

## The Messenger.

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WILMINGTON, N. C.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1899.

## THE QUESTION OF LABOR FOR THE SOUTH.

It is indeed noticeable and significant that both agriculturists and manufacturers in the south are discussing the labor question. While some who have spoken prefer the negro as a laborer to any whites that are available, there are others who complain heavily of the unsatisfactory character of the negro labor now. It is less efficient than a quarter of a century ago. Bad politics have had no little to do with negro demoralization and ineffectiveness. The Messenger has given the opinion of an intelligent resident in our state from New Jersey, who is amazed at the inefficiency of the negroes as a class. It has also told how four white men in Nova Scotia load in less time a bark of coal than eight negroes here will load. It gave recently what was said in a meeting of manufacturers at Louisville, Ky., which was to the discredit of negro labor in factories. Quite lately the Messenger published opinions for and against in a meeting held in Washington. The question of negro efficiency and influence upon southern industrial enterprises is becoming uppermost. It will continue to attract more and more attention with the years. We have seen enough for forty years to convince us that they can be made and are capable as laborers in to bacco factories. There are ten thousand workmen to prove this. As to cotton factories that is quite another question.

It is very certain, we hold and believe, that the south will become more and more a manufacturing country. There is development on many lines of industry, and cotton milling particularly attracts attention and elicits much discussion in New England and other sections in the north. All efforts on the part of designing, selfish and envious critics fall here. The business is steadily enlarging, and large profits are being realized. The serious trouble in the south is the very low price of cotton and the extremely unsatisfactory condition of farming—in tobacco, corn, cotton, etc.

The Atlanta Dixie is a progressive, wide-awake, well edited monthly industrial publication. While not sharing some of its views in the past, we were impressed with an editorial in its June number concerning labor in the south. It particularly considers negro labor, and it believes that it will be a good thing for the south instead of a drawback in the long run. It bases its opinion upon the dangers attending organized labor, as now operating, and the indifference of the negro to such unions or combinations. Upon general principles we incline to the opinion that Dixie is at fault here. In North Carolina and other states the negroes have rushed into political unions, cliques, organizations, and did so immediately after the war. They believed all that was told them too by the white manipulators whom they followed with blind eyes and intense infatuation. We cannot see why the negroes cannot be controlled by labor unions in that way. Not necessarily northern unions that are inimical to negro labor. The Dixie holds that the "negro stands as a permanent and positive barrier against labor organization in the south. This declaration is not carelessly made. It is based upon a painstaking investigation which has extended through many years of intimate acquaintance with southern conditions, both industrial and sociological." You can accept or not this dictum, but we confess to much skepticism at this point. It says it is no enemy "to organized labor or organized power of any character whatsoever, so long as the strength gained through organization is used for public or private benefit without hurt or danger to individual rights or public welfare." That is well and cautiously stated. Any combination that strikes at either the rights and prosperity of individual enterprise or the public welfare is dangerous and in the end hurts all concerned, both those who combine and those at whom they deliver a blow. The law of God, of the New Testament, is the right rule for all corporations as of all individuals—to always do unto others as you would be done by. Any departure from this golden rule is immoral and oppressive. We think Dixie precisely correct when it declares it "is an enemy to that character of organization which is effected merely for the sake of power, without regard to individual or public rights. If worthy artisans band together for protection

against the drones and deadbeats who adopt the badge of labor in order that they may profit from the industry of others, or if capitalists join purses to promote some worthy enterprise that is beyond the resources of a single investor, surely such organization is a benefit and a blessing to mankind. But organization is an absolute menace when capital unites merely to defeat competition, or when labor unites merely to say, "You shall not."

If that is not precisely right then we are precisely wrong. If justice, righteousness and humanity are not all involved in that statement then we suffer from intellectual torpor and wrong appears right. But what well organized brain presided over by a conscience not dead from abuse will hesitate to accept that clear presentation of the subject? It is clear almost as a mathematical demonstration and appeals to every fair-minded man's consciousness.

