



THE TENTH ANNUAL

Irish Trades
Union Congress

WILL BE HELD

IN NEWRY,

ON

WHIT-MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY,

1903.



"LABOR OMNIA
VINCIT."



Published by
Authority of
the Congress
and the
Parliamentary
Committee.

REPORT

OF THE
TENTH

IRISH TRADES
UNION
CONGRESS

HELD IN THE

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

(OLD TOWN HALL),

NEWRY,

June 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 1903.

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EDITED BY E. L. RICHARDSON.



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Committee.*

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(To whom all Communications should be addressed).

Trustees :

Messrs. WALTER HUDSON, HUGH McMANUS, and E. L. RICHARDSON.

REPORT

FIRST DAY—Monday, 1st June, 1903.

The Tenth Annual Irish Trades Union Congress was opened on Monday, 1st June, 1903, in the Technical Schools (Old Town Hall), Newry, which had been placed at the disposal of the local Reception Committee by the Urban District Council. The Congress was called to order at 11 o'clock by Mr. Waller Hudson, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, who presided at the opening of the proceedings. Henry Loughran, Esq., J.P., Chairman, together with the following members of the Urban District Council, attended to accord the delegates a welcome to Newry:—Messrs. J. J. McAreevey, J.P.; Bernard McKenna, Felix O'Hagan, jun.; John Treanor, Arthur McCann, J.P.; Bernard Hanratty, P. Connolly, C. A. Mark, John McEvoy, and T. P. Ledlie.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said it gave him the greatest possible pleasure to welcome to Newry the Trades Union Congress. Their object in meeting to-day was to discuss those vital questions affecting the interests of the industrial workers of this country. The Congress has been in existence over the past ten years. Its object was to meet annually as a Parliament of Labour to formulate laws on the various questions affecting the skilled and unskilled labour of Ireland, and then sending them forward to the Parliamentary Committee to give expression to in conformity and co-operation with the workers of the United Kingdom. The Congress might not apologise for its existence. It was not meant in any degree to pull down or injure any Congress already in existence, but to express in a manner that would be otherwise impossible than by having an Irish Congress, the wishes and the aspirations of the Irish workers. They had the gentlemen comprising the Newry Urban Council in attendance to welcome them there that morning, and at the present juncture it was not his intention to stand between them and the warm welcome the Council was anxious to give. He called on Mr. Loughran to address the Congress.

Mr. Loughran, J.P., said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I must in the first place thank you for the very warm welcome accorded me, and in the second place to bid you a hearty welcome to the town of Newry. We are all very pleased, indeed, that this town has been chosen for the holding of the Trades Union Congress. At the same time we were rather disappointed that we could not offer you better accommodation than this building. Unfortunately the Town Hall was engaged a good while ago for one week commencing yesterday, and it was impossible for us to give it to you to-day. However, we have done the best we could for you in placing at your disposal the principal rooms in the Technical School. We,

as the representative of the labourers and wealth producers of the town bid you a hearty welcome to Newry, and trust this Congress will be conducive of practical results for the welfare and prosperity of the working classes of the country.

Mr. Ledlie was next asked to address the Congress, and received a warm reception. He said he had great pleasure in emphasising what the Chairman said in bidding them a hearty welcome to the town of Newry. They met to discuss important matters which would come before them, such as the shortening of the hours of the working classes, the securing of better wages, and especially to secure better housing accommodation. Anything that could brighten the life of the workers would be included in the programme, which, at the same time, contained nothing that could be taken exception to by anyone. The Congress had his entire sympathy, and he concluded by joining with the Chairman in expressing his delight at seeing the various delegates in Newry.

Mr. Arthur McCann, J.P., said it gave him great pleasure to find that the Trades Congress had selected Newry as the scene of their deliberations. They were all very pleased, indeed, to know that that was so and all joined in giving them a hearty welcome. The Council was very sorry that it was unable to give them better accommodation, but, as the Chairman said, they did the best they could under the circumstances. He hoped they would not think it remiss, on the Council's part, in not having any more suitable hall. He concluded by saying all the delegates were heartily welcome.

Mr. Treanor said he could only reiterate what his brother members of the Council said. They, as the representatives of the ratepayers of Newry, bid the delegates a hearty welcome to the Frontier Town. They were all delighted that the Congress selected Newry for its annual meeting and sincerely trusted the deliberations would be fruitful and that the outcome will help to brighten the lot of the working classes in this country. If that were the result every class in the country would be benefited, and no representative body would be more anxious for that end or more pleased to hear of it than the Newry Urban Council. They all knew the representatives of the ratepayers in Newry bid them a hearty welcome, and hoped sincerely that their deliberations would bring blessings on the working men of the country.

Mr. McAreyve, J.P., said he had great pleasure in joining with the other members of the Council in welcoming the delegates to the conference. He was quite sure the results of the conference would bring many benefits to the parties concerned, and they might all be certain that the Council would be delighted to hear of such a result. There was one item connected with the conference in which the Urban Council takes a deep interest, and that is the better housing of the working man. At the election at which he was first chosen for the office of Urban Councillor some other members and himself promised as soon as possible to bring the matter forward, and he was sure it has not been forgotten by himself or his brother councillors. Of course, there were a great many difficulties in the way of housing schemes, but they were anxious at the earliest possible moment to bring some scheme for the better housing of the working classes to a successful issue. There were difficulties in the way of

acquiring sites, and the Council did not wish to promote a half-hearted thing. They were anxious to have proper artisans' dwellings, but before they made public the scheme they wanted to make sure that it would come to a successful issue. He was sorry that the Town Hall was not at the service of the Congress. It was almost six months ago since it was engaged for the week. By the school the Congress could see that the Urban Council was doing something for the working classes, for after all it is the working classes that will benefit by technical education and technical education must be brought to bear on work. Unless in Ireland all had a good technical education, it would be utterly impossible for Ireland to compete with other countries in the great race of life. He concluded by welcoming the Congress.

VOTE OF THANKS.

Councillor McCarron, Londonderry, said he had much pleasure in proposing that the best thanks of the Congress and Trades Unionists of Ireland generally be given to Mr. Loughran and the other members of the Urban Council for their kindness in attending the Congress to welcome the delegates from Belfast, Dublin, and all over the country to the town of Newry. They certainly were pleased to find on a platform like that the representatives, as he assumed they were, of Newry, to welcome the Congress, and it showed that they, like the Congress, were anxious to promote the industrial welfare of the country. He was glad to see them anxious to try and keep the people at home and prevent them from having to wander all over the face of the earth to earn a living. Referring to the statement that the interests of the employers and employed were identical, he said they would not belong to human nature if that was so. The employers tried to get as much work as they could for a certain amount of wages, and the workers tried to get as much wages as they possibly could for a certain amount of work. That was why a trades union was necessary to make terms and protect the interests of the workers. They were much pleased that the municipal authorities were not behind in Newry in attending to welcome them and giving their appreciation of the object in view.

Councillor Leahy, Dublin, seconded the motion. He remembered at the very inception of the movement how difficult it was to get even a room in which to meet; but the strong feeling of good fellowship sent forth from those Congresses had been one of the great means of bringing together capital and labour to this country.

The motion was passed by acclamation.

The President said he had the greatest possible pleasure in conveying the motion to the Urban Council.

Mr. Loughran, J.P., on behalf of himself and the Urban Councillors, returned their most sincere thanks for the kind vote. They were very pleased to have the Congress held in Newry, and regretted the accommodation was not better. The fact that the Urban Councillors were large employers of labour showed that the Congress and the workers had the sympathy of the employers on their side.

The Urban Council then withdrew.

The President said that the Urban Council was anxious to get to its own business. The next thing on the agenda was the reception by the local Trades Council.

Mr. James Morgan, President of the Newry Trades Council, on behalf of the workers of Newry generally, heartily welcomed the Congress to Newry. Although as a Trades Council they had only been a little over a year in existence, they had done their best to make the reception of the delegates of the Congress as pleasant and as cordial as possible. He hoped that the deliberations of the Congress would be such as to increase interest in Trade Unionism in Newry and district.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Messrs. E. L. Richardson (Secretary, Parliamentary Committee,) and Joseph Bell, junior (Secretary, Newry Trades Council), were unanimously elected Secretaries to the Congress.

Messrs. M. Harvey (Limerick) and J. T. Duignan (Dublin) were appointed tellers.

Messrs. B. Fitzpatrick, P. T. Daly, John Murphy, E. W. Stewart, Joseph Treacy, Francis Farrell, R. P. O'Connor, and Alderman Kelleher were nominated for the Standing Orders Committee. Messrs. R. P. O'Connor (Limerick), Alderman Kelleher (Cork), John Murphy (Belfast), P. T. Daly and Fras. Farrell (Dublin) were elected.

Messrs. Charles Darcus (Belfast) and T. J. Sheehan (Dublin), were appointed Auditors.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

On the motion of Mr. James Morgan, President, Newry Trades Council, seconded by Mr. M. Hand (Newry Tailors), Mr. Walter Hudson, A.S.R.S., was unanimously elected President of the Congress. Upon taking the chair, the President said:—

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

FELLOW-DELEGATES—Allow me to thank you most sincerely, for the signal honour you have conferred upon me, in electing me to preside over your deliberations at this meeting, the Tenth Irish Trades Union Congress. We meet this year under remarkable circumstances, in the very midst of important Conferences, having for consideration questions of great magnitude, tending to the amelioration of our people. We have expectations, born of the highest hope, that the unfolding of bright and noble ideas, developed by calm and earnest discussion, will lay for us the foundation of a happy and prosperous future.

I desire briefly to touch upon some of those questions, which, for the moment, are not only current, but of more than ordinary public interest, and which I think ought to occupy a prominent place in our minds, as they materially affect our present and future position, as industrial workers.

The Housing question is in reality a question affecting the well-being

of all conditions of society. The removal of the pestilential blots, which threaten with the most serious consequences the whole fabric of society from the Peer to the lowest subject, cannot be allowed to remain without running the gravest risk of plague. Very many eminent public men have quite recently spoken strongly upon this question. It has risen from a very obscure position to one almost bordering upon great popularity. Thanks to the Press, the *Dublin Evening Herald* in particular, for taking the lead, also His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant for directing public attention to the Housing of the very Poor. We do hope that all those who have expressed a willingness to help will not rest contented with a mere passing expression of philanthropic desire for the solution of this important matter. The problem of providing healthy and decent homes for the toiling masses, the abolition of squalor and slum life, is one which has a co-equal interest for every grade of society. It is well known that, in the provision of healthy sanitary dwellings in our large Cities and Towns, the labouring class, with their present wages, cannot pay a rental of more than 2s. 6d. or 3s. per week. Take, for instance, the position of many employed by large corporations, the Railways having termini in Dublin (who have a maximum wages for Passenger Porters at 15s. 6d. for Goods Porters at 18s. per week), there is no chance amidst the prohibitive rent in Dublin for married men with such a miserable wage to secure a pleasant home.

The Earl of Belmore, speaking at the recent Industrial Conference, said, "If you want to stem the tide of emigration, if you want to keep the people at home, you must strive to better their condition. If the industrial institute is to be a power for good in the Country it must tackle the social question boldly, and see that the working classes are better housed and better cared for. Look at the filth and squalor in which many of our workmen are condemned to live, the foetid atmosphere they are condemned to breathe, the entire absence of proper sanitation, and if some tardy and half-hearted attempt is made by the local authority, and an improvement scheme brought in, the owner gets 30 years' purchase for his pest-stricken property, instead of being prosecuted for the protection of society."

A much greater degree of responsibility for providing housing accommodation very properly rests upon our Corporate and other elective bodies. The reiterated statements of the fabulous prices fixed upon condemned areas by owners are for ever being dinged in our ears without any apparent effort to prevent such unwarantable opposition. If the slum owner cannot, or will not, clear and re-build, such property should no longer remain at a premium to the owner. There is here a good case made out for further legislation giving to Municipalities compulsory powers of purchase of such properties, and any useful land at a fair valuation. All unused land should be taxed at its relative value. Loans for the purpose of giving effect to the housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, should not be reckoned against the borrowing powers of local authorities; allowing a longer period for repayment; giving a corresponding relief to suitable occupiers in the acquisition of houses under the Artizan and Labourers Acts. It should also be enacted that the title-deeds of the property to be acquired should be a sufficient security for the purchase-money, with-

out requiring the lodgment of one fifth of that sum. It should cheapen the cost of transfer of house property to occupiers, similar to what has been done in the case of land transfers. With regard to town tenants, the setting up of tribunals for the fixing of fair rents at given periods, the principle of which has long been adopted in the case of land, would secure to the tenants the benefits of their own improvements. Tenements should as rapidly as possible be brought under municipal ownership, and a strict system of registration and inspection should be exercised over all remaining in private hands. These amendments with other details would go very far towards the solution of the housing question, providing the working classes do their part in the selection of those who are to compose the local governing bodies.

The present Land Bill was introduced with the support and consent of both Landlord and Tenant, and we entertain high hopes that it will come from the hands of the Legislature, backed by the unanimous sanction of all parties concerned, such as will give an earnest assurance of thorough administration, and safe working, in the settlement of the question of the occupying ownership of the land. We hail with gladness this magnificent effort at pacification; but consider that any measure of land reform is incomplete which does not give every facility and encouragement for the carrying out of the Labourers Acts, and to the labourer to acquire a decent cottage and plot of land, thus giving to him a vested interest, and also rooting him on the soil. He is as necessary and as valuable an asset as the farmer. To fail in doing this means failure in the establishment of a peasant proprietary in Ireland, and the danger is that the last state of the agricultural labourer might be worse than the first.

Land reform and industrial progress are truly twin brothers, and should travel together hand in hand. If we can by hospitality and increased friendship induce those who desire the industrial welfare of Ireland to take up their abode with us, we shall have secured the fundamental elements which make for prosperity.

The Great Industrial Conference held in Dublin on the 15th April, attended by representatives of all classes, creeds, and political opinion in Ireland, for the purpose of inaugurating an industrial movement, with the object of reviving and creating industrial life, marks the beginning of an important era in this country. If the decisions and tone of that Conference have any effective meaning, it is that the rival interests of the past, which have caused such sharp divisions, are coming to an end, and the dead past being buried and forgotten, all commencing now to work amicably. May the workers take thoroughly hold of the spirit abroad, both for the assistance in this movement and their own solidification in organisation.

Great credit is due to all those who laboured so assiduously to bring about this Conference, which has in reality started the movement under the most favourable auspices. Organisation, education and technical training, are essential to ensure success in the development of the scheme, and those three points are of first importance to the working community. Education is necessary for the enlightenment of the value of organisation, for the accomplishment of every worthy object. The

value of technical training for every trade and profession cannot at the present day be over-estimated. We want full and free opportunities for obtaining such training both for ourselves and our children. The outlook points to the stern fact that only those who are properly trained will have a chance of gaining a decent livelihood. It is not enough for the youth of to-day to merely pass through our elementary schools, and then accidentally to gravitate into any occupation that turns up, and by the time they reach their majority, lose the little early education they received. We require proper facilities and encouragement from the State. Our youth, well educated, and then placed in suitable trades, with the inducements of taking advantage of extended educational technical schools during the whole term of apprenticeship, then we shall have nothing to fear on their account, after a thorough taste for learning has been properly cultivated. It is not intended by the scheme suggested by the Industrial Institute either to include or oppose, but rather as an adjunct to, the noble and truly patriotic work of Mr. Horace Plunkett, the foremost leader of agricultural science in this country. The work of extending commercial life throughout the country will require the assistance of all classes and interests. There is plenty of room, indeed the whole scheme would be a failure without the working class doing their part, and I am sure they will give the movement every assistance within their power. There is one important branch of this revival scheme, which is almost entirely in the hands of the industrial workers, and that is the adoption of the Co-operative Industrial Supply Associations, whereby they can not only supply their own necessities of life but also create their own trade. There never was a more opportune time for workmen in this country taking hold of the matter. Much has been said with regard to the security which is necessary, in order to give confidence to investors, and encourage capitalists to speculate in the country. That the proposed Institute should be a medium of adjusting all differences, indeed it should perform the function of safety valve, and prevent war between capital and labour. I am sure that we, as organised workers, will not stand in the way of such a proposed happy consummation. And on behalf of this Congress I venture to subscribe to that high ideal if propounded. Our power is limited to half the bargain. We are prepared to meet on common ground, to discuss and devise the establishment of an equitable basis of conciliation. It would, however, be well to mention here, for the information of those who have little or no experience in the working of conciliation boards, that they are impossible as a substitute for Trade Unions. Well organised Unions on both sides, having proper control over their members are absolutely necessary to give proper effect to working agreements. Capital and Labour properly organised, and the power rightly used for their several interests, with a common meeting ground, on an equally balanced deliberative Board, an appointed umpire to be called in when necessary to adjust differences, gives the best possible security to any investor, and fair security to the worker, who has his little all invested in his trade or profession. To be strongly organised is the first great safeguard against industrial strife, and the greatest protection to the commercial life of any nation. Organise, organise, is the first watchword given for the commencement of this great

industrial movement, and if we would be wise, if efforts put forth are to be crowned with success, stern facts even though they may be unpleasant, must be faced, if ever they are to be either solved or removed. The Rev. P. J. Dowling, writing to the *Daily Independent and Nation* a short time ago, said, "We want men who will face the hard fact that Ireland's industrial life is feeble, or practically non-existent, and will give us tangible and practical means of infusing that life into our Country. Ireland does not want to hear at present the man who proposes to stop emigration by moral suasion; but the speaker who can back up his moral suasion with a way of finding three good meals a day and fair wages, and find a means for stopping the dastardly trick by which Irish Merchants are palming off foreign goods as home made."

To insure success in development the most modern appliances and machinery must necessarily be used, upon this question the organised Trades have been either misunderstood, or gravely misrepresented to the public mind. The truth is that the most intelligent part of the workers are in our trade societies, and are in possession of the best information on the question, and know that it would be the greatest act of folly to strike against the adoption of machinery invented to facilitate production. Objections are very properly raised against the attempts made to lower wages, to turn the artizan who has served and qualified for his trade upon the street, and supplant him with cheap sweated labour. Modern Machinery in the hands of the skilled worker is certainly much better both in quality and quantity of work produced, and better for the whole community.

