

The Harbinger.

Official Organ Central Labor Union

A Paper for the Toiling Masses.

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THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.

We have received the proceedings up-to-date of the twenty-second session of the American Federation of Labor, which is now in session at New Orleans, President Gompers presiding. There is a large amount of business before this great body, which is being dispatched as fast as a careful consideration of the same will admit.

The name of John Mitchell has been mentioned as a possible candidate for president of the Federation, but that gentleman, while recognizing the exalted honor which such an election would add to his already honorable name, has emphatically declined to let his name go before the convention, as Mr. Mitchell truly states that he thinks he can do the cause of labor more good in his present capacity than he could in any other position; therefore he declines the honor.

The workmen of the country are not tired of Sam Gompers as president of the grandest labor union in the world, but he is contemplating engaging in some other business, and hence the mention of Mr. Mitchell's name in connection with the presidency of the American Federation of Labor.

The Labor Press Association of the United States met four days preceding the session of the Federation in the Crescent City, and has transacted some very important business in regard to the interests of the labor press.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

Superintendent Clements, in an address recently delivered before the school superintendents, adopted the policy of this paper, in declaring for compulsory education as the only means by which the children can be made to attend the public schools as they should. He states that "the children of rural communities attend their schools more punctually than do the children of the city schools," and "that the great influx of farmers to the cities is not for the purpose of giving their children better school facilities, but they move to town to put their children in the factories and hosiery mills," and his speech was applauded to the echo. It is the exception, and not the rule, when people from the country move to the cities to educate their children. The former's cry is

"What's the use to work so hard, When I've got children in the factory yard?"

The number of union men who don't read THE HARBINGER are getting scarcer all the time. Every person should subscribe to it.

DEATH OF TWO PROMINENT CITIZENS.

Last Sunday afternoon Oakwood cemetery was filled with citizens who witnessed the funerals of two of Raleigh's leading citizens, Col. A. W. Shaffer and Mr. S. A. Campbell. The former, who has been sick for several months, and was removed to a sanatorium at Dansville, N. Y., in order to prolong his life, died there last Friday, 14th inst.

Col. Shaffer was at one time postmaster of this city and ably filled the office. He was a man of varied attainments and had a host of friends who extend their sympathies to his bereaved family.

Mr. S. A. Campbell, who died last Saturday, was a good citizen and operated two of the largest furniture stores of this city and made many friends, who with his grief-stricken family, mourn their loss.

AGAINST CONVICT LABOR.

A bill to be presented to the next Illinois legislature doing away entirely with the letting of convict labor to contractors was one of the most important measures acted upon by the Illinois State Federation of Labor at its recent session in East St. Louis. A text of the proposal law, cutting off competition of prison inmates with free labor, was submitted to the delegates by President Menche. It forbids the farming out of convict labor in any form and provides that prisoners shall manufacture only articles for use in State institutions.

THE COAL BARONS.

Some new pictures of Divine Right Baer are being published which make him look it just as much as ever—Des Moines Register and Leader.

The unpleasant things said about Mr. Baer are even worse than the remarks passed about the man who takes a haircut during the Saturday evening rush in a barber shop.—Baltimore Herald.

On the exhibit at the white house conference John Mitchell, president of the United Miners, is more of a gentleman than any of the coal and railway magnates who were temporarily his fellow guests.—Columbus(O.) Dispatch.

Well this is a great country any way you take it. Just imagine, if you can, anybody talking to the German kaiser, Czar Nicholas, or even little King Alphonse as Baer and those other fellows talked to President Roosevelt on Friday.—Richmond (Va.) Times.

Thomas of the Erie road told the Washington correspondents, as he walked down the white house steps, that they might as well talk to a stone as to him. That seems to have been the mental attitude of the barons inside as well as outside of the executive mansion.—Boston Globe.

Abnormal prices for fuel are sure to affect the export trade of the United States. Coal is an important factor in the cost of producing many American staples largely sold abroad. The higher the cost of fuel the more difficult it will be to compete with other nations in the markets of the world.—Cleveland Leader.

President Baer seems to be oblivious to the fact that the strikers, the poor despised strikers, stand in this contest distinctly as the force which insists upon the enforcement of law and order and that the millionaire operators themselves by insisting upon their own construction of their rights and their interpretation of their rights of their opponents in this fight, are really the only anarchists in the situation.—Atlanta Journal.

Editorial Notes.

Read the new ad. of the Southern Book Exchange.

Read the new ad., "Money to Lend," by B. F. Montague, Esq.

Bro. Geo. Holder is out on the street shaking hands with his friends.

The Douglass Shoe Co. is using the union label on all their shoes. It pays to do so, as the whole country is becoming unionized.

Don't fail to read the new ad. of E. W. Hightower this week. He has some New Ideal and New Home Sewing Machines at a bargain.

Now that Mollineux is a free man, what will be the next sensation? Perhaps the North Pole will be found in the "sweet by-and-bye."

The weather the past few weeks has been very favorable to the poor people of the country where the coal supply is limited. It is "tempering the winds to the shorn lamb."

A merchant stated to a reporter of this paper that his ad. in THE HARBINGER was bringing him new customers. It is one of many of the compliments which we receive almost every week. It shows that the paper is read by all classes of people.

Wilmington has just had her street carnival. Other cities which have tried them will try them no more, as it is said they are demoralizing to a community and the city is poorer financially after they are over than it was before they came.

Union men: One of the principles on which trades unions are based is to stand by those who stand by us. Show this in yourself by patronizing the merchants who are friendly to you—those who advertise in this paper.—Savannah Labor Herald. The above applies to the unionists who take THE HARBINGER.

Mr. John S. Hampton, who has been holding a situation in Nashville, Tenn., and who is a Raleigh boy, has returned to the city and accepted a position as linotype operator on the Morning Post. John can "keep up with the elevator."

John Mitchell is the star witness for the miners before the Arbitration Committee, and is holding his own in his cross-examination before the "divine right" coal-baron lawyers—the most brilliant of the American bar. But John is a regular Gibraltar against the onslaughts of the Neros, because he has RIGHT on his side.

W. R. HEARST, owner of the New York American, the Chicago American and the San Francisco Examiner which papers have always contained editorials in favor of labor, has been elected to Congress from one of the New York city districts on the Democratic ticket. He is a true champion of the rights of labor and of the poor, although he is a multi-millionaire philanthropist.

THE HARBINGER has received a letter from Prof. Holmes of the Geological Survey, stating that he copied the article which appeared in the Progressive Farmer, anent the opposition of union labor to working the public roads with convict labor from the New York Tribune, and says that he is glad to see in THE HARBINGER that organized labor is in favor of building good roads with convict labor. We are pleased to know that Prof. Holmes did not promulgate such an absurd idea. The Tribune would be better informed as to the policy of organized labor if it read this paper.

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GEORGE ALLEN, Secretary, PULLEN BUILDING.

**Coal Bulletin**

Anthracite coal is scarce and high in price.

Hagey King Heating Stoves.—We call your attention to our Patent Hagey King Heating Stove, made of the best American Russia iron and best wrought sheet steel, and lined with charcoal iron. Ornamental and suitable for bed-room or parlor. We do not hesitate to say it is the best, the cheapest and safest quick heater ever offered.

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