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The Messenger.

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

Vol. 2.

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No. 1.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

FOLLOWING SUIT.

An item is going the rounds of the press of an Ohio woman who some weeks ago sold several rolls of very fine looking butter to a grocer and got a very good price for them; but when the butter was cut into it disclosed the fact that the butter was an inch or two thick on the outside, the interior of each roll being composed of mashed potatoes.

Some comments seem to indicate that the dairy woman was rather dishonest; but the fact is that she was only keeping up with the logic of the times as regards the selling of other things for what they are not. She had probably seen the arguments that cotton seed oil is as wholesome as lard; and oleomargarine is more wholesome than butter; and pure milk is too strong for digestion; and her application was beyond question legitimate.

She knew that mashed potatoes are more digestible than butter; and seeing that eminent millionaires are by that plea justified in palming off cheaper products as the more expensive ones, she adopted the only material convenient for to carry out the same policy. While her premises may be faulty, it is rather difficult to see at what other point her deduction is incorrect.

Her syllogism and art of mixing were both at fault. Had she been more skillful in mixing her adulteration with the genuine article and disguised the whole by judicious coloring, she might have succeeded better. However, so long as it is no better than common plug cheating for the kings of commerce to palm off cotton seed oil and chemically purged tallow as lard, and bull butter as the genuine product of the cow, there is no reason why the farmers' wives should not get their share of the rake by such means as the representative of the class adopted.—*Topeka Post.*

NOT ANTAGONISTIC TO SOCIETY.

The labor party is not antagonistic to the well being of society. Its aim is not only to ameliorate the condition of wage-workers, but to secure society at large from evils which threaten it through the greed of monopolists. Things are in a bad state. No one denies this fact. They are bad for many besides the laboring classes. There is a world wide feeling of uncertainty with regard to the outcome of a condition that is making enemies of capital and labor. In the natural social evolution the labor party has been created. It has a grand purpose. The purpose is making itself everywhere. It may be subject to criticism; what party with reformatory ideas ever escaped criticism? But its sins are light. It is receiving the support of right minded men throughout the country. Its destiny is determined. It will dissolve the old parties in time, and evolve from healthy living issues a new party, or new parties that shall be based on the ideas of a government of the people, by the people and for the people.—*Milwaukee Labor Review.*

When working men contend that we should have a government telegraph line, they are laughed at, as working men never use the telegraph, it is said. Perhaps not, but they would use it were it in their reach. A government telegraph line would enable us to get reliable news, undoctored by the Associated press.—*Craftsman.*

TRAITORS AT HEART.

One of the greatest evils to contend with in organizing labor is the necessity for taking in those whom you know to be traitors at heart, and who join the organization, not because they have any love for the principles it advocates, or any desire to elevate their fellow-men above the standard of a slave, but simply because of their own selfishness.

If they can secure better wages and shorter hours through the organization without any effort on their part well and good. They are willing to accept the advantages just so long as they cost nothing they are not compelled to make any sacrifice to obtain them. They are willing to pay their fifty cents a month so long as it means an increase of twenty-five cents a day in their wages. They are perfectly willing to accept this increase just as long as the firm is willing to pay it, but when the time arrives, as it sometimes does, that they are called upon to choose between going to work at the firm's terms or standing a strike to uphold the principles of their organization, then it is that these white washed traitors sneak out from under their thin covering of unionism, and, with honor on the one hand and selfish greed on the other, decide that honor is a luxury they can't afford, violate their sacred obligation, relinquish their map, hood, and, like Judas Iscariot, for a few paltry shekels, sell their souls.

Such men, or rather creatures, are a disgrace to their country, an eye-sore to the community, traitors to their best friends, and a God-forsaken lump of misery to themselves.—*National Labor Tribune.*

LET US SEE.

Has one body of men the right to say at what wages a man shall work? At a glance the great majority will answer at once: "No sir; they have no such right." But don't be too hasty, this question may be of more importance than you think. From the dawn of civilization to the present day there has been a perpetual war between the wage-workers, who produce the wealth, and those who reap the benefit of their productions, commonly called capitalists. The capitalists, as a rule, are governed by their greed and cupidity. Their only aim is to acquire all they can regardless of the sufferings of the wage-workers and their families. This is a practice. These are the conditions we are forced to meet. It has become a system of perpetual warfare. Then as it becomes a warfare, it should be governed by rules of war; and he who is not with us is against us; and, by the rules of war, he who turns traitor is punished to the utmost. When labor is struggling for a victory and other laborers join the ranks of the enemy and scab it they become traitors by helping the enemy and defeating their brothers, and they rightfully deserve the treatment of traitors. Their necessities are no greater than those who they scab it on, and any man who will turn scab should be branded as a traitor to justice and his fellow-men. While capital is organized to break down wages labor has a right to organize and maintain prices.—*Labor Advocate.*

Forty striking cigar makers in Boston pooled their dollars and opened a co-operative shop. If all strikes and lock outs were settled this way the employer would be slow in getting up a row.

LABOR LITERATURE.

Some two weeks ago we announced in one of our letters that we would publish a Bulletin containing two very able speeches: one by General Weaver, of Iowa; the other by Representative Plumb, of Illinois. This we have done believing that Local Assemblies could do a good work in educating the members by distributing them in their localities. We place the figures at the rate of \$1 per hundred, thinking that we will be able to meet expenses at that price. We have received some two or three letters from Local Assemblies condemning our action in this case; but on the other hand we have to thank the other locals that have, by sending us orders, sustained us. We are happy to inform those who have done so that we have sent out over 35,000 copies, and, if they come in as fast during the next ten days as for the past ten, it will warrant us in going to the expense of getting up Bulletin No. 12.—*Ralph Beaumont, in Journal of United Labor.*

We get together and agree that de kentry an' gwine to de dogs on account of dishonest office holders, an' on election day we turn out an' work hard for a rascally candidate because he has promised us a fat 'pintment.—*Brother Gardner's Reflections.*

"NO POOL BEER" is the sign on the downtown restaurants of New York now. The fight is on and both parties to the struggle are confident. When an irresistible body meets an imovable body, what happens?—*Craftsman.*

What promises to be a successful enterprise has been started by the members of L. A. 10057 K. of L., of Ogdensburg, N. Y., that of a co-operative association for the manufacture and sale of cigars and tobacco.

The West End Street Railway Company, of Boston, has signed an agreement with its 5,000 conductors and drivers which satisfies their grievances and precludes all possibility of a strike.—*Craftsman.*

F. P. JONES.

Attorney-at-Law,
DUNN, HARNETT Co., N. C.

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To The Workingmen

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