

# WORDS OF CHEER FROM EARNEST DEMOCRATS

## EDITORIALS BY COMMONER READERS

The "editorials" by Commoner readers presented in each issue must be interesting and inspiring to democrats everywhere. These "editorials" are written in response to the primary pledge plan.

Democrats everywhere are showing great enthusiasm as they enter upon their effort to make their party true to itself by making it true to the people. Don't withhold your pledge because you always attend primaries. You can help the work by setting a good example to your careless colleagues. Send in your own pledge. Then ask your neighbor to sign. It will require time to cover the entire field, but if democrats co-operate, the desired result will be accomplished. 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 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 9.

Extracts from letters received by The Commoner follow:

William H. Phillips, Sykerville.—I herewith enclose the primary pledge. Your plan will be a great benefit to the party.

G. W. Glass, Stamping Ground, Ky.—I send primary pledge with six signatures.

L. S. Bell, Watauga, Ky.—I heartily approve of The Commoner's plan to get out the democratic vote.

Allen G. Dutz, Guyandotte, W. Va.—I enclose primary pledge with thirty-six names of Jefferson democrats. Please send me a few blanks by return mail, as I want to do all I can for the grand old party.

A. N. Gorden, Leesville, Mo.—I herewith send primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

W. N. White, El Paso, Texas.—Another good man—come over from the enemy.

J. L. Binchfield, McGregor, Texas.—I sign the primary pledge and think all democrats ought to do likewise. Hurrah for The Commoner.

A. H. Ker, Russia, N. M.—Find enclosed pledge with nine signatures.

W. J. Moore, Comanche, Texas.—I heartily endorse your primary pledge plan. I am one of those old gray haired democrats. I cast my first vote for John C. Breckenridge in 1860. Enlisted in the confederate army July, 1861, and was with the enemy until the surrender.

H. G. Williams, Meadville, Pa.—I enclose primary pledge with twenty signatures.

Franklin G. Leh, Valley N. J.—Enclosed find primary pledge. If every true democrat will keep the ball rolling we can achieve a noble victory in 1908. Yours looking forward for good work.

William Taylor, Petersburg, Ind.—Enclosed find primary pledge with twenty signatures.

Gus Meeters, Yellville, Ark.—I send primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

A. Baxter, Moscow, Idaho.—I send the pledge but will not vote for gold standard candidates.

John W. Alphonse, Stamford, Conn.—I send primary pledge with thirty-five names.

A. B. Black, Deputy sheriff, Bloomsburg, Pa.—I am going to make an extra effort to get a lot of signatures in this county, but of course it will take some time.

Ed. J. Lithnan, Willowdell, Ohio.—I enclose primary pledge with twenty signatures.

Captain J. J. Hutchinson, Colorado City, Colo.—I will try to fill out the pledge and return same to you.

C. C. Aliff, Beckley, W. Va.—Enclosed find primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

A. W. Purdin, Leverton, Mo.—I

think the primary pledge plan a good one to get the veterans in line by 1908 for the greatest struggle in history. Democracy must rule to save our republic.

Fred Hellwig, Bonaparte, Iowa.—I send primary pledge with thirteen signatures.

J. L. Linville, Bethany, Mo.—Enclosed find six pledges. It's hardly worth while for me to send these pledges, for we all attend the primaries any way, but we want to be recorded among that noble throng that gave a name to the democratic party.

G. L. Root, Peoria, Ill.—Enclosed find eight pledges duly signed.

John E. Brenneisen, Unionville, Md.—I send primary pledge signed. To commence at the bottom is the right plan but it should be followed up at the county and state conventions.

Lora Plummer, Montrose, Ill.—I enclose pledge with thirteen signatures.

James Allen, Fontana, Kans.—I enclose pledge list filled out. Send me another blank, I think I can get it filled out.

James J. Henry, Philadelphia, Pa.—I send primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

B. F. Van Meter, Lexington, Ky.—Here's my primary pledge. I have been a democrat from my earliest manhood to the present time.

Charles L. Warfield, San Diego, Calif.—I enclose primary pledge signed by twenty leading democrats of this place.

Dr. J. A. Young, Pauls Valley, I. T.—I enclose pledge with forty-nine signatures.

Lyman Cole, Jameston, N. Y.—I send pledges with twenty signatures.

H. C. Ray, Dayton, Ohio.—I am willing to do all I can to forward The Commoner's plan of organization. If anything is accomplished here the work must come from the rank and file. While I am sure the large majority of voters believe in the reforms The Commoner is advocating, the primaries are so manipulated that the rank and file of the party have no way of expressing their views. This condition of affairs can be suppressed only by a counter organization. I once saw a wagon drawn by twenty-four horses. The wagon got in a rut and the twenty-four horses could not pull it out, because they never pulled together. Finally two old, sturdy, work horses were put next to the wagon,—they threw their weight into the collars and in less time than it takes to tell it, the heavy wagon was moving forward. A few men with a purpose who will work together may be able to pull the democratic wagon out of the mire.

W. W. Stell, Paris, Texas.—As this is my seventy-second birthday, and having voted the democratic ticket

straight for fifty years, and living in a state that is said to have a "brutal democratic majority," I have thought it hardly necessary for me to sign the primary pledge. But I find the talks of many who have signed the pledge just like an old fashioned Methodist love feast, and being a Methodist myself I write to have my pledge recorded.

