

# ESPOUSES THE CAUSE OF THE PEOPLE

views on public questions. He said to me this morning that a re-organization of the democratic party was no doubt necessary.

J. M. Massingill, Piggott, Ark.—I think the plan and policy of Mr. Bryan to thoroughly organize the democratic party is good. I heartily endorse the movement. I am an old confederate soldier with three long years of service.

E. E. Daniel, Poteau, I. T.—Please find enclosed primary pledge with thirty-five names. I am proud to see the democrats of the United States responding to the call. The destiny of the democratic party is safe in the hands of the rank and file. This move will encourage them to renewed activity and we will have another convention similar to 1896. Success to The Commoner and the cause for which it labors.

N. E. Sharp, probate judge, Norman, Okla.—Enclosed find five primary pledges signed. I am convinced that your plan is a good one and should receive the hearty support of all true democrats. The selection of candidates by primary is essentially democratic and naturally appeals to the spirit of fairness in every good citizen. Nothing I think at this time could do more to unite the party and prepare it to present a solid front in future battles.

Mike Burns, Iron River, Mich.—I am very much pleased with your work of primary pledges. We need more readers of The Commoner in this section. I will do my best from this time on for you.

The Farmlet, published at Saylorsburg, Pa., and edited by F. S. Brong, says: "W. J. Bryan's Commoner is actively engaged in rallying the scattered democratic hosts. We earnestly recommend the primary pledge plan to our readers. Particulars either at this office or of The Commoner, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Ed. F. Poorman, Humboldt, Ill.—Enclosed I am forwarding fourteen signers to the primary pledge; also two renewal subscriptions to The Commoner. I have been interested in the letters from pledge signers, and I note with pleasure the great success that is attending the circulation of the pledge blanks. These letters from all over the country show conclusively that Mr. Bryan's plan is a success, but how could it be otherwise when it recognizes the great foundation principle of free government, the great cornerstone of this republic—the right of the majority to rule? A number of writers have suggested that pledge signers wear buttons. I wonder if The Commoner could not, when the organization has been sufficiently perfected, get out buttons and have printed on them that great popular expression, "Back To The People." The Commoner could charge a small price for the buttons—enough to cover expenses—and send them to every organization. Would not this add to the growing enthusiasm among the pledge signers?

D. D. Curtis, Albion, N. Y.—Why don't the eastern democrats wake up as western and southern democrats have done, and send in their primary pledges? I wish they would. It is the best chance they ever had to shake off corruption. Enclosed I send the primary pledge signed by good democrats.

C. R. Lewis, Milton, W. Va.—In signing the primary pledge, (herein enclosed) I take no additional obligations or trouble, other than the effort of writing this line. Forty-four years ago I was born of abolition republican parentage, in old Virginia. I am proud to say I have never, from childhood up, advocated any political doctrine except democracy, and have voted the ticket straight in three states—Virginia, Kentucky and West Virginia. I have never missed a primary, convention or election, municipal county or state, where I was entitled to a voice or a vote, in my life. Judge Parker was not my choice, but I voted for him and am not ashamed of it. Under like circumstances, would do it again, though we differ widely, as to party principles and policy.

Charles E. Furr, Lutesville, Mo.—You will find enclosed my primary pledge. I have neglected for some time to send it in, knowing that it could not increase my faith in the principles of popular representation. I believe that the sentiment of every individual democrat is a unit of the conscience of the party aggregate, and that the outward manifestation of every true democrat will serve to exemplify the immaculate policy

of the whole. I believe it would also be beneficial to party interests if every loyal democrat would pledge himself to keep a personal vigil towards party purity and endeavor to eliminate, and hold aloof from, party bossism and those leeches and parasites that would prostitute the sacred tenets of the party to selfish ends. The exigencies of the times, I think, would justify this. I believe the stock blood of democracy was as pure as ever flowed through patriotic veins, and that it will "tell," and right will prevail. Better reconstruct on a solid foundation, concrete of pure policy, determined action and popular representation on which to build up a temple dedicated to free government against which the tempest of avarice, greed and corruption shall not prevail. Best wishes for the continued success of The Commoner.

