

The Messenger.

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

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

THE CLIMAX OF INFAMY.

Now that both the senate and house have passed resolutions approving the "law" permitting the government to buy bonds the machine has been started up again.

On the strength of the movement bonds have already advanced more than one per cent.

It is now a struggle between the bursting treasury and the greed of the bondholders.

The government will have to pretty nearly pay the future interest on outstanding bonds in order to get them.

This is decidedly a fat thing for the bondholders.

It will be a straight clean donation of more than \$200,000,000 to the sharks who have been picking Uncle Sam's pockets for the last twenty-five years.

It is a fitting terminus of the damnable scheme of robbery which was inaugurated by the bond thieves away back in 1862—when they got that memorable senate amendment passed making import duties and the interest on the public debt payable in coin, and putting the little word "except" on the back of the greenback.

Let us briefly recapitulate the scheme. Bondholders purchased \$2,000,000,000 of bonds for \$1,360,000,000 of coin.

Here was a "save" of \$640,000,000 to start on.

They have paid no taxes. This has been an indirect robbery of every taxpayer in the country.

The sum of \$350,000,000 of these bonds have been used for twenty-five years as a basis for bank note circulation. This can't be counted less than a donation of 100 per cent, or a total of \$350,000,000.

By a contraction of the currency and a reduction of prices, the increased purchasing power of the present unpaid outstanding bonds amounts to \$1,000,000,000 more.

Then to cap the climax of infamy a bonus of ten per cent on the '91 bonds and about 30 per cent on the 1907 bonds is added to the coffers of the robbers.

Counting up all these benefits shows more than \$2,200,000,000, over and above the legitimate interest!

Think of it!

More than \$2,200,000,000!

This is a straight, square, out-and-out steal, if there ever was one since the time when God himself wrote the ten commandments on Mt. Sinai!—*Chicago Sentinel.*

AN EXPENSIVE VICTORY.

The *Wall Street News*, which no one will consider other than a corporation journal says: "The Burlington and Quincy thinks it is winning the fight because it is running more trains. It claims a victory but it is more expensive than a defeat. France was the richer for paying the indemnity to Germany. The company has alienated its associates, has lost support of faithful employes, has antagonized the railroad system of the country by trying to involve all other roads in the inevitable results of the pig-headedness of its managers. It is to-day a borrower of money to pay its dividends. And yet, they expect, or seem to, that other roads which are satisfied with fair returns on capital, will support them in their insane attempt to keep up 8 per cent dividends by squeezing employes."

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Republished by request.

Q. What was the National debt in 1867?

A. The public debt (exclusive of the guaranteed Pacific R. R. bonds, am't not available) was as of June 1st, 1866, \$2,773,236,173.69.

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

A. Price of wheat June 30, 1866, in greenbacks \$2.25, or an equivalent of \$1.46½ in gold per bushel.

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

A. Upon greenback basis it would have required 1,232,544,447 bushels, or upon the gold basis 1,892,392,571 bushels of wheat to discharge the public debt (exclusive of the Pacific R. R. obligations) as of June 30, 1866.

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

A. \$3,201,194,344.15.

Q. What is the amount of the debt now?

A. The total amount of public liabilities outstanding as of Jan. 1st, 1888,
\$1,614,557,000.38
Add Pac. R. R. debt 64,623,512.00

Total Jan. 1st, 1888, \$1,679,180,512.38

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

A. To discharge the whole of the public debt as of Jan. 1st, 1888, would require the amount of 1,822,716,877 bushels of wheat at 92½ cents per bushel, New York quotations as of that date.

WHEN WILL IT END?

Some four years ago Mr. Philip Armour, the millionaire meat jerker, cornered the market of the world upon provisions. He shrewdly engineered a combination which raised the prices of the necessities of life to every laborer, not only in Chicago, but the United States, and by adding a fictitious value to the product of industry, forced the wage-workers to pay him and his accomplices, by the action of a single transaction, \$7,000,000. For this enormous forestalling, this crime against society, neither he nor his confederates have been compelled to stand before the bar of justice, nor was the militia of the State of Illinois called out to prevent this gigantic robbery of the people. Yet the monopolistic papers take a great bow against the twenty thousand laborers who combined to better their condition, to get a corner, as it were, on Armour, but not a word did the truculent papers have to say against the capitalist's transaction, merely noed as a "shrewd deal" and congratulated him on his success, rather than censure him for rascality. Thus dishonesty and crime against the community, when backed by money and sustained by a debased public sentiment, goes unwhipped of justice.—*Menomonee River Laborer.*

OPPOSED TO FREE TRADE.

The National iron roofing association has petitioned congress not to remove the duty on tin plate, as proposed in the tariff bill, but to increase it. The increase, it is claimed, would create the business of tin plate manufacture which does not now exist in this country and benefit labor \$15,000,000 yearly.—*Independent Citizen.*

What is that is specially threatening republican institutions?

All organizations that are founded on human selfishness and greed, such as corporations, consisting of debt fending and banking syndicates; presidential candidates. Then we have the corporation of corporations, the "trusts." Its satellites are legal privilege, profit, rent, usury.

What is a trust? It is a sucker of the life-blood of labor. Trust and monopoly are the upper and nether stones between which is ground the life of the nation's wealth producers.

What are the principal objects of trusts?

To fix the price on all products of labor necessary to the welfare, comfort and happiness of human life; to arbitrarily control the amount of any one thing produced by labor, and to fix the price consumers shall pay for everything necessary to support human life. It is a damnable conspiracy to enslave the man flesh.—*Working World, Atlanta.*

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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,

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

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