

"SMASH THE OHIO BOSS AND ALL HIS WORKS"

Columbus, O., October 30.—(Special Correspondence.)—The one speech of Secretary Taft in the Ohio campaign was more than enough to confirm the majority of the people of Ohio in their determination to retire Governor Herrick and elect John M. Pattison in his stead.

It has been estimated that there were 200,000 republicans who were in some doubt, as to whether it was their duty to vote against Myron T. Herrick and a boss machine legislature. Secretary Taft's speech resolved the doubt and pointed out to them the duty of voting for Mr. Pattison and for members of the legislature in the foreheads of whom the boss has not "written his number."

The secretary's speech at Akron was a most adroit and ingenious special plea for Herrick, whom he had not the cruelty of heart to openly oppose. Hence he devoted all his scathing denunciation to Boss Cox of Cincinnati, giving him what was intended to go all the way up and down the line, from the head to the tail of the ticket.

"Smash the boss and all his works, but spare Herrick." This is the burden of Secretary Taft's speech. "If I were in Cincinnati on the day of election I would not vote for the Cox machine

ticket," he fervently exclaimed, for which all good men, republicans and democrats alike thank him.

The boss and his works ought to be smashed. That is what the people are rolling up their sleeves for. In 1903, he sent orders to the republican state convention to nominate certain candidates for office, beginning with Myron T. Herrick at the head, and then Mr. Cox put the gang Hamilton county ticket on as a superfine tail. Mr. Cox considered the work he did in 1903 as being "very good," and he repeated it in 1905, again ordering the republican state convention, presided over by Secretary Taft, to re-nominate the same ticket. "Smash the boss and all his works!" is the bugle call of Secretary William H. Taft to all the people of Ohio without regard to politics.

"Remember the case of old dog Tray." "A man is known by the company he keeps." "The tree is known by its fruit." These are the luminous sentences that glow through the lines of the secretary's excusatory sentences devoted to Governor Myron Timothy Herrick.

"Smash the boss and all his works." We know that President Roosevelt endorses this comprehensive sentiment, even though he did not send his secretary to Ohio to specially deliver the great message.

The fiery denunciation of Cox and the weak

plea for Herrick, emphasized the charge made by Pattison last week that Governor Herrick, even in advance of his inauguration as governor, had entered into the plan to give the canal, really worth in the neighborhood of \$100,000,000, away from the state.

George B. Cox was the leading factor in the organization of what is popularly known as the "electric mule company," the object of which was to steal the entire canal system by indirection and through the operation of grafting legislation filled with "sleepers."

Mr. Pattison charged that Governor Herrick had subscribed for \$150,000 of the stock of the concern, and then tauntingly referred to the fact that no trace of this big subscription can now be found. The fact is, when depositions were being taken in an investigation of the "electric mule," Governor Herrick and four or five prominent republican leaders were chased into a corner and were liable to be caught with the goods on them. Then a "good" judge from Cleveland was found who issued an injunction to prevent the taking of further testimony in the case, and there the matter stands at present. The governor, however, does not dispute the goods, and Cox and the rest of them are hoping for the election of Herrick and a gang legislature, which event the canals will be taken into the grafters camp bodily.

MANY DEMOCRATS SIGN THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

As this copy of The Commoner may be read by some one not familiar with the details of the primary pledge plan, it is necessary to say that according to the terms of this plan 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 this page.

Extracts from letters received at The Commoner office follow:

E. K. Ellefson, Ivanhoe, Minn.—I send the primary pledge with four signatures.

F. H. Spangle, Westphalia, Ind.—Enclosed find thirty-five signature to the primary pledge.

Samuel Bartell, Forest City, Ill.—Please find enclosed 20 signatures to your primary pledge petition.

G. M. Henault, Seat Pleasant, Md.—I send a list of 35 primary pledges, and more coming. 1908—sure.

Robert B. Knight, St. Croix, Ind.—Enclosed find primary pledge with 32 signatures.

Luke Good, Joplin, Mo.—Find enclosed herewith a list of 21 signatures to the pledge.

John J. McCroary, Wilmington, Del.—I enclose a primary pledge with 35 signatures.

Peter L. Basby, Heater, W. Va.—Please find enclosed 28 signatures to the primary pledge.

J. S. Arthur, Beckwith, W. Va.—Please find herein 17 more pledges. Have not had time as yet, or would have had more.

H. V. Best, Gloversville, N. Y.—Enclosed find 15 names to the primary pledge. It is a good thing for every democrat to sign. Push the good work along.

Louis J. Dober, Rockport, Ill.—Believing the primary pledge plan to be of great importance to the success of the party championing the cause of the common people, I heartily endorse the same, and ask that my name be enrolled.

M. G. Horgan, Winnebago City, Minn.—I herewith send my full endorsement of the primary pledge system. I am a Bryan democrat and proud of it. Success to The Commoner.

D. P. Minturn, Fremont, Neb.—Don't think because I haven't written before this that I have lost faith in democracy. I still believe in its fundamental principles. I can't promise to attend the primaries—am getting too old. I am 68 years old, but I hope to live to see the triumph of true democracy. My first vote was cast for S. A. Douglas for president, and I have voted at every election since, save one that was for S. J.

Tilden. I lost my vote that year by moving out of the state. I lived in Iowa then. It is true I have voted for some that I did not consider democrats, but I was loyal to the ticket.

A. J. Oberg, Douds Leando, Ia.—Believing that the principles on which the democratic party is based are fundamentally correct, as proven by the beneficial effects following their crystallization into laws (frequently by the opposite party) I heartily endorse your plan for their future defense, and enclose primary pledge signed.

J. H. Parsons, Wayne, W. Va.—Having previously sent you my pledge, I hereby send you 41 names of the minute men for the banner democratic county of the state of West Virginia, Old Wayne.

W. C. Morris, Terra Alta, W. Va.—With best wishes to the noble work you are doing through the primary pledge plan, I enclose my pledge. May the good work go on until every true American has joined the army that is marching on to victory.

John L. Elder, Taylorsville, Ky.—I am in favor of the primary pledge, because I think it best to have the sentiments of the rank and file at the primary than to have their resentment at the polls. I believe it is best to be subject to the common, independent, free thinking democrats than to be subject to such a diabolical set of politicians as we had at the St. Louis

convention. I don't mean to say that all of our political leaders are lost beyond the power of redemption, but I do say that a majority of the delegates went to the St. Louis convention with the determination not to discuss questions as to their merits, but as to their political influence. The first time in the history of our grand old party great and far-reaching issues were cast aside on account of expediency, and victory was made the paramount issue. Then they nominated a man who had expressed no sentiments, who had advocated no principles, and had been dodging the great questions of the day. What an insult to the free thinking democrats! No wonder we lost one million and a half votes. Therefore, I harken to the voice of Mr. Bryan. Let us get back to the people. And how are we to get back to the people? By advocating what we believe to be right.

Henry C. Assche, Sunman, Ind.—My words can hardly express how highly I appreciate your great paper, The Commoner, and how I love to read the same. Its words will surely convince and convert. It is surely doing more to enlighten the people than any other paper published. The primary pledge plan is O. K. Below I will give you the names and addresses of persons who, I think, would be interested in your organization plan. You would do well to write to them. I will also see them personally.

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.