

ENCOURAGEMENT TO THOSE WHO LOSE HOPE

Many of the letters received at The Commoner office with respect to the primary pledge plan are written by men who have grown gray in the service of the democratic party. In many instances men of sixty-five, seventy and seventy-five years of age have taken the trouble to circulate the primary pledge, and in some instances men who have passed the eighty-year mark have actively interested themselves in this work. These aged warriors have set a good example to their younger colleagues. A very little effort on the part of every reader of The Commoner will result in adding many names to the primary pledge roll. The extracts from letters printed in The Commoner provide great encouragement to those who have lost hope.

Congressman J. Thomas Heflin, writing from LaFayette, Alabama, says:—"I have read with a great deal of pleasure your timely suggestion upon the duty and necessity of democrats attending the party primaries, and I heartily endorse the plan. Great good will come from this movement. I have signed The Commoner's primary pledge."

Every reader is urged to lend a hand in this work of organization. The work is progressing at a gratifying rate, but the field is such a large one that it will be necessary for every democrat who can do so to actively interest himself in the movement. Don't withhold your pledge because you always attend primaries. You can help the work by setting a good example for your careless colleague. Send in your own pledge. Then ask your neighbor to sign. It will require time to cover the entire field, but if democrats co-operate, the desired result will be accomplished. Every democrat is asked to pledge himself to attend all of the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to secure a clear, honest and straight-forward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak. Those desiring to be enrolled can either write to The Commoner approving the object of the organization and asking to have their names entered on the roll, or they can fill out and mail the blank pledge, which is printed on page 9.

Extracts from letters to The Commoner follow:

W. F. Sapp, chairman democratic state committee, Topeka, Kansas.—Enclosed find five primary pledges.

A. H. Bellinger, Gloversville, N. Y.—I send you twenty-four primary pledges.

J. W. Hill, Peoria, Ill.—Enclosed find eleven primary pledges.

C. W. Yedder, Gloversville, N. Y.—I enclose twenty pledges.

G. E. Dingman, Evanston, Ill.—I enclose twelve primary pledges.

M. O. Wekal, Huron, Ohio.—I send you twenty primary pledges.

M. V. Sheldon, McCook, Nebr.—Enclosed you will find twenty primary pledges.

G. O. Walker, Rochester, N. H.—Enclosed find primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

T. C. Waite, Myrtle, Ark.—I herewith hand you sixteen signatures to primary pledge.

George H. Hunter, Waterproof, La.—You will find enclosed fifty signatures to the primary pledge. I assure you that every one of these men will work for the success of true democracy.

Thomas H. Harbour, Hurricane, W. Va.—I beg leave to hand you twenty signatures to the primary pledge.

J. L. Kennedy, Brooklyn, N. Y.—I enclose seven primary pledges.

Harold H. Houghton, N. Manchester, Ind.—Enclosed please find twenty signatures to the primary pledge.

Jno. Mourey, Catawissa, Pa.—I send you primary pledge signed by thirty-five democrats.

Jno. Mourey, Catawissa, Pa.—I send you twenty signatures to the primary pledge. Every good democrat who has the interest in his party and good government at heart should endorse this plan.

E. M. Cooper, Clinton, Mo.—Enclosed find fifteen primary pledges.

John Beaver, Avondale, O.—After my next birthday I will be in my eightieth year, so you will infer that I cannot do a great deal to help you, but I will always do what I can. I wish you every success, and hope that through your influence the party may yet be put upon a solid basis.

Granville Canterbury, Red Sulphur Springs, W. Va.—I send you thirty-five pledges.

A. M. McBride, Ava, Ill.—You will find the names of twenty on this pledge. I sent you twenty names

sometime ago. I am seventy-three years old. I have voted the democratic ticket ever since I was old enough to vote. I think this is the best a democrat can do. Send me another blank. I will try to have it filled out. Best wishes for The Commoner.

N. M. Murdock, Miami, Fla.—Enclosed find my primary pledge. It is a good idea, an agreement to do something. Nothing succeeds like success. You put the cookies on the lower shelf where all the children can reach. I like to be associated with enterprise where there is progress—where things are being accomplished. Ninety-nine democrats out of one hundred are sure to be pleased with the primary pledge plan. It has aroused an interest that is increasing with each number from California to Florida. All along The Commoner's tow line is grasped and a sturdy pull will land the titl wave of equal rights over our beloved country in 1908.

E. W. Lee, Tintah, Minn.—I enclose with pleasure my primary pledge. I have taken The Commoner since it started and am as well pleased with it now as ever, as it has never swerved from the straight path of duty. Today W. J. Bryan has without doubt a greater hold on the minds of the unprejudiced and thinking people of this nation than ever before. The Commoner has had no small share in bringing about the investigation of the methods of the different unlawful combines of this country. Mr. Bryan's article in the July 7 Commoner entitled "The Real Defenders of Property" is alone worth the subscription price for several years, and the cartoon "Whip the Horse" in the same issue is very suggestive. Mr. Roosevelt himself ought not to object to it, as he at the beginning of his administration advocated "publicity" as a remedy for evil practices.

James H. Carroll, Spring Garden, Ill.—Enclosed find forty-one names to the primary pledge. If I had time I could get every democrat in Jefferson county to sign this pledge. I haven't asked a single man who refused. They seem to think the plan is just the thing, and furthermore the democrats in Jefferson county are very hungry for Bryan food. We consider the plan to be the only food we have had since the Kansas City platform, for we have gone from one thousand

majority in 1896 to complete defeat in 1904 in this county. I believe with a genuine democrat at the head of our ticket Jefferson county would roll up the same one thousand majority.

