



THE TWELFTH ANNUAL

Irish Trades



Union Congress

WILL BE HELD

IN WEXFORD,

— ON —

Whit-Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday,



1905.





"LABOR OMNIA VINCIT."

# REPORT

OF THE

TWELFTH

# Irish Trades Union Congress

HELD IN

*The Town Hall, Wexford,*

JUNE 12th, 13th & 14th, 1905.



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

DOYLE, The Trade Union Printer, Dublin.

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ON

MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY,

12th, 13th & 14th JUNE, 1905,

*Edited by E. L. RICHARDSON.*



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REPORT

THE

**OFFICERS**

OF THE

*Parliamentary Committee.*

—:O:—

CHAIRMAN.

STEPHEN DINEEN, LIMERICK.

VICE-CHAIRMAN.

JAMES McCARRON, T.C., DERRY.

TREASURER.

E. W. STEWART, 14 NOTTINGHAM STREET, DUBLIN

*(To whom all Remittances should be sent).*

SECRETARY.

E. L. RICHARDSON, 7 MELROSE AVENUE, FAIRVIEW, DUBLIN

*(To whom all Communications should be addressed).*

# REPORT.

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## FIRST DAY—Monday, 12th June, 1905.

The Twelfth Annual Irish Trades Union Congress, opened in the Town Hall, Wexford, on Monday, 12th June, 1905, at 11 o'clock a.m.

The Mayor of Wexford (Councillor J. J. Stafford, J.P.), wearing his chain of office and attended by his mace-bearer, the Very Rev. P. Doyle, Adm., and Aldermen and Councillors of the Corporation was present to welcome the delegates.

Mr. Stephen Dineen (Limerick), Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, occupied the chair at the preliminary proceedings, and apologised for the smallness of the meeting to a disappointment in the train arrangements. He thanked the Mayor and the Corporation for the welcome they had extended to the delegates to that ancient and historic borough, and mentioned that they did not come to Wexford in any hostile spirit. They had come on behalf of the organised workers of Ireland, and he need not tell them that without organisation at the present day they, the workers, had no protection whatever. The workers held out the hand of fellowship to everyone, and it was not their fault if the employers did not embrace the opportunity. He then called upon the Mayor.

The Mayor said—Mr. Chairman and members of the Irish Trades Union Congress, it is a source of great pleasure to me as Mayor of this ancient borough to welcome you, the representatives of the organised workers of this country. When it was first intimated some months since that your Congress was to be held in this town, it was thought by a few that your meeting would have the effect of disturbing the good feeling that existed between the employers and employees in Wexford. I entertained no such feeling. It has been my privilege during the past few months to see some of the members of the Parliamentary Committee, and during the past few days I have had the pleasure of meeting the whole of the Parliamentary Committee representing this powerful organisation. I was very much impressed with these gentlemen—cool-headed, moderate men, practical men, fully alive to the responsibility of the position they held as representing such a powerful organisation, and I have

no reason to believe that the deliberations of the Congress in this room during the next few days will not be carried on with every moderation, reason and prudence, and, I hope, in a manner satisfactory to yourselves and of some benefit to the community. At the present moment, gentlemen, a move is being made in this country to revive our industries; but the capitalists are powerless without the assistance of the workingmen. I hope that during the few days you spend here you will have a pleasant time. I may mention to you I am notified by the proprietors that all the works in the town are open to the delegates to visit them. I also wish to inform you that Lady Maurice Fitzgerald, of Johnstown Castle, has intimated to me that she will be very pleased to open her grounds to any members of the Congress who may wish to visit them.

Rev. P. Doyle, Adm., joined in the words of welcome expressed by the Mayor, and said Wexford was a very large centre of labour, and he had every confidence that during the time the delegates spent in Wexford they would receive not merely the cordial sympathy, but, he trusted, also the active support of their fellow-labourers in Wexford.

Mr. J. J. Kehoe, T.C., also welcomed the delegates to the town.

Mr. Benjamin Hughes, T.C. (ex-Mayor) joined with the Mayor, Father Doyle and Mr. Kehoe in welcoming the delegates. He believed the Congress would tend to do much good in Wexford between employer and employee. He referred to the establishment of a trades union in Wexford so far back as 1841 or 1842, of which he himself was one of the founders, but it died out in consequence, primarily, of the famine years. He would be glad, he said, to see a union now established, and he did not see why anyone should be ashamed to call himself a tradesman. He attributed the fact that the youth of Wexford did not go in more for trade to the system of Intermediate education that prevailed. During their stay in Wexford the delegates, he said, would have the privilege of membership of the Mechanics' Institute.

