

THE GUILTY PARTY

Mr. W. S. Ryan, of Indianapolis, writes:

"The peoples' political band-wagon is not being driven by any especial driver at present, hence the indiscriminate evacuation of that in which the reins are held by Theodore Roosevelt is not in favor of nor towards any one in particular, but more after the nature of rats forsaking a sinking ship. I am not, by any means, a believer in the awakening of the people; in fact, I believe they are in the humor to submit to several years of good healthy robbery. And it is with the 'makin's of a sneer' that I call attention to one portentous fact.

"The blighted state of California is bravely fighting her own battle, and to strike her now would be cowardly, but if the brave old state would only rise up in her wrath and strike off the shackles of the railroads that bind her, own her, control and operate her to their own aggrandizement, how nobly great she could be. But her own brave people can see the fact at the end without having their patience tried by criticism for a condition that is now possibly beyond their power to cope with. Oregon, where the land frauds have discovered men of high place and accredited repute to be the commonest of grafters, as with Wyoming and Nevada. Montana, the state of Amalgamated Copper where United States senatorships are traded in and judgeships are controlled by rich men whose litigation fills the courts; where Rogers, the financial magician of Standard Oil holds sway, from 26 Broadway, and plays with the state as a pawn. Colorado, where working men and their wives and children were deported from the state at the point of the bayonet and threatened with death should they return; where the peoples' will, as expressed by the ballot was, by the courts of the state, set aside and held for naught. Kansas, where the Standard Oil and railroads held sway and by perjury and law violation sustained themselves for years. Missouri—St. Louis—where corruption smelled to heaven and until one nery, honorable young officer found his duty to be to cleanse the cesspool. Illinois—Chicago—the home of the Beef Trust, private Car Trust, Harvester Trust, Railroad Trust, all of which violated the law to their own enrichment and robbery of the people, the ruin of humble competitors and an ignoring of the law and orders of courts with a contempt that even drew down upon the courts the distrust of the people. Indiana, where the Standard Oil and railroads do exactly as they please and with no power, in any authority to estop them and where the Tobacco Trust estimated a state legislator's price to be an hundred dollars. Ohio, where the Standard Oil and the railroads may come again into their own and Boss Cox, now that the people's endeavor has been overcome by the death of the one who, in protest to conditions, they had elected governor. Pennsylvania, from Pittsburg to Philadelphia, politically rotten, and content with the seeming relief given by a frightened mayor of a large city before the threatenings of an infuriated popu-

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

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 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 page 14.

Extracts from letters received at The Commoner office follow:

F. E. Hammond, Cuba, N. Y.—You will find enclosed primary pledge signed by eighteen persons besides myself.

Anna Feedback, Dodd City, Tex.—After giving best wishes for The Commoner's success, I enclose my primary pledge. The cause of real

democracy is just and holy. Keep the primary pledge plan moving. I do not want to miss a single number of The Commoner. I hope Mr. Bryan will get home safely.

John Hoppe, Hulls, Ill.—Enclosed find twelve primary pledge signatures.

C. R. Browne, St. Louis, Mo.—Enclosed you will find a list of fifteen signatures to the primary pledge. These I have been able to secure among the employes at my place of employment. They are a few good democrats who believe in democratic principles as advocated by Mr. Bryan. Wishing you success in your work of making the democratic party truly democratic.

A. P. Conklin, Cedar Run, N. J.—I send you a pledge with seventeen names, five democrats and the rest are republicans.

Jacob Welch, 1214 Harrison street, Kansas City, Mo.—Enclosed please find primary pledge signed by thirty-five good democrats. All of them are true-blue. Please excuse my tardiness for not sending list in sooner, as I will be 73 years old next month, and on crutches, and can not get around very well. I wish The Commoner and the primary pledge success.

A. W. Tucker, Florahome, Fla.—Find enclosed list of names freely given to the primary

place, that is now satisfied seemingly with everything to come. New Jersey, the state without fame or shame, in the smallest pocket of the Pennsylvania railroad and the Prudential Life Insurance company. New York, rotten with dishonesty in high place, where banking, insurance, railroading, gas, telephone—all business is permeated, seemingly, with corruption; entering the legislature through wide open doors, and whose 'house of mirth' is humorously considered, without shame at its significance. Rhode Island, with Senator Aldrich the grocer-statesman, whose leadership of his political party in the United States senate is notoriously attributable to his relationship with Standard Oil interests. West Virginia, with Steve Elkins in the senate. Massachusetts, with its gas and copper robberies. Delaware, deprived of its rightful representation in the senate because of an Addicks, and the Powder Trust and its interests now safely anchored in the senate.

