

MISSOURI TAKES LEAD IN PRIMARY PLEDGES

In the number of primary pledges returned to The Commoner office, Missouri democrats have clearly a lead over those of other states. West Virginia is a close second; Illinois, third; Ohio, fourth; Oklahoma, fifth; Texas, sixth; Pennsylvania, seventh; Indiana, eighth; Kansas, ninth; Iowa, tenth; New York, eleventh, and Indian Territory, twelfth.

Democrats from every state and territory in the union have sent primary pledges in considerable numbers, but the work has just begun, and The Commoner calls upon its readers everywhere to make a special effort to obtain the signature of every one of their democratic neighbors. Even though you make it a practice to attend primaries, don't withhold your pledge. By signing you will set a good example for your careless neighbor. This is not to be the work of a day nor of several days. It is to be the work of months and of years. The field is a large one and to cover it time and effort will be required, 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 this page.

Extracts from letters received at The Commoner office follow:

M. S. Ray, Cassville, Mo.—Although I am not old enough to vote in the primaries of my party, I have signed the primary pledge, and gotten several of my friends to do so with me, which was no trouble at all. If I had time I could get very nearly every democrat in this county to sign it. I think the plan a good one, as is everything else The Commoner does. For instance, if the democrats of this county and state had listened to The Commoner, the Hon. Francis Marion Cockrell would be in the United States senate, Sam B. Cook, one of the best democrats that ever voted would be secretary of state for Missouri, and the Hon. Thomas Ruby, lieutenant governor, and several other good democrats, too numerous to mention. I am a strong believer in the words of the late Richard Parks Bland, "Put the cause above the man"; and work for the strongest ticket from constable up, regardless of friend or foe. I am of the opinion that great good will be done for the democrats by 1908.

Jay A. Haight, Syracuse, N. Y.—Enclosed please find my primary pledge. Mr. Bryan is doing a good work for a noble cause in promoting this primary pledge and all true democrats hope the majority will rule on primary days and not enough floaters be bought to change the will of the people for the benefit of the corporations.

George H. Bell, Fowlstown, Ga.—I enclose a pledge with 11 signatures.

S. P. Moore, Jefferson City, Mo.—Please find 20 signatures to the primary pledge. I could get many more if I had the time. As this is the capital of the state, everybody is more or less a politician. Nearly every one attends their party primaries. I hope that the democrats everywhere may get together and in 1908 we may be able to nominate a true democrat on pure democratic principles. And if we have to die let us die with democratic boots on, and not as we did in 1904, with a democratic boot on one foot and a republican boot on the other.

C. Brant, Hillsboro, Ind.—I send you the names of 52 democrats who signed your primary pledge. I have been a little slow in getting this list made out, but as I am close to 78 years of age I am not very spry to get about. All whom I approached willingly signed except two.

D. B. Williams, Brenham, Texas.—You will find enclosed primary pledge list filled out. These men live in Brenham and near by, and always work for our party. The first vote I ever cast was for a democrat, and I have never failed to vote for the nominee of the party, and I hope to live until the next democratic convention and have the pleasure of voting for some good democrat.

F. B. Barrick, Holland, Ore.—Find enclosed 24 signatures to the primary pledge. They are all good, loyal democrats. Caught two silver republicans who are now democrats. I ran across a few who would be democrats if they had a little training. I hope I will be able to get more, yet this is a mining town and a bad season of the year to find people at home, as most of them

are in the hills prospecting. Success to The Commoner and Mr. Bryan.

T. McNeely, Duncombe, Iowa.—I am an old soldier and used to vote republican ticket when that party endorsed Lincoln's principles. When they began to stand for the rich lords in this country, I voted the democrat ticket. I voted for Mr. Bryan both times. I am a strong silver democrat now. I send my pledge to do all I can for the democratic party.

A. H. Simpson, Orogrande, Idaho.—Enclosed find my pledge. I am now and always have been a follower of the principles advocated by The Commoner.

J. M. Cory, Kingman, Ind.—Enclosed find primary pledge with 35 names. Could get plenty more if I had the time to work. All democrats are loyal in this part of Indiana. I am 58 years old today, and am growing gray, having cast my vote for the Bryan principles since Peter Cooper was candidate for president. I hope to live until I can see our government restored to the principles of true democracy. Yours for victory.

