

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL

# Irish Trades Union Congress



WILL BE HELD IN

**KILKENNY**

ON

**WHIT-MONDAY, TUESDAY and  
WEDNESDAY.**

**1904.**



"LABOR OMNIA VINCIT."

# REPORT

OF THE

ELEVENTH

## Irish Trades Union Congress,

HELD IN

*The Town Hall, Kilkenny,*

MAY 23rd, 24th & 25th, 1904.

*Published by Authority of the Congress and the  
Parliamentary Committee.*

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23RD, 24TH, AND 25TH MAY, 1904.

*Edited by E. L. RICHARDSON.*



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# REPORT.

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## FIRST DAY—Monday, 23rd May, 1904.

THE eleventh annual Irish Trades Congress was opened in the Town Hall, Kilkenny, on Monday, 23rd May, 1904. There was a very large attendance of delegates, and amongst those present to welcome them on assembling were Very Rev. J. Canon Doyle, D.D., P.P., V.F., Chairman of the Technical Instruction Committee; Alderman P. Hoyne, ex-Mayor, acting for the Mayor, who was unavoidably absent; Alderman T. Cantwell, J.P.; Councillors J. McCarthy, J. Magennis, T. M'Sweeney and M. Brennan; Messrs. T. W. O'Hanrahan, J.P.; George T. Phillips, Head Master Technical Schools, &c.

Mr. James Chambers, vice-chairman Parliamentary Committee, who was received with loud applause, said:—As vice-chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, the formal but pleasing duty devolved upon him here to-day of opening and extending a hearty welcome to the delegates to the eleventh annual meeting of the Irish Trades Union Congress. It was gratifying to know that the Irish Congress holds its own, and with each succeeding year it is gathering fresh strength. It was needless for him to say that their mission that day was a peaceful one. They were not there to stir up strife between man and man; on the contrary they only hoped that their visit might be the means of still further cementing the good relationship that he understood existed in that city between workman and employer. (Hear, hear.) Their object there that day was to advance the cause that they all had so much at heart, the cause of Trades Unionism, and to assist as far as they possibly could to ameliorate the condition of their class. They were living in a democratic age, and it was pointed out that if property had its rights and duties so had labour. He must say that the first duty of a congress such as their's—the duty of the labour movement all over the world—was to spread their organisation and to make it recognised. If they had a properly organised labour party no Government in the world would be powerful enough; no millionaires would be able; no capitalists or railway magnates, no matter how proud or greedy, or grasping they might be, could withstand the unanimous and reasonable demands of labour. (Hear, hear).

They would see by their agenda that it was made up of many interesting questions of the greatest importance to the workers of this country—questions that every delegate would be afforded a full and free opportunity of discussing. He welcomed there on behalf of the Congress the members of the Kilkenny Corporation. He understood that his worship, the Mayor, would have been with them that day were it not that absence from home on matters of business importance kept him away. At all events they had a good substitute in the person of Alderman Hoyne. (Hear, hear.) The members of the Corporation by coming there that day were conveying a credit and honour not alone to them but to the historic old City of Kilkenny. (Applause.) Now, gentlemen, I will bring my brief remarks to a conclusion. As I said before, understanding the nature of the business that is to come before us, by again welcoming the delegates of our Congress, I will now call upon the ex-Mayor, Alderman Hoyne, to say a few words of welcome to the delegates. (Applause.)

Alderman P. Hoyne, who was received with applause, said that his first duty was to apologise for the absence of the Mayor from the meeting. The Mayor would be with them only for very important business, and therefore in his absence he (Alderman Hoyne) would give them a *caed míle fáilte* to our city. He also added that he hoped this Congress would be something similar to that held in October, 1642, where there were eleven spiritual peers and fourteen temporal peers and others. He closed by thanking them very much for their attendance. (Applause.)

Alderman Cantwell next spoke, and said that he had nothing to say to them beyond bidding a very hearty welcome to Kilkenny, and he hoped they would have the best results in the objects which they had in view. (Applause.)

Very Rev. Canon Doyle, D.D., P.P., V.F., who was received with loud applause, said—Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I have very great pleasure in uniting with Aldermen Hoyne and Cantwell in bidding the delegates a very hearty welcome to the city of Kilkenny. Many changes have occurred in this city of ours for the past fifty years, and I regret to say that some of these changes have not been for the better, but I beg to assure you that the most sympathetic and sunny hearts of the Kilkenny people have undergone no change. (Hear, hear.) They are as ready to-day to pay a hearty welcome to our visitors as the Kilkenny people had been in the palmiest days of our history. There are, indeed, some reasons which forcibly appeal to us to welcome the delegates to Kilkenny. This city of ours in former days, as you are aware, occupied a rather remarkable position among the cities of Ireland—it was at one time the seat of the industrial movement in this country. Unfortunately those changes which have come over other parts of Ireland, that have interfered very much with the industrial prosperity, have also been felt in Kilkenny, but as those elements which



have contributed to the industrial prosperity of Kilkenny still remain, we have hoped that the danger may be very far distant from Kilkenny and that it may take again that position in Ireland which it held in former days. (Applause.) Now, if this happy result is to be brought about, I consider it is most important that the people of Kilkenny should get in touch with this industrial movement, for which we hope good results may come later on. I think it is very important that the people of Kilkenny should drink in some of that enthusiastic spirit for the revival of the Irish industries, which animates this body to-day. (Applause.) I feel, ladies and gentlemen, that as time moves on we may be able to do something to better our position in Kilkenny. I have been looking over the agenda paper and I find that a series of the most vital questions which affect our country is to be discussed here, and I certainly expect the very best results from the discussion on those important subjects. There are men here from all parts of Ireland who are in contact with the movement and have such a long experience as you have. I understand this meeting is a meeting, not of oratory, but of work. (Applause.) I have the greatest possible pleasure in joining with Aldermen Hoyne and Cantwell in bidding the delegates a most hearty welcome. (Loud applause.)

The Chairman called on Councillor McCarthy to say a few words on behalf of the Kilkenny Trades Council.

Mr. John McCarthy, T.C., who was received with applause, said—I have only to say that it is our utmost desire, as members of the Trades Council, to give you the best reception possible to our historic city.

Mr. George Leahy (Dublin) said—Mr. Chairman, Rev. Canon, ladies and gentlemen, it is my very pleasing duty to move that a vote of thanks be accorded to Alderman Hoyne and the members of the Kilkenny Corporation, and also to the Very Rev. Canon Doyle for their cordial welcome to the delegates of this Congress, and in doing so I may be permitted to say that as one who has attended since the inception of the Irish Trades Congress, that that cordiality with which we have been welcomed by the Lord Mayors and the Mayors of the various cities and towns in Ireland is in keeping with the cordial welcome we have been extended here to-day; and may I take the liberty of pointing out that while we have the representatives of the citizens attending here and extending their welcome to this Congress, a slight departure for the better has taken place to-day for the Trades Unionists of Ireland, and that is, that we have amongst us the Very Rev. Canon Doyle, which has been different from our previous Congresses. (Loud applause.) I may also say, on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee, that although the Mayor is not with us to-day that during the past week some of the members of our Parliamentary Committee had the pleasure to meet Mr. Edward O'Shea, a gentleman in whom we found a man of characteristic broadmindedness, and Councillor



McCarthy will tell you before you leave that he has prepared a souvenir to offer to each one who leaves the town of Kilkenny on next Wednesday (hear, hear). Now, we are not here for the purpose of stirring any strife, as the Chairman has said, but we are here in the interests of the employer and employee, the progress of the one and the progress of the other. I do not wish to detain the Congress with any lengthy remarks. I beg to move that the thanks of the members of the Congress be tendered to Alderman Hoyne and Councillor O'Shea. I am sure you will agree with me in tendering to the Kilkenny Corporation and the Very Rev. Canon Doyle, President of the Technical Committee, our gratitude for the cordial welcome they have extended to us.

Mr. McManus (Belfast).—Mr. Chairman, Rev. Father, ladies and gentlemen, it is with supreme satisfaction that I rise for the purpose of seconding the vote of thanks to the Mayor, his *locum tenens*, to the Corporation, and to the Chairman of the Technical Committee for their coming here to welcome us to the historic city of Kilkenny. As the mover of the resolution has so ably said, we do not come here to-day to waste our time in verbiage; that would be altogether unnecessary, but we cannot pass over without at least paying some verbal tributes to the gentlemen who interested themselves in the Congress in their Municipal capacity. We have been in the habit of being received by the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Cork, Dublin, and the Mayors of the different municipalities in which our meetings have been held, but I am happy to say we have present to-day the President of the Technical Instruction Committee of the city of Kilkenny (applause). Prior to the Technical Instruction Act coming into force, and long before the present department came into existence, we did something practical for technical education. Thank God, we have seen some of the fruits of our work in the different cities and towns throughout Ireland (applause). We have said that the Irish workman will be at least on a par with the British workman. We have the capacity if we have the truth developing it. Our countrymen take off their coats, and where they are working in a clerical capacity they are at least fully equal to those with whom they come in contact; this is a pleasing feature in regard to the presence of the President of the Technical Instruction Committee; and although the Mayor is not present here to-day we have him here in spirit, and we have him through his *locum tenens*, Alderman Hoyne. I, therefore, have great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks (loud applause).

The Chairman then put the vote of thanks to the meeting which was carried with acclamation.

Alderman Hoyne then said he would like to thank Mr. Leahy for the kind vote of thanks proposed by him and also to Mr. McManus for the kind and enthusiastic way in which he seconded the vote of thanks. It was a great pleasure to him (Alderman Hoyne) to attend this Congress, composed of a body of workingmen.

The Kilkenny Corporation, as they were aware, were a democratic body too (applause).

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Mr. E. L. Richardson (Dublin), and Councillor McCarthy (Kilkenny), were unanimously elected Secretaries to the Congress.

Messrs. Henry Rochford (Dublin), Charles Darcus and John Whitla (Belfast), were elected Tellers.

Messrs. R. P. O'Connor (Limerick), John Simmons (Dublin), John Murphy (Belfast), Francis Farrell and John McMahon (Dublin), were elected Standing Orders Committee.

Messrs. E. W. Stewart and J. T. Duignan were elected Auditors.

On the motion of Councillor McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Wm. Pattison (Kilkenny), Councillor Wm. Walker, P.L.G. (Belfast), was unanimously elected President of the Congress.

#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The President, who was received with loud and prolonged applause, said—Fellow-delegates—It is with a great deal of pleasure and some amount of pride that I take the chair to preside over this, the eleventh annual meeting of Irish Trades' Unionists in the historic town of Kilkenny, the "City of the Confederation." This is the age of conferences and conventions. The spirit of mutual appeal, one to another, is in the air, the desire to bring one's fellows along with one is manifest in every phase of our busy life of to-day, and to no body more than another is there a greater need for solidarity than to Trades Unionists (hear, hear). What is their position to-day as compared with that of twenty-five years ago? Then the Union was numerically and financially weak. Trades' Unionists had just received their Magna Charta in the Trade Union and Conspiracy Acts of 1871 and 1875, and there was just the budding of that great movement that has for the past quarter of a century been such a beneficent factor in our industrial life; but, if his Union was weak in numbers and in finance he had only the individual employer to contend with, and this element which was to him such an important factor, enabled him to meet his employer on somewhat equal terms; but how changed is his condition to-day. His Magna Charta has been abrogated by decision after decision in the law courts; his rights and liberties have one by one been curtailed until to-day he fails to understand what rights and liberties, what privileges and powers still remain to him. Instead of to-day having to meet the individual employer on trade matters he is confronted by representatives of great federations, or trusts, or corporations, and not merely so, but he has to combat the practical experience of delegates of such federations, in addition to the store of knowledge which the intelligence department of employers' associations places at the disposal of their representatives, and to meet this combination the Trade Unions have made no provision.



The men's representatives are still unequipped with the knowledge which an intelligence department in the Trade Union movement would bestow. They go from the bench or the lathe with just so much knowledge as their leisure time (which is not much) will enable them to become possessed of, and they are confronted with men who not merely have every advantage that leisure, travel, and their intelligence department can bestow, but confronted with an employer's advocate in the shape of their secretary, who is specially retained because of his ability and training. Under circumstances such as these can one wonder if, at times, the "worse become the better case," and the men feel that their position as champions of the rights of their workmates is less secure than it ought to be; but it is not only in this phase of the movement that we find our security undermined. In addition to their combinations, their intelligence departments, and their specially retained advocates, the employers had called to their aid (and their call has not been in vain), the whole of the British judiciary. Action after action has been entered upon by the employers against our Unions until almost every phase of our work has been crippled, and our funds appropriated to redeem the losses the employers allege are due to the actions of the Unions. *Lyons v. Wilkins*, *Leathem v. Quinn*, the *Taff Vale*, and the *Denaby miners'* actions, all of which the employers have won, "despite the security which we enjoyed from '75," all point to the determination with which the employers have entered upon their Union-smashing crusade. The old barbaric weapon of the strike has become at the voice of the judges effete and almost useless. We cannot effectively picket, we cannot officially determine with whom we shall work, we cannot, even as per *Denaby Main miners'* judgment, have any security that our Unions will be allowed to pay strike benefit in the event of a dispute, and we have no guarantee that the end of such decisions has yet been reached. In the face, therefore, of such a change in our fortunes is it not time to cry "halt," whilst we calmly and judicially determine what is to be our position in the future, and what, if any, powers we are to retain. Let us "come and reason together," and see what solution will solve our difficulties. It will readily be admitted that all our rights, liberties and privileges, whether they be many or few, spring from the determination of the people. In every change in our country's history the expressed will of the people was paramount. No power was ever yet able to withstand a nation's united desire (hear, hear). Hence it is that constitutionally we have merely to demand in order that our desires may be acceded to. It was this expressed demand, backed by continuous agitation that gained for the Trade Unionists the Acts of 1871 and 1875; it was this expressed demand, again and again reiterated, that obtained for the worker his Factory Acts, the Employers' Liability Acts, and his Compensation Acts, and it is only by following this course that the Trade Unionist of to-day may hope to



redeem his position. His determination not to be satisfied until a new and more enlightened Magna Charta shall be bestowed upon him, must be expressed upon every opportunity ; no other principle must be permitted to obscure for a moment the vital issue with which he is confronted. No adhesion to party principles ; no desire for party gain must interfere until our great movement be redeemed from the intolerable position in which it has been placed, and it therefore devolves itself upon us to determine what form this agitation shall take, and what methods we shall adopt to secure an early victory (cheers). Looking back over the years that immediately preceded the passing of the Trade Union Acts one is struck with the similarity of ideas then prevalent with those now coming into so much favour. Then the people were in favour of forming a party whose only desire would be to promote the social well-being of the community, and to-day the same desire is manifesting itself in every part of the United Kingdom. Long enough we have been the victims of the unredeemed pledges of the various political parties, and to-day there is the determination to end this dependence upon the whims of party leaders and to secure for ourselves such a position in the legislature as will ensure the social condition of the people having prior consideration. The many great and absorbing social questions which await solution can only be adequately dealt with by those who in themselves have suffered from the bad social conditions prevailing to-day. The housing of the working classes, amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act, amendments to the Factories Act, the fixing of standard hours of employment, the improving of the condition of the rural labourer, and the many other necessary improvements can only be sympathetically grasped by a strong and vigorous Labour Party. Can we return such a party, and how shall we start are questions which each person can himself answer. The Trade Union movement is the most powerful working-class movement of to-day ; its membership numbers almost two millions ; its funds stand at almost four million pounds, and it has an electoral power that can make or unmake parties. This membership has hitherto been divided, one section voting with one party, and the other section with another, thus each section neutralising each other's power ; its funds have been spent on strike after strike which has arisen not always because of the desire of the employers not to concede terms, but often against economic conditions which can only be changed by Parliamentary action. If then we can establish a movement which can not merely unite these two million voters but which will also have the support of the huge army of workers not organised but receiving the benefits which trades combinations confer upon the working classes, then we shall be directing a power and instituting a movement that shall eliminate all iniquities and substitute co-operation in lieu of the competitive waste now prevailing. To do this, of course, means money. But surely Trades' Union funds can

be devoted to nothing better than the improving the social condition of the members. Surely it is a saner and wiser policy to spend £1,000 in the return of a member to the House of Commons than it is to spend ten times that amount in a strike which is often not successful, and even if successful entails upon the members participating in such strike great privations. If we can find a platform common to the workers, then we can dominate the electoral machine, and the dominating of the electoral machine means the obtaining of every advantage that the worker requires, but it also entails that the worker shall separate himself from his old political associations. No section of workers can demand of any other section that theirs shall be the whole sacrifice. If the Liberal workman wants the Tory workman to join him then he must meet him half way. He cannot demand that the Tory workman shall yield up his associations whilst he, the Liberal, retains his own. There must be a mutual conceding and a mutual forbearance, and if we can adopt this policy then the advent of a strong, vigorous and united labour party into the Councils of the nation is one of early moment. The year that is past has been a period of seed time to the worker. An agitation strong and vigorous has been entered upon, and with some success, all over the country. There is an awakening to the new movement, and some forty candidates have been selected for constituencies in the United Kingdom, irrespective of party and determined to know no issue other than loyalty to those interests that they have been pledged to safeguard and advance (cheers). The progress of this movement has been greatly facilitated by the disruption in the old established parties. Liberals have found themselves out of touch with their party's programme, and life-long Tories have seceded from a party whose traditions have been violated, and whose policy is a reversal of that hitherto held sacred for generations (hear, hear). All this has had its educating influence upon the toiler. He has been compelled to stop and think, and once the thinking process has begun, dissatisfaction with his present condition has been the result. The "divine discontent" thus engendered is not applicable to any one party. All parties have lost adherents, who, in the main, have associated themselves with the new movement, thus developing a toleration hitherto unknown in political life. Looking over the list of Parliamentary candidates nominated by the new movement, and glancing at the constituencies they are to contest, one is struck with the Catholicity of the movement in some of the constituencies. Advanced Radicals are to be fought; in some, antiquated Whigs; and in others age-encrusted Tories; in each case the only consideration being to consolidate the labour movement, and to secure fair representation for the worker. What attitude is Ireland going to adopt in respect to this question? Are we going to stand aloof with our prejudices and our partisanships, or are we going to welcome and participate with it in the struggles of the future.



