

NOT AS A SHEEP FOLLOWING A BELL

plan and the boys in the trenches can be aroused on the questions of indirect taxation, so adroitly practiced by the various private monopolies. God may rule and the democratic party live.

W. E. Fowler, Delta, Ohio.—If you will furnish me with a supply of the primary pledge blanks, I will procure as many democratic voters to sign them as possible. Every democrat in the United States should sign one and then carry it out.

A. Rump, Tolleston, Ind.—Enclosed I send two subscriptions and my signed primary pledge. With such a host of men behind this pledge, it will start us in the right direction to secure good men, and good measures in the governmental affairs of our country.

Joseph M. Paul, Landeck, O.—The primary pledge plan is the correct thing in politics. It will give candidates to understand that if nominated and elected they have the peoples' interests to look after instead of self interest, which is too often the case.

L. Vineyard, Grangeville, Idaho.—I pledge myself to attend all democratic primaries and work therein for a clear and plain expression of democratic principles and work in them from now until the next democratic national campaign.

M. M. Morrow, Fayetteville, Ark.—Enclosed find my renewal for the paper. I began with the first number. On page 14, No. 17, Mr. Shackleton says: "I cast my first vote for Buchanan, my next for Stephen A. Douglas," etc. I cast my first vote for Buchanan, my next for John Bell.

E. L. Berry, Nehawka, Nebraska.—Find a signed primary pledge. I think your plan an excellent one. I also believe that this plan will get the common people closer together and we shall win.

A. W. Stoll, Hartford City, Ind.—Find primary pledge signed by myself. I think your plan an excellent one. I also believe that this plan will get the common people closer together and we will win.

George D. Thompson, Iola, Kans.—Your primary pledge plan is in my judgment the best plan yet devised for keeping the democratic party in hands of real democrats.

G. H. Wheeler, Conconully, Wash.—I enclose herewith my primary pledge signed. I heartily approve the plan and it will be no new duty for me, for I am always there anyway.

A. W. Nolan, Edna, Kansas.—Enclosed please find seven subscriptions and primary pledge, signed by twenty-five of the leading democrats of this precinct, who are willing to work for the good of the cause.

C. A. Judd, Minneapolis, Minn.—Please send a few of the primary pledge blanks. In my precinct we have about 120 democrats. Out of that number about 30 voted for Parker and the balance either refused to vote for president, or voted for Debs. We will hope for no more "Safe and Sane Democracy." The Jefferson, Jackson, Bryan brand is good enough for me.

D. F. Rogers, Minburn, Iowa.—The success of modern democracy at the polls, and thereby the redemption of the country from republican misrule, depends upon the faithfulness of the democratic masses to their duty at the primaries and at the ballot box. This pledge is the first and the right step toward that much prayed for consummation. Here are 15 of 'em.

A. S. Perrin, Koshkonong, Mo.—Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! for the primary pledge, for this is the only

pledge that will turn back the tide of socialism that has so strongly set in here in America. Push it! Push it! and urge all democratic papers to do the same, for it is the people's only salvation. I always attend the democratic primaries, and every other democratic gathering I can reach. The democrats in "Old Missouri," seem to be in the coils of hopeless apathy over the actions of the so-called "conservative democracy." But I can not but believe that it is the calm before the storm. In my opinion we will give the republicans the greatest surprise of their lives the next chance (1906) we get.

W. B. Perrin, Koshkonong, Mo.—Find enclosed my primary pledge. I heartily endorse the plan you have taken to organize the democratic party. This will not only remind every one of their duty but will also show the strength of the party.

W. A. Dalton, Campbell, Mo.—Enclosed find primary pledge which with pleasure I have signed. I think your plan a good one. I think it the duty of every true democrat to thus pledge himself, and not until he does can we ever hope to succeed. Let every democrat help in this good work.

J. M. Haverfield, Lamonte, Mo.—Enclosed please find primary pledge signed. I take pleasure in following your lead.

J. B. A. Robertson, Lawyer, Chandler, Okla.—The primary pledge idea is a good one. If the people could only be brought to realize that they possess all power, not alone in politics but in governmental affairs as well, it would be but a short time until the true principles of government would be crystallized into law and "government of the people, for the people and by the people" would be a reality and not an idle dream. Success to Bryan and The Commoner.

Dr. J. W. Hermettet, Industry, Ill.—Enclosed find a copy of the primary pledge signed by myself and twelve others. When all the real believers in democracy attend the primaries no such evidence of general dissatisfaction with the party's nominee and platform will be possible as was the case last year. Nothing has given us, the plain democrats, so much hope as the promulgation of this pledge. Send me some pledge cards so we can keep the good work moving.

