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THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

The Objects and Methods of a Great Organization. New York Sun.

The peaceful management of the freight handlers' strike in this city and in Jersey City, and of the iron workers' strike in Pennsylvania and elsewhere, is conceded to be largely due to the direction of an organization known as the Knights of Labor, an order that has grown so rapidly in the past year that its members are numbered by the ten thousands.

"The growth is so rapid and there are so many additions made daily to our rolls that it would be impossible to give you anything like correct figures. There are twenty assemblies here, and new ones are rapidly forming. The longshoremen have joined us in a body, the printers' union has come into our ranks, and the tanners, cooper, cigarmakers, freight-handlers, and, in fact, all branches of labor are furnishing additions to our strength."

"How do you account for the rapid growth of the Knights of Labor in a country in which trades unions and labor organizations have been to a great extent short-lived?" "That can be best explained by a contemplation of the methods of the order. The organizers of the Knights of Labor have from the beginning been selected from the more intelligent element, and have been instructed as its founder used to instruct the novices of his first local assembly. They commit to memory all the addresses, organizations and formulas, so as to be the better able to impress those whom they induce to enter the organization. As a rule these organizers are young men who travel from place to place, taking employment for a short time and acquainting themselves with men who seem to be the most trustworthy and intelligent. The organizer speaks to them about the condition in which the laborer finds himself, and the possible means of improving that condition. The best means to the accomplishment of this end is always represented to be the universal organization of the working masses. As soon as ten men are secured they are initiated, and a charter is applied for. The place and hour of meeting are not given to any outsider. The first assembly founded at any place is termed a "mixed" assembly, consisting as it does of men from different trades, who afterwards form assemblies of their own trades. In this way the mixed assembly usually becomes the mother of trades assemblies in any given locality. The working of an assembly combines the mysticism common to most secret societies with the elements of a mutual aid society and the protective and defensive features of a trade union after the old English pattern, while those who believe in the ballot for relief from oppressive laws find ample opportunity to make known their views in the debate on "Labor in all its interests," which topic, under the constitution, must be discussed in every meeting.

"Are strikes, as a remedy for the grievances of the workmen, encouraged by the knights?" "In reply to that question I will quote, as near as I can from memory, from the ritual of our order: "While not approving of general strikes among artisans, yet, when it becomes necessary to enjoin an oppressor, they will use all their power to aid and assist all their members who may be struck suffer loss, and as the opportunity offers extend a helping hand to all branches of honest toil. There is no antagonism to capital until capital overleaps the bounds of its own rights of labor. We are inclined to be conciliatory, using every measure in our power to avoid a collision between labor and capital. When we have exhausted every reasonable effort and find that the rights of the workmen are still persistently disregarded, then our action is prompt and decisive. This was the case in the recent strike in the soft coal regions of Maryland. There the employes seemed determined to force the mine owners to strike; for they were only too ready to do so. We waited on them and tried in every way to arrange matters, in the meantime counseling the men to continue work and patiently await the issue. When we found that there was no hope of the recognition of the just demands of the men, they were told to keep away from the mines and not interfere with any other men who might go to work. The next day the only men who were to be seen around the entrance to the mines were the policemen that the company had had sent there. Not a single miner was in sight. The companies were astounded at the quiet manner in which the whole affair was conducted. Their eyes were opened shortly to the effectiveness of the movement we had made in behalf of them. The coal trains were ordered down to re-open the market the large output of coal on hand at the mines, but when we became known only the miners, but the trainmen also acted under direction of the Knights of Labor. The consequence was that not one pound of coal could be moved until concessions were made. I mention this simply to show how thorough is our organization and how effectively we enforce a demand when we have decided to make that demand."

"As regards these strikes now pending, the Knights of Labor, in upholding them, maintain that great financial or business changes are never originated or controlled by the working class. It is, therefore, illogical and unjust to hold workmen responsible for the results of such changes; and it is, moreover, unreasonable to expect that workmen will voluntarily assume all the sacrifices and forego all the advantages incident to such changes when they occur. At the present time, with rent and the prices of all the necessities of life advancing, and the demand for labor exceeding the supply, the laborer would be more or less than human if he should freely contribute to swell the gains of all about him, and yet forbear to take the

increase of wages within his own reach by a fair opportunity.

"In these large strikes, if the funds of the local organizations where the strikes occur become exhausted, what do you do?" "The universal organization of the working masses is one of the chief bulwarks of strength in the conduct of the Knights of Labor. Where help is needed locally is not considered. In case of a strike here, every assembly of the order throughout this country and Canada will be ready to come to the assistance of the assemblies here. We held not only that what affects one branch of labor affects all other branches, but also what affects labor in one locality affects it in all other localities. Now, the strike of the freight-handlers is receiving support from the Knights of Labor. We have men among the strikers counseling and directing how they shall act. The work of these men is doubly effective, for the reason that they are not known members of the order not being publicly known as such. A number of the freight-handlers have already joined the Knights of Labor, and by the time the strike is over, if it be before, all of them will have become members. The railroad conductors, drivers and brakemen on both foreign and steam railroads are perfecting their organization, and will undoubtedly join in a body."

"Who are entitled to membership?" "The excluded persons are bankers and brokers, lawyers, physicians and saloon-keepers, including bartenders."