Mr. Robert Hanton, T.C., who was next called upon, also addressed the Congress, and welcomed the delegates to Wexford. He said he had always taken a deep interest in the industry of the town, and on that account he was glad to see so many delegates present, who, he hoped, would enjoy themselves, where there were so many places and things of interest to be seen.

Councillor M'Carron, Derry, proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the Mayor and Corporation for the reception they had given the members of the Congress. They were all pleased with the remarks of the Mayor, counselling moderation, and they were all delighted to see a representative of the Church amongst them in the person of Father Doyle. The delegates would like to see the clerical representatives of all denominations at their meetings, for clerical influence often had prevented great industrial wars.

Mr. W. Hudson, Dublin, seconded the vote of thanks, which was passed by acclamation.

The Mayor, in reply, said he was much obliged for the vote of thanks. He need scarcely say it was a great pleasure to him to be there that day to render any assistance he could to so large a representation of the trade unions of this country. Any service he rendered was freely given, and given with a good heart.

The Mayor and members of the Corporation, with Father Doyle, then left the Town Hall, and the proceedings proper of the Congress were opened.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Messrs. E. L. Richardson (Dublin) and John Wadding (Wexford) were unanimously elected Secretaries to the Congress.

Messrs. Henry Rochford and M. J. Keogh were appointed tellers.

Messrs. J. Farren, J. M'Mahon, J. T. Duignan, Geo. Leahy and Joseph Mitchell were elected Standing Orders Committee.

Councillor S. M'Cormick and Mr. R. O'Keeffe were appointed auditors.

On the motion of Mr. John Wadding, seconded by Mr. J. E. Lyons,

Mr. JAMES CHAMBERS (Dublin) was unanimously elected President of the Congress. Having taken the chair, Mr. Chambers said:—

FELLOW DELEGATES.—I desire, at the outset, to thank you for the honour you have done me in unanimously selecting me to preside over this, the twelfth annual Congress of the organised workers of Ireland; and although I cannot hope to surpass in eloquence or administrative ability the men who have preceded me in this position, I trust I may lay claim to a desire to emulate them in all things calculated to advance the cause of Labour, and to bring credit, coupled with some degree of success, to the work to which we have set our hands.

I am mindful of the fact that we meet this year in a town in which the aims and purpose of the Irish Trades Union Congress are somewhat imperfectly understood, and I should therefore like to make it absolutely clear that our mission is essentially one of peace as between employers and employed, provided always that both elements which go to make up the industrial life of the nation obtain their respective rewards. It has been said that the effective organisation of the wealth-producers results only in raising their minds to revolt against the conditions under which they are sometimes obliged to labour, and with disastrous consequences to the industries associated with the district concerned. That is unfortunately true in a few ill-directed instances; but I should be false to the position to which you have to-day elected me if I did not

raise my voice in warning against advice in that direction given by irresponsible persons presuming to act in the name of trade unionism. We who are identified with the Trades Union Congress deprecate movements of this character. We discountenance disputes between employers and employed born of ulterior motives of interested and self-elected agitators. We recognise and support only those demands that tend to secure to the worker at least a living wage, a just percentage of the profits of his toil—in short, a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, whether that work be for the State, the local authority, or the private employer. There are, I think, few employers, even in this historic town of Wexford, who will be found to openly deny the right of the workers to combine for these objects; and, given the right leaders, the prudent, sagacious spokesmen, there are fewer still who will not admit the advantages accruing from a manly, upright, honest understanding between those who have employment to give upon one hand and those who have their labour to sell on the other as to the terms and conditions under which both may collectively advance their mutual prosperity and the well-being of their district and their country.

I have dwelt briefly upon this point because I am unfortunately aware that the bed-rock principles of trade unionism have been mischievously misrepresented in this town; and I venture to hope that before we have concluded our proceedings these misconceptions will be cleared away, and that the workers of Wexford will recognise the fact that as the road to reform in political or social matters lies in effective combination—so, in the Labour movement, the success of the workers in obtaining more elevating conditions of existence, as well as fair recompense for work and labour well and truly done, lies alone in the strength, the solidity and the honesty of their own organisations.

I turn now to the main feature of my address to you to-day; and in casting about for a peg upon which to hang my discourse, I concluded that the time was opportune for saying a few words upon what the Irish Trades Union Congress has done; what it is doing; and what it hopes to do, which may be alike interesting and instructive, not alone to the delegates present, but also to the general body of trade unionists and the public in Ireland and across the water who may subsequently do me the honour of reading these lines.