The undeveloped minerals in this country such as, coal, ores of various kinds, pottery clays, sands for glass making, the manufacture of cement, sandstones, slates, various coloured marbles of great beauty and of rare quality, afford a wide field for the opening up of useful industry. The latent power in our magnificent water forces which might be harnessed and utilized for many useful purposes. Our waterways and natural harbours, if developed, would give great opportunities of commercial undertakings. But, speaking of transit, the want of a reasonably cheap means of quick inland transit is the greatest difficulty that this forward movement has to face in this country. The prohibitive tariffs of our railways dishearten the business man, and the people who are struggling for an industrial existence against the competitors of other countries, who have the advantage of state-owned railways used for the development of the resources of their country, as against ours, used for private profit. The nationalization of the Irish railways would be a practical step to relieve the situation, and make Ireland prosperous.

The discretionary power placed in the hands of Commanding Officers for the supply of Army stores and provisions locally, ought, where such extensive stationing depots exist as in Ireland, to give a large amount of work. The adoption of a receiving depot in this Country, and the manufacture of many articles which could be made with profit, in addition to the work of all repairs being done in ordnance workshops, would be both advantageous to the War Department, and give a large amount of work to civilian labour. There is also every prospect that, if reasonable encouragement were given, firms in this country would compete for army contracts.

The adoption and operation of the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons, 1893, is very largely in the hands of the wage earner through the power of the ballot box. The composition of our local governing bodies, is a far greater factor for or against the carrying out of the spirit and letter of this resolution, than the fact that this or that body has simply adopted it. The resolution may look very ornamental on a Minute Book, and still remain a dead letter, while contracts are given away contrary to its principle and meaning. The most logical solution of the question is to elect those to administer who have an ardent belief in the benefits conferred by its unrestricted application.

We meet to-day as Trade Unionists, after thirty-two years legal right to combine, but with less knowledge as to what our statutory rights are than at any time during the term of our existence. The decisions of the House of Lords have destroyed our Charter, contrary to the intention of the legislature who framed it. Further Law Court decisions have reversed precedents, and loaded the Trade Union Act of 1871, and the Property Defence Act, 1875, with so many legal subtleties, that our highest luminaries cannot define our present legal position. Further decisions of our judges, make confusion worse confounded. We have, however, reached the point when we can say that combination to the injury of trade is illegal, but combination to steal trade is legal. I cannot for a moment think that the wisest and best employers desire to take an unfair advantage of workmen through the Law Courts, or to destroy their unions, knowing well that such Unions are the only practical medium of expression, and the most satisfactory means of settling differences. The Trades Disputes Bill, recently introduced by Mr. Shackleton, M.P., was defeated by a narrow majority, although opposed by Government. Its object was to obtain an equality in Law, and to have such a definition of the Laws affecting combination, that workmen would have a fair opportunity of keeping them.

As you have many important subjects on the Agenda Paper, it would ill-become me to stand betwixt you and the questions you are most anxious to debate. In conclusion, let me say that in the decent comfort, intelligence and happiness of our toiling masses, lies the truest indication of a nation's wealth. Though we may have made mistakes, and no wonder, considering our struggle through ignorance to educational freedom, our Trade Unions have been the most influential agency in gaining this asset. Let us solidify every section, consolidate by federation, and having gained that power which commands respect, guard it jealously, and use it discreetly. Thus may we devote ourselves to the amelioration of our kind by the destruction of error and the propagation of truth.

THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT.

Mr. John Murphy (Belfast) moved—"That the best thanks of the Congress be accorded the Chairman for his excellent address." Foremost to his mind in importance was the subject of their standing as trade unionists before the law. He considered that that point should awaken the sympathy—nay, more, the earnest enthusiasm—of every representative there that day. Until they established their rights before the law,

until they showed that they must have a recognition in the affairs of the country, they met and passed resolutions in vain. Therefore, he thought that one point in the Chairman's address was one to which every working man should devote his attention. The House of Lords might give a decision, and it might not be a just interpretation of the design of the Legislature, and he contended in the case in question it was not. It was simply judge made law, and to that sort of law they entered their earnest protest as men and as trades unionists. Another matter in the address was of great importance. It was the housing of working classes. The Irish working man should have a decent dwelling-house in which to live, as well as a decent wage to keep him in that house. Then there was the question of education. They were very often told they were unable to compete with foreigners, and if that were so they should pay greater attention to their education. The Chairman's remarks on those points were fair and practical, and they ought to adopt them.

Alderman Kelleher (Cork) seconded the resolution. He said when the working classes did their duty towards themselves and their children there would be no necessity for presidential addresses and for holding congresses, because the working classes would be in power on all public bodies throughout the land.

The motion was carried amid applause, and the vote being conveyed was suitably acknowledged.

REPORT FROM STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE—(1).

Mr. J. Murphy submitted a report from the Standing Orders Committee, which recommended the suspension of the Standing Orders at 3 o'clock p.m., for the purpose of hearing addresses from Messrs. J. Ramsay MacDonald, Secretary Labour Representation Committee, and J. Keir-Hardie, M.P. They also recommended the grouping of the following resolutions:—3 and 22 (War Department Contracts); 6, 7, 8, and 32 (Public Contracts and the Fair Wages Resolution); 9, 10, 11 (Railwaymen's Grievances); 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 29 (Importation); and that the movers and seconders of all these resolutions be permitted to speak.

Several of the delegates in charge of the grouped resolutions dealing with Imported work having protested against that portion of the Standing Orders Committee's Report,

The President advised them to state their case to the Committee during the day.

The report was then adopted.

ORDNANCE WORKSHOPS.

Mr. JAMES CHAMBERS (Dublin Saddlers) moved:—

"That this Congress desires to bring under the notice of His Excellency (Lord Dudley) the important recommendations made by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Commander of the Forces in Ireland, before the Committee on War Office Organisation, viz. :—'That Ireland should

be made a self-contained, self-supporting organisation, as far as the forces go, and that Irish ordnance workshops should be allowed to make everything they can.' We therefore urge the Parliamentary Committee to press the matter on the attention of His Excellency with a view of enlisting his practical assistance, and to point out the fact that one of the workshops (the Saddlers') at Island Bridge Barracks, where only a few hands are now employed, was specially constructed to accommodate twenty workmen. That being so, we feel sure that the extension of the ordnance workshop system in this country would give much needed employment, and thereby remove one of the many long-standing grievances so justly complained of by Irish Tradesmen against the War Office Department." The resolution, he said, dealt with the Island Bridge Barrack workshops. What they maintained was that not only should repairs be done in those shops by civilians, but new work should be done there as well. The Duke of Connaught at the Royal Commission had proved their case up to the hilt. Ireland contributed largely towards the upkeep of the British Army both in money and men, and they had been unfairly treated in this matter. He hoped by next Congress they would be able to say that through the influence of Lord Dudley the recommendations of the Duke of Connaught would be carried out.

Mr. STEWART (Dublin) seconded the resolution, mainly on account of the fact that he was supposed to influence the authorities in Dublin Castle. He was not particularly interested in recruiting either for the British or any other army, but seeing that they largely supplied the sinews of war they might have an opportunity of supplying some of the saddles in which they would get killed. They were, therefore, entitled to obtain contracts for some of the supplies.

Mr. WALKER, P.L.G. (Belfast), moved as an amendment:—

Delete all after the word "assistance," on line 9, and *add*—"and also upon the Employers in order that by the combination of Workmen, Employers, and Government Departments, articles hitherto manufactured in English and Scotch centres for use in Ireland, may be made at Home, subject to the conditions under which they are manufactured being fair." He had in company with the Chairman waited on the War Office authorities with reference to the grievances of Irish workers against that department, and had been informed that the Irish employer would not tender, and that there was no Irish receiving dépôt. The amendment covered the entire ground.

Mr. THOMAS HUGHES (Belfast), in seconding, said the amendment was not antagonistic to the resolution. It simply meant that anything produced would be produced under fair conditions.

Mr. MONROE (Belfast) supported the amendment, and considered it most judicious. He considered that the latter part of the resolution should be deleted, and that the Dublin people should take a lesson from other cities, and have articles manufactured under fair conditions. The question was one which affected all Ireland. They had a good lead to show that those in authority were thoroughly in earnest to improve the condition of Ireland. Lord Dudley had come to Ireland, and, judging

from his action, he believed that he was one who would by all means in his power support the industries of the country which he was at present governing.

Mr. J. MOLONEY (Brushmakers, Dublin), in supporting the resolution, said if Irish workers could make a carriage or a saddle for use by the Lord Lieutenant they should certainly be able to make a saddle for a charger.

Mr. CHAMBERS accepted the amendment, and the resolution in its changed form was passed unanimously.

MILITARY CANTEN CONTRACTS IN IRELAND.

Councillor W. J. LEAHY had the following motion on the paper:—

"That this Congress of Irish workers enters its most earnest protest against the action of the military authorities in giving the contract for porter and ale to the Burton Brewery Company, in face of the well-known fact that the best porter in the world is brewed in Dublin and other parts of Ireland, and we view their action as a gross injustice to the Irish brewery industry and a serious injury to the mechanics and labourers employed in those establishments." He said that since this motion had been handed in he was glad to be in a position to say that through the instrumentality of the Parliamentary Committee of the Congress and some of the Irish members, the contracts had been restored to Irish firms. He, therefore, begged leave to withdraw.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

FEMALE FACTORY INSPECTORS IN IRELAND.

Miss GALWAY (Textile Operatives) moved:—

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, efficient inspection of the mills, factories, and warehouses of Ireland cannot be obtained without the assistance of permanent female inspectors; and we hereby instruct the Parliamentary Committee to have this question raised in the House of Commons, either upon the estimates for the Home Office or by such other method as will best promote this end." She said the number of complaints by workers were so great that they could not all be looked after by the men inspectors. It was, therefore, hoped that the Government would see their way to appoint female inspectors as soon as possible.

Councillor ROBERT GAGEBY, J.P., seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mrs. McCAUGHEY (Belfast), and passed.

FACTORY ACT AMENDMENT.

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, the time has come when the Factory Act should be amended so as to compel all owners of factories to adopt whichever shuttle guard is considered best, with a view to prevent the huge number of shuttle accidents."

This motion stood on the Agenda in the name of Miss GALWAY (Belfast), who stated that they had received assurances from the Home Office that the Factory Inspectors had full power to secure the object sought for in the resolution, and that no amendment of the Act was needed. She, therefore, asked leave to withdraw.

The motion was accordingly withdrawn.

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL.

Mr. H. ROCHFORD (Hairdresser's Association) moved:—

"That this Congress reiterates its opinion that the earlier closing of shops, and the consequent relief from excessive hours of labour at present endured by a large number of male and female shop assistants, can only be brought about by compulsory early closing; and we again instruct the Parliamentary Committee to make every effort to secure the passing of Sir Charles Dilke's Shops Bill at present before Parliament." He said what he wanted the Congress to do was to pass the resolution to bring about the closing of hairdressing shops on Sundays. At present it was half-past 12 o'clock on Sunday morning before the men employed in those shops were paid their wages. He thought he was correct in stating that the greatest friends of the keeping open of hairdressers' shops were the trade unionists themselves.

Mr. MONROE (Belfast) seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. TREACEY (Dublin).

Mr. E. W. STEWART, on behalf of the Shop Assistants, moved as an addendum:—

Add—"And this Congress further declines to regard Lord Avebury's Shops (Early Closing) Bill as providing practical proposals to deal effectually with the questions of the early closing of shops and the limitation of the hours of labour, being optional in character, cumbersome in operation, and so hemmed in with safeguards as to be useless in practice, and hereby empowers the Parliamentary Committee to take all necessary steps to oppose the Bill in the House of Commons." He said he wanted Congress to give a specific decision against the Avebury Bill.

Mr. GEO. LEAHY (Dublin) seconded.

Mr. ROCHFORD accepted the addendum, which then became portion of the resolution, which was adopted.

STEAM ENGINES (PERSONS IN CHARGE) BILL.

Mr. M'KNIGHT (Stationery Engine Drivers) moved:—

"That inasmuch as the Steam Engines (Persons in Charge) Bill passed the ordeal of a Select Committee inquiry in 1901 without amendment, this Congress instructs the Parliamentary Committee to urge upon the Government and the Irish Party the necessity of having this measure placed upon the Statute Book at the earliest opportunity."

Mr. PEARSON (Belfast) seconded. He said explosions occurred annually through incompetency. The resolution was in support of a much-needed measure.

The resolution was passed.

MUNICIPAL TRADING.

Mr. E. W. STEWART (Dublin) moved:—

"That this Congress regards with dissatisfaction the action of Parliament in appointing a commission to inquire into, with the presumed object of restricting, the operations of Municipal enterprise, and is of opinion that the powers and scope of municipalities in this respect should be extended and facilitated rather than restricted." He said that the workers had some influence on local authorities and therefore could secure greater benefits from a municipal than from a limited company or a private employer. Therefore, they should be opposed to the restriction of municipal enterprise.

Councillor M'CARRON (Derry), in seconding, said they could clearly understand why the Government were doing as they did, because the people would soon be able to use that power to aid the rates of the city. The capitalists were afraid that they would wring the profits from them, and so they fought for their very existence. They should all advocate the extension of municipal trading. They would all get better terms from municipalities than from sweating firms. If a private company could make trams, etc., pay, why could not the municipal authorities make profit for the good of the ratepayers?

Mr. WALKER (Belfast) moved as an amendment:—

Delete all after the word "with," on line 1, and *add*—"satisfaction, the action of Parliament in giving an opportunity to the advocates of Municipal Trading, to prove the great benefits conferred upon the Municipalities, by the Municipalisation of undertakings, such as Gas, Water, Trams, etc., and this Congress expresses the opinion that the evidence given before such a Committee cannot be too widely disseminated, as it will enable other Municipalities, hitherto lukewarm on such question, to realise the great benefits to be derived from the elimination of the Contractor or Company." He said they should approve of the fact that a Parliamentary Committee had been appointed. They wanted to educate the people, and, having educated them, bring them into the ranks of thinking people. They had gained a triumph by the distribution of information on the advantages of Municipal Trading, and they should approve of the inquiry and so help to disseminate the true facts.

Mr. HAYES (Belfast) seconded the amendment. They, in Belfast, believed that municipal undertakings had been profitable. The price of gas was cheaper in Belfast than any city in Ireland, because it had been taken over by the municipality. They welcomed the inquiry as they believed that municipal undertakings had been beneficial to the workers. The result of the Commission would bring the matter to the surface, and many centres would be going in for municipalisation.

Mr. STEWART, in reply, said that the Committee would be largely controlled by Jewish and other financiers who wished to get control of gas, water, electricity, and other undertakings. They would endeavour to expose whatever faults they could find in municipal trading, while on the other hand municipal bodies could not spend money in any measures to refute such evidence. He could not accept the amendment.

On a division the voting was as follows:—For the amendment—19. Against the amendment—48.

The motion was declared carried by 53 votes against 15.

At this stage, in accordance with the Committee's report, the Standing orders were suspended.

ADDRESSES BY MESSRS. J. R. MACDONALD AND J. KEIR-HARDIE, M.P.

Mr. J. R. MACDONALD (secretary of the Labour Representation Committee, London), who was received with applause, addressed the Congress. He expressed pleasure at having the opportunity of addressing that representative gathering of the combined Labour delegates of Ireland. This was his first visit to Ireland, but he did not see why it should not be only one of a number to follow, because when English capital and Scotch capital and Irish capital were combined in their own interests it was time English workers, Scotch workers, and Irish workers should stand shoulder to shoulder to demonstrate their strength. He was there representing about 900,000 trades unionists of England and Scotland, but his organisation was very much younger than theirs, having as yet achieved only its third or fourth year. But their growth had been phenomenal, because the need was also phenomenal, and because the work which they had set themselves to do was one of the greatest and most pressing importance to the wage-earners of the country. For thirty years they had been under the impression that the principles of trade unionism were safe, and that it was legal to picket, and that it was not within the power of the law officers to take away their funds. They had, however, been living in a fool's paradise. A certain vagueness about some of the Acts of Parliament had been seized by the courts to nullify the effects of those Acts and work against their intentions. The result of this was that in England and Scotland there was a combination of Trades Unionists, and Co-operatives, Socialists, and other labour organisations determined in future to fight on a common political platform. The time for moving was now ripe, but what were they to do in order to be effective? They, the workers of the country, were seven-ninths of the electors of the country; yet when they wanted to bring their most vital concerns before Parliament they had to send deputations, with hats in hand, to try and pump an idea of what they wanted into the heads of their representatives. If that was representation, then representation was a farce, a sham, and a delusion. They could only end it by sending men who belonged to their own class to represent them in the House of Commons. Let them take the case of the miners, who had found it necessary to introduce a special clause into the Act of Parliament to prevent their employers from cheating them of a few pence a week; or of the textile operatives, who had had to take the same action with the same object.

These workers actually returned to represent them in great matters the very men who cheated them in small. That ought not to be the case. That was the position the Labour Representation Committee took up. He was there to bring the good wishes of their fellow-workers, and to convey to them this message—that they should unite, without consideration of political party or creed, on labour matters; that they in Ireland might, like their comrades across the water, see fit to forget their old differences and old cries, and unite on a labour programme, so that from their country there they might send a strong and determined and independent body of labour representatives to work shoulder to shoulder and hand in hand in the fullest and most harmonious co-operation with their fellow labour representatives on the other side of the Channel.

