

EDITORIALS BY COMMONER READERS

F. R. Hurley, Rodney, Miss.—The primary pledge received. Having circulated one pledge in my immediate neighborhood, it will take a little longer to get same filled out. I will return same as soon as filled. You can send me a few copies of The Commoner for distribution. I am and always have been a democrat and am glad to assist any way in building up same.

Jerry Smith, Voleda, Kas.—Find enclosed primary pledge. I heartily endorse your plan. What the people of Kansas need is more good sound democratic literature. I will do what I can to organize the forces in this township.

William E. Dorson, Gowanda, N. Y.—Enclosed please find my primary pledge. I sincerely endorse the plan of attending all primaries as it is the only way in which we can nominate candidates who will represent the people.

Eugene C. Wells, Waterville, Vermont.—I herewith enclose 23 names of good old Jeffersonian democrats. This is a strong republican state, but what few democrats we have are true to democratic principles and can be depended upon to attend all primaries.

F. Davidson, Charleston, W. Va.—Find enclosed primary pledge duly signed. To say that I am in sympathy with the movement is expressing it mildly. I have always been an admirer of Mr. Bryan, having lost a job on account of my youthful exuberance for him in 1896. I cast my first vote for Mr. Parker, not that he suited me, but voted for him on the theory that a bad beginning often makes a good ending, and think it will hold good in this instance, as I think in 1908 I will be allowed to vote for a democrat upon a democratic platform and not for a republican upon a republican platform veneered over with a thin coating of democratic doctrine. Send me twenty-five primary blanks.

Omer Summars, Huntington, Ind.—Enclosed find primary pledge blank. Have been too busy to make a special canvas, but have gotten these signers just as I have happened to meet them. Wish I had more time to devote to the cause as I am heartily in sympathy with the work you are doing.

George P. Olmstead, Allachua, Fla.—I gladly enclose primary pledge signed. I have never taken any stock, or bonds either for that matter, in this so-called reform movement led by would-be democrats. I go not so near Wall street to get my brand of democracy and whenever that plutocratic element leads I refuse to be led. Their interests are not mine and all efforts to convince me will be time lost. The sooner the southern and western voter breaks away from and ceases to be fooled by Belmont, Parker and their followers the sooner they will be relieved of the burdens we are now loaded down with. Wall street has retarded the south's progress for half a century, while the south has contributed to Wall street's financial successful robbing. Note the Equitable scandal and reckon for one minute the thousands of dollars the south and west have contributed to make this greatest of all insurance scandals possible, while had each state have had their own insurance companies all this would have been saved. You deserve and should have success with your splendid primary plan. May it prove so.

J. A. Gilkey, Corvallis, Ore.—I take pleasure in sending you a signed primary pledge. So long as the stars

and stripes float over possessions which are deprived of the privileges and immunities of the constitution and are by force, made unwilling subjects there is work for democracy. So long as there exists a trust—the creature of special privilege, monopolizing natural opportunities which belong to all, absorbing the wealth that others have created, destroying competition and impoverishing the masses, the hands of democracy must not be idle. The party of Jefferson of Jackson, and of Bryan must win, or self-government is a failure; but it will win. The spirit of democracy is not dead, the good work you are doing will arouse it to new life and activity. May the God of nations hasten the day of its triumph.

Guy M. Stealey, Buford, Colo.—Enclosed find primary pledge. I think you have solved the problem of the organization of the democratic rank and file. Your plan is based on the dictum of the wisest of our philosophers that if everyone would but reform himself, there would be no evil in the world to right. The democrats are in the majority today, as they have been for years past, but repeated failures to reform the democratic party as a whole have discouraged at least a third of them. Yet they are to blame for this state of affairs; they do not "reform" themselves. They know how the government should be maintained, they discuss the various reforms—and "they then neglect to vote!" My vote does not count for much, anyway, is an oft-heard expression at election time. It needs but little reflection to see that to this very fact—this erroneous reasoning—is due the failure of the democratic party. "My vote doesn't count," and there are scores of these "doesn't count" votes in every precinct, hundreds in every county, thousands in every state in the union. Add these thousands and thousands of votes, and the total would elect a democratic president by a large majority. When these voters realize that while individually they are weak, yet that collectively they possess a mighty power, then democracy will win. Let every democrat in the land sign the pledge, and be ready to join the ranks of the great army that will march to the polls in 1908 to battle for their rights, their principles and the honor of their country.