These are questions which we, at this Congress, are called upon to answer, and what answer shall we give? For my part, I am convinced that Ireland cannot afford to stand isolated in this great campaign; she has too much at stake. No country in the world requires so much the care and attention to social wants that Ireland demands at the hands of her representatives. Can she? Is she getting that care and attention now? Only a bigoted partizan would answer this in the affirmative. The keen party political warfare that she is continuously plunged in prevents even moderate attention being paid to her industrial condition. Will a united people on one platform, joining in one demand, pressing in one direction, improve her? To this every thoughtful person must agree. What then keeps us back? Why if we have the means to remedy her grievances do we not use them, and why if a solution of her difficulties are to our hand, do we not accept it?

Are we pledged to craven silence.

Oh, fling it to the winds the parchment wall that bars us from the least  
of human kind,

That makes us cringe and temporise and dumbly stand at rest,  
Whilst pity's burning flood of words is red-hot in our breast.

I conjure each delegate to emancipate himself from the old atmosphere by which he has hitherto been surrounded, and to step into that purer air that bespeaks not merely for himself, but for all his countrymen a regenerated and ennobling life (cheers). During the last twelve months the industrial condition of the United Kingdom has been the one absorbing theme of conversation. The proposals of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain to replace our present system of taxation for revenue purposes only, by a system designed to exclude foreign manufactured goods has caused considerable flutterings in the dovecots of the several political parties. Politicians who have hitherto found no cause to disturb their life-long comradeships have been compelled to take opposite platforms on the question of tariff reform. Cabinet Ministers have found themselves unable to continue to serve under a Prime Minister who was not an out-and-out protectionist, and Cabinet Ministers have also found themselves unable to continue to serve under a Prime Minister who had declared his intentions of departing from the principles of free trade, which this country had so long endorsed. It is not necessary, I think, for us to have a full dress debate upon this all important question. It will, I think, be sufficient if we merely analyse the cardinal features of the alternative proposals of protection, and preferential treatment in order that we may be satisfied as to whether this agitation in favour of protection is designed with the sole object of improving the condition of the worker, or whether there is any other object in view which we as workers, and I desire above all things to view this question from the workman's standpoint alone, "paying no regard to the political hacks of either party," are interested either for or against. It is



suggested that if we tax imported manufactured goods our people at home will have all the goods so excluded by such a tax to manufacture themselves, and that our imports will fall with a corresponding rise in our exports. But Mr. Chamberlain, himself, addressing his constituents in January, 1885, told the whole truth as to this argument when he said—"Protection very likely might, it probably would, have this result; it would increase the incomes of owners of great estates, and it would swell the profits of the capitalists who were fortunate enough to engage in the best protected industries. But it would lessen the total production of the country; it would diminish the rate of wages, and it would raise the price of every necessary of life." This, I think, is a fair analysis from the workman's point of view of the results that would follow our adoption of protectionists principles in this country, and if any objective argument was required to substantiate this opinion the condition of the working classes of Germany affords a complete illustration of its results in that country which has for a quarter of a century been worshipping at the shrine of protection. What condition do we find prevailing amongst the working classes? They work longer hours than us, and for a lower wage. The wages of the German workman, *i.e.* his purchasing power stands in ratio to our purchasing power of £63 to £100, and this notwithstanding their adoption of protection; nay, I venture to assert, largely because of their adoption of protection. If then protection has not benefitted a country like Germany that is twenty years ahead of us in technical education, is there any guarantee that our adoption of similar principles will not have a similar result? No, once we embark upon the costly experiment of dislocating industry and making our legislative chamber the cockpit of contending traders, each clamouring for the protection of his own particular trade, then we may bid a long farewell to that industrial prosperity that has made us the envy of the world, and has enabled us to rise triumphantly over every wave of national danger. Under a system of trade tariffs we would find that the steel manufacturer would demand such a tariff on imported steel plates and angle irons as would secure his getting a good price in the home market, with possibly a margin of profit for dumping purposes; whilst on the other hand we would have the ship-builder demanding that as his prosperity was dependent upon his getting his plates and frames in the cheapest market in order that he might successfully compete, it was essential that the requisites for ship-building purposes should be admitted into this country duty free, and so on through every phase of our industrial life. Again, it is proposed to adopt retaliation against those countries which at present impose a tax upon our manufactured goods. But this is a dangerous proposal. (Hear, hear). Suppose we decide to retaliate against America by putting a tax upon imported machinery, what is to prevent America from retaliating in turn by putting an export tax upon raw cotton,

and on the same basis as our present export tax upon coal, and one has only to glance at the condition of Lancashire and Yorkshire during the past four months—whilst gambling in “futures” was taking place, to gain some idea of what it would mean to the people of these countries to interfere with the free access to us of the necessary raw material. It is said that any tax put by America upon the exporting of raw cotton would be mainly borne by the American grower. A similar argument was used by the mine owners and mining employees when they jointly requested the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer not to put on the 1s. coal export tax, but his answer then was, and subsequent events proved him to be right, “that the tax so imposed would be paid not by the exporter but by the consumer,” and there can be no doubt, as stated by Mr. Macara, President of the Cotton Employers’ Association, that an export tax of even  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the lb. by America would so dislocate trade that a large proportion of our mills would have to close, for it is estimated that a tax of this kind would mean a difference of £3,500,000 per annum to the home industry. But the phase of this protectionist campaign that has most interest to the agricultural portion of Ireland is the proposal to give preferential treatment to our Colonial dependencies. Taking the proposed 2s. duty on corn, and the preferential treatment of our Colonies, what is the nett result to rural Ireland? A 2s. duty on corn might, if it was unaccompanied by any other proposal, benefit the Irish farmer; it might make it worth his while to grow more cereals than he is at present inclined to. But how, if he cannot now compete against, say American or Russian grain, can he be any better with a preference given to Canadian and Australian grain? If, as is asserted, it is necessary for Imperial purposes that our Colonies should be preferentially treated, what form of preference is there available other than for foodstuffs? If we desire to benefit Canada at the expense of the United States we must not merely tax cereals from the United States, but we must also assist the importation of Canadian cereals, and in doing this we must inevitably still further limit the market (under present industrial conditions), for Irish grown corn, in addition to the fact that any well organised attempt on the part of the Irish farmers to develop his land will, if the past is any criterion of the future, bring, with such development, an increase of the rent of his holding, and thus fulfil the prophecy made by Mr. Chamberlain in 1885. In my opinion, therefore, what is wanted to relieve our industrial condition is neither protection, retaliation, nor preferential treatment, but a just and equitable land tenure system and the nationalisation of our railways and canals, so that the produce grown by the industry and toil of the field worker may reach the market at the minimum of cost, and not, as at present, at a prohibitive rate; given these two reforms and I will venture to assert that Ireland will bound from her present condition of comparative poverty into that of prosperity and peace.



Neither in Ireland nor in the other portions of the United Kingdom is there a lack of productive power. Surely a country whose income is equal to £42 10s. per head per annum, or £4 2s. per family per week is not as a country in an impoverished condition; but if we could eliminate all those, and they are many, who "toil not neither do they spin," and who draw large salaries and reap large dividends from the toiling masses of the people we would gain a clearer view of the industrial requirements of our country. The tax on industry by our wasteful and extravagant railway system, by our handing to the ground landlord all that increased value which the community confers upon all land contiguous to populous districts, by our permitting the landlord to exact a toll in the form of mining rents, royalties, and wayleaves, and by our perpetuation of a class in the community of idle rich maintained at the expense of the worker, calls for a reconsideration at our hands. No other country in the world so willingly submits itself to internal handicaps as does the United Kingdom, and it is a hopeful augury of a better day when we find that the present House of Commons, with all its limitations, supporting, by such a majority, such principles as the taxation of land values. Let us grapple with these barriers to increased prosperity, and we shall find that it is not the foreigner but our own stupidity that has prevented that era of social betterment which conferences such as this aim at bringing to pass. One would like to linger on this most complicated of questions, but time is limited, and I merely desire, before concluding, to make a passing reference to the attempt to impose, under the flag of liberty, conditions of slavery. No act of the present Government has aroused such widespread indignation both at home and abroad as this, their proposal to legalise the drafting of indentured Chinese labour into South Africa, and one cannot help noting that in the main the strongest advocates of this policy have also been amongst those who have most vigorously demanded fiscal reform, and most energetically denounced foreign importations. and yet without a thought as to their inconsistency, apart from any other motive, they demand not merely that British labour should be replaced by enslaved coolie labour, but that the product of such labour should have free access into the United Kingdom. "I cannot conceive from the Trade Unionist's standpoint the slightest justification for such action on the part of H.M. Government. Those who have come into contact with tradesmen who have been in South Africa, or who have read on the subject, do not require to be told that there is an abundance of labour provided the mine-owners are prepared to pay for it, but this is what the hordes of German Jews who are manipulating the South African mines refuse to do; they want labour at starvation prices, and because neither the white nor the black population have shown a desire to come down to the employer's terms the agitation for indentured yellow labour has been started, and with, so far, complete success. To those who have



perused the ordinance, there can remain no doubt as to its constituting a condition of slavery. The Chinese cannot leave his compound without a pass from his employer, and no pass can be granted for a longer period than forty-eight hours, and once outside the compound he is liable to be stopped by any policeman, who can command his pass—and if such be not forthcoming may be hauled to prison and sentenced for the crime of being free. That this condition of affairs should be the outcome of our enormous expenditure of treasure and blood in South Africa has given a shock to the majority of the people of these islands. Rightly or wrongly the working classes of the United Kingdom believed that the war was being waged to establish freedom and the paramountcy of English opinion, and to find that instead of freedom we have established a condition of slavery, and that instead of making British opinion paramount we had handed over the country we had obtained at such a cost to the merciless grasp of German financiers has done more to consolidate the working classes, and to open their eyes to the machinations of the political parties, who are employers first and citizens afterwards, than all the agitation of the past dozen years. The attempt to establish conditions of slavery on the ground that the development of particular industries demands it is a doctrine dangerous to our liberty at home, and inimical to the consolidation of labour; for, if we admit that “the lust for gold” is to have priority of consideration, then if the employers at any time assert that any industry at home cannot be carried on at the price white labour demands we would logically have to hand over such industries to those who were willing to become captive profit producers, and under such conditions as the employer chooses to determine (hear, hear). I am persuaded that this Congress with no uncertain voice will brand this doctrine as infamous, and declare their determination to uphold at all costs the liberty of the subject and proclaim again to all the world that Britain refuses for any consideration to recognise property in man. Let the apologists for this proposal say what they may, the real reason underlying the promulgation of the ordinance is to be found in the letter of Mr. Percy Tarbut (one of the largest mining magnates in South Africa), and addressed in July, 1903, to Mr. Cresswell, mines manager. It is as follows:—

Dear Mr. Cresswell—With reference to your trial of white labour for surface work on the mines, I have consulted the Consolidated Goldfields people, and one of the members of the Board of the Village Main Reef has consulted Messrs. Werner, Beit & Co., and the feeling seems to be one of fear that, having a large number of white men employed on the Rand in the position of labourers, the same troubles will arise as are now prevalent in the Australian Colonies, viz., that the combination of the labouring classes will become so strong as to be able to more or less dictate, not only on the question of wages, but also on political questions, by the power of their votes when a representative Government is established.—Yours sincerely,

PERCY TARBUT.

This, then, is the sole reason for the demand for Chinese labour,

the fear of the working people getting better wages and political power, and yet we tolerate advocates of this policy. We permit ourselves to be cajoled by fair promises and smooth excuses, whilst at the same time the forces of reaction are designing the destruction of our personal and political liberty. In the face of this determined attempt to subvert the powers we possess, is it not time that we were closing up our ranks, and uniting our forces? How long are we going to perpetuate this internecine warfare that has strangled at birth every new hope and every new idea making for progress in Ireland. Surely a mature consideration will show us, no matter what political or religious opinions we may hold, that there are some questions upon which we cannot hope to unite, but is that a reason why those other hundred and one problems, the solving of which means so much to our country, should be indefinitely shelved; how long is Ireland going to remain divided into two hostile camps, neglecting every opportunity that our united power could seize, to cope with the perplexities of our social state. Surely it is not too much to ask that we should lay aside, at least for a season, all the enmities and bickerings which, in the past, have made both parties in Ireland an easy prey to the common enemy; is it not possible for us to adhere to our opinions upon those questions which so sharply divide us, whilst at the same time we determine to unite our forces for the social redemption of our country. If we care to, we can bridge the chasm that separates the North from the South. If we are in earnest for a united Ireland, making for peace and prosperity, we can find a platform common to all creeds and all parties that will enable us to stem the tide of emigration from our shores, that is to a large extent expatriating the best and truest of our fellow-countrymen; that will enable us to prevent the continuance of our present iniquitous land system that is impoverishing the inhabitants of every village; that will enable us to grapple with the drink traffic that is playing such havoc in our midst, blighting the manhood and the womanhood of our land; that will enable us to free ourselves from the incubus of a private railway system that is strangling our growth and throttling our industries, and that will enable us to cast around the poor and the weak of our brethren the protecting mantle of a united people's love and care (loud applause). In the alembic of Divine mysteries, it is hard to reason the why's and wherefore's of our conflicting opinions. Generation follows generation, each in their turn find progress delayed, and suffering perpetuated by hostilities that to the succeeding peoples appear incomprehensible and puerile; but this condition need not always continue. The wise men of all ages have ever spoken of a time when communities will place the true interests of their country above the vain and selfish appeals of party, "when the swords shall be turned into ploughshares, and the spears into pruning hooks"; when the aspirations of a man towards a time when all men shall feel they ~~are~~ brethren shall be realized; when our huge expendi-



ture on the dragooning of a nation by an armed police force, on the drilling and equipping of great armies and navies designed for hostile action shall cease; when the producer shall feel that his is the power and the right to live as God and nature intended man should live; when we shall enforce the dictum of St. Paul, that he that shall not work neither shall he eat, and when we shall be able to declare that our laws give equal opportunities to all the sons and daughters of men. Are we making for such conditions for the future, or are we standing in the way, blocking and hindering those who are working towards this end? On this question there is an individual as well as a collective responsibility. What part is each man taking; is he going forward or backward; is he for peace, or declaring for war? What is your individual policy, and in what way are you going to direct the policy of this Congress? For my part I stand for peace. I declare to-day, in the words of Ruskin, that I am willing to tolerate everything but every other man's intolerance, and if we can only tolerate opinions from which we honestly differ, then the future of Ireland is bright indeed, and that fierce internal warfare that has all but succeeded in dethroning reason amongst us will have given place to a period of unity making for progress—

The time is ripe, a rotten ripe for change,  
Then let it come; I have no dread of what  
Is called for by the instinct of mankind;  
Nor think I that God's world will fall apart  
Because we tear a parchment more or less.

(Loud applause).

Mr. G. Coates (Cork), proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his able and brilliant address. Alluding to it he desired to refer to one important matter to which he thought particular attention should be directed, and that was to the housing of the working classes. That was one of the things to be attended to if emigration was to be stopped in the country (applause). The slums they lived in at present were disgraceful. The proper housing of the working classes and technical instruction were two things that they as Irishmen should certainly go in for. It was nearly time for them to put their shoulders to the wheel and ask the Irish Party to do something for the workingman. For the past thirty years they had been passing resolutions and fighting for the farmers of Ireland and it was now nearly time to do a little for the workingman (applause).

Mr. Simmons (Dublin), seconded the vote of thanks. The Chairman's speech was a masterly survey of the principles which ought to govern every Trades Unionist in Ireland. It was a complete exposure of the fallacious doctrines of Mr. Chamberlain. His remarks about Mr. Chamberlain's proposals would find an echo in the breast of every well-wisher to Trades Unionism in Great Britain (hear, hear). A cry had been raised almost with one voice throughout the length and breadth of the land against these pro-

posals. They would mean destruction to a large section of the community. He could honestly say, if that scheme was carried out it would not alone cause destruction to the people of Great Britain and Ireland but to the workers in foreign lands. As regards their Members of Parliament, their policy had not always met with approval, because it had been a selfish policy in regard to the agrarian movement. The housing of the working classes was a subject that should receive the attention it deserved. As regards the Chairman's speech, it would find a foremost place in the literature of Trades Unionism (applause).

Mr. Chambers, Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, in putting the proposition, said it was one of the most inspiring addresses he had ever listened to. There was nothing imaginary or fallacious about it. It was well worthy of the cause and of the man. They only hoped that the ringing voice of their Chairman would be heard ere long in the House of Commons demanding equality and justice for the workers of his native land (applause).

The Chairman suitably returned thanks.

