

The Commoner.

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A. L. Eubank, Ia.—You will find enclosed seven names of campaign subscribers for The Commoner, and money order to pay for the same at your special campaign rate. Please send me more campaign subscription certificates as I may be able to get more subscribers.

Jacob L. Traylor, Ill.—Herewith find my check for \$7.00 to pay for the enclosed list of fourteen subscriptions.

C. C. Walker, West. Va.—I have your favor of January 6 and enclose herewith remittance of \$8.00 to pay for sixteen campaign subscriptions as per the list enclosed herewith. Mr.

Frank Holt, Littlesburg, W. Va., has promised to secure a club at his place and I have no doubt but that he will be able to secure at least twelve or fifteen.

C. J. Dickey, Cal.—You will find enclosed \$5.50 for eleven campaign subscribers for the year 1912. I sent you five new subscribers on the 28th of December and you will find more new ones in this batch.

GOVERNOR FOLK OPENS MISSOURI CAMPAIGN

Associated Press dispatch: Joplin, Mo., Feb. 2.—Joseph W. Folk, former governor of Missouri, formally opened his campaign for the democratic presidential nomination here tonight at a meeting held under the auspices of the Joplin Folk-for-president club. The meeting was largely attended.

In presenting his claims for endorsement of Missouri democrats, Mr. Folk recalled the action of the state convention two years ago which pledged its support to him. In reference to the candidacy of Speaker Champ Clark, he said he believed the Clark boom was launched without the speaker's consent and that he was brought into the race by "his enthusiastic friends and insistence of these elements opposed to the Folk candidacy."

The St. Louis city committee was attacked by Mr. Folk.

"It is dominated by the agents and representatives of great corporate powers," he said, "and its members object to things I have done in my official career and they would support anyone else through hatred to me."

The name of Woodrow Wilson was brought out by Mr. Folk when referring to the state convention to be held here February 20. He urged the co-operation of his friends and those of Governor Wilson, if he fails to get the convention endorsement in the support of a progressive candidate. During the next week he will make a whirlwind campaign of rural Missouri.

"The mission of democracy is to make men free, to liberate them from the oppression of privilege and to give to each man an equal opportunity," said former Governor Folk. "We are approaching in the nation the time for a great battle for these principles. Missouri will have an important part in that conflict."

"If there is anything I could say, or anything I could do to relieve the unfortunate state of affairs within the democratic party of Missouri, I would most cheerfully do it. If we must split the party to win this contest, I should prefer a hundred times not to win it. The success of the democratic principles just now is more important than the advancement of any individual. Neither Mr. Clark nor myself should be considered, but the welfare of the party alone kept in view. It is better for the party, after accepting the benefit to break the pledge made by the last democratic convention, of which Mr. Clark was a member and temporary chairman, then let it be broken. It is simply a question of whether the party would be in a better position before the people with the pledge kept or broken. If the pledge is honored, I shall be gratified; if not, I shall not complain, but will give my best efforts to the cause of democracy, and do my best to quiet disaffection."

The speaker then told of his conference with William Jennings Bryan at St. Louis last week, in which the Nebraskan urged a split delegation at the national convention as a solution of the Missouri question. Speaker Clark, he declared, was responsible for the rejection of Bryan's suggestion.

Referring to his failure to file delegations for the St. Louis primary, Mr. Folk said:

"The St. Louis city committee is dominated by agents of the great corporate powers of the state. Instead of being impartial arbitrators, as representatives of the party, they made themselves representatives of one candidate. The members of the committee, with a few exceptions, announced their intention to use their official functions to carry things for their own delegations."

Mr. Folk then recited the part the committee has taken in past campaigns and continued:

"If my friends control the delegation and I can not be nominated, it will go to some progressive like Woodrow Wilson. I want my friends over the state to co-operate with the friends of Governor Wilson and other progressives. The reactionaries will unite on one candidate and the progressives should do the same. Shall the reactionaries or the progressives control the democratic party of Missouri? Ask the progressive democrats of the state to get into the battle."