

DEMOCRATS ARE DETERMINED AND HOPEFUL

Read the extracts from letters written by Commoner readers. You will be interested in them. If you have not signed the primary pledge do not longer delay the discharge of this duty. Every Commoner reader is invited to co-operate in this work. Even though you make it a practice to attend primaries, don't withhold your pledge. By signing you will set a good example for your careless neighbor. This is not to be the work of a day nor of several days. It is to be the work of months and of years. The field is a large one and to cover it time and effort will be required, 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 at The Commoner office follow:

P. C. Dilg, Tottenville, New York City, Borough of Richmond.—I have hesitated signing the enclosed enrollment blank because it pledges me to attend all primaries of my party. This I would gladly do were I assured that the party as now organized in New York state believed in democratic principles. If its future shall be judged by its past, I reserve the right to act according to the dictation of my conscience for the best interests of democracy.

A. J. Morgan, Iowa Falls, Iowa.—Will take steps to get as many signatures as possible for primary measures. Hope to be entirely successful with its circulation among the good boys of our locality.

Wiley D. Rowell, Bamberg, S. Car.—Enclosed you will find pledge signed by me. The work which you are doing should be approved by every white voter in the United States. May success crown your untiring efforts to make this a solid democratic country. I intend getting as many as I can to sign the primary pledge.

W. F. Ginterman, Pres. Dispatch Pub. Co., Shamokin, Pa.—I enclose the primary pledge sent me by you some time ago to procure signatures. I have been very busy myself attending to other matters and have been a little slow in having the pledge filled up sooner but I assure you I have obtained some of the best there was to be had, (and I might say staunch Bryan democrats), who were glad to sign it. I wish you all success in the organization and am glad that the matter has been taken up to organize the democratic party for the next national campaign. If you succeed in doing that you will have accomplished something that has long been needed and has never been properly successful. I believe our party will have a better show in this state in the future, since Philadelphia has taken up the matter of "cleaner politics" and perhaps the old Keystone state may swing over once in a while to old democracy, at least there will not be such enormous majorities against us and an honest man will have a chance of having his vote recorded. We are going to do our best to swing the county this fall.

D. W. Buchanan, Huntsville, Ala.—Please find enclosed 35 primary pledges. Please excuse delay in returning same as I have been very busy and see very few men. Politics is very quiet here as we have no elections very close at hand.

John C. Lilly, Barker, Mont.—Enclosed find pledge of primary signed. I am 62 years of age; always been a democrat; have twice voted for Bryan and have named my youngest son after him. He was born September 20, 1896.

J. O. Wasson, Mobley, Ark.—I send you herewith the primary pledge signed by 22 Bryan democrats. I would have gotten more but am a

farmer boy and have been very busy. Our county representative and ex-county judge both signed the pledge. They both expressed themselves as being in favor of the Commoner's plan of organizing the party. Here in Arkansas where the democratic party has nearly always been in the majority, some think it is not necessary to sign the primary pledge. If our illustrious statesman, Augustus H. Garland were living today I think he would tell us as he did of old, to work for the good of democracy. We are looking here in Arkansas to Jefferson Davis and James P. Clark as our leaders to help bring the party back to its old time moorings. I for one am willing to do all I can for the party of Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan. Success to The Commoner and the reforms it advocates is my wish.

W. E. Cavanaugh, Berlin, Wis.—I herewith enclose the primary pledge properly filled out and signed, although it was wholly unnecessary as far as I am concerned, because I have always made it a practice to attend the primaries of our party. But I simply send in the pledge for the purpose of swelling the list and as evidence of the fact that I am most heartily in sympathy with the movement. I trust this movement inaugurated by the editor of The Commoner will be the means of wresting the democratic party from the control of the "reorganizers" and bring it back once more to its ancient moorings.

T. F. Donnell, Oklahoma City, Okla.—Enclosed find 35 pledges. It is a pleasure to do what little I can to further your plan of reorganization. Please send each one of the pledge signers a sample copy of The Commoner. Will send you a list of subscribers soon.

F. H. Claypool, Humanville, Mo.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed. The rank and file of the democratic party have never lost faith.

John McKay, Willow Grove, W. Va.—Enclosed find list of 20 names which I promised you some time ago. They are all democrats who heartily approve of The Commoner's primary pledge plan.

W. P. Bedford, Berry, Ky.—It was my intention to send you a large list of names signing the pledge that every white man in this country ought to sign, but sickness and failing eyesight have prevented so far. We all heartily agree in saying no better plan can be devised for the democracy of this country. It leaves no loop holes for traitors to creep into the party, for the sole purpose of defeating the party that stands for the common people. We are all Jeffersonian democrats.

E. O. Edwards, Marksville, La.—Find enclosed the primary pledge. I heartily endorse your plan, because I believe it to be the true essence of democracy and a sure method to redeem the democratic party from the plutocratic element of Wall street and give to the American people once

more "a government of the people, by the people and for the people."

Ambrose F. Shrout, Owingsville, Ky.—Please find enclosed the primary pledge signed by 34 of old Bath county democrats. We have had enough of republican rule in Kentucky to last awhile. Japan is a small country, but organization of her army in the right way caused her to whip Russia. Not battle was ever gained in a haphazard way. If we organize right we will be sure of victory in 1908.

