

# The Messenger.

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

Vol. 1.

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

## LET US HEAR FROM YOU.

We are receiving hundreds of letters each week from our subscribers in the West and South and on the Pacific slope, and they invariably urge running a labor candidate for President this fall. But while they are all a unit on that point, they are not united on what the name or platform of the party shall be. Some will accept nothing but Henry George and his land theory, others want the Cincinnati platform, other class demand the old greenback name and platform, while a fourth want to see a man nominated upon the platform and principles of the Knights of Labor. Now this last platform suits us best of any, but we realize that we cannot elect a President with our vote alone, or even if we had the united strength of all the K. of L. members in the country, we would still be in the minority, and those who are pushing their claims in the other labor parties should realize the same thing; and until they do realize this, there is no hope for a union of all the forces; and until there is a union of forces there is no show of success. A disorganized army becomes a mob when engaged in a battle, and are as liable to shoot friends as foes.

We have been for the past two years advocating a union of all the labor elements into one grand labor party, and care not what the name may be so long as the flag of organized labor floats at the head. The difference in the platforms of the several factions to-day is not enough to quarrel over. Either of them is a great improvement on the two old rotten hulks owned by the democratic and republican parties, and we believe that if a conference was held, of delegates from each, that a platform of principles could be formulated that would be acceptable to the great mass of laborers who are to-day outside of the old parties, and waiting for a Moses to lead them into the promised land. Such a union could be formed if the leaders of the different factions are honest in their profession. If not, the sooner they are fired out the better.

What say our exchanges to this? How many of us can agree upon this point to start with?—*Advocate*.

Each of the nine trustees of the Standard Oil Trust receives a salary of \$25,000 a year, and the president \$30,000. The sum of \$255,000 a year for ten men is not so bad, and they ought to be able to keep the wolf from the door, considering that it is \$250,000 more per year than the average pay of ten workingmen. Trusts are great institutions; they keep up the wages of their members without resorting to strikes. The boycott is the weapon of the trusts, and look out, you private enterprise fellows, if you get in the way of the trust's boycott.—*Craftsman*.

The labor party began a protest and the warning was heard. If the party is to dissolve, where will its members go? To Tammany to vote at the bidding of Richard Croker, or to the republican shambles to follow the dictation of Senator Shook? If men who work for their livelihood are content to be as so many cattle in Croker and Shook's yards, very well! But they can think, read, vote and make up their minds like other people. We trust that as a Labor party they may long remain an active, intelligent, intrepid and intelligent force in politics.—*N. Y. Herald*.

## THE TRUSTS.

Just now the attention of the country is drawn to what the monopolists term "trusts," though why such an aggregation of free booters and exploiters should receive such a name is difficult to conjecture. The Congress of the United States, made up as it is largely of wealthy men and representatives of corporations, have seen fit to turn their eyes upon a growing evil—one which until the light of investigation was turned upon it, was secretly eating the life out of our industries and impoverishing the people. The New York Legislature, through a committee, was the first to grapple this gigantic evil. The representatives of the "trusts"—the robber barons of the nineteenth century—at first made light of the efforts to pry into their thieving operations, but a little firmness soon brought them to a halt.

There is not only a great inconvenience in supporting these nobly alienated, but they are a source of great danger to our country and to our institutions. So long as workingmen only were affected by their machinations, the public could look on with indifference, but the whole land is now interested. Capitalists who are not in the swim, manufacturers, inventors, farmers, and all classes are being ruined by this octopus, and unless something is done through legislation to curtail its power the people will find a way to smash the machine and bring the managers to a realization of the enormity of their crime. Under the system of "trust" we are returning to the methods of mediæval Europe, when "He may keep who has the power and he may get who can," was the rule, which was rigidly adhered to. It is a question whether the people or the trusts shall rule, and in an open conflict by ballot or otherwise it should not take long to decide the issue. The workingmen have been the pioneers against these plunderers, and we trust their efforts will be seconded by all liberty-loving people. The trusts must go.—*Craftsman*.

