

# DEMOCRATS ARE PUSHING THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

Interest in the primary pledge by democrats generally seems to have been revived with the closing of the year 1905, and the indications are that this campaign for the organization of the democratic party by its rank and file will make great progress during the year 1906.

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:

B. F. Evans, Lufkin, Tex.—Enclosed please find primary pledge signed by twenty-seven democrats. This is the third list that I have sent in—making seventy-eight in all. I will start a new list at once and keep it before the people until every democrat in my county has had an opportunity to take the pledge. I have always acted on the theory that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. Success to The Commoner.

John W. Coghill, Jr., Roseville, Ill.—I enclose a primary pledge signed by twenty good democrats.

J. E. Hopkins, Flatwoods, W. Va.—I have secured twenty-five names on this list and will return it. Let the good work go on.

F. J. Voss, Duluth, Minn.—Enclosed please find pledge with thirty signatures.

A. J. Gibbons, Edina, Mo.—Enclosed you will find a list of forty names of democrats who heartily approve of the primary pledge, and who will all vote and work for the democratic ticket.

M. A. Ellis, Manes, Mo.—I enclose primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

Harry N. Briggs, Clarion, Mich.—I hand you herewith seventeen more signers to the primary pledge. Success to the cause.

James Smyser, Moberly, Mo.—You will find enclosed twenty-six names to the primary pledge. This makes forty-one I have sent in. I am proud that I have done this much, and hope that I can still do more for the cause for which Mr. Bryan has been fighting so hard. I hope that The Commoner may be read by every man, woman and child in the United States.

T. F. Holden, Rushville, Ind.—I send primary pledge with twelve signatures.

Joseph R. Jarvis, Cobden, Ill.—Enclosed please find list of twenty-three signers to the primary pledge. I think this pledge, if carried out, will enable the true citizens of this country to take control of national affairs—and it is time they do so. As Senator Newlands of Nevada presented a resolution providing for the introduction of a bill to incorporate railroads engaged in international commerce the senator must know that congress has no power to incorporate anything; he must know that during the formation of the constitution by the federal convention it was proposed four times to grant the power to provide for incorporation to the congress of the United States and was voted down each time. This is positive proof that a majority of the convention did not intend to give this power to congress. If Senator Newlands does not know, I will refer him to the proceedings of the federal convention.

H. F. Williams, Stanberry, Mo.—I enclose a primary pledge with ten signatures.

D. M. Cheezum, Bethlehem, Md.—Find enclosed primary pledge with twenty-five names. I could secure more, but I have been busy this fall. After Christmas will get more names, and also more subscribers to The Commoner.

Hector McGinnis, Huntsville, Mo.—Enclosed find fifty-three signatures to the primary pledge. These men firmly believe in The Commoner's way of organizing the democratic party.

L. O. Turnbull, Sullivan, Ind.—I enclose seven signatures to the primary pledge.

Hardin Long, Kingsville, Mo.—I am eighty-five years old, and always attend the primaries and general elections, and I assure you that I will not fall this time. I feel more interested in democratic success now than ever before. I am

too old to see many voters, but will do what I can. Enclosed find primary pledge signed by six democrats.

Henry S. Cassell, Blue Creek, Ohio.—I do not take The Commoner but a friend of mine gave me one to read, and as I was looking over the pages of it I saw the primary pledge plan. Believing it to be of great help to the success of the party, I heartily ask that my name be enrolled, for I am a Bryan democrat. Push the good work along.

William Lowery, Denning, Ark.—Enclosed find primary pledge with eight signatures.

Frank E. Abbott, Sterling, Mich.—I enclose primary pledge signed by twenty good democrats.

C. E. Drinkard, Giltedge, Mont.—I wish to say that I am very much in sympathy with the work of The Commoner in regard to the primary pledge plan. The ranchers and miners, the men who work with their hands, are becoming interested as never before in the political reforms as proposed by The Commoner. I refer to the workingmen of Montana. The amount of radicalism that has developed within the last three years among that class of people in Montana is remarkable. The last election shows the independence of the voters of this section. As sure as the democrats put up a strong reform man on a reform platform they will carry Montana in 1908.

