

The Commoner.

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

WILLIAM J. BRYAN CHARLES W. BRYAN
 Editor and Proprietor. Publisher.
 RICHARD L. METCALFE Editorial Rooms and Business
 Associate Editor. Office 324-330 So. 12th Street.

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter.

One Year.....\$1.00	Three Months.....25c
Six Months.....50c	Single Copy.....5c
In Clubs of 5 or more per Year.....75c	Sample Copies Free Foreign Postage 52c Ex- tra.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Hon. Joseph Chamberlain emerged from the scrimmage with his monocle still firmly screwed into place.

Chairman Shonts says he now "sees his way clear." Mr. Shonts is looking through a powerful financial lens.

It begins to look like the Russian revolutionists do not know what they want and are determined to have it anyhow.

After reforming football the eminent college professors should try their hand at reforming the crowds in the grandstand and bleachers.

There will be a congressional election this year. Now is the time to begin the work that will result in the election of a democratic congress.

The "See America First" league deserves success in its propaganda. The first duty of an American is to become acquainted with his own country.

Those republican "insurgents" in the lower house of congress act very much like a lot of South American republic revolutionists—all noise and nothing else doing.

Having discovered that Theodore Roosevelt is president of the United States, Lincoln J. Steffens should now tell us what position Mr. Henry H. Rogers occupies.

Sooner or later it may dawn upon the minds of the Annapolis cadets that Uncle Sam is spending his good money for the purpose of making seamen, not rowdies, of them.

By some oversight not a single administration organ has stepped to the front to claim that the pleasant winter so far experienced is a direct result of our beneficent protective tariff laws.

Having strenuously denied that they gave rebates the railroad presidents are now promising not to give any more rebates. The promise and the denial are cut from the same fabrication.

Those beef packers continue to act as if they thought the general public would believe anything, no matter how preposterous. The claims being made by the packers are tougher than their beef.

The fact that Cuban railway managers refuse to confer with employes who are asking for better wages may be taken as an indication that Cuba is rearing up a premature crop of "trustees of Divine providence."

The day after the attorney general of Nebraska secured a verdict against the railway companies in a tax case the state experienced an earthquake shock. The next thing to do is to shock the railroads by insisting on payment of the tax.

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE PLAN

The following named democrats have sent in primary pledges as follows: Grafton McDonald, Noblesville, Ind., 54; T. J. Winfrey, Blue Jacket, I. T., 27; O. A. Stoneffer, Carter, Ill., 4; Ezra Craven, Lynville, Ia., 31; John Bachtler, Wheeling, W. Va., 5; Levi Bridgwater, Irondale, Mo., 24; W. T. Elder, Taylorville, Ky., 35; H. G. Hooper, Norman, Okla., 10; I. O. Diggs, Stillwater, Okla., 10; E. T. W. Troutham, Springfield, Mo., 21; E. A. Miles, Lamar, Mo., 12; W. M. Cross, Oklahoma City, Okla., 35; John A. Cooper, Galt, Mo., 5; J. P. Reynolds, Harwood, Mo., 10; M. F. Hanner, Bedford, Ind., 35; Grafton McDonald, Noblesville, Ind., 54; Loran A. Sears, Wellsboro, Pa., 11; W. T. Spencer, Drew, Mo., 8; Peter S. Irwin, Kenwood, Mo., 25.

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. J. Turner, Ladue, Mo.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed by 21 good democrats.

W. P. Priddy, Pennsboro, Mo.—You will find enclosed an order for \$1.80 to renew three subscriptions, and the names of 50 Missouri democrats who have signed the primary pledge. Send me another blank and I will try to get more signatures.

D. Dykstra, Chicago, Ill.—I send herewith 28 signatures to the primary pledge.

A. P. Booth, Echo, W. Va.—Enclosed please find pledge with thirty-five signatures.

John W. Willis, Atty., St. Paul, Minn.—Every true follower of Thomas Jefferson ought to rejoice at beholding the intelligent and conscientious labor for the welfare of the people and the restoration of wholesome governmental conditions in which William J. Bryan is constantly engaged. Not the least of his public services has been the origination of a plan whereby the democrats of the United States through the simple act of signing a pledge to attend the primary meetings held by their party, league themselves together under a new consecration to the duty of defending and preserving popular liberty. I have taken pleasure in signing the pledge and in obtaining therefor the signatures of other democrats.

J. E. Huff, Nevada, Mo.—I herewith send you a list of 26 signatures to the primary pledge. The democrats here are practically unanimous for it.

Joseph Kreshners, Liberty Center, O.—Enclosed find primary pledge with 38 signatures.

J. W. Stephenson and C. F. Voorhees, Rich-

mond, Ohio.—Enclosed you will find list of 37 names to primary pledge. We each received a blank and combined our efforts. A copy of the paper would not do any harm. In the near future will send list of republicans to whom if a copy of The Commoner is sent may do some good.

B. F. Riley, Paradise, Nev.—I enclose primary pledge with five signatures.

Wm. Tipton, Clay City, Ill.—Please find enclosed primary pledge with 29 signatures. These are the leading democrats of this township.

D. F. Thompson, Kent, Ill.—Find herewith pledge with 20 signatures.

William Staley, Flag Springs, Mo.—Please find enclosed primary pledge with 35 signatures. I think The Commoner a great educator. I sent on the 29th five cards with money order for same. I have another list with several names which I hope to be able to send soon.

F. B. Cotner, Herring, Ohio.—Herewith find 35 signatures.

M. O. Trautham, Purdy, Mo.—I enclose a primary pledge with six signatures.

E. V. Moody, Chagris, I. T.—Enclosed please find five signatures to the primary pledge. Will send more in the near future. Long live The Commoner. Truth and right will prevail.

W. A. Gray, Darksville, Mo.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed by 25 fellow democrats. The people throughout this country are heartily indorsing Mr. Bryan's method.

Lewis Strong, Myrtle Point, Ore.—I enclose list of names on primary pledge sheet. They are all true democrats. You might send copies of The Commoner to the ones on the list who are not subscribers. The Strongs on the list are my sons.

J. W. Huff, constable, Echo, W. Va.—I enclose, herewith, primary pledge with 35 signatures. Upon receipt of additional blanks will send you a great many more signatures and think that I can reach the thousand mark.

Walter Wills, local editor Richmond Democrat, Richmond, Mo.—We don't propose going a-fishing this year, and you can look for good results from old Ray county.

W. G. Marrs, Loraine, Tenn.—I enclose a primary pledge signed by 10 good democrats.

George C. Erwin, Young Harris, Ga.—I enclose a primary pledge with 25 signatures.

John C. Sloan, Fairmount City, Pa.—Enclosed find list of 35 of the best democrats in western Pennsylvania as signers of the pledge.

W. P. Stanley, Nola, Va.—Find herewith primary pledge bearing six signatures.

Tom Walsh, Raymore, Mo.—Enclosed find pledges of 12 rock-ribbed democrats.

G. M. Terrell, Everton, Mo.—Please find enclosed a primary pledge signed by 35 good democrats.

Charles M. Hatch, Athens, Ohio.—Enclosed please find the primary pledge signed. I am a Bryan democrat first, last and all the time, and the prospects never looked better for the triumph of democracy than at present.

Maurice McElhaney, Freestone, Ohio.—Enclosed please find 72 pledges signed by good, earnest democrats, and all are in sympathy with your plan of organization and think it a good thing.

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.