recently by a Paris physician. According to the Paris correspondent for the New York World, Prof. Lannelongue has just described to the Academy of Sciences the case of a man afflicted with an unusual illness called osteomalachy, which in three years caused his stature to diminish from 4 feet 6 inches to less than 3 feet. According to the physician, all the bones in the patient's body became softened and bent like rubber, and this condition lasted for more than three years, after which period the patient got well again without any apparent reason or cure, and is now in good health, minus eighteen inches of his stature."

## MEN WHO BELIEVE IN DEMOCRATIC DOCTRINE CAN SECURE WHAT THEY WANT BY ATTENDING THE PRIMARIES

Lewis S. Record, Worcester, Mass.—Enclosed find my primary pledge which I mean to follow out. If kept by every believer in democratic principles the mistake made at St. Louis in 1904 will not be repeated at the national convention of 1908. I find that the voters who find the most fault with party management are just the ones who never go near a primary election. I have never failed to get a fair hearing in a democratic caucus, and I believe that democrats everywhere who believe in an honest, straightforward party platform and clean, upright, able candidates can secure what they desire by turning out at every caucus or primary election. A man who has not attended a primary election for years need expect to accomplish little the first time he appears, but a regular attendant always exerts a strong influence.

Henry Wise, Mauchport, Ind.—I am well pleased with your plan. The American people are not willing to support two republican parties. One is a plenty unless it becomes better than what it is. I am a veteran 70 years old, and have voted the democratic ticket all of my life and I am too old to change now.

M. F. Herron, Nashville, Tenn.—To read the hearty responses of the pledge signers from "Dan to Beersheba" fills my democratic soul with a joy unspeakable. And to think of the acres and acres of paper and the oceans and oceans of ink used in the past eight years by the hireling scribes telling us of Mr. Bryan's "lost following," "waning influence," etc. What waste of time, talent and material! However, if this pledge signing movement continues to increase in volume and velocity even Judge Parker will soon find it "easy to foresee and predict" a sweeping democratic victory in 1908.

Joseph Duffy, 319 North Homan Ave., Chicago, Ill.—It affords me great pleasure to place myself on record in support of a movement that concerns the layman in politics. This is, indeed, a move in the right direction, one that will give every man a chance to do something for his party and the country at large.

C. A. D. Coleman, Peoria, Ill.—I appreciate also the work The Commoner is doing for the people and try to do all that I possibly can to help the good work along. I will also sign the pledge to attend the primaries, not because it is necessary in order to help me to attend, as nothing gives more pleasure than to attend every one I possibly can.

Charles J. Parker, Editor News, Stephens, Ark.—I am glad to have the privilege of signing a pledge that means so much to the party and country at this time. I am squarely in line with the distinguished editor of The Commoner, and feel it an honor as well as a duty to follow him in his efforts to again swing the party back to its right moorings and save the country from the dangerous cataclysm which it seems will envelope it in spite of us.

B. A. Martin, Woodland.—Enclosed find prop-

erly filled pledge. Now is the time for every democrat who loves democratic principles to put his shoulder to the wheel and contribute his mite toward putting in vogue those grand principles—as taught by Jefferson and Bryan.

James McHugh, Pensacola, Fla.—I enclose you my pledge to the primary system; also my son's. I am now a candidate of that system for alderman from my ward to succeed myself.

C. A. Frommel, cigar manufacturer, Henry, Ill.—Enclosed you will please find the primary pledge signed by me with my hearty endorsement. I am a democrat of the Jefferson and Bryan type. But not a Parker-Hopkins so-called democrat. I want mine right or not at all.

J. J. Spicer, Abshers, N. C.—Enclosed find primary pledge properly signed. I am highly pleased to have an opportunity of endorsing the same. I sincerely believe that all true democrats will be more than pleased to endorse the pledge at the first opportunity. There are at least 150,000 Bryan democrats in North Carolina and they do not want any more re-organization—not in a thousand years.

