

FROM THE PEOPLE

W. S. Tisch, Chelsea, Mich.—I have read The Commoner since its first issue, and I think that it is the best paper in the United States, for it is a true and fearless teacher of Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan democracy. Its great strength and teaching is growing brighter every day. It stands by the people, and the people will approve its work. The Commoner is the guiding star to the democratic party and the masses of all parties. Its efforts will bring blessings to the common people whose interests it is defending against greed.

G. H. Ely, Mauston, Wis.—The greatest political convention in the history of Wisconsin, was held by the democrats of this state, Wednesday and Thursday, June 27 and 28. Over seven hundred delegates, representing every county in the state, were present. It was a platform convention and the enclosed copy of the platform, issued therefrom, speaks for itself. The democracy of the state has been set right before the people and I have thought that Wisconsin's army of Commoner readers ought to and will hold up the hands of that dashing young organizer, the chairman of the state central committee, H. H. Mason of Wausau, by all contributing one dollar each to the great work to which he is so loyally and faithfully devoting himself. He has brought order, unity, hope and enthusiasm out of political chaos. Let's all send him at least one dollar for the good of the cause. Truth crushed to earth will rise again.

James R. Porter, Halgler, Neb.—I have been a reader of The Commoner beginning with the first issue, having been a supporter of Mr. Bryan from his appearance in public affairs, and highly admire the kind ethical and political writings of Mr. Metcalfe. The great papers that reach me daily filled with tales of deception, falsehood, bribery, perjury, burglary, holdups, murder, divorce, social scandal and its rotten details, baseball, football, prize fights, horse racing, railroad accidents, fire and flood, without the suggestion of a remedy, then winding up with page after page of advertising—it makes me weary. But I suppose the low intellectual thought of the people is anxious to read of the sins and misfortunes of others as a coincident extenuation of their own misconduct. The greed of the press has sold itself to this line of news. You ask if I am optimistic as to democratic success. Can only say that I am persistent—voted for Pierce and every democratic candidate up to Parker, when I preferred defeat to victory, remembering Cleveland. You ask me to put my shoulder to the wheel. My seventy-nine years makes my shoulder useless, but what I can do is yours.

D. P. Norton, Dunlap, Kan.—I want to suggest to your artist, Mr. Spencer, an idea for a cartoon. Imagine "Teddy" with one foot on the democratic platform, the other foot in the republican mire, while he is making a desperate effort to get both feet on the platform, and the republican bosses holding him back by the coat-tails. It may be this is too late in the day for such a cartoon to be appropriate, but I am of the thought it might be worked to good advantage.

L. R. Fisher, Ludington, Mich.—There were two articles printed in a recent issue of The Commoner which are deserving of careful reading, and the writer believes the paper is doing a great work. The articles referred to are Moreton Frewen's letter and "The Evils of the National Banking Law." It is difficult to see how the opponents of special privilege can ever cease their warfare upon that law until it is swept from the statute books. It seems that for every dollar the government issues in bonds it makes what is virtually a free gift of a dollar to the banks, which are owned in the main by men who are already rich.

W. H. Allen, Brooklyn, N. Y.—What has become of the enormous increase of gold currency of which we have heard so much in recent years? Five years ago United States Treasurer E. H. Roberts predicted that as a result of this increase gold coin would soon be circulating as freely here as in other countries. But this prediction has come far short of fulfillment. Bank holdings show but little evidence of the increase, and the only explanation offered by the experts is that the coin must be in hand to hand circulation; people, it is said, now carry around \$20 in gold where they formerly carried but \$5. That people

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

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 15.

Extracts from letters received at The Commoner office follow:

S. F. Stambaugh, Shelby, Ore.—I send you 35 primary pledge signatures.

Archie Adorchy, Boonton, W. Va.—Enclosed find 51 signatures to the primary pledge.

E. C. Robinson, Dale, Ark.—Please find enclosed primary pledges sent by seven good democrats. I believe the primary pledge plan is a good one and I hope all democrats will take it up and get ready for the great fight in 1908.

R. S. Hussey, Princeton, Ind.—Find on the enclosed sheet fifty-eight names signed to your primary pledge, from this place. I may be able to send you in another list later on. I feel that The Commoner and the primary pledge is doing a great work in setting the people right in regard to the fundamental principles of a republican form of government, which can only be perpetuated by the purity of the ballot. I send you a constitution and by-laws of the Princeton Reform club. I wish The Commoner success.

H. L. Swisher, Morgantown, W. Va.— send you thirty-two signatures.

Tom E. Rogers, Mt. Summit, Ind.—I am sending you sixty-nine signatures to the primary pledge.

