

The Messenger.

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

THE IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATION,

The members of the Special Congressional Committee have returned to Washington after an absence of five weeks. With the exception of their trip to California, they have almost concluded their labors. The work performed by the committee has attracted the greatest attention. It was found that there were a great many things radically wrong in the administration of affairs at Castle Garden, and it was shown conclusively that the Commissioners did not insist on a careful examination of the immigrants who landed; and no better proof of their failure to detect those who were likely to become a public charge was offered than the statements of the officers of the New York charitable institutions, who swore that 70 per cent. of the paupers were aliens. The committee hold that, had there been anything like a proper supervision exercised, fully one-half of these people would not have been allowed to land. Another strong point brought out by the committee is the business of inducing immigration. They proved that it was done for two reasons: The first was for the gain that the men who sold the steamship tickets would get out of the commission, and the second and more serious was that have in the past few years engaged in the practice of inducing men to come here so that there would be no longer any reason to fear strikes. This was done to a great extent in the coal fields and among large manufacturers in the cities. It was shown, too, that men from Bohemia and Poland were crowding American girls out of the factories, and women from the same countries were crowding American men out of the hitherto lucrative cigar trade. It has been shown that there is a wholesale swindling of the poor going on by those that bring them here; that criminals are sent here to get rid of them by various European nations; and that fraudulent naturalization has been going on.

Mr Ford, chairman of the committee, says, "We have found the immigration laws violated with impunity, both in New York and Boston. We found that 75 per cent. of our fishing crews are aliens and still subjects of Great Britain. Our investigation shows that encouraged, stimulated pauper immigration has had an effect on the industrial situation in this country to an appalling extent. There is not law enough on the subject, except as to contract labor, and that is not enforced. I favor a law making it compulsory upon each intending immigrant to file a notice of his intention at least sixty days before his departure, thus enabling our consular agents to ascertain whether he belongs to any of the inhibited classes. We have taken over 2,500 pages of type-written testimony. I do not believe that we shall make a report until the entire investigation is completed, and we have more important testimony to take. What we have taken has convinced the committee that something positive must be done. Nearly all the ocean steamship companies have been pushed to their full capacity in bringing over immigrants, and the great addition to our population includes an element that is being imported for the express purpose of cheapening labor."

At the present time there are over 22,000 Hungarians, Poles and Italians employed in and about the anthracite mines of Pennsylvania. In every branch of the industries where unskilled labor can be utilized, in sugar refining, in clothing, and even in those occupations which have been filled by women, the hordes of Southern Europe have invaded. From the close of 1881 to the end of December 1886, the total number of immigrants landed was 3,309,796.

During the investigation it has been conclusively shown that the Federal government should take entire charge of immigration matters and do away entirely with the State Boards which are allowed to contract with the Secretary of the Treasury. It is the decision of the committee to ask Congress within a few days to take some immediate temporary steps to provide for the immediate requirements of the situation.

Immediately after election the Congressional Committee will go to San Francisco and make a searching inquiry into the subject of Chinese immigration.—*Journal of United Labor.*

GOOD NEWS FROM GASTON.

MOUNT HOLLY, N. C., Sept. 10th 1888.—MR. EDITOR: Please allow me space to ask a few questions for the laborer to ponder over. Are you going to vote for either of the old political parties, who care nothing for you, only to get your vote? Will you vote for free trade and work for pauper wages, or will you vote protection that keeps up the price of everything the laboring man has to use? The politician has no earthly use for the man who earns his bread by the sweat of face except to vote him as he pleases.

All laboring men should vote for the Union Labor candidates, Streeter and Cunningham, and if they are elected we will have the most prosperous government the world has ever known—a government for the people, of the people by the people. Let every workingman vote the Union Labor ticket, and we will have an administration of affairs for the benefit of the whole people, something that cannot be said of the present or any preceding administration.

We have a Union Labor party in Gaston county, have a full county ticket in the field, and we will elect it by a good majority. I hope every county in the good old State of North Carolina will follow our example.

The Union Labor party with its noble principles is before you for consideration, fellow-toilers. It is a party of men of your stamp; its platform was made for your express benefit; its candidates are selected from our ranks—will you vote for it and glorious Liberty? or will you vote as in the past, for monopoly and oppression?

I will close with a hurrah! for the laboring man's ticket!
Fraternally, DARK HOLLOW.

The St. Louis *New Order* asks, "Is statesmanship a lost art?" We should think so, judging from the labors of the representatives of the people in Congress. Party supremacy and a division of office appointments require so much time of the law-makers that matters of importance to the people generally have to wait.

Now is the time to subscribe.

CONGRESS ON TRUSTS.

The statesmen at Washington seem to be in trouble as to how to get at trusts whereby to knock them out once for all. They are anxious for a definition descriptive of a trust, and this determine they desire, or pretend to desire, to formulate a recipe which will point the proper way to the disposal of such abomination. A measure which aims to cover both points has been introduced in the Senate by Mr. Reagan, of Texas, and it will at least serve as a point of departure for discussion. It defines a trust as a combination of capital or skill by two or more persons in order to create or carry out restrictions on trade, to limit or reduce the production, or to increase the prices of merchandise or commodities, or to create a monopoly. The bill makes any person becoming a member of a trust as above defined, or becoming engaged in the business of any such trust in any trade or business carried on with foreign countries, or between the states and territories, or between the United States and any foreign country, guilty of a high misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$1000 and not more than \$10,000, and by imprisonment of not less than one or more than five years. The purchase by any trust or its agent, of merchandise in a foreign country for sale in this country, or the making or purchase of any commodity in this country for sale in a foreign country or in any state or territory for sale in any other state or territory, is also declared a violation of the act. This measure goes before the Senate finance committee for consideration.

The Congressional Investigating Committee, which reported some weeks ago, told the parent body how the daddy of all the trusts, the Standard Oil Company, was built; how it was an aggregate of a number of state corporations joined in a trust, because to do otherwise would be illegal by reason of the several state laws. This being the case, it would look as though a short cut for Congress to take would be under the inter-state clause of the constitution. An act forbidding under United States law that which is illegal under the laws of the several states might hit the trust system a deathly blow.

It is queer how the national legislature fiddle faddles over the suppression of a great wrong, an immense and systematic conspiracy against the whole people, when laws may be made so easily and enforced so promptly when labor organizations in the conservation of the interests of workmen does something that an employer doesn't like.—*Labor Tribune.*

Suit has been begun in the supreme court to eject about 200 settlers in Allen county, Kan., who have occupied their farms for the past ten or fifteen years. The suit was brought by the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railway and by speculators who recently bought the lands from the railroad company. The controversy relates to about 30,000 acres. The railroad company claims that the land was granted to it by Congress in 1882. The settlers say the description does not cover the land in controversy.

D. A. 54 will appoint a committee to examine into the records of the various candidates for Congress in the Chicago districts.

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