Let me carry your minds back to the spring of 1894, when a few of the more active spirits in the trade union movement in the metropolis conceived the idea of bringing together on common ground the labour leaders of the country, with a view to practical and united action for the common good of their class. On the 27th April of that year there assembled in the Trades Hall, Dublin, in response to the invitation issued by the Metropolitan Council, representatives of organised labour from the four provinces of Ireland—virtually the first truly representative gathering of

Irish Trade Unionism ever brought together under one roof; and in passing, may I gently mention the fact that of the twelve men who, as a provisional committee, laboured early and late at the "laying of the foundations," only three are members of this Congress, while no less than six have since passed over to the great majority.

Glancing over the agenda paper of our initial efforts at Congress-making, and comparing it with the questions we will, within the next few days, be called upon to consider, one obtains some indication of the work—slow, no doubt, but none the less sure—that has been accomplished for Labour during the past ten years. The resolutions adopted, and the instructions given to the first-elected Parliamentary Committee, in 1894, dealt with the necessity for the amendment of the Employers' Liability Act, increased efficiency in factory inspection, sanitation and legislation, the assimilation of the franchises in Ireland, the extension of technical education, the housing problem, shop hours, Government contracts, fair wages, and subjects of a cognate nature. These important matters are being, or have been, dealt with in a more or less satisfactory manner by the Legislature since the first time Irish trade unionists, in a collective manner, directed the attention of the authorities to them:—The Workmen's Compensation Act, which broadened the scope of the old Employer's Liability Act, was passed in 1897; the codification and elaboration of the factory laws by the Factory Act of 1902; the extension of the municipal and poor law franchises by the passing of the Local Government Act of 1898; the creation of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, whereby technical education in Ireland has been placed upon a sounder basis; the Small-Dwellings Acquisition Act, and the amendment of the Housing Acts (which, though totally inadequate to grapple even with the fringe of the housing problem, marks a step forward), the Act passed in 1897 to prohibit the importation of foreign prison-made goods, and other measures of not less importance which were at that time called for by the Irish workers.

I do not suggest that the Irish Trades Congress has been instrumental in securing the passage of all or any of these measures; but I think I can fairly claim that our existence in no small degree contributed to the results. It is admitted that since our foundation Irish representative men of all political parties have displayed a more practical interest in questions affecting the welfare of organised Labour both here and across the Channel—but especially in Ireland. Why? Because, before the inception of the Irish Congress members of Parliament for Irish constituencies had no reliable means of ascertaining the collective desires of the wealth-producers, and as a consequence the oft-times discordant voice of the workers was to them but a negligible quantity. But now the position is changed. Witness, for example, the watchfulness of a considerable number of the Irish members when the Factory Act

was passing through the House, in which all the amendments suggested by your committee at the Sligo meeting have been successfully incorporated. Witness also their actions in support of the Trades Disputes Bill, which drew from the Congress an unanimous expression of thanks; or consider the numerous occasions on which questions of moment to Irish workers have been brought by them before Parliament at the instance of your Executive. These are results which even our friends "on the other side," who looked with jealousy and some degree of displeasure at the institution of the Irish Congress, have had to acknowledge as due to this visible unity of Irish trade unionists.

But the efforts of the Congress Committee have not been directed to Parliamentary work alone. From time to time deputations have laid before Cabinet Ministers, chiefs of Government departments, and other officials charged with administrative duties for State and people, the complaints and desires of the affiliated trades. Need I refer to the many important interviews accorded your committee by successive Chief Secretaries and other Ministers of the Crown, at which the pressing demands of the Trade Union movement in Ireland have been brought prominently before the Government and the public in a manner which would be impossible were your committee not entitled to speak for the organised workers of the whole country? Or need I point to the numerous occasions upon which your claims, your wants, and your aspirations have been persistently pressed upon the attention of the Local Government Board, the Department of Technical Instruction, the Corporations, the County Councils, and other local bodies in Ireland, and last, but not least, upon the respected leader and his colleagues of the Irish Parliamentary Party? Or is it necessary to recount the valuable evidence from time to time given by your executive officials before Select Committees of both Houses of Parliament, when such questions as the operation of the Fair Wages Resolution, Government contracts, the Steam Engines Bill, the Shop Hours Bill, the Workmen's Compensation Bill, and other matters of similar importance, were subjects of inquiry? It will, I think, be sufficient to say that the generally satisfactory results already achieved stand on record, the further detailing of which in this address might be regarded as an abuse of the time allotted for the no less important work that lies before us.

