

The Messenger.

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"EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL; SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO NONE"

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

EIGHT HOURS.

The following is the philosophy of the eight hour movement as defined by the Boston Eight-Hour League:

Resolved That poverty is the great fact with which the labor movement deals;

That co operation in labor is the final result to be obtained;

That the reduction of the hours of labor is the first step in labor reform, and that the emancipation of labor from the slavery and ignorance of poverty solves all the problems that now disturb and perplex mankind;

That eight hours do not mean less wages;

That men are never paid as a rule according to what they earn, but to the average cost of living;

That in the long run—within certain limits—less hours mean more pay, whether they work by the day or piece,

That reducing the hours increases the purchasing power of wages as well as the amount of wealth produced;

That dear men means cheap production and cheap men means dear production;

That six cents a day in China is dearest, and three dollars a day in America is the cheapest;

That the moral causes that have made three dollars a day cheaper than six cents a day will make higher wages still cheaper;

That less hours mean reducing the profits and fortunes that is made on labor and its results;

More knowledge and more capital for the laborer, the wages system gradually disappearing through high wages;

Less poor people to borrow money and less wealthy ones to lend it, and a natural decline in the rates of interest on money;

More idlers working and more workers thinking, the motives to fraud reduced and fewer calls for special legislation;

Woman's wages increased and her household labor reduced, better opportunities for thought and action, and the creation of motives strong enough to secure the ballot;

Reaching the great cause of intemperance, extreme wealth and extreme poverty;

And the salvation of republican institutions;

That whether national banks are abolished, or bonds are taxed, or whether greenbacks or gold, or any system of finance proposed is adopted, or a single tax on land, or civil service, or one term for president shall prevail, are not laborers' questions because they have no appreciable relation to the wage system, through which the wage class secure all that they can ever obtain of the world's wealth until they become sufficiently wealthy and intelligent to co-operate in its production, and whether the masses have anything to choose between a Democrat, a Republican or other candidate turns entirely upon the question which one of the candidates will be most likely to secure the legislation for reduced hours of labor as well as the enforcement upon all government works of the law already enacted

Resolved, That the factory system of our country that employs tens of thousands of women and children eleven and twelve hours a day; that owns or controls in its own selfish interests the pulpit and the press; that prevents the

operative class from making themselves felt in behalf of less hours through a remorseless exercise of the power of discharge; that is rearing a population of children and youth whose sickly appearance and stunted or utterly neglected schooling, is proving year by year the lords of the loom and the lords of the lash are natural allies in the conflict between free loom and slavery.

NATIONAL BANKS.

We have at different times lain before our readers the system on which our national banks were conducted and the advantages offered them by law to make and control money.

We now give the matter as stated by Hon. S. S. Marshall of Illinois in a speech in Congress in 1874, and the same statutes now prevail with this exception at that time the banks were limited in their circulation that limit has been removed and the power to contract or explain the currency at will is granted. Mr. Marshall states the thing as it actually existed. He says:

Here is a plain, concise statement of the working of that "beautiful system" of bond backing and national bank business which he who runs can read and understand.

"An association of gentlemen in an eastern state raised \$300,000 in currency. They went to the office of the Register of the Treasury and exchanged their currency for \$30,000 in six per cent, gold bearing bonds. They went to the office of the comptroller of the currency, in the same building, organized a national bank, deposited their \$300,000 in bonds and received for them 270,000 in national currency. They had let the government have \$300,000 in currency, more than they received for banking purposes, and had on deposit \$300,000, on which they received as interest from the government \$18,000 in gold, and exempt from taxation.

This was pretty good financing for these bankers to receive \$18,000 a year in gold on the \$30,000 in currency which they had thus loaned the government. [Only 60 per cent, each year!—ED.] But this is not the whole story. They had their bank made a public depository. They soon discovered that there was scarcely less than \$1,000,000 of government money deposited within their vaults. They did not like to see this vast sum idle.

They, therefore, took \$1,000,000 of government money and bought \$1,000,000 of twenty-five bonds with it. In other words, they loaned \$1,000,000 of the government's own money to the government and deposited the bonds received in the vaults of their bank, on which they received from the same government \$60,000 a year in gold interest. Thus for \$30,000 in currency which they originally loaned the government, they received annually in all \$78,000 in gold."

Compute the rate of interest, and then vote the g. o. p. ticket if you are a fool.—Commoner.

When our manufacturers are grown to a certain proportion, as they will under the fostering care of the government, the farmer will find a ready market for his surplus produce, and, what is of almost equal consequence, a certain and cheap supply for all his wants.—John C. Calhoun.

A POSTAL TELEGRAPH.

During all this session there has been before congress propositions that the Government should either take possession of existing telegraph lines or construct lines of its own for the use of the people. To all these bills the Gould monopoly has interposed all kinds of objections. The clincher seems to be that the common people do not use the telegraph any way, and consequently can have no interest in any change. This, however is a mistake. The people make use of the telegraph in numerous ways, and would use it still more were it within their reach as is the post office. Every man who reads a newspaper uses a telegraph, and had we a postal telegraph we would have more and better papers for the Associated Press would not then be the censors of the peoples reading matter, some "vested rights" might suffer by the process, but the monopoly has already wrung enough from the people upon which to live in luxury for the rest of its days. Then, too, we have already precedent for Government ownership even without going to England and France. The United States Government once had a monopoly of all there was of the telegraphic business. It disposed of this valuable discovery for a mere bagatelle. Luckily it retained the post office, thus allowing the people to peruse their own confidential communications before the syndicate's censor revised them. No doubt the time will come when the people will own telegraph. Until then the telegraph and its managers will control the people.—Craftsman.

DURHAM, N. C., July, 12 1888.
—MR. EDITOR: Let me say a word about the Labor ticket. Can't there be some concentrated action? See if we can't pull together and pile up a large vote for Labor's freedom in the Old North State. Can't the leading Knights and Alliance men come together and form some plan for action. Those men that have been elected to political office should use all their influence for a pure unadulterated labor ticket. We cannot trust either of the old parties. Let us make a beginning and vote for President this year. No doubt you will hear the old excuse, it won't do this year, wait. We cannot afford to wait. The sooner we begin the fight, the quicker that victory will be ours. And remember when you buy goods of any kind look for the UNION LABEL.

The semi annual statement of the Knights of Labor Co-operative Manufacturing Tailoring Company of Chicago is out, and the showing made is commendable, if not remarkable, and shows what can be accomplished by co-operation when affairs are properly managed by persons of experience. This company began business in March 1887, with a paid-up capital of \$305, and are already doing a business of over \$35,000 a year. They have paid out in wages to clerks, salesmen and labor in manufacturing over \$16,000, and show a net gain for the year after all bills are paid, of about \$27,000. The managers are to be congratulated upon the success of their enterprise, and co-operators generally should be encouraged to push their work of emancipating labor by the introduction of a co-operative industrial system.

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