

# The Messenger.

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

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

## STAND BY THE ORDER.

This organization has been in existence ninety years—ten years it has been under the management of the General Assembly; seven years of this organization's life has been before the public. Labor's wrongs are being told, labor's rights are being understood. So much for organization. With a united organization the list of labor's grievances could be reduced step by step, but the devil crawled under the wall, whispered a few words of suspicion in the ears of those in the garden, and distrust exists where no cause can be found on which to base it. The apple of discord is bitter and the work of the devil is being done; not by the devil himself, but by inhabitants of the garden. For whom was the Order founded? For whom is it being kept alive? Are the general officers all working for self? Are they the best officers we could have? If not, let us change them for better ones and then cease to quarrel at the new men and give them a chance to do the work uninterrupted by fault finding and obstruction. Every building is made up of different parts; the foundation wall is hidden in the earth is soiled, and when examined may seem useless and old, its rugged sides may not strike the observer as being handsome or useful. The whole building rests on the foundation, and it should not be tampered with while the building is in use. The weather-cock on the top of the edifice may be nicely painted and gilded, but it turns with every wind; it is good for something, but would never make a foundation; nor must the weather-cock attempt to belittle the foundation, for if the rough, unwashed stones are removed from the bottom, if the foundation stones crumble away, the weather-cock will surely fall, and once down it can never rise again, for its province is to go round and not up. Everyone has his place on earth, everyone has his place in the Order, and everyone can do his duty, but everyone cannot be General Master Workman at one time, and the best thing they can do is to help the one that holds the place to do not his own but the the work of all.

Look over the field and see what history action and dissension have done. Examine the condition of affairs where strikes have been recklessly entered upon and see whether they have done good. Scan well the face of that section where the tongue of slander has driven men from the order, and in both places he will find the employer ruling with a far stronger hand than ever. On the other hand examine the place where the true principles of Knighthood were studied in the beginning, and there you will find the order strong and respected, doing its work in the community reaching up for better things for labor. In the other place, where great results were to come as a sequel to hasty action we find rags misery and poverty. Will labor profit by the lesson or will the old story be told by them—give up the order and start something new for a few days, only to tire of that in turn and come back again to the Knights of Labor when sorely pressed. Men and women of the Knights of Labor, stay where you are. This organization is yours, stay. If you desert it now you can never build another like it. Let every member take in the name of a good man or woman at the next meeting, and add

strength to the claimants for justice to labor.

T. V. POWDERLY.

## MONOPOLIES AND CORNERS.

The United States to-day is the most monopoly cursed nation on the face of the earth. They have made more millionaires in twenty years than Europe and England have made in five hundred. Every thing in this country is controlled by syndicate, pool, combination, trust, patent or corner. We pay a doctor the price fixed by the medical association for bringing a baby into the world, and then we buy a cradle for a baby at the price fixed by the furniture manufacturers' association. Its little flannel skirts is protected by tariff laws, and we buy a rattle box at patent right prices. Later it eats bread at prices fixed by the Western Millers' Association and meat at the figures given by Armour and cornerers of pork. Its shoes are bought at astronomical prices backed by a protective tariff, coffee at the prices fixed by trust and corners. If a boy now grown to manhood, wishes to go into business, he must buy himself in. If he wishes to enter commerce he must buy a seat on the board of trade, if he wishes to go into manufacturing he must buy himself into the combination which represents and has monopolized that business.—*Labor Tribune.*

Labor organizations throughout the country should unite in demanding that all pools and trusts must be prohibited by law. They should see the managers of political parties and have clauses put in the platforms, and make sure the candidates are pledged to a thorough reform. No general meaningless vamping about the "laborer is worthy of his hire" or "workingmen must be protected in their rights" will do in this great battle. Let the declaration of principles be emphatic, outspoken and specific. Let the names of obnoxious corporations be called out in open convention, and let the people get up and declare that the Standard Oil Trust, the coal monopoly and all growing trusts shall be checked here and now. The price of an article should be regulated by supply and demand without manipulation. The man or the corporation that advances the cost of articles in general use by cornering the market is an enemy to the people and a traitor to the principles of equality upon which our nation is built. The downfall of trusts and monopolies must come sure and soon, in order to save the country from disgrace and perhaps ruin.—*Globe.*

A visitor to several of our penal institutions expressed surprise that so many of the convicts are young men. He forgets that all the rogues are not in the penitentiary. The old rascals are too shrewd to be caught. You will find many of them in the legislatures, some perhaps in congress, and not a few occupying choice seats in the churches. The days of hypocrites are not past. Some men know how to do their stealing legally; the young and foolish get caught.—*Craftsman.*

Mr. O'Neill, chairman of the House Labor Committee, is trying hard to have his committee recognized, but the old-line politicians can see no benefit in any measure except tariff reform and currency bills, when monopoly don't have the floor.—*Craftsman.*

## THE CAT'S PAWS SEEN.

A wealthy American has purchased two hundred and thirty thousand acres of land in Scotland, which he has converted into an immense game preserve or hunting park. Here is a tract of country, capable of supporting ten thousand people which has been depopulated and stocked with wild animals, simply for the cruel and barbarous sport of one man. This aristocratic American is but an imitator of many titled British landlords, and Scotland is in danger—as well as many parts of England—of being turned back to a state of nature. This may help to explain why London is overcrowded with five million people, half of whom are mad and miserable. Agricultural landlordism is bad enough but this barbarous fashion of driving the people out of a land not only crowds them into the cities but dries up the source of food. No wonder there are millions of Irish starved when the maintenance of wild animals for the pastime of a few hundred gentlemen. There is but one end to such folly if it is not stopped, and that is revolution—awful, fierce cruel revolution. Nor is this simply a matter of European interest. The same thing is being introduced into this country by wealthy Anglo-Americans. Scullyism, as seen in Illinois, where a foreign landlord has introduced the odious agricultural serfdom of Ireland, is humane in comparison with this return to a barbarism which destroys houses and barns, fields and orchards, and people to make room for game. How any civilized government can permit such suicidal folly is a mystery. There must be a law limiting and that narrowly, the amount of land which may be owned or controlled by any individual family, association or corporation, and at the same time forbidding any lands being used for purposes inconsistent with civilization and economy.—*Christian Standard.*

A Wisconsin girl, a Miss Curtis, of Rosendale, near Ripon, was one of the school teachers who were frozen to death in Dakota. Her brother brought her remains home, and the *Brandon Times* has the following bit of history: "When Mr. Curtis, of Rosendale, went to Dakota after the remains of his sister who perished in the late blizzard, he settled up with the school district for which she had been teaching, and they made him discount the amount due her 12 per cent before they would pay it, claiming that it was a damage to the district that she did not complete the term. That beats the record of meanness."

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