

SPECIAL NOTICES.

At an Election of Directors of the Metropolitan Loan, Savings and Fidelity Bank, held on the twelfth instant, the following gentlemen were elected to serve as Directors for the ensuing year: P. E. DUMAS, J. HASSINGER, L. T. DELASSIZE, C. W. LOWELL, W. H. PEMBERTON, C. CAMP, THOMAS ISABELLE, GEO. H. BRAUGHN, A. P. DUMAS, JOHN DAWSON, Cashier

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PROSPECTUS OF THE NATIONAL LABOR UNION AND Bureau of Labor.

Follow-citizens and Workmen of the United States: The question of the hour is, How can the workingman best improve his condition? This question is not only being agitated in the United States, but throughout the civilized world. The universal law of our existence is, "In the sweat of thy face thou shalt eat thy bread." We desire to impress you with this fact, that it is a Divine law, that we must labor, and that the comforts of life can only be obtained by honest, patient toil.

It should be the aim of every man to become a capitalist; that is, every man should try and receive an exchange for his labor, which, by proper economy and investment, will, in the future, place him in the position of those on whom he is now dependent for a living. At least it should be your aspiration to become the owner of your own homestead, and place that homestead beyond the reach of want and poverty. As workmen we can only possess these blessings by being industrious with our brains and hands, temperate in our habits, and economical with our means.

It is the duty of our National Labor Union, and more particularly the Bureau of Labor created by your delegates assembled from nearly every state in the Union, to advise with you upon the best and most speedy means to better your condition in the United States.

We look with painful emotion upon the present condition of colored labor in the several States. Disorganized, poorly paid, assaulted, and, in many cases, totally in different to its own welfare. After a careful survey and consideration of this vital question, in which we have consulted the wisdom and experience of the most profound economists and labor reformers of our times—

We advise you, 1st, to immediately organize, because labor can only protect itself when organized; that is, by being organized thoroughly, you have the command of capital. You receive better pay for your labor. You learn where and how to invest your labor to better advantage. You learn the value of the capital invested with your labor—how to respect that capital, and make that capital respect your labor. You learn where and how to create employment, to give yourselves work when you are debared by opposite combinations. You learn the wants of your fellow-workmen and how to provide for them.

In a word, without organization, you stand in danger of being exterminated. You cannot expect to be profitably employed, and the trades will soon die out in the race. With organization you will find employment, you will force opposite combinations to recognize your claims to work without restriction because of our color, and upon the way for your children to learn trades and move forward in the enjoyment of all the rights of American citizenship. How shall you organize? We answer all a general meeting of the workingmen in every city and town, and after discussing the importance of organization, appoint a committee of one from each branch of trade or labor represented, to prepare a plan or organization. When they have reported a plan, then appoint your committee on constitution and permanent organization. When they report, proceed immediately to form yourselves into an association, send a copy of your constitutions and list of officers to the Bureau of Labor, and get your charter. We would advise, where there is a sufficient number of any particular branch, that they organize separate associations. As each man desires to follow that business for which he has been educated. As a constitution for a government of a carpenters' association will not suit for the government of a laborers' association, it is important that you organize each branch separately. Five men of any one branch organized, can accomplish more in the interest of that particular branch, than being associated with five hundred men of several branches. Mixed organizations have always proved disastrous to the labor reform movement, except in delegated bodies. The above organizations referred to, are simple organizations for the protection of labor and wages.

We would call your attention to, and advise, and that you form yourselves into co-operative Trade Unions. While these are the most beneficial associations of modern times, they require much judgment, and intellectual ability to make them a success. They seem to be a necessity at this time in order to furnish employment to colored men in many States in the Union. We could not furnish a general plan of organization. Each particular association must be governed by special rules. We can only advise you how to organize, when you inform the Bureau what you propose organizing. We can but say the general principle is, for each man to take a few amount of stock, and pay that in weekly or monthly installments until they have enough to commence business with, so that, by a combination of their money and labor, they will from a capital and business that will give them an independent living. In organizations of this kind no restrictions should be placed upon parties investing because of their other relations. Let any man who will, take an interest with you.

3. We should advise you to organize Building and Land Associations. These can easily be established in connection with your "Trade and Labor Unions," and will have a tendency to strengthen and perpetuate them. Experience has proved that all men can, by the agency of a house for what he would pay rent for one. We shall be pleased to advise you upon the most improved plans of organization.

4. In order to effect a more thorough organization of the colored workmen of the United States, and advise and enlighten them upon all questions affecting their interest, and battle with the prejudicial manifestations because of our peculiar position, the National Labor Convention has adopted the New Era, a weekly journal published in the city of Washington, as the organ of the colored workmen of the United States. It

Shall be our object to keep you informed as to the condition of the trades in each State, rates of wages, demand for labor, value of real estate, forms of organizations, and to meet all questions, national and local, affecting the interest of the workmen. The necessity for such a paper is admitted by all who are the least acquainted with our disorganized condition, and as it is barely possible to disconnect our labor and social interest from our political, we shall at all times, when the necessity demands, take a decided stand in advising you upon all questions that will be to your interest as a race, and to the good of our common country.

As we shall have one or more agents, who shall travel in and through all the States to assist you in organizing all the departments of labor, we hope that every man will make himself an agent to take the paper, and see that his neighbor has one also, until it may be found in every house in the country. Our course is onward! Let every man put his shoulder to the wheel, and victory and success will perch upon our banners. All communications must be marked "official," and addressed to the President Box 191, Washington, D. C. P. S.—Your attention is particularly invited to the Constitution of the National Labor Union published in the proceedings of the Convention. ISAAC MEERS, President. GEORGE T. DOWNING, Vice President. LEWIS H. DODGESS, Secretary. CHARLES H. PETERS, Secretary. COLIN CRUSOR, Treasurer. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Sella Martin, Hon. C. H. Hamilton, John H. Butler, Isaac C. Weirs, G. M. Masson, George Myers, Anthony Bowen, D. M. Simms, F. G. Barbadoes.

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