#### REPORT FROM STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (No. 1).

Mr. John Murphy (Belfast), Chairman Standing Orders Committee, presented a report which recommended—(1) That the Congress continue in Session until 2 p.m., and then adjourn for the first day; (2) that the report of the Parliamentary Committee be taken first business on Tuesday morning, (3) after which the Standing Orders being suspended, that a Special Resolution thanking the Irish Members for their attendance on the Second Reading of the Trades' Disputes [Bill should be taken, and the Scotch delegates' address to the Congress; (4) that delegates to the Scotch Congress, 1905, be nominated and elected the same time and in the same manner as the Parliamentary Committee. He also read a telegram from Mr. James Harvey (A.S.R.S.), and a letter from Mr. S. Currie (Belfast Plumbers), explaining unavoidable absence.

The Report was adopted.

#### CHINESE LABOUR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Councillor Edward McInnes (Belfast), moved:—

"That this Congress strongly condemns the Chinese Labour Ordinance sanctioned by the Home Government, whereby Asiatics are being introduced into the Transvaal, where abundance of native labour can be obtained at reasonable rates, and where Europeans are at present unemployed to an alarming extent; and that we regard the Ordinance as a wholesale resuscitation of slavery in a Crown Colony, and a complete surrender of the functions of Government to a ring of greedy capitalists."

He asserted that the latest Blue Book on the subject showed that ample Kaffir labour would have been procurable in South Africa had the Kaffirs not been abominably treated by the



mining magnates and their hired overseers. The blacks had been ill-treated, they had been assaulted and severely injured, and promises made to them as to wages and conditions had not been carried out. Besides, it was clearly proven that the wages of black labour had been reduced by over 50 per cent., and, naturally the black workers were holding aloof until their old wage rate had been restored. An attempt was being made to introduce a servile race in South Africa, a race condemned to the lowest form of manual labour so long as its members should remain in South Africa, for the three years' contract was renewable, and their only recreations would be an occasional forty-eight hours' pass to the Johannesburg dens in order that the Chinese might spend their earnings, and never be able to return to China unless as paupers. Their wives were to be imported with them, or after them—so the Government had promised—but even if the Chinese labourers and their wives could be compelled to return to China, would not, he asked, a new race spring up, the yellow children born of this haphazard arrangement under the flag of freedom? Were they to be compelled to go to a foreign country—China—and leave the British colony in which they had been born? Would they not rather be retained as a fruitful source of profit, out of which the German Jew millionaires could purchase diamonds for their relatives in Park Lane and provide orgies for their remaining satellites in Covent Garden or Monte Carlo? If the Chinese were such a low type of civilisation that they were unfit to mix on equal terms with the present inhabitants of the Transvaal, the remedy was to keep them out, as the Australians and Americans were doing. (Cheers). That would be the only form of ordinance which Trade Unionists could approve of. Freedom to labour, freedom for every race and for all mankind, was an inalienable right, which force, and force alone, would prevent Trade Unionists fighting for, and what was being done by the Government to support a wealthy industry in South Africa to-day would be done to-morrow by a similar cheap labour-compelling ordinance for some of the British capitalists, if the present ordinance was allowed to become effective (applause).

Mr. Murphy (Belfast), in seconding, said—Trades Unionists always held that the war was one for the benefit of the capitalists, and the introduction of Chinese slavery showed that there was a good deal of truth in the view. Flogging would, no doubt, be very largely indulged in by the owners amongst the Chinese, as there was nothing in the ordinance to prevent it.

The resolution was passed *nem. con.*

#### AMENDMENT OF THE TRADE UNION ACTS, &C.

Mr. Graydon (Dublin), moved:—

“That this Congress instructs its Parliamentary Committee to use all legitimate measures to amend the Trade Union Acts, the Employers' Liability Act and the Fair Wages Resolution, in such

manner as will render these measures more acceptable to the Trades Unionists of Ireland."

He said this was a resolution which should appeal to everyone of them. Recent legal decisions had awakened them from the fancied security into which they had lapsed, and the lessons caused by them had been rather sharp ones, but not unproductive of good. Some weak points had been pointed out, and brought forth the energies of the leaders in efforts to prevent further disasters. Funds raised for benefit purposes should not be jeopardised by the single incautious word or action on the part of one of their members. The Act of Parliament dealing with compensation to workmen for injuries received should be more clear and definite, and the Fair Wages Resolution could be amended with great advantage. It was only by earnest advocacy in Parliament that amendments could be effected. One victory for the cause was won in the House of Commons a few weeks ago, and their best thanks were due to the Irish Members of Parliament who, at personal inconvenience in many cases, went across to gain this victory for them. He hoped it was only a fore-runner to a great many more.

Mr. Stephen Howard (Dublin) seconded, and said that the working man should not vote for any one, for Corporation or public bodies only those who supported their interests.

Mr. Hudson (Dublin) said that the mover and seconder of the resolution had not thoroughly grasped the importance of the second question mentioned in it. There were three or four primary questions that must come up if the worker was to be benefited under the Employers' Liability Act, and these were the abolition of the law of common employment, total abolition of the right of an employer to contract out of the Act, the extension of the time of giving notice, and the further extension of the compensation clause.

Mr. O'Neill (Dublin), dealt at some length with the sub-letting clause, and said that in the case of Government and other contracts sub-letting should be condemned. He did not know whether the goods were required in a contract of this kind to be made in the locality or in the country, but he believed that they should be. He instanced the case of a Dublin contractor who got work from Canada in this way—work that he could easily have got done at home.

Mr. McManus (Belfast), said a contractor was not bound to get work done in the locality. He instanced cases of Government printing where the work was not done on the spot, and where skilled labour was not employed, but the work was done by boys and girls.

Mr. Taylor (Belfast), urged the advisability of making the Fair Wages Resolution more acceptable to the workers. In spending money to try and enforce it they would be only doing what was to their own interest, because the enforcement meant money to the workers. If they could impress on the workers that if the Fair Wages Resolution were fairly and honestly carried out, it would



result in far more for them, they might be able to succeed, as thousands of pounds were being spent on work done under unfair conditions.

Mr. Graydon's resolution having been amended, by striking out the words "Employers' Liability Act," was passed.

#### AMENDMENT OF COMPENSATION ACT.

Mr. Joseph Mitchell (Belfast), moved :—

"That this Congress believes the Workmen's Compensation Act should be so amended (1) as to secure payment to injured persons from the moment of accident at a rate of not less than 50 per cent. of the wages the workmen would have earned if continuously employed on full time; (2) that in cases of fatal accidents the compensation awarded to relatives should be based on the rate of wages paid to, and not upon the amount of wages earned by, deceased (overtime to be included in the rate); and (3) that compensation to minors should contemplate and cover all loss in after life."

He said that the Act should be amended to remove anomalies which existed, and about which leading lawyers of both Ireland and England disagreed on the interpretation of the different clauses.

Mr. Stewart (Dublin), in seconding, said no compensation could, at present, be obtained by people employed in shops or warerooms.

Mr. Hudson (Dublin), Mr. Gageby, J.P. (Belfast), and Mr. Murphy, also spoke.

Mr. Richardson, Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee, said there was a Departmental Committee sitting on this matter at present, and they were promised legislation. Last year no resolution was adopted on this question because of that fact; but it might look as if they were departing from the position they took up if they did not incorporate in the present motion the points previously dealt with. The Congress should make it clear that it in no way deviated from the resolutions already adopted.

Messrs. Howard and Collins (Dublin), supported Mr. Richardson's contention.

Councillor McInnes (Belfast), said he had read through the evidence given by their secretary (Mr. Richardson), before the Departmental Committee, and he had to congratulate both that gentleman and the Congress upon the able and exhaustive manner in which the Irish case for amendment was presented to the Committee. He had no doubt their Secretary's evidence would greatly help to bring about the desired reforms if the Government were in earnest in the matter.

Mr. McManus (Belfast), said they were promised this Act would do away with litigation, but they were in as great a dilemma as before the passing of the Act, as one judge controverts the decision of another. He suggested that it be referred to the Parliamentary Committee, so as to give them a little latitude to carry out the provisions of former resolutions.

Mr. Hudson would agree if the Parliamentary Committee were allowed the elasticity asked for by Mr. McManus.

The resolution was then passed with the recommendation as to the Parliamentary Committee's powers.

#### OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

Mr. John Whitla (Belfast), moved :—

"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 Parliamentary Committee be requested to urge upon all Irish M.P.'s the desirability of pressing forward this matter, as it is of the utmost urgency."

Mr. Feenan (Belfast), in seconding, pointed out that the shop assistants as a class were subject to displacement when they were no longer so young or presentable as in their heyday, and the resolution was specially important to shop assistants.

Mr. A. Taylor (Belfast), in supporting, said it was no argument against thrift to say that one who added to the wealth of the State was entitled to the pittance of 5s. weekly after reaching sixty-five years of age. Most workers were now purely casual workers, and it was sufficiently difficult for them to save enough to maintain them when out of employment or when sickness was in the family.

Mr. John Moloney (Dublin), in alluding to the present condition of workers dealt with what awaited them in the present state of affairs. If ill-health or misfortune overtook them their only refuge was the workhouse, with its inhuman system of separating man and wife and children. Poor Law Relief should not be degrading to men or women, and the finger of scorn should not be pointed at them in their old age, if they had to be supported from what they had paid for all their lives.

The resolution was adopted.

#### THE SCOTCH DELEGATES.

The Chairman announced the arrival in the hall of the Scottish delegation, Mr. Robert Smilie (Lanark), and Mr. Charles Jackson (Glasgow), who, he said, would be officially received at twelve o'clock to-morrow (applause). The Parliamentary Committee report would be taken up as the first business.

The Congress then adjourned till 9.30 Tuesday morning.

#### THE BANQUET.

In the evening a dinner was given by the local Trades' Council to the delegates and many prominent citizens in the Town Hall, and was a most enjoyable function. Councillor John McCarthy (Secretary of the local Reception Committee), occupied the chair.



## SECOND DAY—Tuesday, 24th May, 1904.

Congress re-assembled at 9.30 a.m., the President, Councillor William Walker, in the chair.

Minutes of the first day's proceedings read and confirmed.

The Report of the Parliamentary Committee for the past year was received and taken clause by clause.

### REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

FELLOW DELEGATES,—Your Committee beg to present a record of their proceedings for the past year; but desire at the outset to say that, from want of sufficient financial support, they find themselves greatly hampered in performing the work which the Congress, year after year, sets them to accomplish. In order, however, to minimise, as far as possible, this handicap, and in accordance with the decision of the Newry Congress, they issued in August last, a circular to all the trades and labour bodies in Ireland, asking them to take a vote of their members on the question whether they would support the work of your Committee by a grant or levy of one penny per member per annum payable to Treasurer in December in each year. The response, while not discouraging, is still far from being what it should be, especially so in regard to branches of some of the larger amalgamations whose headquarters are on the other side of the Channel. And while your Committee believe that their work for Irish trades unionism will bear favourable comparison with that of older and more pretentious institutions, they are likewise convinced that much more could be done in that direction did they receive the support to which they claim to be entitled from local as well as from amalgamated societies. They, however, are bound to say that as regards the latter, resolutions have been adopted within the past year at the annual conferences of the Typographical Association, the Shop Assistants Union, and the Amalgamated House and Ship Painters Society, pledging support in accordance with the Newry Resolution, which, with the help accorded from the beginning by the Railwaymen, Coachmakers and Tailors, shows that recognition of the work of the Irish Congress is slowly, but surely progressing. Your Committee look with confidence to the Irish branches of other amalgamations to secure like recognition from their Executives.

*The Irish Party and the Congress.*—As usual, immediately after the adjournment of Congress your Committee ordered copies of resolutions dealing with the appointment of Female Factory Inspectors for Ireland, the Shops Bill, Steam Engines (Persons in Charge) Bill, the Cancelling of Publicans' Licences, War Department Contracts, and other matters then before Parliament, to be forwarded for the consideration of the Irish Parliamentary Party, to which the following reply was received :—

House of Commons, 1st July, 1903.

Dear Mr. Richardson—I am in receipt of your letter of the 29th ult., with copies of resolutions adopted by the Irish Trades Union Congress at Newry on 1st June

These resolutions shall be placed before the next meeting of the Irish Parliamentary Party, and in the meantime I will bring them under the notice of the Chairman, Mr. J. E. Redmond, M.P. With kindest regards and all good wishes—Believe me, sincerely yours,

Mr. E. L. Richardson.

WM. ABRAHAM, Joint Sec. I.P.P.

*The Fair Wages Resolution and Local Government Contracts.*—Your Committee have given this question much attention, but regret to find that, notwithstanding the very exhaustive circular on the matter issued by them to the Corporation, County, Urban and District Councils and Boards of Guardians of Ireland in 1902, much remains to be done to secure the adoption and practical observance of the Fair Wages Resolution by many of the bodies referred to. With this object in view a deputation from your Committee, for the second time, sought and obtained an audience at the annual meeting of the County Councils General Council in Dublin on the 28th August last. The deputation, which consisted of Messrs. Walker, M'Manus and Richardson, forcibly urged on the Councillors present the desirability of binding their contractors to the terms of the Fair Wages Resolution in the interests alike of the ratepayers, employers, and employed. Several of the Councillors stated what had already been done in that respect in their various districts, and the reply of the Chairman (Sir Thomas Esmonde) was fairly satisfactory.

On this question, your Committee observe a proposition on the agenda paper calling for the amendment of the Fair Wages Resolution. They beg to report that on Wednesday, the 23rd March, 1904, the member for Clitheroe (Mr. Shackleton) moved in the House of Commons—"That this House is of opinion that the wages paid to unskilled workers in Government factories and shipyards should be not less than the standard rate of wages paid for similar work in other employments in the respective districts." Captain Norton seconded the resolution, which was accepted by Mr. Victor Cavendish, on behalf of the Government; whereupon Mr. John Burns, not satisfied with the construction put by Government officials upon the term "such wages as are generally accepted as current," moved to add thereto the words—"And that such wages shall be those agreed upon by the Trade Union and Employers' Association and in practice obtains where the work is performed." Mr. Nannetti (Dublin) seconded. Mr. Balfour, however, declined to accept the addendum without giving the Department an opportunity of considering its effects, and the question was "talked out."

*Fair Wages and Stationery Office Contracts.*—The Controller of H. M. Stationery Office forwarded the following reply to a letter covering resolution dealing with the operation of the Fair Wages Resolution in Stationery Office contracts executed by firms outside the area of their chief offices and principal business premises :—

Stationery Office, London, 9th July, 1903. [L. 2422.]

Sir—I am directed by the Controller to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., enclosing copy of a resolution of the Irish Trades Union Congress.



The Controller has read the resolution with interest, and wishes me to ask you to convey to the Committee the assurance that it will be, as it always has been, his endeavour to ensure that the resolution passed by the House of Commons on the 13th February, 1891, and renewed on the 21st March, 1893, is carried out in the spirit as well as in the letter by every firm holding contracts from H. M. Stationery Office. He is, however, unable to admit the suggestion conveyed in the resolution that the execution of work away from the district where the tender emanated from is a breach of the House of Commons Resolution, if the wages actually paid are at rates current and generally accepted in the locality in which the work may be executed.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

E. P. PLOWMAN, Assistant Controller.

Mr. E. L. Richardson.

*War Department Contracts.*—The resolutions on this subject adopted at Newry were in due course forwarded to the then Secretary of State (Mr. Broderick) but elicited nothing but the usual formal reply. Subsequently numerous questions were put in the House, and on the Army Estimates the hon. member for College Green Division of Dublin (Mr. Nannetti), having made frequent incursions into the debate in the interests of his constituents, moved to reduce the vote for Miscellaneous Services by £100 in order to mark his protest against the fact that none of the supplies needed for military purposes in Ireland were obtained in Ireland. In reply the Secretary for War explained that most of the goods were supplied by tenders which came from all parts of the kingdom, but that with the greater decentralisation of the army there would be an increased tendency to buy supplies locally. Mr. Nannetti, however, divided the Committee, but was, of course, defeated.

*Ordnance Workshops and Receiving Depot in Ireland.*—These questions, in like manner, having received stereotyped replies from the War Office, your Committee determined to appeal to the Lord Lieutenant to use his influence in the desired direction. The following is apparently a report furnished by order of his Excellency, which your Committee received:—

Headquarters, Royal Hospital, Dublin, 5th August, 1903.

Sir—With reference to your letter of the 18th July, forwarding copy of a resolution passed by the Irish Trades Union Congress on Ordnance Workshops, I have the honour to inform you for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant that the question of manufacture in Ordnance Workshops is one that affects every District or Command where Ordnance Stores exist, and not Ireland alone.

At present, for obvious reasons, repairs only are carried out in the shops, and manufacture resorted to only under special orders from Headquarters.

A number of civilians were taken on temporarily at Island Bridge to replace men of the Army Ordnance Corps sent to South Africa and to meet pressure of work caused by the war. When this pressure ceased to exist, the men's services were dispensed with by order of the War Office.