But "eaten bread is soon forgotten." I am afraid the workers of Ireland are apt to judge the Congress according to the value of the benefits immediately accruing to their respective callings, instead of viewing its work from the broad standpoint of general usefulness, on the principle of the "greatest good to the greatest number." Be that as it may, I do not hesitate to assert that so far as they have gone the efforts of the your Committee, attempted and accomplished on behalf of the workers generally, will bear favourable comparison with the work of their big brothers on the

other side of the channel, notwithstanding that the financial and general support they have received has been woefully disproportionate to that accorded to their English and Scotch confreres.

With this brief reference to the past, let me touch for a moment on what the Irish Congress is now doing; and then, if you will, we will consider what it has to do—so far, at all events, as the range of our mental vision of labour questions at present extends.

To enter upon any elaborate review of what the Congress is now doing would largely involve taking by anticipation the contents of the Parliamentary Committee's report now in your hands. Nevertheless, there are questions although not strictly within the purview of the past year's work, yet, as occasion offers, engage the attention of your committee. For instance, the amendment of the jury laws which at present press so hardly upon the workingman juror, is a matter constantly calling for serious attention. It is surely an anomaly that every person engaged in the administration of the law—from the highest officer of the Crown to the humblest menial in the courts—is paid liberally for his services, save and except the jurors, upon whom the issues depend, and who are compelled to sacrifice their time, their money, and sometimes their employment and their health at the shrine of His Majesty's service. Or take the proposed appointment of a Minister for Labour, originally advocated by our Congress so far back as 1895, and although discounted by Mr. Gerald Balfour, when interviewed by your committee in 1896, is now fairly within the range of practical politics. Or note the success attending the demand for the taxation of land values—the principle of which has now been twice affirmed by the present House of Commons. Again, the Amendment of the Merchandise Marks Act, Adult Suffrage, Railway rates, inspection and reform; Municipal Workshops, Eight Hours' Day, the better administration of the Factory laws, the Housing Problem, and such like matters as are frequently raised in one form or another in Parliament, at our local boards, or in the Press. All these questions necessitate perpetual watchfulness and often call for prompt action, in order that the interests of Irish trade unionists may be safeguarded or advanced.

In passing, I may perhaps be permitted to refer to one striking instance of this. Last autumn the Home Secretary, in the course of a somewhat discussive debate at the rising of Parliament, incidentally mentioned his desire to appoint some additional inspectors to administer the new Factory Act with greater efficiency. Thereupon your Committee immediately reminded him of the claims of the women workers of Ireland in this regard, as expressed by the repeatedly adopted resolution of the Textile Operatives' Society. After much correspondence with the Home Office, and questions asked in the House, the justice of the demand was acknowledged, and the appointment promised of a female inspector, who is to be resident in, and devote the greater portion of her

duties to, Ireland. This may appear a small matter; yet it illustrates the watchfulness necessary to achieve even minor results, and I am glad to know that the officers and members of the Textile Operatives' Society freely acknowledge that without the prompt and persistent action of the Congress Committee, backed as it was by the united voice of the organised workers of Ireland, such a satisfactory consummation of their demand could scarcely have been hoped for in their time.

But the present work of your Committee does not stop at these things. The need of effective organisation in all branches of labour, coupled with the development of the industrial resources of the country under fair conditions, are constantly before them. They have even been called upon, and with some degree of success, to bring about or influence the settlement of disputes between employers and employed, or between rival trade unions, in almost every town in which our annual meetings have been held. Moreover, they have to deal with correspondence from all parts of the country, frequently necessitating the immediate framing of questions to be asked in Parliament, the drafting of petitions, or the making up and supplying of effective points for the information of our friends, when the Estimates and other business come before the House.

This somewhat hurried recital will, I hope, serve to direct some attention to the work the Irish Trades Congress is at present trying to accomplish; and, handicapped though they are by the want of that full practical support so freely given to other movements of less immediate importance to the well-being of the Irish workers and their families, the Congress Committee cannot be charged with having neglected any opportunity that has up to the present arisen where the interests of those they represent could reasonably be maintained or promoted. The pity of it is that, in marked contrast to his co-workers in England and Scotland, the average trade unionist in Ireland takes but a perfunctory interest in such important questions as I have enumerated; and appears to sum up the need and the usefulness of the Irish Congress according to the success or otherwise attending the efforts of the Parliamentary Committee in dealing with whatever narrow local question may be brought forward on behalf of his own trade. Let me remind those of my friends who move in this groove that a man may be very loyal to his own union, yet if he fails to support other unions with equal loyalty, he displays but one-half, and that the selfish half, of the true trade unionist.