"I sincerely believe with you that the banks are more dangerous than standing armies."—*Jefferson*.

If the banks of the day caused Jefferson uneasiness, what would that grand old statesman think could be look around to-day and see almost the entire banking capital of the nation exempt from taxation by its combined power moulding legislation and controlling transportation? What do you think? Answer at the polls.—*Southern Mercury*.

The State Master Workman of the Knights of Labor says: "If you cannot find our label, find the mark of some other labor organization; insist upon having a guarantee of some sort that the toiler has received just compensation for his work."

Here is a poor, pale faced woman, toiling and working, making shirts at sixty cents a dozen. There is enough real burning communism in shirts at sixty cents a dozen to burn up this country some day; mark what I tell you.—*Rev. Sam Jones*.

A boycott has been ordered on Milwaukee beer by the Barbers' National Union.

## HEWITT'S LATEST TILT.

Is Mayor Hewitt blind in one eye and deaf in one ear? One might think so after reading his speech at the Board of Trade Banquet on Thursday evening.

He passionately denounced the Knights of Labor as "a secret and irresponsible cabal," "worse than burglars or highwaymen," for instead of taking the property of one citizen they rob the whole community."

This will strike most people as a more graphic description of the coal kings than of their operatives. The few gentlemen, meeting in a parlor, who arbitrarily fix the price of coal, are accurately described by the Mayor's words. They are a "secret and irresponsible cabal," and they "rob the whole community," as the Knights certainly do not.

Have not the workingmen as much right to organize as their employers have? Do the "Trusts" meet in public and proclaim their purposes from the housetops? Do the "pools," the "syndicates" and the other forms of combination for regulating production and fixing wages, rates and prices "hold a commission from the people or from Divine Providence?"

The World has always counselled against any unlawful act by Labor, whether organized or unorganized. But it believes not only in the right but in the necessity of union by working people for mutual protection. And it assures Mayor Hewitt that if there should be a political issue on this question it will not be, as he predicts, against organizations like Knights of Labor, but against the conscienceless corporations, the devil-fish Trusts and the other forms of conspiracy and monopoly that are substituting combination for competition as the law of business, and oppressing the wage workers with one hand while robbing the rest of the people with the other.—*New York World*.

## DON'T CENSURE THE GIRLS.

Two sisters in London, 17 and 19 years of age, educated and comely, being able to get no more match boxes to make at a few pennies a day, tied themselves together and drowned themselves in the Thames. They left a letter in which were these appalling words: "Knowing hunger is stronger than virtue, and if we live we must yield, we have decided to die." It is said there are in London 100,000 such girls who have decided not to die.—*Ex.*

London is not the only city where thousands of young girls can be found who decide to lead a life of shame rather than die of starvation, and who can blame them? It is the system under which they live that is to blame. It is the men, who by class legislation in the interest of monopoly force young girls into this position, that are to blame and not the girls. But what a sad commentary it is on our boasted civilization.—*Labor Advocate*.

Push the work of educating the people in the principles of correct government and true economic science. The public mind is now fallow ground, and good seed sown upon it will fructify and bring forth many fold.—*New Order*.

The Tredger Company, of Richmond Va., are building a six-ton Smith furnace in connection with their 10 inch train.

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COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF VALUABLE LAND.

By virtue of a decree of the Superior Court of Cumberland County made in a special proceeding entitled J. M. Beasley and wife, B. O. Frost and wife, et al, ex parte, I will, as Commissioner appointed by the Court for that purpose, sell at public auction on Monday, March 12th, 1888, at 12 o'clock m., at the Market House in Fayetteville, N. C., a tract of land fronting 87 feet on Franklin street and running back 100 feet, adjoining the lands of J. B. Starr, Henry Holmes and others in the town of Fayetteville, and more particularly described in the petition filed in said cause.

Terms of sale, Cash.  
HENRY L. COOK, Commissioner.  
This Feb'y 7th, 1888.

BUILDERS, CONTRACTORS,

And others about to

BUILD HOUSES, FENCES, &c.,  
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Mouldings, Ceiling,

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