

The Messenger.

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

Vol. 2.

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

STRIKE FOR LIBERTY!

BY FRANCIS M. MINER.

Men who hear the children's cry,
Men who hearken woman's sigh,
Pledge once more your purpose high
For humanity!

Now's the day, and now's the hour!
Would ye, listless, shame your power?
Would ye, craven, shrink and cower?
Choose ye liberty!

Unto you the ages call!
Will ye, helpless, die in thrall?
Up, for freedom, one and all
Strike the bloodless blow,
Not by strife on battle field;
Not by clash of sword and shield,
Mightier arms hath truth to wield
O'er relentless foe!

By the chains that bound us long,
By the past of shame and wrong,
We have vowed our manhood strong
That we shall be free!
See the front of battle lower!
Fear ye evil's dying power?
God's own hand has struck the hour
For humanity!

Up! our heritage to claim;
Up! in love and honor's name,
Hearts that falter, would ye shame
The trust our fathers gave?
Once again the bell rings,
Freedom's bell above us rings;
Falter not with baser things,
Rest but in the grave.
—The Standard.

POWDERLY'S POLITICS.

General Master Workman Powderly thus sets forth his political faith. How many North Carolina brethren will imitate him, and adopt the same principles: "I am a citizen of the American Republic and a Knight of Labor. I believe that the preamble of Knighthood comes nearest to the truth of any declaration of principles now before the people, and will vote only for that man or party who stands the nearest to the successful carrying out of these principles. Owing the right to vote, I will not hand it over to a party or a party leader, but will exercise that right as best suits myself and in accordance with my own views of the duty which the citizen owes to his country. I believe that a man who votes for country before party is a patriot, and that he who votes for party before country is a traitor, in whose hands the ballot is dangerous to the country's weal as the dagger in the hands of the assassin is to the man against whom the assassin has a grudge. I will not vote for sentiment or spite, but will vote to accomplish a result. My vote will be cast for that party or man who will do most good for the city I live in, the State of which that city is a part, and the country of which that State is the keystone. If my advice would be taken all workingmen would vote that way, and if they did there would be but one platform before the people of this nation in coming campaigns, and that—the preamble of the Knights of Labor.

The co-operative stove foundry recently established at Quincy, Ill., has been so successful that the members find it necessary to enlarge their quarters to enable them to keep up with incoming orders. They are now building a fine five-story brick, 50x62 feet, in the rear and joining their present building, which they hope to be able to occupy in four weeks.

THE FARMERS TRUST.

The Farmers' Trust lately organized in Kansas has attracted general attention. At first the idea of a farmers' trust was scouted as a visionary in the extreme, but from present indications it would appear that the movement is directed by practical men, who are in earnest and determined to place it upon a solid financial basis. The plan includes the appointment of agents, local and general, to collect, ship and sell the produce; also an executive board to fix prices and regulate shipments, and in connection a bureau of statistics to collect crop reports for the information and guidance of the executive board. The agents are to be paid salaries, but will be required to collect commissions as a revenue for the Trust. It will require a large capital to carry on the business. It is proposed to incorporate with a capital stock of \$20,000,000, issued in \$10 shares, to be sold to actual farmers or stock raisers at 50 cents or less on the \$1. The stock to be sold in the various States and Territories embraced in the Trust in amounts in proportion to the population and wealth of the respective States. It is estimated that the commission for selling cattle, hogs and sheep at Kansas City, Chicago and St. Louis in 1887 amounted to \$3,000,000, and for the entire Mississippi Valley for commission on sheep, cattle and hogs reached nearly \$4,500,000. That on the cereals of the Mississippi Valley commissions are paid on sales equal to \$6,000,000 per annum. It is claimed by the movers in the Farmers' Trust that under the plan which they propose to inaugurate that they can effect all of these sales—live stock and cereals at not to exceed \$1,000,000. The balance collected on commissions, after paying necessary running expenses, would remain as profits to the stockholders.—South West Fort Worth Texas.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved. By Aramancha Assembly in open session that we will not support any man for a legislator unless he will pledge himself to the following:

1st. That I will use my influence and if elected, will support and vote for a bill making ten hours a day's labor in all machine shops, planing mills, cotton and woolen factories and all public work.

2nd. That I will support a bill to provide school privileges free of tuition to all the children of the State between six and twenty-one years of age for a term of at least four months in each year. And that said children between six and thirteen years of age be required to attend said school unless mentally or physically disabled, or attending some other school for the same or a greater length of time.

3rd. That no person shall be required to work the public roads except for crime. Said roads to be kept up by ad valorem taxation, with a proviso that any one be allowed to work out his road tax at a price fixed by law.

The miners of Pennsylvania at a mass meeting recently held in Wilkesbarre united political action was counselled as a remedy for grievances and resolved that hereafter Organized Labor should vote as a unit against the old parties if they persisted in nominating monopolists and bankers.

FOR CONGRESS.

MR. EDITOR: We the laboring men of this county and section desire to vote for Mr. T. H. Sutton for congress in this district, whether he is a candidate or not; he has withdrawn his name, but that is only because some parties have tried to push him out, and we say he shall not be pushed out. He is a friend of the working man and has shown himself so; in various ways and times when he was not looking for promotion and when he had no axe to grind. His course in the court house on one special occasion that I remember, as well as his action in the Legislature, proves what he is. And the last one of the laboring men about here are for him for congress against any and all who may be put up. If the laboring men have any rights and if the democratic party intends to give them any showing, let them nominate Mr. Sutton for Congress, and he will be elected by the largest majority ever rolled up in this district. He will be voted for anyhow, whether he is running or not by a large part of the LABORING MEN.

The employees of Singer, Nimick & Co of Pittsburgh Pa., iron manufacturers, have been notified that their wages will be reduced ten per cent May 28th. The advance granted in February, 1887, and the proposed reduction will make the wages the same as they were prior to that advance. About a thousand men are affected.

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