

Approve Stand for a Dry Nation

Following are extracts from a few of the many letters received in response to Mr. Bryan's appeal for assistance in the work of driving the liquor interests from the democratic party and the nation:

Roy S. Lowe, Mo.—I wish to say that The Commoner and Mr. W. J. Bryan can most certainly depend on me to do anything I am able to do to aid in the campaign you are starting for national prohibition. I am enclosing a list of names of men in this city who should aid in this work. These are not all democrats but are all favorable to prohibition and claim to be more or less independent in politics, while a good number of them are straight democrats. If there is anything else by way of organization, etc., that I can do here, I will be glad to undertake same. I think the plan as announced is a most splendid one and should receive the hearty support of the rank and file of the democratic party all over the United States and result in the adoption of the prohibition plank in the party platform in 1920, which will insure the election of a democratic president at that time, and I want to say here that my first choice for that place is W. J. Bryan.

R. L. Neville, Md.—I am heartily in accord with your plan for the coming campaign four years hence. I think the time is ripe for it. I also want to add that I have always stood for Mr. Bryan in everything he has advocated since he has been in public life, in fact men of his high and lofty ideas in government are rare in the world's history. My wish is that he may successfully carry through his proposed plans and that this nation may honor him by making him president in 1920.

Conrad Bluhm, Wash.—In a recent tour of the east I have frequently asserted that William Jennings Bryan is the greatest single moral force in the United States. Hence I am profoundly glad to hear his announcement on the subject of his four-year program against the national liquor traffic. In this program Mr. Bryan will walk a little nearer to God than even heretofore, for the liquor business is America's greatest libel against the beneficence of the Almighty. I congratulate the country in this prospective fortune, and shall pray the democratic party may catch up with its greatest benefactor.

O. Bielland, Minn.—I am very much in favor of Mr. Bryan's ideas, and the new dry idea is simply another that goes with me. I wish to state that we are organizing a democratic organization in Minneapolis for social, educational and political purposes. A temporary organization is already formed with a committee to adopt by laws and constitution. I had circulated your letter a few days previous, so that many of the members started at once to argue for a dry organization. We expect a large membership, not only from Minneapolis but from outside, through the state. Will send subscriptions to The Commoner shortly.

O. H. Gould, N. Y.—I am most heartily in favor of the plan, and believe the time is ripe and that the plan will succeed. I will send you a list of names soon and will work as never before to make the plan a success.

Carl C. Curtis, N. Y.—I assure you that Mr. Bryan's plan has my heartiest approval. Of all men in public life I admire Mr. Bryan the most, and I rejoice that he has undertaken this contest. The temperance cause has long needed such a leader, and I believe that victory is certain.

B. W. Hughes, Ky.—I am heartily in accord with Mr. Bryan's views on prohibition, and will be glad to co-operate and render any aid in my power to that end.

R. A. Lord, Okla.—There can be no question about Mr. Bryan being right in his declaration of war on the saloon interests; his whole plan I think is wise.

W. M. Johnston, Mont.—As a reader of The Commoner, you are advised that I am willing to do all I can to help drive the liquor interests out of the nation.

John A. Pearson, Minn.—You may be assured that for one I am heartily in sympathy with Mr.

Bryan's plan for the next four years and shall be glad to assist in his fight to free certain elements of the democratic party from the contaminating influence of the American saloon.

J. N. O'Neal, Ark.—I notice the following in the December issue of The Commoner: "Wanted—The name of every democrat and independent who will assist Mr. Bryan in driving the liquor interests out of the party and out of the nation." I am just a common mountain farmer, but am ready to join heartily in the cause above stated. I have always loved dearly the principles for which Mr. Bryan has stood. Taking my little mountain precinct as a unit I am persuaded that there are hundreds of thousands ready to help with all their might. While Arkansas has voted prohibition and turned down an amendment to restore the whiskey interest, we yet have much whiskey shipped in from Tennessee and some other states, and today—Christmas Eve—many little children have not so much as an orange, but their fathers somehow have managed to order a quart or more of whiskey. I am more than glad to pledge Mr. Bryan my time and influence in this great movement.

J. M. Fulton, M. D., Iowa.—I heartily indorse your plan, and will do all I can to make it a success. I supported Mr. Bryan in all his work and will continue in the future, for I am sure his efforts will be of the same high ideals as they always have been. Our efforts have not been in vain for it seems to me much of our success has been from the untiring devotion of Mr. Bryan.

W. P. Warren, Ohio.—Four years ago Mr. Bryan went into the temple at Baltimore and took up the cattle driver's whip, turning over the broker's tables, then driving desecrators and money changers from the temple, thereby snatching from the jaws of Wall street its dominant power, and thus saving the democratic party and people from bondage by the nomination of Wilson again in 1916. We see Mr. Bryan going west, meeting with the greatest ovations of all campaigners. The result was Woodrow Wilson's re-election. Mr. Bryan has impressed me very much in his move for prohibition; also his idea of fraternizing the world or bringing about peace in all the world that we may act like brothers. In conclusion I will say he is progressive, and his works will be better understood and appreciated in twenty years hence.

