

# GRAY HAired DEMOCRATS SET GOOD EXAMPLE

democrats. I wish The Commoner success.

Elisha Bond, Atkinsville, W. Va.—I was born in old Virginia but was opposed to secession, so I went north and stayed there through the Civil war. I returned home fighting for the old Jeffersonian principles. I never miss an opportunity to promote the interests of democracy.

Frank Popegay, New Virginia, Iowa.—I enclose my primary pledge. I have always voted the democratic ticket and will attend the primaries as often as I can. I think Bryan and his principles are O. K.

J. B. Roders, Delto, Mo.—Enclosed find ten primary pledges.

Charles T. Mitchell, Truth, Ark.—I send you thirty-five signatures to the primary pledge.

James Hammond, Winneton, Nebr.—Enclosed find primary pledge. I am a life-long exponent of Jefferson's principles, and have never failed to do my duty as I saw it, and never expect to do otherwise. Why should we shirk our plain duty to ourselves and posterity? Push on the good work.

J. H. Morgan, Pana, Ill.—I send you nineteen primary pledges.

W. S. Cole, Hartsburg, Mo.—I will send in six more names to the primary pledge. About all of the democrats in my precinct have signed. I have not found a democrat who has anything to say against Mr. Bryan. We need more readers of The Commoner in this section. All that I have talked with like The Commoner.

J. O. Vansant, Bowdoinham, Me.—I have not labored very hard in getting my neighbors to sign the pledge. They were all pleased to do it. I hope that others down in old Maine will wake up to this great work of ours. I am in poor health, but you can count on me.

J. N. Sapp, Gladesville, W. Va.—Put me on the primary pledge list. I am here to stay. I am sixty-five years old, and never voted for any half-way democrat except Grover and Greeley. I took Parker and am now sitting in sack cloth and ashes, and imagine that I feel like Esau did after he had sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. The only argument republicans put up in this country reminds me of the ignorant negroes in the south when they said: "Take us away from Massa, and where will our bread and meat come from?" Their argument is "Take away protection, and where will our dollars come from?" Back to the constitution and principles of our political fathers!

L. W. Syckes, Dunkard, Pa.—Find enclosed my pledge. I have always been a democrat. I have voted for every democratic candidate from James K. Polk down to Parker. I am in favor of Mr. Wright's suggestion that every democrat who has sent in his pledge wear a button, with the names of Thomas Jefferson on one side and Andrew Jackson on the other. I suppose I am the oldest voter who has signed the primary pledge. I think I ought to be entitled to a button with silver rim and gold center. This would represent our standard of legal money.

William T. Creasey, ex-chairman of state committee and member of Pennsylvania legislature 1894-1906. Catawissa, Pa.—I enclose the primary pledge signed. I am very much pleased with your work. Under our representative form of government the primaries mean the election of our officials, be they good or bad, and in my experiences the more interest the people take in the primaries the better they will be served by their offi-

cial. The nominations can never safely be trusted to the bosses. It is a power one possesses and should never be delegated by staying at home when the primaries are held. I predict that much good will come out of this movement. Our form of government demands that every voter should be a sentinel on guard, a good marksman and be sure of the right man for his mark. Steady! Bang!! Another trust man out of a job.

James A. Graham, Patterson, N. J.—Enclosed please find my primary pledge filled out as per request in The Commoner. I heartily approve the plan.

Thomas S. Kirby, Chicago, Ill.—Find pledge signed. I have had the honor and pleasure of voting for Mr. Bryan in 1896 and 1900.

H. C. Prewitt, Linneus, Mo.—Enclosed you will find primary pledge signed by sixty as good democrats as can be found anywhere. They all approve of your plan to get the people to attend the primaries. You will notice the name of Dr. P. H. Perkins, who was a great grandson of Patrick Henry, also E. F. Perkins.

W. T. Johnson, Hinton, Okla.—Please enroll my name as a primary pledger, first, last and always. Later on I have an amendment to the primary pledge to offer with a number of signatures.

