

The Messenger.

State Liby

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

Vol. 2.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., MAY 4, 1888.

No. 2.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

EDUCATION AMONG EMPLOYERS.

The business men of every community live upon the workingmen; they draw their revenue from workingmen; but the moment a dispute arises between worker and employer the majority of the business men begin to clamor against a strike. They are at once interested in advising the men to remain at work, and not grumble. They do not wish to have the interests of the community suffer by a stoppage of work. If the strike takes place, they are to be found seeking some means of getting the men back to work. All they care for is the mighty dollar; and if the worker pays his last cent to them, they care nothing about how his family exists. They too are in ignorance of how the worker lives. They must be educated and taught that, no matter how much the millionaire may pat them on the back, he is not their friend.

The rich need education, the middle classes need it and the poor require it, so that all may know that this nation was not built up by any one class, that it is not depending on one class, and that it will not be ruled by a class.

The people must be taught what their political rights are.

They must be taught that boodlers and bribers are traitors.

They must be taught to watch the politician after his election as well as before it.

They must be taught that alien influence on this side of the Atlantic does not come from the poor immigrant, but is exercised by the foreigner who wields the dollar against flesh and blood.

They must be taught that we are all dependent on each other, and that nothing should be done that will cause suffering and loss when it can be avoided.

They must be taught that dollars, bricks and mortar are not superior to man, and that laws should be made to protect the man against the encroachments of these elements.

They must be taught that the lands of the nation belong to the people of the nation, and not to the thieves who were smart enough to steal them.

They must be taught that the rule of the corporation should come beneath the rule of the people.

They must be taught that the best system of protection this nation can devise is to protect the common people against monopolies; to so protect the farmer that he may find a ready means of transporting his produce to market, to so protect the laborer and mechanic that they will earn and receive enough money to purchase the produce of the farmer and pay fair prices for it; to so protect our lands from native and alien sharks that all may have an equal chance at them.

They must be taught that in hiring Congressmen and Legislators the same rule should apply as when hiring men for any other special duty; select those who are best fitted and will best serve those who hire him.

The people must be taught to instruct Legislators what to do, and keep them at home forever afterward if they don't do it.

Workingmen must be taught to calculate the chances of success before engaging in a strike of any kind. If the chances are bad, don't; if they are good make sure and then go slow.

What Layton said is true—the strike, the boycott and the tie-up were first practiced by the employer. He taught the workman how to use these weapons.

I would have the workman invent something of his own, and not be forever camping on the heels of capital, picking up its old clothes and weapons. Let labor take a fresh start and adopt new and original plans for the betterment of its surroundings, leaving the old fossilized strike and blacklist to the benighted creatures who are still bowed down before the image of the golden calf. Learn to read, ponder over what you read—apply the best of it and discard the worst. Talk with your neighbors until you understand each other. Call on the business men from whom you buy your groceries and talk with them until there is an understanding between all concerned. Busy yourselves with the everyday affairs of life and see how much there is yet to learn.

T. V. POWDERLY.

CHINESE GUILDS.

Our minister to China Mr. Charles Denby, has submitted in his report to the government some very curious and interesting facts relative to the guilds of China. He says that in every city in China there are guilds controlling arbitrarily every branch of business. By-cotting exists in the most oppressive manner. In the great cities there are numerous trades unions who regulate hours of labor, strikes and prices on the most approved American plan. These guilds have existed time out of mind. In most cities each province has its own guild. The guild protects its members against sectional prejudice, presents litigation and performs the usual functions of a chamber of commerce. Though despotic, these guilds are not altogether harmful. They are held amenable to law and are ordinarily reasonable in their dealings with foreigners. They administer justice and compel their members to act honestly. The trades unions are very numerous, and some of them very wealthy. The Ningpo Fishmongers Union has a reserve fund of \$700,000, which is loaned to members at a very low rate of interest. There are unions for blacksmiths, carpenters, wire drawers, silk weavers, millers, postal companies and barbers. The trades union are noted for their treachery. At Soochow, not long ago, one of the gold-leaf craft violated the rules which forbade an employer from taking more than one apprentice at a time. He suffered the penalty of his crime by being bitten to death. One hundred and twenty-three men had a bite at him before he expired.

Provincial compatriot guilds have two main objects in view—protection against sectional prejudice, and for the prevention of litigation among its members. Members having occasion to go to law to obtain redress for a real grievance and finding their resources inadequate to carry on the suit, the guild undertakes to pay half the expense; but if it is discovered that the plaintiff has an unworthy case, or that his trouble originates from gambling or dissolute life, all claims to assistance will be dismissed. These guilds are local affairs and their membership seldom exceeds 30. Funds for their support are raised by self-imposed tax on commodities sold by the members. The books of each establishment or house are examined every month, the examination being made by the clerks of the firms in rotation. In no other land would business men submit to such inquisito-

rial proceedings. Punishment is provided for against false rendering of amount of sales. The penalty is expulsion and the withholding of all intercourse with the offending member forever after, and any member discovered to have had dealings with either from sympathy or friendship shall pay a fine of 100 taels* Each guild has its rules regulating sales by credit; cereals and the like sold on 40 days' time; bean cake and miscellaneous articles 50. Infraction of this rule subjects the seller and purchaser alike, each to the fine of the expense of a theatrical performance and two tables of liquors and viands, entertainments that entail an expense of about \$25 to each delinquent. Each guild provides its own weights and measures, as there is no common standard. A Chicago speculator would not know how to do business in China. Fictitious buying and selling being illegal, Chinese legislation provides against every species of monopoly.

