

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

(Continued from Page 9.)

State Com. for Michigan; also editor of the *Clare Courier*.—Herewith I hand you primary pledge. The work you are doing to bring the democratic party to a full realization of its duties and responsibilities to the people is deserving of the highest commendation.

J. V. Pearsoll, Douglass, Ariz.—Enclosed herewith please find primary pledge with 20 signatures. As some of the names, as written, are a little illegible, I list them below in the order that they are signed. All of these gentlemen are resident of Douglas, Cochise county, Ariz.

James P. Cadman, Late Captain Eleventh Regiment Michigan Volunteer Cavalry, Chicago.—In subscribing to the enclosed pledge to attend future primaries of the democratic party I have ceased to consider myself a silver republican and thereby proclaim myself for the first time in my life a member of the democratic party. Between the time of the St. Louis convention and the presidential election last fall I favored the promotion of a third party, and accordingly I voted for Mr. Watson in order to emphasize that idea. The overwhelming defeat of Judge Parker, through his failure to retain the voters who in the previous campaigns had followed you, and consequently the assured future control of the democratic party by those of its members who believe in fundamental policies have in my judgment rendered unnecessary the formation of a third party. I favor the nationalization of all public utilities, such as railroads, telegraphs, telephones, etc., and the appropriation for public use of all site values.

John D. Dillon, Fifth Ward, Sioux City, Iowa.—I am one of the blue-overalls fellows and I live in the Fifth ward, the blue overalls ward of the city. I was a democrat a long time before we lost Missouri. I believe we should not keep the principles of the declaration of independence from any man, that the flag and the constitution go together and I am opposed to any course toward any people that makes the name of George Washington a joke. Notwithstanding Garfield's report, I favor control of the trusts and the government ownership of public utilities. And to advance the above principles, I enclose my pledge to attend every democratic primary until 1908, and so long as Billy Bryan calls I shall know no such word as retreat or defeat.

Robert L. Hancock, Cashion, Okla.—Enclosed please find primary pledge which I take pleasure in signing. I think it a good time for the democrats to begin to get an organization in shape for the next campaign, as there are questions of vital interest to the people to be met and dealt with in the near future. The democratic party should try and be found on the side of the right on all questions when the welfare of the great common people is in the balance. I will send other primary pledges later as this is a farming community and people are very busy at present. When statehood comes to the people of this territory Oklahoma will be found safely democratic.

John W. Leber, Ephrata, Pa.—Enclosed find list of twenty Jeffersonian democrats, men who had been tried and were not found wanting. Had I the spare time, could get you scores of them, but most all of my time is devoted to the mercantile business.

George Cummins, Treasurer Dem. Com. for Summitt Co., Akron, O.—

I am always willing to help the cause of true democracy so enclosed find pledge. Your plan is a good one and I think will have the desired result.

Ellwood, S. Jones, Rising City, Neb.—Enclosed herewith find pledge with names. Please permit me to say that I like your method and I hope and believe much good may come from it.

Henry C. Bell, Potosi, Mo.—Believing that an honest straightforward declaration of the democratic party can be had by attending the primaries, and there lay a firm foundation for the party's position on every question to embody within the party's platform, it is with pleasure that I sign the primary pledge. It is in the primaries that the people talk.

N. P. Barclay, Marfa, Tex.—I gladly join the earnest force of democrats who hail your suggestion to organize now as a wise and timely move. I hope that in addition to attending primaries they will also instruct as to main issues of platform, and where possible on all questions. Delegates cannot then trade for personal advantage. I have never voted for a republican even from constable to president, nor scratched but one ticket, and that was the Parker electors. I did that as I thought for my party's and my country's good. The intended rebuke of the silent man has begun to bear rich fruit in the present awakening. When I believe that such a platform and candidate as the St. Louis convention gave is the earnest wish of the democratic party I will support it; or quit the party for good. Judge Parker's recent speech shows no repentance and is a timely warning that should decide the question of signing the pledge for all democrats just as it did for me. I live in so sparsely settled a portion of a strong democratic state that I can have but little influence even in state politics. With the pledge you have my name and services tendered for the best I can do, however.

Frank Manning, Sacred Heart, Okla. T.—Herewith find primary pledge, the conditions of which I intend to strictly observe. I further pledge myself in case congress fails to pass a suitable law regulating railway traffic before the next national convention, to favor a plank in the national platform declaring for public ownership of all railroads in connection with which the laws are being violated. I am from Nebraska, and used to be opposed to public ownership of railways and thought that a great many of the people there were cranks. But I realize since I have been in the Territory that cranks are necessary to keep the grindstone revolving. I have been voting the democratic ticket for about thirty years and hope to continue for thirty years more.

