

The Messenger.

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

Vol. 2.

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

THEIR TEARS AND SIGNS

Will not Wipe Away the Wrongs of the Past.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 6.

The *Journal of United Labor* published Powderly's reply to General Secretary Litchman's letter of resignation. It opens with an acceptance of the resignation, and then says:

"While I do not question your motives in taking this step, you will, I trust, pardon me if I say I fail to see how organized labor can be benefited by having its officers cast aside the obligations and duties which their constituents impose upon them for the purpose of taking sides in a political campaign. It is true that sighs and groans are flowing from the mouths of the political leaders for the wrongs of the workingmen, and many of those who groan the loudest at this time may justly be classed among those who were the very worst oppressors of labor in the past. The tears they shed will never increase in volume to such an extent as to wipe away the grievous wrongs their past actions or failures to act have imposed upon the man who bends under poverty's load. You cannot blame me then, if I call the groans and sighs mere empty sound, the tears but a hollow mockery and the professions to conversion to the doctrines of organized labor as the sublimity of hypocrisy.

The question of protection will still be before us for solution, and the prime factor in effecting its solution will be the Knights of Labor.

Mr. Powderly in his letter also refers to the fact that 41 candidates for election to the national house of representatives, regardless of party, have signed written pledges to work for measures of reform at the request of the Knights of Labor.

Mr. Litchman writes a reply to Mr. Powderly defending his action, in determining to take part in the political campaign. He says:

"I hold it more honorable to lay down official duties that would hamper private action than to retain such position, and at the same time engage in political scheming in secret with the party agents whom it is necessary ostensibly to publicly denounce."

To this last letter Mr. Powderly has made no reply. He says no reply is necessary. Referring to Mr. Litchman's insinuation that "political scheming in secret" is practiced by officers of the Order, Mr. Powderly says no reply is merited, for the reason that he (Powderly) is not engaged in any such work, and knows of no other official who is doing or has done so.

Mr. Powderly expresses the opinion that Mr. Litchman's course will injure rather than help the Republican cause, also that the general sentiment of the Knights of Labor is strongly against Mr. Litchman's course, the general disposition being to censure him for his action.

"As an order," Mr. Powderly says, "we take no side either way. The Knights of Labor of the west favor tariff revision in common with all other western men. In Pennsylvania they are of course, protectionists, and each member is free to act politically as he sees fit."

All the Havana cigar factories are closed, and over 20,000 cigar makers are out of work.

POWDERLY NOT A CANDIDATE.

The *National Labor Tribune* of September 8 has the following in its editorial columns:

And then there is the General Master Workman, Mr. Powderly—where will he be by the first Tuesday following the first Monday of November, or a month sooner than that? To be sure he has written a column advising Knights of Labor to vote according to their convictions, but there was so greatly of protectionist advocacy in his article as to indicate that, were he in Congress, Mr. Randall would have at least one Democratic member to stand by him in opposing the inroads of the protection reducers. And who fancies Mr. Powderly does not want to go to the next Congress from the Scranton district merely confesses to lack of knowledge of what has been his ambition during several years.

To the question "where will he be," etc., I answer just where I am now; but having answered that more fully in another column, I will for once take the liberty of correcting the *Tribune*. I am not a candidate for Congress and never have been; it is not now my ambition to go to Congress and it never was my ambition. Had I been ambitious to go to Congress I would have accepted the nomination in 1884, in 1886, and last August when it was offered to me. The nomination for Congress would have been given to me had I asked for it. I didn't want it and do not want it. When the Knights of Labor get through with me next November I will then feel at liberty to look for office, or take up any other pursuit. Until that time comes I am theirs to command.

T. V. POWDERLY.

SEVENTY-FIRST TOWNSHIP SOLID FOR THE UNION LABOR TICKET.

MR. EDITOR: We have some few remarks to say in regard to politics. We have supported the democratic party ever since we have been old enough to vote. But the time has come when we can no longer support any one party, we have decided to support the man and not the party. What is our reason for saying so? Because it seems as the democratic party these days and times nominate men who work against the farmers and the laborers interest. We want to send men to the legislature to make laws for the interest of all. We cannot vote for men to make laws to take convict labor and make railroads for rich men while we are taxed to pay for it. What benefit has this C. F. & Y. V. R. been Farmers and Laborers of Cumberland County? We answer, none. What good has it been to the Stockholders? All. Mr. Editor we cannot vote for hungry lawyers and other hungry candidates to fill offices. Mr. Editor we are not members of the Order of the Knights of Labor but we are members of the Farmers Alliance. We beg the Union Labor party to put out good men for office and we will vote with you yes we will stand by your good men until yonder bright sun shall set to rise no more.

I haven't heard a single man say that he was going to vote for Thomas Sutton.

We remain yours 'till death.
71st WHITE GENTLEMEN.

STOP IT, DO.

For heaven's sake stop that can't about American labor. Everybody seems to be inspired always suddenly, with a desire to redress the great evils American labor is subject to; everybody finds himself called upon to be a protecting angel to the born-handed, poor unsophisticated sons of toil. Stop it; we have had enough of that humbug. Here they cry for the dangers that threaten the American laborer, and there they introduce resolutions for the purpose of encouraging the coming here Japanese. Chinese are out of fashion, Japanese next. Cheap labor, no matter where from, and then this sickening prattle about the upholding of American labor. But this is only just now and will continue till November. Then again there will be silence, and the self-appointed protecting angels will have shrunk back to their natural size, which is very diminutive after the gas which has inflated them has been spent. They then have nearly four years to look out for themselves; to come out again when the American laborer requires their gaseous assistance. Stop it, we say again; the time is not far distant when you may rue it. The American workman comes mighty near knowing what is best for him without being told by his self-appointed monitors. Stop employing your Chinese first, and encourage white labor, and then we will have another talk.—*Labor Herald*.

There is one point in which people make an entire mistake. They imagine that workingmen should be happy so long as he earns enough to buy his flour, tea and meat. They forget that the same ambitions animate them to have a home in the true sense of the word, and enjoy some of the luxuries of life to which the performance of duty entitle a man actuates them as well.—*Alabama Sentinel*.

It is a fact that admits of no argument that the rich and poor are getting further apart every day, and if the same policy is pursued in the future as in the past, it is only a question of time, and a short one at that, when we, like England, shall become a country of millionaires and paupers, with no middle grounds, the one groveling in abject poverty, the other reveling in untold wealth.—*Alabama Sentinel*.

As long as the farmers pay 10 per cent. for the use of money, and the speculators but 1 per cent., just so long will they be under the harrow, and they must vote themselves out or stay there until ground to powder.—*Journal*.

No workingman should be gulled into the belief that the tariff has been the means of better wages in this country. Labor organization and nothing else is the "protection" upon which labor has to rely. Take the labor bureau reports where the labor is organized you will find the best wages paid, and where there is no organization the mechanics are poorly paid. Give up their organization and the American workingmen will be paupers tariff or no tariff.—*Houston, Tex., Echo*.

A conference of window-glass manufacturers and employes in Philadelphia last week resulted in a settlement of the scale of wages for the coming season.

Archie McMillan,

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