

TO BE THE PARTY OF THE PEOPLE

cratic work. I am not hopeful of democratic success in this territory as it is plain the republicans will keep off statehood until they can get negroes enough in here to carry it. The white vote—and especially the tax payers—is largely democratic in this territory.

D. A. Winegarden, Boyne City, Mich.—The pledge is all right.

Matt Plunkett, Central City, S. D.—I am doing all I can for primary pledges. It is true there is not much interest taken as yet in the movement in this locality. The reason is that the democrats are disgusted with the St. Louis convention and they yet feel a little sore. But be assured I will do what I can for primary pledges and democracy.

C. P. Clancy, John E. Eubanks and F. L. Eubanks, of Christopher, Ill.—Please find our primary pledges. We believe this is the plan to bring the democrats together and it is a duty we owe to the party.

F. H. Musser, Rural Retreat, Va.—The plan I heartily endorse and hope the good work will go on.

Thos. Taylor, Petersburg, Ind.—Your primary pledge plan is a good one. Let the ball be started rolling around the rank and file of the party and keep it rolling until 1908 and there will be something doing when a democratic platform is presented to the people. Park County in 1896 and in 1900 elected the democratic county tickets. The democratic nominee in 1896 and in 1900 carried the county by good majorities. In 1904 Roosevelt carried the county by 372. We must get "back to the people!"

Henry Tinker, Siloam Springs, Ark.—Find enclosed list of twenty democrats who are loyal to the principles for which The Commoner and Mr. Bryan so willingly strive.

D. T. Bush, Caradan, Texas.—I have generally attended primaries and I believe if all democrats had attended heretofore the attitude of the party in 1904 would have been entirely different. I think the one hope of the common people is for the rank and file to go into the primaries and demand their rights, although some of our leading papers advise the farming class to keep out of politics when they ought to advise them to make politics a study.

H. L. Pangle, Mosheim, Tenn.—I have read in The Commoner relative to organization and I herewith send in the primary pledge signed. I most heartily endorse the plan, and hope to see the day when the democratic party will become thoroughly democratic and corruption in politics eternally eliminated.

A. McNeely, Roland, Ark.—You will find enclosed my primary pledge. I think you have struck upon the right plan.

A. E. Cramsie, Minneapolis, Minn.—I enclose my pledge and I wish the movement God-speed. I believe in it. I would thank you for a number of pledges, which I shall try to return signed.

H. B. Jones, Foss, Okla.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed. I think it is a good thing and think all true democrats should sign the pledge and take The Commoner.

E. T. Figgins, Dover, Ky.—I am of the Jefferson, Jackson, Bryan stripe of democracy and take great pleasure in reading The Commoner which is a weekly visitor to my home. I approve of your primary plan and have not only taken great pleasure in signing the pledge, but have circulated it among my friends and secured altogether sixty-two signers.

W. Jeffcott, Sarasota, Fla.—You will find herewith the primary pledge,

which I heartily endorse as an entering wedge. Permit me to say that I like The Commoner for its honesty and fearlessness. Wishy-washy won't win. It was the courage born of confidence in the people that called it "The Commoner."

Frank R. Starr, Dehesa, Calif.—I have never missed a primary since I was of age, thirty years ago. The Alpha and Omega of representative government is the primary. Its importance is recognized fully by designing politicians. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Nine-tenths of our political ills arise from neglect of this function.

W. P. Brown, Pomona, Colo.—Enclosed find the pledge signed, which gives me pleasure, feeling that it is a most important step in the right direction.

Ed. E. Smith, Barron, Wis.—I beg to register one vote for the primary pledge.

C. H. Sanders, Deep River, Ia.—You will find enclosed primary pledge signed. Let the good work go on.

R. E. Childs, Sr., Dexter, Mo.—Enclosed find signed pledge, which gives me much pleasure to do, as I have always been a democrat.

Geo. W. Courtright, Wheelersburg, Ohio.—Please send me a few pledge blanks.

Minor Moore, Higbee, Missouri.—I heartily approve of your primary pledge plan as outlined in The Commoner of March 17. I believe if properly carried out, your plan will take the writing of platform and the naming of candidates out of the hands of those that are interested only in the distribution of patronage, and if that can be accomplished, and if victory should be ours in 1908, we will have won a victory that will mean something.

Luther A. Long, Sardinia, Ohio.—Find enclosed primary pledge signed and allow me to say that I heartily approve of your plan and I believe it will bring democratic success.

W. D. Bird, Wathena, Kans.—With pleasure I sign the primary pledge, thinking it the best means yet suggested to get common people together that they may have a voice in choosing delegates from the county convention up.

David Brier, Lincoln, Mo.—I enclose herewith the primary pledge, though I am not a democrat and never was one. I belong to the third party, but if the democrats repudiate the Cleveland wing of the democratic party and stick to the principles advocated by The Commoner, I shall stay with them.

R. Turner, Avery, Ohio.—I will say that I most emphatically commend the pledge plan, as given in The Commoner, and believe it will be the means of the rank and file having a voice in the conventions of the party, and preventing the repetition of another such mistake as was made at St. Louis last year.

J. L. Hoops, Crocker, Mo.—Please send me a lot of primary pledge blanks, as I want to get all the democrats in my township to sign and send them in. I want to be instrumental in making Dick Bland's old district roll up a big majority in 1908.

Harry Morris, Sulphur, Ky.—Enclosed find forty-one names to the primary pledge. These I received in less than one hour. I watch every week to see some move from Kentucky. What is the matter with the old democratic state? I have some leisure now and hope that you will hear from me often. Our circuit court commences Monday; I will stir up, or at least try to stir up, some

interest in the primary pledge petition and subscriptions. Give me something from Kentucky. It will stimulate others.

