

RANK AND FILE WILL ATTEND PARTY PRIMARIES

that he advocated and would do the same again if I had the chance, but my health is so bad now that my hopes are blasted, but hope there will be enough left that won't be led as a sheep to the slaughter. In the next national convention get back to the people and shun the trusts. O this adulterated democracy! Hoping the Commoner success in every way, shape, manner and form, I am respectfully yours for success. You will find pledge as I heartily endorse it and will stick by it as I always voted straight.

J. L. Jackson, Harrisonville, Mo.—Enclosed find primary pledge with 32 names signed by Jeffersonian democrats. Long life to W. J. Bryan and The Commoner.

J. S. Boardman, Moulton, Ia.—Enclosed find primary pledge with forty names attached. I could get as many more if I only had the opportunity to see them, but I am getting well along in years and not able to get around over the country districts. However if you will send me another blank I will get the signatures as fast as opportunity offers though it may be some time before I can make returns. I have only found one democrat that refused to sign the pledge and he was a Parker man. I can get several "converted" republicans as soon as I can see them; at least they have promised to sign. If I were a little younger and had the time I could get at least 125 signatures in this township. Having been chairman of the democratic committee of our township for the past six years I know nearly all the democrats in the township and could get their names if I could see them. You have my unqualified endorsement of the primary plan as the primary is the starting point of all good government whether local or general. Yours for success in 1908.

B. Kersberger, Jr., Pella, Ia.—Enclosed find my primary pledge. In regard to it I will say that I agree with it as far as it goes, but I will suggest that it would be a good plan to call a democratic national convention some time next spring, not to name candidates, but to draft a national platform so that the people will not be confused as to the aim of the democratic party in the congressional campaign in 1906. This would educate the people in such reforms as "direct legislation" and "public ownership of public utilities." It would challenge the republicans who intend to meet the democrats and public ownership with a cry for government control in 1908. Hoping for democratic success, I remain.

J. Sam Gosney, South Omaha, Neb.—I herewith enclose pledge signed by 35 good loyal democrats which took me less than an hour to fill. All that I presented it to signed with the exception of about three. Could obtain several hundred in a short time if I had the time to circulate it among the voters, but only obtained those I happened to meet in and around our exchange building. Wishing you all and The Commoner success.

George D. Shields, Readclyffe, Pa.—Find my pledge signed. I was raised a democrat. My first vote was for Robert Pattison for governor and I have been at every election since. But last fall it was the hardest trip ever I made to vote. If it had not been for the county ticket I would not have voted. We need more interest in our primary and then victory is ours.

Herman G. Spring, Unionville, Mich.—Enclosed please find a primary pledge signed by several true blue democrats. Two of the names are in

my handwriting but are authorized. I have attended every democratic primary since I became a voter twelve years ago, so the pledge does not entail any sacrifice on my part. But I believe Mr. Bryan's plan to be a move in the right direction and am sure it will result in a great deal of good for democracy and better government. I have read The Commoner since its first issue, and it has done me a lot of good.

Henry F. Ashurst, District Attorney of Coconino county, Flagstaff, Arizona.—With pleasure I enclose you the primary pledge. If a democrat leads the forces in 1908, hope will brighten the faces and victory will rest with that honored throng of democrats who in 1896, unawed by the threats of power and un-hypnotized by the beckonings of wealth gave the Chicago platform their votes and their support. When I use the word democrat I refer to "democratic democrats" and not "plutocratic" or "conservative" democrats, for sooner or later the "plutocratic" and "conservative" democrats will go into the ranks of the republican party where they belong and where they will be welcome and at home. The philosophy of many in the democratic party seems to take a painful and gloomy form since the last national election, but as a matter of fact Parker's pathetic race is indeed a most valuable, if painful lesson, for it evidences the disaster that inevitably comes to the party when it abandons its militant integrity for mere hope of office.

Stan C. Harley, 907 Center street, Little Rock, Ark.—I enclose that which is superfluous in my case, for my rule for forty years has been to attend every political meeting of the democratic party when I could do so, and vote for the very best men on the ticket when viewed from an intellectual, honest standpoint. Knowingly, I will not vote for an ignorant vicious man under any circumstances believing that our hope rests here.

John A. Page, Milan, Mo.—You will find enclosed primary pledge with 40 names of good old Bryan 16 to 1 democrats. Will try and send more names soon. Ever yours for success.

