

# DEMOCRACY WILL WIN WHEN IT HONESTLY

Joe L. Bomar, of Rich Hill, Missouri, has sent to The Commoner primary pledges signed by 517 democrats. In a letter to The Commoner Mr. Bomar says that in 1896 he walked twenty miles to vote the democratic ticket. He adds: "We must put subterfuge aside and honestly espouse the cause of the people. Then we will win as we deserve to. Missouri is as reliably democratic as Texas, and an honest platform means 75,000 democratic majority in this state as well as, I believe, democratic success in every doubtful state in the union."

This is the kind of work that if generally engaged in by democrats will spell success.

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.

Primary pledges unaccompanied by letters are sent in in numbers by democrats as follows: Henry Welp, Siberia, Ind., 35 primary pledges; J. R. Moore, Temple, Okla., 35; J. L. Brock, Ludlow, Mo., 15; N. Dawson, Bridgeport, W. Va., 11; W. M. Wilson, Cleveland, Mo., 20; E. Goff, Clinton, Mo., 30; T. J. Priddy, South Greenfield, Mo., 15; W. O. Parker, Oklahoma City, Okla., 24; Gordon Farley, Spittswood, W. Va., 25; W. S. Spivey, Berkley, Ala., 35; A. W. Bass, Lake View, Mich., 15; F. W. Laufketter, Traskwood, Ark., 26; T. J. Pratt, Dunlow, W. Va., 13; O. R. Johnson, Riddles, Oregon, 35; W. P. Rowan, Palmer, W. Va., 35; Adam Kling, New Jersey Heights, N. J., 35; John Lang, Hainey, Ore., 24; F. W. Deen, Ardmore, I. T., 35.

George E. Dickson, 2146 Sherman ave., Evanston, Ill., writes: "I herewith enclose one dollar to renew my subscription to The Commoner for another year. I think I get more for this dollar that goes to Lincoln every year than for any other ten dollars I spend during the year, and I take a good many publications."

"I heartily approve of Mr. Bryan's primary pledge plan, and while the important work connected with the primary is the slate making before the primary, the habit of voting at the primary will quickly develop into a determination to help fix the primary ticket before the primary election occurs, and when the right kind of men give their attention to that part of their political duty it will be impossible to misrepresent the democrats of that precinct in conventions."

"I think the most important work that could be done for the democratic party at this time would be to get The Commoner into as many homes as possible and to this end I believe it would be possible to perfect an organization having that for its object that would put the paper into the hands of every democrat in the country. I have never been solicited to take The Commoner. I have taken it from the first but that fact is not known, of course, and there should

be some systematic canvass of every voting precinct in the country so that every democrat in the country will be solicited not once, but every once in a while, to take the paper. A central organization with proper management could soon have a branch organization in every precinct in the country, and before a year could have the paper going to ten men where it is going to one now.

"If the circulation of The Commoner could be increased to two or three million subscribers there would never be another retreat from the advanced position the party took in 1896 and 1900."

Extracts from letters received at The Commoner office follow:

C. L. Ogilvit, Enid, Okla.—Enclosed please find primary pledge, signed by thirty-six royal blue, Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan democrats, who have very heartily agreed to assist Mr. Bryan and to use their influence to secure a clean and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question pertaining to the betterment of mankind and to further the cause of true democracy. I have only found two Palmer-Buckner-Cleveland democrats and of course poor "things" they refused to sign the pledge.

E. W. McIntosh, Gotebo, Okla.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed by thirty-five democrats, willing to assist in making the party a representative democratic party. They want no more bull-doing of conventions and stifling the will of the masses. No more milk and cider platform or campaigns. No more "anything to win" songs. No more cowardly gold telegrams and catering to the money power. No more sweet-smelling roses for corporations. No more ditching the old democratic ship of state in the mire of the eastern mug-wumps for the purpose of trying to create a slush fund, with the hope of corrupting voters. No more straddling the fence on the live issues of the day. Pure Jefferson and Jackson democracy in plain English is the only thing that will win. No more playing second fiddles to the republican party, should be permitted to pass muster.

J. S. Cunningham, Knoxville, Iowa.—I enclose primary pledge blank with thirty-five signatures. Send me one more blank list and ten or twelve copies of your paper. I assure you it is a pleasure to me to do anything I can to assist progressive democracy.

Charles Pipkin, M. D., Gallatin, Mo.—I enclose the primary pledge duly signed. Am in hearty sympathy with, and for all it stands. We were buncoed once when Greeley was nominated. I swallowed that, but I wouldn't stand for the second dose, so made one in Missouri's grand army of democrats who didn't vote for Parker.

A. B. Ferguson, Lyons, Ind.—I enclose primary pledge signed by thirty-five democrats.

William Lowry, Guy, Texas.—I herewith send pledge with thirty-five names signed. I hope that every man in the country that loves liberty and justice will sign this pledge before the next national convention is called.