H. B. Hopkins, San Francisco, Cal.

—Enclosed please find an additional lot of primary pledges, which the writer takes pleasure in sending to The Commoner. Please send me five more blank lists like the one enclosed. Mr. Bryan, it is a source of great satisfaction to your friends to see the overwhelming interest manifested in the primary pledges, in all parts of the country. When you sounded the bugle call on March 17, 1905, "get back to the people," it struck a responsive chord in the hearts of the masses, which is shown by the eagerness with which they have taken up the work of securing primary pledges; and the confidence which democrats everywhere express, regarding the campaign of 1908. It is certainly gratifying to note the satisfaction expressed on the part of democrats in every state, that the principles of Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan are those which will be adhered to, in connection with the efforts which they shall put forth from now, until the close of the democratic national convention in 1908. After the St. Louis convention, they told us the democratic party was dead; and today we see in every state in the union, such an awakening that has not been equaled in the recollection of the present generation. What does it mean? It means that when the democratic party stands for democratic principles, that the people will support it, and will not support "republican party principles" under the guise of democracy. The masses are becoming aroused in connection with the existing conditions; as they behold Secretary Taft and President Roosevelt, admitting the great injustice the tariff is working, wherein they have admitted that they are able to save 50 per cent by purchasing abroad, supplies which will be required in connection with the construction of the Panama canal, which admission has shaken the republican party from center to circumference. The writer is persuaded that we see the hand writing on the wall, warning "Plutocracy to beware," and likewise trusts to "keep their hands off the throats of the people," and for railroads to "discontinue their discriminations." The writer is also impressed that all true democrats throughout the country heartily endorse your expressions in regard to state and government ownership of state and interstate railroads. May

God bless you in the great work which you are engaged in, and you may depend upon it, that the people are with you.

Harvey W. Jones, Magness, Ky.—Herewith is the primary pledge signed and filled out properly otherwise. I have always attended the primary elections of my party and shall continue to do so, for I fully realize that if the people—the common people—ever have "equal rights" with the capitalist and plutocratic element it will come through the final triumph of the eternal principles of the Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan democracy.

J. N. O'Neal, Murillo, Ark.—I think you are publishing one of the best papers ever published. I call it an educator, and think every young man, regardless of political differences, should read it. I send in more pledges, most of which occurs in my own hand writing, but I have been given authority. I will do some work for your paper by the last of August. I think it will be an easy matter to send you as many as twelve subscribers by that time. I am ever ready to assist in getting democracy "back to the people."

J. W. Hickman, "an old one-legged confederate private." Lamothe, La.—I enclose primary pledge which I wanted to do at the very first mention made of signing such a pledge. I never have failed to attend my party's primaries, but hesitated in signing The Commoner's pledge for the reason that when I attend the primary I feel that I must support the nominee with my vote, and whatever influence I may be able to control. I am not going to be trapped into voting for a candidate nominated who has only a few democratic principles, because it is thought he may be elected. I hold myself free to vote out and out for Bryan democracy of 1896 and 1900. I can't be reorganized any more.

W. J. Reid, Sheridan, Ark.—I enclose 35 pledges. I am glad to help in any way I can. I will send you names that may become subscribers to The Commoner: V. L. Reid, Pansy, Ark.; R. C. Reid, Twelfth and Morton, Little Rock, Ark.; Nolin Clinton, Edgemore, S. C.; J. A. Brown, Blithesville, Ark. I will try and send in more names soon.

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

I promise to attend all the primaries of my party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to use my influence to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak.

Signed.....

Street..... Postoffice..... State.....

County..... Voting precinct or ward.....

Fill out blanks and mail to Commoner Office, Lincoln, Neb.