The work referred to by the Hon. Sec. Parliamentary Committee Irish Trades Union Congress, as hitherto being done by civilian tradesmen, is now carried out by trained artificers of the Army Ordnance Corps.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

S. G. MAXWELL, Chief Staff Officer.

Major M. O'Brien, A.D.C. to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

On the appointment of Mr. H. O. Arnold-Forster to the War

Department, your Secretary wrote under date December 14th, 1904 :—

I beg to submit on overleaf copies of resolutions adopted at the Tenth Annual Congress of Irish Trade Unionists, and am instructed to respectfully urge that as the head of the War Department, representing an Irish industrial constituency, some consideration may be given to the desires of Irish workers in the matters therein referred to. It is urged, first, that practical effect be given to the Duke of Connaught's evidence before the Committee on War Office Organisation in regard to Ordnance Workshops in Ireland (see minutes of evidence pages 365, 366); and secondly, that the Receiving Depot at Arbour Hill, Dublin, should be made effective by the appointment of a resident inspector, in order to obviate the expense and deterioration involved by Irish contractors having to forward samples for inspection to Woolwich. In the hope that these matters will meet with your favourable consideration—I am, &c.

An acknowledgment immediately followed, with the intimation that the resolutions would have Mr. Arnold-Forster's careful consideration. Eventually the following detailed reply was received :—

War Office. London, S.W., 1st March, 1904. [7101-4837. D.C.4.]

Sir—I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you that the subjects mentioned in your letter of 14th December have been carefully considered, but that they regret that they are unable to meet the wishes of the Irish Trades Union Congress in regard to the establishment of Ordnance Workshops and Inspection Departments in Ireland.

While the Council have much sympathy with the movement for developing Irish trade and industrial occupation, they fear that there are practical difficulties in the way of the creation of separate army workshops or factories and inspection departments for the supply of his Majesty's military forces stationed in Ireland. Apart from the general objections to the re-duplication of Government establishments, with the inevitable increased cost of management and other establishment charges, there is every reason to believe that the work which could be allotted to such institutions would be insufficient to keep them in full operation throughout the year, and the want of continuity of employment would alone defeat the primary object with which their creation is recommended.

The Department is always glad to receive tenders for army supplies from the Irish traders and to give them the most impartial consideration. In some cases, indeed, such for instance as clothing for the Royal Irish Constabulary, preference has been given to Irish contractors, even when that preference involved the payment of a higher price. But it is obvious that as a general rule consideration must be given to price in placing orders.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

E. W. D. WARD.

And the following question put :—

Mr. FIELD—I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will consider the advisability of arranging that the Receiving Depot already established in Dublin shall in future be utilised for the reception of tenders and samples of Irish manufacturers desirous to tender for Army supplies; whether he will arrange that civilian tradesmen will be more largely employed in the construction and repairs of all work in connection with cavalry outfits.

The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT)—The general questions involved have been the subject of considerable discussion in the past. It is believed that the expense and other disadvantages of the system proposed would outweigh any advantages it might present. The matter, however, shall receive further consideration.

Your Committee have reason to believe that the "further consideration" mentioned in the Financial Secretary's reply will lead eventually to some concession being made to the equitable claim of Irish workers in these matters.



*Importation of Prayer Books, &c.*—The resolution dealing with the alarming increase in the importation of R.C. prayer books and religious works, proposed by the representative of the Consolidated Bookbinders' Union, was submitted, with covering letter, to his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin. His Grace has been good enough to send the following reply, which your Committee trust may have the effect of directing attention to the grievance of which the working bookbinders of the country so justly complain :—

Archbishop's House, Dublin, 25th July, 1903.

Dear Sir—I have been much occupied with diocesan duties of a special character, and have consequently been unable to reply to your letter until now.

With the general purport of the resolution you have forwarded to me I am, of course, in thorough sympathy. It must, however, be remembered that there are not a few devotional and other religious works of great value and importance which have not been published in Ireland, or have not been published here in any form at all suitable for general use.

But this does not affect the general purport of your resolution, which undoubtedly applies, and applies with great force, to the case of prayer books. All that a bishop can do in such a matter is indeed of small importance compared with what can be done by organisations such as yours, in pressing upon the people of the country generally the vast amount of good which it is in their own power to effect.

There cannot be sellers unless there are buyers, and if the people of Ireland could only be moved to be in earnest in this matter, the sale of imported prayer books, &c., would speedily die a natural death.—I remain, dear sir, your faithful servant,

✠ WILLIAM J. WALSH, Archbishop of Dublin.

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

The reference to "sellers and buyers" in his Grace's letter applies with equal force to other imported articles, as well as prayer books, of which complaints were made by delegates from other trades at Congress, and the same remedy suggested by his Grace would, of course, be similarly effective. The whole matter of importation seems to be in the hands of the people, if they can "only be moved to be in earnest in the matter."

*Technical Instruction.*—Regarding the resolution asking that in schemes for technical education promoted by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction "preference should be given to those pupils who are apprentices or journeymen actually working at the trade," where machinery, bench room, or other working equipment is limited, Sir Horace Plunkett acknowledges the justice of the claim, as follows :—

Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction,  
Dublin, 10th July, 1903.

Sir—I have received your letter of the 6th inst. enclosing copy of resolution passed at the recent Trades Union Congress held at Newry on 1st June, 1903. I beg to inform you that this Department is entirely in accord with the terms of the resolution, and hopes to give effect to it in the administration of the schemes of technical instruction to which the resolution refers.—I am, yours faithfully,

HORACE PLUNKETT.

Mr. E. L. Richardson.

It is to be hoped that apprentices and journeymen connected with trades affiliated to the Congress will appreciate the concession

granted by the Department by taking the fullest advantage of facilities for technical training wherever afforded.

*Hackney Carriage Inspection.*—The following letter from the Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police seems to indicate that further powers are necessary before practical coachmakers are appointed "to act in conjunction with the inspectors already appointed" as hackney carriage inspectors :—

Metropolitan Police Office, Dublin Castle, 13th July, 1903.

Sir—In reply to your letter of the 6th inst., I am directed by the Chief Commissioner of Police to state that the duty of inspecting hackney vehicles in Dublin is placed upon the police by Act of Parliament. No difficulty has been experienced in enforcing the law in the interest of the public, nor has the Chief Commissioner any reason to believe that there is any general dissatisfaction with the manner in which the police discharge the duty.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

J. M. GOLDSMITH, Secretary.

Mr. E. L. Richardson.

*Subletting.*—With reference to the resolutions adopted on the motion of the Operative Plasterers' representative, relative to the system of subletting plastering contracts and the importation of fibrous work, which were brought before the Council of the Institute of Architects, the following letter has been received :—

Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, 20 Lincoln Place,  
Dublin, 6th October, 1903.

Dear Sir—I beg to inform you that your letter dated August 11th on the subject of importing fibrous plaster work was brought before my Council at their first meeting after the vacation, and I am directed to convey to you that the Council of the Institute cordially desire in every way to encourage and to foster the industry referred to in this country. But as regards the second resolution dealing with the subletting of plaster work, the Council feel that there are many great practical difficulties in carrying out such a suggestion.—Yours faithfully,

W. KAYE PARREY, Hon. Sec.

*Amendment of the Workmens' Compensation Act.*—Your Committee report that a Departmental Committee was appointed at the end of last year by the Home Secretary "to inquire and report what amendments in the law relating to compensation for injuries to workmen are necessary or desirable; and to what class of employments not now included in the Workmens' Compensation Acts those Acts can properly be extended with or without modification." The Committee consisted of Sir Kenelm Digby, K.C.B. (Chairman), his Honor Judge Lumley Smith, Sir Benjamin Browne, Captain A. J. G. Chalmers (Board of Trade) and Mr. George N. Barnes (Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers).

To this Committee copies of Congress resolutions, calling in specific terms for the amendment of the Acts, were forwarded; and subsequently (on the 4th February, 1904) your Secretary was called as a witness. The following is a brief newspaper report of his evidence :—

Mr. E. L. Richardson, President of the Dublin Trades Council, was called in and examined. He said he appeared there as the representative of the Irish Trades Union Congress, which represented practically the whole of the organised workers of Ireland. The Congress was established in 1894 on the lines of the



British Trades Union Congress, and held its session annually in various parts of the country. At the Dublin meeting in 1900 (eighteen months after the Compensation Act of '97 came into operation) the attention of the Congress was directed to the decisions of the High Courts upon many of the phrases of that measure, which the delegates believed to be contrary to the intention of the Legislature, and a resolution was unanimously adopted calling for an amending Bill, which would widen the scope and application of the principal Act, so as to include all classes of workers, abolish the fortnight which should elapse before compensation is at present payable in respect of accidents, abolish the 30 feet limit, and include all painters' plant in the term "scaffolding." Similar resolutions were adopted at the annual Congresses in Sligo, 1901, and Cork, 1902. Last year, at Newry, the witness continued, no formal pronouncement was made, in consequence of the Congress Committee reporting that on the 13th May the Government accepted a motion made in the House by the hon. member for Carnarvon (Mr. Wm. Jones), which practically covered all the points for which the Irish trades contended, and which involved especially the amendment of sections 1, 4, and 7 of the principal measure, and section 1 of the Act of 1900. In support of the case made by the Congress the witness cited a number of Irish decisions dealing principally with the terms "accident arising out of and in the course of the employment," "for a period of two weeks," "serious and wilful misconduct" (sec. 1); section 4, last paragraph; and the interpretation of the following phrases in section 7:—"Undertaker," "on, or in, or about," "a railway," "factory," "mine," "quarry," "engineering work," "building 30 feet high," "scaffolding," "workman," all of which, the witness contended, appeared to those for whom he spoke to be contrary to the intention of Parliament, and proved the necessity for an amending Act. Having been questioned at length by the Chairman and other members of the Committee, the witness was thanked for his evidence, and withdrew.

In this connection, the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament promised proposals to amend the law relating to workmen's compensation.

*Early Closing of Shops.*—On the 25th March, Sir Charles Dilke moved the second reading of the Shops Bill promoted by the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, in regard to which Congress resolutions in support had previously been forwarded to the right hon. baronet and to the Government. The measure, however, was "talked out." A promise of legislation on the subject having been made in the King's Speech, the Under Secretary for the Home Department, on the 26th April, submitted the Government's proposals. The Bill, which consists of only nine clauses, proposes to authorise any County or Borough Council to fix an hour not earlier than 7 p.m. on specified days of the week, and not earlier than 1 p.m. upon one day a week, when either all retail shops or all shops of a certain class or trade within the area of the local authority must be closed to the public. The local authority does not take the initiative in the matter, but may be moved to action by at least two-thirds of the occupiers of shops in the district affected. When the local authority is satisfied of the requisite majority, it may issue an order, which, before it becomes operative, has to be approved by the Home Secretary, who may, if he thinks fit, order a local inquiry into the subject. It will be observed that this measure is drafted much on the lines of Lord Avebury's abortive Bill of last Session; and, as such, does not meet with the approval of your Committee.

*Housing of the Workers.*—In accordance with instructions, your Committee prepared the following petition, which was duly presented to Parliament by the hon. member for the College Green Division of Dublin on the 23rd February, 1904 :—

The Petition of the Representatives and Delegates of the Irish United Trades Congress, at the Meetings in the Old Town Hall, Newry, Whit Week, 1903.

HUMBLY SHOWETH.

1. That your Petitioners are Delegates elected to represent upwards of seventy thousand skilled artisans, labourers, and female workers from each province in Ireland.

2. That your Petitioners have been duly authorised by their constituents to pray your Honourable House to give effect and sanction to any Bill introduced into your Honourable House for the purpose of improving the housing conditions of the working classes in Ireland.

3. That for this purpose your Petitioners pray your Honourable House to give legislative sanction to (a) the taxation of land values; (b) the establishment of fair rent courts; (c) the levying by local authorities of the full taxable assessment on unoccupied houses; (d) providing that the title deeds of property acquired under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act shall be deemed sufficient security for the entire purchase money advanced by local authorities, and the cheapening of the cost of transfer; (e) providing that loans under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, shall not be reckoned against the borrowing powers of local authorities, and extending the period for repayment of sinking fund and interest to 100 years; (f) the application of section 2 of the Public Health Act, 1878, and section 21 of the Public Health Act, 1890, to tenement property; and (g) the abolition of the terminal leasehold system.

4. That your Petitioners believe your Honourable House would be relieving the deplorable conditions under which great numbers of the workers of Ireland are at present compelled to exist by giving legislative sanction to the matters herein set forth.

5. Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honourable House will take such steps as may be necessary to secure the passage of an Act of Parliament during the present Session which may effect an improvement in the housing conditions of the working classes in Ireland.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signed by the President and Office-bearers in the name, and by the authority, of the Irish United Trades Union Congress.

WILLIAM WALKER, T.C., P.L.G., *Chairman.*

JAMES CHAMBERS, *Vice-Chairman.*

GEORGE LEAHY, *Treasurer.*

E. L. RICHARDSON, *Secretary.*

As a Bill "to make better provision for the Housing of the Workers in the cities and towns of Ireland" has also been promised in the King's Speech, Mr. Nannetti, at your Committee's suggestion, asked the following question :—

Mr. NANNETTI asked the Chief Secretary whether his attention had been called to the petition from the Irish United Trades Congress, presented to the House on the 23rd February, 1904, in which housing legislation for the working classes in Ireland was called for, owing to the conditions under which many of these people are compelled to exist; and whether, in his proposed Labourers Bill, he purposes to deal with the suggestions set out in the petition, or whether he proposes to deal in a separate measure with the housing of the working classes in cities and towns in Ireland.

Mr. WYNDHAM—As at present advised, it is my intention to deal with the housing of the working classes in towns in a separate measure. The petition will be considered.



On the 11th March, 1904, Mr. Trevelyan succeeded, by a majority of 67, in getting a second reading for his Bill dealing with the Taxation of Land Values; and although it is doubtful whether the measure will proceed further this Session, it is satisfactory to know that the House has, by such a substantial majority, affirmed the principle.

*Pensions to Workers Employed by Local Authorities.*—The following correspondence on this matter explains itself:—

Irish Trades Union Congress, Parliamentary Committee,  
Dublin, 9th December, 1903.

To the Right Hon. Geo. Wyndham, M.P., Chief Secretary, &c.

Right Hon Sir—On the 16th July, and again on the 26th October, I forwarded you by direction of my Committee copies of resolutions adopted by the Irish Trades Union Congress, urging the desirability of granting to local bodies in Ireland the power of superannuating all workmen in their employment who may be incapacitated after a service of 25 years. Formal acknowledgements of the receipt of these resolutions have been received, and I am now instructed by my Committee to press the matter on your consideration in the drafting of your Labourers Bill, which, they understand, will be presented to the ensuing Session of Parliament.—Your obedient servant,  
E. L. RICHARDSON, Sec.

Reply:—

Dublin Castle, 15th December, 1903. [24339.]

Sir—I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst. suggesting the desirability of granting to local bodies in Ireland the power of superannuating all workmen in their employment who may be rendered incapable of further service after a service of 25 years, and I am to point out that under the existing law it is competent for public bodies to employ workmen in a permanent capacity which renders them eligible for pensions.

The proposal to provide pensions for workmen who are temporarily, not permanently, employed by local bodies, would not be germane to the Labourers Bill.—  
I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
J. B. DOUGHERTY.

Mr. E. L. Richardson, Secretary Irish Trades Union Congress.

*Interview with Mr. J. E. Redmond, M.P.*—On Saturday afternoon, 30th January, 1904, your Committee waited upon Mr. John Redmond, M.P., as Chairman of the Irish Party, for the purpose of bringing under his notice, on the eve of the new session, some of the principal grievances of the organised workers of Ireland, and of soliciting through him the aid and co-operation of the Irish Party in endeavouring to obtain Parliamentary redress. The proceedings took place at the Mansion House, and Mr. Redmond was supported by the following members of the party—Messrs. J. J. Clancy, J. P. Nannetti, T. Harrington (Lord Mayor), and W. Field.

Mr. Nannetti, in introducing the members of the deputation, said they represented the organised workers of all Ireland, and were in touch with the organised labour bodies of England and Scotland also. They had many grievances, for which they were endeavouring to obtain redress, and they came there for the purpose of stating those grievances in some detail, with a view to placing before the Irish Party an exact account of what they wanted to have done. He pointed out that the Irish Party were always in sympathy with the just demands of labour, and had on all occasions given their assistance towards promoting a satisfactory solution of all their grievances. He also mentioned that Mr. Walker, one of the Belfast delegates, was a candidate for one of the Parliamentary Divisions of Belfast, and he hoped to see him successful, and Mr. Hudson was a candidate for Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Mr. Walker, T.C. (Belfast), said the deputation had come to Mr. Redmond, not because he was a politician in the ordinary acceptation of the term, but because in his capacity as a member of Parliament he was Chairman of a Party which represented 75 per cent. of the people of Ireland. The questions which affected them as working men were entirely separate and apart from party politics, and were concerned solely with the solution of economic and industrial problems. The recent decisions of the judges on points affecting the interests of organised labour had stimulated the workers of the country to think and to act. They came there not so much in reference to what was on the Statute Book, because the law had not been altered since it was enacted in 1871, but in reference to the interpretation of that law, which had been altered, and *not for the benefit of the working men*. Having referred to various cases, including the Taff Vale decision, which prejudiced the rights of Trade Unions and operated against their funds, he said that the greater part of the financial resources of the Unions was intended for superannuation and not for punitive purposes, and he claimed that the express declarations of the Acts of 1871 and 1875, according to which it was hitherto understood that these funds were not attachable, should not be allowed to be set aside by a decision of the House of Lords. On behalf of the deputation, he asked that the Irish Party, wisely led by Mr. Redmond, should assist the workmen of the country to obtain an explicit declaration in the Statute Book as to the proper interpretation of the Acts, and as to the discretion of the judges on the question. A Bill to make the position clear and definite had been introduced last session by Mr. Shackleton, M.P., on behalf of the Labour members, and he (Mr. Walker) looked upon anyone who voted against such a Bill, or abstained from voting, as an enemy of the Labour cause. The organised workers of Ireland, knowing that the Irish Party was not unfriendly to the cause of Labour, now appealed to the members of that Party to do all they could to impress upon the House of Commons the necessity of doing justice to the Trade Union funds, which amounted at present to £4,000,000. He confidently put this question before the Irish Party, knowing that they were anxious to see justice done to the claims of the working men.

