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Official Organ Central Labor Union
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 W. E. FAISON, Editor.
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ERA OF PROSPERITY.

The Springfield Republican says "the working classes are in quite as acute state of discontent as they ever were." We have heard of nothing recently, which would tend to content the working classes, but the recent action of the State Legislature of Massachusetts in killing about every measure proposed by this class of people has the opposite effect. Is it any wonder the working classes should be in an "acute state of discontent" when they see great combinations of wealth forming daily, which they feel will be used sooner or later to crush them? Is it any wonder they should feel discontented to see the few continually growing richer while the masses are just as surely growing poorer?

Those who are reaping the benefits of this era of "great prosperity" claim that the wages of the working classes have advanced, but when the great advance in the price of everything consumed is taken into account, it can be proven that wages have really decreased in the past few years of "great prosperity." Commenting on this condition of affairs, the Wilmington Star says:

"We know the fact that within the past few years, while there has been but a trifling increase in the wages of some workmen, none in others, and a reduction in others, the increase in the cost of living is thirty per cent. more. There may be "prosperity," but the workers who produce it are not in it. It isn't hard for him who takes an honest view of the situation in the industrial field to account for the 'acute state of discontent.'"

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

The American Federation of Labor has for years advocated the wisdom of cities owning and controlling all public utilities, and most all local unions throughout the United States have endorsed the attitude of the A. F. of L. Especially does organized labor believe it will redound to the public good for cities to own their own water plants, and the reasons for this sentiment are manifold. It is deemed necessary for our purpose to mention but one of the reasons why public ownership is preferable to private ownership, and that is the exorbitant charges for water which is usual when these plants are under the control of individuals. We could produce an unlimited amount of evidence or statistics to show that cities which were formerly supplied water by private corporations, and which have since assumed control, are furnishing water to the masses for a fraction of

the former cost, but it is better to select a home city—our neighbor—and the following extract, from the editorial page of the News and Observer, shows how well Salisbury is getting along under the new arrangement:

"Raleigh ought to own its water supply. The Salisbury Sun says that after reserving 6 per cent. on \$90,000 (bonds), making extensive improvement in the plant, and reducing the rent to per cent., the surplus is \$3,500 a year. That is a good object lesson and argument for municipal ownership."

THE MINERS' STRIKE.

The miners' strike is still on. That grand "Old Tribune," John Mitchell, is on deck, and he is ready to meet and check any hostile move of the operators, whose chief motive is to destroy the miners' union, and should they succeed in their diabolical attempt (which is not likely), the miners would be at the mercy of a set of men who would reduce their wages until they would not be able to procure the bare necessities of life. They are a soulless set, and it is only by the guiding genius of their capable leader, John Mitchell, that the miners have been able to hold their own against such wiley foes.

The New York Journal says the miners of Pennsylvania have at last discovered where their strength lies. They know that Senator Quay can settle the strike, and that if they show their intention to give the Democrats the State by their votes they can bring Quay to terms.

The Journal of Wednesday last continues:

"President Mitchell shows that while, according to the Coal Trust, 13 cents per ton represents the operators' increased cost of production in 1901, due to an advance in wages extorted by a strike, 39 cents per ton, as compared with 1900, represents the increased value of the product to the operators.

"The Trust is less concerned about the present demand for more wages than about the growing power of its men to extort a fairer share of what they earn.

"What the Trust is fighting for is to destroy the miners' union. Accomplishing that, it would have the men completely at its mercy and pay them what wages it pleased.

"In struggling to preserve the union the miners are taking the only means open to them of resisting the inauguration of conditions that would reduce them to virtual serfdom.

"The Trust will not arbitrate with the strikers because it does not dare to submit its crooked accounts and reveal its manhood-crushing purpose to a tribunal of impartial men.

"That is why the Civic Federation, composed of citizens of importance and the highest respectability, was met with sneers and insults by the Trust when it offered to act as a court of arbitration."

STAY AWAY FROM JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

JACKSONVILLE, June 19, 1902.

To All Central Bodies and Affiliated Unions:

BROTHERS:—The Painters, Plasterers and Carpenters have entered the fight for the eight-hour day. There is all likelihood of a big fight ahead, and our position is such that we feel sure of ultimate success; but, in order to succeed, we must have the hearty co-operation of all unions in the South in keeping men away from this city. Strong efforts are being made by the bosses to get workmen from the outside. KEEP THEM FROM COMING and our success is a certainty.

Thanking you in advance for your co-operation and assistance, we are,

Very truly yours,
 [Seal]. CENTRAL LABOR UNION,
 Of Jacksonville.
 By R. L. HARPER,
 Business Manager.

Editorial Notes.

Be sure to read the well-written article, headed "That Labor Hall," by Bro. "G. T. N." The writer presents his views about the coming labor temple in a logical and forceful manner, and shows the great interest he evinces in the cause of labor.

The Grand Lodge of Masons met in Oxford last Tuesday, and placed the selection of a site and the building of the Masonic Temple in the hands of a committee with power to act. Raleigh should be hustling to secure this temple, as Durham has her eye on it.

Bro. W. E. Faison, the editor, states that he had a pleasant time in attendance upon the meeting of the National Council of the O. U. A. M., which recently held its session at Milwaukee, Wis., at which Bro. Faison ably represented the State Council of North Carolina.

Raleigh will be sure to get the Labor Temple, which will not be "on paper" only, but a reality, but she must get an accelerated move on her if she secures the Masonic Temple, which will also be erected in the near future.

The Carolina Trust Company are having the finishing touches to their banking office in the magnificent Carolina Trust Company's building on Fayetteville street, adjoining the new Tucker building, put on. The office furniture and vault were placed in position this week, the latter weighing about 30,000 pounds.

Typographical Union No. 101, Washington, D. C., will go the convention at Cincinnati as a candidate for the next convention of the I. T. U. Washington has much to commend it as a convention city, and we wish it success, especially as this section can with less cost have representatives present.

The Convention of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union was pulled off in the city of Baltimore last week; and if we can trust the information at hand, a great deal of very important business to the craft was transacted.

In returning from the Convention of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, Mr. W. H. Singleton stopped in Raleigh for a few days before going to Charlotte to assume his new duties in the bindery of the Observer.

In a local union every member should feel a pride in filling any committee appointment. If you do this you can aid those you have elected as your leaders as well as your union. And after such service your union will seldom fail to honor you when the proper time shall arrive.

It is a good plan when anything of an important nature is to be undertaken to keep the same strictly to the front, and as THE HARBINGER has been designated as the official agitator of the proposed labor temple, we wish to suggest that it is the duty of all unionists to lend a helping hand in this laudable enterprise. You may say the committee's plan cost money; and while your conclusions would be correct, we wish to call your attention to the fact that everything worth having cost money. If you wish to enjoy the manifold advantages and privileges which will accrue you must do your part of the work.

The Summer Clearance Sale!

THIS GREAT ANNUAL MOVEMENT

BEGINS

JULY 1

AND EXTENDS THROUGH THE ENTIRE MONTH.

It is not merely a reduction on paper or a reduction of a few articles, but a genuine bona fide Clearance Sale of every Summer article under our roof. Preparations are now being made, and an entire new price list will be ready on the above mentioned date. We will save you money on all classes of Dress Goods and Trimmings, Fancy Goods and Notions, Millinery and Infants' Caps, Carpets and Matting, Lace Curtains and Drapery, Rugs and Druggets, White Goods and Domestics; in fact, everything in the Dry Goods line. Come to see us.

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