Mr. KEIR-HARDIE, M.P., was next called upon, and was accorded a hearty reception. He had very little to add, he said, to what Mr. MacDonald had stated so well. He expressed the pleasure he had felt in accepting the invitation he had received to visit them in Newry after having in the first place come to Ireland on the invitation of the Belfast Trades Council. It was not enough simply to point out the position to which trades unionism had been reduced by judge-made decisions, which in some of their aspects went practically in the teeth of the Acts of Parliament. They must also make up their minds and be quite clear as to what it was they desired in connection with further laws for the protection of trades unionism. They were practically agreed upon two points—(1) the right to peacefully persuade blacklegs to refrain from working, a right which was at the present moment an offence, and meant prison and the seizure of a union's funds for the compensation of the employer; and (2) the right, at present construed by the law officers into an illegality, of a trades union bringing out its men in order to support the demands of the men of another union. But there was a third point upon which there was not the same agreement—whether under any circumstances trades union funds were to be confiscated to compensate employers for loss and damage sustained in consequence of a strike or other labour disturbance. He hoped the Congress would speak with no uncertain voice on that point. He might remind them that a trades union itself had not the power to sue employers. They took up this position that neither should an employer have power to sue a trades union; and also that the funds of a union being mostly contributed for purposes other than that of working strikes should be free from confiscation. They demanded complete immunity for the funds of unions. The recent attack upon trades unionism was the outcome of the feeling prevailing in certain circles against labour itself, and the same parties who were attacking municipal undertakings were also attacking trades unionism. It was part of the one movement. These men desired to rule absolutely, and to grow rich at the expense of the nation. They wanted to break down any power of resistance which the workers did possess, and they knew that if they could grapple with the trades union movement their task of robbing the worker would be a comparatively easy one. But what was the remedy? Not by resolutions or abstract declarations in favour of labour representation, but by action. They blamed the working men for supporting capitalists, forgetting the fact

that they had no option of giving their votes to anybody else. They blamed them for voting wrong, but they must provide them with opportunity of voting right. They must put in motion the machinery which would bring labour candidates forward when vacancies occurred; they must create the funds by which elections had to be fought; and they must wean the worker from allegiance to either of the existing parties in the State. Proceeding, Mr. Hardie said—They were speaking about the industrial development of Ireland. They were looking forward with hope to commercial development in Ireland—yet that might prove a heavier curse than all the English misgovernment of the past put together. Commercial development as they knew it in England and Scotland and elsewhere meant the complete destruction of the labour of the worker in the interest of the capitalist and the landlord class. Here also labour was called upon to speak out, and make sure that when the industries of Ireland come to be developed it should not mean as it so often meant, the further demoralisation and degradation of the nation, but should, through their development, bring benefit and peace and prosperity to every section of the community. That meant that the development of Irish industry must be on Nationalist or Socialist, as distinguished from the commercial or capitalist lines. Dealing with the question of labour representation, he said that when the labour members came from Ireland, as they would come, they would work together outside all the political differences that had weakened their ranks in the past, realising that they had one common interest, which was greater than national feeling, greater than religious difference, the principle of seeking to uplift the people to whom they belonged, and to make their life more worth living than it had been in the past. He trusted their deliberations would result in benefit to those whom they represented, that the trades union movement in Ireland would be the stronger for their having come together, and that the old differences of race and the like would be weakened by their co-operation in their own broad interests.

On the motion of MR. RICHARDSON (Dublin), seconded by Mr. MURPHY (Belfast), the hearty thanks of the Congress were accorded Messrs. Keir-Hardie and MacDonald for their excellent and instructive addresses.

MUNICIPAL WORKSHOPS.

Mr. JOHN FARREN (Dublin) proposed:—

“That this Congress calls on all Municipal and Poor Law Boards throughout Ireland to establish workshops and have their work done by Trades' Unionists instead of giving it out by contract, as the Fair Wages Resolution has so often been evaded by the different contractors, we believe it would be a benefit to the rate-payers, as well as having their work done in a more satisfactory manner.”

Mr. P. DALY (Dublin) seconded the motion. He said the middleman did not take the contract for the love of God, but to get a profit out of it. The workers should reap any benefits that were going, and they should never rest satisfied until they had that reform effected.

The resolution was passed.

DUBLIN ELECTRIC WORKS.

Mr. T. J. SHEEHAN (Electrical Trade Union) moved:—

"That, in view of the present state of the Electrical Trade in Dublin, this Congress respectfully asks the Corporation to make a fixed rate for electrical energy under the new scheme, such as is in use in the adjoining townships of Rathmines and Pembroke, and which has been in use in Dublin for the past ten years, as we consider the sliding scale, as proposed under the new scheme, will be misunderstood by intending consumers, thereby deterring them from becoming customers, which will result in loss of employment to electrical workers and financial loss to the city."

Mr. RICHARDSON seconded the resolution.

Mr. S. MONRO (Belfast) said that the matter surely was one for the Dublin ratepayers, and not for the Irish Trades Congress. He thought it would be a piece of impudence to interfere in the matter.

Mr. WALKER (Belfast) thought it would be absurd to pass the resolution. He begged to move the previous question.

Mr. DARCUS seconded, but on a division this was rejected.

The resolution, on a division, was adopted by 28 votes to 20.

OUT-WORKING IN THE TAILORING TRADE.

Councillor McCARRON (Derry), moved; Mr. Wm. McLoughlin, seconded, and it was unanimously resolved:—

"That this Congress urges upon the Parliamentary Committee the necessity of having the Factory and Workshop Act so amended as to make it imperative for all employers in the tailoring trade to provide sufficient and suitable workshops for all those in their employment, as, in our opinion, home working is the chief cause of the sweating system. Further, so long as employers are allowed to send their work to people's homes, complete and efficient workshop inspection is impossible without an enormous and absurd increase in the number of inspectors. It is also our opinion that where bedrooms or living rooms are used as workshops they become a danger to the public health, and tend to demoralise those engaged therein."

HACKNEY CARRIAGE INSPECTORS.

Mr. G. O'CALLAGHAN (Coachmakers), proposed:—

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, it is of the first importance that a practical Coachmaker should be appointed to the position of Hackney Carriage Inspector in conjunction with the Inspectors already appointed, as we believe it is against the interests of the Public and the Coachmakers' Society alike that inexperienced Police Officers should hold the position of Inspectors of Hackney Carriages without the assistance of a practical man, and that the attention of the Parliamentary Committee be called to this grievance."

Mr. FRANCIS FARRELL (Dublin), seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

Mr. H. McMANUS (Belfast) moved:—

"That this Congress, which has advocated the establishment and development of technical instruction for many years past, desires to testify its interest in the technical institutes throughout the country, and that in the interests alike of employer and employed, and the hope of a higher standard of manual and practical technology, all sections of the working community should still further take advantage of the various classes in technical schools, but in all those practical classes in which the machinery, bench room, or other working equipment is limited preference should be given to those pupils who are apprentices or journeymen actually working at the trade, for whose benefit the instruction and classes are founded." He said in Ireland it was only within the last three years they had anything at all like technical education. While in America and on the Continent hundreds of thousands of pounds had been spent annually in equipping the youthful workmen to be in a better position to carry out their life work, in Ireland there was not £5,000 spent for such a purpose. At the present time the position was different, but he wished to impress on the Congress that technical education should not be made the vehicle of cheapening labour.

Mr. WM. HAYES, seconded the resolution, which was supported by Messrs. S. MONRO, T. McCONNELL, GEO. LEAHY, Councillor McCARTHY, E. L. RICHARDSON, and unanimously adopted.

REPORT FROM STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE—(2).

Mr. JOHN MURPHY, Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee, presented a further report which recommended (1) that the report of the Parliamentary Committee for the past twelve months, be taken as the first business on Tuesday morning; (2) that nominations for the new Parliamentary Committee and the Secretaryship be handed in before 12 o'clock; (3) that the Standing Orders be suspended to consider a special resolution on the Royal Commission on Labour Disputes, and to hear addresses from Delegates from the Scottish Trades Union Congress. The report further recommended the grouping of the following resolutions:—Nos. 25 and 26 (Education and the Equivalent Grant); 35 and 36 (Superannuation of Corporation and Local Government Workers); 38 and 39 (State Purchase and Control of Railways, &c.); and, in consequence of representations made to the Committee by the delegates in charge, they sought permission to amend their previous report by grouping resolutions 12 and 13; 14 and 29; and 15 and 16, respectively.

The report was adopted.

The Congress adjourned at 5 o'clock.

At 8 o'clock, a great labour demonstration was held, in the Mary Street Market, under the auspices of the Congress, and the Newry Trades Council. Mr. Walter Hudson, presided, and after vigorous

speeches had been delivered by Councillor McCarron (Londonderry), Messrs. Wm. Walker, P.L.G. (Belfast), Keir Hardie, M.P., E. L. Richardson, Secretary of the Congress, and David Gilmour, Miners' Federation, the following resolution was put to the meeting and carried with enthusiasm:—

"That this meeting of Newry trades unionists and sympathisers with trade unionism expresses its opinion that the only method whereby the workers of the town of Newry, and of Ireland generally, can improve their condition is through the medium of trades organisation, and in order that such organisation may be the more effective, we call upon all the unorganised workers in Newry to immediately join their respective societies and take their part in the movement for the economic emancipation of the workers."

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. J. MURPHY (Belfast), seconded by Mr. E. W. STEWART (Dublin), concluded the proceedings.

SECOND DAY—Tuesday, 2nd June, 1903.

Congress re-assembled at 9-30 a.m., the President, Mr. Walter Hudson, presiding. Minutes of first day's proceedings read and confirmed.

The following report of the work of the Parliamentary Committee was then taken clause by clause:—

FELLOW-DELEGATES—Your Committee beg to present a record of their proceedings for the past year.

Immediately after the adjournment of the Cork Congress, copies of all resolutions dealing with questions of immediate concern were forwarded to the proper quarters, and we herewith submit the results.

It will be in the recollection of Congress that, in the report of your Committee's work presented at Cork, reference was made to correspondence with the Chief Secretary, in which he asked for, and duly received, a memorandum of the questions which your Committee desired, through him, to bring under the notice of the different Government Departments (see last year's report). The following is the Chief Secretary's reply in detail, dated 29th May, 1902, received immediately after the close of the Cork Congress:—

THE CHIEF SECRETARY AND THE CONGRESS.

Dear Sir—In reply to your letter dated the 4th January, 1903, with a memorandum attached, the Chief Secretary directs me to inform you that he has been in communication with the departments concerned, and now forwards for the information of the Irish Trades Union Congress, replies he has received from the War Office, Home Office, and Treasury. With regard to the Board of Trade, the President has stated he would prefer you to correspond with him direct.—Yours truly,

P. HANSON.

MEMORANDUM.

Canteen Supplies.—This matter is left to the discretion of the local general, who will, doubtless, give every consideration to any suggestion submitted to him.

Share of Contracts for General Supplies.—Every encouragement is given to Irish manufacturers to tender, and large quantities are so supplied. The running contract for stable fitments is held by an Irish firm.

Ordnance Workshops.—The system in Ireland is the same as in England; in every large Ordnance Depot there is a workshop for repairs, manned as far as possible, by the A.O.C. Four in Ireland. Repairs not done therein are carried out by local contract.

Ventilation of Flax-roughing Shops.—Reports from district inspectors show that in Belfast a large number of the shops are now carried on under very satisfactory conditions. Every endeavour will be made to bring all up to the standard of the best.

Female Inspector.—To assign one inspector to Ireland would disturb the whole organisation of the Department. Much attention has been given to Ireland, two or more inspectors being sometimes at work there simultaneously.

Stationery Office Contracts.—The practice of allowing the printer to supply all material was abandoned after a trial of some years. If paper was delivered free to country contractors the cost of carriage would considerably add to the outlay on work done.

Publication in "Labour Gazette" of names of accepted contractors.—This question has been fully considered, but a change in the system is not deemed advisable.

Workmen's Compensation: the 30ft. limit.—In the event of any amendment of the Act this is one of the first points to be considered.

Night work in bakehouses.—It has not so far been found practicable to limit work to 8 hours between 5 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Sir Charles Dilke's Shop Bill.—Owing to the number of other measures with precedence, this Bill has not been included for the present session.

ORDNANCE WORKSHOPS.

Following the reply of the War Office, included on the Chief Secretary's memorandum above, the annexed letter from the Commander of the Forces in Ireland on this question is instructive:—

Head Quarters, Royal Hospital,

Dublin, 4th June, 1903.

Sir—I am directed by his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, commanding the Forces in Ireland, and 3rd Army Corps, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 29th May, 1903. His Royal Highness expressed his views on the subject of local supplies when questioned by the Committee in London. It rests with his military superiors, and the civil administrators of the army to give effect to them if they hold the same opinion as he does. The question of contracts for porter and ale is one which, by regulation, does not rest with him.—Yours faithfully,

O. S. NUGENT, Major, for Brigadier-General C.S.O.

Mr. E. L. Richardson,

Hon. Secretary Irish Trades Congress.

FACTORY INSPECTION. ETC.

Regarding the resolutions adopted by Congress on the question of appointing a female factory inspector for Ireland (specially demanded by the textile workers of Belfast), and other matters affecting factory sanitation, the Home Secretary states:—

Whitehall, 20th June, 1903.

Sir—I have laid before the Secretary of State your letter of the 29th ultimo, forwarding resolutions passed by the Irish Trades Union Congress at their ninth

annual meeting, and I am directed by him to say, for the information of the Parliamentary Committee of the Congress, that these resolutions have received his careful consideration. With regard to the resolution advocating the appointment of a permanent female factory inspector for Ireland, I am to refer you to the answer which the Secretary of State gave to a question upon this subject, addressed to him in the House of Commons by Mr. Nannetti on the 5th instant.

On the question of the sanitary condition of bakehouses, the Secretary of State desires me to point out that in all retail bakehouses (i.e., bakehouses not being factories), the bread made in which is sold by retail in a shop or place occupied with the bakehouse, the duty of enforcing the sanitary provisions contained in the Factory Act lies with the local sanitary authority and not with the factory inspector. As regards other points mentioned in the resolutions in respect of which infractions of the law are alleged to occur, I am to say that if you will bring specific instances in which it is alleged that the provisions of the Act are being violated to the notice either of the district inspector of factories in Dublin or Belfast, or of the chief inspector at the Home Office, steps will be at once taken to investigate the matter.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY CUNYNGHAME.

Mr. E. L. Richardson, etc.

The following is the question and answer referred to in the Home Secretary's letter:—

Mr. NANNETTI—I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that at the Congress of Irish Workers, held in Cork last month, a resolution was passed urging the necessity for female factory inspectors in that country, if efficient inspection of mills, factories, and warehouses is to be carried out; and will he be prepared to meet the demand made by the Congress by the appointment of such permanent female factory inspectors.

Mr. RITCHIE—Yes, sir, and I would reply that there is already a staff of "permanent female factory inspectors" whose services are available in Ireland not less than in other parts of the United Kingdom.

At the request of your Committee, Mr. Nannetti, on a subsequent date, further pressed this matter on the Home Secretary's attention, with the following result:—

Mr. NANNETTI—I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will grant a return of the number of visits paid by the female factory inspector to workshops, mills, and factories in Ireland for the year 1901; the time spent on such inspection, and the districts visited; and the names of the inspectors; and if he will say what is the purport of the report he has received as to the efficiency of the periodic visits paid by officers stationed in this country; and if he is aware that the female workers of Belfast have called for the appointment of a female resident inspector.

Mr. RITCHIE—No, sir. I do not see my way to give such a return. If given for one year and for one part of the country it would be very misleading; while if given for a series of years it would involve so much work as seriously to interfere with the proper duties of the lady inspectors. I am well aware that applications for a resident lady inspector have been received from Belfast and from various other industrial centres, but I am satisfied that the present organisation of the Lady Inspectors' Department, by which their services are available at any time in the part of the country where they are most required, is the best.

Mr. NANNETTI—Cannot the right hon. gentleman give any facilities for finding out what visits are paid by these ladies?

Mr. RITCHIE—I have said they are paid as required in all parts of the country. The female inspectors are not allocated to any particular district. They go wherever it is thought desirable they should go.

REPLIES FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

Formal replies acknowledging the receipt of resolutions adopted by Congress have also been received from the Chancellor of the Exchequer

(corn tax), Mr. Joseph Chamberlain (old age pensions), the Chief Secretary, the Prime Minister, the President Board of Trade, the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office, Mr. Horace Plunkett, The Home Secretary (workmen's compensations) and others.

AMENDMENT OF THE WORKMENS COMPENSATION ACT.

Your Committee have pleasure in reporting that the Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, in the manner frequently advocated by Congress, is now within the sphere of accomplishment. On the 13th May, pursuant to notice, the hon. member for Carnarvon (Mr. Wm. Jones), by motion, called upon the Government to "forthwith undertake the amendment of the Act by abolishing the 30 ft. limit, extending its provisions to all accidents, abolishing the fourteen days qualifying period, giving compensation from date of accident, and providing for the more uniform application of the Act." The Government accepted, and the House unanimously agreed to, the motion; the Home Secretary stating that he had every hope of being able to introduce a Bill, amending the Act in the direction indicated, next Session.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD—FAIR WAGES RESOLUTION—INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACT.

Regarding the motion adopted by Congress calling on the Local Government Board to insist on the Fair Wages Resolution being carried out in all contracts for local bodies in Ireland, and also that referring to the notification of consumption under the Infectious Diseases Act, the Vice-President of the Local Government Board (Sir Henry Robinson) writes :—

The Local Government Board have no power under the existing law to insist upon the Fair Wages Resolution being observed by local bodies in Ireland, or to cancel contracts given to employers who may violate its terms. With respect to the suggested conference of Boards of Guardians in Ireland on the subject of the establishment of sanatoriums for the open-air treatment of poor persons suffering from consumption, this, no doubt, might be very desirable, but it is a matter which Boards of Guardians must arrange among themselves, as the L.G.B. do not possess any power of convening conferences of guardians upon any subject.

LOCAL BODIES AND THE FAIR WAGES RESOLUTION.

The non-observance by many public bodies in Ireland of the provisions of the Fair Wages Resolution has engaged the earnest attention of your Committee. A notable case—that of the Limerick County Council Printing Contract—was referred to your Committee by the Board of the Mechanics Institute, in reply to which your Secretary forwarded the following letter, copies thereof being printed and sent to each member of the Limerick County Council and branches of the Land and Labour Associations in the county :—

Irish Trades Union Congress,

Parliamentary Committee,

Dublin, December 13th, 1902.

Dear Sir—I am in receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, forwarding copy of resolution adopted by the Delegate Board of the Limerick Mechanics' In-

stitute, protesting against the action of the Limerick County Council in giving their Printing Contract to a firm in Kerry who do not conform to the terms of the Fair Wages Resolution governing such contracts.