Mr. Chambers (Dublin), said the deputation also desired to bring under the notice of the Irish Party the refusal of the War Office authorities to accede to the demand of the Irish workers for the establishment of a Receiving Depot in Ireland, and for the extension of the Ordnance Workshop system in Ireland. Representations had frequently been made to the War Department on these questions, but in vain. The demand was not unreasonable from the Irish industrial point of view. All they asked for was that the goods and samples sent in by Irish manufacturers should be received and examined at Dublin, instead of at Woolwich. If the Government made this concession, it would be a great inducement to Irish firms to tender for Army Supply contracts. The War Office authorities could only settle the matter by the appointment of an official examiner in Ireland. As regards the extension of Ordnance Workshops in Ireland, he wished to point out that at Woolwich civilian tradesmen were largely employed in those workshops. But at the Island Bridge Barracks the civilian tradesmen had been dismissed and their places taken by soldiers, who were able to do only the smallest class of repairs, and the result was that work which formerly was done at Island Bridge by civilians now went to Woolwich. When the Army Estimates came up for discussion the Irish Party should take up these points and urge the necessity for a change in the existing system. He could understand the hesitancy of the Irish Nationalist members to interfere in recent years, owing to the unpopularity of the Boer War, but now the position was different. He acknowledged the service done on these questions by Mr. Nannetti, M.P., and Mr. Wm. Field, M.P.

Mr. Hudson (A.S.R.S.) said he wished to refer to the question of the Railway Regulation Act of 1871 and the Hours Act of 1893, and to the right of having the workmen's organisation properly represented at coroners' inquests where necessary. On the first point, he drew attention to the Monasterevan railway accident in which a guard of the Great Southern and Western Railway Company was injured. According to the Act, the Company was bound to report that accident. It happened in November, 1901, but when the official Blue Book was issued in the following August there was no record of it. As regards the Hours Act of 1893, he was aware



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that they had the full support of the Irish Party on this question. They asked for a renewal of that support in the future, because the Act was inefficiently administered. On this point he referred to the long hours enforced on the Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway prior to the strike. As regards the coroner's inquests, they asked for the right to be represented by some one with an expert and technical knowledge of the trade or work at which the fatality occurred. They asked for this, without any desire or intention of encroaching upon the rights of the legal profession.

Mr. McCarron (Derry) brought forward the question of the administration of the Factory Acts. He represented the workers in the tailoring trade, and on their behalf claimed that every employer should be compelled to provide proper workshop accommodation. They also considered that more inspectors should be appointed to see that the Acts were strictly enforced. In Ireland, where there were numbers of factories and thousands of workshops to be looked after, there were only two chief inspectors and four sub-inspectors. There should be also female inspectors, for the protection of the interests of girl workers, and the inspectors, in all cases, ought to be chosen from the ranks of the skilled workers themselves.

Mr. M'Manus (Belfast) said he wished to call attention to the non-observance of the Fair Wages Resolution as regards Government and Local Government contracts. The trades organisations had issued a circular to all the public boards in Ireland, pointing out the necessity of enforcing this provision. In the cities they were able to bring direct pressure to bear on public boards, but in the isolated country and urban districts a great deal yet remained to be done. He paid a tribute to the efforts of Mr. Nannetti, M.P., to secure the observance of the Fair Wages Clause under the Dublin Port and Docks Board.

Mr. Dineen (Limerick) drew attention to the grievance of the working bakers in being compelled to do continuous and protracted night work. He pointed out that an Act passed in 1900 provided that the working hours of bakers should not exceed 48 in the week. But that Act was not made operative, with the result that the conditions under which some of the bakers had to work were entirely unbearable. In Dublin, Belfast and Cork the hours were not too bad; but in the country districts they were excessive, for the most part. He strongly urged the necessity of making day work in the bakery trade universal by law.

Mr. George Leahy (Dublin) said he wished to call attention to the question of Technical Education and the Equivalent Grant. This, he said, affected all classes of organised workers in Ireland. They wanted the assistance of the Irish Party during the coming session to secure that the money due to Ireland for Technical Education should be handed over without further delay to the proper authorities. He said the working men of Ireland were indebted to Mr. Field, M.P., for his action on this question. In England, all possible provision was made for the work of Technical Education, and all the necessary facilities were afforded; but in Ireland the Technical Schools had to be carried on in derelict houses, owing to the fact that the Act had not been put into force. If the Government wanted the working men of Ireland to advance in Technical Education they must supply the necessary funds. He hoped that when this question came up in the House of Commons the attendance of the Irish members would not be as meagre as it was in the past.

Mr. Richardson (Secretary) said he desired, first of all, to thank Mr. Redmond for his courtesy in receiving the deputation, and to thank the Lord Mayor for the facilities he had given. He desired also, on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Congress, representing 80,000 of the organised workers of Ireland, to thank Mr. Redmond and his Party for the manner in which he and they had supported the cause of Labour in the House of Commons. He wished to call the attention of the Irish Party to the varied and contradictory decisions given under the Workmen's Compensation Act. When a Bill to amend it came before the House he hoped it would have the support of the Party. There was also the question of the housing of the workers. They asked for the support of the Party in endeavouring to secure the passage of an amending Bill which would include the clauses suggested at a recent Irish conference.

Mr. Nannetti, M.P., said that many of the points raised by Mr. Chambers, Mr. Hudson and Mr. McCarron had been already brought forward in the House of Commons by members of the Irish Party. He himself had strongly advocated the



establishment of a Receiving Depot in Ireland. At present Irish manufacturers could not tender for War Office supplies, because they would have to send the sample goods to Woolwich. The railway case referred to by Mr. Hudson was also brought forward in the House, and he (Mr. Nannetti) had called attention to it at the proper time. He mentioned these facts to show that the Irish Party had not been remiss in their advocacy of the claims of the Irish working men. His own experience was that Mr. Redmond was always most anxious to use the power of the Party to forward the cause of Labour, and he was always ready to give valuable advice as to how the resources of the Party could be best brought into play when motions affecting the interests of the working men were under discussion.

Mr. Redmond, in replying to the deputation, said—Allow me in the first place to thank you for coming to meet me and my colleagues to-day. This interchange of view will be very useful to us, and, in addition, it is very gratifying inasmuch as I find from every speaker who spoke here to-day the same acknowledgment that in the past the Irish Party has done its best in the House of Commons to forward on all occasions the interests of Labour. In fact, we can boast that we are really the Labour Party in the House of Commons, and no one will more freely acknowledge that than the Labour representatives sent to the House of Commons from England. I do not intend to go into detail on the various points that have been raised. Of all the questions referred to, there is not a single one with which the Irish Party as a whole are not in complete sympathy, or upon which they have not done their best to forward the views put forward by you to-day. One very important question was raised by Mr. Walker about which we in the Irish Party have been greatly exercised and in which we have the keenest interest, and that is the change in the law affected by the new interpretation of English judges. This is a question of the utmost importance, affecting all classes of workers in England and in this country, and affecting incidentally the political movement just as much as the labour movement. When this question was first brought up in the House of Commons, I was consulted at every stage by the English Labour representatives, and last year I was in constant communication with Mr. Shackleton, M.P., and other members responsible for the Bill. You have asked us to support a similar Bill this year. We supported Mr. Shackleton's Bill, and we delegated Mr. Clancy, M.P., to speak on our behalf during the debate. We will take the same course this year with regard to this Bill, and I hope its fate will be more satisfactory than it was last year. It is quite clear to me that unless we succeed in changing this new interpretation of the law, there is no safety whatever for any organisation, and once that is thoroughly understood by the masses of the people of England, you will soon find sufficient power at the back of those who are agitating in the matter to get the law changed. With regard to the smaller matters of detail which have been dealt with by the various speakers, I will not now dwell on them. I have listened with great interest and attention to everything that was said, and, without flattering ourselves in the least degree, I can say that I did not hear anything very new or that I was not aware of before, or that had not been influencing the action of my colleagues and myself in our work in the House of Commons. We in the Irish Party are familiar with all these points. I don't think it is in the power of any man in the room to mention any occasion missed or lost by us of forwarding the special views which you represent on each of these questions. I confess I don't quite understand what Mr. Chambers said about the hesitancy of the Irish members in discussing the Army votes. As far as I know, we have none—

Mr. Harrington, M.P., said that Mr. Chambers was referring to the supplying of contracts only, and meant that the Irish members could not well advocate the giving of such contracts to Ireland while they were at the same time condemning the war.

Mr. Redmond—I have never had any hesitation in discussing those matters in consequence of the war, or, from any other reason, refrained from expressing the view and trying to enforce it—that these shops ought to give employment here in Ireland, and that the whole of the work should not be sent to England. That view has been constantly expressed and enforced, as far as possible, by the members of the Irish Party. With regard to Mr. Leahy's speech, I was greatly impressed by what he said regarding Technical Education and the Equivalent Grant. On this question, Ireland, from the first, has been systematically robbed on every one of

those Equivalent Grants. I think it would be possible for us to show that ever since the principle of the Equivalent Grants was established we have been robbed of a considerable sum of money, and that there is a continuation of the robbery going on from year to year. Last year it was admitted by the Government that the principle on which the grants were calculated—namely, in the proportion of 80 for England, 11 for Scotland, and 9 for Ireland—it was admitted last year that that principle was wrong, and a new principle was introduced on the lines laid down with regard to the Development Grant. If the new principle now established is right, there can be no doubt whatever that the old principle was wrong, and if the old principle was wrong it is clearer than ever that we were systematically robbed of vast sums of money for years past, and that we would be robbed in the future by a continuation of the unjust proportion adopted with regard to the first of the Equivalent Grants. Mr. Leahy spoke about the meagre attendance of the Irish members when matters of this kind were under discussion. I don't understand that. My experience goes back a quarter of a century, and I must say I never knew an Irish Party to attend so well as the present Party. I cannot recollect any occasion on which this matter of the Equivalent Grant was under discussion when there was not a good representation of the Irish Party, and also a strong expression of their views. I, myself, hold very decided opinions on the question of the Equivalent Grants and the robbery perpetrated by the Government with regard to them in the past, and I can assure the gentlemen here representing Labour that we of the Irish Party are only too delighted to find that the Labour representatives have at last wakened up to the importance of the question, and they may depend upon it that we will neglect no opportunity of forcing this question to the front. One word now on another subject. Mr. Richardson has alluded to the question of the housing of the working classes. It may be in the recollection of most of you that last year a small Bill was introduced on this question for England. The representatives of the Irish Government came to us and asked us whether we desired that this Bill should be extended to Ireland, or whether we would prefer to leave the matter over to the coming session, and have a separate Bill for Ireland. We said, and I think very properly, that we would prefer that the English Bill should not be extended to Ireland; but that we should have a special Bill of our own, and then, on the distinct promise of the Government that such a Bill will be introduced this year, we allowed the English Bill to go through without any discussion on our part. Therefore I can reassure Mr. Richardson that Mr. Wyndham, representing the Irish Government, is under a solemn obligation, publicly undertaken, to introduce in the coming session not merely a Labourers Bill, but also a Bill dealing with the housing of the working classes in towns. And I can further assure Mr. Richardson that the Irish Party are not in the frame of mind at present to take "lying down"—to use Mr. Chamberlain's phrase—any betrayal on the part of Mr. Wyndham of his public pledges on this question, as the representative of the Government in Ireland. For my part, I am sure that such a Bill will be introduced. If not, we shall know the reason why. In conclusion, I may add that I will take great pleasure in informing the Irish Party of your views, and I will inform them, too, that in their name I conveyed to you an assurance of our heartiest sympathy and the promise of our support.

Mr. Walker (Belfast) said though he differed politically with them on some points, that would not prevent him from bearing tribute to the manner in which the Irish Party had supported the cause of Labour. If the Unionist Party in Ireland were energetic in their support, the position would be very different. He begged to thank Mr. Redmond for his action, and to express to him an appreciation of the manner in which he guided the destinies of the Party for the amelioration of the welfare of all Irishmen.

The deputation then withdrew.

*Trades Disputes Bill and Commission.*—In the ballot for private members' Bills at the beginning of the Session, Mr. J. M. Paulton, member for Bishop Auckland Division of Durham, secured a favourable place, and at the solicitation of the Labour members agreed to put down the second reading of the Trades Dispute Bill.



for the date secured—viz., 22nd April. In due course the debate on this measure came on, and resulted in the Second Reading being carried by 240 votes (including tellers) to 201—a majority of 39 in favour of the principle of the Bill. Mr. Paulton then endeavoured to secure a further stage in the progress of the measure by moving its reference to the Standing Committee on Law, whereupon the Government “blocker” (Sir F. Banbury) objected, and it being then after 5.30 o’clock, when, by the rules of the House no opposed business could be considered, the motion was postponed.

Your Committee are pleased to state that the promise made by Mr. John E. Redmond, M.P., to them, as above referred to, was fulfilled to the letter, a special whip having been issued to his party to be in their places to support the Bill. It is worthy of note, that in order to answer this summons, over fifty members made the journey from London to Dublin and back upon two successive nights, necessitated by the National Convention being held in Dublin on the 21st and the division on the Bill being fixed for the 22nd. Your Committee think this matter worthy the special attention of Congress. The following is the Division List so far as the Irish representatives are concerned:—

For the Bill—Messrs. Abraham, Ambrose, Barry, Burke, John Campbell, Clancy, Condon, Crean, Cullinan, Delany, C. R. Devlin, Donelan, Doogan, Farrell, French, Field, Gilhooly, Hayden, Healy, Hemphill, Joyce, Kilbride, Law, Leamy, London, MacDonnell, MacNeill, M’Hugh, M’Kean, M’Killop, Mitchell, Mooney, Murphy, Nannetti, Colonel Nolan, Joseph Nolan, J. F. X. O’Brien, Kendal O’Brien, Patrick O’Brien, P. J. O’Brien, James O’Connor, John O’Donnell, O’Dowd, O’Kelly, O’Malley, O’Shaughnessy, Power, Reddy, John Redmond, Roche, Russell, Sloan, Sullivan, Waldron, Young—55.

Against the Bill—Messrs. Arnold-Forster, Atkinson, J. H. M. Campbell, Carson, Craig, Hamilton, Haslett, M’Calmont, O’Neill, Wolf—10.

The remainder of the Irish members were absent, and in this connection special notice should be taken of the absence of Messrs. D. D. Sheehan, J. J. O’Shee, and T. Harrington.

It may be mentioned that, in common with most of the officials of trade union organisations in the United Kingdom, your Secretary was invited to give evidence before the Royal Commission, which was, of course, respectfully declined.

*Tariff Commission.*—Your Secretary also received an invitation to submit evidence on behalf of the Congress to the Tariff Commissioners, appointed by the Right Hon. Member for West Birmingham (Mr. Joseph Chamberlain); but this invitation was ignored.

*Workingmen Magistrates.*—Your Committee have had a voluminous correspondence on this subject with the Trades Councils of Ireland, the Lord Lieutenants of the respective County Boroughs, the Lord Chancellor, and the Chief Secretary. The following is the reply received to a direct application to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland:—

Dublin Castle, 12th December, 1903. [24082.]

Sir—I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th inst., referring to your letter of the 5th October last, and I am to state, for the information of the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Congress, that his Excellency is always desirous of making suitable appointments to the Borough Magistracy. His Excellency notes your representation in favour of the granting of the Commission of the Peace to workmen.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. B. DOUGHERTY.

Mr. E. L. Richardson, Secretary Irish Trade Union Congress.

*Delegation to Scottish Trades Union Congress.*—The following is the report of your delegates (appointed at Newry last year) to the Scottish Trades Union Congress :—

Your Delegates attended the Scottish Trade Union Congress, held at Perth on 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th April.

They found very much interest taken in the proceedings of the Congress by the Delegates, but regret very much to say, a decided and marked hostility by all sections of the Press.

They were very pleased with the subject-matters for discussion at the Congress, premier position being accorded to the condemnation of the Government Ordinance on Chinese Labour in South Africa; whilst the questions of Labour Representation, Payment of Members, the Unemployed, Fatal Accidents Inquiry Act, and the Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation and Employers' Liability Acts, received an adequate amount of attention.

One of your Delegates has on more than one occasion expressed his disapproval of the various junketings which have taken place at past Congresses. Speaking from his experience of the Scottish Trade Union Congress, he is now strongly of opinion that such entertainments tend to a better feeling amongst the Delegates, and more particularly the fraternal Delegates.

P. T. DALY.

JAMES M'CARRON.

*The Chinese Ordinance in South Africa.*—The following Irish members voted for the confirmation of the Ordinance providing for the importation of Chinese labour into South Africa :—

H. O. Arnold-Forster (W. Belfast), J. Atkinson (N. Derry), J. H. Campbell and Sir Edward Carson (Dublin University), C. C. Craig (Down), J. E. Gordon (S. Derry), Marquis of Hamilton (Derry City), Sir J. Haslett (N. Belfast), Major Jameson (W. Clare), J. B. Lonsdale (Mid. Armagh), Colonel M'Calmont (E. Antrim), W. Moore (N. Antrim), Hon. R. T. O'Neill (Mid. Antrim), G. W. Wolff (E. Belfast), Colonel Saunderson (N. Armagh)—15.

