

THE NEBRASKA SENATORSHIP

Petitions for the nomination of Richard L. Metcalfe, associate editor of The Commoner to be United States senator subject to the democratic and peoples independent primaries to be held in Nebraska, August 16, were filed July 15 with the secretary of state at Lincoln. On the following day Mr. Metcalfe filed his acceptance and later gave to the newspapers the following statement:

"In announcing my candidacy for United States senator subject to the democratic and people's independent primaries, to be held August 16, I am responding to a call that has been made upon me by a large number of personal and political friends. It is true I would like to represent Nebraska in the United States senate, but I would not have entered the race unsolicited and I am acting now after the most thoughtful consideration on my own part and after consulting with democrats and populists in various sections of the state.

"I assume that in nominating their senatorial candidate the democrats and populists in Nebraska will select the man whom they regard as most available in the contest to be waged against one of the most skillful politicians ever elected by a western state to a seat in the senate. Should the men with whom I have affiliated for nearly a quarter of a century of Nebraska politics conclude that I am the available candidate, I will make an active campaign against my republican opponent and will do my best to win.

"As reporter and political writer on the Omaha World-Herald from 1888 to 1896, as editor of the World-Herald from 1896 to 1905 and as associate editor of The Commoner since 1905, my views on public questions have been made known to the people of Nebraska.

"In general, I take my democracy from Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan. If it were republicanism, I would take it from LaFollette, Cummins and Bristow. Practically, I do not see material difference between the two brands, so far as present day problems are concerned; and if I were elected to the senate I would take counsel of the republicans I have named sooner than from men who, elected as democrats, follow, in one way or another, the Aldrich leadership.

"I would not be bound by any party caucus against what I conceived to be the welfare of my constituents. I would follow democratic principles, as I have learned them, wherever I found them and would co-operate with men, regardless of party affiliations, whom I found faithfully enunciating those principles and undertaking to enact them into law. This is my conception of the duty of a democrat who realizes the necessity for prompt action on the part of the patriotic men of all parties who would perpetuate popular government and make our union of states fairly representative of the sacrifices that have been made in their behalf—fairly representative of the hopes and the aspirations of the rank and file of American citizens, regardless of political prejudices.

"My opponents, Mr. G. M. Hitchcock, and Mr. Willis E. Reed, are both rich men, while I am a wage-earner. It will not, therefore, be possible for me to make as active a contest for the nomination as these gentlemen will make. But I am not without confidence that from now until August 16, some of the men whom I have met upon the firing line and with whom I have stood shoulder to shoulder in defense of the very principles that seem popular today will lend me a hand so that I may not, after all, be greatly handicapped in the race.

"I enter this contest, 'with malice toward none, with charity for all.' I would not knowingly sacrifice one personal friendship upon the altar of ambition. While I shall stand resolutely for the things in which I believe I grant to every other man the right to his opinion and respect it accordingly. I hope nothing shall occur to tarnish the fair friendship that has existed for many years between myself and the two good men who are opposing me. I shall try to so act that both Messrs. Hitchcock and Reed will be able—after the primaries have closed and the real battle is on—to give me that cordial support which I have it in my heart to give to either of them in the event of my defeat."

The American Homestead, a monthly farm Journal of national scope, will be sent to all Commoner subscribers, without additional cost, who renew their subscriptions during the month of July. Take advantage of this offer at once, and send in your renewal.

The Million Army

In the campaign of 1908 The Commoner's Million Army rendered distinguished service to the cause of democracy and it may well be believed that a similar organization will even be able to do better work in the year of 1910 now that men who were heretofore indifferent are aroused to the importance of action.

If half of the readers of The Commoner would take active interest in the organization of this Million Army plan, the results would be immediately noticeable and the contribution to the welfare of popular government would be enormous.

Many individuals are willing to help in a patriotic movement but find it difficult to know just what to do to make their efforts count. In a struggle such as the one we are now engaging in, the efforts of every man, woman and child on the side of popular government will count and in The Commoner's Million Army a practical plan is presented whereby the efforts of many individuals may be aggregated and used with telling effect.

Have you joined The Commoner's Million Army? That is the question that is being asked in many counties throughout the union. It should become a familiar question in every precinct, in every county, in every state. The following letters will be of interest:

F. P. Hettinger, Hutchinson, Kan.—Am in receipt of five application blanks for enrollment in The Commoner's Million Army. Enclosed find one signed up. I have been a subscriber to The Commoner from the time of its first issue, and my present subscription has not yet expired. I am interested in good government, and hope to see it administered by the democratic party. The republican party today, as it has been for the past thirty years, is dominated by the interests. We are in need of men who can be more effective than republican insurgents. We need real democrats. All democrats should be enlisted in the cause for life, and not for a campaign only. I will do what I can for the Million cause. Long live The Commoner, and those who edit it, and publish it.