William C. Moody, Thatcher, Arizona.—Find enclosed primary pledge signed by six.

S. F. Swayne, Fort Wayne, Ind.—I enclose primary pledge with four signatures.

J. C. Shafer, Edina, Mo.—I enclose primary pledge signed.

Sam Bertram, Little Crab, Tenn.—Enclosed you will find our primary pledges, signed, also the names of thirty-three prominent democrats in our district to whom please send primary pledge blanks so that we may have work going on all over the district. We have much to do. Our hills and hollows are full of good democrats and we must reach them.

W. A. Phillips, Purdy, I. T.—Enclosed please find blank filled out. Being very anxious and interested about the party I was glad to have the opportunity to get the blank filled out.

W. H. Scott, Reno, Nev.—Enclosed please find primary pledge with twenty names. I am heartily in favor of the work in hand, and am a democrat hook and line, bob and sinker.

J. A. Wooddell, editor of the News, Pennsylvania, W. Va.—I enclose clipping and editorial commendation of Mr. Bryan's primary pledge plan. I shall be glad to do anything I can to further the cause in this (Ritchie) county.

H. L. Freeman, Newtonia, Mo.—I send pri-

mary pledge signed by twenty of the best democrats in this county. I am eighty years old, but I pray that I may live to vote for a good democrat for president in 1908. I never voted anything but the democratic ticket. May God bless your efforts.

J. Warner Wiggs, Winslow, Ind.—Enclosed herewith find primary pledge signed by me. Have been a careful and constant reader of The Commoner for some three years and am free to say I believe it to be doing the greatest work for the perpetuity of human rights, on the Jeffersonian, Jacksonian and constitutional theory of any pen or man. If right is mighty (and I believe it so), if personal and public probity, honesty, and integrity are to be of more moment (and who can doubt it) in the eyes of the American people than gold, if true manhood and womanhood is to be above and beyond "tin and graft" then I believe The Commoner should have the hearty support and encouragement of every liberty loving American irrespective of past or present party affiliations. In the fight against wrong in high places you have thousands of more influence but not one more enthusiastic or devoted than yours truly.

Robert Good, editor Optimist, Jamestown, Kans.—Enclosed find primary pledge. Although the Optimist does not pose as a partisan paper its editor is a democrat who believes, however, it would be well if every voter should sign the pledge. To my mind there is no better way of "purifying politics" than by taking an active interest in them. For years I have urged the necessity of members of all parties attending the caucuses and primary elections, and this movement is strictly in line with the best thought of all men who have an earnest desire for purity, progress and popular control of party.

L. C. Carper, Cedarville, Ohio—Outside of the free and unlimited coinage of silver I am a "Bryan man" heart and soul. Have been a voter for thirty-six years, and if I ever voted for any candidate for any office with a greater satisfaction or a clearer conscience than for any other, it was when I voted for William J. Bryan for president. His is the right kind of democracy not New York World or Cincinnati Enquirer democracy. But government for and by the people. I approve of your primary plan, and ask to be enrolled in the good cause. Success to The Commoner's primary plan.

W. H. Cooley, Meadville, Pa.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed. Have been working for the true Jefferson and Jackson democracy sixty-five years. My father and my grand father were true Jefferson and Jackson democrats. I have been working for true democracy ever since I was twelve years old, am now seventy-seven.

D. G. McArthur, Leaton, Mich.—Enclosed is my primary pledge. I am seventy-two years old and have been a life-long democrat. I believe in the Jeffersonian principles of democracy.

T. J. Warren, Girard, Kans.—I send herewith my pledge duly signed. I am exceedingly busy now and will be until about the first of November, when I expect to secure signers to the pledge, also, try and secure a few more subscribers. I think every true democrat ought to subscribe for The Commoner if he is financially able.

H. W. Sutherland, Bristol, Va.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed by thirty-five democrats of Bristol, Va. This town is about one-half in Virginia and the other half in Tennessee. I only circulated on Virginia side of town. The signers of the enclosed pledge are the leading men in our town.

W. R. Knox, Intercourse, Pa.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed by David F. Magee, recently elected democratic county chairman of Lancaster county, Pa. Under the leadership of Mr. Magee the true democrats in this county hope to rescue the party from the grip of the republican machine, which controls both parties in this county.

P. Rogers, Milroy, Ind.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed by thirteen democrats. Right and honesty will yet prevail.

J. B. Hill, Gilmer, Tex.—Find enclosed primary pledge signed by Prof. W. H. McClelland, who requests me to send it in. Professor McClelland is principal of the Gilmer high school. He was preferably against Mr. Bryan in 1896 and 1900, but has always voted the democratic ticket. By becoming a constant reader of The Commoner he has learned to admire Mr. Bryan and his