C. W. Goode, Waynesboro, Pa.—I am an admirer of the primary pledge plan.

James Allen, Fontana, Kans.—I am going to send in the oldest name on your roll. I am doing this at his request. He will be ninety-one September 20, 1905. He is an old wheel horse, and never voted the republican ticket in his life. He says he hopes to live to vote for a democrat in 1908. He was in Kansas when "Little Mac" ran for president. His son Rob, takes The Commoner. He drives to town four miles, sometimes rides horseback. I am getting primary pledge signatures. Will send them in in a little while. The name of this old wheel horse is Michael Allen.

J. Sam Gosney, South Omaha, Neb.—I herewith enclose my primary pledge just to help the cause along. I have always attended my party's primaries as I have always considered that to be my duty as a democrat. The Commoner is doing much to educate the people to protect themselves against further encroachments upon their personal liberties by powerful corporations and trusts which are daily increasing instead of diminishing. You know where I stand. Long may The Commoner live to spread broadcast among the people the principles of Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan.

H. V. Best, Gloversville, N. Y.—Please find enclosed forty names to the primary pledge. I also add my name to your army of true democrats, which I trust will grow to such an extent that it will lead us to victory in 1908. In my election district everything is overwhelmingly republican, but that has not shaken my belief in democratic principles. I would rather be in the minority than be with a party that gains its victories with campaign funds furnished by the trusts. Please send me some more primary pledge blanks.

D. R. Francis, Columbus, Nebr.—You will find enclosed my primary pledge. I endorse the plan.

James R. Crofoot, Wayland, Mich.—Enclosed find primary pledge which I cheerfully sign. I had intended to send the pledge a long time ago, but have been very busy. I know of no better time to sign the pladge than on the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. We wish to thank Mr. Bryan for the good work he is doing in the cause of humanity, and we hope to see the principles for which he contends win in the near future. I wish The Commoner success in the good work it is doing.

Jesse W. Porter, Hardy, Ark.—Enclosed is my primary pledge. We are sick of rings and cliques. If we had spoken at the primaries Parker never would have been the nominee. I fully believe in the principles of democracy which represent the will and voice of the people expressed at the primaries.

H. M. Payne, Hamburg, Ia.—Circumstances prevented my doing this work at once, but when I did get a day off I found the boys alive and the work easy. Thirty-five of them cheerfully signed, and they mean it. Please send me another blank and I will return it with as many names as possible from other fields, where I shall be for the next two weeks. Best wishes to The Commoner and its editor.

R. H. Beauchamp, Santa Cruz, Calif.

—Please find enclosed signers to the primary pledge. We are all citizens of Santa Cruz except one. I was sick when I received the blank from you, and mislaid it, but have cut a pledge out of my paper—hope it will do. Best wishes for The Commoner and its friends.

P. H. Schroeder, Lake Andes, S. D.—Please find enclosed primary pledge, signed by me. All democrats should sign it, as it surely has a tendency to make a stronger party and without doubt will roll out a much larger vote in 1908 than would be the case without it.

J. E. Venard, Wilmington, O.—I herewith send you a list of eleven names, all of democrats who believe in true democracy. Although there are but eighteen or twenty of us in this precinct we expect to do our share or a little more in the work of reform.

L. R. Traylor, Coffeen, Ill.—The democrats of this place are in favor of this movement.

F. M. Hall, Mehawa, Oregon.—I enclose herewith the primary pledge signed. There are very few democrats in this precinct. I began voting the democratic ticket in 1856 by voting for James Buchanan.

A. Kern, Crestline, O.—Enclosed find primary pledge. Keep the good work up. I am a Bryan democrat and don't you forget it. In old Crawford county there are many more.

David Cooper, Manson, Tenn.—I enclose my name and seven others to your primary pledge. I heartily endorse the free silver plank of 1900. I voted for W. J. Bryan in 1906 and 1900.

K. K. Harrison, Fence, Wis.—Enclosed please find primary pledge from one of your friends.

A. P. Harmon, Neal, Kan.—I feel it my duty, as well as pleasure, to write you in support of your primary pledge plan. The next day after I received your letter I was thrown from a horse and badly crippled. As I am getting old—I will be seventy-five in August—this is the excuse for delay in getting signers. I want to see this good work go on, and will do all I can for the good cause. My first vote for president was for Franklin Pierce. I am doing all I can for this cause. I attend all the primaries and work for the election of good men as delegates.

M. J. Steele, Steele Idaho.—I herewith enclose my primary pledge. I heartily endorse the plan and shall do all in my power to assist in the good work. I have been an earnest worker in the democratic ranks for thirty years and expect to remain there as long as "W. J." leads.

George H. Thompson, Lake, Ind.—Please find enclosed primary pledge. As I haven't seen anything from democrats of our precinct I feel it is time we get to work to push Mr. Bryan's great plan of organization. We're Bryan democrats first, last and all the time. Send me a lot of primary pledges and I will do all I can to forward the plan.

David Stoner, Rockford, O.—I have been a subscriber to The Commoner ever since its publication, and have never regretted it. I supported its editor both times he has been a candidate. I am in my seventy-first year. I have one request to make. I will ask you to have the advertisement you have in the paper about the Enquirer and Commoner removed. I have taken the Enquirer a great many years, but have always doubted his democracy, and now that he has left the party entirely I am glad. You will find the pledge signed and the names that are on it are true blue