But I pass on. In time, perhaps, the Irish workers as a body will come to a more reasonable understanding of the force of concentrated effort, and to a more appreciative conception of what influence for good can be exercised in their behalf on all questions appertaining to their well-being by the authorised spokesmen of this Congress, if they are backed by the united voice and support

of the organisations of the country. To that end may I ask your consideration for a moment of the work in which I anticipate this Congress hopes to take a useful part.

A celebrated Irish politician once declared that no man could put a limit to the march of a nation. In like manner, no one can foresee the possibilities of the Labour Movement. Some enthusiasts declare the ideal to be the capture of the reins of government; others see the workers' millennium, in the control of the means of production, distribution, and exchange. But whatever our conception of the goal towards which we strive, there will at all times be spade-work to be done and difficulties to be overcome in the broad field of Trade Unionism, until the present system of industrialism is mended or ended.

I have feebly endeavoured to show to what extent the Irish Trades Union Congress has fulfilled its functions since the date of its birth; and I am bold enough to assert that, on the evidence adduced, there are few, if any, who can say that it has failed to justify its existence. But what of the future? Your agenda paper discloses a quiver full of questions that immediately concern us to-day; and so far from there being any differences of opinion among trade unionists as to their necessity or utility, I venture to say there would be little objection if the propositions as they stand were taken *in globo* and put from the chair without discussion. Our experience, however, tells us that under the prevailing system of representative institutions, and with a Press mainly owned and controlled by the capitalist class, the necessity unfortunately exists of repeatedly giving expression to our dissatisfaction with things as they are, and of demanding redress and reform at the hands of the ruling authorities of the day; until such time—let us hope not far distant—when we will be better enabled to work out these reforms for ourselves. Hence our meeting in Wexford to-day—not alone to receive from our executive officers an account of their stewardship for the past twelve months, or, “lest they forget,” to further impress and instruct them as to the future carriage of their proceedings, but also that the representatives of the workers of Ireland, in common with their brethren elsewhere, may be afforded an opportunity of harmonising and registering their immediate demands, and of pressing them with a corresponding degree of unanimity on the attention of the public.

But what of the great questions that form the bed-rock basis of the workers' aspirations, and what of the great principles that lie at the foundation of the trade union position, which, under the pressure of capitalistic influence, are for the moment displaced? What part does the Irish Trades Congress propose to take in nationalising the land, mines, and minerals of the country? in solving the housing problem? in overthrowing the poor law system? in breaking down the barriers to free education? and in opening the doors of the Legislature to the our own representatives? What help are

we determined to give in the fight for the restoration of our Magna Charta? for the amendment or abolition of the laws that hamper and cripple the physical, moral and social development of the people?—in short, what position in the great world-wide movement for the complete emancipation of the workers is the Irish Trades Congress destined to occupy in the future?

Gentlemen, he would be a bold man who would hazard a prophetic answer to any one of these important questions. But this much may with safety be said. Their realisation or their negation will entirely depend on the strength and solidarity or the weakness and vapidity of our own organisations, on the measure of encouragement and support given to the men in the firing line, and on the capacity for self-reliance, prudence, honesty, and common-sense displayed by each unit in the ranks. With the concentration and practical application of these desirable attributes, the Irish Trades Union Congress must exercise a potent influence on the future of the Labour movement. Let me therefore, in conclusion, exhort my comrades in this struggle not to be as a dead drag around the neck of your fellow-workers struggling for reform. Wake up; study the questions of the day. Be independent, and have opinions of your own. Do not deal in second-hand principles. Investigate for yourselves. Have aspirations above all the dull serfs who chain themselves to other personalities or some narrow party creed. Be a help and not a hindrance to human progress. Be true to yourselves. Be men!

“ Can chains or tortures bend the mind  
On God's supporting breast reclined?  
Stand fast, and let our tyrants see  
That fortitude is victory.”

(Loud and prolonged applause).

Mr. Hugh M'Manus proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his very able address. He had heard many such addresses, but the one just delivered had impressed him more than any of them. He referred to the progress made by the Irish Trades Congress, and said that self-reliance was their only safeguard.

Mr. Simmons seconded, and was supported by Mr. John Lyons.

The vote of thanks being passed with acclamation, Mr. Chambers suitably replied.

#### CONGRATULATIONS.

A telegram conveying a message of greeting to the Congress was received from the Typographical Conference, which was that day meeting at Limerick. It was ordered that the secretary reciprocate the compliment on behalf of the Congress.

#### REPORT FROM STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—(NO. 1).

Mr. George Leahy, Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee, presented a report, which recommended—(1) That the propositions be taken as they appear on the agenda paper (with amendments),

including 20A on Supplementary Agenda (Receiving Depot for Army and Navy Contracts in Ireland); (2) That the standing orders be suspended at 12 o'clock on Tuesday to hear deputations from the Scottish Trades Union Congress, Cumann na Leabarlann, and Feis Ceoil, and that the delegates from the Bricklayers' Union be permitted to refer to the lock-out in Dublin and move a resolution.

