

# THE PARTY AT THE PRIMARIES

have not had one since the Civil war. We have been so badly lost in the fog of corrupt politics and never would have found our way out had not 1896 kindled a light which brightens as the days and nights go by. Might be if Jefferson could come back, he would know his boys with the light thrown on them, while standing on the Chicago platform of 1896 and 1900.

E. K. Harchin, Metropolis, Ill.—I served in the Union army and am 71 years old. Always was a Jeffersonian, Jacksonian and Bryan democrat. I even voted for Parker though under a protest, as I considered him a Cleveland and Hill tool with only the name of a democrat. Please find primary pledge signed by myself and 47 others.

W. O. Craig, Kansas City, Mo.—Enclosed find primary pledge with 23 signatures. I hope that your efforts will result in great good in your primary plan.

Z. C. Terrill, Atwood, Tenn.—I am heartily in favor of The Commoner's plan of organizing the democratic party because it comes back to the rank and file. If the common people are not consulted, or made interested, then the party can not be successful. I would rather suffer defeat the rest of my life than to surrender my principles. I am a democrat from principle and do not need organizing. What we need, in my opinion, is to get the eyes of the common people opened and then get them to the polls. Then the republican party and the trusts may expect to hear something fall and had better get from under.

Gilbert Calhoun, Dry Run, W. Va.—Please find enclosed primary pledge with 21 names attached, the work of not more than one hour. I have always supported the democratic ticket, but once, the last time Cleveland was nominated I voted the populist ticket and I have always been glad I did it. Parker was a hard one for me to endorse and if we get any more like him or any more gold telegrams I'll do them like I did Grover. I'm a Jefferson democrat from the bottom of my heart.

J. Ben Hice, Gilmer, Tex.—Enclosed find list comprising 103 democrats, who cheerfully subscribe to the primary pledge. I can secure many more names, but this is a fair representation of the sentiment here.

Dan F. Shaser, Cashmere, Wash.—Find primary pledge. It is not necessary for me to sign the pledge, as I am always there.

Andrew J. Crunk, West Sta., Nashville, Tenn.—You will find enclosed 36 names to the primary pledge you sent me some time ago. The bottom name is Cannon; so you can tell the old republicans to look out. We are going to give them hot shots.

E. Marston, Portland, Me.—I have seen the snows of 82 winters. You will find my primary pledge duly signed. I can not say as most of your correspondents do, that I have voted the democratic ticket, for I have not; I voted the republican ticket from John P. Hale to Rutherford B. Hays inclusive, except Grant's second election, then I sulked. I never considered myself a democrat until I read the Chicago platform of '96, then I said if this is democracy, I am a democrat and always was. And I supported the candidate and also of 1900, but—the convention of 1904 I could not endorse, nor the candidate, or the menacer in the back-ground, so I sulked again.

Phillip R. Ammidon, Cambridge, Mass.—Please enroll my name among those who pledge themselves to at-

tend all the democratic primaries for the next four years. I received my degree of A. B. from Harvard last week, and know of no better way to demonstrate my college's value as a teacher than by joining those who are working with you for a realization of a truer democracy in this great country. If my course at college with the special attention that I gave to economics, taught me anything, it taught me that political democracy and industrial aristocracy can not exist in the same land. The radical democrats and the socialists are the only men who are acting as if they understood this fundamental fact. The republicans and their pretended and pretending opponents, the Cleveland-Parker-Wall street democracy, while prating loudly of the beauties of democracy, are looking blandly on while the barons of industry are building up an aristocracy of wealth worse than the most corrupt hierarchy of priests or nobles that the world has ever seen. We must do one of two things if we would preserve our democratic ideals. One course is to accept socialism and organize the cooperative commonwealth. Its promises are alluring, and the reasoning which underlies it is straight-forward and logical. Unless we offer something better, and that right speedily, the citizens will surely seize this certain remedy and apply it for themselves. The only other solution is that of the radical democracy. We must by the graduated income tax and the inheritance tax root out the scandalous fortunes which have risen up among us and restore the old days of equal opportunities. And we must by remedial legislation render it impossible in the future for any one man or group of men to obtain control of the profits that flow from the development of a great industry. For this triumph eternal vigilance is the price that must be paid by all loyal democrats.

