

## "WOODS FULL OF WIDE AWAKE DEMOCRATS"

The democratic convention held at Bloomsburg, Pa., June 13, endorsed the primary pledge plan in the following resolution: "It is the conviction of the democrats of Columbia county in convention assembled June 13, 1905, that the primary pledge plan of William J. Bryan to unite and strengthen the democratic party of the nation is an excellent one, and the pledges sent out by him are worthy of the endorsement of every democrat. We therefore, the democratic convention of Columbia county, endorse the same."

A. B. Black of Bloomsburg, who sent to The Commoner a report of this resolution, writes: "I am sending 105 signatures; I have several, however, on other blanks and will send them in as soon as all blanks sent are filled up. I could have gotten over 500 signatures if it would have been possible to have asked every man, but we were so busy and hadn't enough time. The vote polled at our last primaries was 2,700, at this 4,600, which shows that we have 2,600 more democrats in this county than republicans, while Parker's majority over Roosevelt was only 559, but if the party sticks to your principles and those of Jefferson I believe that we will poll at least 2,500 majority at the next presidential election. By sending blanks to the signers on these you will get, no doubt, many more signers, and when I get a little more time than I have this morning I will send you a few names from each polling district in the county of parties that I think would take an active interest in the matter."

The democrats in convention assembled at Bloomsburg have set a good example to their fellow democrats everywhere. It is to be hoped that a primary pledge resolution will be introduced in every democratic convention.

Extracts from some of the letters received at The Commoner office follow:

W. S. White, South Omaha, Neb.—I always attend the primaries and always expect to when able to walk or ride.

W. O. Craig, Kansas City, Mo.—I send you my primary pledge.

John Wall, Lake City, Cal.—I send you primary pledge signed by thirty-three democrats.

F. E. Vorachek, Conway, N. D.—Enclosed find primary pledge with twenty signatures.

J. W. Oakes, Elk City, Kans.—I send you sixteen signatures attached to the primary pledge.

H. L. Taylor, Newdale, W. Va.—Find enclosed primary pledge with thirty-five signatures. Send me more blanks. The plan is a good one.

John Woods, Hazel Grove, Pa.—I send you primary pledge with names of twenty democrats.

J. D. Kendall, Raymond, Ill.—I send you primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

Addison Hall and W. H. Spencer, Charleston, W. Va.—Let the good work go on.

John T. Henry, Troy, Mo.—I herewith enclose primary pledge which I shall faithfully carry out.

J. W. McLaughlin, Decatur, Ia.—Enclosed find thirty-five signatures attached to the primary pledge.

L. A. Phillips, Bogard, Mo.—Please find enclosed four primary pledges which we were glad to sign. Not but what we would attend the primaries, as we are interested, but we don't want old Missouri to go republican the next time, and we don't want any more Parker democracy.

B. J. Mulligan, Hanover, Kans.—Enclosed please find primary pledge with twenty-seven names of some of the good democrats of Greeley county, Nebraska. I could easily get more to sign it if I had time. They all think it's a good plan. I am visiting here now. I live in Greeley county, Nebraska.

Dr. T. J. Dunbar, Portsmouth, Ohio.—Hurry up! Send me some more primary pledge blanks. I find the woods full of wide-awake democrats. I send forty-three more signers.

T. J. Deck, Hawarden, Ia.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed by myself and A. R. Brown, of Hawarden, Iowa. I believe the plan a good one and trust every true democrat will make his pledge good.

D. A. Mays, Vandalia, Ill.—Enclosed find primary pledge—you are certainly deserving of much credit for originating this scheme—may your efforts be crowned with success and may the

grand old democratic party be the medium through which the common people will receive just dues.

Henry S. Fargo, Hartford City, Ind.—Enclosed I hand you my primary pledge. I do this not because I have not heretofore attended the primaries in my district, but because I believe in the plan of organization. Democrats here in 1904, were somewhat discouraged, and not knowing just what to do. Parker was a complete surrender of all the true and-accepted principles of the democratic party in two campaigns. And so in their extremity we held aloof, and wrongfully permitted a few persons who were not democrats, and who were not in sympathy with the platform of the party, or its candidates, and did not support the ticket in either 1896 or 1900, to manage the primaries and elect delegates to county and state conventions. But those people are now down and out, and from now on we intend to place none but democrats on guard. The position of The Commoner on the questions of municipal ownership, and railroads are fully endorsed here—by many republicans as well as democrats. Out here in Indiana we feel that the democratic party has been in the hands of a faction long enough, and that the time has come when democrats who believe in true democratic principles should take charge of its affairs.

Henry Travers, Woodstock, Wis.—Please find primary pledge signed. I am surely in for every man being equal before the law, and special privileges to none. Am against legalizing any wrong in either nation, state, city or town.

Rozander Smith, West Salem, Ill.—I gladly sign the pledge and have four boys who will sign it and vote it too. As I am 88-years-old, I hardly expect to last until the next convention, therefore I think I should be allowed to choose my presidential candidates now.

W. G. Custer, Peaster, Okla.—Find enclosed three primary pledges, one for myself and one each of my boys. I can say that the pledge is a good one, although I have always attended the primaries so I can willingly sign it.

W. C. Hedgpeth, Phoenix, Ariz.—Could have secured more signatures if I had had time, as about 99 per cent of our democrats are Bryan democrats. You can count on Arizona being in line for true democracy in 1908. Arizona has elected only one republican to congress in twenty years, that was in 1894. Give us separate statehood and you can count three more electoral votes in 1908.

Stephen Jones, Freeland Park, Ind.—Enclosed find primary pledge duly signed. I heartily endorse the same because it is right.