There are some excellent labor organizations that are controlled by right principles, are actuated by proper motives, and aim at accomplishing good and not harm. Dixie recognizes this and says correctly of one organization. We quote: "There is one such organization in existence today—the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. Membership in this order is a diploma of merit. The railroads have the highest possible appreciation of its character."

We cannot today pursue the discussion farther, but we shall probably recur to it and with more reference to negro labor.

## THE PRITCHARD-RADICAL SCHEME UNCOVERED.

There is a new turn on the wheel of politics in North Carolina. It is the ignorant white man who must be made to suffer at the hands of the republicans. We do not see the Asheville Register, reported the special organ of Jeter Pritchard, the Tennessee adventurer who so unfortunately misrepresents North Carolina in the United States senate where Badger and Graham and Bragg and Haywood and Strange and Vance once sat. The following is copied from the republican negro organ into the Raleigh Post:

"But why does the desire to eliminate ignorance extend only to the negro? If ignorance is a constant menace to the state, certainly it ought to be wholly eradicated, and not stop at the least offensive part. The ignorance which disturbs the peace in this state is found among the whites in the democratic party, and not among the negroes. If the negro is unfit for the ballot by reason of his lack of learning, certainly the white man who is equally as ignorant is also unfit for the ballot. No amount of sophistry can destroy the force of this argument."

So it is not the ignorant negro but the ignorant white man who is actually "more offensive" of the two. It is the poor white man's "ignorance which disturbs the peace in this state"—they are the law breakers and of course fill the jails and penitentiaries, and not the sable race. The Messenger has often mentioned that prior to the war the white illiterates were very often among the best of citizens and voted as wisely, discreetly and patriotically as the educated whites. We have known such men of the highest character for honesty, common sense, uprightness and virtue. But when did any one ever know an ignorant negro who was a man of virtue, of truth, of honor, of intelligence, and who voted like a free man instead of a slave lashed by his political boss and master? The amendment must be defeated because it falls short—because it does not relegate the good and true white citizens who happen to be unlettered to the company of ignorant, stupid blacks who vote without any proper responsibility of citizenship and always as they are persuaded or commanded by white leaders who use them for their own particular and selfish purposes. If the amendment would only "disfranchise" all of the best of white voters who are classed as illiterates it would make Jeter and his gang of implacables so very happy. The Post, edited by a man who lived for a decade or two in western Carolina, writes this:

"In western North Carolina there are as many 'ignorant whites,' as we say relatively, in the senator's, as in the democratic party. We know some of them, and we will also say we know them to be honest, well meaning citizens. And yet the Register and its associates in opposition to the amendment, would disfranchise these white men along with the ignorant negroes, the latter being, it says, the 'least offensive part.' Contrast the ignorant negroes of Asheville, who constitute several hundred of the voters of that city, with the ignorant white members of the Register's party in western North Carolina; and ask those white republicans if they consider themselves more 'offensive' as voters than those negroes."

You may expect to see a great deal of such stuff as that of the Register for campaign purposes, and to hear the demagogue vociferate and reiterate through the months the same blarney, meant to bamboozle, and "rot" uttered to fill out the appeal to prejudice, but all will fail we must believe. We must believe that the true white men of North Carolina—true to their lineage, their blood, their race, their families, their state—will stand together and vote for the adoption of the amendment that will alone satisfy the demands of the White Race, meet the necessities engendered of the past, and restore fully the public peace, the public

prosperity and general confidence. The Post well puts in the following:

"The democrats make no such charge. It comes from the republican organ, the mouthpiece of the organization which opposes the amendment which does not propose to disfranchise any of these white republicans, but does propose to eliminate from the privilege of the ballot and therefore the power to continue to do harm, that class of ignorant colored people who have shown, no less to the republican white citizens who are not office-holders or office-seekers than to democrats, their unfitness to exercise the electoral franchise."

"The Register knows—for the above is a tacit admission of the fact—that the proposed amendment will not disfranchise any white people."