The report was adopted.

#### TRADES DISPUTES BILL.

Mr. M'Manus (Belfast) moved :—

“That this Congress, while fully recognising the splendid practical services rendered by the Irish Members of Parliament in regard to the Trades Disputes Bill, desires to emphasise previous declarations that no measure can be accepted as satisfactory which does not restore the full rights previously enjoyed by trade unions under the Acts of 1871 and 1876, legalising peaceful picketing and persuasion; clearly defining the law of conspiracy and combination in respect to trades disputes, alike applicable in all cases to employers and workers; and also securing the equitable protection of trade union funds. And we desire to place on record our protest, that the measure which passed its second reading in the present Parliament by such a substantial majority has been strangled in its committee stage at the instance of supporters of the Government.”

He said, when the Bill was first before the House of Commons Sir Edward Carson said it was impossible that it should ever become law, but it had since passed through the Commons by a large majority, to suffer strangulation by its enemies in the Committee stage. He referred to a recent case in the North of Ireland in which on the evidence of bogus tradesmen, an effort was made to mulet trades unionists in heavy law costs.

Councillor James M'Carron (Derry), who seconded the resolution, said that they should make every effort, each in his own constituency, to get the support of their Parliamentary representatives.

Mr. Walter Hudson (Dublin), supported the resolution. He said they should exercise their power as workers in the ballot-boxes.

Mr. Mitchell (Belfast), said that only one of the members of the Irish Party, from whom they expected support, had voted for the Bill in Committee; two were afraid to vote, and two were absent. He advocated the sending of an independent party of their own to Parliament to look after their interests.

Mr. John Murphy (Belfast), in supporting the resolution, said that some of the Members of Parliament did not deserve any praise. Some of them opposed in Committee and on the second reading. Every Nationalist member voted for it, and why should they not thank the Liberals. If the resolution thanked the Irish Parliamentary Party it would be more correct.

Councillor P. T. Daly (Dublin), supported the resolution, and said he did not quite follow the last speaker. He thought they should confine themselves within the four seas of Ireland. The Irish Parliamentary Party deserved a meed of praise in the matter, but he was not in favour of mentioning them specially in a resolution, as there was at least one other member outside that Party who voted for the measure.

The resolution was also supported by Messrs. Dineen (Limerick), Canty and Lyons (Dublin), and unanimously adopted.

#### SHOP HOURS' ACT, 1904.

Mr. E. W. Stewart (Shop Assistants) moved :—

“Whereas this Congress has upon several occasions directed attention to the evil of long hours of employment in shops; and whereas this Congress has upon several occasions unanimously endorsed the measure introduced to Parliament by Sir Chas. Dilke as the best method of removing the evil; and whereas this Congress, by resolution, welcomed the statement in the King's speech opening the Parliamentary Session of 1904, that legislation dealing with the subject would be introduced—Therefore, it is hereby resolved that this Congress regards the measure known as the Shop Hours' Act, 1904, as too cumbersome in procedure to be satisfactory in operation, and lacking the essential features of being uniform and compulsory; and we request the Government to grant facilities for a further extension of the principles which this Act establishes, but fails to carry out.”

Mr. Henry Rochford (Hairdressers' Assistants'), seconded the resolution.

Mr. M. J. O'Lehane (Irish Drapers' Assistants'), said the Act was practically worthless in its present form. The Urban Councils throughout the country, composed as they were mainly of shopkeepers, would not put the Act into force, and a compulsory measure was necessary.

Messrs. Kavanagh, Canty and Councillor M'Cormack (Belfast), having spoken, the motion was adopted.

#### HOURS OF WORK IN SHOPS.

Mr. J. O'Lehane (Irish 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 pending adequate legislation on the matter, 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 he spoke on behalf of 3,000 assistants in the drapery trade who attributed this grievance to unnecessarily late shoppings. Delegates, he said, might urge upon their constituents to transact this kind of business as early as possible.

Councillor Daly (Dublin) seconded the motion.

Mr. E. L. Richardson, in supporting the resolution, said he was glad to note that the Mayor of Wexford, who had honoured them with his presence on the platform, was one of those who put his ideas on early closing into practical effect.

Messrs. Kavanagh, Canty, Simmons, Keogh, Stewart, Dineen and Rochford having spoken in support, the resolution was adopted.

