

## PRIMARY PLEDGES COME FROM ALL SECTIONS

Primary pledges are now coming in large numbers from every section of the country. 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:

W. A. Gray, Darksville, Mo.—Find enclosed my primary pledge, properly signed. I am a young democrat, only twenty-two years old. I think your primary pledge work is the right thing and should meet with success.

H. Reemsnyder, Hays City, Kans.—Enclosed you will find thirty-eight names of good democrats who have pledged themselves and are willing to advance the cause of true democracy.

F. A. Ainsworth, Sartinsville, Miss.—I enclose primary pledge signed by seventeen democrats.

Mrs. M. C. Rudder, South Bend, Wash.—I have gathered you a few (ten) names and I shall try to get more as I can and send them in.

John Phillips, Desloge, Mo.—Find herewith primary pledge signed by twenty-seven voters.

John Scofield, Shiloh, O.—As I have given The Commoner away to others with the hope that I might obtain their subscriptions to the paper, and thus help the good cause a little, I have no primary pledge to sign, but as I approve of it, you may, if you please, add my name to the roll. Please send ten subscription cards.

W. H. Hagans, Grant City, Mo.—I enclose a primary pledge with eleven signatures.

C. M. Henry, Rittenhouse, Pa.—Enclosed find the primary pledge, signed. I think it is a step in the right direction. One year ago under the influence of the Cleveland-Belmont reformers Pennsylvania was lost by 500,000 votes. Recently Berry, a radical democrat, was elected state treasurer by 75,000 plurality, which shows the trend of public opinion. People are awakening from the comatose sleep of indifference, by the exposures of corruption and violations of the law committed by trusted officials. Any party holding sway for a generation will become corrupted because unscrupulous men desiring to secure favors for themselves will gravitate to the party in power and will aid in securing its victories.

J. W. Siple, Cass, W. Va.—I enclose a primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

T. E. Quind, Parkersburg, W. Va.—I enclose a pledge with fourteen signatures.

Mrs. J. C. Plymell, Pueblo, Colo.—It was said that when women were granted the right of suffrage in Colorado, the result would tend toward purity of ballot. Recent disclosures have shown that no such depth of corruption exists anywhere as in national politics, therefore I beg to submit my primary pledge.

R. Parks, Sharon, Ohio—Enclosed find primary pledge with fifteen signatures.

G. W. Wait, Olney, Ill.—Please find enclosed seven names. I sent you some before when I sent my own pledge. These I picked up as they came in the store.

Thomas Stackhouse, Glasco, Kans.—I enclose a primary pledge signed by seventeen good democrats.

Joseph Shaw, Pembina, N. D.—I would like if you would send me a few sample copies of the last Commoner (December 15.) I think that it is an extra good one, and if every subscriber had an extra copy of it to give to some of those blind eyes, it would help to open them and increase the circulation wonderfully.

Frank Kaple, Crestline, Ohio—Please find primary pledge which I heartily indorse. Every voter who believes in clean government should sign the pledge.

G. D. Kelly, Columbia, Mo.—Enclosed you will find a primary pledge signed by a student friend of mine. I intend to get more and I am sure it is no trouble to do so. And delight in doing such work for the great principles Mr. Bryan stands for. They are democratic principles of Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln. The results of such principles ends in the equalization of liberty

to each individual human being. How simple these principles are to those who are looking for the future welfare of each human being. The quantitative theory and not the quality of money, the republicans have proved in the last few years that it's the quantity of money that produces prices, just what Mr. Bryan and the true democrats have claimed all the time. What will be the results in the time of war or a crisis of the speculative elements? Will our silver, paper money and bank notes be as good and on par with gold? Will the gold holders be benefited and the silver holders losers? For the former rises and the three latter falls as I see it. For every one would want that price of money they hold exchanged for that recognized standard piece of money (they have not got) (called gold) that the government stands back of so long as the government exists. Why not have all the silver and gold that comes to the mints coined free (as gold is coined free) and have one as good as the other and no better at all times and let congress make greenback paper when ever gold and silver supply does not keep pace with the times or the quantity of money runs short from those two metals. Make silver, gold and paper equal as a standard and one no better than the other by law in time of crisis. Would under such conditions in time of crisis etc. or peace a holder of one money or the other be of more advantage than the others? I don't think it would. I believe in free trade, no high tariff, free the Filipinos, government ownership of railroads, express and telegraph systems, for the government can run such as well as it does the postal system etc. Something is to be done to check the monopolizing systems. I am going to work for the primary pledges where everybody has a right to talk and express his sentiment, so we will never have, I hope, another St. Louis convention to fool the people. I may be wrong, but I am willing to learn, for I am a student at the University of Missouri.

