

sideration can not be ignored by any interest whatever. The people of the United States are deeply concerned in the price of shoes. To put both hides and shoes on the free list would be a tremendous gain by the people."

PUBLIC OPINION directs attention to an interesting article entitled "Animal Immortality," and printed in the November Harpers. "Peter Rabbit," who is supposed to be writing on the animals' view of immortality, points out that there is no such thing as animal psychology any more than animal gravitation, and proceeds to apply to himself the reasoning that the human being might use for or against an immortal life. "There is, for instance, the moral argument. You find in yourselves the sense of right and wrong, of good and evil, and upon your daily practice according to your knowledge many of your theologians have based the idea of a 'conditional' immortality. Now, most of the animals have a sense of right and wrong and generally live up to their knowledge. Whether or not the animal has an abstract conception of ultimate and absolute good is another question, which has nothing whatever to do with the point at issue, since none of you would be willing to stake your child's future bliss upon his possession of any abstract conceptions. Now, if there be any ultimate judge, what will an honest God say of an animal that does right as far as he knows?"

THE NEXT ARGUMENT advanced in this peculiar article is that of personality, and it is said: "The whole point is this, that whatever

argument you apply to yourself applies in some small measure to your animals also. Then there is the argument of reappearances of disembodied spirits which return to earth and make their presence known to the physically living. An enormous number have been or are being investigated by your scientific societies, and casting out all the cases of fraud and mistake and imagination, a large residue remains which can not be accounted for by any known laws or experiences. The rabbit does not examine it here to see just how much it proves or leaves unproved; he simply points out the fact that, according to your records, the dog is often the first to recognize the presence of the unseen; and that, among the residue of these spirit appearances, there are some of birds and animals that were known to be dead. Then there is the greatest argument of all, the argument of incompleteness itself—of children dying, of lives disappointed, of hopes unrealized, of wisdom that glimpses a truth only to lose it. Everywhere you turn you see a glorious promise suddenly broken off, without any earthly explanation. And to think that man can see all this possible truth and beauty and happiness, and stretch out his hands toward it, and then be thrust back brutally into nothingness, is too monstrous a conception to hold for one instant in the face of a rational universe. Now, the animal's life is also incomplete—more so than your own, when you come to think of it. The animal also knows life and the joy of it; he begins to see dimly some reason in it, perhaps, and takes care of himself and his little ones better and better, and gets more out of life. And

then, when life is best, age steals upon him, and he sees youth and gladness passing away, and his poor wisdom avails him nothing to stay the things that he loves."

IN THE SAME ARTICLE it is said: "So far, then, as the animal seems to you to possess a rudimentary mind, you may reasonably claim for him some chance for immortality. Every animal, as well as every man, reproduces in himself from birth to death the whole history of his race; and the history of any race seems to be an upward striving through pain and loss to more and more perfect things. Where the process began, where mind emerged from the matter, or first clothed itself in matter, the rabbit does not know; but he leaves the question cheerfully to One who was probably present with the morning stars, and whose action has been reasonable and constant ever since. It seems, however, that the process once begun and long continued can end only when 'the desire of every living thing' for more life shall be accomplished. Thus far the rabbit has tried to argue the question impersonally; but there is another reason which every animal knows in his heart, though he finds no words deep enough to tell his meaning. Death to the animal is but a sleep, and the only thought in his head when he lies down for the last time is that he will waken as usual when the right time comes. Now, nature deceives nobody, nor does she long tolerate any deception. It would be most irrational, even for a rabbit, to suppose that nature has told him truth every hour of his long life, only to whisper falsehood at the last moment."

KANSAS AND THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

Kansas stands ninth in the number of primary pledges returned to The Commoner office. For the good work already accomplished on this line in Kansas, democrats are entitled to congratulations. But the field is a large one, and every Kansas democrat may find work to do. It is necessary for The Commoner to present arguments showing why every democrat should enlist in this good work? Is it not apparent to every democrat that it is his duty to strive for the organization of his party by the rank and file to the end that the party may be thoroughly responsive to the public welfare? Let us have a general awakening all along the democratic line. Those democrats who have already assisted are invited to renew their activities, while the many who have not participated in this good work are urged to co-operate.

The appeal which The Commoner has made to the democrats of other states it now makes to the democrats of Kansas. Every democratic reader of The Commoner is requested to ask every Kansas democrat of his acquaintance to sign the primary pledge and to call upon his own neighbor to do likewise. If in every county a number of democrats would organize for the purpose of circulating the primary pledge form in every precinct, obtaining the signature of every democrat who is willing to discharge his duty to his party, the field would be covered in a short time. This work of organization is not to terminate with the signing of the pledge. The interest of democrats once aroused is to be maintained. Clubs are to be organized in every county of the state and in every precinct of the county, these clubs having for their purpose the promulgation of democratic principles.

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.

E. A. Brown, Rice Lake, Wis.—If you want me to do anything for the good of the cause at any time do not be afraid to ask me. I can not help but think that the American people are coming to their senses and they are beginning to see that they sold their birthright in 1896 for a mess of pottage and I would like to know how

much it cost the G. O. P. to carry that election for if there ever was an election bought and paid for it was the election of 1896 and such patriotic men as McCurdy, McCall and Hyde that took the widows' and orphans' money and contributed it to the republican campaign funds and waved their lily white hands in horror and hollered anarchy. I don't think that Herr Most ever made as many anarchists as such as these are making every day by their frenzied finance. In this case the old adage fits them too well: "Thief always crys thief first." You will find enclosed twenty-nine names on a primary pledge. I sent my pledge in long ago.

Manford S. Edsall, Fort Wayne, Ind.—I send primary pledge with fifteen signatures.

W. H. Ludwig, Fall City, Wash.—I herewith send pledge with eleven signatures. Democrats are not very numerous here, and I have not been in this precinct long enough to get acquainted with the few that are here.

T. E. Greenlee, Arbuckle, W. Va.—Enclosed find primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

F. M. Scott, Pleasant Plains, Ill.—I believe your great aim in this work is to maintain a republican form of government, "of the people, by the people and for the people," for which I am willing to cast in a mite.

E. B. Sims, Elizabeth, W. Va.—I enclose herewith primary pledge with twenty signatures

signed by as many good and loyal democrats who helped to land Wirt county back in the democratic column last fall. I sent my pledge long ago, and hope to live to see West Virginia go democratic next year. The republicans are torn in twain over tax laws enacted by party machine as well as by a corrupt, wrangling and expensive legislature which did nothing but spend the people's money. We still have hope, and above all, faith.

A. W. May, Oakland, Calif.—I sign the pledge and God speed the principle.

John G. Wise, Metropolis, Ill.—Enclosed find eighteen signatures to the primary pledge.

Thomas M. Curack, East Pittsburg, Pa.—Enclosed find thirty-five names of Irish-Americans who have pledged themselves, and are willing to advance the cause.

J. T. Dunbar, M. D., Portsmouth, Ohio—I came 150 miles to cast one straight democratic vote. Enclosed you will find 115 more primary pledge signatures, making 332 in all, also some subscriptions for The Commoner. I enjoy working for the cause.

John D. Cobb, West Baden, Ind.—I enclose primary pledge with seventeen signatures.

Isaac K. Osburn, Albia, Ky.—I have secured all the signatures that I could, as I was very busy. Every democrat I saw signed this pledge willingly.

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.