

there was ample evidence to convict, and recommended prosecution. The attorney general's reply in substance was: "It is useless to prosecute because we can only secure the infliction of a fine. We might proceed against the company, but we could not secure indictment of an individual official. The penalty of a mere fine against a great corporation would be farcical." There was no prosecution. The whole case was dropped. Mr. Morton left the cabinet and went to the Equitable insurance company. President Roosevelt wrote him a letter of the highest praise—a vindication in the eyes of the country—"put wings on him." And now that all that is out of the way the administration suddenly discovers that railroad officials who grant rebates can be indicted for conspiracy and be sent to jail."

IN THIS CONNECTION Mr. Wellman says that when the proof against the Santa Fe was turned over to the department of justice by the interstate commerce commission, the particular work relating to that case was turned over to William A. Day. Mr. Wellman adds: "Although the evidence seemed ample, Mr. Day did not make progress. Several times the members of the commission inquired of the department of justice: 'How about our Santa Fe case? What is being done about it?' And every time the reply was: 'Mr. Day has the case and is investigating, but has not yet made his report.' Last spring there was a great deal of talk in the newspapers and among public men about the Santa Fe case. Again and again the interstate commerce commissioners asked how it was getting on. Mr. Day still had it under consideration. When the pressure for action became hottest Mr. Day suddenly found

it necessary to go on a long trip to Alaska to inspect United States marshals and things. 'What are you doing in the Santa Fe matter?' asked the commission. 'Mr. Day has it and is now on a tour of Alaska. Can't do anything till he gets back.'

AT LAST MR. DAY got back and concerning him Mr. Wellman says: "After all this delay he could not see any good of prosecuting either the company or Paul Morton, and so reported. The attorney general supported him. Then President Roosevelt employed the special counsel, who recommended prosecutions both under the Elkins act and criminally for conspiracy. The attorney general overruled the special counsel, the president sustained the attorney general, and there was no prosecution of any sort. The president wrote his celebrated 'wings' letter to Paul Morton. Thomas F. Ryan took Mr. Morton to New York to build new subways, and then made him president of the Equitable at a salary of \$80,000 a year. William A. Day was not forgotten. He did not know anything about the insurance business, but he had shown himself to be a bright, sensible fellow, even if a little dilatory at times. Paul Morton took him to New York and made him comptroller of the Equitable at a salary of \$30,000. We all respect success. And Mr. Day commands general admiration for his skill. Three thousand five hundred dollars a year as auditor of the treasury under President Cleveland, from one to two thousand a year as a practicing lawyer in Washington, \$7,000 a year as assistant to the attorney general under the Roosevelt administration, \$30,000 a year as comptroller of the Equitable under the Morton administration, is rapid climbing of the ladder indeed."

THE PEOPLE of Butler county, Neb., are just now waging one of the most peculiar boycotts on record. It is peculiar because it is waged by the whole people and is a direct retaliation against two railroad corporations. The Burlington and Union Pacific railroads have refused to pay the taxes assessed against them in Nebraska, claiming that the tax is excessive. The roads tendered 80 per cent of the total tax assessed, but the tender was refused. The citizens of Butler county in mass convention adopted resolutions declaring a boycott against these two corporations and pledging themselves to give all their patronage to the Chicago & Northwestern, that road having paid the full tax assessed. The refusal of the two roads to pay their full taxes has seriously crippled a number of Nebraska counties. But Butler county has taken drastic action, and as they are not dependent upon either of the roads mentioned for shipping and passenger facilities they are in a position to make the recreant railroad companies pay dearly for their effort to withhold that 20 per cent.

FOLLOWING THE example of Butler county the citizens of Richardson county met and adopted equally strong resolutions condemning the Burlington for refusing to pay its taxes, and in addition strongly denounced the federal judge who issued the order restraining the counties from proceeding to collect the taxes by due process of law. It is evident from the actions of the people of Richardson and Butler counties that the people are thoroughly aroused, and a thoroughly aroused people demanding their rights is a proposition that even arrogant railroad corporations dare not face.

NEW YORK AND THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

New York stands eleventh in the number of primary pledges returned to The Commoner office. Great results would be accomplished if the rank and file of New York democracy would participate in the party primaries. New York provides a promising field for the primary pledge plan. The Commoner urges every New York democrat who believes that his party should protect the public welfare, to participate in the effort to persuade every New York democrat to attach his name to the primary pledge. If every reader of The Commoner should ask every New York democrat of his acquaintance to sign the primary pledge and to call upon his own neighbor to do likewise, the results would be profitable to the party and to the country. In every New York county a number of democrats might organize for the purpose of circulating the primary pledge form in every precinct, obtaining the signature of every democrat who is willing to discharge his duty to the party. Then democratic clubs should be organized in every county of the state and in every precinct of the county. It is to be hoped that Commoner readers will soon hear good reports from the Empire state.

As this copy of The Commoner may be read by some one not familiar with the details of the primary pledge plan, it is necessary to say that according to the terms of this plan 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 straightforward 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:

J. W. Nichols, Morgan, Ark.—I have seen several of the boys about the primary pledge and here are the signatures

James Quast, Jefferson, Wis.—Enclosed please find thirteen signatures to the primary pledge.

W. H. Scott, Reno, Nev.—I send thirty-five signatures to the primary pledge.

W. K. Osborne, Brevard, N. C.—Enclosed please find primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

J. D. Hume, Edmond, Okla.—I have circulated the primary pledge in our city, and send you a list of thirty-five names of good old Texas,

Missouri and Oklahoma democrats from this locality. Please send me about one dozen copies of The Commoner, and ten cards. I will try to get you some new subscribers.

G. W. Mallory, Everton, Mo.—You will find enclosed primary pledge with thirty-five names, all of good democrats. You may send me another blank and I will get as many pledges as I can. Let the good work push on. Ohio did the right thing.

George W. Thorpe, J. P., Leaton, Mich.—I enclose herewith application for Commoner subscription cards, also my primary pledge duly signed. I sent in my primary pledge some time ago but fearing it may not have reached The Commoner I will send another, for I desire to have my name on the rolls of the democratic party which is now forming for its grand march to victory in 1908. I am a Jeffersonian democrat and a charter member of The Commoner family. I heartily endorse the primary pledge plan and William J. Bryan's principles of reform. Success to The Commoner. Long may it live.

A. W. May, Fort Collins, Colo.—I will do all I can in every way for the success of the principles of Jefferson and Jackson democracy, but no Buckner, no Palmer, no Cleveland, and last but not least, no Parker for me. I am

seventy-seven years old, was born in the backwoods of Hardin county. I made my way across the plains to California in '49 and cast my first vote in 1852 for President Pierce, and have voted the true Jackson principles ever since.

I. J. Griffith, Duarte, Calif.—I enclose primary pledge with four signatures.

E. Adkins, Magnet, Nebr.—Please find primary pledge, signed. I am sixty-eight years old, and am a veteran of the civil war, and have voted forty-six times and have always voted the democratic ticket. I expect to keep on voting the democratic ticket as long as the Lord lets me live.

Lee Flenner, Penham, Minn.—I believe in the principles of the democratic party as enunciated by the Chicago and Kansas City platforms. I have always been a believer in true democracy and have always been faithful to my convictions in advocating and upholding them. As for me, I want a clear and candid statement of the party's position on all public questions.

L. B. Whippy, Goshen, Ind.—Enclosed find twenty-four signatures to the primary pledge.

David Turney, Round Point, N. C.—I enclose primary pledge with ten signatures.

Nathan Hill, Golden, Mo.—Enclosed find six signatures to the primary pledge.

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.