B. I. Wilson, Selica, N. C.—I believe in democratic principles and I endorse your plan. Keep the ball rolling for I think primary pledges are all right.

Mr. E. F. Wooden, Bogard, Mo.—Your primary pledge plan is the only hope for the democrats if there be any hope left. The times require radical remedies and nothing else will do.

F. B. Barrick, Holland, Ore.—Please send me twenty or twenty-five pledge blanks. I think I can get them signed.

Benjamin Cranmer, Cedar Run.—Please find enclosed primary pledge duly signed. I endorse your plan of organization. I have voted for every democratic presidential nominee since Lincoln, although some of them were not what democrats wanted, and I am glad that I have supported them all. I think to be a bolter is the worst kind of a sin, politically. I am going to do all I can for democracy.

R. C. Mead, Rocheport, Mo.—Enclosed find twenty signatures and am pleased in the interest the voters are taking.

J. P. Nelson, Manhattan, Kans.—I will enclose the primary pledges which I have signed and I will assure you that I will use my best influences in furthering the interest of the democratic principles.

Alex Gill, Oregon City, Ore.—You will find enclosed my primary pledge which I think is the surest and best plan ever gotten up for honest principles and politics. Success to you. Count on me for the battle in 1908.

A. A. Bradford, M. D., Bremen, Ohio.—Find enclosed my pledge. I am heartily in sympathy with this plan. It is through the primaries that the plain people can voice their sentiments. There is such a thing as a candidate buying a convention, but he cannot buy every vote in a county. I hope that Mr. Bryan will succeed in organizing the democratic party in the next three years, as it has never been organized before. A united party with one mind and one purpose will surely lead on to victory.

M. D. Morse, Oklahoma City, Okla.—You will find pledge signed and enclosed herewith. I believe it to be a grand move in the right.

James B. Witherup, Cyrus, Pa.—Enclosed find my primary pledge duly signed, also \$1 to pay the renewal to The Commoner for another year.

S. S. Clay, Sunnyside, Idaho.—Enclosed find \$1 in stamps for a renewal of my subscription. Please send primary pledge blank.

C. J. Spies, Wykoff, Minn.—Please find enclosed \$1 bill, for what is due on your paper, also primary pledge. I am in favor of the primary organization and I will do all in my power to make a success of it. I am a Bryan democrat and Kansas City platform man. No Judge Parker or that kind of democrats for me.

A. M. McKee, Holyoke, Colo.—I take pleasure in signing the primary pledge. I think the plan is perfect, for better organization is what we must have, in order to win. Through organization we can get good, honest, upright men at the head of organizations that send delegates to state and national conventions, men that will stand up for the rights of the common people. If we attend all primaries and see that good, clean men get the nomination, then we have no reason for not supporting the ticket.

H. C. Cowardin, Martin, Tenn.—Send me a lot of pledges.

William W. Morgan, Jamestown, N.

D.—Will The Commoner please find names of five who wish to sign primary pledges and become readers of The Commoner with postoffice order to pay the same.

Warren W. Tolman, Spokane, Wash.—I have been intending to sign the primary pledge since you started the plan, but have neglected doing so, until I read today the leader "A Word With You," which has induced me to act now.

John Jackson, El Reno, Okla.—Find primary pledge. The primary pledge plan is the best yet. Well attended primaries will nearly always nominate the best men for candidates.

Buck W. Brown, Midlothian, Tenn.—Please find enclosed signed pledge. I am thoroughly convinced that your plan is the thing, and I believe that if the people of Texas had spoken last year, this state would not have instructed for Judge Parker.

Mr. E. B. McKenzie, Agency, Tenn.—Find my primary pledge signed, which is my vote, payable in primary work and support of platform principles and candidate made and nominated through primaries. This means honest democracy, which will ultimately succeed unless the government becomes entirely subverted.

C. M. Brown, Itasca, Mich.—Enclosed find primary pledge blank filled out with twenty active democrats. Keep up the fight, and the organization, The Commoner is making, and the masses will soon join us, and vote for their own interests. Send sample copies of The Commoner to the signers of the pledge who are not subscribers.

W. S. Lynde, Harbine, Neb.—Enclosed find pledge. I am pleased to sign it, for it is putting into practice what I have been preaching for twenty-five years. God bless The Commoner in its mission of helpfulness to the people.

Frank P. Neu, Prairie Du Sac, Wis.—Please file my pledge and add my name to your army of true democrats, which I trust will grow to such an extent that it will lead us to victory in 1908. In my election district everything is overwhelmingly republican, but that has not shaken my belief in democratic principles, and I would rather be in the minority than be with a party who gains its victories with campaign funds furnished by the trusts.

J. A. Coleman, Fort Collins, Colo.—I enclose primary pledge duly signed. If all democrats would make such a pledge and live up to it democracy would have a walkover.

F. J. J. Quirk, Winona, Minn.—Enclosed find primary pledge. I consider it is at the primaries where we lay the foundation for a perfect organization to begin the battle for our national elections. I never fail to attend the primaries and had the democrats done so last fall, as they should, we might have had a different convention at St. Louis and nominated a candidate who would have stood for Jeffersonian principles and turned the tide the other way; instead of that we had to make apologies for voting a ticket forced on the democrat's party by a lot of trust and political grafters.

Albert Webb, Vienna, Md.—Find primary pledge signed by me, and will do all I can to get others to do so, as I am heart and soul in sympathy with the same.

T. I. B. Montgomery, Buffalo, Mo.—Enclosed find sixty names for primary pledge.

D. R. Fullerton, Clearfield, Pa.—Enclosed please find primary pledge duly signed. I am heartily in accord with any movement that will call the demo-