

The Messenger.

"EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL; SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO NONE."

Vol. 1.

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No. 27.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

We give below a condensed report of the doings of the General Assembly at Minneapolis. Lack of space to print a full report compels us to leave out every superfluous word.

The first duty of the Assembly was the call of delegates who passed the scrutiny of the committee on credentials. One hundred and eighty-five were reported.

Thursday at noon Mr. Davitt, the Irish leader, was admitted to the hall, and was permitted to address the Assembly. His speech was listened to with marked attention and elicited much applause.

The Committee on Legislation recommended that the eight-hour law be extended to letter-carriers; that the first Monday in September should be a national holiday; that the Blair educational bill be passed; that the legislative committee should be instructed to urge the passage of the Foran bill for the settlement of the government lands under the homestead law, and that settlers be required to pay not more than 3 per cent to the government for money loaned; that government contracts be covered by a weekly payment provision; that the Foran lake shipping bill be endorsed; that a department of labor, postal telegraph, and governmental possession of railroads, as recommended by the General Master Workman, be endorsed; that United States Senators should be elected by a popular vote; that a universal effort of our members should be made to bring about a radical change in the conspiracy laws in the different States. All the foregoing were adopted after varied and intelligent and pleasant discussions.

The following recommendations also were adopted: The committee on boycotts and strikes recommended that the firms of Garry Bros., dry goods, New York City; Francis Cobb & Co., lime, Rockland, Me.; Richards Paper Co., Gardiner, Me.; B. F. Spinney, shoes, Norway, Me.; E. & A. H. Batcheller, North Brookfield, be boycotted. It was also determined to endorse the action of the 15 District Assemblies who have boycotted the New York *Sun*; it was voted that the New York *Tribune* be condemned; that the action of the General Executive Board in connection with the dock yard strike be endorsed, as they had done their whole duty in the matter.

Considerable time was taken up in discussing a proposition to strike out that portion of the Constitution which gives the General Executive Board power to submit at any time a constitutional amendment to the locals and to declare it adopted by a majority vote. Amended so that the board be without power to act until requested by five district assemblies. Adopted.

An amendment to the constitution authorizing the establishing of trade councils in local assemblies was rejected on the ground that the assemblies have already all the power in this direction consistent with discipline. The rule giving permission to district or national trades councils to regulate the time of the delivery of charters to newly organized local assemblies, was adopted.

The action of the delegates in the convention has developed the fact that they are the most intelligent and

conservative body which has come together to legislate for the benefit of the great organization that they represent. Members of the orders can rest assured that the result of this convention will be to solidify the organization and restore harmony among its members.

A magnificent crayon portrait of T. V. Powderly was brought into the hall and placed on an easel in the centre of the room. Mrs. Leonora Barry, in behalf of the delegates, requested the General Master Workman to take to his wife this token of the esteem in which she is held among the membership of the Knights of Labor. Mr. Prose to thank the convention, but was so overcome with emotion that he was unable to do so, and General Secretary Litchman responded in his stead.

The Assembly adjourned on Wednesday, 19th.

LABOR WAIFS.

Called and Condensed from our Exchanges.

District Assembly 49 will publish a new weekly labor paper about Nov. 11. Victor Drury will be the editor.

The miners of Iron Mountain have struck against an order requesting them to work on Sunday nights.

The boycott on the American Tube and Iron Works, at Youngstown, O., has brought the company to terms with its employees.

There is a strike of the molders of the Colman Hardware Co., Morris, Illinois, caused by the new schedule of prices, which makes a reduction of 10 to 15 per cent.

Railroad employes who testified against the St. Paul road at Dubuque, Iowa, are being discharged. They testified that the company were to blame for a recent wreck.

The Anthracite Coal Shippers Association, in Chicago, have advanced the prices of hard coal 25 cents per ton at wholesale. The Coal Exchange will advance prices the consumers.

