

Democrats Everywhere Endorsing The Primary Pledge Plan

Although The Commoner's organization plan was made public only two weeks ago, many hearty responses and cordial assurances of co-operation have already been received. Copies of the primary pledge, signed by earnest and determined democrats have been literally pouring into The Commoner office and in most instances these pledges are accompanied by letters indicating that democrats everywhere are in sympathy with The Commoner's efforts. Extracts from some of these letters follow:

F. C. Greenley, Lincoln, Neb.—The primary plan is a good one. I am a democrat who wants to be in.

H. W. McQuitty, Lincoln, Neb.—I want a part in this good work, so here is my pledge.

Messrs. Greenley and McQuitty signed the first pledges received at The Commoner office, and their names were the first ones enrolled.

F. D. Decker, Pine Bush, N. Y.—Your plan of organizing the democratic party has my heartiest support. I consider it my duty to assist in the great cause you are so ably leading, and it is a privilege indeed for me to sign and forward the enclosed pledge.

Zol J. Woods, Beebe, Ark.—With pleasure I have just read your editorial in this week's Commoner, headed, "The Primary Pledge—Organize Now." I am certainly glad you have begun this movement, for it means much to the real democratic party. I know of my own knowledge that most of the party strife in Arkansas is the result of lack of proper organization, and apathy of the people on the day of the primaries. I am sure this plan of yours will meet with hearty approval in this state, and if you will furnish me such information as you can, I shall take pleasure in pushing the movement.

C. S. Wortman, Plattsmouth, Neb.—The primary pledge is an excellent one. If all good democrats will look out for real democracy with one-half the activity as manifested by the spurious democrats in name only we need never fear the latter becoming in the ascendant again. My prayer is God bless The Commoner and its editor.

Walter Wold, Meckling, S. D.—I intend to do all your pledge requires with reference to attending caucus primaries.

George Rowland, Covington, Ind.—I earnestly hope and shall use my influence to secure principles which were adopted at the Chicago and Kansas City democratic national conventions, adopted in future conventions.

Clay Fowlkes, Hammonsville, Ark.—It gives me a distinct pleasure to have the privilege of participating in this great work.

Sylvester Lamb, Toledo, Ohio.—I wish to say by the way of encouragement that I am heartily in favor of the plan. I hope the democrats who stand for something and who believe in something, will now come to the front. I for one want to see the party take high moral ground on the questions which now confront the country. Then it will do the country good and will succeed because it deserves to succeed.

E. F. Boswell, Lexington, Tenn.—Find enclosed the primary pledge, with four names. I showed it to three friends and they signed it. Enroll us and continue The Commoner and its sentiments will grow.

C. B. Gunn, Decatur, Tex.—In this week's issue of The Commoner, you suggest names be sent of those willing to use what influence they have to see that the next platform reflects the true sentiments of the party. Put me down to contribute my mite towards helping in this great cause.

W. Stearns, Adrain, Mich.—I observe what you say concerning preparation for 1908. I think you are right, and possibly it would be well to add a pledge to stand by the local democratic papers wherever one is published.

Wm. Henton, Miami, Mo., R. F. D. 3.—I have received The Commoner of this date and read the primary pledge. I strongly endorse it. I am a farmer but take an active part in politics; never miss a democratic meeting or primary; go there to fight for democratic principles from 1896 down. To purify politics is something that needs to be done from township delegates to our national delegates. It is not because democrats are unwilling to abide by the will of the majority that caused so many stay-at-home votes here in Missouri, but because they saw dishonesty from township delegate to the actions of New York.

C. G. Basler, Lancaster, Pa.—I read what you say on how the democratic party should get together and organize, with entire satisfaction. It

is the only way the people can accomplish any good. They must attend the primary or else they will continue to be ruled by the bosses who in turn are simply the underlings of our monopolies or their hired agents. If we can get the great body of the democratic voters as much interested in the primary elections as they are in the general election, I think half the battle is won against the element that is ruling our country today. I have always held that it is the duty of every good citizen to attend to, or give his attention to the public welfare of his country or state, as much as to his religion.

Louis Eitel, Vernon, Ind.—I heartily endorse the plan for organization by the democratic party for the election of 1908, as expressed in The Commoner under caption "The Primary Pledge—Organize Now." Much has been said about reorganization of the democratic party. I believe it is advisable to reorganize and to follow a bold, aggressive, straight-forward course in the future. The party should be a faithful, radical, progressive reform party, and the "Primary Pledge" plan of organization as outlined in The Commoner is, I think, in the right direction. I am unable to understand how any democrat worthy of the name can fail to subscribe to the aforesaid plan of party organization for the good of the party and the nation. Please enroll my name.

T. H. Murphy, Toledo, Ohio.—You can put me on the proposed list to do what I can to make the democratic party democratic, and to keep it so.

J. Harry Seright, Hutchinson, Kan.—Please find enclosed signed Primary Pledge. I want to be one of the first enrolled from Kansas. In my humble opinion, the democracy needs organization more than any other one thing. Let the good work go on.

R. H. Wingate, Anguilla, Miss.—My wish is that every democrat in the United States of America would sign this pledge and live up to it.