#### OUTWORKING IN THE TAILORING TRADE.

Councillor McCarron (Tailors) 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 urged that inquiries should be made when purchasing clothes if same were made at a sweater’s.

Mr. Lynch, P.L.G. (Cork), seconded, and said he knew there were so-called trades union houses in Cork where they did not know but the suit they bought there was made by a sweater.

The resolution was adopted.

#### RAILWAYMEN’S HOURS AND NEGLECT OF COMPANIES TO REPORT ACCIDENTS.

On the motion of Mr. Walter Hudson (A.S.R.S.), seconded by Councillor Gageby, J.P., it was resolved :—

“That this Congress views with deep concern the difficulties of getting representations under the Hours’ Act, 1903, attended to by the Board of Trade, thereby distinctly discouraging legitimate complaints ; further, we believe the Act should be so amended as to compel the railway companies to make returns to the Board of Trade of all hours worked over twelve by railway servants, as is the case in France ; also, that 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 ; that the Railway Regulation Act, 1871, requires to be immediately amended, by placing responsibility upon the Board of Trade to prosecute railway companies in all cases of neglect to report under statute law accidents to their servants which occur on any railway.”

## STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE REPORT—NO. 2.

The Standing Orders Committee recommended:—(1) That, provided sufficient progress is reported, Congress do adjourn on Tuesday at 2 o'clock to enable delegates to accept Lady Fitzgerald's invitation to visit Johnstown Castle; (2) that the delegates from the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners be permitted to move a resolution, *re* the importation of foreign joinery, at the close of the agenda; (3) that the Plasterers' delegates be permitted to amend their resolution *re* Sub-letting Plastering Work (see p. 18), by inserting after the word "plastering" on line 7—"except to those who are recognised by the trade as master plasterers and employ trade union labour"; (4) that the Chairman and Members of the Parliamentary Committee sign a petition on behalf of the Textile Operatives in favour of the appointment of additional female factory inspectors.

The report was adopted.

## AMENDMENT OF MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

Mr. Wm. Maguire (Bottlemakers), 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 owing to the defective trade mark about a million of money leaves Ireland every year for bottles. The trade was slowly but surely dwindling away, and if something was not done it would soon be gone. The majority of the bottles used at the present time were imported.

Mr. T. Dunne seconded, and drew a favourable comparison between the Irish and the German-made bottles.

Mr. Kavanagh supported.

Mr. P. Lynch, P.L.G. (Cork), also supported, and asked the bottlemakers' representative if bottles suitable for drugs, &c., could be made in Ireland.

The reply was in the affirmative.

Mr. Lynch—Well, I'm glad to know that, because it was driven in my face at the Cork Board of Guardians.

Mr. John Murphy (Belfast), said that if they were there to exclude foreign manufacture, it would not mean English bottles, and then again they would only damage the Irish bottle-making trade.

Messrs. A. Moore (Bookbinders), Daly, T.C. (Dublin), M'Carron, T.C. (Derry), Egan (Cork), Mitchell, Gageby, T.C., J.P., and Darcus (Belfast), and Canty (Dublin), having spoken, the motion was adopted.

HOME-MADE TIN WORK.

On the motion of Mr. John Farren, seconded by Mr. J. T. Duignan, and supported by Messrs. Gageby and Stewart the following resolution was adopted :—

“In view of the amount of tin work imported for dairy use into this country, this Congress calls upon the farmers, cow-keepers’ associations, and all concerned, to have their dairy utensils and creamery fittings made and repaired in Ireland, instead of giving orders to firms who send same across the Channel; and also calls upon managers and directors of gas works to have their gas meters made and repaired in Ireland and by legitimate labour.”

HOME-MADE BOTTLES.

Mr. Thomas Dunne (Bottlemakers), moved :—

“That this Congress respectfully calls on all members of trades unions and trades clubs to insist on having all beverages supplied to them served from home-made bottles which bear the trade marks of “R,” “K,” “B,” or “W.”

Mr. Wm. Maguire seconded. Passed.

IRISH MATERIAL FOR IRISH PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr. C. White (Stonecutters’ Union), moved :—

“That we call on the Board of Works and Board of Technical Instruction to have Irish stone used in the construction of the new College of Science and all public Government works where stone, or substitutes for stone, are used in Ireland.”

The resolution was seconded by Mr. J. O’Dowd (Limerick), supported by Messrs. George Leahy, Michael Egan (Cork), and J. T. Duignan, and passed.

PUBLIC CONTRACTS AND FOREIGN MANUFACTURE.