The fiat has gone forth—this is a White Man's state. It does not mean injustice, oppression, hostility to the negroes. I mean law, order, the supremacy of the governing race, the progress of industry, the education of the masses of both races, the restoration of peace and good will. If the amendment shall be defeated by any sort of combination, and the return of negro rule, through corrupt and vicious white bossing, shall become an accomplished fact, then the prospect will be that the whole excitement of race supremacy will begin anew with intensified passion as a product of disappointment and threatened danger to civilization, to society, to the reign of law.

## HOW THE LAW OPERATES.

Much objection was raised to the Louisiana law regulating suffrage. It was severely criticised and denounced. But thus far it has stood the fire well, and no high tribunal of justice has interfered in any way with its operations or undertaken to damn it as unconstitutional. In fact it has been a composer of race troubles to a great extent in Louisiana, and all classes have accepted it. State Senator Cordill has been in New York and was interviewed by the Tribune. He talked straight out about the suffrage law and said it was no longer an issue among the people in his state. We quote:

"There is not much politics in Louisiana at present. Everybody is contented with the conditions as they now exist, and there aren't any fights on hand. The suffrage question will be a dead issue in our state for at least a quarter of a century. Louisiana, you know, is one of the three states which have attempted to deal with it. Mississippi took it up first. Then South Carolina and then Louisiana. The Constitutional Convention, of which I was a member, met last year in New Orleans, and we endeavored to profit by the experience of the other states. To show that we did, and to show the confidence that the people had in the new order of things, New Orleans last week voted \$14,000,000 for water supply and sewerage purposes."

If that law works so well in Louisiana, brings so much quiet and secures so much confidence in the stability of things, why shall it not do so in other states? Unrest, a feverish condition as to race troubles, an army of idlers neither safe for a community nor a state, and that brings no revenues and helps to build up no improvements or institutions, are very much worse than any law that disqualifies only the vicious and incompetent.

## HOME FOLK.

We learn from the Richmond Dispatch that two contributions have been sent from North Carolina to the confederate museum at Richmond, Va. Mrs. John Allison, of Concord, sends a picture of her father, the late Hon. Burton Craig who served four terms in the U. S. House. He was also in the confederate congress, and was a man of influence and ability.

Mrs. Ella B. Brodnax, of Greensboro, N. C., sends a canteen and a scarf, which belonged to Colonel William L. Rankin, who died this year at his home, in Greensboro, N. C., in the 62d year of his age, with a large picture of that officer.

Governor Russell is in profound doubt as to the possibility of good resulting from a conference of governors as to trusts. He doubts "any practical or successful effort can ever be made to secure the adoption by any considerable number of states of a steady and uniform policy looking to the suppression of such combinations."

It will strike most "practical" men, the Messenger apprehends, that at least an effort to deal with the trusts should be made. Surely under our supposed form of government the states are not altogether powerless to deal with public enemies who are conspiring to oppress and wrong the people. We must hope that many governors will attend the proposed anti-trust conference in September and that from a "multitude of counsellors," wisdom and benefit may come to the public at large.

The Oxford Orphan Asylum recent memorial celebration was a fine success. A big crowd was present, counting by thousands, and pleasant, happy speeches were made by Gen. W. C. Cox, Rev. Dr. Hufham, Prof. Hobgood, Adj.-Gen. Royster, Frank Winston, and N. B. Broughton. The memorial exercises to the late John H. Mills, a native of Virginia, but a great worker in North Carolina, who was the originator, the founder of the most benevolent and useful asylum, were impressive and appropriate. Many Masons were in attendance. Dr. Hufham declared that the "chief glory of Masonry in North Carolina" is the asylum, and so it is. The report in the Raleigh News and Observer says that "Rev. J. D. Newton, son-in-law of the late Mr. Mills, and their two bright little boys, and Prof. L. R. Mills, of Wake Forest College, were here to witness these services." Since Mr. Mills was in charge the Masonic Fraternity have made important additions, in many buildings, until now it is a benevolent

institution of most commanding importance. We recall that some twelve or fourteen years ago, perhaps it was, we were present at another very interesting celebration on St. John's Day. At least 1,500 people (some said 2,500) were present and a nice dinner was given. Gov. Scales was present and made a capital good address. The other speakers were Capt. Octavius Coke and one or two others. There were several prominent visitors among them Dr. Eugene Grissom, Col. Tom Kenan, Charles P. Jones, of the Charlotte Observer.