L. M. Hidden, Vancouver, Wash.—The primary pledge I am in favor of, and think the democratic party will win if the people want good government. I enclose the pledge. I think you are doing more for the cause of democracy than any other one person in this country. May the Lord go

with you and bless you. My best wishes.

O. M. Hanscom, New York.—Enclosed please find my primary pledge. This is the only way to secure an expression from the people. Every patriotic citizen owes this duty to himself and to his country. If he would but do so, the political shysters would soon be compelled to take to the tall timber. I am a good democrat, having voted for Mr. Bryan in 1896 and again in 1900. I could not consistently vote for Judge Parker as I did not consider him a democrat. The pill was too bitter for me to swallow. I believe I can see in the dim mists of the not very distant future, a mighty gathering of an outraged and persecuted people to sweep out of power a gang of political pirates dominated by "frenzied financiers" compared to whom King George III, and his ministers would have appeared as gentlemen. Success to the people's cause not only in 1908 but for all future generations.

Lee C. Robertson, Dunkirk, N. Y.—I approve of The Commoner's method of perfecting the organization of the democratic party.

John Kincannon, Granby, Mo.—I canvassed for a few hours in my little town of Granby this afternoon. Forty-two democrats signed the blank pledge.

R. N. B. Thompson, Hurricane, W. Va.—With great pleasure I herewith enclose signed primary pledge, which I regard as a sure plan for a great democratic victory in 1908. The only way we can hope for success is to line up the Bryan democrats and array the fundamental principle of Jeffersonian democracy against the greed of republican plutocracy and drive this wealth gathering mob of tyrants, constitution violators, depredaters of the American people from the arena. This can be done by sticking to the principles of 1896 and 1900.

Edgar G. Spaird, born in Jackson's first campaign, Buffalo, Ohio.—Your primary pledge is a step in the right direction. I believe with old General Jackson that the principles of democracy are immortal and if solidified will come to the front in 1908. By that time Teddy will have the ideal of present republicanism in the penitentiaries where they belong, as their ideal is boodle.

W. H. Winters, Poteau, I. T.—I herewith hand you primary pledge signed by myself and by several of my neighbors. This method of pro-

cedure has my hearty endorsement. Sure none, either political friends or enemies, who wish honesty and fair dealing in our governmental affairs can object to the plan proposed in this pledge. At the primaries people can have their say and make their influence felt. If we do our duty at the primaries, there is but little danger of making a mistake at the polls, but a mistake at the primaries cannot be rectified at the polls.

Dr. W. T. Albert, Albertville, Ala.—Enclosed please find primary pledge signed by me. I heartily endorse all the reform principles advocated by W. J. Bryan and The Commoner. I am a strong believer in government ownership of railroads and municipal ownership of municipal franchises. I am now 75 years old, but I would love to live to ride on a road owned and operated by the government. You will find enclosed the pledge of W. H. McCord of Albertville, Ala.

Carl von Jagersfeld, jr., El Reno, Okla.—It gives me pleasure to sign enclosed pledge. Candidates who are nominated by the people direct always look after the people's interest better than machine nominated men. My duties as traveling salesman carry me into the state of Texas and territories of New Mexico and Oklahoma. Of the democrats I come in contact with I believe you can count 90 per cent as Bryan democrats and I think you may count on that per cent to aid in battle of 1908. I know, however, you can count on, yours for honest democracy.

Mark Holm, Elba, Neb.—Please find enclosed my pledge. I have voted the democratic ticket since 1887, and attended every primary since that time and I will in the future as in the past do all in my power to advance democratic principles and I know we will win in time because we are right.

O. P. Shout, Moores Ferry, Ky.—Enclosed find nine pledges signed and will send more soon. I am well pleased with your paper and the pledge. We were led off in the dark last year. I feel like we are coming to the light now and hope to see the day when good men are put in office, men of the people and for the people. Keep the good fight going.

E. S. Sharp, county attorney, Grand, Okla.—Enclosed find pledge signed by myself. Accept congratulations for the great effort put forth by yourself and paper in behalf of democracy and good government. Best hopes for success in the coming campaign.

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

I promise to attend all the primaries of my party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to use my influence to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak.

Signed

Street..... Postoffice..... State.....

County..... Voting precinct or ward.....

Fill out blanks and mail to Commoner Office, Lincoln, Neb.