

The Messenger.

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OCTOBER 28, ----- 1887.

A meeting of the County Farmers Alliance will be held here on Saturday, Nov. 5th. All members are earnestly requested to be present. See notice of Secretary McLean on another page.

The situation in Ireland is becoming daily more desperate. The police are becoming more despotic and the inhabitants are but little better off than veritable slaves. We wonder that they have stood such unjust oppression so long.

The scurrilous attack made on Mrs. Cleveland by the editor of a vile sheet in Minneapolis while the President and party were there, is so low and so contemptible as to be entirely unworthy of a refutation. A nice boycott, judiciously administered, would fit all such cases as this.

The Raleigh News and Observer is opposed to Uncle Sam buying the telegraph lines on the ground that it "savors too much of paternalism and there is no end of that sort of thing already than is agreeable to most of us." We are heartily opposed to that paper in this measure, and are glad to state that it is "not a drop in the bucket" compared to the number in favor of governmental ownership of telegraphs and railways. A large number of leading papers have come out squarely in favor of the government stepping in and subduing these monopolies that are sapping the foundation of our free government.

Did it ever occur to you how unequally everything is distributed in this world? While Cleveland was traveling around in all his pomp and glory, boosting himself for another term, at an expense of the wages of three hundred workmen for a whole year, and traveling in cars each of which cost as much as one thousand and workmen earn, or are paid, in a year's time; while he was traveling thus, we say, there were hundreds and thousands of people in this land of freedom and plenty actually suffering for bread. And if these people who banqueted and dined Cleveland on the fat of the land would pay living wages, this other class of people would not have been suffering for bread.

The General Assembly adjourned on Wednesday of last week. Mr. Powderly did not resign, nor was he asked to do so. The Associated Press reporters got things badly mixed in their dispatches. There are many rumors afloat that the anarchist element of the Order, headed by pseudo-delegate Buchanan, has seceded and established an organization of their own with headquarters at Chicago. These rumors may be sensational, yet we earnestly hope they are true. No man can be an Anarchist and a Knight of Labor, as the aims of the two orders are diametrically opposite. Instead of endeavoring to advance K. of L. principles, they have been a constant dog-in-the-manger to the Order. We are glad to bid these brethren farewell, without a tear in our anti-weeping eyes. They have been a constant menace to the safety of the Order. In this connection the *National Republican* says: "The anarchist and socialistic elements of the Knights of Labor have seceded from the order. The friends of the order and of labor generally must congratulate the Knights upon the secession. This is one of the cases in which a loss means a gain."

A GOOD START.

We are pleased to note the fact that one Alliance in this section is making an effort to rid its members of the high mortgage prices. The Alliance members fully realize that they have been unjustly taxed while buying under mortgage, and are now making an effort at co-operation, in order to rid themselves of this grievous burden. They are making negotiations to buy their supplies for next year in a lump, and have flattering assurances of success. A few years of this co-operation will place the farmer where he should be—a thoroughly independent man. A few years of this co-operation, buying at a saving of about twenty-five per cent and selling at an advance of ten or twenty per cent, will free the hardworking farmer—who is now compelled to work from early morn till late at eve in summer's heat and winter's cold to eke out a scanty living—from the bondage of the mortgage system.

The Farmers Alliance has for its prime object the abolition of the mortgage system, the founders of the organization believing that this system is the root of all the financial ills under which the mortgaged farmer is now laboring. To accomplish this object the Alliance has a co-operative feature, through which the farmer is expected to obtain his supplies at a much lower rate than heretofore, and by the same method realize a better price for the products of his farm. The feasibility of this scheme is, we suppose, not doubted by any practical, common sense man. In Texas, where the Alliance originated about seven years ago, there are several co-operative cotton factories with an aggregate capital of more than a million dollars, hundreds of co-operative stores, from which the farmer can purchase his supplies at a greatly reduced price, and a State Exchange, with a capital of half a million dollars, for the sale of the cotton, grain, hay and stock raised by members of the Alliance. All these co-operative enterprises are in successful operation, and are making money for the stockholders.

Realizing this the Alliances in this section should commence at once to inaugurate co-operative enterprises. A few dollars from each member will go a long way towards establishing an Alliance store, where the members can obtain their supplies at less than mortgage prices. This seems to us to be the first step that should be taken by the Alliance to benefit the members. They sadly need aid in this respect. Unless the Alliances can make satisfactory arrangements with the merchants they should at once start a co-operative store. This feature of the Alliance fully carried out will be of incalculable benefit to the members.

The Court of Appeals of New York has decided adversely to the Henry George party on appeal in a mandamus suit to compel the New York Police Board to appoint a representative of that party as a fifth member of the various boards of inspectors of elections, as the suit to try the issues involved could hardly be decided before Nov. 8th.

The three most remarkable cases of long life recorded are those of Thomas Parr, and Henry Jenkins, a Yorkshireman, and the Countess of Desmond. Parr lived to be 152 years old; Jenkins is said to have reached the age of 169 years, though the case is not so well authenticated. The Countess of Desmond reached 142 years.

Judge Snell, of the Police Court of Washington, D. C., has sentenced eight members of the Knights of Labor to pay a fine of \$25 each or go to jail for 30 days. The fine is small, the precedent is great. Hereafter Judge Snell will be quoted as an authority on boycotts. An appeal will be made by the convicted "conspirators."—*Craftsman*.

A PROCLAMATION.

The goodness and mercy of God, which have followed the American people during all the days of the past year, claim their grateful recognition and humble acknowledgements. By His omnipotent power he has protected us from war and pestilence, and from every national calamity; by His gracious favor the earth has yielded a generous return to the labor of the husbandman, and every path of honest toil has led to comfort and contentment; by His loving kindness the hearts of our people have been replenished with a fraternal sentiment and patriotic endeavor, and by His unerring guidance we have been directed in the way of national prosperity.

To the end that we may, with one accord, testify our gratitude for all these blessings, I, Grover Cleveland, President of the United States, do hereby designate and set apart Thursday, the twenty-fourth day of November next, as a Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer, to be observed by all the people of the land.

On that day let all work and employment be suspended; and let our people assemble in their accustomed places of worship, and with prayer and songs of praise, give thanks to our Heavenly Father for all that He has done for us, while we humbly implore forgiveness of our sins and a continuance of His mercy. Let families and kindred be reunited on that day, and let their hearts, fill with kindly cheer and affectionate reminiscences be turned in thankfulness to the source of all their pleasures, and the giver of all that makes the day glad and joyous. And in the midst of our worship and happiness let us remember the poor and needy and unfortunate, and by our gifts of charity and ready benevolence, let us increase the number of those who, with grateful hearts, shall join us in our thanksgiving.

In witness whereof, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this 25th day of October, in the Year of Our Lord, 1887, and of the Independence of the United State, 112th.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

By the President:

THOMAS F. BAYARD,
Secretary of State.

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B4

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