## VIRGINIA MOVING.

There is much talk in Virginia, where the great war was waged so long and so many tens of thousands of soldiers perished in the strife, of the need of a school history of the United States. Virginia has two or three already. One by Mrs. Pendleton is regarded as conservative, truthful and acceptable. But the newspapers are urging, and old soldiers also, that still another history is needed. It is urged that Prof. Dabney, of the university of Virginia be detailed to prepare it. We suppose from his being so earnestly urged for the place that he has really special qualifications and can excel all other writers who have undertaken the work. The south really stands in need of help now. We see it announced, that Prof. McMaster, who has nearly completed a large work on the United States beginning, we believe, with the end of the "war of the rebellion" in 1783, and filling some five or six volumes, has been employed by the northern army unions to write a book for them and from their standing-point. It is to be a partisan, northern work strictly. We read McMaster's first volume years ago of his ambitious attempt. It was so one-sided, so unfair to southern statesmen, that we concluded not to spend time and money upon subsequent volumes. He will be a good man to do the work for the northern soldiers. Of Prof. Dabney's selection, the Richmond Times says:

"All right; if that can be arranged, we say let it be. We have pointed out some of the difficulties in the way of preparing a history which will be popular with the people of all the southern states, but we would not discourage any new undertaking. It may be that Professor Dabney will have greater success than any other writer has had. At any rate, let him try his hand. We cannot have too many histories presenting the southern view of the causes and results of the civil war, and the fittest will survive, we trust."

## BREVITIES.

The factions in Kentucky united enough to nominate William Goebel for governor, and endorsed Bryan on a bimetallic platform. Watterson will be more than ever on the ragged edge. He and Buckner and Bill Bynum must form a new party.

Rioting in Alabama between whites and negroes has broken out with three negroes dead, one dying and one wounded. The negroes began the fight to protect a black rapist. If they try that on much race wars will become frequent and will spread. There is a chance for a riot in Kentucky also.

The new Yale University president, Hadley, has spoken. He is an expansionist, an imperialist. Sorry for Yale.

The Baltimore American, Rep., is hopeless of success next year if the war continues. It is hard to determine which would be the greatest calamity, the continuance of the war or the election of little McKinley for a second term.

The Baltimore Sun puts it well in saying that "the war for humanity" is apparently developing into a war of the trusts, which are fast sapping the vitality of the people of the country."

There will be elections this year in eleven states and governors are to be elected in six.

Mrs. Cornelia Street has succeeded in bringing her brother, Alexander Jeter, to the gallows. He murdered her lover twenty-eight years ago, and compelled her to marry another man. He is eighty. She says he murdered his companion in cold blood and robbed him, and that he was always a villain. She is a very unnatural woman and sister.

War talk increases in London. The government is pushing war preparations.

In France there is a crisis, and it begins to look as if a revolution would yet come. France has not had a big time since 1870-71, which is very long for that excitable, mercurial people. The new ministry but just chosen announces that its sole purpose is to defend the republic against revolutionary movements. In the chamber the factions opposed to the government have served notice that they will overthrow the ministry so soon as it is possible to do so.

How military men covet a "strong government." General Wood favors openly a strong "military" government for the Cubans, and opposes a republic. There is a lesson there of pretence, hypocrisy, and militarism. If the people are not awake the "Man on Horseback" will appear in this country much sooner than any prophets have named or thought. The beginning of militarism is the beginning of an empire. Imperialism is the death-knell of a republic, or what is left of it, for already no little is gone. What was war begun for against the Spaniards—to punish Cuba and set up a military government, like Wood desires?