*Miscellaneous.*—Your Committee have received from Ministers and Government officials a number of formal replies, acknowledging correspondence covering resolutions dealing with Female Factory Inspectors in Ireland, Amendment of the Factory Act, Steam Engines (Persons in Charge) Bill, Municipal Trading, Outworking, Railwaymen's Grievances, &c., and from Corporations and others, with reference to Municipal Workshops, Fair Contracts Clause, Winter Work, Sanitary and Water Inspectors, Irish Setts for Street Paving, &c., &c. But with the exception of railwaymen's com-



plaints which have been brought before Parliament by Mr. Richard Bell, M.P., and one or two Irish members, and a slight improvement in the operation of the Fair Wages Resolution among public bodies in Ireland, your Committee have nothing further to report.

We are, fellow-delegates,

Fraternally yours,

WILLIAM WALKER, T.C., P.L.G., *Chairman.*

JAMES CHAMBERS, *Vice-Chairman.*

GEORGE LEAHY, *Treasurer.*

WALTER HUDSON.

HUGH MCMAHON.

JAMES MCCARRON, T.C.

STEPHEN DINEEN.

R. S. McNAMARA.

E. L. RICHARDSON, *Secretary.*

Kilkenny, May 21st, 1904.

#### DISCUSSION ON PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

On the consideration of the paragraph referring to Receiving Depots in Ireland,

Mr. Moloney (Brushmakers) suggested that when next the Parliamentary Committee purposed interviewing Ministers on this matter, they should secure the attendance of representatives of the trades concerned.

On the consideration of the paragraph referring to Technical Instruction,

Mr. Collins stated that at the Kevin Street Technical Schools, Dublin, a young man had been brought in who had no connection whatever with the composing or any part of the printing trade, and he had been sent out as a thoroughly qualified lino operator. This was in violation of the undertaking given that preference would be given to those pupils who were apprentices or journeymen actually working at the trade.

Mr. George Leahy, as one of the governors of the Technical Schools, said the governors were not to be blamed in this matter, because the young man on his credential form stated that he was an apprentice to the printing trade, and in the ballot his name appeared among the sixteen whom they were able to admit. When the matter was brought under his (Mr. Leahy's) notice by Mr. Richardson, action was immediately taken in the matter. The governors were only too happy and anxious to give first place to the members of the Typographical Society.

On the report of interview with Mr. Redmond,

Mr. Thos. Dunne (Bottlemakers) complained that no reference was made to the Merchandise Marks Act.

The President assured him that Mr. Redmond's attention was directed to the matter, although it did not appear in the report.

On the consideration of the paragraph referring to the Trades Disputes Bill,

Mr. Lumsdem (Dublin) said Mr. Harrington, the member for the Harbour Division of Dublin, who opposed the Fair Wages Resolution of the Dublin Corporation, absented himself also from the division on the second reading of the Trades Disputes Bill, though he was elected for a working class constituency.

The President said he was afraid that Mr. Harrington was not the only man belonging to different Irish parties who acted in a similar manner.

On the paragraph dealing with the Shops Bill,

Mr. E. W. Stewart (Dublin), on behalf of his union, thanked the Committee for the great attention they had given to this matter.

The report of the Committee was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Collins proposed a vote of thanks to the Parliamentary Committee for the great amount of work they had gone through during the last year.

Mr. Gageby, J.P. (Belfast), seconded the vote of thanks, which was unanimously adopted.

#### THANKS TO THE IRISH PARLIAMENTARY PARTY.

The Standing Orders having been suspended,

Councillor M'Carron (Derry) proposed :—

"That this Congress, representing the organised workers of all Ireland, tenders to Mr. Redmond and his colleagues of the Irish Parliamentary Party its sincere thanks for their very full attendance in the House of Commons on the 22nd April, 1904, when the Trades Disputes Bill passed its second reading by a substantial majority."

He said that if it had not been for the action of the Irish Parliamentary Party, who had attended a convention in Dublin the previous day, and who had crossed back to London at great expense and trouble and voted in a solid body of 51, the Trades Disputes Bill would not have been passed. (Hear, hear.) Through the instrumentality of the Parliamentary Committee, which was brought about by the energy and ability of their Secretary, Mr. Richardson, they had taught the Irish members what the labour question was and what the wants of the workers were, and when the Irish members understood their wishes, aspirations, and hopes, they were prepared to give them all the assistance they could and to help on their cause. (Hear, hear.) They should also thank Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Sloan and Mr. Mitchell who had voted with the Irish Parliamentary Party in support of the Bill.

Mr. Walter Hudson (Dublin) seconded the resolution. He said the Irish Party, in taking action on this occasion on the side of the workers, also took action with regard to their own immediate interests, because the subject was one that not only struck at the bed rock of trades unionism, but it also struck at the bed rock of all organisation, political and otherwise. (Hear, hear.) It was the duty of the Irish Party to go with the workers.



Mr. Collins (Dublin) did not agree with Mr. Hudson that it was the duty of the Nationalist Party to go with the trades unionists on all matters. They were returned by the Nationalists of Ireland, and they could stand aloof altogether from trades unionism if they wished, but they thanked them nevertheless for their close attention to the interests of the workers.

Mr. Moloney (Dublin) expressed the hope that the trades unionists of Ireland would not think lightly of the sacrifices that the Irish Parliamentary Party had made in their interests, and that the workers, instead of being an obstacle to the Irish Party, as they had been in the past, would give it their hearty support. Some of the most prominent of the workers were the men who opposed the Irish Party, though they never sought their assistance in vain. Mr. Nannetti, a member of the Irish Party, was a man who never ceased to interest himself in the cause of the workers, and never left a letter from them unanswered. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. M'Manus (Belfast) and Mr. O'Shea (Dublin) also bore testimony to the services rendered the workers by the Irish Party.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

#### SCOTTISH TRADES UNION DELEGATES.

Messrs. Charles Jackson and Robert Smillie, delegates from the Scottish Trades Union Congress, addressed the Congress.

Mr. Chas. Jackson (Glasgow), who was warmly applauded, in the course of his address, said the workers despised the wars of the nations. The differences amongst nations ought to be settled without the loss of life and waste of money that accompanied war, and the only war which they recognised to be an honest war and just was the necessary war between labour and capital. With regard to the drink traffic, the Scottish Trades Congress advocated the municipalisation of the drink traffic. This, they thought, was the best way of dealing with the subject.

Mr. Robt. Smillie (Lanark), who was also received with applause, said that in his opinion the workers, instead of being obliged to forward their interests by meeting members of Parliament in the Lobby of the House of Commons, should endeavour to place themselves in the position of being able to advocate their rights from the floor of Parliament, whether that Parliament be in England, Scotland, Wales, or Ireland, because he was one of those who considered that each of these four countries should do its business at home. (Hear, hear.)

On the motion of Mr. Gageby, J.P., (Belfast), seconded by Mr. Dinneen (Limerick), and supported by Mr. Collins (Dublin), a vote of thanks was passed, with acclamation, to Messrs. Jackson and Smillie.

#### REPORT FROM STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (No. 2).

Mr. John Murphy (Chairman Standing Orders Committee) reported that the Congress consisted of 72 delegates, representing

72,000 trade unionists. They recommended (1) that as the proposals of the Government in regard to legislation dealing with Shops and Licensing Reform had been laid before Parliament since the resolutions on these questions had been placed on the agenda, the movers should be permitted to recast their motions to meet the altered circumstances; (2) that on non-contentious motions the movers and seconders only should speak; (3) delegates desiring to withdraw from nomination in election for Parliamentary Committee and Scotch Congress delegation should do so before midday adjournment.

On the motion that this report be adopted, Mr. George Leahy moved as an amendment that paragraph 2 be deleted. The amendment was defeated and the report adopted.

#### NEGLECT ON THE PART OF RAILWAY COMPANIES TO REPORT ACCIDENTS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT UNDER STATUTE LAW.

Mr. Hudson (A.S.R.S.) moved :—

"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."

He said they wanted to place the onus on the Board of Trade of prosecuting Railway Companies for contravention of the law, and wanted the aid of all trade unionists to keep them straight.

Mr. Taylor (Belfast), seconded. The law passed was a dead letter. Prosecution would not take place unless the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants took it up.

The resolution was carried.

#### HOURS OF DUTY OF RAILWAYMEN.

Mr. W. Hudson (A.S.R.S.) moved :—

"That this Congress views with deep concern the increased violation of the Hours Act of 1893. Also, the distinct weakness in administration on the part of the President of the Board of Trade in giving a prior notice to the Railway Companies for the 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 inquiry into the hours by inspecting officers who have a practical knowledge of the work."



He said the systematic and preconceived arrangement for hours of work of railway servants was not only detrimental to the interests of the men who were doing the work, but was seriously contributing to the danger of the public. In some cases men work as many as sixteen hours a day. They claimed that the railwaymen's hours of employment should count from the time they started in the morning until they finished, no matter how they were employed, whether working on the train in preparing the engine, oiling it, getting the necessary supply of coal and water, or otherwise. (Hear, hear).

Mr. Gageby, J.P. (Belfast), seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

#### PRINTERS AND THE MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

Mr. M. J. Keogh (Dublin), moved :—

"That as the operation of the Merchandise Marks Act has failed to safeguard the interests of native workers, employers and purchasers, in preventing the palming off as home manufacture of letterpress, chromo and lithographic printing produced on the Continent, whereby large sums of money are annually lost both to the employers and workers in the printing trade of the United Kingdom, this Congress is of opinion that each imported article, printed in a foreign country, should bear a permanent and legible imprint, stating the place of origin and manufacture, and that a penalty should be attached to the selling of any article in contravention thereof."

Mr. Collins seconded the resolution, which was adopted unanimously.

#### AMENDMENT OF MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

Mr. William Maguire (Dublin), moved :—

"That as the operation of the Merchandise Marks Act has failed to safeguard the interests of the Irish workers, employers and purchasers, this Congress is of opinion that all imported bottles should bear a permanent and legible imprint stating the place of manufacture; and that a penalty should be attached to the selling of any bottle in contravention thereof."

He said that if imported bottles were stamped, as suggested, it would be a great assistance to the Irish bottle-making industry.

Mr. Thos. Dunne (Dublin), in seconding the resolution, said that at present the shopkeepers and their employees did not know the difference between foreign bottles and Irish-made bottles. Bottles to the number of fifty thousand gross were imported into Ireland annually.

The resolution was adopted.

#### FEMALE FACTORY INSPECTORS IN IRELAND.

Miss M. 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 there should be, at least, one Lady Inspector for Belfast and the North of Ireland. There were some 40,000 linen workers and no Lady Inspector. It was a shame for the Government that they should not fulfil their wishes in the matter. It was time that women workers received some attention.

Miss Carbery (Belfast), seconded the resolution, which was passed.

#### MILITARY CANTEEN CONTRACTS IN IRELAND.

Mr. W. J. Leahy (Coopers), moved :—

"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 brewing industry and a serious injury to the mechanics and labourers employed in those establishments."

He said that some half-pay officers had become travellers for British breweries, with the result that the canteens in Ireland were now supplied from across the water in violation of the military code. He dwelt on the necessity of a strong agitation against the Government sending the contracts out of Ireland to the detriment of local brewers.

Mr. P. J. Quinn seconded the motion, which was adopted.

#### WAR OFFICE CONTRACTS.

Mr. F. Farrell (Coachmakers), 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."

He said that twelve men could be employed at Island Bridge at this work, and instead there were only a couple of soldiers, who enlisted as carpenters, employed. Three hundred waggons were used in Ireland and made in England. These should be manufactured at home.

Mr. John Simmons seconded, and said it applied to other industries besides this, especially the tailoring. The money ought to be expended in Ireland, where these things could be made as well as anywhere else. They were treated most unfairly by the



British Government in Ireland in the matter of the importation of foreign goods.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

#### ORDNANCE WORKSHOPS.

Mr. James Chambers (Saddlers), moved ; Mr. Collins seconded, and it was resolved :—

“That we urge the Parliamentary Committee to vigorously press the just claims of Irish artisans for an extension of the Ordnance Workshop system to this country, and an equitable share of the work required for the supplies of the troops stationed in Ireland ; and we regret that so far no practical effect has been given to the recommendations made by the Duke of Connaught in this respect. We further protest against the dismissal of civilian tradesmen from the various workshops at Island Bridge Barracks, especially in view of the facts brought to the knowledge of the War Office officials, that repairs and construction of new work has been, and can be, done more efficiently, expeditiously and economically by civilian labour than by incompetent army artificers ; and we take this opportunity of tendering our sincere thanks to Mr. J. P. Nannetti and Mr. Wm. Field, M.P.’s, for their practical assistance, and hope their future efforts to remedy this long standing grievance will receive the active support of all sections of the Irish Parliamentary representation.”

#### IRISH RECEIVING DEPOT FOR ARMY AND NAVY CONTRACTS.

Mr. J. Moloney (Brushmakers), moved :—

“That while Ireland contributes her full share of the revenue for the maintenance of the army and navy, this Congress desires to point out to His Majesty’s Government that the Irish trades 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 excessive freight charges, with the risk of rejection through deterioration in transit), this Congress again reiterates the claim of Irish Brushmakers for an equitable share of the work required for the army in Ireland, and urge on the Parliamentary Committee and the Irish Parliamentary Party the necessity of pressing upon the attention of the War Office the desirability of giving effect to the recommendations of the Duke of Connaught as embodied in his evidence on War Office Re-organisation, in which he claimed that Irish manufacturers should have special facilities given them for supplying the military forces in Ireland. If so, will the Secretary for War give directions to have the brushes received and examined in Dublin ?”

He said brushmaking in Ireland was at a very low ebb, and if they had this receiving depot established in Dublin it would enable them to compete with other manufacturers. They had to

send their articles across to England and pay for their return if not accepted. He hoped the gentlemen of the local boards would see that they used Irish made brushes.

Mr. Murphy (Belfast), seconded, and said that if they paid a portion of the taxes they were entitled to some return.

The resolution was agreed to.

#### HOURS OF LABOUR IN SHOPS.

Mr. M. J. O'Lehane (Drapers' Assistants), moved :—

"That this Congress is of opinion that the hours worked in shops—particularly in the drapery trade—are excessive and most injurious to the health of the assistants, and we call on the public, more especially the workers, to co-operate in the efforts which are at present being made towards shortening the working hours."

He said that this was the first time that the drapery assistants had been represented under the Trades' Union banner, but he was glad to say he represented 2,000 there that day. A great deal could be done, particularly by the workers, in the shortening of the shop hours, which were unnecessarily long. At the present time there was an agitation in Kilkenny, and all the houses were willing to close except one. He hoped some of the speakers at the meeting that night, as the matter was of immediate concern, would refer to the matter and impress on the audience the necessity of doing their shopping early on Saturdays. These people could do their shopping before six o'clock on Saturdays.

Mr. Stewart, in seconding, said although the ladies required looking after (laughter), they could do a lot themselves, as women were the chief shoppers.

The resolution was adopted.

#### THE GOVERNMENT'S SHOPS BILL.

Mr. E. W. Stewart (Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants), proposed :—

"That this Congress notes with satisfaction the promise contained in the King's Speech, that the Government will introduce legislation dealing with the hours of labour in shops during the present Session of Parliament; and emphasises the fact that such legislation to be satisfactory must include a limitation of the hours of labour, uniform and compulsory closing of shops, and Sunday closing; and, further, requests the Government to take into consideration the urgent necessity of at once introducing their Bill."

He said their Association was opposed to ineffective legislation and were prepared to do without legislation until they got what would be effective for their purpose. The Dilke Bill was drafted under the cognisance of their organisation. The Bill which the Government had introduced was the same as the Avebury one—permissive and not compulsory and therefore they were opposed to it.

Mr. Feenan (Belfast), seconded. Lord Avebury in introducing



the Bill said there was nothing in it to prevent employers keeping in their employees after the shop was closed. As a shop assistant he would say that was the most injurious work.

The resolution was put and carried.

#### SUNDAY LABOUR.

Mr. H. Rochford (Hairdressers' Union), moved :—

"That this Congress condemns the system of Sunday Labour in the Hairdressing Trade, and calls upon the working classes, who are its chief patrons, to assist in its abolition; and this Congress further urges on the Government to especially consider this question in any shop hours legislation they may introduce into Parliament."

He said the masters at one time took it into their heads to close, but some of them broke away from it. They did not open in Belfast at all and in Dublin, the capital of Ireland, they had nearly the whole of them open, and the assistants did not receive their wages until 12.30 on Sunday morning. The Congress should do all they could to urge on the passing of Sir Charles Dilke's Bill.

Mr O'Lehane in seconding, said it was a very curious thing that they should have to appeal to the workers in this matter. He hoped delegates would bring it before their Trades Councils.

The motion was carried.

#### CLAIM FOR TECHNICAL PERSONS TO EXAMINE WITNESSES AT CORONERS' INQUESTS.

Mr. Hudson (A.S.R.S.), moved; Mr. Mitchell (Belfast), seconded, and it was resolved;

"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)."