In reply I beg to say that the matter will engage the attention of the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Congress at their meeting next month. In the meantime it is permissible to say that the ratepayers of County Limerick have themselves to blame for electing to representative positions men who so lightly transfer to another county large contracts paid for with money which should, as far as possible, be returnable to those from whom it is levied. It would be interesting to know how much of the money raised in Kerry for contract purposes finds its way into the pockets of the ratepayers of the County Limerick. It is sound and equitable principle, for which the Irish Trades Congress have persistently contended, that, consistent with fair conditions of employment, the ratepayers money should be expended within the district from which it is raised; and why the County Limerick ratepayers should quietly submit to be deprived, in the matter of their Printing Contract, of a return to them of £500 per year of their money which their County Councillors send to Kerry, passes comprehension.

It is not incumbent upon any public body to accept the lowest tender; and if your County Councillors seek to justify their action on that plea I would remind them that in reply to a deputation from our Committee last year, the Local Government Board (through their Chairman, Sir Henry Robinson, K.C.B.) undertook that their Auditors would in all Local Government Contracts have regard to the operation of the Fair Wages Resolution in considering the tenders accepted. Moreover, let me point out that, even in the Local Government Act Amendment Bill (No. 2), which passed through the House of Commons on Friday afternoon last, the Government's policy in this matter of Fair Contracts was made clear by the acceptance of an amendment (now forming part of the Bill) providing that where a tender for any work is accepted which is NOT THE LOWEST, it will be passed by the Auditor if a minute is made at the time showing that the higher tender was accepted for such good and sufficient reasons as (what could have been advanced, had the Limerick County Councillors regarded the interests of their constituents), 1st—That the contract was carried out in accordance with the Fair Wages Resolution laid down by Parliament; and 2ndly—That the ratepayers of the district had a return of their money.

If the Electors of the County Limerick again return to the County Council the men who voted their Printing Contract out of the Fair Houses within the Limerick district, they deserve to have every penny of their rates spent out of Limerick!

Your Board may rely upon my Committee taking such action in this matter as may be to your advantage.—Yours truly,

E. L. RICHARDSON, Hon. Sec.

M. Harvey, Esq.,

Sec. Mechanics' Institute, Limerick.

As some doubt continued to exist as to whether the operation of Section 18 of the Local Government Act (No. 2) would militate against the working of the Fair Wages Resolution, your Committee submitted certain questions to the Local Government Board, to which the following is their reply :—

Local Government Board, Dublin,

21st January, 1903.

Sir—The Local Government Board for Ireland have had before them your letter of the 26th ultimo, in which you inquire "whether under Section 18 of the Local Government Act (No. 2) just passed, a minute stating that 'the lowest

tender is not in accord with the Fair Wages Resolution adopted by the Council will be sufficient warrant for a Council accepting the tender of a contractor whose price may be higher than the lowest tender, but who undertakes to fulfil the contract in accordance with the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons"; and in reply the Board direct me to inform you that they are bound by the section referred to to consider every case on its merits, and they are unable to lay down any general rule as to what would be a sufficient warrant for the non-acceptance of the lowest tender in all cases.

In reply to your further inquiries, I am to state that the Board's Auditors are acquainted with the terms of the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons, and that it does not at present appear necessary to make any specific reference to it in the rules in connection with the audit of accounts.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

H. M. SWAINE, Secretary.

Mr. E. L. Richardson, Hon. Sec. Irish Trades Union Congress.

It will thus be seen that the section of the Local Government Act referred to does not affect the operation of the Fair Wages Resolution in any case where a public body in Ireland *bona-fide* desires its observance in the execution of its contracts.

At their meeting on the 14th February, 1903, your Committee decided to circularise the public bodies of the country; and, accordingly, the following circular was sent to all the County, Rural, and Urban Councils, and to the Corporations and Poor Law Boards of Ireland:—

Irish Trades Union Congress,

Parliamentary Committee,

Dublin, March, 1903.

Dear Sir—Some misunderstanding having arisen as to the scope and meaning of Section 18 of the Local Government Act, No. 2, which came into operation on the 1st January last, regarding the acceptance of the lowest tender in public contracts, the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress respectfully submit the following statement for the favourable consideration of your Board:

Section 18 of the Act referred to lays down:—"Where a Council or Proposal Committee . . . accept a tender for the execution of a public work, which is not the lowest tender . . . a minute shall be made . . . stating the reasons for the non-acceptance of the tender which is lower than the accepted tender. This minute shall be produced at the audit of accounts," etc.

From correspondence with the Local Government Board, and from assurances given by the Chief Secretary in Parliament, and by letter, my Committee are led to believe that when considering tenders (your Council having previously adopted the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons) a minute made stating that "The person submitting the lowest tender, not having agreed to be bound by the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons in the execution of the required work," will be sufficient warrant for your Council accepting, and the L.G.B. Auditor passing, a tender which may not be the lowest.

Under these circumstances, and for the protection of the ratepayers, your contractors, and their workmen, I am instructed to respectfully urge—if your Board have not already done so—that they will take immediate steps to adopt the Fair Wages Resolution, incorporate same in their contract advertisements, tender forms, and bonds, and rigidly enforce observance thereof by their contractors.

On over leaf I beg to submit the text of the Fair Wages Resolution, the Chief Secretary's statements, and copies of the conditions under which contracts for

most of the Public Bodies of the United Kingdom are at present executed, the principles contained in which, in the interests alike of fair employers, and honest workmen, we venture to hope your Board will consider the advisability of adopting.

The favour of a sympathetic reply will be appreciated—on behalf of the Committee of the Irish Trades Congress—by

Yours truly,

E. L. RICHARDSON, Hon. Sec.

The Clerk of the Council.

FAIR WAGES RESOLUTION, ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, FEBRUARY 13th, 1891, AND RE-AFFIRMED MARCH 21st, 1893:—

Resolved—"That, in the opinion of this House, it is the duty of the Government in all Public Contracts to make provision against the evils recently disclosed before the Sweating Committee; to insert such conditions as may prevent the abuse arising from sub-letting, and to make every effort to secure the payment of such wages as are generally accepted as current in each trade for competent workmen."

THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS:—

"... No amendment in the Bill affects or minimises the *bona-fide* carrying out of the Fair Wages Resolution when adopted by a Public Board in Ireland within the purview of the Local Government Act, or subsequent amending Acts. He is quite clear that such was the intention of Parliament."—*Extract from letter to member of Parliamentary Committee, 17th Dec., 1902.*

"There is no reason whatever to apprehend that the clause (section 18, L.G. Act, No. 2, 1902) will militate against the observance of the Fair Wages Resolution which has been communicated to local authorities."—*Reply to question put by Hon. Member for College Green Division of Dublin in Parliament, Nov., 1902.*

FAIR WAGES RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND ENFORCED BY THE DUBLIN CORPORATION:—

Resolved—"That in all future advertisements inviting tenders for works, and in all contracts, the following clause shall be inserted—"The Corporation will require the Contractor whose tender may be accepted, to pay not less than the minimum standard rate of wages at the rate paid in Dublin and district, and to observe the hours and conditions now recognised as proper there; and that in every contract proper penalties shall be provided in case the Contractor shall violate above conditions, or shall sub-let any portion of his contract without consent in writing previously obtained; that it be made a condition of all corporate contracts that Regular Tradesmen only be employed to perform tradesmen's work; and that an official of the Council shall be authorised to inspect all work done by Contractors at such times during its execution as the Council shall direct."

FAIR WAGES RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND ENFORCED BY THE MANCHESTER CORPORATION:—

"Contractors tendering for or executing work under this Council must be paying the standard rate of wages to the whole of their workpeople, and observing the hours of labour recognised by the local organised bodies of workers in the various trades affected in the districts where such work is being executed. No tender shall be accepted from any firm which prohibits its workpeople from joining trade societies. Should the Council have, in its opinion, reasonable grounds for believing that the above conditions are not being complied with, the Contractor shall be required to produce proof (to the satisfaction of the Council) of his compliance with the said conditions. The Contractor shall not assign or under-let the contract or any part of it, or sub-contract, except with the consent of the Council, and upon such conditions as it may think fit; but if the tenderer at the time of tendering states his desire to sub-let any portions of the work not usually done by him, the Council will consent, provided that the sub-contractor is a person approved by it. The principal Contractor shall be responsible, however, for all work done, and for its being carried out under the same conditions as if executed by himself. Clauses embodying the various points herein named shall be inserted in all contracts, and Contractors shall be required to signify their assent to them in writing. Failure to comply with any of the conditions set forth in such clauses shall leave it within the power of the Council to cancel the contract."

LOCAL BODIES AND THE FACTORY ACT. ETC., ETC.

Copies of the resolutions calling on Borough Councils to enforce Part 6 of the Factory Act, 1901, and to appoint only practical plumbers as sanitary and water inspectors, were forwarded to the Corporations of Ireland. The following are a few of the replies received :—

Town Clerk's Office,

Limerick, 13th Juns, 1902.

Dear Sir—I have pleasure in informing you that at the Council meeting held last evening I read your circular letter of the 31st ulto., and the copies of the two resolutions annexed thereto in reference to—(1) Local authorities and the Factory Act, 1901; and (2) Sanitary and water inspectors; when the Council unanimously adopted the resolutions.—Faithfully yours,

WILLIAM M. NOLAN, Town Clerk.

Mr. E. L. Richardson.

Guildhall, Londonderry.

June 11th, 1902.

Dear Sir—Your letter of the 31st ult., enclosing copies of resolutions adopted by the Irish Trades Congress was before the Public Health Committee of the Borough Council at their meeting on Tuesday last, when I was directed to forward you copies of the following resolutions passed by them:—(a) "That the medical superintendent officer of health be instructed to appoint one of the sub-sanitary officers to make a thorough inspection of the city in order that the outworkers may be located, and thereby enable the officers in future to make complete inspection of the homes of outworkers." (b) "That we recommend the committees having the appointment of sanitary and water inspectors to carry out, so far as practical, the resolutions of the Irish Trades Congress."—Your obedient servant,

D.FLETCHER, Executive Sanitary Officer.

Mr. E. L. Richardson, etc.

RAILWAY (PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS) ACT, 1900.

In regard to this matter, which was dealt with both at the Sligo and Cork Congresses, the Board of Trade, after much pressure, propounded a code of rules for the effective working of the Act. All the Irish railway companies objected; and on the 24th and 25th July the Railway and Canal Commissioners sat in Dublin for the purpose of hearing and adjudicating upon the objections. Your Chairman (Mr. Hudson) attended, and in his examination proved to the Court that if the Act of 1900 was ever to be put into practical effect the rules (into the necessity for which the inquiry was held) would have to be ratified. Counsel for the companies, on the other hand, argued that the operation of the rules would seriously interfere with the development of traffic, and that the existing regulations for the protection of the men working on the lines were sufficient. In the result the Court unanimously decided that the rules were for the prevention of accidents, and that they should stand without amendment.

THE TAFF VALE CASE.

Your Committee report that during last session this subject was raised in the House of Commons on a motion by Mr. W. Beaumont

declaring "That legislation is necessary to prevent workmen being placed by judge-made law in a position inferior to that intended by Parliament in 1875." The motion was defeated by the narrow majority of 29. The following Irish members voted against the motion :—Mr. E. M. Archdale (N. Fermanagh), Mr. H. A. Arnold Foster (W. Belfast), Right Hon. John Atkinson (N. Londonderry), Sir Edward Carson (Dublin University), the Marquis of Hamilton (Londonderry City), W. G. Ellison M'Cartney (S. Antrim), and the Hon. R. T. O'Neill (Mid Antrim)—7. The following Irish Members were absent :—Messrs. William Moore, Captain McCalmont, J. B. Lonsdale, John Campbell, Colonel Saunderson, W. Johnston, Sir J. Haslett, John Hammond, Samuel Young, Thomas M'Govern, Major Jameson, Captain Donelan, W. O'Doherty, Michael M'Cartan, Captain Hill, T. R. Corbett, W. E. Leckey, T. Harrington, William Field, James M'Cann, J. J. Clancy, J. Jordan, Colonel Nolan, W. J. Duffy, John Murphy, John O'Donnell, M. J. Minch, Haviland Burke, John Gordon, J. P. Farrell, T. M. Healy, Thos. O'Donnell, R. Ambrose, J. L. Carew, Patrick White, James Daly, P. J. H. Carvill, Dr. Thompson, John Cullinan, T. W. Russell, J. J. O'Shee, P. J. Kennedy, Sir Thomas Esmonde, and Denis Cogan—44.

PENRHYN QUARRY DISPUTE.

On Monday, the 27th April, the action of Lord Penrhyn in this unfortunate and prolonged labour struggle was raised by a vote of censure on the Government, proposed by Mr. Asquith on the part of the official Opposition. Only twenty-four Irish Members supported the motion as follows :—Blake, Carvill, Delaney, Devlin, C. R.; Doogan, Field, Hemphill, Joyce, London, McVeagh, McKillop, Mitchell, Mooney, Murphy, Nannetti, Nolan, J.; O'Brien, K.; O'Brien, Pat; O'Brien, P. J.; O'Connor, T. P.; Redmond, W.; Russell, Sloan, Sullivan.

In this connexion the following letter was forwarded to Mr. J. E. Redmond :—

Irish Trades Union Congress,

Parliamentary Committee,

Dublin, April 22nd, 1903.

Dear Mr. Redmond—I am requested by the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress to ask the support of the Irish Parliamentary Party for the motion in reference to the Penrhyn Quarry Dispute which will, we understand, be discussed on Monday next, the 27th inst., and also for Mr. Shackleton's Trades Disputes Bill, the second reading of which is fixed for May 8th. We, of course, recognise the delicate position the Irish members now occupy in view of the paramount importance to all classes in this country of the Irish Land Bill; yet the importance of the principles affecting the organized workers of both countries, involved in the matters above mentioned, leads us to hope that the Irish members will be able to support them without jeopardising the situation.—I am, yours truly,

E. L. RICHARDSON, Hon. Sec.

J. E. Redmond, Esq., M.P.

TRADES DISPUTES BILL.

At their meeting in February, your Committee carefully considered the Trades Disputes Bill, and while expressing grave doubts as to the effect of Clause 3, relating to the protection of trade union funds, which then stood as part of the Bill, they decided, on a division, to support the second reading. Subsequently, however, the 3rd Clause was dropped, and the Bill, which then dealt simply with peaceful picketing and conspiracy came on for Second Reading on Friday, the 8th May, resulting in the defeat of the measure by a majority of 30 votes in a very full House. The Government, however, have appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into and report as to what alteration of the law is necessary to bring about the *status quo* anterior to the decisions in the Taff Vale and other cases. The following is the division list, so far as Ireland is concerned :—

For the Bill—W. Abraham, R. Ambrose, E. Barry, J. Boland, J. Campbell (Armagh), P. G. H. Carvill, J. Clancy, D. Cogan, T. J. Condon, E. Crean, J. Cullinan, W. Delaney, A. Donelan, P. C. Doogan, Sir T. Esmonde, P. French, W. Field, M. J. Flavin, J. C. Flynn, J. Gilhooly, J. Hammond, T. Harrington, J. P. Hayden, T. M. Healy, C. H. Hemphill, M. Joyce, H. A. Law, E. Leamy, W. Lundon, Dr. M. McDonnell, J. G. S. McNeill, J. McKean, W. McKillop, E. Mitchell, J. Mooney, J. Murphy, J. P. Nannetti, J. Nolan, J. F. X. O'Brien, K. O'Brien, P. O'Brien, P. J. O'Brien, W. O'Brien, J. O'Connor, T. P. O'Connor, J. O'Donnell, T. O'Donnell, J. O'Dowd, C. O'Kelly, J. O'Kelly, P. O'Shaugnessy, J. J. O'Shee, P. J. Power, M. Reddy, J. E. Redmond, W. Redmond, J. Roche, T. W. Russell, D. D. Sheehan, T. H. Sloan, D. Sullivan, J. Tully, J. Wood, S. Young—64.

Against the Bill—H. O. Arnold-Forster, J. Atkinson, J. H. Campbell (Dublin University), Sir E. H. Carson, C. C. Craig, J. E. Gordon, Marquis of Hamilton, Sir J. H. Haslett, J. B. Lonsdale, Colonel McCalmont, Hon. R. T. O'Neill, G. W. Wolff—12.

Absent—Wm. Moore, Col. Saunderson, T. McGovern, Major Jameson, W. O'Doherty, E. McFadden, T. L. Corbett, J. McVeagh, J. McCann, J. Jordan, C. R. Devlin, Wm. O'Malley, Col. Nolan, W. Duffy, M. Minch, J. Devlin, J. O'Mara, E. Haviland-Burke, P. A. McHugh, J. P. Farrell, E. Blake, J. Dillon, Pk. White, J. L. Carew, Dr. Thompson, G. Murnaghan, P. J. Kennedy—27.

IRISH CONSERVATIVE M.P.'S AND THE CONGRESS.

Your Committee regret to have to report that, equally with the Nationalist Members of Parliament, the assistance of the Conservative Members was sought for the purpose of giving effect to the resolutions adopted by Congress, but not even an acknowledgment was vouchsafed to your Secretary's letter of the 1st June, covering copies of resolutions upon which action was desirable, addressed to the Right Hon. Colonel Saunderson, M.P., at the House of Commons. This is a matter which the northern members of Congress might look to.

RURAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Among the measures passed last session was an Act for the purpose of establishing village libraries. While this measure does not entirely meet the resolution on this question adopted by Congress, it will have a material effect, if taken advantage of, in educating the workers, especially of the rural districts. It provides that the Libraries Act of 1894 may be adopted by any Rural District Council on a 2d. rate, and that any Rural District Council, as a library authority, may enter into arrangements with any school manager for the use of any school for library purposes, and for the care of the books and the management of the library.

It further provides that any County Council may, out of the funds at its disposal for technical education, make a grant-in-aid to any library authority for the purchase of books or towards the maintenance of any public library established by any rural authority. It is to be hoped this useful measure will be availed of by the workers in the rural districts. A requisition signed by twenty ratepayers, presented to the District Council compels that body to take a vote of the ratepayers as to whether a library shall be established under this Act in their district.