W. T. Anderson, Chairman Democratic County Committee, Mesa, Wash.—Find primary pledge with five signatures. I believe in the Chicago and Kansas City platforms and unless the rank and file of the democratic party attend the primaries, get such a platform adopted in 1908 and nominate a man who is in accord with the platform for president they will again go down to deserved defeat at the hands of the American people.

Eugene Traska, Steelville, Mo.—I

send you primary pledge with twenty-four signatures.

William Willis, Hephzibah, Ga.—Enclosed you will find my primary pledge. I am a true democrat and intend to stand by the democratic party as long as I live. I will do all in my power to elect a democrat in 1908.

John X. Aleck, Watsonville, Calif.—I enclose primary pledge, which I am pleased to sign.

Michael Farnsbauer, Youngstown, Ohio—I send you my primary pledge.

J. M. Spence, Burnham, Mo.—Enclosed find twenty primary pledges.

William M. Wedge, Bottineau, N. D.—I send you twenty primary pledges.

James Sherow, Langdon, Kans.—Enclosed find eleven signatures to primary pledge.

T. G. Arnold, Louisburg, Mo.—I enclose you twenty-five signatures to primary pledge.

B. C. Thomas, Dawson, Ohio.—I send primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

W. F. Bentley, Blountville, Tenn.—I heartily endorse the plan. Long live The Commoner.

John Walsh, Chilun, Wash.—Enclosed find primary pledge with fifteen signatures.

J. R. Armstrong, Quarryville, Pa.—I send you thirty-five primary pledges.

James Whittington, Ramony City, W. Va.—Enclosed please find primary pledge. I think it is all right. Please send me fifty more blanks.

D. K. Thompson, Center Point, Tenn.—I send you primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

G. C. Whitley, Whitley, La.—Enclosed find primary pledge. I heartily approve of The Commoner's plan to get out the democratic vote.

N. W. Hendricks, Bethany, Mo.—I send you ten more primary pledge signatures.

Gilbert Calhoun, Dry River, W. Va.—I send you twenty primary pledges.

T. Dade Terrett, Garden City, Mo.—I send you primary pledge with signatures of fifty loyal democrats all in Garden City and Index precinct of Cass county, Mo.

J. M. Clark, Anderson, Mo.—I send you thirty-five signatures to the primary pledge, also the names of two good men who will make the necessary effort to get more signatures.

Theo. A. Kolb, editor Norwood Park Sentinel, Chicago, Ill.—I enclose primary pledge signed by myself.

E. Gash, Windsor, Mo.—You will

find my pledge and that of three other good, old solid democrats.

M. L. Kinney, Zaleski, Ohio.—I enclose primary pledge signed by thirty-five.

M. J. Borland, Bay City, Mich.—Enclosed find primary pledge. I am seventy-three years old, and just as much interested in the welfare of this country as ever I was, and believe that the principles enunciated in the democratic platform of 1896 and 1900 are right.

Joe L. Bomar, Rich Hill, Mo.—I heartily endorse your primary plan with 517 other democrats I have seen in regard to the pledge. I never scratched a democratic ticket, neither missed a primary or an election. Walked twenty-two miles to vote for W. J. Bryan in 1896. Of course I voted for him in 1900, but held a sponge to my nose when I voted for Parker. We must put subterfuges aside and truly and honestly espouse the cause of the people, then we will win as we deserve to.

George W. Courtright, Wheelersburg, Ohio.—I have been a close observer of the methods of a few unprincipled persons calling themselves democrats. As a committeeman and also a delegate of the last two county conventions I did all in my power to secure a perfect democratic ticket, also to see to it that a true delegation was sent to our state convention. But I found that there was a link missing somewhere and the chain would part. I found by my own experience that it was organization that was lacking. But William J. Bryan has forged the link and has put it in the chain, and that link is the primary pledge. You will find my own pledge with sixty other true and tried democrats attached hereto.

Joshua Draper, Oxford, Ala.—Enclosed find my primary pledge.

James Allen, Fontana, Kans.—I send you twenty-three names duly signed to the primary pledge by good democrats.

A. M. Hollowell, Oklahoma City, Okla.—I send you primary pledge signed by thirty-five.

B. H. Whitaker, Stillwell, I. T.—Enclosed find one hundred names of democrats who have signed the primary pledge. Please send me two or three more blanks. I want to keep the good work going while I have it started. Send also some subscription blanks; think I can get some more subscriptions.

## 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.