P. S.—The Association advanced the wages of the miners 000 cents per ton.

A monument is to be erected in honor of Thomas J. Armstrong, late editor of the *Labor Tribune* of Pittsburg, an able and staunch supporter of the rights of the laborer. The labor leaders of Pittsburg have taken the matter in hand.

Knights of Labor of Calhoun, Ill., have a movement now on foot to organize a co-operative company, its capital stock to be \$100,000 or 40,000 shares at \$25 each, which organization is to date from 1888 or as soon as the titles to several tracts of land can be perfected.

The Alliance is one of the grandest political organizations the world ever produced. Rising as it does above the slums of the party politics, it elevates its membership through a system of teachings in principles of economic government in a strictly non-partizan sense, to a higher plane of citizenship, which enables them to exercise the right preservative of all rights—that of suffrage—to the best interests of not only themselves, but the nation at large. This is right. No man can reasonably object to the Alliance going into politics in this way.—*Ex.*

JAY GOULD'S POWER.

The apparent fact that the sale of the B. & O. telegraph to Jay Gould has been consummated is calculated to excite the gravest apprehensions in regard to the money power that one man may possess. The telegraphs of the country convey intelligence regarding every transaction in business, every act of the government, every movement in politics, every important personal and domestic relation. With a telegraphic key-board in Jay Gould's back office, he will have his finger on every pulsation of trade, of finance, of politics, of official action and of domestic life. He who shall own the telegraphs of the country can advance or depress prices by which thousands or millions may be ruined in an hour; he may control the government itself; his evil or unclean presence may be felt in every home. Possibly one man might not abuse this stupendous grasp on the vitals of the country; but other men would, and it is too great a danger to foresee with complacency.

It is evident that, if competition and all its results are to be excluded from the private administration of such a great public service as the telegraph, the government must intervene for the protection of the people. But the United States should not buy existing lines. Telegraph lines could be established to every point reached by the Western Union, over every railway and post road, for one-tenth part of the nominal value of Jay Gould's combination. A telegraph office could be placed in every important post office and at every railway station in the country for a sum of money that would not sensibly reduce the surplus in the United State Treasury. The work should be undertaken at once, unless monopoly shall remove and keep its greedy and oppressive hands off from the existing lines.—*Chicago Journal*, October 8.

POETRY AND PROSE.

FOR THE MESSENGER.

It was a pleasant evening of last week when he sat and listened to her read a beautiful poem on the death of an old year and the birth of a new one. Then while her whole soul seemed to be full of poetry and sublimity of thought, he picked up a small sheet, which may possibly some time grow and expand into a newspaper, and read therefrom a description of a musical entertainment recently given the citizens of a nice town of N. C., and as he read on she naturally grew the more interested, until, when the writer reached the zenith of his glory in his grand description of the sun's departure, and radiance of his beauty, and the grandly sublime writer seemed about to flap his wings at the prospect of soon passing through the "pearly gates" and marching "the streets of gold" to the sweet notes of the Cornet band, when she dropped back in her easy chair and exclaimed in the language of the poet, "Oh fan me, fan me quickly with a knitting needle."

Isn't it singular that while so much is said in the papers about working-men organizing to keep up or prevent a cut in wages, so little is said about the pools organized to fleece the people.—*New Order.*

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[OF M. FOLB & BRO.]

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FOR MEN, YOUTHS AND BOYS.

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In 5 & 10 lb. boxes

—AT—

20 AND 25 CTS. A POUND.

Those who want Tobacco can save money by examining my stock before buying.

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IN WELSH BUILDING.

It Ain't So.

Vann Bros were not burned out on the 3d instant, as reported. They are still alive and driving business. They are selling "Rafts" of

Flour, Bacon, Sugar,

Coffee, Salt, Lard,

N. C. and SUGAR-CURED HAMS.

CHEESE.

GILT EDGE AND MOUNTAIN BUTTER.

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Why so? Because they do a "Live and let live" business. The people have long since found it out, and are availing themselves of the benefits of trading there. When you want to buy anything call to see VANN BROS.

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