"For all this thieving in insurance companies, operating under bribed legislatures and bought laws and favoring judges and courts; for all the unpunished perjury and trickery and corruption of Standard Oil personages; for all the laxity of government in the exercise of its function to enforce the laws; for all this favoring of corporate interests and ignoring of the sacredness of personal rights; for the favoring legislation of congress to especial interests and denial of relief from wrongs practiced by those same interests; for all the muck that has been uncovered, and that which strenuous effort is being made to keep covered; for this, seemingly, national rottenness of and in public affairs and their method of conduct; for the contempt of the world, which such conduct of omission and commission has brought upon us, is not the republican party to blame?"

"Has the republican party not been in absolute control of all branches of the national government?"

"If the republican party in power could not check or stop it, is she not a failure?"

"She has reached what she has celebrated as her golden jubilee, the fiftieth year of her existence, and in what condition are the public affairs of the country?"

"Is all the civilized world beside not pointing the finger of scorn at us as a discredited, dishonest, dishonorable people?"

"Has not the republican party bred and fostered the conditions that have imposed upon us the necessity of the muck-rake?"

"Has not our social structure become a slimy institution that shames us with its wealth of mothers without husbands, and children without fathers? Are not our courts insulted with suspicion?"

"What political party has been in power all this while?"

"If government is to govern, the republican party has failed."

"The republican party is guilty."

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pledge. Democrats here believe the hour of our deliverance is at hand. The Commoner grows better as it grows older. And it ought to be read by every democrat in the country.

John Betz, Ft. Recovery, Ohio.—Enclosed I send you nineteen signatures to the primary pledge.

A. G. Cardwell, Seymour, Mo.—I enclose fifteen signatures to the primary pledge.

W. H. Mastin, Kansas City, Mo.—Enclosed find thirty-five signatures to the primary pledge.

EVEN "THE GREATEST PROTECTIONIST"

Representative Landis of Indiana, speaking in the house recently, referred to William McKinley as "the greatest protection president we have had." Mr. Landis said that Mr. McKinley was satisfied with the Dingley act, and we ought to be satisfied now.

Referring to Mr. Landis' speech, the Chicago Record-Herald says that Mr. McKinley's last speech delivered at Buffalo "is calculated to make standpatters and pile-of-brick theorists squirm." The Record-Herald reminds Mr. Landis that "the greatest protection president" used such sentences as these:

"The period of exclusiveness is past."

"The problem of more markets requires our urgent and immediate attention."

"Only a broad and enlightened policy of reciprocity will keep what we have. No other policy will get more."

"We must not repose in fancied security."

"Reciprocity treaties are in harmony with the spirit of our times."

The Record-Herald adds:

"Mr. McKinley advocated the 'employment' of schedules and rates that were no longer needed either for revenue or for protection in reciprocity treaties.

"All this was said in 1901. What has congress done for reciprocity, for the extension of our markets? Nothing. We narrowly escaped a tariff war with Germany. We are threatened with discrimination elsewhere. The standpatters warn us that no rate or schedule of the Dingley law must be touched, save in the way of 'upward' kindness. What would Mr. McKinley have thought of their confession of impotence?"

The Record-Herald is a republican paper and is also one of the severest critics of the standpatters; yet Mr. Dalzell of Pennsylvania tells us that there is no demand for tariff revision except on the part of democrats.

A FRIEND OF THE ANIMALS

Mayor Dahlman, of Omaha, has appointed, and the council has confirmed, the nomination of Alfred Millard, cashier of the United States National bank of that city, to be city poundmaster. Mr. Millard, who is president of the Nebraska Humane society, has accepted the appointment and says: "I am very grateful to the mayor and city council for my appointment as poundmaster, and to those friends who have spoken a good word in my behalf. I shall so conduct the office that more respect will attach to it than heretofore, and the animals will be treated with more consideration."

Mr. Millard is a man of large affairs, but his business cares have not hardened his heart. He frankly announced that he would like to be appointed poundmaster, believing that in that office he could effect many reforms that would be beneficial to the city and at the same time beneficial to the dumb creatures too often brutally treated by inhumane men. He has set an example that other men with equal opportunities for doing good might emulate. The city of Omaha is to be congratulated upon the fact that such a man has accepted a position that has heretofore been looked upon as the perquisite of some party henchman who was devoid of feeling. Mr. Millard has honored himself as well as his city, and The Commoner congratulates the homeless and heretofore helpless animals upon the acquisition of a friend at court who will see to it that they are treated justly and humanely.

HOMEWARD BOUND

On June 20, Mr. Bryan was at Stockholm, Sweden; on June 25 he was at Christiana, Norway, and on July 3, he will arrive at London, England, where on July 4 he will deliver an address to the American society. He will sail for home August 23, reaching New York August 28 or 29.