

held down by Senator Douglas will not be disputed, and is shown to have saved the taxpayers of Illinois nearly \$23,000,000 in fifty years. Since 1855 the government has given away millions of acres of lands in aid of the construction of railroads, but the taxpayers of the states have received nothing for the franchises. Had the precedent set by Douglas been followed millions of taxpayers would have been benefited. The Illinois Central is one of the most prosperous railways in the country, notwithstanding it pays in perpetuity for the privileges granted by the state fifty years ago."

RECENTLY the Chicago Tribune called upon the leading newspaper editors of Europe for their views on the acceptability of President Roosevelt, as war mediator between Russia and Japan. The responses were, of course, interesting. The editor of the Osservatore Romano called: "Regret not to be able to express an opinion." The editor of the London Express was a bit more explicit, saying: "President Roosevelt would be eminently acceptable to Englishmen, but I doubt if other powers would view his appointment sympathetically, owing to his undoubted pro-Japanese views."

THE editor of LeMatin, under date of Paris, says: "France ardently hopes that peace will be re-established—first, in the interest of civilization and then in that of Russia. If President Roosevelt agrees to take the role of mediator and succeeded in his task he would merit the gratitude of all the human race."

UNDER date of Vienna the opinion is expressed by the editor of the Neue Freie Presse that "public opinion in Austria, and of the Freie Presse especially, which entertains the warmest feelings of sympathy for President Roosevelt, would receive the news with joy that the distinguished president of the United States has by his intervention succeeded in freeing the world of a disastrous war."

UNDER date of Berlin it is said: "The deplorable affair is one in which Germany has no share and can express no opinion," and then appended to this "clear-as-mud" opinion is the ponderous signature, "Runge, Editor-in-Chief, Norddeutscher Allgemeine Zeitung."

ALFRED HARMSWORTH, editor of the London Daily Mail, says: "President Roosevelt would be the ideal mediator by reason of his great judgment, knowledge, and breadth of mind; but I doubt whether any American or Englishman would be acceptable to Russia."

THE editor of the Paris Le Figaro says: "I do not know if Russia and Japan will confer upon President Roosevelt this magnificent role, but certainly no one could fill it with more prestige and more authority."

THE editor of Berlin's Lokal Anzeiger says: "Germany rejoices over the prospect of peace. The chivalrous and energetic character of President Roosevelt offers ample guarantee for

a speedy and fair settlement. I believe him the right man in the right place and equal to the task."

PERHAPS the editor of the Novoye Vremya at St. Petersburg, found a censor looking over his shoulder when he wired: "Now peace is impossible. Mediation, even by President Roosevelt, would offend opinion. If Russia warrants liberty of commerce in the far east the United States is interested in the continuation of the struggle. Japan victories would be a terrible blow to your industry."

THE editor of the Berliner Tageblatt seemed not to hesitate when he said: "We consider Roosevelt because of his independence and energy is the predestined intermediary. We believe his initiative would be welcomed by the czar and the mikado if they have any inclination for peace, which is doubtful as to the latter."

PROBABLY the longest name that ever dazed a printer, according to a writer in the Cleveland Plain Dealer was appended to a letter received recently by Governor Carter of Hawaii. The writer urged that the "crown lands" be not given to ex-Queen Liliuokalani. The letter winds up in this fashion: "I am the Hawaiian woman that hoisted the American flag when the Hawaiian flag was lowered, and I was the one who made a speech at the time the judge sailed on the Alameda last year. I am yours, Kaananamokauea-haikuikawaikamookahi Keamokuhalepohai."

GOOD WORK WELL UNDER WAY

(Continued from page three.)

M. W. McFall, Elgin, Idaho.—Let the good work go on. If every reader of The Commoner will jump in and drill, we will win in 1908 and do so honorably. Am in strict accord with Mr. Bryan's views in respect to party organization.

W. F. Huffman, Lewiston, Ill.—Enclosed find primary pledge. I will do all that I can to further the principles of democracy. I endorse all The Commoner is doing.

C. W. Halstead, Ashley, Ill.—I want to be enrolled in the good work as a genuine Bryan democrat. Am glad so many democrats as well as republicans are getting their eyes open and thinking caps on and are going to end what they themselves have been doing, voting for men that favor monopoly and trusts.

Fred R. Mathews, Brooklyn, Ohio.—Enclosed please find my primary pledge which I am very much pleased to subscribe my name to. I am very much in favor of the plan as outlined in your editorial and shall give it my hearty support. I think it will be a great help in getting the better class of our democratic citizens interested in our primary elections, thereby eliminating the possibility of our being represented in conventions and offices by men who are unfit and wholly unqualified to subserve the interests of the people and the democratic party.

Calvin Page, White Hall, Ill.—Enclosed please find primary pledge which I was glad and willing to fill out and I heartily endorse your plan. I believe the primary the place for all democrats to use their influence for the betterment of politics.

E. Brown, Minerva, Mo.—We use the democratic primary system in Missouri and the republicans use the republican convention to make nominations. I believe in the primary systems very much, but I believe that the primary laws should be made very binding.

J. W. Bridenthal, Wymore, Neb.—In addition to the above pledge I wish to say that for nearly fifty years I have made a special business to attend all the primaries of the democratic party. My motto always has been, "Help make the ticket and then support it loyally."

