

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

"Professor" Gunton seems to have oiled his statistics.

Mr. Rogers has made a fine start for a Jimmy-hyde finish.

Mr. Rogers and Mr. Rockefeller seem to make paraffin witness.

It is safe to say that Mr. Rogers never forgot to cash his semi-annual dividend certificates.

It appears that the opposition to Governor Cummins in Iowa is feeling very Blythe and gay.

Another fresh and impetuous republican congressman has "found Champ Clark," and Champ was right there.

Boston claims to be the largest lobster market in the world. This claim is calculated to wring a protest from Wall street.

It seems that the Sioux City Journal is getting away from its anti-standpat views in an effort to get a better gubernatorial view.

"Americans consumed more sugar than any other nation last year," says the Kansas City Journal. And paid more for it, too.

The fact that there are canals in Mars is taken as proof that the Martians do not appoint railroad presidents to build competing waterways.

Mr. Rogers pleads for seclusion. He should be accommodated just as if he were some ordinary trades unionist who is guilty of contempt of court.

Marshall P. Wilder declares that there are no new jokes, but this may be due to the little joker's failure to read some recent conflicting court decisions.

The express companies have decided to revoke all "franks," but Senator Platt still feels amply able to "frank" a few pet express measures through the senate.

"Why should I resign," queries Depew. The Commoner would undertake to make a complete answer if it printed serial stories or issued forty or fifty pages a week.

The republican legislators of New York have returned a vote of confidence in Senator Depew. They will find it vastly more difficult to secure a vote of confidence for themselves although the railroad passes may come easier.

Mr. Carnegie is engaged in writing an article to explain how he went into the library building business. The country would take more interest in reading about how he succeeded in writing tariff schedules for Nelson Dingley to frame up, remarks the Houston Post.

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE PLAN

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:

Daniel Fauble, Lancaster, Ohio—Please send me five subscription cards, and I will try to fill them within the next few days. I have read The Commoner for the past two years, and feel richly rewarded for the time spent. The Commoner is the cleanest, ablest and best journal that has ever come to my address. I am proud to join the large number of voters in signing the primary pledge.

J. B. Bryan, Cedar Hill, Texas—I enclose a primary pledge with eight signatures.

Lloyd T. Everett, attorney, Bethesda, Md.—Enclosed find five special offer subscription cards filled out, one which is a renewal (my own) and four new subscriptions, and check for \$3 in payment. I wished to enclose the primary pledge signed, but find I have no copy of The Commoner at the office, so sign my name on accompanying sheet, and ask you to have the primary pledge written in above, and file same.

W. H. Fry, Oakford, Ind.—Find herewith primary pledge with list of signatures.

Oscar Mitchell, Wailonia, Ky.—I have never missed a primary and have never missed an election nor scratched a ticket—not even for the sake of my kin folks, and never expect to. I believe in the democracy that Thomas Jefferson founded—the democracy that lifts mankind Godward. A neighbor handed me a Commoner the other day. I read it and like it. Please send me subscription rates and I will try to get a club for your paper.

T. R. Watts, Cameron, N. Y.—Enclosed please find primary pledge. I am with you in your effort to reorganize the democratic party. I am living in a very strong republican town, but I am trying to get The Commoner read. I think it will do more than anything else.

I. H. Simcoe, Fulton, Mo.—Find enclosed primary pledge signed by thirty good democrats.

J. D. Wooden, Riggins, Idaho—I herewith enclose primary pledge petition bearing the signatures of all the democrats in this precinct who had not signed the pledge before. You may think the list is short, but you must realize that this is a rough mountain precinct, consequently there are but few voters in it, and about two-thirds of the voters are republicans and socialists. You will see at the top of this list the signature of R. E. Lockwood of Weiser. I think it would be

advisable to send him a blank. He is the editor of "The Signal." Mr. Lockwood is all right in every way. Please send a few copies of The Commoner. I will subscribe for it when they arrive.

Jerome Dunning, attorney, Winfield, W. Va.—With the compliments of the season I greet you, and beg to present primary pledge signed by fifty-one democrats of my own magisterial district of Scott. I confined this pledge to Scott district. There are five others in the county, and I now propose to circulate another blank throughout my county. The result of the recent elections in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York is proof positive that "back to the people" is where democracy should turn if she wishes, or even hopes, to be successful in future political contests.

Joshua Draper, Oxford, Ala.—Standing upon American soil under a republican government and recognizing man's duty to man, I doubt the Christianity and patriotism of all who oppose democracy as taught by The Commoner. True democracy is the gospel of the golden rule.

B. F. Furniss, New Orleans, La.—Enclosed find pledge filled out.

R. W. Johnson, Calhoun, Mo.—I send in my primary pledge although I have no faith in the primary. I am seventy years old, an old confederate. I think the primary is the main factor of putting Missouri in the republican ranks today. My observation of the primaries here in Henry county, Missouri, is that they are a disgrace to any party. A nomination was equivalent to an election and the primary was where the boss and shrewd politicians got in their work.

T. E. Ballard, Cloverdale, W. Va.—Enclosed find \$1.20 to pay for two yearly subscriptions to The Commoner as per enclosed subscription cards. I also enclose primary pledge of myself, my father and three brothers—all there are of us in family of voting age except one brother who is not in this part. We were all anxious to sign the pledge—not that any of us needs to pledge ourselves to democracy, but that we may contribute to the plan and show a willingness to do all that we can toward helping elect the next president of the United States, which can be done if every democrat will do his duty. I heartily endorse the primary pledge plan, and can get a great many signatures to it.

Rube Lewis, Hartford City, Ind.—Enclosed find order for Commoner, also primary pledge duly signed. I think the primary pledge the only way the common people have whereby they can right the injustice of party tricksters. I promise my hearty support. I think The Commoner the greatest paper published in the interest of the people. When we see the most of the great newspapers, and attorneys with their retaining fees working in the interest of the great trusts and corporations of this country, we feel under greater obligations to The Commoner for defending the rights of the common people.

G. M. Crutchley, Catlin, Ill.—This is about the wind up and I have secured most of the democrats in my locality. (Mr. Crutchley has been one of our most active workers in the primary pledge organization and has several hundred pledge signers to his credit.)

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.