E. H. Speer, North Belleverson, Pa.—I enclose primary pledge.

Virgil Six, Abilene, Texas.—I herewith send my own primary pledge and others duly signed.

Alonzo Fowler, Ava, Ohio. I am a democrat first, last and all the time, and am willing to assist in your organization plan.

William Green, Landes, Ill.—Enclosed find my primary pledge, which I gladly sign. I believe it to be a good plan to enthuse the voters. Get them interested in the primary and no fear but that they will be at the polls on election day.

John T. Nichols, Danville, Ind.—I send my primary pledge with four others.

J. O. Wasson, Mobely, Ark.—Please send me a dozen copies of The Commoner. I am securing signers to the primary pledge and think I can use a few copies of The Commoner.

Michael Hays, Adair, Mo.—I heartily commend the primary pledge plan.

H. Fanchier, Moody, Texas.—Enclosed find primary pledge with eleven signatures. I heartily endorse everything The Commoner advocates.

James Raerden, Bloomington, Ind.—Herewith find primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

Adolph Schaffer, Portland, Ore.—I send you my primary pledge. I believe in the true democracy and the teachings of The Commoner.

E. L. Berry, Nehawka, Neb.—I enclose herewith primary pledges signed by fifteen democrats all of Nehawka precinct. They all approve of your plan, all signed except two to whom I presented the pledge. I think your's a good plan and hope it will be the means of arousing more interest in the party.

R. E. Rose, Mountain Grove, Mo.—Enclosed find thirty-five primary pledges. Long life to The Commoner and to W. J. Bryan. We who were born democrats in '96 have never deserted our leader. Success to the primary pledge plan and success to the principles of true democracy. Let us all work and pray that "government of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

W. S. White, Saint Jo, Texas.—Enclosed find primary pledge filled out and signed. I heartily endorse your plan. Am a Texan and democrat of long standing, and I read The Commoner, and am getting ready for the great awakening of 1908.

E. L. Willaford, Richmond, Mo.—See enclosed a primary pledge sheet with twenty names. We have another sheet which will be sent in when full. These names are secured without much exertion. Everyone signs who is asked.

H. N. Briggs, Clarion, Mich.—I hand you herewith my primary pledge together with a few other signers. I am in full sympathy with Mr. Bryan's movement to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of our party's position on every question, not only for the campaign of 1908, but for all future time. We want no more of "Cleveland's sane and safe Democracy," so-called, but the pure and simple, Jefferson's simplicity, exactly suits me. I am still young in

the ranks of the people's cause having only cast two presidential ballots, one for Bryan and last fall for Parker; and I must say Parker was a hard pill for me to swallow, but I did so only on his policy of anti-imperialism, and anti-trust. I believe that Parker's disastrous defeat last fall will be beneficial in awakening the rank and file to a sense of duty, and I trust that they will see to it that the plutocrats are driven for ever from the party's mediations in the future. Every body should read Lawson's exposure and Russel's articles on the beef trust.

J. L. Bradley, Flat River, Mo.—I enclose the primary pledge signed. I sign it with pleasure as I fully believe it the only salvation for the common people as it is the only full and free way to get an expression of the people. Any candidate who is afraid to submit his candidacy defining his position to the people, the people should be afraid of. I had rather be in the minority than on the side of the voters who secure their election through funds contributed by the trusts, I will cease by saying I am a W. J. Bryan democrat.

J. M. Jones, Clearwater, Kans.—I endorse the primary pledge plan. At the primaries is the place to do efficient work. If each individual democrat would attend all the primaries of his party, corruption in politics would soon be eliminated. I like the sentiment expressed in an editorial on "Campaign Funds" in The Commoner of April 14, 1905. "The only way to make a successful campaign against the encroachments of organized wealth is to make it so honestly, so openly and so fairly as to appeal to the conscience of the country." I certainly enjoy reading the brief letters published in The Commoner from week to week. It certainly is voicing the sentiment of the people and especially the democratic party. It shows which way the wind blows. I wish every democrat would thus express himself, come out and show his colors, his loyalty to his party. Yours for the right.

W. H. Milliorn, Alla, Texas.—I send four more pledges duly signed by four good democrats. Your plan to bring the people closer together is the way to success. I am 70 years old, and have voted the democrat ticket ever since I was 21 years old. I shall do all I can to help the good cause.

J. S. Cunningham, Knoxville, Ia.—Please find enclosed primary pledge signed. I heartily endorse this movement, although it can not add anything to the interest I have always taken in democratic conventions, having marched in the ranks and voted the ticket for fifty-four years and as a specimen I have not missed a national convention for thirty years. In 1896 and 1900 I had the honor of being a delegate to both conventions and I shall always be proud of the fact that both conventions were controlled by the people and not by a machine. I hope the next convention will adopt a radical progressive platform including all the present issues such as government and municipal ownership and the referendum, income tax, election of United States senators by the people, tariff for revenue only, no favoritism. If a member of the cabinet violates the law punish him as the man who steals a horse. Nothing else is "a square deal." No man can favor a square deal who advocates protection and I hope to live long enough to assist in electing to the presidency a champion of human rights.