DEPUTATION TO THE WAR OFFICE.

On the 4th September, in accordance with arrangements previously made, your Chairman and Mr. Walker, P.L.G. (Belfast), waited on the War Office authorities with reference to the grievances of Irish workers against that Department. They beg to present their report as follows :—

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Brodrick, we were received by Sir Fleetwood Wilson, K.C.B., and had the opportunity of laying before him the grievances of the Irish Workmen belonging to the several industries affected. There were also present the Assistant Director of Army Contracts, and the Assistant Director of Army Ordnance. We pointed out the necessity of the appointment of an official examiner in the receiving depot at Arbour Hill, Dublin, stating, that in the opinion of the representatives of the various trades interested this was a great deterrent to desirable contractors, who, if now offering to tender had to do so at the disadvantage of adding the freight charge to and from Woolwich for examination, we quoted from the Duke of Connaught's evidence before the War Department Organization Committee, and asked that effect be given to his recommendations, believing that all barrack stores and requisites could, if reasonable encouragement were given, be manufactured in Ireland for the stationed garrisons in the country; and that such means of production would be the cheaper method of supply and fairer to the people. During the course of the interview, which lasted over one hour, the statements made were minutely discussed. We were informed that, although Dublin, Belfast, Cork and Galway were mentioned as places of manufacture of brushes, only one Dublin firm had tendered for work. This firm had supplied a quantity for the last two years, but the quality was not up to the standard desired. One firm only tendered for and supplied wagons, and their work was very satisfactory. One firm supplied clothing, which was also quite satisfactory. It had not come to the knowledge of the Department that there were any firms in Ireland, who could, or who desired to tender for saddlery; the services of such contractors would have been very acceptable. The work given to Walsall during the past two years had been so heavy that the apprentices had made wages up to three pounds per week. He (Sir Fleetwood Wilson) assured us that the policy of the Department was not for restriction, but

extension in scope of contracts. They desired that an effort should be made by all concerned, to have the names of all those who were able to contract for any requisites, and especially saddlery, placed on the lists. He also intimated that, if any names of likely contractors for the several stores were sent, either by the firms direct, or through the medium of the P.C., the War Office would gladly avail themselves of their offers to tender. Extensive notes were taken of the representations made, which he undertook to lay before the Secretary of State immediately.

(Signed) WALTER HUDSON (Dublin).

WILLIAM WALKER (Belfast).

Your Committee are glad to report, however, that their agitation on this question has not been altogether fruitless. On the 6th May the hon member for West Wicklow (Mr. James O'Connor) had a motion on the notice-paper of the House calling attention to the boycotting of Ireland in the matter of military supplies, which he withdrew at Lord Stanley's request. Subsequently, in reply to a question, the hon. member elicited the fact that "extended powers had been given to the Commander-in-chief in Ireland, and to other general officers commanding to purchase locally. General instructions had also been given to officers entrusted with purchasing for the Government to buy as far as possible local produce, including all articles necessary for military supplies." From the report of the committee appointed to consider the existing conditions under which Canteens and regimental institutes are conducted, which was issued on the 14th May, it would appear that the powers given to general officer here referred to include canteen supplies.

WORKINGMEN MAGISTRATES.

In order to test the value of the replies given to Mr. Nannetti's questions in the House of Commons last session, regarding the appointment of Workingmen Magistrates in Ireland (see last year's report), your Committee decided that the names returned to your Secretary from the Trades Councils of the County Boroughs of Ireland should be submitted to the Lord Lieutenants of the county boroughs interested, and to the Lord Chancellor. Replies of a more or less satisfactory character have been received, but in only one case, that of Councillor Robert Gageby, a valued member of Congress, has the request been complied with, that gentleman having (on the recommendation of the Lord Mayor) been appointed in September last to the Commission of the Peace for the County Borough of Belfast. At your Secretary's request the following additional question was put:—

Mr. NANNETTI—I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, in accordance with the frequently-expressed desire of the workers of Ireland, the names of a number of representative workmen have been submitted to the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Lieutenants for the County Boroughs of Dublin, Belfast, Cork, and Londonderry, from which a selection might be made for appointments to the Commission of the Peace for those boroughs respectively; whether in only one instance, on the recommendation of the Lord Mayor, the Lord Lieutenant has appointed Councillor Robert Gageby to the Commission of the Peace for the County Borough of Belfast; and whether, in view of the fact that numerous representative workingmen have been

appointed to the Commission of the Peace in England, the right hon. gentleman will represent to His Excellency and the Lord Chancellor the advisability of satisfying the desires of the workers of Ireland in this matter.

Mr. WYNDHAM—It is altogether outside my province to intervene in the manner suggested. I would refer the hon. member to my reply to a similar question put to me on the 11th June last by the hon. member for South Down.

CORK PORK BUTCHERS DISPUTE.

It will be remembered that at the rising of the Cork Congress your Committee were engaged in trying to bridge the difficulty which had arisen between Messrs. Lunham Brothers and the Pork Butchers Society. Messrs. Walter Hudson and George Leahy were the mediators; and, having had a lengthened interview with the employers, they reported to the men that, in order to effect an amicable settlement, Messrs. Lunham Brothers were prepared to immediately re-instate half the number of men then out, and to take on the remainder as circumstances arose. Your Committee, with one dissentient, recommended the acceptance of these terms; but the men declined. It was then decided that Messrs. Hudson and Leahy should attend the men's meeting at 10 a.m. on the 22nd May, to get from them the utmost limit of their concession, and to again interview the employers; but in the result no further advance was made on either side. Your Committee then, at their meeting following the failure of these negotiations, adopted the following resolution:—

The Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trade Union Congress regret that the terms secured by their deputation to close the dispute with Messrs. Lunham Brothers have not been accepted by the men."

The wisdom of your Committee's recommendation is illustrated by the fact that the men at length succumbed to the manager's terms, and a serious breach in the Pork Butchers' Union ensued.

THE CORK "CONSTITUTION."

In regard to the long-standing dispute between the proprietors of the *Cork Constitution* and the Typographical Association, your Committee having failed to obtain an interview with the management, adopted the following resolution:—

That the Committee having had under consideration the managing director's letter, in which he alleges that the dispute was really caused to a large extent by the local trades' societies lending themselves to a political assault on the "*Cork Constitution*," and that another large Irish daily paper, which had for years previously been produced by non-union labour, was left untouched, and having made close inquiry into the truth or otherwise of these allegations, have arrived at the decision that they have no foundation in fact; the Committee farther regret that no advance has been made by the proprietors of that paper to heal the long-standing dispute between them and the Cork Typographical Society."

IRISH INSTITUTE OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Your committee having by resolution approved the project for establishing an Institute of Commerce and Industry in Ireland, appointed your chairman and secretary to represent them at the great Industrial Conference in Dublin, 'on the 15th April. Your secretary was further appointed to the general and special committees charged with the drafting of a scheme which was finally adopted on the 18th May. Your committee beg to report that the Constitution of the Institute provides that "Presidents of Trades Councils recognised by the Trades Congress of Ireland are honorary members of the Council," and that trade societies similarly recognised are admitted to the Institute on subscribing £2 annually. The objects and functions of the Institute are as follows :—

1. To promote the development of Irish Commerce and Industries by every legitimate means.
2. To bring about the co-operation of all connected with or interested in Irish Commercial and Industrial questions, whether as Manufacturers, Merchants, Traders, Employers, Employees, or otherwise, and to work in harmony with other Bodies having objects similar to those of the Institute.
3. To advertise Irish products by means of Depots, Exhibitions and Prizes, Exhibits at Exhibitions, dissemination of Literature, etc.
4. To investigate and advise regarding the best markets at home and abroad.
5. To organise bureaux of information on all subjects of Commercial and Industrial interest.
6. To encourage the development of natural resources, the revival of old and the starting of new industries, and to examine and when advisable to report upon any such schemes properly submitted for investigation.
7. To secure the reform and extension of transport facilities.
8. To obtain needful legislation.
9. To investigate questions of an economic and financial nature affecting the Commercial and Industrial interests of this Country.
10. To collect and employ funds for Commercial and Industrial Education, and for Scientific and skilled service in the departments of the Institute.
11. To afford facilities for the settlement of Commercial and Industrial differences by arbitration or negotiation.
12. To take all or any such steps as the Council of the Institute may from time to time consider advisable for the furtherance of the objects of the Institute, provided, however, that the Council or Institute shall not supply capital, or become responsible for the financing or working of any Industrial or Trading Enterprise.

DEPUTATION TO SCOTCH CONGRESS.

Your Committee beg to annex report of Deputation to the Scotch Trades Union Congress :—

Gentlemen—We beg to report that, in accordance with the resolution passed at the Congress held in Cork, we attended the Scottish Trades Union Congress, held in Ayr, on the 29th and 30th April, and 1st and 2nd May, 1903.

There were 120 delegates present, and the Chairman said that was a larger number than had attended at any of the previous Congresses.

Your representatives were cordially received, and both were permitted to address the meeting on Thursday, and in doing so conveyed your fraternal greetings and expressed your sympathy with them in their labours, and invited the Congress to send a deputation to the Congress to be held in Newry. It was resolved to send a deputation to Ireland, and the names of the two selected are Baillie Mallinson, Edinburgh, and Mr. David Gilmour, Miner's Federation.

It seemed to us that the main feature of the discussions that took place was that on securing direct labour representation. The resolution dealing with this question occupied a considerable time of the Congress, so many of the members desiring to speak to it, and the question appeared to us to be one in which the delegates were most interested. In previous and subsequent motions it was difficult to prevent references to the benefits that would accrue from having men elected from the ranks of labour to represent it in the House of Commons. It was urged upon the delegates the necessity for bringing the matter before their respective societies, with a view not only of obtaining the required funds to secure labour representation, but to call attention to the fact that if we Trades Unionists desire an alteration in the Trades Union law it must be done by sending suitable men to Parliament to represent us.

Taken altogether the effect of the holding of such Congresses must undoubtedly be to give tone and greater vigour to Trades Unionism in these countries, and thus advance the labour cause generally.

We deem it right to thank the delegates who selected us to convey their good wishes to their fellow Trades Unionists in Scotland, and at the same time we trust that in the discharge of that pleasing and important duty we performed it to their satisfaction.

(Signed) ROBERT GAGEBY, J.P., T.C.
PATRICK SHELLY.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

The following questions, in addition to those already mentioned, were put by Mr. Nannetti at the instance of your Committee, for whose services they venture to again accord him the thanks of Congress :—

IRISH RAILWAYS—STATE CONTROL.

Mr. NANNETTI—I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a resolution passed at the Irish Trades Congress stating that the time has arrived when the Irish railways should be owned and worked by the State in the interest of the taxpayers, the travelling public, and the commercial and agricultural community; and whether, with this object, he will advise the Government to appoint a special Commission to sit and examine witnesses in Ireland with a view of reporting to Parliament on this question.

Mr. WYNDHAM—No, sir.

CORN TAX.

Mr. NANNETTI—I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has received a copy of a resolution passed at the Irish Trades Congress held at Cork recently, protesting against the proposed tax on corn, and stating that it falls exclusively on the working classes; and whether, in view of similar resolutions from the workers generally, he will consider the advisability of substituting some other article which will not have such an effect on the circumstances of the poor of the whole country.

Sir M. HICKS BEACH—I have received this resolution, but I do not think that the description of the duty as falling exclusively on the working classes is at all correct, and I am not prepared to take the course suggested in the Question.

This tax will cease from the 1st July next.

WAR OFFICE AND THE TAILORS.

Mr. NANNETTI asked the Secretary of State for War whether his attention had been drawn to a circular issued by the War Office to commanding officers of regiments in the United Kingdom, in which certain private firms were recommended to officers in which to place their orders for their uniforms and other necessaries of outfit; whether he was aware that a regimental order had also been issued to subordinate officers to a similar effect; and would he say whether these firms had been selected after being invited to tender; and, if so, were the tenders open to competition.

Lord STANLEY—No such circular had been issued. A circular had been issued by the War Office direct to a large number of firms of tailors asking for their terms for supplying officers on joining with uniforms if cash payments were made.

Mr. NANNETTI—If I supply the noble lord with a copy of the circular in which three firms are specifically mentioned, will he make farther inquiries, and will he ascertain whether orders sent to tailors in Dublin have been cancelled in consequence of this.

Lord STANLEY—There was no necessity at all for that. The whole question had reference to the cost at which tailors would supply uniforms for cash. They wished to make arrangements whereby the cost of outfits would be cheapened.

Mr. NANNETTI asked was it by the War Office instructions that commanding officers were to act as canvassers for private firms.

Mr. FLYNN asked were not Irish firms excluded from the list that had been circulated.

At a later date :—

Mr. FLYNN asked the Financial Secretary to the War Office, in reference to the circular issued by his Department to a certain number of firms of tailors asking for terms for supplying officers with uniforms, whether circulars were sent to any tailor firms in Dublin, or in Cork, or in Limerick; and, if not, would he explain why Irish firms have been excluded.

Lord STANLEY—Yes, circulars were sent to Irish firms of good standing. Any firm of good standing is at liberty to send in price lists to the War Office.

Captain DONELAN—What commission is the War Office to receive from favoured firms?

The SPEAKER—Order, order.

We are, fellow-delegates,

Yours fraternally,

WALTER HUDSON, Chairman.

W. J. LEAHY, T.C.

WILLIAM CAVE, Alderman,

WILLIAM WALKER, P.L.G.

Vice-Chairman.

JAMES CHAMBERS.

GEORGE LEAHY, Treasurer.

HUGH McMANUS.

JAMES McCARRON, T.C.

E. L. RICHARDSON, Hon. Secretary.

NEWRY, May 30th, 1903.

On the motion that the Report of the Parliamentary Committee be adopted,

Mr. JOHN MURPHY complained that no official intimation of the holding of the Industrial Conference in Dublin had been sent to the Belfast Trades Council.

Mr. RICHARDSON said he thought it was a clerical error, as it had been intended that all Trades Councils should be represented.

Mr. HAYES said that had the Belfast Council received an invitation they would have been represented at the Conference.

The PRESIDENT said it was unfortunate that the Belfast Council had been overlooked; but it was not the fault of the General or Executive Committees of the Conference. It was the fault of those who sent out the invitations.

Mr. DALY (Dublin) said that at last year's Congress a resolution was almost unanimously adopted in favour of the Parliamentary Committee formulating a scheme for a pledge-bound labour party in Ireland, and there was not a line about it in the report, notwithstanding that on the previous day they had listened to a very able discourse from the Secretary of the Labour Representation Committee. He dissented from the report in so far as the omission of any reference to the resolution of last year was concerned.

The President replied that the Parliamentary Committee had considered the whole question, and viewing generally the political opinion of the industrial workers of Ireland, the Committee thought that it was a most difficult matter to formulate any scheme at the present time which would be acceptable to the workers. They hailed Mr. Daly's criticism with pleasure, and the way was open for them now to take such steps as would give a practical incentive to the trades throughout Ireland in going before the Standing Orders Committee and suggesting a resolution which, supported by Congress, would take such a concrete form that they would be pledged to become part and parcel of some movement having for its object labour representation in a direct manner.

Mr. JOHN MURPHY (Belfast) suggested that the following should be added to the report:—"That this Congress of Irish trades unionists heartily recommends the trade unions of this country immediate affiliation with the 'Labour Representation Committee' to promote the formation of independent labour representation in Ireland."

The PRESIDENT said that the more practical way to deal with the matter would be to bring it before the Standing Orders' Committee to approve of a resolution to be brought before Congress.

This course was agreed to.

Mr. LUMSDEN (Dublin) thought the Committee had been negligent in their duty in regard to the sub-letting of Contracts by the Blackrock District Council, Co. Dublin.

Mr. RICHARDSON having replied, the report was adopted unanimously.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR DISPUTES.

The Standing Orders having been suspended, Mr. GEORGE LEAHY (Dublin) said it would ill become them as Irish working men if they did

not at the earliest moment call attention to the manner in which the Royal Commission on this matter of Trades Disputes had been appointed. They were all aware of the rejection of Mr. Shackleton's Bill. Sixty-four of the Irish Party turned up in the House to support it, but he was sorry that the rest, for some reason or another, had been absent from their Parliamentary work. This was a matter in which they were especially under an obligation to stand by the working men, because it was characteristic of the British Government that when anything affecting Ireland generally was concerned they opposed any beneficial measures proposed. The new movement of the employers was practically an attempt on their part to appropriate the funds of the Trades Unions. Therefore, it behoved them to enter the most emphatic protest against the constitution of that Royal Commission. It consisted of five—of whom one was an employer, another a King's counsel, another a Government official, and another a lawyer; as for the fifth, Mr. Sydney Webb, although not directly representative of the Trades Unionists of the country, he (Mr. Leahy) was still bound to admit that he was a good friend of Trades Unionism. But the Trades Unionists of the country had not a single representative, either English, Scotch, or Irish, on that Commission, and therefore it was their duty to protest against the insult that had been offered to the working men and Labour party of the Country. They considered that the true interests of Trades Unionism had been flouted. He moved the following resolution:—
"That this Congress regrets the rejection of the Trades Disputes Bill, and desires to express its extreme dissatisfaction on at the composition of the Royal Commission of Inquiry, which does not warrant the confidence of, and which this Congress therefore cannot recommend to, the Trades Unionists of Ireland."

Mr. McMANUS (Belfast) seconded the adoption of the motion with neither joy nor pain; because he believed the Commission was a farce and a fraud, designed to throw dust in the eyes of the electorate of the country. All the utility of a Trades Unionist on such Commission would be to bring out a few salient facts, and hold a brief for the working men, but his effective use would be nil. He believed Mr. Sydney Webb would return a minority report. But in spite of all, he said he did not think such a representative assembly as this should let the opportunity pass of expressing their dissatisfaction with the constitution of the Commission. They might do as they pleased with the resolution.