"Why do you exclude lawyers?" "I can best answer that question by quoting from a speech recently made by a friend of ours, who said: "In the business of subverting the liberties of our beloved country, I do not dread the soldier with his rifle, nor the conspirator with his mask, nor the fool, the fanatic, or the demagogue, nor the king in his regalia, nor the cleric with his tongue, nor the editor with his quill, nor Satan with his horns, nor the millionaire with his millions, if they have but a fair field. The man to be dreaded in the republic is the shyster lawyer--legal machination is the thing of menace and danger in this country especially that the people need be on the alert against the legal quibblers--here, where they swarm as they do nowhere else on the globe, not only in the courts, but in the legislatures and their lobbies, and in every place of power and fatness."

"How about politics?" "So far as the present political parties are concerned, none is recognized, and no political discussion as to the merits or demerits of either is permitted within its ranks. In other words, political discussion in the interest of any of the existing political parties is strictly forbidden. We take part in politics only in the interest and protection of labor. If a law has been passed detrimental to the rights of workmen, then, if we are not strong enough to elect a man from our own ranks to the legislature, we will support that candidate, without regard to party, who will obligate himself to vote for the repeal of such statute. In districts where we are strong enough to elect our own man we may, if the assembly so determines, put up a candidate, who will then receive our unanimous support. In such a case the man will be chosen for his knowledge of the needs and just demands of labor. During the canvass he can go right along with his everyday work. As our candidate is to do our work, he will not be asked nor allowed to pay any political assessment, but the whole of the expenses of his canvass will be borne by the order. In all matters pertaining to politics we have carefully looked after the good of the order. We have the experience of former workmen's organizations to guide us in perfecting our own. We know how so-called labor advocates have controlled former labor movements with an eye to their own aggrandizement; how they have pledged the support of the organization to one or the other of the political parties and frequently to individual candidates either for so many dollars or for personal political position. No such thing as that is possible in our order. Being in one or the other of the excluded classes, many of the so-called labor advocates are not able even to gain a membership in the Knights of Labor, much less to control its assemblies. This is one reason why we were anxious and glad to have the order become a national organization. If the state elective work was done to organize its assemblies in the city, where most of these labor agitators are, the strength of the Knights of Labor is now too great throughout the state to be in any degree controlled by any of the political shysters in and around the city under the guise of labor advocates, and they know it. The right of workmen to assemble and provide for the advancement of their special interests is as perfect and undoubted as that of any other citizen. Members of trades assemblies have the same moral and constitutional right to meet and resolve as have the members of a teachers' institute or a fruit growers' convention. It is a matter of surprise that our state legislature has dared to pass a law in contravention of this right. We regard labor enforced on any other terms than such as the laborer, singly or in aggregate, may choose to make, as a species of slavery to be endured, and we not only look for, but will work for the repeal of any state law that can be construed as instituting such a form of slavery."

"Satisfactory." Mrs. Wallace, Buffalo, N. Y., writes: "I have used Dr. H. H. BROWN'S BIRTHS for nervous and bilious headaches, and have recommended them to my friends; I believe them to be superior to any other medicine I have used, and can recommend them to those suffering a cure for their ousness." Price \$1.00 July 4th & 5th.

Grant Israel's Luck. Everybody in Nevada knows Grant Israel, personally or by reputation. During the first Sierra Nevada boom, in 1878, he owned the principal two-bit saloon in Virginia City, and it was the headquarters for all the big mining men and capitalists, with whom Israel stood upon the most intimate footing. He won the friendship and confidence of a desirable circle of men. His business was enormous, and in addition to that it was no rare thing for him to make \$5,000 or \$10,000 in stocks. In the

excitement of the Sierra Nevada rise,

when the stock reached nearly \$300 per share, Israel's friends assert that he could have made a clear profit of a quarter of a million. But that was not enough; he looked forward to another such rise as that of '74 and '75, and fondly nursed the hope of being able to leave the Comstock with \$1,000,000. The old story must be retold: The market began to crack, and Israel began to "average" until his margins were wholly swept away. About that time, he had one misfortune upon another, his business began to decline, owing to the depleted pockets of former rich friends who had embarked in the same venture; and eventually Israel had to close out and go to San Francisco in quest of a livelihood for himself and family. Israel is now at the bay earning about \$8 a day. Those who know him can imagine how far that sum can go to satisfy the extravagant life he has been accustomed to for over two decades.

Horsford's Acid Phos. hats the stomach in dyspepsia. It gives the stomach tone and imparts vigor to the whole system. July 4th & 5th.

Gen. Harney in a Hurry. The following story is told of Gen. Harney, when he was in command at Camp Verde, Texas. He was an intensely dignified officer, and if there was one thing he detested more than another it was undignified haste. One evening, just as he was about to hold dress parade, he perceived that he had forgotten his handkerchief, and as the weather was very hot, he said to his orderly: "Go to my quarters, quick, and bring me my handkerchief." The orderly touched his cap and started for the quarters, several hundred yards distant. After he had proceeded a short distance, remembering that there was no time to lose, he broke into a trot.

"See--that sound running as if the Indians were after him. If there is anything I hate it is to see a soldier running instead of marching properly." "Here, my man," continued Harney to another soldier, "go after that man and tell him I say to walk." The second soldier started after the first, but as the first one kept on running, the second one saw his only chance to deliver the message was to hurry up, so he, too, broke into a run. To say that Harney swore to use but a mild expression, go after that man and tell him if he don't stop running I'll hang him up by the thumbs."

The sergeant started out on a brisk walk, but as his predecessor had a good start he, too, began to run as fast as he could. "If all three of the second-class ain't running like jack rabbits!" ejaculated Harney. "I'll show 'em." And tucking his sword under his arm he started in pursuit as fast as he could run; but suddenly remembering his dignity he came to a halt, and walked stilly and slowly back to the place the dress parade was to come off.

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