Isaac R. Strous, Editor Tribune, Rockville, Ind.—I send the enclosed pledges, including my own. We are about five years later in getting down to this kind of business than we ought to be; but let us try to make up for lost time. It would have been different at Indianapolis and altogether different at St. Louis, had the primary pledge been in vogue last year.

George B. McClelland, Greenfield, Ill.—Enclosed find list of 36 pledge signers. Our town here is very largely republican, but the democrats represented in this list are loyal and they also believe in the party standing up for true Jefferson-Jackson-Bryan principles and adhering strictly to them without compromise.

O. C. Law, Santa Anna, Tex.—I send you some primary pledges. Send me another blank and I will try and get it filled. I wish The Commoner success in its efforts.

Owen W. Bastian, Wescoesville, Pa.—Enclosed please find eight primary pledges signed, all Bastian's but one, and we all heartily endorse the plan of Mr. Bryan in waking up the democratic voters to vote and work for the true democratic principles.

J. D. Herron, West Monroe, La.—Enclosed find my primary pledge. I am now and always have been a supporter of the principles advocated by The Commoner.

W. C. Garner, Holly Grove, Ark.—Find enclosed nine primary pledges.

Dallas H. Bastian, Wescoesville, Pa.—I take great pleasure, with a number of other voters from my district, in endorsing your printed primary pledge. It should ever be the treasured privilege of every American citizen to exercise his influence and power at the polls to the end of bringing into more customary practice those democratic principles symbolized in true democratic faith and represented in term by the truest citizenship. One of the greatest instruments in the hands of the common people is the right to vote and to install such men and measures which see and mean in and by the country's honor the honor and welfare of each private citizen. May The Commoner and all such life giving organs live in continued and unblurred hope and glory is

the humble, but sincere wish of an earnest democratic voter.

Numa Goche, Ponchatoula, La.—Sorry to say that I can not or dare not enlist myself on the primary pledge on account of my infirmities, being an old confederate soldier, 68 years old, so I can not promise to attend every primary election, but propose myself to support democracy from beginning to the end for 1908. Advise me if I can sign the pledge. Having been a Jacksonian and a radical democrat since 1860, I feel myself compelled to propose three cheers for Bryan, Hearst, Folk and Tom Johnson. If you judge proper to add more names to your list, send me some blanks and I will have them signed (about a dozen). [Of course you can sign. Your name has already been placed on the list. Ed. Commoner.]

J. J. Jack, McNeil, Ark.—Enclosed please find my pledge with 20 other democrats, true and tried and we trust that every democrat in the Union will not only sign the pledge, but do everything in his power to carry out the pure principles, as set forth and advocated so earnestly by Mr. Bryan.

I. R. Frank, Mt. Zion, Ky.—Find primary pledge signed by me. I hope that your efforts will result in great good in your primary plan. I will be 79 years old the 7th of next April, not able to run around and get other names, but I am one of the old-fashioned democrats.

L. M. Penwell, Topeka, Kan.—The Commoner's article on free railroad transportation was a hummer. I like such stuff.

John H. Henton, Spiro, I. T.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed by 50 democrats.

George W. Hudson, Jamesville, Va.—Enclosed find my primary pledge. Success to The Commoner in its good work.

M. M. Parks, Sharon, Ohio.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed by 10 of my neighbors. They all believe that this plan of organization is an effective way to get together.

W. J. Karrick, Cynthiana, Ky.—Enclosed you will find 20 signatures to the primary pledge. I am a poor man and didn't have the time, or could have sent more.

W. A. Toler, Ullin, Ill.—Enclosed you will find the primary pledge signed by myself.

G. W. Johnson, Tiptop, Ky.—I send you primary pledge with a number of signatures.

Benjamin Cramer, Cedar Run, N. J.—Please find enclosed primary pledge signed by 27 democrats who can be depended on. When the time comes for the roll call they will answer "here." The Commoner is doing a great work. I would lie to see every democrat buckle on the armor, and help in the work. I believe if they would do so that with the aid of The Commoner we would redeem this state from the party that has disgraced the fair name of New Jersey.

Emmet N. White, El Paso, Texas.—I send you primary pledge with 20 signatures.

A. G. Caumley, Wet Glaze, Mo.—Enclosed find a list of names who signed the primary pledge. You may send me another lot of five subscription cards and I will do my best to sell them.

E. I. Milan, Gill, W. Va.—Enclosed find primary pledge with 35 signatures.

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, Nebraska