The great slugging match that came off in New York city is discussed sharply in the religious papers of both sections. It ought to be discussed for it was a positive disgrace to the city that allowed it and to the 9,000, who

witnessed the brutalities. It is unquestionably "a relic of barbarism" as the northern Presbyterian Banner characterizes it. It says:

"The Roman arena, red with the blood of mortal combat, survives in the pugilistic ring. Nine thousand Americans look on with frenzied excitement while two men under a white blaze of electric light fight like beasts, and one with blood streaming down his face beats the other into insensibility. The brute in us is not yet dead. \* \* \* This time it is the father of the victor that draws attention to himself and he is a clergyman. He sent his 'blessings' to his son on the eve of the conflict. Chief of Police Devry also made an exhibition of himself."

Teddy, the Governor seems to have been "off duty." The North Carolina Presbyterian Standard is correct, we doubt not, when it declares that such brutality "under the protection of the police could not have been fought in several of the southern states, barbarous as they are. It is a good thing for reform also to begin at home."

The tin plate monopoly in this country has been many times exposed. From the start it was a fraud and after being taken in hand by the republican party and given a big bounty it became an oppressor of the country. Professor McVey, of the University of Minnesota, has published an article on Trusts and the Tariff. He thinks that some of the combinations would soon perish if the protection given them by the monstrous tariff was withdrawn. The New York Evening Post gives this, and it instructs:

"He instances the Tin-Plate combine as one of this sort, and gives figures to show how the tariff works in this case. The Tin-Plate Trust was formed last December with a capital of \$50,000,000. The selling price of tin-plate in Liverpool is \$2.30 per box. The cost of production in this country is \$2.75 and the tariff is \$1.62 per box, or 70 per cent. ad valorem. Since the formation of the trust the price has been raised to \$3.80 per box, which is about the Liverpool price with the duty added. In other words, the trust prevents the consumer from getting the benefit of domestic competition in the manufacture of tin-plate, and the tariff enables the trust to accomplish this object."

The gold question is vexing public men in London lately. There is anxiety as to the gold reserve in the Bank of England. It is telegraphed to the goldbug New York Tribune that the rise in the discount rate of the Reichsbank, the efforts of Germany to attract gold, the expectation that money will be dear in the United States before the end of September and the determination of the Bank of France to protect its gold reserve have all accentuated the situation. "The Statist" is evidently viewing the situation with some anxiety, and says that under certain conditions that may happen America "will withdraw gold from Europe instead of sending it hither, as now." After considering the matter it concludes "that London will be most fortunate if a 4 per cent bank rate rises over the autumn, and suggests, in the event of the reserve being seriously threatened, that the London bank follow the example of the Clearing house association of New York in issuing certificates." We have heard it prophesied that although money is low now in New York and other centers, that it will be high before a year expires.

## Fayetteville News Notes.

(Correspondence of The Messenger.)

Fayetteville, N. C., June 28. The walls of the Ashley silk spinning factory have now reached the second story, and are handsome and thoroughly equipped mill will soon be added to the industrial enterprises of the city. Work on the Tolar, Holt and Hart cotton factory is also rapidly progressing.

The colored people will soon have finished their lodge building on the corner of Donaldson and Mumford streets—a large building, which will probably be utilized for the sessions of two or three secret orders.

The board of aldermen have had an important conference with the manager of the Fayetteville Gas and Electric Light Company, looking to the purchase of the plant by the city. A board of experts, representing the interests of both parties, will be appointed to assess the value of the plant.

Manager Kenly, of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, was here yesterday in his private car, and visited the mills, with a view to the building of a new stationhouse there, or both branches of the road—that going to Bennettsville and the line to Rowland.

## No Agreement About Wages at Birmingham.

Birmingham, Ala., June 28.—The coal miners and operators have again failed to reach an agreement on a wage scale. The miners met in convention today and presented another scale. The operators refused it and sent in a counter proposition which the miners declined. Both sides are strictly maintaining that they will make no concessions. The scale prepared by the miners provides for a minimum of 45 cents when iron is selling at \$3.00 per ton and a maximum of 55 cents, the wages advancing at the ratio of 2 1/2 cents on every 50 cent rise in iron until the miners are receiving 50 cents. Then it advances the rate of 2 1/2 cents on every dollar rise in the price of pig.