Don W. Bird, Lodi, Cal.—Enclosed find my primary pledge signed. I heartily endorse the primary pledge plan. If we want to raise white corn we must plant white seed corn. If we want to raise yellow corn we must plant yellow seed corn. If we want a good building we must first get our plans right. If we want honest officers we must select honest men for officers. If you don't want "grafters" in office don't wait until "grafters" are selected for officers before you enter your protest, because then you lend assistance to your enemies. I have always considered the primary the place to get reform.

G. P. Steadman, Middleton, Mich.—Enclosed find primary pledge duly signed. I cheerfully endorse the same because it is right. It would seem strange that the state of Michigan appears only once in all your list of names or once each week. But few have signed the pledge as yet. My father voted the old Whig ticket in 1840 and died before the year closed. So had no teaching from my father how I should vote, yet I am a democrat to the back bone.

S. C. Vedder, French Gulch, Shasta County, Cal.—Enclosed find primary pledge containing half dozen signatures. Would be pleased to send you a larger list, but I am located at present in a sparsely settled district. As I approve of the course of procedure of The Commoner, I am pleased to act as helper in a small way. I would be pleased to do more were I where I could and circumstances permitted.

H. Clay Worth, Huntington, W. Va.—Enclosed you will find primary pledge signed by eleven staunch democrats. The work was a pleasure I assure you. As a result of the primary pledge, Oberlin, an overwhelmingly republican town, was represented in the Lorain county convention of democrats by two delegates. The convention was one of the best attended and most enthusiastic for years. Democracy has a bright outlook in Ohio this coming election. May we hope for a great victory.

F. Davidson, Charleston, W. Va.—Find enclosed primary blank with twenty-eight signatures. I did not make a systematic canvass but got them by simply asking those of my friends whom I chanced to meet. I think you may enlist each and every one of them in the cause by simply writing them and sending them sample copies of The Commoner. Please send me another blank and I will make a systematic canvass of my precinct. You will also find attached to this names of men in this and other cities whom I think would take up the work.

Frank Gwin, Publisher Public Press, New Albany, Ind.—Herewith I enclose a primary pledge. It is hardly necessary for me to pledge myself to do this, for I always avail myself of this right and privilege. I am a firm believer in the honest primary, and I am decidedly in favor of selecting delegates to township, county, congressional, district, state and national conventions in the primary. I believe that all the power should come from the people and that snap con-

ventions, where half a dozen men "are the whole thing" should be discouraged and stopped.

H. K. Shanklin, Viola, Iowa.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed. I have voted two presidential tickets, the first was for William J. Bryan; the second for A. B. Parker. There is a feeling of hopefulness, and determination, permeating the democratic party today, which bodes no good to the white-wash party led by the most noted political acrobat which ever graced the presidential chair. Right will ultimately win, so let us stand for the right, win or lose.

Jerome Budding, Winfield, W. Va.—Please to find primary pledge signed by myself enclosed. I hope every Jeffersonian democrat in the nation will respond to this call. Twice, in 1900 and in 1904 I was a defeated candidate for an important county office. But notwithstanding my reverses, I am again ready to do battle for the party of my choice, and shall be found on the firing line when the next engagement takes place still believing that the time will yet come when victory shall perch upon our banners.

W. M. Higbee, Fairbank, Iowa.—Enclosed find primary pledge. The safety of our country depends upon the activity of the people. The country is safe if the people get awakened to the fact that the special favored few are ever alert to their selfish interests. Anything I can do for true democracy you can depend that I am only too willing to do. I wish you would send me some primary pledge blanks and I will get them signed and send to you as there are a great many true democrats here.

W. J. Buchanan, Whittemore, Ia.—Enclosed find primary pledge. Long life to The Commoner and to W. J. Bryan. Success to the primary pledge plan and success to the true democrats. Let us all work and pray that the government of the people and by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

O. J. Farmer, Bronson, Fla., Editor Times-Democrat.—I enclose primary pledge. I will do all in my power through the columns of my paper to further the cause of democracy by wresting it from the control of the money power. Long may you live to battle for the plain people.

W. P. Gill, Luella, Ark.—Please find my pledge duly signed; also one other, though it will not make me do any better in the future than in the past, I think it the duty of every man to attend all elections, and do all he can for his party, and all democrats that stay at home from the primaries are very short sighted democrats. I heartily endorse your pledge plan. If all democrats will read The Commoner and do their duty as American citizens we will be victorious in the next campaign. Now let us all do all we can for the success of the next election. The way to fight the devil is to keep up the charge. Best wishes for great success to The Commoner and the editor.

T. M. Woods, Editor White County News, Beebe, Ark.—Find enclosed one of the pledges signed. We have given space in our paper for this pledge and will from time to time insert it in our columns. We think this one of the best plans ever gotten up to interest the people in the primaries.

W. B. Roberts, Pulaski, Ill.—In regard to the Commoner I think it is all O. K., as a leader in the good old democratic ranks; and I am a real mossback so people call me. Went twenty miles in a buggy to hear "Billy" speak at Alton, Ill. Wore myself out for the good old democracy