Sam F. Glecker, Ill.—I am glad we have a man like Mr. Bryan on our side to help us fight against the liquor business, and he can count on me and my prayers to make this land of ours dry, and I appreciate the victory you helped to bring about in the last campaign.

C. F. Townsend, N. Y.—In the December Commoner I noticed a request on the margin for the name of every democrat or independent who would assist you in driving the liquor interests out of the party. I wish to submit my name for this purpose. I have followed you through your whole career and have lived to see you gloriously vindicated on every theory you have put forth, but I had just about given up the following of a party that would not take a stand for prohibition, I have always been a democrat, but can not longer, unless they take your advice on this question. I would rather vote the prohibition ticket and lose my vote. However, I am at your service if there is anything I can do to help put our party right on this question.

J. H. Fisher, Ohio.—I hereby inform you that I will with the utmost sincerity pledge to you my support in making democracy dry, which I know will be a reality in 1920 under the leadership of the next president, Honorable William J. Bryan.

Floyd L. Daggett, Wash.—I note from The Commoner that you wish to hear from those who will be with you in your campaign launched to bring the democratic party in line with the live issues of the day. I have followed your political fortunes as a humble worker in the ranks since the days of 1896—and even before that when you were in congress I was attracted to your ideas and believed in them then. There-

fore, I have been privileged to see most of the issues advocated by you made into law and adopted by the vote and sentiment of the people. I am with you in the move for national prohibition. Also for equal suffrage. It would appear to me that if the latter can be enacted into law before the next national campaign comes on, it will remove one great element from that campaign discussion, and give greater emphasis to the prohibition movement.

Wm. C. Peck, Ill.—I do not know of any way more effectively and efficiently rendered than to send to The Commoner the names of a few democrats and independents — as you request on page 15 of the last issue—to help drive the liquor interests out of the party and nation. There are enough temperance men in both the democratic and republican parties to take possession of the government and give us national prohibition by 1920.

L. C. Burr, Neb.—I am in receipt of your letter desiring to know if Mr. Bryan can count on me in the great work of reform that he has been doing in this country for the past fifteen or more years, and it is a pleasure for me to say that he can count on my vote, my work and my money, as I look upon him as being one of the greatest men on earth. The war in Europe has not as yet developed a great man to compare with Mr. Bryan in his work for the good of humanity and country. He not only elected President Wilson once, but I believe twice. He has changed the constitution of the United States several times to the great good of the masses of this country. He almost alone has broken up the saloons of Nebraska and will soon break them up in the nation, and every good person in this country should join him in his work.

John C. Hamm, Cal.—Answering the query implied in The Commoner's invitation to use its columns for an expression of democratic sentiment on the question of prohibition, I am glad to respond and say that I think the program to definitely commit the democratic party to prohibition meets with almost unanimous favor in my immediate community. As soon as the results in Michigan, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana and Utah became known, the practical men of the party who had, some of them, been lukewarm in their support of our prohibitory amendments voluntarily declared to me that "it is just the thing for the democratic party to do to adopt prohibition." This sentiment may have been as much based on opportunism as in real regard for the issue involved; but it was none the less hearty and was the honest judgment of those men as to what is best as a pure party measure. I can not conceive of a blinder folly being committed by the national and state democracy than to throw away this golden opportunity to place itself squarely in the front of the column Onward March, and thus secure the tenure of the party for a generation. The Commoner will have my heartiest co-operation in every way that I may be able to give it expression.

Alonzo E. Werts, Ill.—I am anxious to have you know that I am heartily in favor of the plans outlined for a dry nation. I hope it will be carried out and that the democratic party will be with Mr. Bryan, and further that Mr. Bryan will be the president who will be at the helm in 1920.

H. Ellis Lininger, Neb.—You may count on me as an accomplice to help Mr. Bryan and all others in driving the liquor interests out of the party and nation.

Robert R. Fohl, Ind.—I will stand by Mr. Bryan in his new campaign against "booze." He made me his friend many years ago, and in my opinion, where quality counts, he stands head and shoulders above any man in our great country today. Will do what I can to help this cause in my locality.

Dr. J. H. St. Clair, Pa.—The plan announced by Hon. W. J. Bryan has my hearty approval, and as per your request I am mailing you some names. If The Commoner could only get into the hands of every voter within the next four years then we would have a true "landslide," or world slide.

Wallace McLendon, Ark.—I am in accord with your views toward the liquor question. It has been going and going and now it is only a question of time until it is gone. All honest

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