E. J. Gibson, County Attorney, Corsicana, Texas.—Please find letter dictated to me by my father; also pledge. Father is a great friend of The Commoner. Last spring he had me send \$20 with the request that the paper be sent to certain friends. Occasionally he meets one of your solicitors and tells him to send The Commoner to some friend. He admonishes every one to read it. Father and a few friends fought the battles of Roger Q. Mills in this district for twenty years. Mr. Mills always had a warm fight and his views when they became revolutionized, caused his home friends no little regret. I should have sent pledge and letter sooner and regret that I did not.

John S. Gibson, Corsicana, Texas.—Enclosed find pledge to attend primary meetings. I voted for Andy Johnson when he defeated Meredith P. Gentry before the Civil war. I have never scratched a democratic nominee since. I have spent more than \$10,000 for the cause of democracy as taught me from Roger Q. Mills. But I am done with the eastern democracy, who vote with republicans to make themselves rich by enactment. First, I will follow any

flag that points to absolute free trade. Second, I would raise money for the support of the government from wealth, taxing land, railroads, race horses, the Bible that lies on the pulpit like the bottle of whiskey—anything that asks and receives the strong arm of the law for protection should contribute its just share for that protection. I think every man should pay his poll tax to be allowed to vote. Now if I can participate further with these views file pledge, if not destroy or return to me. I want no more straddles and uncertainties in mine. Teach the people to tell the truth, keep sober and pay their debts; this will line up honest government.

S. C. Sumrall, Jeanerette, La.—Enclosed please find primary pledge, signed, with a hearty support for all it embodies. Think it a key to interest many otherwise negligent democrats and through it the policy of government brought back to its original faith and practice.

A. A. Booth, Lawyer, Seattle, Wash.—Find enclosed primary pledge with my signature. I have never failed to attend the primaries since I cast my first vote for W. J. Bryan in 1896, but I am glad to sign the pledge as I think it a splendid and democratic plan of organizing the democrats of the nation. Unless all signs fail, a democratic victory for the people of this country, is not far off. The battle against plutocracy within the party has been fought and won, and I think we will be in a position in the campaigns near at hand to present a solid front to the enemy. Democracy must win because it now deserves to win. When the people see how futile it is for all to expect to enjoy a prosperity that is created by legislation for the few, they will be content to ask for a fair field and no favors. What makes republicanism strong at present is that men still believe that they have an equal chance with J. D. Rockefeller, Morgan, Carnegie and the men who exercise special privileges throughout the country. This delusion won't last much longer. Success to The Commoner, its editor and the principles for which he is fighting.

Joel Ayers, Pinnacle, N. C.—I am a subscriber of your paper and would like to join in with my brethren in the fight for democracy. I am a democrat from head to foot. I intend to work for and support the party so long as it stands on the platform it now stands—long as I live. Fellow democrats, I have good reasons for being a democrat. I am seventy-seven years old, and have always voted for our party and tried to defend our nation the very best I could. My grandfather and oldest uncle served through the war of the Revolution, my father and oldest half-brother served in the

Every democrat is asked to

pledge himself to attend all of the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented and to use his influence to secure a clear, honest and straight-forward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak. Those desiring to be enrolled can either write to The Commoner approving the object of the organization and asking to have their names entered on the roll, or they can fill out and mail the blank pledge which is printed on page 16 of this issue.

It will require time to cover the entire field, but if democrats co-operate, the desired result will be accomplished.

Send The Commoner your own primary pledge and then ask your neighbor to do likewise.

war of 1812, till the surrender, and I fought in the Civil war from beginning to ending. Brethren of the democratic party, I would like to shake your hands and tell you more but space will not admit of it. Wishing The Commoner and all its readers success I am yours for good government and democratic victory in the future. Please send me blank to sign and return.

M. Phillips, Cheney, Wash.—I have been a reader and a friend of The Commoner since it commenced; have got a few subscribers every year and if it sticks to its present policy will make an effort to do more in the future. Am pleased to see my old friends of Belleville, Kan., J. F. Walker and J. C. Glasco send in their pledges, as I know they are faithful workers. I also send in mine, and hope I will be able to help such men as Bryan, Folk and Tom Watson.

W. Kimmel, Milton, Ind.—Here is my pledge. I believe it is a good move in the right direction; now is the time to prepare for the future, to work for the right of the people and give to them what they demand. I have been reading The Commoner ever since it was established. Joseph G. Burdette, Redstar, W. Va.—I hereby enclose my pledge and am and will always be ready to help the cause of true democracy. Edward Lewis, Northport, N. Y.—I take pleasure in signing pledge and

(Continued on Page 14)

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