C. D. McClellan, Washington, Iowa.—Inclosed find three pledges of voters of the first ward; a majority of the voters of this ward have been true to the principles of the Chicago and Kansas City platforms.

J. M. Scott, Marion, Ind.—I send you the primary pledge signed. I am with you first, last and all the time, and may God give you strength to keep you in your good work.

W. C. Bartley, Willow Springs, Mo.—Please enroll my name as one who will stand by democracy as advocated by The Commoner. Let us have pure and undefiled democracy. I am a minister of the Gospel of Christ. He was a true democrat.

J. F. Eddleman, Boom, Texas.—I heartily en-

dorse the primary pledge plan and inclose the pledge signed up. All we need in Texas is something to awake us from a state of lethargy, as we haven't opposition enough to cause us to take the interest in politics that we ought. "Long live the Chicago and Kansas City platforms."

P. Rogers, Milroy, Ind.—I heartily endorse the primary pledge. Every citizen should be interested in good government. It seems that the average citizen takes no interest in meetings until after the candidates are named that gives the bunco steerer and his crowd the opportunity to get in their work. Watch and work from now on.

Webster Enrich, Germantown, Ohio.—I am heartily in favor of the primary pledge plan; it is something that should meet the approval of every true and loyal democrat who believes in those sacred democratic principles and doctrines, equal rights to all and special privileges to none. I shall endeavor to get you some more names. I herewith enclose two pledges, my father and myself. May the editor and his paper be crowned with success.

John Shimp, Springfield, Mo.—Please find enclosed my pledge for I think that is just what we have been needing. I was one who tried to get the people to go to the primaries for the past twenty years. I am one of those old-timers who have been working for democracy for many years. My first vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln. God bless The Commoner and the editor.

Henry Tinker, Siloam Springs, Ark.—I approve of your plan as outlined in The Commoner and take this opportunity of sending you my pledge. I hope your plan may be a success. If I had the proper blanks, I could get plenty of democrats to sign the pledge, at this place. I am a Jefferson, Jackson, Bryan democrat.

John J. Scott, Galatia, Ill.—I want a part in this work, so here is my pledge. With pleasure, I join hands with the great common people through the columns of The Commoner, in helping to marshal together the laboring men of our nation into the democratic fold.

E. L. Williford, Richmond, Mo.—I enclose the primary pledge. Am glad to see the people waking to the necessity of some changes in present conditions. It is gratifying to see the democratic platform of 1896, being partially realized, if not by democrats in power. I still think, however the people of the United States missed the opportunity when the democratic platform of 1896 was defeated.

Bert Vandercar, Tefft, Ind.—I am glad that you are beginning the organization of the party at this time, because it shows that you and those who are in accord with the principles that you represent, are anxious that the party shall be more than a negative quantity, in the campaign of 1908.

Dan Vanlone, Gloversville, N. Y.—I do not want to be left out in the cold. Please accept of what little I can do as I heartily endorse the plan of organization.

A. J. Hanlon, Garfield, N. J.—I am well pleased with your plan of organization and hope and trust that it will bring the democratic party to victory in 1908.

W. E. Plunger, Seven Fountains, Va.—Your plan of organizing the democratic party has my heartfelt support. I have always regarded the primary as the basis or foundation for acting out our liberty, because it is there that every true democrat can speak for himself. But when we fail to participate in the primary, we practically close the door of liberty against ourselves and good government, so far as our actions and influence are concerned.

John P. Gavin, Bennington, Vt.—Please find enclosed signed Primary Pledge. Believing the only way true democracy can be represented in national conventions is to attend the local primaries and see to it that only true democrats are elected to the state conventions, and if instructions are necessary send no delegate that refuses to be instructed, and in this way the majority will be represented at the national convention. Being secretary of the First Congressional district committee of Vermont and also of the town committee of Bennington, Vt., I will do all in my power to have all democrats attend the primaries. Believe your plan an excellent one, and wish you success.

Lee B. Mills, St. Louis, Mo.—I am enclosing pledge herewith. If every democrat, loyal to the cause, will act as per your suggestion in this work, we will win in 1908 sure.

Bryan & Volk, Shelby, Mo.—We are very much in sympathy with your efforts to organize the democrat party for 1908. Will promise to use what little influence we have.

Fletcher Davis, Amity, Ark.—I think the pledge plan a good one. If each man who is interested will go up against the real thing in his neighborhood or town, I know the democrats will be in better shape for the next landslide in 1908, if this plan be carried out.

Wm. P. Gregg, Pt. Jervis, N. Y.—Enclosed find primary pledge. You are doing good work.

G. P. Waller, Lenoir City, Tenn.—I believe strongly in your primary pledge.

G. W. Deahl, Arlie, Texas.—You will find enclosed Primary Pledge signed.

T. E. Campbell, Big Sandy, Tex.—Mr. Bryan's call to organize has been reproduced, and favorably commented on. I will say that we are thoroughly in accord with this move, and will render the organization all help possible.

T. J. Sluder, Waco, Tex.—I enclose you the primary pledge clipped from your paper. If the daily press of the country would work as faithfully for the cause of democracy as The Commoner is doing, it would be an easy matter to organize the party for the campaign of 1908. Best wishes for your paper, the manager and the cause of democracy.