C. F. Kircher, Morrison, Okla.—I enclose primary pledge, and hope it will be a great success.

B. H. Cassidy, Rusk, Tex.—I will say that I am fully in favor of W. J. Bryan's plan of organization of the democratic party and will do all I can for the cause of true democracy.

John C. Gamble, Oakland, Calif.—Please find enclosed the primary pledge, which it gives me great pleasure to sign and which I will endeavor to keep as far as I am able.

H. L. Benson, San Antonio, Tex.—I enclose herewith the primary pledge duly signed, and would say in addition to the above, that it affords me great pleasure, indeed, to follow such a consistent leader as you have proved to be since you entered public life. The day will come when the great masses of our citizenship will realize that in your heart rings the true keynote of humanity and justice.

Wm. Fry, Cisne, Ill.—I enclose primary pledge with eighteen signatures and will get more.

D. T. Yount, Delphi, Ind.—Enclose pledge with fifteen signatures and you can expect more soon.

W. H. Waitfield, Mound City, Kans.—Enclose primary pledge with twenty-four signatures.

H. Sycamore, St. Louis.—Enclosed find primary pledge with several signatures.

C. L. Ogilvie, Enid, Okla.—Enclosed find primary pledge.

H. R. Cooke, Reno, Nevada.—For a Texas democrat, loyal to the democracy of that illustrious line of statesmen, Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan, and who reveres the memory of Jefferson Davis and Alexander H. Stephens, it would hardly seem necessary to sign any pledge or make any promise to attend the primaries of his party, were it not that such act might tend to encourage others not so strong in the faith. The Commoner, and its illustrious editor are doing a grand and noble work for the cause of genuine democracy and I hope to see the day when the principles advocated will be crystallized into law through the medium of a democratic congress and a democrat in the White house.

Geo. W. Wise, Shelby, Miss.—Find enclosed my endorsement of your plan of pledge to attend all primaries. There is nothing in it that's wrong, and the necessity for organization becomes more apparent with the advance of time. I still continue to distribute my paper just as soon as I have read it, and I can say that there is now more of a disposition to receive it than a year ago, and a more affable disposition to discuss democratic principles than formerly. I am surrounded by the "want to win kind," and I am trying to suppress my impatience and follow a line of duty in drawing them to consider principles as you discuss them. When ever I can be of service to you, call on me. I certainly endorse your ideas politically and am your brother in kind.

Robert A. Cavender, Dillsboro.—With pleasure I sign and forward the pledge. I believe The Commoner and William J. Bryan are fighting the good fight.

Percival J. Knappenberger, Allentown, Pa.—I will try and assist in bringing the grand old Jeffersonian party to success. I firmly believe that after a while honest republicans will realize that the only way good government can be achieved is to do likewise.

M. V. Sperry, Conneautville.—If I could say one word that would please

or encourage you in and for the honest and fearless stand you have taken in behalf of the people, I would gladly do it. Please allow me to thank you for your able and heroic efforts.

G. W. B. Fairst, Kenton, Ohio.—Find enclosed a primary pledge signed by twenty democrats. Some of them have been "regulars" at primaries while some have not. Those who have not been in the habit of attending say they will attend in the future. All think it a good plan. I made it a rule for twenty years to attend the primaries in my township and county and to go to as many state and other conventions as I could; but as I am now situated, I can not attend as many as I would like to; being a farmer and lone handed compels me to keep close at home, but am willing to work all I can for the cause of true democracy.

L. K. McGaffey, real estate, Roswell, N. M.—I believe that this proposition is a good one as it will, among other things, show the surprising influence that any man, who is in earnest, has upon his party.

H. J. Colverbach, Perryburg, N. Y.—After reading Judge Parker's Jefferson's birthday speech, am almost sorry for having followed Mr. Bryan's advice, voting for him. I was a W. R. Hearst man in the spring of 1904, but would have just as quick voted for Mr. Cockrell or any good democrat, whom Mr. Bryan could have supported. There is no use crying over spilled milk. But the primary pledge organization will prevent more milk being spilled. I read once somewhere, that it is all right for a man to make mistakes, provided they are new ones. It is wrong to make the same mistake twice. We democrats of the east assure our western and southern brethren that we will not make the 1904 mistake again.

Ben Widner, Buch Tree, Mo.—I am pleased to be counted as one of the democratic voters who is awake in the interest of good government. When Cleveland in his second term attempted to incorporate into democracy the worst feature of republicanism he aroused democratic voters to the extent that the Chicago platform of 1896 was a direct expression of the voters of the party, and the result of the vote showed that they endorsed it. The platform and candidate of 1904 was mainly the result of carelessness on the part of the rank and file in not attending the primaries, and the vote when counted plainly indicated that the voters had not been consulted. I hope that every democratic voter will remember that Eternal vigilance is the price of good government and act accordingly.

J. N. O'Neal, Murillo, Ark.—Ever since the primary pledge was first sent out, I have been saving every one and securing signers. Not a single democrat has refused to sign this pledge, as it is fair in every respect. You will find the pledges which I have secured enclosed with my own. Such a movement as this is worthy of attention and should concern every man who loves democracy. I will take pleasure in continuing to secure signers, and will send them in.

Jas. Pace, Nowata, I. T.—Enclosed find a few more signers of the primary pledge. It pleases me to be able to send in these names in furtherance of the cause. I hope to be able to continue the circulation of the primary pledge blanks. Down in this country where there is no organized government, where all the officers are federal appointees, and hence republicans, there is need of constant work to keep the people advised that

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