John Stuart, Whitewater, Kans.—I will be eighty-eight years old the 14th of October, 1905. Was a democrat and a justice of the peace in Greenbriar county West Virginia, at the outbreak of, and during the civil war. Have always been a democrat, yet, while on account of failing strength am unable to take part in primaries and conventions, I wish to sign the primary pledge as I believe it to be a movement in the right direction to bring this government back to the people.

J. S. Arthur, Beckwith, W. Va.—Enclosed please find my primary pledge and five others. I think there are others here who will sign, and I think it their duty to do so. I heartily endorse the plan recommended by you for marshaling the democratic forces in 1908. If it is not asking too much I would like for you to send a copy of The Commoner to those who have signed the pledge. Best wishes for the success of The Commoner.

George W. Hall, Noblesville, Ind.—Please find enclosed primary pledge signed by thirty-five democrats. The move is a good one, it is a step in line of preparation for the initiative and referendum, which measure, would be a great reform in the way of the people governing, provided the masses take interest and inform themselves, as to what the laws are, and what the laws should be. I am pleased to see The Commoner coming to the front on public ownership of public utilities. That it appears would be the surest plan to settle the "watered stock" question.

Charles C. Garrison, Kendaia, N. Y.—Your primary pledge plan is certainly to be commended. I believe I can see therein a chance in the future for the rank and file of the party to fight honestly for honest principles.

Mathew Hill, Golden, Mo.—Enclosed please find primary pledge with twenty-two signatures. Every one to whom I have talked considers the primary pledge an honest and a good plan for organizing the party.

Robert Lee Osburn, Gower, Mo.—Enclosed find primary pledge. If time would permit I could get every democrat in my township, as they were

never more anxious to vote than now. Our county went wrong last election. The people were right, but the head of the ticket was wrong. Put a democrat at the helm and see what Missouri will do. I had the honor of being the first agent for The Commoner in my township.

The Lake Providence, La., Sentry, edited by E. Wayles Brown, says: "The Commoner, has taken upon itself a work which will revolutionize to a great extent the democratic party. Its work, which is already reaping marvelous results, is simple, but an effective antidote for corruption in the democratic party. Its requirements are these: to sign and send the following pledge to The Commoner, where it will be filed along with the thousands that are daily received. Every democrat is asked to pledge himself to attend all the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented and to use his 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. 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 in The Commoner. It will require time to cover the entire field, but if democrats co-operate, the desired result will be accomplished. Send The Commoner your own primary pledge and then ask your neighbor to do likewise."

The Charlotte (Michigan) Tribune, published by Perry and Perry, and edited by George A. Perry, supports the primary pledge plan. In a letter to The Commoner Editor Perry says: I was born into republican fold, and received from republicans my first lessons favoring bimetalism. In 1896, when Mr. McKinley changed to gold standard I changed to Bryan and did what I could for what seemed to me to be the people's cause. Repeated my allegiance in 1900. In 1904 the causes that led me to oppose McKinley caused me to oppose Parker and I did my level best for Mr. Roosevelt. I do not feel that I have any right to advise democrats, as such, to attend the caucuses and stand up for principle, but I advise all men who love their country and who would wrest it from the trust manipulators to forget party and adhere to principles. It seems to me that Mr. Roosevelt has been "raised up" for a purpose to make the trust swine "get their feet out of the trough." If he shall fall then let's try the next best man, no matter of what party, with an eye single to the welfare of our national government. The enclosed editorial will give my idea more fully. I care not one whit for any party except as it can be operated to save the principles established by the founders and preserve ours as a government of, by and for the people. The salvation of the nation will come from independent voting if at all."

## 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, Nebraska.