

The Messenger.

State Library

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

Vol. 2.

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No. 11.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

A REMEDY FOR STEALING.

MR. EDITOR: I am one who regards labor as respectable and honorable even among men. And it is of Divine injunction, all will admit, and therefore of as much importance as any other direct commandment. There might be innumerable quotations from the Bible to sustain this declaration but all your readers are so familiar with that authority that it is not essential to quote them.

But we find the reverse of that in unlimited laziness. And consequently enormous thefts are supplying the place of honest efforts. Stealing is now becoming the rule, and not the exception as it should be, or there should not be any at all. Somebody must work or there will be nothing to steal, and the sooner that society frowns down every one that don't make an effort for support the sooner a reform will ensue that will reward society for such a course.

I know that such a course might wax at the further end, since one's son who may think that he is a little too respectable to work. But when State Treasurers, Bank officers; trustees of valuables are daily at it and are excused by public sentiment from tuppitude upon a plea of their respectability it would seem that morality had been reduced or crime elevated.

I think that the massive law as given us in the 22nd chapter of Exodus would if adopted make stealing if not more respectable, a luxury that could not be indulged in. Let him pay back four fold and he would find honesty the cheapest.

The argument to this:

If A steals B's horse at a time when his crop is one third grown, and B is not able to buy another, he loses his horse that cost him perhaps \$100 and a crop worth \$30 to him therefore he (B) is lost \$400. If A should be caught, convicted and sent to the penitentiary the law is vindicated but where is B's \$400? A can't be paroled out and is ready for another victim but if he had to say there at reasonable wages until he paid B \$400 it would take some time and not be half so romantic. When our law-makers impose such treatment on evil doers they will do more to reform society than all the churches seem to be doing. As a plain spoken man said in regard to crime that, "God was so good, these fellows were not afraid of him" and "if it was not for the devil these men would steal all he had." All of us would be glad to feel that the out-pouring of Divine wisdom would check the iniquities of mankind and cause them to tread the paths of holiness to which they were created, but the mercy of their God, has been so bountiful that it has been trespassed upon in a manner and to an extent revolting to civilization.

There is more of this but I have not time to present it now. Let every one make his own support and not live beyond it. And not lay around for others to support him in violation of Divine injunctions and my theme will be exhausted and better times ensue.

M.

The fact that the United States Senate recently voted (21 to 20) in favor of the government issuing greenbacks, to take the place of retiring bank notes shows that the work of the greenbackers has not been altogether in vain.

THE ORDER IN GASTON.

MOUNT HOLLY, N. C., JULY 2nd 1888.—MR. EDITOR: Seeing that you have no correspondent from old Gaston I will try to give you some labor news. The Order is getting along splendidly in this section. We have fourteen Local Assemblies in Gaston county and we all mean business. The Laboring class of people will have a mass meeting in Dallas on the 4th of July to nominate candidates for county officers, will also have some good speaking on that day. The old parties are making a great fuss over our meeting, but all we have to say is just let 'em howl, we expect to elect a full set of county officials this year; we have not decided who we will support for Governor, but we will vote for Streeter and Cunningham for President. We hope the Union and United Labor party will consolidate at their meeting. We hope every K of L will be in earnest from now until after the election. If they do we will gain a great and grand victory, Success to THE MESSENGER.

DARK HOLLOW.

WHO IS THE FOOL?

LABORING MAN.—Mr. Banker, I want to deposit \$100 for a year. What interest do you pay?

BANKER.—If you leave it the full year I will give you 4 per cent.

LABORING MAN.—All right, give me the check.

BANKER.—All right my noble fellow, here it is.

LABORING MAN.—Now I guess I can loan some money to a farmer out here at a good per centage and, as you are paying me \$4 for the use of my \$100, I will leave this check with you for security and I want you to loan me \$90 on it at 1 per cent per annum.

BANKER.—We don't do that kind of business. You must think we are fools to let you have money and then pay you for the privilege of doing so.

LABORING MAN.—Is that the name you call fellows who do that kind of business? Why, old fellow, that is what Uncle Sam has been doing by you for years past. Do you mean to say he is a fool?—Caldwell Age.

Carlyle said that when honorable, honor loving, conscientious diligence cannot by the utmost effort of toil, obtain the necessaries of life, or when men willing to work cannot even find work, then society is beginning to die. Thoughtful men are now looking at the vast multitudes of the starving unemployed of London—more noticeable there than in other great cities, but not confined to London—and those who would gather wisdom from the past compare the present day with the days immediately preceding the French revolution; and, as they compare them, they see much an startling cause for alarm. No man can tell what a day may bring forth; any moment an act may be committed which will cause various elements of an incongruous society to clash together in conflict. It is not yet, let us hope, too late to apply remedies and so cure the evils which threaten death to our boasted civilization.—Canadian Labor Reformer.

Inability to get employment led Edward Myers, of Philadelphia, to commit suicide last week. Myers leaves a family in impoverished circumstances.

LABOR NOTES.

CULLED AND CONDENSED FROM EXCHANGES.

Nearly 4500 girls and women are employed around the Onash mines, many of them at night.

The co-operative collar and cuff-makers, of Troy, N. Y., are doing a prosperous business, and success is sure.

The silk weavers are still on a strike at College Point, L. I., against the blacklisting of officers of their assembly.

The striking spinners at New Bedford, Mass., have been granted the advance asked, and have returned to work.

The United Clothing Cutters' Union has adopted a union label, which will be distributed only to manufacturers who employ union cutters.

Measures and not men will be in the ascendant during this campaign. When people and parties desire to fight, it is well to have something to fight about.

One reason why workingmen desire shorter hours is that they may have more time for intellectual pursuits. But that is one reason why monopoly don't want them to have shorter hours.

The party organs are beginning to tell of their love for the workingmen, and how the other party is only flirting with the horny handed. "How happy he could be with either were the other dear charmer away.

The following mighty sentiment uttered by Charles Brallaugh should be printed in letters of gold: "Better a thousand fold abuse of free speech than denial of free speech; the abuse dies in a day, but the denial slays the life of the people and entombs the hope of the race."

Some people don't talk enough; some people talk too much. The fellow who is right, usually has but little to say; the fellow who is wrong, talk and talks to prove he is right, but generally only gets his foot in it and keeps on sinking. Nothing personal is meant.—Labor Record.

A co-operative broom factory has been started at Harrisburg, Oregon, by the members of L. A. 5371. Shares are quoted at \$2, and limited at present to 250 shares, while no person is permitted to hold more than 20 shares of stock. Their brooms will soon be in the market, and will bear the Knights of Labor Label.

The first labor demonstration ever held at St. James, La., took place on the 18th inst., under the auspices of L. A. 10,877, and consisted of parade, picnic, games, dancing, etc. It was a perfect success, and left a good impression upon the minds of the citizens, many of whom had hitherto been opposed to the Order.

If the government would loan money at 3 per cent, that fact would regulate the rate of interest. It is possible that a man who could give such security as the government required would have to pay more than the government rate—but the additional rate would be accurately and inevitably proportioned to the risk. If the risk was slight, the increase in rate would be slight, and if great, the rate would no doubt be increased proportionately.

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