

The Commoner ISSUED WEEKLY

WILLIAM J. BRYAN Editor and Proprietor. CHARLES W. BRYAN Publisher. RICHARD L. METCALFE Associate Editor. Editorial Rooms and Business Office 824-330 So. 12th Street.

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Muckrake, indeed! It requires a steam shovel.

By the way, Mr. President, what is better than a muck rake for cleaning out a mudscow?

General Nelson A. Miles is another gentleman who has been given a vindication by events.

The packers caught with a lot of "embalmed beef" on hand need only to be patient and wait for another war.

One or two sections therein contained renders it very difficult for Senator Platt to express himself adequately on the rate bill.

The Russian douma is talking as much and doing as little as a certain legislative body presided over by a "standpat" speaker.

A reader wants to know what "inconsistency" is. It would be inconsistent for a New Yorker to chide a Kansan about the Burton case.

The senate will have to remain in continuous session for a long time before it can catch up with the work of doing its duty to the people.

"Home Coming Week" is on in Kentucky. Mr. Taylor of Indiana may look across to the blue grass pastures, but it is not likely that he will take advantage of the excursion rates.

The senate has suddenly grown sensitive to public opinion. But just wait until the people get a chance to tell the senate all that it has been thinking during the last ten or a dozen years.

The work of the Armstrong committee cost the state of New York \$100,000. It cost a lot of eminent financial gentlemen a great deal more money than that, to say nothing of what it cost in the loss of reputation.

"If the Standard Oil company has violated the law, punish it," said Mr. Rockefeller just before sailing for Europe. To be sure. Imprison the oil, or burn it. The immunity bath will take care of the gentlemen who own the stock.

It will be a severe blow to the cattle raisers to learn that the packers have put up the meat in awfully filthy surroundings. At any rate the packers unselfishly opposed exposure on account of the damage it would do the cattle men.

Wayne MacVeagh is now endeavoring to explain how he came to be retained as attorney by both sides of the Philadelphia gas cases. A lot of valiant defenders of national honor have been called upon for explanations during the last six months.

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 straight-forward 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 page 14.

As a result of the June 1 campaign 5,000 names were added to the primary pledge list.

T. L. Parsons, Amy, N. D.—What a holy and divine thing the human heart is if people would do as God intended when he breathed His image into man. Woman is infinitely richer in God-like qualities than man. Human nature is a beautiful thing as God intended it to live, but the trouble is that this wild, mad scramble for the dirty, blood-stained dollar doesn't leave poor humanity much of a chance to develop itself except on the brutal, animal side. Our present social system—or lack of system—is especially designed for crushing out all that is good in humanity and developing all that is bad. Enclosed find my primary pledge.

W. A. Orr, Redkey, Ind.—I am glad and willing to do all I can for the principles of true democracy. We all think a great deal of The Commoner, for on all subjects it comes to the point. I enclose primary pledge with 25 signatures.

P. P. Pullen, Buchanan, Tenn.—Enclosed find a list of 35 signatures to the primary pledge. I believe this is 71 names I have sent. Will try to get some more soon. I am doing all I can for The Commoner and its cause, which I think to be right. May blessings crown it.

M. V. Knoles, Newalla, Okla.—Enclosed you will find 28 signatures to the primary pledge. Success to The Commoner and safe return to Mr. Bryan and family.

E. C. Robinson, Dale, Ark.—Please find enclosed primary pledge signed by six good democrats. I will get more signatures as soon as possible. Great success for the primary pledge plan.

The following have sent in primary pledges in number as follows: G. W. Workman, Mt. Grove, Mo., 47; J. D. Roberts, Jr., Lexington, Tenn., 31; T. W. Dunn, Cornhill, Texas, 10; H. W. Stocker, Wagnersfield, Ohio, 5; T. H. Cooper, St. Louis, Mo., 4; Samuel N. Reickel, Claypool, Ind., 20; E. B. Shaffer, Grafton, W. Va., 16.

L. B. Gibson, Waco, Tex.—I enclose thirteen names duly signed to primary pledge I secured on same floor where my office is located. It is no trouble to get the people to pledge their allegiance to democratic principles as expounded by Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan.

Charles F. Wynne, Moncton, N. B.—Every little bit counts. Here are two primary pledges. I hope to cast my first presidential vote for a genuine democrat.