J. J. Flenor, Maces Springs, Va.—Find enclosed my primary pledge, which I think an excellent plan. I will try to fill my obligation to the best of my ability.

J. C. Glasgow, Courtland, Kans.—It is my opinion that The Commoner occupies the wisest position in politics of any influence with following enough to be effective in securing reform. As there isn't enough difference between my kind of populism and the Bryan brand of democracy to quibble over I will enlist under The Commoner's standard until I see the result of the next national conventions; and if the democrats nominate candidates in sympathy with what I believe to be true democracy my party allegiance will be indefinitely extended. I will further express the opinion that if the radical element in the so-called republican party receives no recognition in their coming convention they will come in large numbers to The Commoner's position.

Joseph Sherow, Langdon, Kans.—Enclosed you will find signed primary pledge. I have always attended primaries and conventions ever since I have been old enough to vote. I think it would be wise also for us to pledge ourselves to work to get all our neighbors to attend the primaries, as well as ourselves. If the rank and file of the democratic party had been consulted and their wishes heeded in the last national democratic convention, results would have been different from what they were last November. Yours for progressive democracy.

J. W. Smith, Monument, Kan.—With pleasure I sign the pledge promising to attend primaries, as I heartily endorse the method The Commoner has put before the American democracy, and will do all that I can to promote the noble cause to effect an organization on true democratic basis. Yours for better democracy.

N. J. Goodman, Tidewater, Ore.—I feel that I am only performing the duty of a true democrat in signing the primary pledge and it will be a

pleasure for me to fulfill that promise. For forty-two years have I stood loyally by Jeffersonian democracy. But once in that time did I balk, and that was in November last, and since reading Judge Parker's recent speech at the Waldorf-Astoria, I still am glad that I did not support him. In our last county convention I used my best influence to defeat the compromise policy of the gold standard democrats, but failed. I hope it was all for the best, and will unite all who hold for true democratic principles.

K. L. Snider, Glenville, W. Va.—I herewith hand you twenty signers to the primary pledge. I was only two hours in getting these names.

B. F. Helsel, Lincoln Place, Pa.—Enclosed find pledge signed and blank for some application cards. Was reared a republican, but am happy to enlist under the banner of the great and grand old democracy. Wishing you much success I beg for a place in the ranks and hoping you will receive the support of the people in the coming contest.

John E. Wilson, Kirkwood, Mo.—The above signers are real democrats who want the best men to win, not common ward heelers, such as those who helped to name Parker. Mr. Bryan is doing a great work and is loved by all honest and real democrats. Sorry that all democrats are not all of the same kind. We want more but honest real democrats and are in favor of letting all others go to some other party.

Alex A. Leitch, Dayton, Ohio.—I consider it a valuable privilege to do what I can under the inspiring leadership of Mr. Bryan, toward the crystallization (i. e. organization) of the latent democracy that now and always has existed in our beloved country. It is significant in observing in the present renaissance of democracy in our country, the despair exhibited for instance, in the New York World on the one hand—a so-called democratic paper, and, on the other hand in the New York (Rep. so-called) Weekly Independent, John De Witt Warner's contribution of last month. The sloughing off process is certainly at work, the healthy, true democracy is appearing. Organize! Organize! Organize!

Felix Adler, Guthrie, O. T.—I heartily endorse your plan as outlined. I have practiced same for sixteen years since the organization of this county, and my labors were crowned with success last fall, this county going democratic the first time in its history.

Claude L. Finger, Saugerties, N. Y.—I heartily endorse your primary pledge, and will do all in my power to secure as many democrats to sign it as possible. I regard it as a great organizer, and all real democrats should endorse it. Purer politics and better government must come through the efforts of the common people. If we can get the great body of the democratic voters as much interested in the primary election as they are in the general elections, I think half the battle is won against the element that is ruling our country today. So let us, dear democrats, join hands, and work for the cause of the common people.