

WILLIAMS ON "STANDPATTERS"

Representative "Gussie" Gardner of Massachusetts, son-in-law of Senator Lodge, butted into the tariff speech which John Sharp Williams was making the other day.

"If the gentleman says it could be done," said Gardner, "may I be excused if I ask him if he believes in Santa Claus?"

"I do in a way," Williams replied. "I believe in it just as I believe in the

New England fetish that the republican party will revise the tariff. I think that Santa Claus is a very useful cult among children to encourage faith, and I believe that the Massachusetts reliance in the junior senator from Massachusetts and in yourself and in the entire republican congressional representation to revise the tariffs an awfully useful cult to encourage republican voters, who seem to be as full of credulity as children are at Christmas, to remain in line."

That was about all for Mr. Gardner. —Minneapolis Journal.

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 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.

The following letters are self-explanatory.

Jesse J. Dunn, chairman Democratic Territorial committee—That Oklahoma stands fifth in the number of primary pledges sent in, speaks well for the condition of the democratic party in the territory. It shows that its membership is alive and aware of the fundamental proposition that all just governments exist and operate by consent of and to serve their creators, and those who maintain them.

Through this relief may be had from and enforced against many of the evils of which we complain in vain. If every democrat in the territory would send in one of these pledges, and then live up to it, success in the future would be made certain. We failed in our last campaign—not from lack of voters—but because thousands who earnestly desired to see democratic principles succeed, were indifferent, and did not go to the polls.

The Winona (Minn.) Leader, edited by P. J. Barth, says: "W. J. Bryan, in his paper, The Commoner, is spreading a wonderful campaign of education in securing the pledges of democrats to attend all caucuses held for their party and the matter should be taken up earnestly everywhere. If only half the democrats of the nation could be aroused to a point of action and attend the caucuses the rank and file of the party would name the next president and the politicians, the leeches upon the body politic of the nation, would weaken and sink into oblivion for want of sustenance."

EDITORIALS BY COMMONER READERS

M. D. Lightfoot of Humansville, Mo.—Enclosed find a club of ten together with a draft for \$6.00. You will also find a pledge with twenty-eight signatures. The results as indicated on

this pledge represent the work of just a few minutes, as, down in this country, democrats are all believers in the principles as enunciated by W. J. Bryan, and it would be an easy matter to fill pages with the signatures of those who are in favor of the pledge and what it stands for.

L. Mighell, Washta, Iowa.—Enclosed find \$1.00 in payment of the continuation of my subscription. I am interested in the reforms and principles advocated by The Commoner, and hope to see them carried into effect in the future, and every day am contributing my mite of influence to that end. There is one thing I have not yet seen The Commoner speak of, one of the recent occurrences in labor troubles is the arrest of Moyer and Haywood of Colorado in connection with the murder of ex-Governor Steunenberg of Idaho. It is charged by the union that the arrest and imprisonment of these men is the result of a preconceived plot fostered by corporate interests with the intent to overthrow and bring into public contempt and censure one of the leading organizations of the west.

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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

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Mystic Shrine Convention, Excursion, San Francisco and Los Angeles On April 25 to May 5, inclusive, the Union Pacific will sell round trip tickets to the above points for \$50, going and returning direct. Portland and Seattle may be included at a cost of \$12.50 additional. Final return limit July 31. Reservations are now being made. Call at city office, 1044 O St., for full information. E. B. SLOSSON, General Agent.