James Shorten, Wayne, Neb.—I agree with all the principles laid down by W. J. Bryan, and as I am an old man, now 82 years old, and not able to do business as formerly, I will endeavor to do what I can to espouse the cause that Mr. Bryan favors. I have been a democrat all the better part of my life. My first vote was cast for James Buchanan in 1856, and I have sustained the "cause" to the present day. I do not hesitate to join my name to the Million Army, but can not promise much more for the future. Wishing you success in your undertaking I remain.

Ben Widner, Neosha, Mo.—I think no one is more thoroughly convinced of the integrity and ability of W. J. Bryan and no one more firmly believes in the correctness of the governmental policies promulgated and advocated by him than I do. I will gladly, as I did two years ago, enlist in The Commoner's Million Army and extend my subscription to The Commoner for another year, and will make an effort to get four other democrats to do the same.

Ernest J. Gold, Newtonia, Mo.—I thank you for the opportunity of helping in this great battle. While at present we have a republican in congress, yet I feel confident that we will send a democrat this fall and a senator from the state also. It will be the happiest day of my

life when the principles of democracy lead and guide this nation. I am sending my application, filled out, to become one of The Commoner's Million Army. I will be pleased to give you any aid or information regarding political matters in this district.

Phillip A. Cain, Ashland, Mo.—The Commoner certainly has my heartiest co-operation in its effort to bring about good government for the people and by the people. I will try to secure new subscribers.

S. N. Pyles, Eldorado Springs, Mo.—I will try to get signers for The Commoner's Million Army. This is a life and death struggle for American independence. Mr. Bryan ought to score a victory as he has worked hard and faithfully for the public interests.

W. C. Anderson, Erwin, S. D.—I am interested in The Commoner's Million Army and shall do whatever I can to help it along. Have signed one of the application blanks and shall try and get more to sign the others. We must all try, and put a shoulder to the wheel, elect a democratic president in 1912.

I. O. Brenhough, Ryder, N. D.—Kindly mail me ten more coupons; will try to secure some more subscriptions for The Commoner. Two of the five last sent in were placed in the hands of the first voters.

William Gage and T. F. Fleming, Pinon, N. M.—Please find enclosed two applications to The Commoner's Million Army. Please send to both applicants application blanks for The Commoner so we may help to get The Commoner in the hands of every voter possible.

A. J. Anders, Oelwein, Ia.—Please send Million Army blanks to the enclosed names. It is evident to my mind that the democratic party must be more progressive than the insurgents, or more standpat than the standpatters. It is also evident to my mind that ultimately the standpatters of the republican party and the reactionaries in the democratic party will be forced to affiliate openly as they now do under cover of different names and the insurgents driven out of the republican party into the democratic party or be forced to create a new party. There can not long remain two parties within the two old leading parties.

Oscar Kerns, Kansas City, Mo.—I am heartily in accord with the stand The Commoner and Mr. Bryan is taking, and I enclose my pledge to The Commoner's Million Army to do all I can to help in the cause. Corporations certainly hold the whip and lash over the people of the United States. How long they will be able to do so is a question. They are the worst scared now I have ever seen them.

E. J. Zimmerman, Cleburne, Texas—I am a democrat of the W. J. Bryan kind. Would sacrifice time when considered necessary to further the causes for which he stands. We have a red hot four-cornered run for the gubernatorial nomination on here. People are so absorbed that I fear a lot of unprincipled grafters may slip into congress. Our primaries come off the twenty-third day of this month. Every honest democratic congressman in Texas, I am told, has an opponent pledged to graft and platform jumping. These rascals understand the situation, and some of them may steal in. We trust this will not be the case, but a great many voters are unable to tell you today who the candidate for congress and state officers are other than for governor. I prefer to belong to the democratic party unpledged to any future issues not now understood, but look upon Bryan as my leader.

APPLICATION BLANK

## The Commoner's Million Army

*I hereby enlist in The Commoner's Million Army, and pledge my assistance to secure the nomination of only worthy and incorruptible men as democratic candidates; that I will attend democratic primaries and nominating conventions, and assist in promoting the great democratic campaign of education by devoting a reasonable share of my time to the distribution of literature. I will recommend worthy persons for membership in The Commoner's Million Army, and in any way I can assist to increase the usefulness of this organization.*

Signed.....

Address.....

With the understanding that Mr. Bryan agrees to accept annual subscriptions to The Commoner from members of this Army at a net rate of 65 cents each, and that each subscription to The Commoner shall include a subscription to The American Homestead (a strong home and farm paper)—thus leaving The Commoner free to devote its undivided efforts to political matters and current events—I enclose herewith 65 cents for one annual subscription to The Commoner (including The American Homestead). If you are already a subscriber to The Commoner and do not care to extend your expiration date at this time, the last paragraph above may be disregarded.

**Recommendation for Membership**

The signer of this enlistment blank is personally known to me, and is in every way worthy of membership in The Commoner's Million Army.

Signed.....

Address.....