Mr. WALKER, P.L.G. (Belfast), agreed with Mr. McManus that the constitution of the Commission was a small matter; the really vital question was what they would accept as their position as Trades Unionists in the country. He proposed the following addition to the resolution:—
"And further, we pledge ourselves not to accept any settlement which does not absolutely protect trade union funds by prohibiting all actions or injunctions for damages against trade unions or similar organisations because of any alleged illegality on the part of a member or official thereof." The only means by which they could protect their funds was by declaring in a firm voice that they would not submit to such an unjust law as that which rendered a union of thousands liable to forfeit its

funds because of the action of some member in a small town or village. If they had the courage of their convictions, and desired to safeguard the funds which accumulated for different objects, it was necessary that they should at once declare that whatever might be the result of the Commission of Inquiry, and whatever might be the action of Parliament, the Trades Unionists of that country would go on agitating again and again. Even Sir Godfrey Lushington himself admitted that the funds of a Trades Union could not by the laws as they stood be confiscated, but the judges had decided otherwise. In conclusion he expressed the opinion that it would be their better plan to give evidence before the Commission, so that all might appear. That would not, of course, affect the attitude they would adopt towards the finding of the Commission one way or another.

Mr. HUGHES (Belfast) seconded. It was ridiculous and unfair that because, say, of a mistake of judgment on his part or Mr. Walker's, as officials of their unions, therefore their funds, constituting their only and entire banking account, should be taken from them.

Councillor McCARRON (Derry) deprecated the vehemence of Mr. Walker's appeal to them to protect their funds. He accused Mr. Walker of making it look as if they who had passed a report to the opposite effect were not anxious to protect their funds. He also asserted that it was inconsistent to pass an addendum of that kind, which was practically a vote of confidence in the commission, after the original motion stating that they were entirely dissatisfied with a body so constituted.

Mr. WALKER—Not at all.

Mr. DINNEEN (Limerick) supported the motion, considering that Mr. Walker's amendment or motion was not at all necessary. Let them fight the matter out. Some of their fellow-countrymen had suffered in jail for their opinions, and they, the Trade Unionists, had more at stake than some of these. If their funds were in danger let them draw them out when the time came.

Mr. ATCHESON (Belfast) also supported the motion. Was it possible that they should allow themselves to be robbed of their accumulated savings because it was merely the law at the present moment?

Mr. HAYES (Belfast) supported Mr. Walker. He was surprised at Councillor McCarron trying to confuse the issue. They had no confidence in the Commission, but that need not prevent them giving evidence. At all events, they would maintain a steady footing, and not give way, in spite of the findings of the Commission. The position was growing more disagreeable for them every day because of the recent decisions, and threats were being made against them that a few years ago they would not have been insulted with.

Mr. DARCUS (Belfast) advised the Congress not to anticipate the report of the Commission, which he saw no reason to think would be hostile. He thought, too, there was a misconception about the danger to the funds. A Trades Union could not be made to give up its funds unless by the action of a member or official "who was acting up to the rules of the society."

Mr. WALKER—Nonsense.

Mr. DARCUS cited a letter of the Solicitor-General of England laying down his view to that effect.

MESSRS. CHAMBERS (Dublin), McCARTHY, T.C. (Kilkenny), HARVEY (Belfast), McLoughlin (Dublin), also supported the motion.

Mr. MURPHY did not think any substantial case had been made out by the Legislature for placing the funds of the unions as they were placed now—outside the pale of the law. It was argued that Trade Unions should be as liable for the action of their officials and members as employers were for the action of their agents. But Trades Unionists were liable to imprisonment for a breach of the law in the case of these labour matters, whilst employers and their agents were entirely immune. Mr. Darcus thought the Commission might possibly report in favour of the workmen, but they might as well expect the safety of mice in the company of a cat. He hoped, however, that Mr. Darcus's optimistic outlook would be justified. If that case the Government would have the confidence of the workmen of the country restored to them. He accepted Mr. Walker's addendum.

Mr. LUMSDEN said it was surprising to find the North of Ireland delegates expressing themselves as they had done, when there was not one of the North of Ireland Parliamentary representatives who did not vote against the Bill.

Mr. WALKER—No, sir.

Mr. LUMSDEN—Very well, sir. I accept you. (Laughter and applause.) A large percentage, however, of the Northern members voted dead against the Bill, and he was surprised that the Northern Trades Unionists had not taken action.

Mr. WALKER—We have taken action.

Mr. LUMSDEN—Very well, sir. He went on to say that the Northern Trades Unionists had not taken any opportunity of giving expression to their opinion of the action of their members of Parliament.

Mr. WALKER denied this.

Mr. McMANUS—That's altogether untrue.

Mr. LEAHY said he would refuse to accept Mr. Walker's amendment, because it was a kind of recognition of the right of the Commission as constituted to give a report at all.

The amendment was then put and lost by 44 votes against 10. The motion was carried unanimously.

ADDRESSES BY THE SCOTTISH DELEGATION.

Mr. DAVID GILMOUR (Scottish Miners' Federation) said he bore the goodwill of his fellow trades unionists to their friends. In the course of an interesting speech, he cited the case of a mine in Yorkshire in which the men struck work. After six months' duration of the strike the employers felt that they would have to adopt different measures, or it would continue for six years. So they procured a man against whom proceedings had previously been taken for the support of his wife and children to represent himself as a bona-fide, respectable, and typical trades unionist. By using this tool the employers were able to stop the supplies, and the strike was lost. There was now an action against the Miners' Federation for £120,000 damages, because it had paid out its own funds, a proceeding which the employers contended was illegal. It was, therefore, very necessary for them to keep united and strong. He went

on to make an appeal on behalf of the unskilled labourer, 'who, he said, had been downtrodden hitherto. He gave a sketch of the history and advancement of the Miners' Federation. In conclusion, he said they had now all come to this conclusion, that if they wished to protect themselves they must have political power. He criticised strongly the lassitude of the House of Commons, and said a view of that assembly when the Miners' Bill was being discussed would be enough to convince any of them that their only safety lay in the introduction of a new and vigorous element into Parliament.

Bailie MALLINSON (Edinburgh) followed. He prophesied that the time was very nearly at hand when there would be such an upheaval of labour opinion that the present political parties would be shattered, and the sharp political cleavage that had hitherto existed amongst the workers would be done away with. In conclusion, he conveyed the invitation of the Scottish Trades Congress to them to send delegates to that body's next meeting.

The PRESIDENT entirely endorsed what had been said by the Scottish delegates, and emphasised the necessity of their throwing aside all petty political differences and banding themselves together against their common opponents—the capitalists.

Councillor McCARTHY (Kilkenny) moved a vote of thanks to the Scottish delegates, and also spoke disapprovingly of the manner in which Parliamentary representatives as a rule carried out their duty to their constituents.

Mr. COATES (Cork) seconded, and the vote was passed unanimously. Bailie MALLINSON responded.

REPORT FROM STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE—(3).

On the motion of Mr. J. LUMSDEN, seconded by Mr. WM. MOORE, a report from the Standing Orders Committee providing a time limit for speeches (Standing Order 8), and recommending that the mover and seconder only of each non-contentious motion be permitted to speak, was adopted.

WAR DEPARTMENT CONTRACTS.

Mr. FRANCIS FARRELL moved:—

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, the practice of the War Office of importing military waggons into Ireland is detrimental to the trade of this Country, and that, as we have to pay for the maintenance of the army here, we consider we are entitled to a proportionate share of the work in connection with the War Department in Ireland, and further, this Congress desires to point out to His Majesty's Government that Irish traders do not receive anything like their due proportion of the contracts for supplies, and especially is this so in regard to the contract for brushes, as at present the Irish manufacturers are obliged to forward their goods to the receiving depot at Woolwich, paying expensive freight charges, with the risk of rejection through deterioration in transit. We therefore instruct the Parliamentary Committee to do all in their power to secure the re-opening of a receiving depot, in Dublin, and so impress upon the Government the justice of our demand for an equitable share of the contracts for the supply of His Majesty's forces in this country."

Mr. JOHN MOLONEY (Dublin), in seconding the motion referred to the return obtained by the Secretary of the Congress through the medium of the member for College-green, which showed that the contract value of brushes sent from the receiving depot at Woolwich, for the use of the troops stationed in Ireland, averaged £3,000 per annum.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

NOMINATIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the following delegates had been nominated for service on the Parliamentary Committee for the next twelve months, the election to take place at 10-30 a.m. on Wednesday:—

Chambers, James, Saddler, (Dublin); Cronin, J., Carpenter, (Limerick); Daly, P. T., Compositor, (Dublin); Duignan, J. T., Brass-founder, (Dublin); Dinneen, Stephen, Baker, (Limerick); Farren, John, Tinsmith, (Dublin); Hudson, Walter, A.S.R.S, (Dublin); Hughes, Thomas, Engineer, (Belfast); Leahy, George, Plasterer, (Dublin); Leahy, W. J., T.C., Cooper, (Dublin); M'Carron, James, T.C., Tailor, (Londonderry); M'Namara, R. S., Stonecutter, (Cork); M'Manus, Hugh, Compositor, (Belfast); Sheehan, T. J., Electrician, (Dublin); Treacy, Joseph, Painter, (Dublin); Walker, William, P.L.G., Carpenter, (Belfast).

THE SECRETARYSHIP.

Mr. E. L. RICHARDSON (Compositor), Dublin, being the only delegate nominated for the Secretaryship was declared by the Chairman unanimously re-elected.

THE FAIR CONTRACTS CLAUSE IN IRISH PUBLIC PRINTING CONTRACTS.

Mr. HUGH McMANUS (Belfast) proposed:—

"That the Irish Trades Congress learns with regret that many county councils and other public bodies in Ireland elected by popular suffrage still neglect to adopt and enforce the Fair Wages Resolution, to prevent sweating and sub-letting in public contracts; and we hereby call upon all public boards to have the Fair Wages Resolution inserted in all tenders for work paid for by the ratepayers, thereby prohibiting unfair contractors imposing upon the local rates, preventing scamped work, and dishonest competition. That employers paying less than the minimum rate of wages, or not conforming to the working conditions and hours of labour accepted as 'fair' by the trade union in connection with the class of work contracted for, cannot be recognised as fulfilling the provisions of the Fair Wages Resolution, and this Congress protests against the pernicious practice of subsidising newspapers by public advertisements, paid for out of public money, which are produced under unfair conditions outside the area of taxation, and in which they possess neither legitimate circulation or weight of journalistic influence, and further, this Congress, (in view of recent discussions and disclosures in the House of Commons in respect to the Contracts entered into by H. M. Stationery Office and firms who execute the larger portion of the work outside the area of their Chief Offices and principal business premises,

and entirely away from the district where the tender emanated from), is of opinion that a serious breach of the House of Commons Fair Contracts Resolution is involved therein, unless it be provided that a fair and equitable minimum rate of wages and working conditions be inserted in the tender, and complied with by the Contractors where the work is executed, and a penal clause inserted in all public contracts to provide for liquidated damages for any infringement of the contract."

He said that local effort should deal with public Boards. One Irish member of Parliament who misrepresented his constituency considered 18s. 6d. a week quite enough for a tradesmen, while another was of opinion that 2s. 6d. a day was sufficient. Few had had the misfortune to run across so many public boards and so-called representatives of popular opinion, and cited two cases—that of the celebrated gem of old Ireland, Jasper Tully—(laughter)—and Mr. Carew.

Mr. O'CONNOR (Limerick) seconded. He said in Limerick they found the landlords, the Dunravens, the D.L.'s &c., very amenable to reason, but the local National representatives, the United Irish Leaguers, were in favour of everything but fair wages. They must return Labour members, Orange or Green, to their local public councils.

Mr. DARCUS (Belfast), Mr. CASSIDY (Derry), and Mr. DALY (Dublin), supported the resolution which was adopted.

RAILWAYMEN'S GRIEVANCES.

Mr. JAMES HARVEY, A.S.R.S., (Belfast) moved:—

(a). "That, in the opinion of this Congress, the grave defects in the Railway Regulation Act, 1871, as revealed in the case of the Monasterevan accident of November 12th, 1901, demands an immediate amendment of the law, to the extent of making it a responsible duty of the Board of Trade to prosecute Railway Companies in all cases of neglect, to report under statutory law accidents to their servants which occur on any railway."

(b). That this Congress views with deep concern the increased violations of the Hours Act of 1893. Also, the district weakness in administration on the part of the President of the Board of Trade in giving a prior notice to the Railway Companies for a return of hours worked in December, 1902, and thereby securing a statement which is not in accordance with the general conditions under which the companies keep their men on duty from time of starting to that of finishing. We further consider that the time has arrived when the onus of complaint should be removed from the men to the State Department, who shall be responsible for making enquiry into the hours by inspecting officers who have a practical knowledge of the work."

(c). "That in view of the nature of the avocations of railwaymen and other workmen, and the various precautions which should be provided for the protection of life and limb, immediate steps should be taken to secure such alteration in the law as shall enable relatives of workmen who meet their death while following their employment to be represented at Coroners' Inquests by trade union officials, or other expert persons whom they select. That in view of the large number of casualties occurring annually, necessitating the holding of inquests, this Congress is

of opinion that the right of representation by a technical person to examine witnesses is necessary to help such inquiries to a right conclusion; that some of the jurymen selected should have a practical knowledge of the employment of deceased; and that it be compulsory upon such juries to view (when possible) the scene of the accident (where an accident occurs to a workman in the course of his employment)."

Mr. McMANUS, in seconding, said as things stood a coroner could refuse to allow any trades union official to cross-examine a witness if he pleased.

Mr. WM. FLOOD (Dublin) said he thought there was no part of the community deserving more their sympathy than the railway servants.

The PRESIDENT agreed with Mr. McManus. A coroner could refuse to hear the greatest lawyer in the land, just as he could refuse to hear them. It was a matter of the coroner's bias or prejudice.

The resolutions were adopted.

At the adjournment for lunch, a motive was made and adopted "that the Congress do adjourn until 9-30 on Wednesday, in order to give the Delegates an opportunity of visiting Warrenpoint and Rostrevor."

In the evening the Delegates were entertained at dinner in the Imperial Hotel by the Newry Trades Council. Over 100 sat down under the presidency of Mr. Jas. Morgan, Chairman of the Reception Committee. After the cloth was removed the following toasts, interspersed with musical items, were duly honoured:—"Our Native Land," "The Irish Trades Union Congress," "The Labour Cause," and the "Reception Committee."

During the progress of the proceedings the Chairman read a telegram from Councillor Gageby, J.P., announcing that the Fair Contracts Clause had been adopted by the Belfast Corporation that day.

THIRD DAY—Wednesday, 3rd June, 1903.

The Congress reassembled at 9-30 a.m., Mr. WALTER HUDSON (President) presiding. Minutes of second day's proceedings read and confirmed.

The PRESIDENT announced that the voting papers for Parliamentary Committee would be distributed at 10-30 and collected at 11 o'clock sharp.

IMPORTATION—VEHICLES, BRASSWORK &C.

Mr. J. T. DUIGNAN (Dublin) moved:—

"That this Congress strongly protests against the continued importation of all kinds of vehicles, iron-work and wheels for same, and further, this Congress deplores the continual importation of manu-

factured brass work into this country, and calls upon all public bodies, clergymen, architects, brewers, distillers, and licensed vintners, to encourage home industry by having a clause inserted in their contracts providing that all brass work in connection with same should be of home manufacture, as the practice hitherto extensively prevailing (through the agencies of others) had been to procure brass work from foreign countries to the great detriment of Irish workmen."

He said it was regrettable to find there was still a necessity for such resolutions. It was the practice to give contracts to persons who did not employ any men, but merely ordered the goods from Birmingham or some other place out of Ireland. There were houses in Dublin which could not be excelled in the work they turned out, but very often orders were sent to Munich and elsewhere.

Mr. FARRELL (Dublin) seconded the resolutions.

Mr. WALKER (Belfast) proposed as an amendment, "Preference should be given to articles of home manufacture made under fair conditions."

The amendment was accepted, and, with this addition, the resolution was adopted.

IMPORTATION—PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING.

Mr. A. MOORE (Bookbinders) proposed:—

"That this Congress views with alarm the importation of Roman Catholic Prayer Books, Religious Works, etc., into this country by publishers and booksellers, and we enter our emphatic protest against the practice as unwarrantable and unpatriotic, in view of the growing national desire to resuscitate and develop our fast decaying industries; and we desire to direct the attention of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy to the fact that, notwithstanding their important pronouncements on the industrial and emigration questions, the great percentage of the Prayer Books, Religious Works, etc., sold in shops and outside churches are other than Irish manufacture; that we earnestly hope and trust Irish authors and authoresses, and others interested in Irish industry, will adopt every means in their power to see that books written by them, or under their control, shall be printed and bound in Ireland; that this Congress invites the attention of the Hierarchy, Heads of Religious Communities, Public Bodies, and Authors who have the interest of Ireland at heart, to use their powerful influence to stay the flood of importation, so disastrous to the national and industrial life of the country; furthermore, this Congress considers the amendment of the Merchandise Marks Act vitally essential to prevent matter printed and bound in foreign countries being foisted upon the consumer as home manufacture, to the detriment both of employers and employed in the printing and binding trades."

Mr. DALY (Dublin) seconded the resolutions, and complained that even some of those who attended the Congress sent their printing out of the country.

Mr. McMANUS—Mr. Daly should give the names of those who attend the Congress and get their printing done out of Ireland. I give the names.

The resolution was adopted.

IMPORTATION—CABINET WORK.

On the motion of Mr. D. MULCAHY (Dublin), seconded by Mr. CRAIG (Belfast) it was unanimously resolved:—

“That this Congress condemns the excessive importation of Cabinet Work by the Commercial and Drapery Houses of Ireland, and principally of Dublin. And that, in view of the revival of Irish Industries, it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to take whatever action they may deem necessary to remedy this long-standing grievance.”

IMPORTATION—FIBROUS PLASTER WORK.

On the motion of Mr. J. LUMSDEN, seconded by Mr. GEO. LEAHY, it was unanimously resolved:—

“That this Congress condemn the practice of importing Fibrous Plaster Work into this country, which is detrimental to the interests of the Irish Plastering Trade, as work of this kind can be done as cheaply and effectively by Irish plasterers if they are only afforded the opportunity of competing for same.”