The operators presented a counter scale providing a minimum of 45 cents and a maximum of 52 1/2 cents. The scale advances as provided in the miners' scale. Another disagreement is over the wages of the drivers. They are now receiving \$1.26 per day. The miners want wages increased to \$1.47. Another conference will be held tomorrow.

## Convicted of Murder.

Philadelphia, June 27.—William Epps, better known as William Turner, alias "Face," colored, charged with the murder of Mrs. Mary Ann Lawton, on January 30th, of this year, was tonight convicted of murder in the first degree. Epps and Samuel Dodson, another colored man, were arrested shortly after the murder, in Richmond, Va. Dodson will also be tried for murder.

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daily, wed sat, 4w; wk, 4w

## AMERICANS WITHOUT REDRESS.

For ill Treatment and Murder in Central American States.

New Orleans, June 27.—B. B. Pears, brother of Frank Pears, who was killed by a sentry in San Pedro, Spanish Honduras, on January 31st, and whose killing was made the subject of official inquiry by the United States, reached New Orleans last night. Mr. Pears alleges United States Minister Hunter has done nothing in the matter. Pears will again press the case at Washington. Pears was refused permission by the Honduran authorities to disinter the body of his brother.

John B. Richards, and W. H. Harris, American citizens, have also reached this city, having been ejected from Guatemala by the government of that country. The men claim they discovered a gold mine in the province of Zacapa, where they washed out \$17 worth of gold in an hour. They went to Zacapa to have their claim recorded, and were immediately warned by the authorities that they must leave the country. Instead they went back to their claim. On June 18th, they allege, troops were sent, they were taken to Zacapa, where he was thrown into a filthy prison. He notified Minister Hunter, but two days later, he alleges, he was taken to the train at the end of a rope and carried to Port Barrios. At Port Barrios, Richards says, he was imprisoned for two days without food. Then he was put aboard a steamer and his fare paid to this country. He found Harris on the same ship.

It is stated at the state department that the criticisms passed upon Minister Hunter in connection with the Pears case are entirely unwarranted by the facts. It is said that so far from Mr. Hunter's being responsible for any delay in the prosecution of the claim against Honduras, the state department has simply delayed further action on representations to it that the man Pears who had just arrived in New Orleans brings important facts that the department should have before proceeding. Already a claim for indemnity in the amount of \$10,000 on account of the killing of Pears, has been lodged, and the department has steadily refused to entertain any offer to arbitrate it. The amount of the indemnity is regarded as ample, and the case is said to be in good shape.

## Can't Agree on the Wage Question.

Pittsburg, June 27.—Secretary John Williams, of the Amalgamated Association, has notified all lodges of the failure to agree on the tin plate wage scale. The lodges are asked to meet and again consider the scale. Mr. Williams does not expect to receive replies from the various lodges before next week. Special meetings will have to be held in order to decide upon what action shall be taken. It will be at least two weeks before another conference can be arranged. The delay in arranging the tin plate scale will result in serious loss to the workers. A low estimate as to the loss in wages, if a settlement is reached within two weeks, is over \$1,000,000, fully three-fifths of which would be paid workers in western Pennsylvania if the plants continued in operation.

## A Mercenary Postmaster Arrested.

Key West, Fla., June 27.—As a result of an examination of the postoffice affairs here today Louis Otto, the postmaster, was arrested on charges preferred by Postmaster Inspector J. R. Rosson and taken before United States Commissioner Craine, who placed Otto under \$2,000 bond to appear before him tomorrow for a hearing. Otto is charged with appropriating to his own use portions of the salaries of the various clerks employed in the postoffice. John M. Warden, who until recently was Otto's assistant, will probably be appointed postmaster.