

PRIMARY PLEDGE PLAN

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 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.

The following letters are self-explanatory:

W. L. Blocker, Baltimore, Md.—I enclose list of 35 signatures to the primary pledge. Most of them are democrats, all are advocates of primary elections.

Jeff Parrot, Indianola, Ia.—Find enclosed primary pledge signed by 35. I do not miss the time I have been getting these names. I hope every democrat in Warren county will be given a chance to sign the primary pledge. This is the time for true democrats to get busy. If they do not we will have another Parker in 1908, or something just as bad.

Ed C. Manning, Toplin, Texas.—I enclose primary pledge. Our people have been attending the primary meetings several years. In this part of the country all the democrats we have are Bryan democrats.

T. McPherson, Webb, Ia.—Herewith find a few more names signed to the primary pledge. This makes 26 pledge signers and 5 new subscribers I have sent recently.

Chas. W. Beagle, Jackson, Wyo.—We are 100 miles from a railroad and the population is so scattering it is almost impossible to see all in person. We are in the midst of the game field of Wyoming, and surrounded by the Teton forest reserve. About every other man you meet is either a game warden or a forest ranger. Under above conditions, as you may know, the republicans are greatly in the majority, but the handful of democrats we have here are strictly of the Bryan stripe. We hope for the complete overthrow of graft in 1908.

W. R. Keith, Bridgeport, Okla.—Find enclosed primary pledge with 19 signatures of true and tried democrats. I think there is no paper as good as The Commoner and wish every voter could and would read it. Enclosed find check for \$11.40 to pay for The Commoner one year to each of the 19 pledge signers.

P. P. Pullen, Buchanan, Tenn.—These 35 primary pledge signers in two precincts. Send me more pri-

mary pledge blanks. I live on the state line, and will get into Kentucky next.

W. H. Hopewell, Keen, Ill.—Enclosed find 35 names signed to pledge. I am willing to predict a land-slide in 1908 with a good democrat at the helm.

John D. Harris, Scary, W. Va.—I will do all I can to help the primary pledge cause along. Please send me about twenty copies of The Commoner for distribution.

J. Greenville, Wittenberg, Mo.—I am now 87 years old, poor and a cripple, yet I am not willing to die until I can see a change of administration with a good democrat holding down the presidential chair. Here goes for the change.

R. P. Jeffers, Highland Station, Kans.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed by myself and 16 of my neighbors, all of whom are Bryan democrats and ever ready to do what they can for the good of pure and unadulterated democracy. Every man whom I solicited signed the pledge with two exceptions—one was a so-called democrat, the other afraid he could not keep the pledge, as he never had attended a convention and was afraid he would not in the future, but he is a true blue democrat.

The Neligh (Neb.) Register says: "There is one line of work in which The Commoner, Bryan's paper, is engaged that is very commendable, and that is the securing of pledges from democrats to attend all the primaries of the party to be held between now and the next national convention. The pledge which the voter is asked to sign further recites that the signer will use his influence to secure a clean, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak." Certainly the primary is the place where the common people may express themselves but the greatest trouble lies with the people. They fail to attend the primaries and permit the professional politician to fix up delegations to all the conventions and in many instances force upon the voters candidates who are not desirable."

John Walker, Corder, Mo.—These are all the people to whom I presented the pledge. Our people will all attend the primaries.

Col. D. C. Husted, Greenville, Ohio—I enclose primary pledge signed by nine voters.

Will Bochman, Brantley, Okla.—I send herewith a primary pledge petition with thirteen signatures.

The following have sent in pledges in number as follows: A. M. Hittel, Kremis, Pa., 35; Floyd Smith, Canada, Ky., 15; E. Dalton, Baileyton, Tenn., 30; Louis N. Williams, Kirksville, Mo., 20; Geo. W. Stout, Ashland, Ill., 35; W. E. Davis, Jamaica, Ia., 16; Jas. M. Lamb, Macon, Mo., 12.

PERKINS THE PET

George W. Perkins, partner of J. Pierpont Morgan and former vice president of the New York Life Insurance company, is under technical arrest on the charge of grand larceny for his share in contributing funds of his insurance company to the republican party during the last presidential campaign.

The ordinary procedure in such a case would be the indictment of the accused man by the grand jury. Sometimes, when exceptional circumstances exist, a magistrate issues a warrant direct, without waiting for grand jury action, as, for instance, when the accused person is upon the point of fleeing from the jurisdiction of the court. In the present case the only exceptional circumstance which has led District Attorney Jerome to proceed by warrant seems to be that Mr. Perkins is Mr. Perkins.

Upon habeas corpus proceedings the case will go first to the supreme court and finally to the appellate court of New York, for the determination of the law point involved, which is whether such acts as Mr. Perkins' actually constitute larceny under the provisions of the penal code. Except that he appears as an exceptionally favored defendant, Mr. Perkins will be in no better position to win in the highest court under the present proceedings than he would have been had he been regularly indicted.

The points of passing interest in the chosen method of procedure are that Mr. Perkins escapes the specific stigma of having been "indicted," that he is given a minimum of inconvenience by rude officers of the law, and that he has the greatest amount of freedom to carry on his own affairs while his able counsel fight this legal battle for him.

These phases of the case, of course, attract attention, but in reality they are but trifles. The central fact upon which the public may congratulate itself is that the law is on the way to be tested, and that a basis is being laid for a number of important criminal prosecutions, in case the law is held to apply.—Chicago Record-Herald (republican).

TOMMY'S ACT OF KINDNESS

Governor Folk of Missouri was talking about reform.

"We all believe in it," he said, "but we want to see it brought about at other folks' expense. We are like, too like, a certain Kansas City boy.

"This boy's mother said to him on her return from a long day's shopping in the Thanksgiving season:

"Now, I hope my little Tommy has taken to heart mamma's talk of last night about charity and unselfishness. Since he has few troubles of his own, I hope he has thought of others' troubles all day long. Since he has many causes for thanksgiving himself, I hope he has tried to give cause for thanksgiving to others. What is my Tommy's report for the day? How many acts of kindness has he done? How much woe has he lightened? How many hearts has my Tommy made grateful and glad?"

"In this rather mushy way spoke the good young mother. And her Tommy replied:

"I've done a whole lot of good, ma. I gave your new hat to a beggar woman, and I gave the cook's shoes to a little girl in busted rubbers what I seen on the street, and I gave a poor lame shoestrapping seller pa's evening suit—the open front one that he hardly ever wears."—Kansas City Journal.

Speaking in the senate Mr. Newlands of Nevada advocated amendments to the railroad bill providing for the national incorporation of railroads. Mr. Newlands also announces himself as in favor of the government ownership of railroads.

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THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

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Signed.....
Street Postoffice

County Voting precinct or ward.....

Fill out Blanks and mail to Commoner Office, Lincoln, Nebraska.