*A tael is worth \$1.50 in U. S. coin.

The April number of the Locomotive Fireman's Magazine, the official organ of the Brotherhood, says: "corporations and the press confederate to overwhelm workingmen when they demand redress for grievances; they, too, must federate to enforce their rights which corporations deny them." The article then proceeds to argue in favor of federation of switchmen, engineers and firemen and brakemen, to act on the principle that "the interest of one is the interest of all." The article is significant chiefly from the fact that Eugene Debs, the editor and father of the order, has always fought the Knights of Labor idea of combination.—*Independent Citizen.*

A pitiful case of "man's inhumanity to man" is reported from the Schuylkill Valley where an old man named Thompson, who had worked twenty years for Arlo Pardee in a Luzerne county mine, was discharged because his son was an officer in the Knights of Labor.

A co-operative glass factory is being erected at Stonesboro, Pa. The town donated a site and loaned the operators \$12,000. This is said to be the first co-operative glass works.

The boss carpenters' association of Troy, N. Y., has unanimously voted that after May 30, nine hours shall constitute a day's work at 30 cents an hour.

The miners of northern Illinois and their employers have agreed to continue last year's scale of wages during 1888.

The Knights of Indianapolis are making preparations for the annual General Assembly next fall.

—REAL ESTATE AGENT—

Very valuable water powers, farms and vineyards for sale now. Persons having such or other property in this or other counties for sale, will do well to call on or correspond with me. In town every Saturday. No charge unless sales are made.
WARREN CARVER,
Fayetteville, N. C.

Will H. Suits,
RANDLEMAN, N. C.,

—PRACTICAL TIN AND COPPER SMITH—

Iron, Tin and Slate roofing done with neatness and despatch. GUTTERING and ROOFING a specialty. Best material, lowest prices. Satisfaction guaranteed. Give him a trial.

To The Workingmen

And my friends generally, I wish to remind you all, that I am still in the mercantile business, and keep constantly on hand a good stock of,

GROCERIES, PROVISIONS,
CONFECTIONERY, CROCKERY,
TINWARE & CUTLERY

RAIFORD'S FRESH SAUSAGE,

RAIFORD'S FRESH & PURE CANDIES

Styron & Co.'s Fresh Ground Flour

HOME-MADE SYRUP.

The above Sausage, Candy, Flour and Syrup are beyond comparison with northern or western goods. TRY THEM.

Resp'y, S. G. AYER, Ag't.

LAND FOR SALE.

492 acres of desirable farm lands, well improved, with dwellings and all necessary out houses in splendid repair. Four dwelling houses on the place. Good Cotton Gin, conveniently situated. This farm is in Carver's Creek township, on west side of Cape Fear river, about 17 miles from Fayetteville. Land is well watered and timbered, having pine, oak, cypress and other timbers of virgin growth. Satisfactory arrangements about purchase money will be made with parties meaning business.

For further information call on or address me at Little River Academy, N. C.
A HATCHER.

It Is So!

--VANN BROS. have just received--
**25 Bbls. Early Rose,
Goodrich, and Peerless
SEED POTATOES.**

And they have more coming direct from New York farmers. They save the middleman's profit, hence they can sell at New York prices. They have control of the Farmers Alliance and Standard A Flour, the best in the city for the money. They also handle RUTHERFORD, FAIRFAX, BIG LOAF, & "C" FLOUR, SUGAR COFFEE, MOLASSES, SALT, TOBACCO, R. R. SNUFF—HARDWARE, &c.

They want Five Thousand Dozen Eggs to fill contract. They pay highest market price for all country produce. Give them a call.

VANN BROS.,
THE FARMERS STORE.

Raleigh Marble Works,

415 and 419 Fayetteville St.,

RALEIGH, N. C.

—Brick Yard—

—Lauder's old stand—
FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

Manufacturer of all kinds of Monuments, and tombstones in Marbles or Granite. Also contractor for all kinds of Building Work, Curbing, Posts, Steps, Sills, &c.

Designs

of all descriptions kept on hand and sent to any address upon application.

CHAS. A. GOODWIN.

PROPRIETOR.

W. M. Lockamy,

FAYETTEVILLE N. C.

—PRACTICAL TIN SMITH—

Iron, Tin and Slate roofing done with neatness and despatch. GUTTERING and ROOFING a specialty. Best material, lowest prices. Satisfaction guaranteed. Give him a trial. All orders left at C. M. Watsons store will have prompt attention.