

THE TRUE DEMOCRATIC WAY==ORGANIZE

Work along the lines of the primary pledge is only now beginning in the way that promises to make it effective for the party's good. Sign the primary pledge. Circulate it among your democratic neighbors. There are hundreds of thousands of democrats who have not been enrolled. The field is a large one and in order to cover it effectually every one who believes in this plan of organization must do his part.

Don't withhold your pledge because you always attend primaries. You can help the work by setting a good example to your careless colleague. Send in your own pledge. Then ask your neighbor to sign. 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 straightforward 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:

John H. Napier, East Lynn, W. Va.—I approve of your primary pledge plan. I can get every democrat to sign it that I can see, and will see all I can. My district is democratic and we are awake to hold it democratic. Will use my best efforts for the cause.

J. S. Bridges, Ladonia, Tex.—You will find enclosed pledge signed by me. I think this plan is a good one. I am a democrat and have all my life been a democrat, having always voted the straight democratic ticket from township officers to president, and always expect to do so.

Isaac Brasser, Sodus—We who have subscribed our names to the primary pledge do so with the assurance that it is the true democratic way. Primaries have long been run by select committees to choose delegates who would do the bidding of professional politicians. The people are supposed to elect the nominated candidate—they should exercise the same care in his nomination.

W. H. Johnsonbaugh, Champaign, N. Y.—Please accept my pledge. I have been a voter since 1858 and I have no political sin to answer for as I have never voted the republican ticket.

James Sherry, Minneapolis, Minn.—I send you 41 signatures to the primary pledge. Continue the fight, and the people will win.

Emery Petty, Jens, Kans.—Find enclosed primary pledge with 21 signers. They all heartily endorse the primary pledge plan of organization. As I am a farmer my time is very limited just at this time of the year, but I will send in some more names later on.

L. T. Powell, Tullahoma, Tenn.—I always attend the primaries and try to encourage every one to do so but they are discouraged here in Tennessee. Not one-third of the people have voted in the two last presidential elections. I think the primary pledge plan a good way to bring them together. I am 67 years old. I have always voted the democratic ticket. I am a true Jefferson democrat; I am for the constitution, liberty and independence.

George M. Granteer, Lovilia, Iowa.—Some time since I thought of tak-

ing more of an active part in politics than I have heretofore, and about that time I saw the primary pledge plan, and it struck me as "just the thing." You will find the pledge herewith, signed.

I. F. King, Marshfield, Mo.—You will find enclosed primary pledge with 35 names, the result of one hour's work. All democrats seem anxious to sign it. You have struck the keynote, and it will be of great help to the party. I think I could use several copies of The Commoner to good advantage. There is nothing that I can do to help the party that I ever let go undone.

J. P. Williams, Dent, Mo.—Enclosed you will find pledges from some pure democrats that never scratch a ticket. We think your plan is a good way to organize the democratic party.

E. B. Cook, Cambridge, Ill.—I think your proposition a good one. "Primary pledge" should be the counter-sign from this time on until corruption is wiped out. The G. Cleveland trick came nigh beaching the old Jefferson ship of state. We vote Bowen is right, and Morton et al are tainted.

Maurice McElhaney, Freestone, O.—I am sending a list of 24 good, true democrats who have willingly signed the pledge. All of them think your plan a good one.

L. M. Gaskill, Rochester, Minn.—I send you my primary pledge and three others of democrats good and true. I cast my first vote for Abraham Lincoln. During the last third of a century a large percentage of the voters of the country have become politically debauched. But there are signs of an awakening of the public conscience which gives encouragement and hope of the future. Although the writing is on the wall, the powers in control of the government seem blind to the signs which portend the arousing of the people, and are voicing through the president's cabinet the denial of the right of trial by jury, the palladium of liberty, to persons accused of crime in our subjugated provinces. They demand the loading down of the seas with our war ships at a cost of a billion dollars, and the expenditure of three billion dollars each decade thereafter, a sum greater by one-half than our national debt at the close of the Civil war, which is not half paid yet. And why all this expense? That the representatives of the government founded by Washington and Jefferson, and preserved by Lincoln may swagger through the world with a big stick. The organs of the plutocrats who expect to draw the interest on the bonds to be issued in carrying out this scheme are beginning to demand something more precious than gold as a standard of value to counteract the "feverish prosperity" caused by the providential increase in the production of gold since 1896, which has partially cured the evils caused by the throwing away of silver as a standard money metal. Such is the vision of the future which the plutocrats and imperialists present to the view of the American people. Shall it be said of us, "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad?"

B. T. Williams, Finley, I. T.—Find enclosed primary pledge with sixteen names. I think the primary pledge a good plan for the party to work under.

John Brown, Shindlar, S. D.—I am determined to do all in my power to help in the organization of the democratic party. If all the papers published in this nation would tell the unvarnished truth for six months,

graft and rascality would disappear. Give us more papers like The Commoner.

T. J. Dunbar, Portsmouth, O.—Enclosed please find 70 more signatures to the primary pledge.

G. S. Allen, Ashland City, Tenn.—I send you list of names who have signed the pledge. Sixty-seven of this list and 26 on my first list, make 93 in all.