Merritt Moore, Northfield, Minn.—I want my name added to the primary pledge mentioned on the first page of the last issue. The work that is being done throughout the country is evidence of the fact that the interests of the people are not going to be neglected. I trust that the interest manifested in several states will spread throughout the land and that the interests of the common people will receive such attention as will bring to naught the scheming of the few who are fleecing the people.

A. R. McCook, Elma, Iowa.—The plan of reform and co-operation proposed by The Commoner is surely a good one. If successful, it will furnish foundation upon which a thorough organization may be built. Its development must result in true democracy, the right of the people to dictate to their representatives. Theoretically, at least, this is the part "of the people, by the people and for the people." The primary system makes it possible for voters to be sovereign. If they fail, the fault is too often their own. The average American citizen is too often negligent of the primary and find vigilance is too late when it is too late. Eternal as keenly alive to the situation as are the great corporations, we the people of the nation. "Reform should not now be a trust ruled local primary, selected at home." Attend your serve you as delegates of the right kind of men to with thorough organization supplement these efforts forms will come as a natural and the desired result.

H. F. Haswell, Cedar Rapids, Ia.—Accompany Jefferson-Bryan-Hogg democracy pledge. I am a pleasure of meeting you at the Orient had the pleasure, and listening to your speech at the Dal-ground auditorium last summer. In the fair noble work of espousing the cause of a common people (of whom I am one).

Wm. O. Wise, Canfield, Colo.—Heard your position, I sign and enclose the primary pledge. The following is called out by a timely editorial. Corruption in politics, threatens the life of the republic. The democratic party should lead in eliminating this evil. Let honest men and honest methods, make our party a refuge and a citadel for thousands of honest republicans who are disgusted with the appalling corruption in their own ranks. Attorneys and agents for the dominant trusts are the real leaders of the republican party and they are drunk with power. Reform from such a source is impossible. Faithful to the primary pledge, let us appeal to the

good and the true in all parties, to the consciences of the rank and file—and we shall not appeal in vain.

Robert A. Foard, Charlotte, N. C.—I enclose filled out blank for the primary pledge. While I have always taken a lively interest in public questions as they come before the people, and have always attended the primaries when possible for me to do so, still I think this pledge will strengthen me to continue in that course. The work that you have done and are now doing is of the highest type, and the fruitage thereof will be yours and ours ere long.

A. M. Foster, Rushville, Ill.—The democracy of Littleton township admires the fight you are making for the preservation of democratic principles and at our township convention today, thirteen joined with me in signing the primary pledge which I am sending you. Yours for democratic democracy.

John Doling, Springfield, Minn.—I want to be the first to go on record, hope every democrat will take the pledge.

Isaac Clarke, Clarksville, Mo.—I see in The Commoner of March 17, a call for all democrats to attend all conventions of the party. I have advocated that all my life, because I regard politics as a business proposition and it is as much the duty of every voter to have a say in what principles he shall support as it is to attend to his own private affairs.

John J. Carter, Chatham, Pa.—I approve of the pledge and endorse the views expressed in the leading article in your issue of the 17th inst. Purer politics and better legislation must come through the efforts of the common people, or rather the great middle classes. The political bosses, or I might say the captains of politics, have led the rank and file into an ambush of danger. We must retreat and reorganize by retiring the captains. A movement by the people and for the people would be welcomed and helped by patriotic men from all parties.

C. C. Dugan, Neoga, Ill.—It affords me pleasure to sign the enclosed pledge, embracing as it does the fundamental principle of democracy and good government.

C. F. Michael, Bristol, Conn.—Enclosed please find primary pledge which I am only too glad and willing to fill out, and the plan I heartily endorse, for at the primary meetings is the only place where the individual influence is felt. If the voter does not attend his party primaries, then he has no good reason for finding fault if its candidates and platform are not what he would wish them to be.

C. W. McAtee, Platteville, Wis.—Please enroll my name on your primary pledge list. Am in hearty sympathy with any movement to keep the forces of true democracy organized.

J. N. Campbell, Fullerton, Neb.—The pledge plan given in last issue of The Commoner is a good one to start on. Every democrat should take that pledge and keep it and there would be no boss rule nor corporation schemes to divert the attention of the party from its ideal. Its councils would be dominated by the rank and file. I enclose my pledge.

A. B. Moore, Scioto, Ohio.—Your primary pledge, if taken by democrats generally, will be a powerful factor in harmonizing the party and warranting the triumph of true democracy. In the meantime, however, we should look after our boys by forming permanent clubs where they can attend and hear all political issues discussed, pro and con, for their civil education. We were thus educated during the "Log Cabin" campaign of 1840. Now there are many boys who will become voters by 1908, some of whom, without this education, will "go it blind."

F. M. Dyer, Platteville, Wis.—Please place my name on the list of those pledged to attend primary meetings as suggested in last issue of Commoner. Put my name as near the top as possible and keep it there. I've been doing just that kind of work amid the discouragements of defeat for twenty years. I believe real democrats will be grateful to The Commoner for thus offering a chance to focus their efforts. I venture to say the roster of names you will get will be that of the Old Guard who have not swerved from what they new to be right.

Willa Viley, Lexington, Ky.—I send you a primary pledge signed by myself and Jas. P. Allen do that every democrat in the country ought to attend to it. May The Commoner grow and exert its democratic influence until every true democracy becomes a subscriber and a friend. With the hearty wish of your sincere