E. M. Wickham, Delaware, O.—I desire to say that I heartily approve of The Commoner's course, and I can assure you that I will always be found standing on the side of The Commoner brand of democracy. I do not believe in temporizing with those who call themselves "conservative democrats." The democratic party should be the radical party of the country, and should champion radical principles of reform, of which the country now seems to stand so much in need.

William Lowry, Guy, Texas.—I heartily endorse your plan. I am seventy-one years old, have never scratched a democratic ticket, but I would hate to be Greeleyized or Parkerized again. I expect to read The Commoner as long as it preaches the gospel of democracy and liberty.

Emmet Miller, Damsel, Mo.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed by my brother and myself. I believe every voter ought to awaken to his duty of attending the primaries and

see that nothing undemocratic is crowded in the democratic platform. I am a thorough believer in democratic doctrines as was advocated by Henry George, and with the leadership of such men as Tom L. Johnson, Louis F. Post and William J. Bryan, I hope to see our cause advance.

S. B. Carson, Ardmore, I. T.—I had a little spare time this morning and went out and obtained twenty-two names to the primary pledge, which I also enclose. We are disfranchised here at the present time, but hope to be allowed to vote in time to take part for the next campaign. We appreciate the work Mr. Bryan and The Commoner are doing for the democratic party and the common people, and hope through that instrumentality to be able to roll up the grandest victory for the people that has ever been known in the history of the country.

Henry Diener, Washington, Calif.—Late, but always willing to put the shoulder to the democratic wagon. I send you my pledge. The outlook was never better. Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Taft have given us a mighty lift with the Panama controversy. Are they sincere? I doubt not, but a republican senate will balk their intention and give the democrats still a mightier lift, in fact put the wagon on the smooth pavement.

W. H. Laramore, Coyle, Okla.—Find primary pledge signed by myself and two of my neighbors. We think the plan all right.

J. Polk, Cayce, Miss.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed. I want to be enrolled among the old guard of fighting democrats and promise that I will continue to attend all the primaries and help name a ticket and then help elect it. Success to the grand old Commoner.

Carl B. Collins, R. F. D., Huntington, Ind.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed by some of my neighbors. Keep up the good work. I am not yet a voter but will be before the next election and am in hearty accord with you in your efforts to make the democratic party democratic. As the wheels of progress roll on the democratic party will lead the procession if Mr. Bryan's efforts are crowned with success.

O. P. Oldham, Ripley, W. Va.—Please find enclosed the names of 105, who have signed the primary pledge.

We most heartily approve the plan, because it reminds the citizen of his duty to his country and to his fellow man, so that truth and right, and the will of the people may prevail.

J. B. Williams, Hustonville, Ky.—Find enclosed the primary pledge of which I am truly glad to have an opportunity to sign and will endeavor to get as many more as I possibly can.

The Colfax, Wash., Commoner says: Every true democrat should be willing to join in and encourage the plan advocated by Mr. Bryan for organizing the party, by pledging himself to attend all its primaries, held before the next national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to use his influence to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on the important issues before the country. The plan is certainly simple and democratic. Mr. Bryan believes in having the rank and file of the party frame its platform, instead of delegating that important duty to a few leaders. He believes that the people are better judges of what they want than the politicians can be. No one calling himself a democrat is barred. All can attend the primaries and have an equal voice in determining the position of the party. The conservatives will have an equal opportunity with the radicals, but the platform will be framed and the standard bearers named in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the party. There will be no guess work as to what the voters want, because they will have expressed their sentiments. This is one advantage of the plan but there are others.

It will result in a larger and more representative attendance at the primaries, and this will mean the election of better men for delegates to the county conventions. From this will follow the nomination of stronger candidates for county offices, and a higher grade of delegates to the state convention. Interest in the primaries also tends to rouse enthusiasm and inspire more aggressive work in the campaign.

Every democrat in Whitman county should certainly be willing to take the trouble to sign the pledge and send it to Mr. Bryan. By so doing he will help to make the democratic party the party of the people in fact as well as in theory.

## 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.