H. L. Taylor, Newdale, W. Va.—I commenced studying democracy at the age of 16, and am studying yet. The older I get the sweeter the theme. I cast my first vote for Geo. B. McClellan; stayed at home in the Greeley campaign. Now, I feel safe to say if the primary plan is carried out as begun the victory will be ours in 1908. God bless The Commoner in its good work.

I. W. Harrison, Marshalltown, Iowa.—Please send me a primary pledge blank. I wish to sign before I pass to the unknown. I am in my ninety-third year and a Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan democrat. I have taken The Commoner from the first, I read it and then give to a republican or a weak democrat, and hope to continue the same.

W. H. Bollmann, Steelville, Ill.—I am in favor of the primary pledge plan.

Wm. T. White, Franklin, Ind.—I send primary pledge with 35 signatures.

Joel Ayers, Pinnacle, N. C.—Enclosed find primary pledge with 35 signatures.

Thomas R. Mached, Wilmington, Del.—I enclose herewith my primary pledge. I have attended the party primary ever since I became of voting age. I believe parents should teach their sons that it is their duty to their party and to their country to attend party primaries. The young men should be looked after and organized. I believe that the campaign fund should come from the rank and file for that is the only way that the party can be kept clear from entangling alliances with corporations. When the next campaign opens let every Commoner reader pledge himself to give one dollar (\$1.00) toward the legitimate expenses of the campaign—it is the people's campaign and they should pay the expenses if they expect to come to their own.

Gust Klengenstein, president United German American Democratic club, Jersey City, N. J.—Enclosed please find a list of members of our German-American Democratic club, which have signed the primary pledge; the 215 members are all in favor of this idea and I will send you about ten additional lists as soon as my time permits, to have them signed. It is soon time that real democracy dictates at the primaries, and that we get rid of so-called democrats as Hill-Belmont, Cleveland etc.

C. W. Doctor, Mayville, Wis.—Your organization plan is certainly O. K. Enclosed you will find the primary pledge duly signed.

Samuel A. Cary, Cloyd's Landing, Ky.—Enclosed find list of names of peerless democrats signed to the primary pledge. It does me good to cooperate in a move like this which tends to purify politics. The plutocratic element of the party was found wanting last fall and the party will not allow a repetition in 1908.

W. McCarter, Lake View, Iowa.—Enclosed find primary pledge, have done the best I could. Am farmer and do not have much time to run around, but am willing to do whatever I can.

W. M. Sheets, Lansing, Mich.—Find enclosed primary pledge properly signed by myself.

W. T. Patton, Monitor, W. Va.—I enclose you primary pledge of twenty names. I could get many more signers if I had some leisure time. I wish every voter could read and study The Commoner carefully. I have no doubt it would make a great change for the better.

Emile C. Geneux, Jeanerette, La.—I am in favor the primary pledge between now and the next democratic national convention; but if the national convention of 1908 does no better than the national democratic convention of 1904 I will again turn my coat and support an honest candidate of another party. For me to support the national democratic ticket "the principles of 1896 must again be our motto in 1908," and why? We are told that the country is prosperous, that the amount of deposits in banks is larger than ever before. The money deposited in banks is not in circulation, it requires a promise to pay "compound interest" to have that money put into circulation. This is a drawback which falls on the industrial farmers and laborers. With the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold, we would have less interest to pay to the banks, money would be easier obtained and our prosperity would be 600 per cent larger to the entire nation than what it is today. Those who are now benefited by the gold standard policy are the bankers, the trusts, corporations and the politicians who are well paid by the above named beneficiaries "to keep the people fooled by inducing them to retain the most tyrannical financial policy which was ever devised. I send you my pledge, not as a partisan, but as a man of true democratic principles.

S. E. Ely, Vandalia, Mo.—Enclosed find my primary pledge. Not that it will change me through life in attending to my duties at the primaries and general elections, voting the true Jeffersonian democratic ticket.

W. J. Williams, Kansas City, Kan.—Find three primary pledges. We desire our names to be enrolled for we believe that the democratic party should be the radical party, and should champion radical principles of reform, of which the country seems to stand so much in need. We hope that you will continue to wage war.

W. T. LeCompte, Pierce City, Mo.—Find enclosed primary pledge signed. Your plan is a good one and the people of Missouri are with you. They are strong believers in the policies advocated by The Commoner. They don't want any more republican platforms for the democratic party; neither do they want any more gold telegrams. The last platform and the candidate knocked all the vim out of us. Give us a good platform and a good ticket, and old Missouri will redeem herself.

C. L. Bates, Greenfield, Tenn.—I also enclose pledge as I heartily endorse your efforts to reorganize the democratic party, on true democratic lines and think that at the primary is the place for all democrats to set in their best efforts for the redemption of the party from the control of the plutocratic element.

George W. Ross, Barclay, Md.—I will sign the pledge and enclose with same, a clipping of our county paper. We are in a little feud at this time, but will mostly be in line when the presidential time comes. We want a democrat in the White House as we