

NOW LENDS A HAND TO THE PRIMARY PLEDGE PLAN

on the reportorial staff of the Rocky Mountain News. I afterwards ran the Fort Collins Argus for three years, doing what I could for my party. I came back here two years ago on account of my wife's health, but expect to be back in dear old Colorado by another year, helping to redeem the state from the scoundrels who counted Alva Adams out. Anything I can do for you in southwest Missouri let me know. Yours for the good of united democracy.

John C. Lawyer, Tennessee, Ill.—Bearing in mind that one attains his majority the day before the anniversary of his birth, and tomorrow being my twenty-first birthday I send you today my primary pledge.

G. L. Babcock, South New Berlin, N. M.—Please send me twelve primary pledge blanks. I think your plan for the next campaign is all right.

A. W. Bass, Lakeview, Mich.—I want to let you know that I think your plan a good one and hope it will win. I don't think we have many strong democrats here for we can't get enough together to hold a primary, but I shall try and get as many as I can to attend the republican primary and hold one of our own if possible. Hoping you success.

S. C. Harsh, Ponca City, Okla.—Enclosed find list of 25, who have signed the pledge. It is very little trouble to get democrats to sign the pledge in this section of the country. We have very few gold democrats here. A few more decisions like the one in the Santa Fe railroad case will, I think, land us safely in 1908. If it is not asking too much I would like for you to send a copy of The Commoner to those that have signed the pledge. Best wishes for the success of W. J. Bryan and The Commoner.

Sam P. Moore, Jefferson City, Mo.—I certainly believe in the primary plan. It is the only way to get the true sentiment of the people, and the people can always be trusted if they are not led astray by corrupt politicians. Had not a majority of the counties in Missouri had primaries last year we would have a republican governor or something worse at this time. One plank in the national platform should be: We, the democrats in national convention assembled believe in the election of United States senators by popular vote and pledge ourselves to work to that end.

C. E. Etrheim, Balaton, Minn.—There are a few democrats in my township and I think I see some hope of the number growing. We have no democratic organization though, and I herewith enclose my pledge to do what I can to make the democrats of some force in my community.

J. V. Swift, Benton, Wis.—You will please find enclosed primary pledge. I intended signing it from the first time it appeared in the Commoner, but kept putting it off from time to time. I heartily endorse the plan and think it is a duty which every good citizen owes to society that he attend the primaries and see that none but good men be sent to represent the people in all conventions, both county, state and national and that they take a prominent part in framing the platforms of their party. If they do this I am firmly convinced that in a very short time a great many of the abuses which have crept into our public affairs would very soon be eradicated. And who is to blame for those abuses? It is the people themselves. Why I have been told time and time again by men, "What difference does it make to me who is sent as delegates to the county, state or national conventions?" This is where the very

root of the evil lies. They stay away from the primaries and those who are interested in a pecuniary way will be sure to attend and send delegates who will frame a platform and nominate candidates who are in full sympathy with them or men whom they will know will do their bidding. But if the voters will attend all the primaries and exercise their full rights as citizens the Shylocks will not have their way, and the result would be that good men would be sent to every convention who would frame a platform and nominate candidates who would have the welfare of the whole people at heart, and not the special interests of the few. And until the voters attend the primaries and do this we need not expect a government of the people, for the people and by the people.

T. J. Donnell, Oklahoma City, O. T.—You will find enclosed my primary pledge. I am more than glad to endorse this move. I have always attended the primaries and never miss an election and vote the democratic ticket. I should have sent you this pledge long since, but neglected to but it is never too late to do good. The Commoner is a welcome weekly visitor and always full of good reading. I don't know how I could get along without it. If all so called democratic papers would show up the political rottenness as The Commoner does we would have better government. It did me great good to grasp W. J. Bryan's hand, when he was here on last Tuesday. Thousands looked into his face and wished him godspeed on his noble mission.