Theodore Overman, Jefferson City, Mo.—Enclosed find primary pledge with twenty-nine signers. This was sent me by you some time ago and I could have sent it in sooner but for the fact that my work is always very pressing during the summer months. I heartily agree with you in this matter of getting the primary pledge, and I assure you I am more than pleased to do anything I can to help you. Send me another blank and I will do what I can about the court house and hope to send another list as large as this in soon. Best wishes to The Commoner.

are handling more money than they did a few years ago may be admitted, but that they are handling four times as much gold is extremely doubtful. I have questioned people who have traveled all over the country and their experience is that so far from being more plentiful, there seems to be actually less of the yellow metal in circulation now than there was before 1896. A friend of mine wrote to United States Mint Director G. E. Roberts on this subject, and in reply the latter states that "without doubt there has been a large increase in these ten years in the amount of gold coin held in actual circulation in the western states, particularly the Pacific coast states, which have increased largely in population and business, and where coin alone is the money of circulation." Well, now, I should like to hear from those readers of The Commoner who reside on the Pacific coast and other western states on this subject. Does their experience confirm Mr. Roberts' view, that there has been a large increase of gold coin in circulation in their section of the country?

B. W. Arnold, Mt. Vale, Va.—I see that Mr. Watterson is cursing the primary election plan of nominating candidates for public office as in the interest of the rich against the poor man. Where the candidates are required to pay the expenses incident to holding the primaries as in this state it is true. It has been so arranged for the purpose of discrediting the primary plan. At first the primaries in this state were "viva voce" also. The primary should be contemporaneous for all parties, should be held under the strictest Australian plan of voting and the expenses should be paid for by the municipality, by the county or state and the candidate should not be assessed one cent. I do not know but a special tax for defraying the expenses of primaries and regular elections would be desirable.

SPECIAL OFFER

The following have each sent in five yearly subscriptions: W. C. Cutrell, Anson, Texas; H. M. Johnson, Marysville, Kan.; S. A. Barnum, California, Pa.; John N. Anderson, Gamma, Mo.; B. C. Yancey, Umatilla, Fla.; R. B. Gillespie, Tecumseh, Mich.; Dr. R. Cummins, Touchet, Wash.; M. A. Stewart, Titusville, Fla.; W. C. Carroll, Fieldon, Ill.; Charles Wright, North Manchester, Ind.; Dr. S. T. Mahon, Toledo, Ohio; E. P. G. Houk, Dayton, Ohio; A. W. Alston, Weleetka, I. T.; J. A. Clabberne, Bolivar, Tenn.; W. M. Patterson, Davis, Ill.; S. L. Perkins, Keota, I. T.; D. S. Burson, Richmond, Ind.; Lem Tibbets, Hastings, Neb.; Eugene Wade, Addison, N. Y.; Clarence Martin, Marysville, Ky.; John F. Kelley, Newton, Colo.; Nick Washburn, New Richmond, Ind.; John Gardner, Spencer, Wis.; C. C. Bitner, Spencerville, Cal.; D. H. Thompson, Meade, Neb.; A. A. Valance, Johnstown, Pa.; N. F. Hilton, Rouseville, Pa.; James A. Axlley, Hematite, Mo.; T. B. Staples, New Salem, Ind.; J. L. Brock, Ludlow, Mo.; C. Slade, Paloma, Ill.; Felix McElhaney, Danville, Ill.; R. B. Tullis, Elkton, Ohio; P. H. Robertson, Kokomo, Ind.; J. D. Leclair, Uniontown, Pa.; B. C. Jones, Bridgeport, Ala.; Ralph E. Roberts, Rockport, Ind.; George Knoke, Sistersville, W. Va.; H. E. Mason, Olney, I. T.; J. E. Lee, Dade City, Fla.; A. C. Karrich, Cynthiana, Ky.; A. W. Craig, Uniontown, Pa.; R. F. Reeves, Milo, Iowa; James E. Baden, Baden, Md.

Commoner readers have sent in yearly subscriptions in number as follows: W. W. Chesley, Schaller, Ia., 6; W. A. Johnson, Bangor, Pa., 6; A. B. Cockerill, Nevada, Mo., 10; R. W. York, Bethany, Mo., 7; J. C. Laport, Shannon City, Ia., 8; J. W. Bradley, Camden Point, Mo., 6; H. Kubitshek, Denver, Colo., 6; James Heagan, Elkhorn, Mont., 10; Conrad Reigleman, Kremiss, Pa., 11; G. M. Motz, Middleburg, Pa., 7; Silas Jackson, Kokomo, Ind., 6; John Cavanah, Tamaha, I. T., 8; A. P. Nelson, Portland, Ore., 6; Archy Adkins, Boston, W. Va., 10; George P. Gerber, Durand, Wis., 8; R. B. Goff, Woodville, I. T., 10; A. M. Gibbs, Lowell, Mich., 8; T. W. Tedford, Rich Hill, Mo., 7; S. S. Mottern, Watauga, Tenn., 7; C. L. Wilson, Saranac, Mich., 6; William Lynch, Ethel, Mo., 10; W. H. Kidder, Jamestown, N. Y., 7; J. S. Clark, Clarksdale, Mo., 6; T. E. Downing, Dayton, Ohio, 7; J. H. Rouser, Knox City, Mo., —; C. E. Wall, Payson, Okla., 6; W. W. Lea, Neosho, Mo., 7; George E. Church, Fresno, Cal., 7; J. B. Liston, Carlinville, Ill., 36; N. B. Yadon, Linn Creek, Mo., 30.

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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:

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