#### IMPORTATION—PRAYER BOOKS, ETC.

Mr. A. Moore (Bookbinders), moved :—

"That this Congress protests against the continued importation of all kinds of Prayer Books, Religious Works, and Account Books into this country by Publishers, Booksellers and Manufacturers; 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 clergymen, authors, authoresses, public bodies, shopkeepers and others, 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 bound in foreign countries being foisted upon the consumer as home manufacture, to the detriment both of employers and employed in the bookbinding trade. And that we call upon all public bodies, heads of religious houses, schools, colleges, manufacturers and booksellers in Ireland, to insist that all bookbinding supplied to them is executed under Fair Labour conditions."

He said the resolution was a hardy annual. He referred to prayer books used by the ordinary person. They were produced in foreign countries, while it would appear as if they had been got out in this country.

Mr. Coates (Cork) in seconding urged the encouragement of Irish manufactures and appealed to the delegates to be practical in the matter. He wanted the workingmen of Dublin, Belfast, Kilkenny and elsewhere to do this.

Mr. Mitchell (Belfast), moved an amendment that the first part of the resolution down to the word "furthermore" be deleted. He said the latter part covered what they wanted. It was an absurd resolution so bring before an Irish Trades Congress. If it was brought forward at a British Trades Congress to protest against the importation of goods from Ireland what would be said. He did not think that Irish trade unionists should be asked not to support work produced under fair conditions in England or Scotland, and they expected that the right hand of fellowship would be held out to them by their fellow trades unionists of other countries.

Mr. Whitla (Belfast) seconded the amendment.

Mr. Collins (Dublin) supported the amendment. He did not see how they could object to work done in England or Scotland by houses paying fair wages under fair conditions.

Mr. Darcus (Belfast) asked Mr. Moore did he mean to include in his resolution prayer books made in England or Scotland under fair conditions?

Mr. Moore said he objected to, and he was instructed to object to, books produced in England or Scotland.

Mr. Darcus said under these circumstances he should support Mr. Mitchell's amendment. It was absurd for Irish trades unionists to object to books produced in England and Scotland under fair conditions and produced largely by Irishmen.

Mr. Keogh (Dublin) supported the resolution.



Mr. Simmons (Dublin) appealed to Mr. Moore not to divide the house upon the question, but to accept the amendment. They could not object to work made in England under fair conditions of labour.

Mr. Egan (Cork) maintained that anything imported into the country did away with the work of Irishmen. He appealed to the mover of the amendment to withdraw it.

Mr. Murphy (Belfast) spoke in favour of the amendment, and said it would strike at the root of trades unionism if they objected to goods manufactured in England or Scotland under fair conditions. The best way to meet the difficulty was to improve the methods of producing goods in Ireland. If they produced goods at the same rate and under the same conditions in this country as in England they had nothing to fear. Let Irish manufacturers lead the way by producing superior articles at the same price and the same rate of wages as obtained in England.

Mr. O'Connor (Limerick) saw nothing in the resolution about England or Scotland.

Mr. Stewart (Dublin) asked would they not like to have the work in their own locality.

Mr. Duignan (Dublin) also supported the resolution. If they accepted the amendment they would stultify themselves, because to every resolution moved that day about saddles, brushes, &c., made in England, there could be the same amendments. Irish workmen wanted to live in their own country, and did not want to go to England. In his own trade there would be plenty of work for 700 men if all the brass work were obtained in Dublin. As it was there were only 130.

Councillor McInnes (Belfast) said if they were to adopt the principle of the resolution in regard to many of their big industries they might shut up. Let them not say they were a little parish assembly going to bind books and make boots for themselves (laughter).

Mr. Taylor (Belfast) also supported the amendment.

Mr. Geo. Leahy (Dublin) supported the resolution. They had to complain as much of work done in England as in any other country.

Mr. Moore, in reply, said what he wanted was goods made in Ireland, he did not care under what conditions—fair or unfair (oh, oh).

The amendment was defeated by 31 to 20 votes, and the resolution was carried on the same division.

#### IMPORTATION—HARNESS.

Mr. Jas. Chambers (Saddlers), moved; Mr. Thos. Collins seconded, the following resolution, which was adopted.—

“That in the opinion of this Congress, the action of certain well-known Dublin houses in connection with the harness-making

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The amendment was defeated by 31 to 20 votes, and the resolution was carried on the same division.

#### IMPORTATION—HARNESS.

Mr. Jas. Chambers (Saddlers), moved; Mr. Thos. Collins seconded, the following resolution, which was adopted.—

“That in the opinion of this Congress, the action of certain well-known Dublin houses in connection with the harness-making



industry, in persistently importing an inferior class of the above-named work, and in a great many instances palming it off as Irish manufactured, is deserving of the strongest condemnation, we hereby deem it the duty of all owners of horses in this country to assist in stamping out this pernicious practice by refusing to purchase any but genuine Irish-made harness."

#### IMPORTATION—VEHICLES.

Mr. Moriarty (Cork), moved ; Mr. Scandrett (Belfast), seconded the following resolution which was adopted :—

"That in the opinion of this Congress, we deplore the continual importation of such vehicles as tramcars, railway and private carriages, floats, vans and waggons into this country ; and we call on all railway and tram companies, traders and merchants, to encourage home industry by insisting on having their vehicles manufactured in Ireland. The members of the community who foster and encourage such importation are unworthy the support of the public."

#### IRISH PUBLIC BOARDS AND THE FAIR WAGES RESOLUTION.

Mr. Hugh McManus (Belfast), moved :—

"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 rate-payers, 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."

Mr. O'Connor (Limerick) in seconding, said next January they would see if they could not force the hands of the different councils throughout the country. In their own county, in Limerick, they had to fight against National Councils giving their work to "sweaters" in an adjoining county. The delegates present represented over 70,000 workers, all of whom should have a strong influence at election times if they studied their own interests first.

#### PUBLIC CONTRACTS AND FOREIGN MANUFACTURE.

Mr. J. T. Duignan (Brassfounders), moved :—

"That this Congress of Irish Trades Unionists condemn the practice largely in vogue by Corporations, Poor Law Boards and other public bodies, in giving their contracts to establishments that are only agents for foreign manufacturers, and do not even keep a

single tradesman in their employ; and that we call upon these bodies and the public at large to encourage home-made brass work, and to see that same be made under fair conditions of labour according to the recognised trades union rules of the district; and that clauses be inserted in all contracts against the sub-letting of any work supplied to them."

He said in this matter he had more fault to find with the Dublin Corporation than with any other body. Contracts were given away year after year by the Dublin Corporation to people outside of Ireland, and no one knew how or where the work was done.

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

#### INDUSTRIAL HANDICAPS

Mr. John Murphy (Belfast), moved; Mr. A. Close seconded, and it was resolved:—

"That this Congress desires to express its emphatic opinion that Irish industry is most seriously handicapped by the exorbitant railway rates still charged for the transit of goods, which can only be effectively dealt with by the nationalisation of the railways, a measure which should be immediately undertaken; and we also desire to reaffirm our previous resolutions in favour of the taxation of land values and the nationalisation of mines as essential for the promotion of our native industries."

#### STATE PURCHASE OF IRISH CANALS AND RAILWAYS.

Mr. H. McManus moved:—

"That this Congress is of opinion that the State should purchase and work the Irish canals and railways in the interest of commerce, agriculture, and the industrial development of the entire country."

Mr. Taylor (Belfast) in seconding, said they, as artisans, did not fully recognise the importance of the subject. Owing to the prohibitive railway rates one part of the country was kept from communication with another.

The resolution was adopted.

#### OUT-WORKING IN THE TAILORING TRADE.

Councillor McCarron (Londonderry), moved:—

"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."

He said sweating was a great curse in their trade, and he did not see the use of encouraging Irish trade if the work was going to be done by foreigners under inhuman conditions. This would go on as long as the present condition of factory legislation lasted.

Mr. McMahon (Dublin) seconded the resolution, which was passed.

#### SUB-LETTING PLASTERERS' WORK.

Mr. John Lumsden (Plasterers), moved :—

"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 we beg respectfully to submit to the Catholic Archbishops and Bishops and heads of the various Religious Orders in this country the necessity of having a protective clause inserted in their building contracts prohibiting contractors from sub-letting any portion of plastering work now being carried out in various parts of this country by unfair labour and to the detriment of trades union labour; and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the various public bodies of Dublin, the Catholic Hierarchy at Maynooth, and the Institute of Architects."

He said they had a case in point where an English architect had been employed for the new Science and Art building in Merrion street, Dublin, the foundation stone of which was recently laid by the King. His point was that the work on the building including the plastering work, should be done legitimately by trades unionists. And he urged that a copy of this resolution should be sent to the Board of Works immediately.

Mr. R. Cullen (Dublin) seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

#### SECRETARY TO THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

The President announced that Mr. E. L. Richardson was the only candidate nominated for the Secretaryship of the Parliamentary Committee. He declared Mr. Richardson elected, amidst applause.

The Congress then adjourned to 9.30 o'clock on Wednesday morning.

#### PUBLIC MEETING.

In the evening a great public meeting was held in the Parade, Councillor Walker, Chairman of the Congress, presided, and was supported by most of the principal delegates and the Scotch visitors. The following resolution was adopted :—

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

—————:O:—————

### THIRD DAY—Wednesday, 25th May, 1904.

The Congress resumed at 9.30 a.m., Councillor Walker, President, in the Chair. Minutes of second day's proceedings read and confirmed.

The President announced that the ballot for Parliamentary Committee and Scotch Congress Delegation would be taken with closed doors at 12 o'clock.

#### STEAM ENGINES (PERSONS IN CHARGE) BILL.

Mr. John Ryan (Dublin), 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 its 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."

He said there were laundries in Dublin where women had charge of steam engines, and their impulse was, if anything went wrong, to escape from the danger. Accidents had occurred from this cause in laundries ; and they had occurred in restaurants, from the fact that incompetent persons were in charge.

Mr. Magee (Dublin), seconded the resolution.

Mr. Hudson (Dublin), explained that the opposition to this Bill in the House of Commons arose from the fact that it included locomotive engine drivers, and that there were 78 railway directors in the House of Commons at the present moment belonging to the various parties, and that they being interested in the railway monopoly, were opposed to it.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

#### THE HOUSING QUESTION.

On the motion of Mr. E. L. Richardson (Dublin), seconded by Councillor McCarron (Londonderry), the following resolution was unanimously adopted :—

"That in view of the acuteness of the Housing question in Ireland, this Congress is of opinion that any measure dealing with the matter cannot be regarded as satisfactory which does not take



powers—(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.”

#### HIRED VEHICLES AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Mr. M. Egan (Cork), moved :—

“That, in the opinion of this Congress, it would be to the interest of the community that all carriages lent out on hire should come under the supervision of the Hackney Carriage Inspector, as we believe that such vehicles are injurious to the public health, inasmuch as in this way infectious diseases are frequently spread ; and we respectfully urge on the Medical Superintendents of Health to have such vehicles inspected.”

He said that at present a vehicle could be employed in taking a patient to an hospital, and immediately afterwards taking a couple to the church to be married.

Mr. Scandrett (Belfast), seconded.

Mr. Gageby, J.P. (Belfast), pointed out that if the trades interested in the matter approached the Public Health Committees in each centre the difficulty could be got over. The Public Health Act provides a remedy for such cases, and should be enforced.

The resolution was adopted.

#### HACKNEY CARRIAGE INSPECTORS.

Mr. M. Egan (Cork), moved :—

“That, in the opinion of this Congress, it is of importance that practical coachmakers should be appointed to the position of Hackney Carriage Inspectors, 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, who are appointed quite irrespective of any vehicular knowledge.”

Mr. Scandrett (Belfast), seconded the motion, which was adopted with the words “practical, technical, or expert” substituted for “vehicular” on last line.

## THE LICENSING BILL.

Mr. W. Hudson (Dublin), moved :—

“That this Congress protests against the Licensing Bill which seeks to abolish the power now possessed (and hitherto so judiciously exercised) by the magistracy of refusing to renew licences when, in their opinion, such renewal was undesirable, and declares that it is impolitic for the State to interfere in the establishing of a compensation fund, believing that any such fund should be a matter entirely within the trade, and calls upon the Irish Members to take such action as will induce the Government to withdraw their proposals.”

He said that the effect of the Bill would be to give compensation to large monopolies interested in the trade, while there would be no compensation for the grocers and holders of off licences.

Mr. Mitchell (Belfast), seconded the resolution.

Mr. W. J. Leahy (Dublin), opposed the resolution. This was purely an English question. The money raised for the compensation fund did not come from the Irish or English workers ; it came altogether from the English licensed trade, and he held that it was outside the province of that Congress to interfere in a matter that was between the Government and the English brewers and holders of licensed houses in England.

Councillor McCarron (Derry), also opposed the resolution. He said he was opposed to the big brewers being compensated, but he could not sanction the traders in Dublin and other places, who had nothing else to live by, being ruined.

Mr. Taylor (Belfast), supported the resolution. He said that men who engaged in any particular business should take the risks of that business.

The resolution was opposed by Messrs. Keogh (Dublin), Moloney (Dublin), McManus (Belfast), and George Leahy (Dublin).

Mr. Duignan said the brewery and distillery trades gave an immense amount of employment. Publicans had spent large sums of money on their houses, and if their licences were taken away without compensation they would have nothing to live on.

The resolution was defeated by 27 votes to 20.

## SUPERANNUATION OF CORPORATION WORKMEN.

Mr. 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 employees of 25 years’ service and upwards.”

Mr. Hanlon (Dublin), seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. O’Shea (Dublin), Mr. Chambers (Dublin), Mr. E. W. Stewart (Dublin), and Mr. Richardson (Dublin) ; and opposed by Mr. Darcus (Belfast), Mr. McManus (Belfast), Mr. Taylor (Belfast), and Councillor McInnes (Belfast).



Mr. W. J. Leahy said the Dublin Corporation had already, on his motion, passed a resolution on this subject; and a clause would be inserted in the next Bill promoted by the corporation empowering them to give pensions to all workmen, skilled or unskilled, in their employment.

Mr. Murphy (Belfast), opposed the resolution, and expressed himself in favour of an old age pension scheme, which would have application to all workers.

Mr. John Ryan (Dublin), opposed the motion, and stated that pensioners too readily took up other jobs at low wages.

Mr. Gageby, J.P. (Belfast), appealed to Mr. Magee to withdraw the resolution, in view of the statement which had been made by Mr. Leahy.

On a division the resolution was passed by 37 votes to 20.

#### SCHOOL EQUIPMENT.

Mr. J. Mitchell (Belfast), moved :—

“That as Primary Education in this country requires more attention than it at present receives, this Congress demands that Ireland’s share of the Equivalent Grant be devoted solely to the purposes of heating, sanitation, and proper equipment of the National Schools.”

Mr. McManus (Belfast), seconded the resolution.

Mr. George Leahy opposed the resolution in the form in which it was proposed. He suggested the substitution of the words “Development Grant” for “Equivalent Grant.”

The suggestion was adopted, and the resolution in its altered form was passed.

#### REPORT FROM STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (No. 3).

Mr. John Murphy (Chairman Standing Orders Committee), said they recommended (1) that scrutineers be now appointed and the vote taken for Parliamentary Committee and Scotch Congress Delegation; (2) that Congress continue in session until the close of business; (3) that the Standing Orders be suspended to permit the introduction of special resolutions dealing with the Belfast Tramways Bill and the Lock-Out in the Dublin bakery trade; (4) that the balance sheet be considered and next place of meeting fixed at the close of the resolutions.

The report was agreed to *nem. con.*

Messrs. John Lumsden (Dublin), and Joseph Mitchell (Belfast), were appointed scrutineers.

#### 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.”

He said they would never have proper labour representation until they were prepared to send to Parliament men who were fully acquainted with the wants of the workers, and to pay them for their services.

Mr. Feenan (Belfast), seconded the resolution.

Mr. W. J. Leahy (Dublin), opposed the resolution, which he thought a rather dangerous one in the present state of affairs in Ireland. It would be striking a blow at the great popular organisation of Ireland. No man outside Belfast was prepared to go forward as a candidate without declaring his political opinions, whether he was a Conservative or a Nationalist. As an Irish Nationalist he (Mr. Leahy) could not see his way to sink his Nationalist opinions by voting for such a resolution as this, which would pledge him to vote for a Labour candidate. No candidate would have a chance in Dublin who was not selected by a Nationalist Convention.

Mr. George Leahy (Dublin)—Certainly not.

Mr. W. J. Leahy—I hope my friend, Mr. George Leahy, will try it on in Dublin.

Mr. George Leahy—We have enough so-called Labour men in Dublin.

Mr. W. J. Leahy said they had a Labour Party in the House of Commons in the Nationalist Party. He would not support a motion which would be calculated to raise a schism against the Nationalist Party in Ireland, and which would prevent him acting as a Nationalist outside that Congress.

Mr. Ryan (Dublin), also opposed the resolution. He said the Nationalist Party had represented them as well as any Labour Party would. The Nationalist Party had done wonderful work, and they were prepared to do as much for the workers as they had done for the farmers of Ireland.

Mr. O'Shea (Dublin), also opposed the resolution. He was not a supporter of the party which Mr. Leahy had praised; but he recognised the fact that in Dublin, at all events, there was no use in going forward solely on the Labour ticket. Mr. George Leahy had gone forward for a ward in Dublin, but as his views were not the views of the majority, he did not win.

Mr. George Leahy (Dublin), supported the resolution. He yielded to no one as an Irish Nationalist; but he believed in the principle that Labour should go first and Nationality afterwards. Until they had independent Labour representation in Ireland they would never get their grievances remedied.

