

The Messenger.

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

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

RALPH BEAUMONT'S LETTER

The Department of Labor bill, which passed the house some time ago, was brought up in the Senate this past week, and a substitute was offered by Senator Reagan, of Texas, who opposed the passage of the present bill for that purpose. He took occasion to say that he was not one of those men who was ready to stand on their head when the name of labor was mentioned; that he was a laboring man himself, and had always been all his life. This kind of talk comes quite often from the representatives of the Southern States. This kind of talk does not arise so much because the representatives from the South are so much different from those of the North; but it arises from the fact that the workingmen from the South are different from those of the North. The men who represent the North find at election times that they have to consult the workingmen of their district before they can be elected to office. That does not seem to be the case with the representatives from the South. They are never worried at all about their election; it is only their nomination that ever troubles them.

It is a mystery how it is that the workingmen of the south never take any interest in who represents them in the halls of legislation.

During the last session of Congress there was a member from the fourth district of Minnesota, who was a republican, who had been very independent in his replies to the committee of the Order stationed here to look after legislation. The committee reported this fact in their report at the end of the session. The workingmen of that district took the matter in hand, and when the election was over and the votes were counted it was found that he had received 28,909, while his opponent a Democrat, had received 34,043, and a Prohibitionist had received in the same district 1,990 votes. The total number of votes cast in this district in that election was 64,833, more than double the number of votes cast in the whole State of Georgia. The member from that district in the future will not say that he does not stand on his head when the name of labor is mentioned in the halls of legislation. I commend the energy of the workingmen of the fourth Minnesota district to the workingmen of the Southern States who are not taking any interest in the election of members of Congress and other legislative offices. If they will only do that it will be a great deal easier to get labor legislation through the halls of legislation than it is at the present time. Remember that the average legislator is not a statesman, but a politician. He never gets on to an advanced position until his constituents crowd him on to it. It is time that the workingmen of the South did a little crowding in that line.—*Ralph Beaumont in Journal of United Labor.*

A co-operative village of Germans located at Amena, Iowa has a population of 2000 and controls 26,000 acres. Every one seems to get along happily.

The Detroit *Free Press* has estimated the number of men employed at iron mining in the Lake Superior basin at 15,000.

During the month of April the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners organized over 30 local unions.

BEATING THE TRUSTS.

In talking with a prominent banker of New Mexico, he said: "You are making a great fuss over your 'trusts' here in the East, but I can tell you of a 'combine' in Chicago that double discounts all your Eastern 'trusts.' That is the cattle 'combine.' The 'big four' are the controllers of the sale of all refrigerated beef, and one canner of canned beef was brought in to make the circle complete. These men, in 1887, killed and sold cattle as follows:

Nelson Morris	42,597
Swift	575,468
Armour	477,000
Hammond	210,320
Libby & McNeill (canners)	126,212

A total of 1,821,507

"This enormous amount of cattle, if handled on a fair basis of profit, such as other trades make, would have made a large amount of money for each, but by 'pooling their issues' they have made many extra millions. For cattle kings are 'disturbed' by the price. This combine has one buyer for all—that keen, bright little Hebrew, Nelson Morris, was the man selected by the combine to buy all the cattle that came into Chicago, and 'Nelson went one better' than some railroads do in their tariff charges 'which is all the traffic will bear,' and went for the last 'pound of flesh' on producers and consumers as well as cattle. The ground work for this has been laid in the last few years by the 'big four' in driving out of the trade all local butchers who did not sell their refrigerated beef. They own the refrigerating cars and local refrigerating store-houses in all places of importance, and when there is a 'kick' against buying wholly of them they get the retail butcher.

"After getting control of a large proportion of the desirable markets, and the time favoring them by the necessities of the cattle men who were obliged to rush their cattle to market to keep out of the hands of the sheriff, they bought the cattle at their own price, from \$10 up to \$30 or \$40 a head, with the result about as follows, taking a 1,200 pound steer as a basis: at the price sold they must have realized about \$63, and their average net profit per steer was clear \$30; making the snug sum of \$54,642,210 as divisible profits for these five concerns for the year 1887. The above shows that consumers should get their beef for less than half of what they are now paying and then leave enormous profits for the 'combine.' This beats your 'trusts' profits out of sight.—*Dry Goods Chronicle.*

President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, has issued a call for aid on all the "affiliated of the A. F. M." in the United States. This call is to aid the union of brewery workmen who are "out" on strike for living wages. All those who desire to aid the workmen should send their contributions to Louis Harband 213 Forsyth street, New York.

The Coopers' Union of Cincinnati O., boycotted "pool" beer, and were locked out by the Boss Coopers' Association. The locked men say they will persevere in the course they had at first intended regardless of the employing coopers' action; they will not resume work unless an increase in wages is granted.

The labor question was settled in China over two thousand years ago. There are no strikes or lockouts in the land of Confucius. The bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters and others form lines on either side of the public square and wait until they are wanted. The master-builder comes along and puts a chalk mark upon those whose services he desires. They follow him and go to work. No quarrel about wages. The least sign of discontent calls for the head of the kicker. All are glad to see it fall into the bucket, for it gives a place for one more to work. Less than three in 100 can read, and rat's tail is a luxury. How nice it is to have the labor question settled!—*Builder and Wood Worker.*

Over one half of the members of the United States Congress are directly interested in some of the various trusts. What possible chance have the interests of the people in such a body? We must have a Congress of men who will let their stock in trade not have received contributions to their campaign expenses from those who do own stock in trusts, before the people will have the ghost of a show in that body.—*Dayton Workman.*

The Vernon copper works, near Baltimore, Md., which have been idle for some time have been put in operation.

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