THE COMPOSITION OF THE CONGRESS.

The Standing Orders' Committee reported that there were eighty-three delegates attending the Congress from forty-three trade unions and seven Trades Councils, and that they represented 70,692 trades unionists.

EDUCATION.

Mr. WM. WALKER, P.L.G. (Belfast) moved:—

“That in the opinion of this Congress the time has arrived when an educational system should be established in Ireland, placing Elementary, Secondary, and Technical Education under the control of an administrative body elected for that purpose only, as we believe that the present system of education in Ireland does not tend to foster that true educational spirit which should prevail in a community such as ours, and further, that Primary Education requires immediate attention and improvement; especially in its physical and industrial aspects. We, therefore, protest against Ireland's Equivalent Grant of £185,000 being applied to other objects.”

He said that the educational system of Ireland was not beneficial to the education of the country. The educational system of Belfast was anything but conducive to the educational advantage of Belfast. The schools should be conducted upon the system of the “Model” School in Belfast, absolutely free from denominational control. The proposal of the Belfast Trades Council was to have an elected body in charge of Primary, Secondary, and Technical Education.

Mr. JOHN MURPHY (Belfast) was on the agenda as the seconder, but when called upon was engaged in distributing voting papers. He asked that some other delegate should take his place, as he was too busy just then.

The PRESIDENT—Perhaps Mr. McManus will second the resolution?

Mr. McMANUS—If it was for the rejection of it I would.

Mr. HAYES (Belfast) seconded the resolution, and said that the Belfast Trades Council regarded the Belfast Model School as an ideal school.

Mr. E. L. RICHARDSON moved as an amendment:—To delete all after the word "aspects" on line 8. He regretted that in grouping the resolutions, the Standing Orders' Committee left him no option but to vote against the proposition. He, however, moved his amendment and thought that the Congress would be taking a false step if they approved of any protest such as was suggested by Mr. Walker, particularly at the present time when there was a cessation of strife. It would be a dangerous position to take up to object to the application of the Equivalent Grant in the manner indicated.

Mr. HUGH McMANUS (Belfast), in seconding, said that they could not have co-ordination of education unless they paid directly for education. In England and Scotland the conditions were different. The matter was one that required the very greatest consideration, and was one of the most difficult questions of the day. He did not believe that either the proposer or the seconder had given any evidence of their ability to deal with the subject. There were defects in the present system of education, but they would not be remedied by the proposals of the resolution.

Councillor McCARRON (Derry) said that the subject was a very controversial one, and he was certainly surprised that it had been introduced at all at that Congress. If they passed the resolution they would be approving of what was opposed to the Catholic Church and to Catholics. Catholics refused to send their children to any school where the children would not get religious training. He moved the rejection of the resolution.

Mr. GEORGE COATES (Cork) in seconding the rejection, protested against the introduction of a question of religion to that Congress. In Cork they had a dispute at present as to obtaining portion of the Model School for Technical Education.

Mr. DARCUS (Belfast) said that it would be scarcely possible for that Congress to give a deliverance on the subject that would have any weight whatever. No more burning question could be introduced in Ireland as to whether clergymen were to have control or not in the schools. They heard a lot about "model" schools, but the fact remained that the numbers attending the model schools were dropping away. There was no use in putting a system of education before the public which they did not want. Any attempt to divide the schools from a certain amount of clerical control in Ireland would be simply beating the air. They could not accomplish such a thing. He was of opinion that the fundamental truths of Christianity ought to be taught to the children to make them fit for life. Any other step would be backward.

He would oppose separating the youth of the country from religious education.

Councillor McCARTHY, (Kilkenny), said that there was a model school in Kilkenny to accommodate thirteen hundred children, and about thirty-six pupils were attending it. The Technical Committee thought they might get the building, but it was refused, and they had to purchase a new house and equip it. He opposed the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL (Belfast) denied that any religious question had been introduced by the delegates from Belfast.

Mr. McMANUS—Question.

Councillor McCARRON—What is the whole question?

Mr. STEWART (Dublin), in supporting the resolution, said that there was no desire to interfere with religious training.

Mr. HUGHES (Belfast) supported the resolutions.

Mr. JOHN MURPHY (Belfast), said that as education was in a backward state, why should they not make some practical suggestion?

Mr. McMANUS—Some practical one—Yes!

Mr. MURPHY said they had no desire to ostracise Catholics from their religion, but to deal with secular education and leave religious education to those who believed in it.

Mr. O'CONNOR (Limerick) said that apart from the resolution, why should they not ask that the disused Model Schools be handed over to the Technical Committees? In Limerick they made overtures to get the Model School for the purpose, but it was refused. Why should not popularly elected bodies get control of the Model Schools for use as Technical Schools?

Mr. WALKER having replied,

Mr. RICHARDSON's amendment was adopted by 47 to 14, and Mr. WALKER's resolution was then rejected by 38 to 16.

CHIEF MAGISTRATES ELECTED FOR TWO YEARS IN SUCCESSION.

Mr. GEO. O'CALLAGHAN (Coachmakers) moved:—

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, the practice of holding the office of Lord Mayor, or Mayor, for two years in succession, is an injury to the Coachmaking and other Trades, as it deprives many men of employment in the winter time when work is most needed, and that it is the duty of Trades Councils, where this practice prevails, to insist on candidates seeking municipal honours being pledged to vote against this practice."

He said that the fact that the Lord Mayor of Dublin was holding office for the third year was a most unheard of thing. He regretted to say that Mr. Fitzgerald, of Cork, was in a similar position.

Mr. FARRELL (Dublin) seconded.

Mr. DARCUS (Belfast) proposed, and Mr. HAYES (Belfast) seconded the previous question which, on a division was defeated by 34 to 16.

Councillor GAGEBY, J.P. (Belfast), wished to know if the resolution referred to Belfast, where no salary attached to the question.

Mr. WALKER—We hope there will some day, and that you will be in the position.

Mr. McMANUS said that the resolution did not refer to Belfast. The resolution was adopted by 40 votes to 15.

SUB-LETTING PLASTERERS' WORK.

Mr. J. LUMSDEN (Dublin) moved; Mr. GEO. LEAHY seconded, and it was unanimously resolved:—

"That in the opinion of this Congress the system of sub-letting work in the plastering trade is detrimental to its best interests, by work being scamped in an unworkmanlike manner, and we respectfully urge on the architects of Dublin, and the various public bodies, the necessity that exists for the insertion of a clause in the specifications debarring contractors from sub-letting any portion of the plastering work, a course that will ensure the work being executed in a proper manner; and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the various public bodies of Dublin and the Institute of Architects.

CANCELLING OF LICENCES.

Mr. WM. WALKER, P.L.G., moved:—

"That this Congress urges the Irish members to resist by all means in their power the Bill, introduced by Sir Wm. Hart-Dyke, proposing to suspend the powers of Magistrates as to the cancelling of Licenses until such time as a Bill has been passed giving compensation to all licensees whose licenses are withdrawn, as this Congress believes that any such proposal will be a gross travesty of public equity."

Mr. WHITE (Belfast) proposed, and Mr. McCUNE (Belfast) seconded the previous question, which was rejected. The resolution was adopted by 31 to 13.

COMPULSORY ARBITRATION.

Mr. S. HOWARD (Amal. House and Ship Painters) moved:—

"That in all disputes between capital and labour, in which the parties concerned fail to arrive at a settlement, arbitration should be made compulsory, and that the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to take such measures as it may deem fitting to ensure the passing of an Act for such purpose by the Legislature."

Mr. JOSEPH TREACY (Dublin) seconded.

The following amendment, moved on behalf of the Belfast Trades Council was accepted, and the resolution as amended was adopted:—

Insert after the word "arbitration," on line 2, the words—"if applied for by one of the parties."

RURAL LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS.

Mr. GEORGE LEAHY (Dublin) moved:—

"That this Congress desires to direct the attention of all trades and labour bodies to the Rural Public Libraries' Act of 1902, and calls upon all Rural District Councils to adopt the Public Libraries' Acts, and also

desires to impress upon the members of the various trades and labour unions the necessity of insisting upon the Act being adopted, and suitable reading rooms and libraries established throughout the towns of the Rural Districts of the entire country."

Councillor W. J. LEAHY seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

SUPERANNUATION OF CORPORATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKMEN.

Mr. DANIEL MAGEE (Dublin) moved:—

"That the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to secure in the Bill next to be promoted by the County Borough Council of Dublin that powers be taken to provide for the superannuation of all employes of 15 years' service and upwards; and further that the Committee be instructed to urge the amendment of the Local Government Act of Ireland, 1898, so that it shall be lawful for Urban District Councils to allow any person employed as a workman in its service, and who has completed not less than 25 years' service, to be placed on the Permanent Staff of Employees under the Urban District Councils; and where such person or employee has so completed not less than the said 25 years' service, to retire and receive a pension for life; and if he has not completed a period of 25 years' service, and is incapacitated by infirmity of mind or body, occasioned in the execution of his duty or employment, without his own default, to retire and receive a pension for life or a gratuity. The amount of such pension or gratuity shall be in the discretion of the Urban District Councils, but shall not exceed two-thirds of the salary and emoluments payable to such person immediately prior to his retirement."

Mr. THOS. POWER (Kilkenny) seconded the motion.

Mr. THOS. HUGHES (Belfast) moved as an amendment:—

Delete all after the word "that," on line 1, Resolutions 35 and 36, and add—"no scheme of superannuation can be accepted by the workers which creates a preferential class amongst them, and that in the opinion of this Congress the pledges made by the several statesmen of both parties, 'to introduce an Old-age Pension Bill, covering all workers over a specified age,' should be redeemed, and that the P. C. be requested to urge upon all Irish M.P.'s the desirability of pressing this matter, as it is of the utmost urgency."

Mr. WALKER seconded the amendment.

Messrs. PATE. O'SHEA (Dublin) and Councillor W. J. LEAHY supported the resolution.

On a division the amendment was defeated by 42 votes to 11, and the resolution was adopted.

THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

Mr. E. L. RICHARDSON moved, Councillor McCARRON seconded, and it was resolved:—

"Whereas, the Housing Problem in industrial centres in Ireland has become a danger to the common weal; and whereas the existing law

is inadequate, to remedy the deplorable conditions under which the workers are at present compelled to exist; this Congress therefore resolves that the Government be earnestly urged to promote a Bill in which power shall be taken—(a) To tax land values; (b) to establish fair-rent Courts; (c) to levy the full taxable assessment on unoccupied houses, and to place the obligation of paying rates directly on occupiers; (d) to provide that the title-deeds of property to be acquired under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act be deemed sufficient security for the entire purchase-money advanced by local authorities, and that the cost of transfer be cheapened; (e) to provide that loans under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, shall not be reckoned against the borrowing powers of local authorities, and that the period of repayment be extended to 100 years; (f) to apply section 2, Public Health Act, 1878, and section 21, Public Health Act, 1890, to tenement property; and (g) to abolish the terminal leasehold system. That the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to prepare a petition for presentation to the House of Commons on this question."

STATE PURCHASE AND CONTROL OF IRISH RAILWAYS.

On the motion of Councillor McCARRON, seconded by Mr. E. W. STEWART, it was resolved:—

"That in the opinion of this Congress, the time has now come when all Lands, Mines, and Railways should be owned and controlled by the State for the people."

TRADE UNION FUNDS, ETC.

Mr. GEO. COATES (Cork) moved:—

"That this Congress, bearing in mind the disability of Trade Unions to give effect to the rules of their bodies for the benefit and protection of members by arbitrary decisions given against them in the Taff Vale Railway Servants, Belfast butchers, and other cases, impresses on the Parliamentary Committee the necessity of devising a scheme by which labour interests shall be safeguarded, and Parliamentary, Municipal, and other representative positions secured; and also that a united effort be made by the workers to subsidise their representatives in every public capacity."

Alderman KELLEHER seconded the motion, which was adopted.

WINTER WORK.

Mr. R. P. O'CONNOR (Limerick) moved; Mr. J. LUMSDEN (Dublin) seconded the following resolution, which was passed:—

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, it would be a material help to the workmen of Ireland if all Municipal, Poor-Law, and other local bodies got their work done in winter time, as far as practicable, as by doing so they would keep down the rates, as well as give employment at a time when it is much needed."

PROPOSED INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRY, IRELAND.

Mr. E. L. RICHARDSON moved:—

"That the proposal for establishing an Institute of Commerce and Industry merits the approval of this congress and the support and co-operation of the workers of Ireland."

He referred to the objects and functions of the Institute as set out in the Parliamentary Committee's report; and to the fact that Presidents of Trades Councils in Ireland recognised by the Congress, were *de facto* honorary members of the Council of the Institute.

Mr. JOHN MURPHY (Belfast) seconded the motion, which was adopted.

SUSTENTATION OF CONGRESS AND P.C.

Mr. R. P. O'CONNOR (Limerick) moved:—

"That in order to ensure the continual success of the Irish Trades' Congress, the P.C. shall, as early as possible, inaugurate a fund, the object of which shall be the defraying of the necessary expenses of Congresses which may be held in towns where the Trades Council or other organisation is unable to finance the meeting. The levy shall be one penny per year for each member of a trade or labour union, and shall be collected in the month of December, and forwarded to the Parliamentary Committee by the Trades' Councils in the different districts. And that the balance of funds from local Committees where Congresses are held be handed over to the Parliamentary Committee."

He said that if this proposition had been in practical operation during the past year, upwards of £250 would be at the disposal of the newly elected Parliamentary Committee, and this would ensure that proper effect would be given to the many resolutions that had been passed and referred to that Committee. He hoped each delegate could take steps to have this proposition, if adopted, carried out during the ensuing twelve months. The responsibility rested with them.

Mr. J. LUMSDEN (Dublin) seconded. Mr. P. O'SHEA also spoke, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

A proposal by Mr. HUGH McMANUS to raise the fee payable by each delegate to Congress to one pound was rejected.

SANITARY AND WATER INSPECTORS.

Mr. J. T. DUIGNAN moved, and Mr. J. SWEENEY (United Operative Plumbers) seconded:—

"That this Congress is of opinion that in the appointment of Sanitary and Water Inspectors the local authorities of Ireland should appoint none but practical plumbers to such positions, as it is impossible that unskilled persons, such as are to a large extent at present employed, can perform the duties of those offices with satisfactory results."

The motion was agreed to.

IRISH SETTS FOR STREET PAVING.

Mr. A. LITTLEWOOD (Newry) moved:—

"That this Congress urges upon Irish local authorities the desirability of using Irish setts as a street pavement, and directs attention to the claim of the Sett Makers of Newry for a share in the contracts of the Corporations and Urban Councils of Ireland, thereby helping in the development of Irish industry and stemming the tide of emigration."

Mr. WALKER (Belfast) seconded the resolution. He hoped that nothing would be left undone by trade unionists of Ireland to push forward this important Irish industry.

Mr. R. McNAMARA (Stonecutters' Union, Cork) supported the resolution. He believed that if there were better rates of transit for the carriage of the setts inland, it would bring about a considerable improvement in the industry. The only question would then be one of price.

Mr. HAYES (Belfast) also supported the motion, remarking that the labour members who belonged to the Belfast Corporation had already moved in the matter, and he believed their efforts would be productive of good results. He hoped that similar action would be taken in Dublin and Cork.

Councillor LEAHY (Dublin) remarked that setts ordered in Newry years ago for Dublin were not delivered in the specified time. Everything should be heard on the subject before Corporations were condemned.

Mr. LITTLEWOOD, in reply, said that Newry was able to turn out 36,000 tons of setts per year, and he thought that was as much as any Corporation in Ireland could need.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

LABOUR REPRESENTATION.

Mr. J. MURPHY (Belfast) moved:—

"That this Congress of Irish Trades Unionists heartily recommends to the Trades Unions of this country an immediate affiliation with the Labour Representation Committee to promote the formation of independent labour representation in Ireland."

Mr. WALKER, (Belfast) seconded the motion, which was passed.

ELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

Councillor McCARTHY (Kilkenny) one of the scrutineers, announced the result of the ballot for the election of Parliamentary Committee for the next twelve months, as follows:—

	Votes.
Mr. George Leahy (Dublin), Plasterer	44
„ Walter Hudson (Dublin), A.S.R.S.	41
„ Jas. McCarron, T.C. (Derry), Tailor	38
„ Jas. Chambers (Dublin), Saddler	37
„ Hugh McManus (Belfast), Printer	37
„ Stephen Dinneen (Limerick) Baker	28
„ R. S. McNamara (Cork), Stonecutter	27
„ Wm. Walker, P.L.G. (Belfast), Carpenter	27

The above, with the Secretary, form the Committee. The unsuccessful candidates were:—Messrs. W. J. Leahy, T.C., 22; P. T. Daly, 19; J. Cronin, 17; J. T. Duignan, 17; Joseph Treacy, 16; John Farren, 12; Thomas Hughes, 12; T. J. Sheehan, 8.

BALANCE SHEET.

The auditors, Messrs. CHARLES DARCUS (Belfast), and T. J. SHEEHAN (Dublin), having given their report on the Statement of Accounts for the past year, Councillor McCARTHY moved, and Mr. JOHN McMAHON seconded the adoption of the Balance Sheet, which showed a balance to credit of £70 16s. After some discussion the motion was agreed to.

NEXT YEAR'S CONGRESS.

Belfast, Dublin, Dundalk, Galway and Kilkenny, were proposed as the location of the Congress for 1904. Kilkenny was selected by an overwhelming majority.

Councillor McCARTHY, of Kilkenny, thanked the members of the Congress for selecting his native town for their next annual meeting. In Kilkenny they would have water without mud, coal without smoke, and its streets paved with marble, and in addition they would receive a hearty welcome to the ancient and historic city of the confederation. (Applause).

DELEGATES TO SCOTTISH TRADES CONGRESS.