J. Balfour Vance, Chilhowie, Va.—I sent in my primary pledge when the first call was made. I will confess that I am not a good organizer. But while I have done so little you will always find me perfectly willing to do anything in my power, for I love the cause and believe in its ultimate triumph and that the crowning day is coming. I will distribute copies of your paper and take an active part in an organization if it can be brought about.

H. W. Frazier, Kimballton, Va.—Enclosed please find the primary pledge signed. I think the plan a good one for the organizing of the democratic party for the battles of 1906 and 1908. The democratic party wants no more reorganizers, no more Cleveland, Hill, Parker "Wall Street," platforms, no more mum candidates, no more gold telegrams, but a Jefferson-Bryan candidate and a Jeffersonian-Bryan platform on which all true democrats can stand. I am 49 years old, have voted in every election since I have been old enough to have the right to exercise that privilege and duty, and have never scratched a democratic ticket but the Parker pill was the hardest pill I have ever tried to swallow. My faith in the final triumph of the principles for which the editor of The Commoner stands and has so ably and faithfully defended and maintained, has been greatly strengthened since the recent election. That the democratic party has won a great signal victory in several of the states, especially that in Ohio is apparent to all and not only is it a great democratic triumph but is also a telling rebuke to bossism and the "stand pat" elements of the G. O. P. leaders who so loudly defended republican corruption in the recent campaign. Let the democratic party move forward, main-

tain and defend the right at all times and under all circumstances and all will be well in 1906 and 1908.

A. P. Wright, Greenfield, Tenn.—I am very much in favor of The Commoner's primary pledge plan, because I think it provides the best way in which to arouse the interest of the rank and file of the party, thereby obtaining a clear and correct expression of their sentiments upon all public questions. It seems to me that it is high time the masses of the voters were becoming aroused as to their interests, for if we will look into the political rottenness that is being permitted in our government at the present time, we will not have to stretch our imagination very far to picture another Russia in the throes of one of the greatest revolutions of modern history. Our political parties have become trading marts of political schemers of the vilest type. They trade and traffic in the franchises of American citizens even as horse traders, at county seats traffic in blind mules. Our state convention that selected delegates to the last national convention was dominated and controlled by two or three political schemers, and all for their own selfish interests. Consequently our delegation was instructed for Parker, when at least three-fourths of the democrats of the state were opposed to his nomination. It is, therefore, plain to me that the time is ripe for the voters to get together and crush the political bosses or quit claiming that this is the land of the free. A few more years of present conditions and we will be under the most despotic government that was ever known, for there can be no greater despotism than the political despotism that is seeking to take possession of American politics today. Let every voter do his duty and bring the government "back to the people." I have already sent my pledge, and I therefore enclose the pledges of thirty-three true Jeffersonian democrats. Success to The Commoner.

H. L. Watts, Marshall, Ark.—So far, I am in perfect accord with The Commoner, I believe it is doing a good work, and am willing to do all I can to help the cause for which it has so bravely fought. I have up to now deferred signing the "pledge" for this reason: One who participates in a primary and then fails or refuses to support the candidate or platform named, is said to be treacherous and unfaithful, and hence politically dishonest. I believe this doctrine is held to be true by all partisans. In 1892 I supported Cleveland against my will, and, as I then thought, against my better judgment. He proved just as recreant as I then believed he would. I have pledged to myself that I will never again support another candidate or platform named by and in the interest of that eastern plutocratic gold standard ring, now known as "the Cleveland gang," be it labeled for what political party it may. There may not be another man that has come to this conclusion, but the records of the presidential election of 1904 show that we are almost "legion." My best wishes for The Commoner and the doctrines it so ably advocates.

## 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.