J. Francis Lochard, Versailles, Ind.—Enclosed you will please find the primary pledge signed by me. I have been intending to attend to this for some time but have been so very busy that I have failed to do so. I would like to do some work here for the good of the cause if I only had the time. There are a great many admirers of Col. Bryan in our county and they all feel that he is engaged in a good work. Best wishes for The Commoner and its workers, and I hope to see the principles they stand for put into practice in our government.

B. T. Evans, Lufkin, Tex.—Enclosed please find primary pledge signed by thirty-five democrats. We heartily endorse your plan of getting back to the people. I think the primary pledge will do the work and I know the people of Texas need something to get them out to the primaries. We have one thousand voters in this voting precinct. When we held our township primary that elected delegates to the St. Louis national convention, we had fifteen voters present and I stood alone advocating the Kansas City platform. It is unnecessary to say the re-organizers had a "walk-over" and I suppose that was about the way the people turned out all over the

state. That thing will not occur again right soon in this county. I do not intend to "let up" until every democrat in this county has signed the pledge or refused to sign it. I have enlisted for three years and expect to carry a primary pledge in my pocket at all times and give all democrats I meet an opportunity to sign it. How many Commoner readers will make the same pledge? Let us hear from you, gentlemen, through The Commoner when you send in your pledge. I am sixty years old and have more time than money and if I can see five hundred voters out at our next primary instead of fifteen I will feel amply repaid for my time. Some of your correspondents say they have no trouble getting signers to the pledge that it is only a few hours work, that is not my experience. The people I meet are not readers of The Commoner and this primary pledge is all new to them. I have to explain the object of the pledge to them and sometimes spend an hour with one man. Success to The Commoner and all those who are pushing the primary pledge.

John W. Havens, Ellenburgh, N. Y.—I am nearly eighty-four years of age, and while the spirit is willing the body is weak. I am grateful that my mental and physical powers are in as good condition as they are, but I cannot attend the primaries. If I were in a city I should try to do so, but here it requires several miles travel over not the best of roads, hence I have not signed the pledge. I have noticed in The Commoner the replies sent from signers, and noticed that New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New England did not make much of a show. I do not think enough can be pledged to make a serious impression in the result in the state. The political Ephraim's "are joined to their idols." If the goldbug democrats would leave the party and go over to the republican body and breeches we could recruit from the honest republicans. But they won't go, they can aid the enemy more effectually by masquerading as democrats and fooling some honest democrats. The so-called democratic press in this state nearly all wear collars but do not have the owners name on the collars. Now if we are to succeed in "turning the rascals out," their opponents must unite, and how can this be accomplished when Tom Watson keeps up the fight against Mr. Bryan. He must see that this does not bring democrats to his party, and its only object must be to keep his followers in fighting trim and prevent any union. I have never missed voting at but one general election since I reached the voting age. Voted for sixteen nominees for president, that is sixteen times, three times for one candidate and twice for another and but five were elected and one of the five was kept from the presidential chair by fraud. Since the defeat of 1904 I have wished that when Parker's telegram reached St. Louis, Mr. Bryan had repudiated the whole shooting-match. True regularity used to be worth something, but when men claiming to be democrats give \$50,000 (of other people's money) to defeat a regular nominee, regularity is not worth much. I will do the best I can, but for the future I don't see that I can do more than to vote.

### 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.