Messrs. P. T. Daly, W. J. Leahy, T.C., Jas. McCarron, T.C., J. Murphy, and E. W. Stewart were nominated to represent Irish Trade Unionists at the Scottish Trades Congress, at Stirling, April, 1904. A poll having been taken, there voted for—Jas. McCarron, T.C., 36; P. T. Daly, 27; J. Murphy, 25; E. W. Stewart, 18; W. J. Leahy, T.C., 14. Messrs. McCarron, T.C. (Londonderry), and P. T. Daly (Dublin), were accordingly elected.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Mr. P. T. DALY (Dublin) moved that the best thanks of the Congress be given to the Newry Reception Committee for the very warm reception they had given to the members of the Congress. The arrangements made were perfect, and he was glad to say that they were all very comfortable, and were delighted with their visit to the frontier town of Newry.

Mr. MURPHY (Belfast) had great pleasure in seconding the motion, which was passed by acclamation.

Mr. MORGAN, President of the Newry Trades Council replied.

Mr. RICHARDSON moved a vote of thanks to the Newry Urban Council for their kindness in making the hall so comfortable.

Mr. MORGAN seconded the motion, which was passed by acclamation.

A vote of thanks to the Press, moved by Mr. STEWART, and seconded by Alderman KELLEHER, was also passed by acclamation.

The representative of the "Newry Reporter" replied.

Mr. O'CONNOR moved that the best thanks of the Congress be given to their President (Mr. Hudson) for the impartial manner in which he had conducted the business.

Mr. McMANUS seconded the motion, and it was passed by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT thanked the members for the vote of thanks. Much of the success of the meeting was due to the loyalty of the members to the Chair, and he was pleased to know that the annual deliberations had passed over so successfully.

The PRESIDENT then declared the Congress for 1903 closed.

STANDING ORDERS.

1. Opening Proceedings.—The Congress shall assemble at 9.30 a.m. (except the first day, when the proceedings shall commence at 11 a.m.) prompt, adjourn at 1 p.m., reassemble at 2 p.m., and adjourn at 5 p.m. each day.

2. Delegates' Qualifications.—The Congress shall consist of Delegates who are or have been *bona-fide* workers, and are legal members of trade societies, and who shall have worked or be working at the trade they represent, or members of trades councils or similar bodies, by whatever name they may for the time being be known. The expenses of such Delegates must be defrayed by the association they represent. No Delegate shall leave the Congress during the progress of business without the consent of the Chairman. The fee for each Delegate shall be 15s.

3. Standing Orders Committee.—A Standing Orders Committee of five shall be elected from the Members of Congress, whose duties shall be to verify and report upon the credentials of the Delegates, see to the proper conduct of the business of Congress, and have control of the distribution of all literature, introduction of deputations, and other special business not provided for in these Orders. The Standing Orders Committee shall meet not later than half an hour previous to each sitting of Congress for the purpose of the despatch of business.

4. Mode of Voting—Tellers.—The Voting upon all matters shall be by show of hands. Tellers shall be appointed at the opening of the Congress, whose ruling as to numbers shall be final. In cases where the Tellers disagree, the Chairman shall order a re-count.

5. Resolutions.—RESOLUTIONS intended for the Congress, with the name of the proposer, shall be in the hands of the Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee at least SIX WEEKS before the meeting of Congress in Whit Week, and shall be at once printed and sent out by the Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee to the various trade and labour societies and trade councils in Ireland.

6. Amendments to Resolutions.—AMENDMENTS to the propositions on the Agenda, written and signed in the following manner, viz.:—"Amendment

to Resolution No. 3, to be proposed by Mr. John Smith, Belfast," must be sent to the Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee at least ONE CLEAR WEEK before the meeting of Congress, and shall be printed and in the hands of the Delegates, along with the Parliamentary Committee's Report, on the assembling of Congress, before the commencement of business.

7. Resolutions and Amendments.—ALL RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS must be endorsed by and sent through the authorised officials of trade or labour organisations or trades councils sending Delegates to Congress. The names, addresses, and societies represented by the Delegates shall be printed and ready for distribution at the commencement of Congress. The Standing Orders shall be printed along with the Agenda Paper and the Report of the Proceedings of Congress.

8. Limitation of Speeches.—The mover of a resolution or amendment, and each succeeding speaker, shall be allowed five minutes each. No one shall speak more than once upon each resolution or amendment except the mover of the original motion, who shall be given an opportunity to reply. No second amendment or rider to an original proposition shall be put to a vote until the first amendment is disposed of.

9. Parliamentary Committee.—A Parliamentary Committee of nine, including Secretary, shall be elected on the last day of the Congress, whose duties shall be—(1) to endeavour to give practical effect to the resolutions of Congress; (2) to watch all legislative measures directly affecting the question of Labour in Ireland; (3) to initiate such legislative and other action as Congress may direct; and (4) generally to support the Parliamentary Committee of the United Trades Congress upon all questions affecting the workers of the United Kingdom. The Committee shall meet quarterly, or at such times as, in the opinion of the Chairman and Secretary, the exigencies of the Labour Movement in Ireland call for immediate action, and shall present a report of their proceedings to the next Congress. No candidate shall be eligible for election on the Parliamentary Committee unless he is a Delegate from his own trade society, labour union, or trades council. In no case shall more than one member of the same trade or occupation, or more than one representative of the same trades council, be allowed to sit, but this condition shall not apply to the election of Secretary. The Delegates' fees to Congress (after deducting actual expenses) shall go to the fund for defraying the expenses of the Parliamentary Committee, to be supplemented, if necessary, by contributions from the trades councils and trade societies of Ireland. A printed Balance Sheet, duly certified by the Auditors, to be presented to each delegate on the second day of the meeting.

10. Parliamentary Committee's Report.—The Congress having been duly opened, the Parliamentary Committee shall present their Report for the past year, which shall be laid on the table for discussion, after the disposal of which their tenure of office shall terminate.

11. Labour Meeting.—That at least one General Labour Meeting shall be held, under the auspices of the Parliamentary Committee, in each town during the sittings of the Annual Congress—the local trades council to render such assistance in arranging for halls, advertising, &c., as shall be requisite.

12. Suspension of Standing Orders.—Standing Orders shall not be suspended unless previous intimation shall have been given to Standing Orders Committee, and the motion agreed to by a two-thirds vote of the Delegates present.

BALANCE SHEET OF IRISH TRADES CONGRESS (NEWRY), 1903.

RECEIPTS.

To Balance from last Congress	...	...	£60	3	1
<i>Subscriptions to P.C. Appeal—</i>						
" Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants	...	£10	0	0		
" U.K.S. Coachmakers' Executive, 31/7/02	...	5	0	0		
" U.K.S. Coachmakers' Executive, 18/4/03	...	5	0	0		
" Belfast Trades Council	...	9	2	0		
" Cork	...	3	0	0		
" Amalgamated Tailors' Society (Executive)	...	3	0	0		
" Dublin Coopers' Society	...	2	2	0		
" Typographical Association (Executive)	...	2	2	0		
" Dublin Trades Council	...	2	0	0		
" Dublin Stonecutters' Society	...	2	0	0		
" Stonecutters' Union of Ireland	...	2	0	0		
" Typographical Association (Belfast Branch)	...	2	0	0		
" (Limerick Branch)	...	1	0	0		
" Irish Drapers' Assistants' Association	...	1	1	0		
" Belfast Brassfounders' Society	...	1	0	0		
" Dublin Stationary Engine Drivers' Society	...	0	10	0		
" Dublin Saddlers' Society, 4/6/02	...	0	7	6		
" 12/5/03	...	0	7	6		
" Cork Typographical Society	...	0	6	8		
" Cork Masons' Society	...	0	6	8		
" Dublin Brushmakers' Society	...	0	5	4		
" Kilkenny Bakers' Society	...	0	5	0		
" Limerick Coopers' Society	...	0	2	6		
" Limerick Mill Sawyers' Union	...	0	2	0		
				53	0	2
" Eighty-three Delegates, at 15s. each	...	...	62	5	0
" Sale of Congress Reports	...	...	8	6	8
				£183	14	11

EXPENDITURE.

By Expenses of P.C. Meetings	...	...	...	£40	7	7
„ Secretaries to Cork Congress	...	...	...	2	0	0
„ Standing Orders Committee (Cork)	...	...	...	2	0	0
„ Auditors' Fees	...	...	...	0	10	0
„ J. Cahill for Printing	...	...	...	25	12	9
„ Shandon Printing Works (Balance Sheet), Cork	...	...	...	1	4	
„ Delegation to Scottish Trades Congress	...	...	...	7	7	6
„ Grant to Hall Porter (Cork)	...	...	...	0	15	0
„ „ (Dublin)	...	...	...	0	10	0
„ Expenses <i>in re</i> Cork Pork Butchers' Dispute	...	...	...	0	6	0
„ Honorarium to Treasurer (Cork)	...	...	...	2	2	0
„ „ (Newry)	...	...	...	2	2	0
„ „ to Secretary (Newry)	...	...	...	20	0	0
„ Deputation to Newry from P.C. Committee	...	...	...	1	3	0
„ Expenses to Bank	...	...	...	0	5	0
„ Postage and Stationery (Treasurer)	...	...	...	0	6	1
„ Postage, Stationery, Newspapers (the Secretary)	...	...	...	6	4	8
„ Telegram	...	...	...	0	1	8
„ Cheque Book	...	...	...	0	2	1
				£112	18	11
„ Balance in Hand, 2nd June, 1903	...	...	...	70	16	0
				£188	14	11

GEO. LEAHY, TREASURER.

We hereby certify that we have examined the Books, Receipts, and Vouchers connected with the Balance Sheet, and find same correct.

T. J. SHEEHAN,
CHARLES DARCUS, } AUDITORS.

2nd June, 1903.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

- BAKERS' FEDERAL UNION EXECUTIVE**—M. PRENDERGAST, T.C., Limerick.
- BAKERS' I. N. FEDERAL UNION**—S. DINNEEN, Limerick.
- BAKERS' OPERATIVE SOCIETY, DUBLIN**—B. FITZPATRICK Bakers' Hall, Upper Bridge Street, Dublin; F. GILLESPIE, ditto.
- BAKERS' OPERATIVE SOCIETY, BELFAST**—T. McCONNELL, 43 Oldpark Avenue, Belfast; Wm. HAYES, 45 Dellie Street, Belfast.
- BAKERS' OPERATIVE SOCIETY, NEWRY**—H. McATEER, Newry.
- BELFAST TRADES' COUNCIL**—T. HUGHES, 47 Chatsworth Street, Belfast; Wm. WALKER, P.L.G., 83 Strathedan Street, Belfast; J. MURPHY, 33 Paxton Street, Belfast.
- BOOKBINDERS' CONSOLIDATED UNION**—A. MOORE, 4 Aungier Street, Dublin.
- BOTTLMAKERS, IRISH GLASS**—J. LITTLE, 3 St. Mary's Terrace, Irishtown; J. LONGMORE, Bath Street, Irishtown.
- BRASSFOUNDERS' AND FINISHERS' SOCIETY, DUBLIN**—J. T. DUIGNAN, 77 Lr. Dorset Street, Dublin.
- BOILERMAKERS' SOCIETY, DUBLIN BRANCH**—E. BROOKS, 36 Gray Street, Dublin.
- BRUSHMAKERS UNITED SOCIETY OF, DUBLIN DIVISION**—J. MALONEY, 12 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin.
- CARPENTERS, AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF, DUBLIN 3rd BRANCH**—J. O'SHEA, 70 Benburb Street, Dublin.
- CARPENTERS AMALGAMATED, No. 6 BRANCH, DUBLIN**—M. COLLINS, 10 St. Nicholas Avenue, Church Street.
- COACHMAKERS, UNITED KINGDOM SOCIETY OF**—G. O'CALLAGHAN, Trades' Hall, Capel Street, Dublin.
- CABINETMAKERS, AMALGAMATED UNION OF**—W. CRAIG, Belfast.
- CABINETMAKERS ALLIANCE, DUBLIN**—D. MULCAHY, 62 Mary Street, Dublin.
- CORPORATION WORKMEN'S TRADE UNION, DUBLIN**—D. MAGEE, 24 Chancery Street, Dublin; F. HANLON, 5 Blackhall Street, Dublin.
- COOPERS, REGULAR OPERATIVE SOCIETY OF, DUBLIN**—W. J. LEAHY, T.C., 25 Blackhall Street, Dublin; P. J. QUINN, 9 Merchants' Quay, Dublin.
- CORK TRADES' COUNCIL**—ALD. J. KELLEHER, Mechanics' Institute, Grattan Street, Cork; G. COATES, ditto.
- DUBLIN TRADES' COUNCIL**—E. L. RICHARDSON, Trades Hall, Capel Street, Dublin; E. W. STEWART, ditto; GEO. LEAHY, ditto; F. FARRELL, ditto.
- ELECTRICAL TRADES' UNION, DUBLIN, No. 19 BRANCH**—T. J. SHEEHAN, 43 Patrick Street, Dublin.
- ENGINE DRIVERS, STATIONARY, DUBLIN**—J. McKNIGHT, 2 Cottage Place, New-foundland Street, Dublin.
- ENGINEMEN, CRANEMEN, AND FIREMEN'S SOCIETY, IRISH UNITED**—JAMES PEARSON, 30 Halcombe Street, Belfast.
- FLAXDRESSERS' TRADE UNION**—R. GAGHERY, J.P., T.C., 17 College Street, Belfast.
- HAIRDRESSERS' TRADE UNION, DUBLIN**—H. ROCHFORD Trades' Hall, Capel Street, Dublin.
- KILKENNY TRADES' COUNCIL**—J. McCARNEY, T.C., King Street, Kilkenny; T. POWER, ditto.
- LONDONDERRY TRADES' COUNCIL**—THOMAS CASSIDY, 65 Duke-street, Derry.
- LIMERICK TRADES' COUNCIL**—R. P. O'CONNOR, 23 Upper Mallow Street, Limerick; J. CRONIN, Thomas Street, Limerick; M. HARVEY, 42 Cooloney Street, Limerick.
- MILLSAWYERS' AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF**—J. WHITE, 81 Joy Street, Belfast.
- NATIONAL AMALGAMATED UNION OF LABOUR, IRISH BRANCHES**—E. McINNES, T.C., 163 Bloomfield Avenue, Belfast; W. WILSON, 140 Earl Street, Belfast; J. SALTERS, 30 Fife Street, Belfast.
- NEWRY TRADES' COUNCIL**—J. MORGAN; J. BELL, Jun., 37 Kilmorey Street.
- PAINTERS, OPERATIVE HOUSE, BELFAST**—W. LIDDELL, T.C., 61 Gt. George's St. Belfast.

- PAINTERS, AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF, DUBLIN (No. 1 BRANCH)**—S. HOWARD, 12 Redmond's Hill, Dublin.
- PAINTERS, AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF, (IRISH BRANCHES)**—J. TREACY, 61 Mary Street, Dublin.
- PAINTERS, METROPOLITAN HOUSE**—J. BIRMINGHAM, 27 Arungier Street, Dublin.
- PLASTERERS, OPERATIVE SOCIETY OF, DUBLIN**—J. LUMSDEN, 8 Emerald Cottages, Grand Canal Street, Dublin; P. O'BRIEN, 1 Ontario Terrace, Rathmines.
- PLUMBERS' UNITED OPERATIVE SOCIETY, DUBLIN**—J. SWEENEY, 13 Aberdeen Street, N.O.R., Dublin.
- PLUMBERS' UNITED OPERATIVE SOCIETY, BELFAST**—S. CURRIE, 93 Richardson Street, Belfast.
- RAILWAY SERVANTS, AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF**—WALTER HUDSON, Irish Sec. 35 Melrose Avenue, Dublin; JAMES HARVEY, 6 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast.
- RAILWAY SERVANTS, AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF (KINGSBRIDGE BRANCH)**—WM. FLOOD, 17 Blackhall Place, Dublin.
- SMITHS, UNITED SOCIETY OF, DUBLIN**—W. JONES, 21 Lr. Dorset St. Dublin.
- SADDLERS AND HARNESS MAKERS, DUBLIN**—J. CHAMBERS, 27 St. Ignatius Road, Dublin.
- SETT MAKERS, AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF, NEWRY**—ATCHESON LITTLEWOOD Newry.
- SHOP ASSISTANTS NATIONAL UNION, IRISH BRANCHES**—L. O'LOUGHLIN, 56 Henry Street, Dublin.
- STONECUTTERS' UNION OF IRELAND**—R. S. McNAMARA, Stonecutters' Hall, Cork; T. MCCARTHY, ditto.
- TYPOGRAPHICAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY, DUBLIN**—W. MOORE, 33 Denmark Street, Dublin; P. T. DALY, ditto.
- TYPOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION (IRISH BRANCHES)**—H. McMANUS, 14 Ard-moulin Street, Belfast.
- TYPOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION (BELFAST BRANCH)**—S. MUNRO, 20 College St., Belfast; C. DARCUS, ditto.
- TINSMITH'S AND SHEET METAL PLATE WORKERS, DUBLIN**—J. FARRIN, 23 Usher's Quay, Dublin.
- TAILORS, AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF (IRISH BRANCHES)**—J. MCCARRON, T.C., 2 Stanley Terrace, Derry; J. McMAHON, 28 St. Alban's Road, Dublin.
- TAILORS, AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF (NEWRY BRANCH)**—R. PRENTER, 107 Canal Street, Newry; M. HAND, Edward Street, Newry.
- TAILORS, AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF (DUBLIN BRANCH)**—WM. McLOUGHLIN, Trades' Hall, Capel St.; THOS. CAREY, ditto.
- TAILORS' AMALGAMATED SOCIETY, BELFAST**—J. ATCHESON and C. FLEMING
- TEXTILE OPERATIVES' SOCIETY OF IRELAND**—MISS M. GALWAY, 31 Crocus Street, Belfast; MRS. E. MCCAUGHEY, 17 Millikin Street, Belfast.
- TRAMWAY MEN'S AMALGAMATED ASSOCIATION AND VEHICLE WORKERS, BELFAST**—A. FARRELL, 104 Hillman Street, Belfast.
- SCOTCH TRADES' UNION CONGRESS**—BAILIE MALLINSON, EDINBURGH; DAVID GILMOUR, Miners' Federation.
- LABOUR REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE**—J. RAMSAY MACDONALD and J. KEIR HARDIE, M.P.