

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.

A VOICE FROM TEXAS.

A leading member of the Farmers Alliance hands us the following letter for publication.

WALNUT, BOSQUE COUNTY, TEXAS.
—DEAR SIR AND BROTHER: I have delayed writing so long I fear you will not properly appreciate the intelligence this will bear you. But for the benefit of all who may feel concerned in the progress and growth of our noble order I write to say they have nothing to fear in getting a speedy and whole reform but their own carelessness and lethargy. If we sit down on the stool of doing nothing, say nothing and write nothing in behalf of our organization we ought not to expect to gain any benefit from it. I hope every member will feel that the salvation of his family and country depended on his individual exertion in bringing about the needed reform of economical government and reserving the liberties bequeathed us by our revolutionary fathers. In striving to bring about reform we must not forget the teachings of our noble order, which says, politically we are non-partisan, religiously we are non-sectarian. In everything that is essential we act as a unit, and in all things charity.

To carry out this declaration of principles it should be none of our business what party or church our brothers see fit to affiliate with, but we should strive to increase our membership to such proportions that it matters not what party may by chance get control of our legislative bodies they dare not deny us any right we may see fit to demand. It is only by thorough organization farmers can get any expression of sentiment on any question, as no one of them would carry around petitions to the others. But we should be careful what demands we make on our Congress and Legislatures. Weak equal rights to all, and special privileges to none. To get this we should demand that every species and item of class legislation be eliminated from our statute books. The tariff question, that the party kickers have been keeping up a sham fight over at our expense, we too often helping to keep it up, is undoubtedly class law. Let me draw a picture of the tariff as seen from my standpoint: Behold Labor in its manly form prostrate, its garments threadbare, with the iron heel of capital on its neck, the republican party, aided by high tariff voters, holding fast its hands while money corporations fasten on the shackles of servitude; see the democratic party, aided by low tariff voters, fastening the shackles on its feet claiming all the while to be its friend. Look again; there is the bridled or timid court and jury noosing the rope to break its neck if it dare to complain of its situation. You old farmers and grey-headed laborers that have been hoodwinked by your party affiliations all your life, drop the scales from your eyes and see what free trade rights and equal taxation would do for you; or have you been hoodwinked so long you cannot see that the thirty billion dollars in corporate money, railroads, boats, telegraphs and other transportation investments, and lands held for speculative purposes, don't pay as much tax toward the support of the government as you paid for that old wool hat you have on now. Then add twenty billions more for such property as is not held for speculation. Now see

what one fourth of one per cent. tax on the fifty billions is, and see whether it would not please much money in the treasury as the treacherous tariff does. But don't forget, it would be put there by the millionaire as well as the laborer and farmer. Don't forget it, when the millionaire is taxed to support this government equal to the farmer then we can talk about reform and talk about reducing the extravagance of our officials.

So let us see "puppy-dog" to the dictations of party tricksters and cunning politicians who kick us and pay our money for the privilege of raising subsidized newspapers, we cannot expect to get reform. It is not on record where the leaders and rulers of a people ever brought about reform—it has to come through the people. The sooner the people meet at every school house, court house and State house throughout the United States and demand reform in such thundering tones as to shake the Senate chamber, the better and quicker will we get reform. All political parties have become clandestine and treacherous, they forget the fundamental principles of government and seek their own selfish ends to obtain power and office, caring but little for the people that elect them. Even the prohibition party seeks to put our government in the possession of church; the women's rights party wishes to rule it with hoopskirts, petticoats and benched husbands.

The Union Labor Party demanded a repeal of the national bank laws, but backed against free trade and equal taxation, and tagged on so many petticoat ideas and ruled out everybody that don't belong to some labor organization, I fear they will never get there, or even carry a single State.

A BROTHER.

CO-OPERATIVE NOTES.

A co-operative stone-ware manufactory is operated by L. A. 6130 at Denton, Ark.

L. A. 9342 is successfully conducting a co-operative grocery store at Helena, Ark.

The co-operative fever has reached L. A. 2579, of Toledo, Ohio. The Assembly started a general supply store and paid 15 per cent the first quarter.

L. A. 3017, Vancouver, B. C., has succeeded in getting the Chinese out of the mines, and is forming a co-operative company to prospect for coal.

The co-operative shirt factory of L. A. 3038, of New York, is a splendid success. The factory was started about a year ago.

The co-operative store of L. A. 6632, Sherbrok, Quebec, started about a year ago, is a success and is paying a handsome dividend.

When a party of men who are laboring hard to get bread to eat rebel against the tyranny of a rich corporation and to damage property, justice allows them to be hunted down by policemen and detectives. When the Standard Oil Company, the greatest monopoly of them all, deliberately goes about destroying the business and property of poorer rivals, an investigating committee examines its officers with the evident intention of not finding out anything against the "critter," and justice winks at the fraud. Verily, the supposed blind goddess appears to be only cross-eyed.—Warren Mirror.

MORE ANON'S OPINIONS.

WINSTON, N. C. March 26th, 1888.
—DEAR BROTHER EZZELL: I see in your issue of the 23d inst. "Let us Hear From You." I am a farmer and a whole souled Knight of Labor, and I want to tell you what I think about the labor question. Inasmuch as monopoly is united, we should not be divided. So long as we are divided, monopoly will rule and force us nearer the whirlpool of destruction. Are we such fools as to love slavery and hug the whipping post, to grin on the trial-mill of the Philistines like blind Samson forever? If I had the voice of an Archangel and could speak so as to shake this earth, I would say Brother Laborers, Unite, Unite, Unite!!

I like the principles of the Knights of Labor, Farmers Alliance and Union Labor party. All are good, very good. Either of them is good enough if we will unite on it. I'll accept any for the good and elevation of down trodden humanity.

The Union Labor party meets in Cincinnati May 15th, to name candidates for the office of President and Vice President of the United States. Cannot the laboring men of North Carolina send delegates to this convention? I think we can do no better. Brothers, what say you?

Please answer the following questions through your paper:

What was the National debt in 1867?

What was the price of wheat in gold and greenbacks in 1867?

How many bushels of wheat would have paid the debt in 1867?

How much have we paid on the debt (interest and principal) since 1867?

What is the amount of the debt now?

What is the price of wheat now? and how many bushels of wheat would pay our debt now?

Please publish the questions and answers in your WELCOME MESSENGER.

MORE ANON.

[We will answer our brother's inquiries as soon as we can obtain the necessary data.—ED.]

One hundred and seventy-five employees of the New York *Stats Zeitung*, from chief editor down to the office boy, received recently their annual dividend of 10 per cent. on their total earnings for the year. This dividend has been paid by Mr. Otendorfer for the past eight years, and will be continued to every employee who zealously devotes his time and attention to the paper. At the 50th anniversary of the paper the employees received 15 per cent.

It is estimated that the loss of earnings to the C. B. & Q. railroad, caused by the strike, will be about \$1,200,000 for the month of March.

FOR SALE.

I have a splendid mare seven years old for sale. She is as sound as they make 'em, works well anywhere, but is in her glory when harnessed to a buggy. Is a stylish and rapid driver.

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Hope Mills, N. C.

—E. A. POE—

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