Messrs. W. Hanlon (Belfast), and Hudson (Dublin), supported the motion, which was opposed by Councillor McCarron (Derry), Moloney (Dublin), and Brown (Belfast).

Mr. E. W. Stewart (Dublin), said that he could not see why Mr. George Leahy should be held up as an awful example of the fate that awaited every candidate for public positions who stood upon



independent Labour lines apart from party politics, seeing that the other Mr. Leahy, who was always assuring them that his politics were his first concern, was himself defeated upon that issue last January. He heartily supported the motion.

The President put the resolution. He expressed himself in favour of it. If they were to secure economic emancipation they should find a neutral platform on which men holding different political opinions could meet. The Labour platform gave them the means of doing that.

The resolution was passed by 41 votes to 14.

#### IRISH TRADE UNION JOURNAL.

Mr. John Simmons (Dublin), moved :—

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, means should be taken to establish an Irish Trade Union Journal; and that the Parliamentary Committee be, and are hereby instructed, to take the necessary steps to establish such journal as speedily as possible."

Mr. Collins (Dublin), seconded the resolution.

Mr. McManus (Belfast), proposed as an amendment—"Omit all after the word 'journal' on line 2 down to and including 'journal' on the last line."

He said that in order to start a journal a certain amount of capital was necessary, and the onus should not be placed on the Parliamentary Committee of doing so.

Mr. Darcus (Belfast), seconded the amendment, which, on a division, was adopted by 24 votes to 22.

#### WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND.

On the motion of Mr. John Murphy (Belfast), seconded by Councillor McInnes, and supported by Miss Galway, the following resolution was unanimously adopted :—

"That the time has arrived when the State should come to the aid of philanthropy by erecting suitable workshops wherein hundreds of blind persons who are now a burden on the rates, or are compelled to eke out an existence by begging, might be profitably employed."

#### AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDER 2.

The motion raising delegates fees to Congress from 15s. to £1 was shut out by the adoption of the "previous question" by 30 votes to 8.

The motion providing that delegates credentials should be sent to the treasurer six weeks before the meeting of Congress was withdrawn.

#### SANITARY AND WATER INSPECTORS.

Mr. James Sweeney (Plumbers), moved; Mr. Lumsden (Plasterers), seconded, and it was resolved :—

"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 at the standard rate of wages, 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."

#### VENTILATION AND SANITATION OF FLAX-ROUGHING SHOPS.

Mr. Dawson Gordon (Flax-Roughers), moved; Mr. R. Gageby, J.P. (Flax-Dressers), seconded, and it was resolved:—

"That it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to see that the provisions of the Factory Act of 1891, in so far as it relates to Ventilation and Sanitation in Roughing Shops, be complied with; and that the exhaust fans in said shops be driven at the regulation rate of speed, and that the temperature be such as shall cause no discomfort to the workers."

#### BELFAST TRAMWAYS BILL.

Councillor McInnes (Belfast) proposed:—

"That this Congress calls upon the Irish members of Parliament to press for the re-insertion of the plebiscitory clause, and also the clause giving power to negotiate for the purchase of connecting lines, in the Belfast Tramways Bill, these clauses having been struck out by the House of Lords."

Mr. McManus (Belfast) seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. Lumsden (Dublin), and passed.

#### LOCK-OUT OF DUBLIN BAKERS.

On the motion of Mr. Michael Ryan (Dublin), seconded by Mr. Dineen (Limerick) the following resolution was passed:—

"That this Congress regrets the continued lock-out of their bakers by Messrs. Johnson, Mooney and O'Brien, of Dublin, whereby one hundred men and their families are affected, and considers the action of the firm, in refusing to submit the matters in dispute to arbitration, most unjustifiable."

#### BALANCE SHEET.

The Balance sheet presented a balance to credit of £78 8s. 8d.

Mr. O'Connor (Limerick) asked how it was that no provision had been made for the secretary's and treasurer's usual honorarium. The amount standing to credit was a fictitious balance, and might lead the trades to the conclusion that they were better off financially than they really were.

Mr. Geo. Leahy (treasurer) admitted that a mistake had been made in not including those items in the account. They, of course, had been paid and would appear in the next balance sheet. It was only right to inform the delegates that other expenses incidental to the Congress would have to be met before they left Kilkenny, which would leave an actual balance to the new committee for the work of the next 12 months of about £45.

The accounts were passed.



## THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

The Scrutineers announced the result of the Ballot as follows:—

Mr. James McCarron, T.C. (Derry), tailor . . .	50 votes.
„ Stephen Dinneen (Limerick), baker . . .	39 „
„ Hugh McManus (Belfast), printer . . .	36 „
„ James Chambers (Dublin), saddler . . .	34 „
„ William Walker, T.C. (Belfast), carpenter . . .	32 „
„ Walter Hudson (Dublin), railwayman . . .	31 „
„ George Coates (Cork), painter . . .	27 „
„ E. W. Stewart (Dublin), shop assistant . . .	26 „

The above, with the secretary, form the committee. The unsuccessful candidates were:—Messrs. W. J. Leahy, 21; John Murphy, 21; J. T. Duignan, 20; John Moloney, 16; Edward McInnes, T.C., 12. Mr. George Leahy withdrew.

## DELEGATES TO SCOTCH CONGRESS (2).

Mr. Wm. Walker (Belfast) . . . . .	29 votes.
„ John Simmons (Dublin) . . . . .	28 „
„ Stephen Dinneen (Limerick) . . . . .	28 „
„ John Murphy (Belfast) . . . . .	10 „
„ Alex. Taylor (Belfast) . . . . .	10 „

There being a tie between Messrs. Dinneen and Simmons for the second place, a further vote was taken by show of hands, when there voted for Simmons, 31; for Dinneen, 19. Mr. Simmons was accordingly elected, with Mr. Walker, T.C. Mr. W. J. Leahy was nominated, but withdrew.

## NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

Wexford, Belfast, Athlone, and Galway, were proposed as the meeting place for the Congress of 1905. After several votes had been taken, Wexford was chosen by 25 votes to 21 for Belfast.

## VOTES OF THANKS.

On the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. Simmons, a vote of thanks was passed to the mayor and corporation of Kilkenny.

Councillor McCarron proposed, and Mr. Richardson seconded a vote of thanks to the Kilkenny Trades Council, and it was cordially agreed to.

Mr. Murphy (Belfast) moved and Mr. R. P. O'Connor (Limerick) seconded a vote of thanks to the Press.

Mr. Chambers (Dublin) having been moved to the second chair, a warm vote of thanks was passed to Councillor Walker for presiding, on the motion of Councillor McCarthy (Kilkenny), seconded by Mr. Coates (Cork).

The President having replied the proceedings of the Congress concluded.

# BALANCE SHEET of Eleventh Irish Trades Union Congress, Kilkenny, 1904.

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance from last Congress . . . .	70	16 0	By Expenses of P. C. Meetings . . . .	44	17 11
Subscriptions to P. C. Appeal . . . .	57	17 2	„ Secretaries to Newry Congress . . . .	2	0 0
(See Detailed List)			„ Standing Orders Committee (Newry) . . . .	2	10 0
72 Delegates at 15s. each . . . .	54	0 0	„ Auditor's Fees (Newry) . . . .	0	10 0
Sale of Congress Reports . . . .	7	12 0	„ Cahill & Co., for Printing . . . .	31	0 5
			„ Delegation to County Councils' General Council . . . .	3	4 8
			„ Do. to Scottish Trades Congress . . . .	9	18 0
			„ Grant to Hall Porter (Newry) . . . .	0	15 0
			„ „ „ (Dublin) . . . .	0	10 0
			„ Messrs. Guy & Co., Printers, Cork, old account . . . .	10	0 0
			„ Postage, Stationery, Newspapers, &c. (Secretary) . . . .	5	17 0
			„ Do., Treasurer . . . .	0	8 6
			„ Expenses to Bank . . . .	0	5 0
			„ Balance in hands, May 21st, 1904 . . . .	78	8 0
	£190	5 2	* See Report, p. 58.	£190	5 2

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

Signed,

JOHN THOMAS DUIGNAN.  
EDWARD W. STEWART.  
GEORGE LEAHY, Treasurer.

23rd May, 1904.



## SUBSCRIPTIONS

TO

## Parliamentary Committee's Appeal.

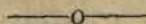
	£	s.	d.
Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants . . . . .	10	0	0
Cork Trades Council . . . . .	5	0	0
Typographical Association, Executive . . . . .	3	16	0
United Kingdom Association of Coachmakers, Executive . . . . .	3	3	0
Dublin Typographical Provident Society, 30-6-'03 . . . . .	3	0	0
Dublin Typographical Provident Society, 3-5-'04 . . . . .	3	0	0
Amalgamated Tailors' Society, Executive . . . . .	3	0	0
Newry Trades Council . . . . .	2	2	0
Dublin Operative Bakers Society, Upper Bridge Street . . . . .	2	0	0
Dublin United Trades Council . . . . .	2	0	0
Typographical Association (Belfast Branch) . . . . .	2	0	0
City of Dublin Stonecutters' Society (Wellington Quay) . . . . .	2	0	0
Stonecutters' Union of Ireland . . . . .	2	0	0
Amalgamated Society of Tailors, Dublin . . . . .	1	17	6
Irish Drapers' Assistants' Association . . . . .	1	1	0
Belfast Postal Telegraph Clerks . . . . .	1	1	0
Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants . . . . .	1	0	7
Belfast and Dublin Loco. Engine Drivers' Society . . . . .	1	0	0
Belfast United Enginemen and Firemen's Union . . . . .	0	15	0
Dublin Boilermakers' Society . . . . .	0	12	6
Dublin Operative Plumbers' Society . . . . .	0	11	1
Amalgamated Society of Engineers (Cork Branch) . . . . .	0	10	0
Amalgamated Society of French Polishers (Belfast) . . . . .	0	10	0
Dublin Shipwrights' Society . . . . .	0	10	0
Dublin Stationary Engine Drivers' Society . . . . .	0	10	0
Irish Glass Bottlemakers' Society (Dublin) . . . . .	0	10	0
Amalgamated Society of Tailors (Dundalk Branch) . . . . .	0	10	0
Amalgamated Society of Tailors (Derry Branch) . . . . .	0	10	0
Amalgamated Society of Millsawyers and Machinists . . . . .	0	9	4
Limerick Typographical Society . . . . .	0	8	4
Cork Typographical Society . . . . .	0	6	8
Dublin Saddlers' and Harnessmakers' Society . . . . .	0	7	0
Dublin Brushmakers' Society . . . . .	0	5	6
Kilkenny Bakers' Society . . . . .	0	5	0
Limerick Painters' Society . . . . .	0	5	0
Amalgamated Cabinetmakers' Society (Dublin) . . . . .	0	5	0
Dublin Tinsmiths' Society . . . . .	0	4	6
Bakers' Society (Derry Branch) . . . . .	0	4	6
Newry Branch Typographical Society . . . . .	0	2	6
Waterford Coopers' Society . . . . .	0	2	2
Limerick Stonecutters' Society . . . . .	0	2	0

Total . . . . . £57 17 2

Signed,

JOHN THOMAS DUIGNAN, }  
 EDWARD W. STEWART, } Auditors.  
 GEORGE LEAHY, Treasurer.

# List of Delegates.



- Bakers' Federal Union, Executive*—Stephen Dineen, Mount Vincent, Limerick.
- Bakers' Operative Society, Dublin*—Patrick Cole, Bakers' Hall, Upper Bridge Street, Dublin; Michael Ryan, Bakers' Hall, Upper Bridge Street, Dublin.
- Belfast Trades Council, Belfast*—Wm. Walker, T.C., P.L.G., 83 Stratheden Street; Joseph Mitchell, 45 Harrybrook Street; John Whitla, 35 Ruth Street.
- Bottlemakers (Irish Glass), Dublin*—Wm. Maguire, 1 Caroline Row, Ringsend; Thos. Dunne, 1 Cambridge Street, Ringsend.
- Brassfounders and Finishers' Society, Dublin*—John Thos. Duignan, 77 Lower Dorset Street.
- Brassfounders and Coppermiths' Society, Belfast*—Samuel Whelan, 50 Enfield Street.
- Brushmakers (United Society of), Dublin Division*—John Moloney, 18 Middle Gardiner Street.
- Bookbinders and Machine Rulers, Dublin*—Andrew Moore, Trades Hall.
- Boilermakers' Society, Dublin*—Edward Brooks, 36 Gray Street.
- Butchers' Trade Society, Belfast*—Joseph Quinn, Telfair Hall, Victoria Square.
- Coachmakers, United Kingdom Society of*—M. Moriarty, 3 Seminary Buildings, Cork; J. Scandrett, Belfast.
- Corporation Workmen's Trade Union, Dublin*—D. Magee, 24 Chancery Street; F. Hanlon, 5 Blackhall Street.
- Coopers, Regular Operative Society of, Dublin*—W. J. Leahy, 25 Blackhall Street; P. J. Quinn, 9 Merchants' Quay.
- Cork Trades Council*—G. Coates, 47 Grattan Street; M. Egan, 47 Grattan Street.
- Carpenters, Amalgamated, No. 5 Branch, Dublin*—E. J. O'Neill, Carpenters' Hall, Lower Gloucester Street.
- Carpenters, Amalgamated, No. 6 Branch, Dublin*—Thos. Carroll, 45 Upper Kevin Street.
- National Furnishing Trades, Amalgamated, (Alliance)*—Thomas Murray, 9 Mary Street, Cork.
- Carpenters, No. 3, Dublin*—P. O'Shea.
- Cabinet Makers, Amalgamated Union of, Belfast*—Wesley Hanlon, 35 Frank Street.
- Dublin Trades Council*—E. L. Richardson, 7 Melrose Avenue, Clontarf; Geo. Leahy, 23 Blackhall Place; John Simmons, 53 Synge Street; Francis Farrell, 18 Bolton Street.
- Engine Drivers, Stationary, Dublin*—John Ryan, Trades Hall.
- Flaxdressers' Trade Union, Belfast*—Robert Gageby, J.P., 10 Yarrow Street.
- Flax-Roughers Trade Union, Belfast*—Alexander Close, 60 Bombay Street; Dawson Gordon, 23 Columbia Street.
- Hairdressers' Trade Union, Dublin*—Henry Rochford, Trades Hall, Capel Street.
- Irish Linenlappers' Trade Union, Belfast*—Alexander Taylor, 99 Donegall Street.
- Irish Drapers' Assistants' Association, Dublin*—M. J. O'Lehane, 56 Henry Street.
- Kilkenny Trades Council*—John McCarthy, T.C., Trades Hall; William Pattison, ditto.
- Londonderry Trades Council*—H. McCallion, Bishop Street.
- Limerick Trades Council*—John O'Dowd, Edward Street; R. P. O'Connor, Upper Mallow Street; Patrick Hayes, Nicholas Street.
- Millsawyers, Amalgamated Society of, Dublin*—George Paisley, 3 Hewardine Terrace.
- National Amalgamated Union of Labour, Belfast*—John Browne; Wm. Wilson, 140 Earl Street; E. McInnes, T.C., 163 Bloomfield Avenue.



- Newry Trades Council*—Joseph Bell, junr., 37 Kilmorey Street.  
*National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants (Irish Branches)*—E. W. Stewart, Trades Hall, Dublin; James Feenan, 9 North Street, Belfast.  
*Painters, Amalgamated (No. 1 Branch), Dublin*—Stephen Howard, 12 Redmond's Hill.  
*Painters, Amalgamated (Irish Branches)*—John Graydon, 21 Lower Dorset Street, Dublin.  
*Plasterers, Operative Society of, Dublin*—John Lumsden, 8 Emerald Cottages; Richard Cullen, Trades Hall.  
*Plumbers, Operative Society of, Dublin*—James Sweeney, Arran Quay.  
*Plumbers, Operative Society of, Belfast*—Samuel Currie.  
*Railway Servants, Amalgamated Society of*—Walter Hudson (Irish Sec.), 35 Melrose Avenue, Dublin; James Harvey, 6 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast.  
*Saddlers' and Harnessmakers' Trade Society, Dublin*—James Chambers, 27 St. Ignatius Road.  
*Stonecutters' Union of Ireland*—John O'Looney, Trades Hall, Dublin; John Doyle, ditto.  
*Typographical Provident Society, Dublin*—M. J. Keogh, 33 Denmark Street; Thos. Collins, ditto.  
*Typographical Association (Irish Branches)*—Hugh McManus, 14 Ardmoulin Street, Belfast.  
*Typographical Association (Belfast Branch)*—Charles Darcus, 30 Delhi Street; John Murphy, 33 Paxton Street.  
*Tailors, Amalgamated Society of (Irish Branches)*—James McCarron, T.C., 2 Stanley Terrace, Derry; John McMahon, 28 St. Alban's Road, Dublin.  
*Textile Operatives' Society of Ireland*—Miss M. Galway, 31 Crocus Street, Belfast; Miss M. Carberry, 3 Earls Court Street, Belfast.  
*Tramwaymen's Amalgamated Association and Vehicle Workers, Belfast*—A. Farrell, 104 Hillman Street.  
*Scottish Trades Union Congress (Fraternal Delegates)*—R. Smillie, Lanark; E. Jackson, Glasgow.

## STANDING ORDERS.

—o—

**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 expense 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 trades and labour societies and trades 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.

**8. Limitation of Business.**—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.