

The Messenger.

State Liby

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

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

ANOTHER SONG OF THE SHIRT.

The emigration investigation in New York took a new turn Wednesday. When the committee assembled a pleasant faced young lady entered the room and took the witness chair.

She gave her name as Mary Berg, and said that for six years past she had worked for Herrman Berg, a flannel shirt-maker, on East Forty-first street. When she first went there there were 200 girls at work. They worked with foot machines.

About a year ago steam machines were put in and gradually some fifty Russians and Poles were put into the places of the girls.

Previous to the employment of the Poles and Russians the girls made from \$6 to \$8 a week. Now they have to work hard to make \$5. She had known married men who worked there for \$4 a week to take the place of the girls.

She overheard the proprietor ask one of the four men first employed if they could not get him more of their countrymen. They told him they could, but would have to send to Europe after them. He told them to send and he would employ them.

There had been continued reductions since the Poles and Russians came. She left the factory this week on account of a reduction in the scale of wages.

These foreign laborers, she declared, were rapidly driving out the American girls not only in the shirt-making, but cigar and clock-making trades. A shirt that was made for 60 cents in 1884 is made now for 40, and one that was made then for \$3 is now made for \$2.

Witness was a skilled worker and had been making \$8 to \$9 a week, but now she could not make more than \$6 to \$7. She said that many of the Russian and Poles work here and save money, then go home and spend it, and come back again to make more.

She knew one man who saved \$250 here and went home, where he invested it in business and lost it. He repeated the experiment, and now is back here for the third time, and working for \$4 a week in place of girls who had been discharged.

Mrs. Marion Preston, a cloak and suit maker, employed by Oppenheimer & Adler on Broadway, was the next witness. She said she had worked for the firm about three years.

When she first went there she could make \$9 and \$10 a week; now she makes from \$3 to \$5. All this, she says, is due to the cheap foreign labor which is supplanting that of the women. This foreign labor is mostly that of Russians and Poles.—*Ex.*

Make your candidate for congress write a letter giving his views on tariff reform, dear money and railway monopoly. If his manifesto is not satisfactory, don't vote for him. Every man nominated for congress in the west can readily be put under moral bonds that will hold him through his self-interest, if not through his conscience.—*Farmer's Voice.*

The strike in the mines near Gordon Texas, has been settled satisfactorily and everything is running smoothly at that place.

WHO WILL BE ELECTED.

Of the various individuals nominated for the superfluous office of President of the United States, it is tolerably certain that either the candidate of the "democratic" machine or the candidate of the "republican" machine will be elected.

In either case what will the workmen gain?

Either one or the other will be elected because the great bulk of workingmen will cast their votes for the "democratic" or "republican" presidential electors.

One fact is that the workmen are being hoodwinked into the belief, that the "republican" party will protect them in the matter of wages, or the "democratic" party will see to it that they can buy commodities cheaper.

Another fact is that the voters have been used to take a sort of gambling interest in the presidential election, and having sized up the candidates, usually shout for their favorites, just as they do at a horse race.

Another fact is that the workmen as a class are not alive to their own interests, and therefore permit their votes to be swayed according to baseless conviction or sporting preference.

While this is so it may be safely answered that one of the candidates of capitalism will be elected, and the workmen will neither benefit nor lose in the balance between the two, unless as individual betters on the result.

Some workmen will not vote for President at all, nor will they bother themselves about the election. These will have time to attend to more important business for their own benefit. Let them work hard for organization and education.—*Ex.*

SEVEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS.

This amount has been paid as tax on tobacco within the last twenty-three years grown upon 600,000 acres. This is a tax of \$1,200 per acre or \$52.17 tax upon each acre every year. Which is a heavy tax on land not worth more than \$2 to \$7 per acre.

\$580,000,000 of this has been paid by the former Slave States, Virginia paying 1/3 of it and North Carolina 2/3. Yet the democrats will vote for a democratic Congress to exact the tax out of them.

The workman suffers, he does the work to make the tobacco. And then has to pay about 50 per cent taxes on it before he can use it. He has to pay five taxes on it before he can use what he makes on his own sale. It is an outrageous imposition upon the laboring man, the doctrine that he can do without it, is nobody's business but his own. He don't ask to have his appetite dictated to him by parties who allow no such liberties taken with them.

All the prevailing schemes now tend to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. This must be amended or revolution for more equity might be forced upon the Skylocks.

EQUITY.

The President has signed the bill granting the employes of the Government Printing Office a thirty days leave of absence annually, with full pay.

AGAINST THE TRUSTS.

The State of New York has now moved against the great trust abuse. Two suits were begun yesterday by the service of papers on the defendants, General Roger A. Pryor taking charge of the case in the absence of the Attorney General.

They are civil suits, and the combination selected is the sugar trust. One of the suits is against the individual members of the trust. They are charged with acting as a corporation without being duly incorporated, and with exercising privileges not granted to them. The Court is asked to oust and enjoin them from the exercise of such privileges.

The other suit is against the North River Refining Company, one of the members of the trust. The complaint recites that this company is a corporation formed under the laws of New York, and then sets forth the steps it has taken in entering into the trust. The acts, it is charged, are in violation of the company's charter and an abuse of its franchise. The remedy asked for this wrong is that the charter of the company be vacated and its corporate existence annulled.

These are test cases. If they prove successful similar suits will be brought against other trusts. The people will await the result with keen interest. It is of vital concern to know whether there is any power in the courts to cope with a growing abuse that threatens mischief to our entire industrial and commercial system. If it should turn out that the courts are powerless, that the existing law affords no remedy, then the people must look to the lawmaking powers.—*N. Y. Herald.*

THIS MEANS YOU.

It is useless for organized labor to temporize further. If it ever intends to do anything more than maintain a mere debating society it must act in the living present. First, all the petty quarrels must be buried, and a united front displayed; then it must have a powerful press to clear the way for action. A starving press is of little value, and a subsidized press is of a little less. A press with the club of Hercules held over the head will be a slight aid in the cause—about as useful as one that fawns for favors. We need a labor press free and untrammelled; and that can deal sledge hammer blows in defence of the right, regardless of the consequences. Until the hosts of Labor are provided with such a valuable auxiliary any great national movement must prove entirely abortive.—*Labor Tribune, Pittsburg, Pa.*

There is more truth in the above short article than most men are aware of. The trouble has always been with the laboring class that they would not support their own papers, but allow them to live a lingering death and finally compel the editor to sell his soul to one of the two old parties to save himself and family from the poor house, while those for whom he was laboring would give their spare change to the monopolist press and thus aid those who were their worst enemies, while their friends were left to starve. These are facts, and there is no dodging them; and until the laborers come to the rescue of their friends they must bear the consequences.—*Leviston, Me., Advocate.*

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