S. M. McFarlane, Broadland, S. D.—Enclosed find primary pledge; also that of my son, C. S. McFarlane. It is not necessary that I shall sign a pledge. I am now 68 years old, and I have always attended the primaries, and voted the ticket; twice during the time it was a bitter dose, especially Horace Greeley, but I am a Jefferson democrat to the backbone.

Daniel Brummett, Hughesville, Mo.—Please find primary pledge signed by twenty good democrats; all approve of the plan laid down by The Commoner. Please send me another blank and I will try to have it filled. I want to try to do my part in the work.

Herbert L. Johnston, Philadelphia, Pa.—Allow me to add my name to those in favor of your primary pledge, although I fear it means but little here in Pennsylvania, where so-called democratic leaders are so "safe, sane and conservative" that they are fearful of doing anything that would affect the interests of the republican machine. The whole political machinery

of the state is controlled, to a great degree, by the Pennsylvania Railroad company's distribution of free transportation aggregating over one million dollars annually, which is no pipe dream. The private opinion of the late Senator Quay that a republican form of government is a failure and that these United States could be best governed as an empire is well known among those who were his most intimate associates during his life. His evil influence lives after him, and is apparent today in Pennsylvania where a representative government no longer exists. We are in control of a political despotism more intolerable than that of Russia and our people appear to be equally as helpless as the peasants of the czar. Look at our rotten legislature, controlled by Penrose, mocking the electors who voted them into power; look at the sublimely ridiculous Pennypacker cringing at the feet of corrupt bosses with the hope of a supreme judgeship and apologizing in quaint rhetoric for the crimes of the most notorious gang of political scoundrels outside of a penitentiary; and then look at poor old Philadelphia lying prostrate, humbled and disgraced beneath the heel of "Iz" Durham, backed by Thomas Dolan of the U. G. I., whose councilmen tried to steal the city gas works in broad daylight, and spat in the faces of respectable citizens who dared to remonstrate against the outrage. But when election day comes around again all will be forgotten and the slaves will vote back into power the entire gang for fear of impairing the "national honor" or disturbing "prosperity" by doing otherwise.

S. Gordon, St. Claire, Former Pres. Jeffersonian Dem. Club, Scottdale, Pa.—Enclosed find signed primary pledge. Our primary elections in the past have been notoriously corrupt, but I hardly think it will be again attempted at the primary election to be held in June. Corruption has heretofore been excused on the grounds that the republican primaries are considerably more so, as if a thousand wrongs would take the place of right. When a sufficient number of Westmoreland democrats become interested in their primaries, corruption and intimidation will cease, they should be clean, they are all important. Should the primaries name the next standard bearer, I could readily mention his name. It would send a thrill of enthusiasm through every real democrat in the country. Victory would be emblazoned on our banner. Reorganization is not necessary, rouse the one who has become pessimistic regarding our future. We have the candidates. Our principles are not merely palliatives; they are genuine curatives. Let us forget there was a Cleveland, Hill, republican-democratic candidate by the name of Parker. We know what we want and with your help, Mr. Editor, we will have it. The democracy of Thomas Jefferson, and of Henry George, and of W. J. Bryan must triumph.

Grafton Sharver, Pomery, Wash.—I am amazed at the responses to the primary pledge proposition, which come pouring in from all parts of the country—even the enemy's country. The circulation of *The Commoner* must be the cause of the New York World's nightmare, for it is certainly so that the influence of *The Commoner* for the cause whose premises are "right" and "justice" and "sincerity" is far greater than that of the World, or that it can ever hope to be. Judge Parker was a bitter pill for us, but I voted for him because I merely considered him the lesser of two evils, but 200 of the 500 Garfield county democrats remembered the treachery of 1896-1900. Even yet the judge would nauseate us with "fads," but his fad failed to produce the necessary number of votes and we remember too, that "he could win." The government ownership of public utilities agitation

is bearing fruit and as the voters come more and more to understand that this agitation is not socialistic, but to do away with the corruption of our legislatures and the miscarriage of justice in our courts, they become more and more pronounced in their views and more and more set in their determination to vote for those men and those measures which mean to most of them, their families and their coming generations. The democratic party is primarily the poor man's party. Is it now? By the eternal and the help of these pledge signers, the old wreck will become rehabilitated and once more it will be our proud boast that it is an honest man's party. We dealt fairly with them in '96-1900—they did not deal fair with us in 1904. The traitors will have to hunt new pastures; the trickster will have to take a seat in the gallery and look on. Enclosed is my pledge. It does our hungry souls good to browse on the pungent paragraphs contributed by the hundreds of "associate editors" from the length and breadth of this grand old land of ours. We are not iconoclasts. We are not anarchists.

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