Nelson R. Tucker, Fremont, Ohio.—Inclosed find the names of 42 persons that have signed the primary pledge. I am heartily in favor of the initiative referendum and the "recall." I favor public ownership of public utilities, which are in their nature monopolies. I favor direct nominations, the primaries, the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people; I am in favor of a graded income tax so the burdens of taxation will be shifted from the shoulders of the poor to the rich, who are better able to bear the burden. I am in favor of good roads and opposed to boss rule in any shape. These reforms would be a death blow to monopolies, graft and other ills which we are afflicted with. Let us unite in a solid phalanx and secure these reforms. In unity there is strength.

S. M. Butts, Jasper, Mo.—Enclosed please find pledge from an independent voter to attend and participate in all primaries held by the democratic party in my precinct from now and until after 1908. After reading General James B. Weaver's views in The Commoner May 4, they strike me as being good sound sense to every word therein; the remedy so plain, too, and easy to apply, if the people will it. It looks like this will be the time to begin to apply the remedy, before it is too late. Have never seen the whole people aroused as

they are today. If the democratic party puts up its best men for office, with plain, clear cut declarations of principles, with a broad platform for all to stand on and every man and woman has equal rights and special privileges for none it will win. Half way measures won't answer now. It is either for reform or against it. Either the people must rule or the trusts. Which will it be? Your votes will decide it within the next two years, or I don't read the signs of the times aright. Seems like we have been standing in the wilderness, as it were, forty years. Surely there is a Moses somewhere among the democratic leaders to guide the people out. They won't have the big four insurance companies to grease the band wagon in 1908 like they did in 1904 for the Plutes ways are found out.

Jerome Morgan, Frederick, Okla.—Please find enclosed primary pledges of thirty-five Jefferson and Bryan democrats.

S. R. Timberlake, Pembroke, Va.—I send the names of three men who are true to the cause. Send to each one of us a sample copy of The Commoner.

The following persons have sent in primary pledges properly signed: J. McGowen, Canon City, Colo.; M. J. Seymour, Ashtabula, Ohio; F. A. Smith, Waterville, N. Y.; Geo. E. Landess, Antigo, Wis.; James Q. Costigan, Albany, N. Y.; Adam Schiferl, West Point, Neb.; A. H. Young, Allegheny, Pa.; Thos. Blent, Flower, Colo.; Reed Beard, LaFayette, Ind.; Albert Krabbe, LaFayette, Ind.; James W. Schooler, LaFayette, Ind.; H. W. Hurst, Tarkio, Mo.; C. Clark Rogers, Bellingham, Wash.; W. A. Gibbons, Monroe City, Mo.; August H. Haberkost, Akron, Ohio; W. E. Brown, Summit Point, W. Va.; G. Milton Slifer, Charles Town, W. Va.; Edw. L. Henson, Charles Town, W. Va.; A. D. Gortz, Charles Town, W. Va.; T. Quinnlan, Ashford, N. Y.; J. L. Kilpatrick, Whitewater, Kan.; Seth Ball, Salmon Idaho; E. E. Ames, Tyler, Minn.; W. E. Weems, Seaton, Texas; P. B. Brown, Lone Star, Kan.; Joseph F. Littlefield, N. Berwick, Maine; J. O. Brandel, Fort Atkinson, Wis.; M. L. Dudley, Glens Fork, Ky.; Jos Dudley, Glens Fork, Ky.; A. G. Cardwell, Seymour, Mo.; Beardsley, Pittsburg, Pa.; Martin Jennings Caton, Allegheny, Pa.; Daniel Mock, Tilden, Neb.; M. C. Brown, Cotter, Ark.; Jos. F. Chilton, Fredericktown, Mo.; J. P. Laughlin, Bethel, Me.

SPECIAL OFFER

R. T. Mayor, Claffin, Kan.—Enclosed please find the name of one subscriber—J. C. Newman, Hutchinson, Kan. This makes my fifty readers of The Commoner since February last.

Everyone who approves the work The Commoner is doing is invited to co-operate along the lines of the special subscription offer. According to the terms of this offer cards each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner will be furnished in lots of five, at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Any one ordering these cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign.

These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold. A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in this effort to increase The Commoner's circulation:

THE COMMONER'S SPECIAL OFFER Application for Subscription Cards. Form with checkboxes for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50, 75, 100 cards. Includes fields for Name, Box or Street No, P. O., and State. Includes instructions to indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this blank.

If you believe the paper is doing a work that merits encouragement, fill out the above coupon and mail it to THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.