Samuel H. Myrant, Statesville, Mo.—I am sending in the primary pledge. I have always been a democrat, that is a democrat that believes in the sacred words of the Declaration of Independence and I hope that the people will awaken and seize the opportunity to assert their rights before the chains of slavery are fastened upon them so tight that the earth will tremble when the shackles of slavery are thrown off their shoulders. If the democratic party is ever to come to the rescue of the laboring class of people to save them from being oppressed and enslaved by the organized trusts, and money powers of our country, every democrat must necessarily attend all primaries and express his sentiments and not depend on some boss to do so for him. It behooves every man to provide for his own household. I think it is every

man's duty to read good papers and books, and study every question for himself. I read a good many papers, yet I find none so enlightening as the faithful old Commoner. It is not only enlightening from a political view, but it is educational in the broadest sense of the word. If every man and woman and child would read and not only read, but study The Commoner as a diligent scholar studies his books, there would no longer be trusts to exploit and rob the laboring class of people of what they earn and whose great wealth gives them greater power than a king. Neither would there be poor people suffering for want of food and clothing in the midst of plenty, of which they had helped to produce. I hope the good work may go on, and the rights of mankind will triumph in 1908. Yours for success.

M. C. Benham, M. D., Richmond, Ind.—I hand you my pledge which I think is a good move and is the beginning of the much needed organization of the good old democratic party. The people must advance democracy, or be enslaved by plutocracy.

W. D. Millen, Pioneer, Mo.—Enclosed you will please find \$3.00 for renewals, also 17 pledges duly signed up. We heartily endorsed your primary pledge. The Commoner is all the political paper I read. I think it is doing more good than any other paper published. Your article "Back to the People," is the best I ever read on the subject. If you see fit you can send me some sample copies of The Commoner. I think I can use them to good advantage. May the good work The Commoner is doing continue till true democracy shall prevail in these United States of ours.

J. M. Polk, Prentiss, Miss.—Enclosed please find my primary pledge. I heartily endorse the plan recommended by you for marshaling the democratic forces in 1908. It is a very great pity that men will not consider their own interest in matters appertaining to our government, and help to elect good men to office. I do not know if it would not be a good law to compel taxpayers to vote as well as to compel them to pay taxes, because they are so closely allied to each other. But tax payers will stay at home on election days, and then "cuss" the system of government. I am perfectly sure that if all democrats would do their duty, we could have a better set of laws than we have. Success to The Commoner.

George W. Rogers, Albion, Mich.—

Friends of the common people: I send you primary pledge which I am proud to sign. My first democratic vote was in 1896. Am glad I voted it and as the years roll along developments prove that it is right.

Alex. H. Leitch, Dayton, Ohio.—Enclosed please find 32 signed primary pledges more, being 52 now in all I have sent you for registration besides my own pledge.

Milton V. Jackson, Vale, S. D.—Please find enclosed primary pledge signed by true blue democrats from this strong republican district. At the first two elections in South Dakota I was the only democrat in Vale precinct. Depend on me to always stand firm for the democracy of Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan.

Robert S. Thurman, St. Louis, Mo.—Enclosed find primary pledge which I heartily endorse. Leaders, so called, generally control conventions, and they often do violence to the popular will. It is to be hoped that the expediency dodge has been so thoroughly tried, and has so disgracefully failed, that these leaders will be wise enough not to encumber the next presidential campaign with it. The only hope of democratic success is in a square, open, honest avowal of the truth. Back to the people! The "anything to win" policy gang to the rear!

Joseph Rubison, Republic, Mo.—Please find enclosed 13 names to the primary pledge plan. I have been a constant reader of The Commoner since the first issue. I have been a life long democrat and will follow where Bryan leads, believing that right will prevail. I am in for another strong pull. Best wishes to the Commoner and the primary pledge plan.

J. W. Jones, Binta, Ark.—Enclosed you will find primary pledge signed. I am heartily in favor of your plan. I attend all primaries held in my county and for the past five years filled the clerk's and seven times the judge's place at all of the elections that have been had.

R. G. Chapman, Mesquite, Tex.—Enclosed find list of 35 pledges; am always willing and ready to do what I can for the cause of democracy, as I tell the people here I am willing to risk Bryan; what he says and does is all right and I stay with him.

John M. Copeland, Tellico Junction, Tenn.—Enclosed find primary pledge. There is no better plan for thorough organization.

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.