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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT.

CEDAR CREEK, N. C. }
MAY 19th, 1888. }

MR. EDITOR: A word of encouragement to my brother farmers may not be out of place at this time. It is plain to me to see the spirit of discontentment springing up among them. This feeling of uncertainty and unrest is not altogether without a just cause, and yet, much of it is purely imagination or clearly attributive to causes which may be easily removed by change of management or altering our methods. I hope that in giving expressions to a few plain, practical thoughts, my motives may not be misconstrued or misunderstood. I can hope to benefit but little if any the old chronic croakers. These, like some warty frog, will daily mount their favorite stool and with a hoarse guttural voice cry, "hard times! hard times!! hard times!!! from morning till night while the more active and resolute gather ample supplies all round. For the last quarter of a century our government has been rapidly drifting toward centralization. The steps to this end have been well planned and deeply laid, and like some slow but deadly poison have gnawed away at the vitals of the country's weal under the spurious plea of defending the people. Our trusted statesmen have inaugurated a system of taxation, which like the fabled vampire, soothes to repose while it sucks the life-blood from the body politic. Thus far they have met with a measure of success in blinding the eyes of the people. To the agricultural classes they have looked mainly for their dupes, whom they hope to mislead in support of their nefarious schemes. They rely upon this class not only because they are more numerous, but they regard them as more ignorant, and therefore, the easiest lured into traps set for them. It is from the pockets of this class that our national treasury gathers its richest harvest of all national prosperity. If any class of our fellow citizens should be treated more leniently than another it should be this. The rapacious politicians think, and rightly too, if this large and influential class can be captured and held in bondage by their sophistry, their designs can be accomplished with certainty. But some one has said, "We should have no fear of error while truth is left to battle it." I therefore have an abiding confidence in the "sober second thought in the people." Already a gleam of approaching day begins to illumine the horizon. The danger is already visible, the rock-bound coast clearly indicates the ruin ahead unless our good old craft has at her helm a pilot with steady nerves and competent ability. The beacon's steady light flashes across the crested billows and our noble ship of State is moving grandly on to her moorings. A few more days of patient toil, of earnest endeavor, and all of our shackles will be broken, and then all of our people will be as onished that designing demagogues were permitted to hold them in bondage so long. The handwriting is clearly seen upon the wall, and needs no Daniel to unfold its hidden meaning. It speaks in an ambiguous phrase. It says the insidious and depleting tariff must be remodeled so as to yield sufficient only to supply the actual wants of the government economically administered. All class legis-

lation must cease; monopoly of every kind and character must be abolished; the markets of the world must be opened to our commerce, without let or hindrance, gold and silver or gold and silver certificates of convenient denominations to be issued by the treasury upon actual deposits of gold and silver coin or bullion must be recognized as the only standard of value in all commercial transaction, and the constitution of the United States, as the bond of union between States must be strictly guarded as the great bulwark of our freedom. All of this the people will ultimately demand and secure and then be astonished that they ever permitted unscrupulous and designing demagogues to hold them in bondage so long. Now while much of our troubles may be justly attributable to the mischiefs of our law-makers, the perversion of the wrongs we endure and losses we sustain are directly traceable to our own carelessness and indifference. Of all the occupations to which man looks for subsistence, none demands more up-to-date details and the innumerable little items to be attended to at the proper time than agriculture. No other business demands more vigilance or a higher order of perceptive faculties. "Take care of the cents and the dollars will take care of themselves," should be inscribed on the doorpost of every farmer throughout the land. The farmers to day are living in the shadow and portals of death and will stay at that point until the "reaper comes to reap his harvest." It is the aim of every man to reach the coveted goal and why should man hold his friend back and drive him to starvation.

D. C. D.

LET US VOTE TOGETHER

CHALK, P. O. N. C. }
MAY 19th, 1888. }

EDITOR MESSNGER: Not having seen anything from this vicinity in your most valuable paper, I have concluded to write a few items.

Having noticed a communication a few weeks ago from Winnie, treating on the subject of running the Knights of Labor with the Farmers Alliance in our next election, I am with him there. The platform of the Farmers' Alliance is nearer with that of the Knights of Labor than anything we have seen. I think it is time for the laboring class of people to come to the front, they have been trampled down by monopoly long enough, and just as long as we send sleek-tongued lawyers and capitalists to Congress it will be just the same, and now let us all come together and vote together and put the laboring men in office and then we will come to the front.

Yours for dawning monopoly.
TRUE WORKER.

The platform adopted by the labor party at Little Rock May 1st endorses the National platform of February, 1887 on land, transportation, money income tax and Chinese labor; favors reform demanded by agricultural wheel, farmers National Alliance and the Knights of Labor; favors taxing all lands held for speculative purposes at full value; favors the consolidation of state and national elections; favors national aid to education; legislation for subjection of trusts, railroads and other corporations of state control and the establishing of a labor and agricultural bureau.

The Chicago Herald makes the statement that in 1860 there was not a factory child in America. In 1870 protection had dragged 114,000 children out of the schools and for no crime but poverty sentenced them to such lives of underpay and overwork as the ignorant must lead among the educated. In 1880 182,000 were sacrificed to the modern Moloch. At the same ratio, 1890 will show an army twice as great as the population of Delaware, 200,000 children in the factory, brutified by losses, demoralized by incessant labor and contaminated by association without restraint.

That the farmers and wage workers are fast joining hands in self defence is one of the most encouraging signs of the times. The great order of the Knights of Labor is emphatically the instrument needed to weld the industrial masses of the world in one solid irresistible body, which will have the power to remodel the social and political structure of the nations on the basis of justice and equal rights.—New Era.

The nomination of bankers, lawyers, and the tools of monopoly for legislative positions should not be tolerated this fall. The people especially the rolling portion of them should be represented by those of their own class who can fully sympathize with them and who devote themselves to their interests.

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