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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

ORGANIZE THE HOSTS OF LABOR

WILL H. MINNICK.

Organize the hosts of labor,
In one common brotherhood,
He who drives the locomotive
And the one who turns the sod;
Those who dig the dusky diamonds,
And produce the shining gold,
Those in factory and in workshop—
Bring them to this shepherd's fold.
Bring the fireman and the brakeman,
And conductors, East and West;
Bring the switchmen and the yardmen,
Section hands, and all the rest;
Bring them with the iron-worker,
Sailor, soldier and the tramp;
Organize and school them fully
In the Knights of Labor camp.
Organize the western ranchmen,
And the cow-boy of the plains;
Bring the herder and the hermit,
And the student with his brains;
Bring them in and thus united,
Drill and school them in their rights
Moving on in quiet prudence
Till we've gained the topmost heights.
Gain them through united effort,
Organize and drill with care
In the tactics of our Order
Knighthood teaches everywhere.
Moving on in one direction,
Labor's cause to guard and guide,
By the wise and wholesome council
Each assembly should provide.

Some interesting figures in regard to salaries have been elicited in a suit now in progress in Brooklyn against a baking powder company. It was shown that the president of the company draws a salary of \$50,000 a year, the vice president \$30,000, and the treasurer \$6,000. The President of a paint and varnish company, who was introduced as an expert in regard to salaries, stated that the superintendent of his company received \$50,000 a year, while the yearly business did not exceed \$3,000,000. Another witness stated that in companies with which he was acquainted the chief executive officers received from \$5,000 to \$50,000 a year, while a representative of a kerosene oil company said that he knew one officer of a large corporation who received a salary of \$30,000 a year, and two others who received \$20,000 each. These figures are enormous, and were unknown until the days of trusts and combinations. The explanation is furnished in the testimony of one of the witnesses, who said that the business of the company with which he is connected had been increased until the profits had reached 450 per cent. on the original capital stock.

The bondholder and banker are favored citizens. The bondholder pays no taxes and the banker next to none. They never go to war. The private soldier goes for eleven dollars a month in a dollar that the bondholder depreciated, endures the hardship, exigencies and perils, and if he is fortunate returns alive. A generous Government then taxes him to pay the bondholder interest on a gold dollar twice as valuable as the one he received.—*Industrial Union.*

The K. of L. co-operative watch-case mill at Brooklyn employs 100 hands.

UNIONISM FULL OF VITALITY AND LIFE.

"The revolutionary novelties of yesterday become the conservative commonplaces of to-day," is the way a well known writer epigrammatically sums up the whole history of progress—material, political and social. And especially is this the story of the great labor question whose very examination, outside of the lodge room of the trades unionist was sufficient, hardly a generation ago, to stamp the bold investigator as a fanatic, if not worse. That was the time when all combinations of workingmen were still frowned upon by the general public, denounced in the pulpit and by press, and very much discouraged by the courts. To most of us that appears ridiculous, and now would be out of touch with the spirit of the times. But at the period referred to, this general, intolerant anti-trades union feeling was a very serious matter to the wageworker.

In England, where now the organization of labor is taken as a matter of course, and trades unions are a power to be reckoned with politically as well as industrially, all such associations were under the ban of the law and illegal to 1824. From that date liberty of organization was granted the English laborer, but in most countries this right is not conceded to this day. And even in Great Britain, the very comprehensive interpretation given by the courts to the common law act conspiracy made this liberty more apparent than real: all combinations "in restraint of trade" were considered conspiracies up to two decades ago; and men who organized or took part in a strike were punishable by a criminal penalty and might be, as they often were, sent to prison. In fact, judicial wisdom even went so far as to declare it to be no crime to embezzle the funds of trades unions, as they had no legal status.

In this country, workingmen's organizations were accorded very scant favors a half century ago and later. They were denounced as of foreign origin, not in harmony with our institutions; and while not proscribed here as in England, the same old common-law interpretation was made to duty to discountenance them and their methods. And although the "conspiracy" rule also has been considerably modified here, it is still in force in some of our States; while in at least one of them, where its repeal was generally supposed to have been effected in the early '30's, a recent New York judicial construction of express statute law makes "sympathetic" strikes, where all the strikers are not employed in the same shop, criminal restraints of trade. And as if this were not enough, the liberal Court of Appeals of that State has just promulgated a further "warning to strikers": holding not only that the Executive Board of D. A. 91 committed an indelible offense in obtaining the discharge of an obnoxious shoe factory foreman, but that any other than wages-strikes are illegal.

In addition to this, it has become the fashion of late with a certain class of newspapers to do all that in them lies to stir up public hostility against the Knights of Labor, as well as to sow the seeds of discord in the ranks of labor organizations generally—a scheme which is apparently advanced by the mistaken bigotry, or zeal of some trades-

union leaders, who, unable to look beyond the narrow horizon of their own trade, think they see in our more liberal American Order an end to their own power and, possibly, existence.

Labor conventions of to-day are as numerous as those of the older political parties, and labor literature finds the readiest sale. The American labor movement is yet in its infancy, but is everywhere leaving the social, political and industrial organization. The supporters of all economic legislation for our country are ringing the changes on its effects on the condition of the American laborer, and both the national and local statesmen are never tired of protesting that to them the wishes of organized labor are law. He doesn't always live up to his protestations, but that is our own fault. When we show our representatives that we are in earnest, few will be so bold as to oppose our demands. That is evidenced by the history of recent years, which is responsible for all the important labor laws on the statute books. And this since the most wonderful organization of modern times has come upon the scenes, the Order of the Knights of Labor, which has given tone to the whole labor movement—a movement which now recognizes the unity of interest of all classes of society, whose highest good it seeks to promote.

Organization, education and agitation are the watchword of our Order. Our goal is co-operation and the abolishment of the wage system. Our aim is to secure to workers a just share of the material benefits of the age. We desire to "advance the cause of humanity, to lighten the burden of toil, and elevate the moral and social condition of mankind." And we believe that the realization of our platform of principles will accomplish this end.

But none of them is of more importance to-day than the demand for State ownership of our telegraphic railway systems. It is a question big with political, industrial and social consequences. Political, in that it is a matter of life and death with the republic, whether the government shall own our transportation monopolies or the monopolies the government. Industrially, in that it signifies the cheapest possible transportation of men and material, and from localities where they are not needed to localities where they are. And socially, because cheap railroad fares mean an easier struggle for existence all along the line—cheaper consumption and the relief of an overcrowded and constantly overcrowding population, which would then be able to live in the cozy suburban cottage, instead of the filthy, disease-breeding and expensive city tenement.—*Journal of United Labor.*

The Union Labor presidential ticket is being dubbed the "farmer ticket." Well, the farmers and farming interests comprise the greater part of our country's greatness, and as we have never, since its organization, had a farmers' ticket, why should we not have one now in the year 1888? We have had the lawyer, the soldier and the man on horseback long enough. Let's have one of the people for once.—*Essex (Cal.) Watchman.*

The employes of the Cook Locomotive Works at Patterson, N. J., are on a strike.

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