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

“That this Congress condemns the system so largely practised by Corporations, Poor Law Boards, and other public bodies in giving contracts to firms 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, made under fair conditions of labour according to the recognised trades union rules of the district; and to insert clauses in all contracts against the sub-letting of any work supplied to them.”

Mr. D. Mulcahy seconded.

Councillor Gageby, J.P., and Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G. (Belfast), referred to the action taken in this regard by the Belfast Corporation and Board of Guardians.

The resolution was adopted.

## SUB-LETTING PLASTERING WORK.

Mr. George Leahy moved, and Mr. John Simmons seconded the following resolution as amended by report of Standing Orders Committee (see p. 16):—

“That this Congress again desires to place on record its condemnation of the sub-letting system, which still prevails in the plastering trade of this country, owing to the apathy and neglect of many of our public bodies, the Council of the Institute of Irish Architects, and the Catholic Clergy of Ireland, in not securing a clause in their specifications and advertisements debarring the contractor from sub-letting any portion of the plastering, except to those who are recognised by the trade as master plasterers and employ trade union labour, which is the only means whereby good and proper workmanship can be executed; and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Standing Committee of the Catholic Hierarchy of Ireland and the Council of the Institute of Irish Architects.”

The resolution as amended was passed.

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

## PUBLIC MEETING.

In the evening at 7 o'clock a great public meeting was held in the Bull Ring. Mr. James Chambers, President of the Congress, presided, and was supported by some of the principal delegates. The following resolution was adopted:—“That this meeting of the workers of Wexford and sympathisers with trades unionism, expresses its opinion that the only method whereby the workers of Wexford can improve their condition is through the medium of trades organisation, and in order that such organisation may be more effective, we call on all the unorganised workers in Wexford to immediately join their respective societies and take their part in the movement for the economic emancipation of the workers.”

—:o:—

**SECOND DAY—Tuesday, 13th June, 1905.**

Congress re-assembled at 9.30 a.m., the President, Mr. James Chambers, in the chair.

Minutes of first day's proceedings read and confirmed.

## THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

Councillor Daly (Dublin), moved:—

“Whereas the Housing Problem in industrial centres in Ireland has become a danger to the commonweal; and whereas the existing law is inadequate to remedy the deplorable conditions under which the workers are at present compelled to exist; this Congress therefore declares that no measure purporting to deal

with this question can be regarded as acceptable unless it embraces powers—(a) To tax land values; (b) to establish fair-rent courts; (c) to levy the full taxable assessment on unoccupied houses; (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.”

Mr. Richardson, in seconding, said they had to complain that the Irish Government had as yet made no attempt to redeem the promise made two years ago by Mr. Wyndham, that a Bill would be introduced dealing with the special needs of Ireland in this matter.

The resolution was adopted.

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

Mr. M'Manus (Belfast), moved, Mr. E. L. Richardson seconded, and it was resolved:—

(a) “That, notwithstanding reiterated complaints, the Irish Trades Congress learns with regret that many county councils and other public bodies in Ireland elected by popular suffrage still neglect to adopt and enforce the Fair Wages Resolution, to prevent sweating and sub-letting in public contracts; and we hereby call upon all public boards to have the Fair Wages Resolution inserted in all tenders for work paid for by the ratepayers, thereby prohibiting unfair contractors imposing upon the local rates, preventing excessive boy labour, scamped work, and dishonest competition. That employers paying less than the minimum rate of wages, or not conforming to the working conditions or 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.”

(b) “That this Congress views with much satisfaction the action of the County Council’s General Council in unanimously recommending the adoption of the Fair Wages Resolution by all Local Government bodies in Ireland, whereby contractors for public works are required to conform to fair conditions of labour, employ regular tradesmen for tradesmen’s work, and prohibit sub-letting; and this Congress, in the interests alike of the ratepayers, fair employers, and honest workmanship, strongly urges upon Borough, County and District Councils and Boards of Guardians the necessity of giving practical effect to the General Council’s recommendations.”

An amendment appeared on the agenda paper in the name of Mr. M. Ryan, D.C., representing the Land and Labour Association, urging local authorities to adopt the system of direct labour for making and repairing the public roads of the county; but the legal status of this delegate being questioned, and he being absent, the amendment was dropped.

IMPORTATION—VEHICLES, ETC.

Mr. Wm. Gardiner (Coachmakers), moved:—

“That this Congress strongly protests against the continued importation of all kinds of vehicles, iron work, and wheels for same.”

Mr. O’Callaghan seconded. The motion was spoken to by Messrs. Farrell, Murphy, Mulcahy, Simmons and Egan and adopted.

IMPORTATION—HARNESS.

On the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. Dineen (Limerick), it was resolved:—

“That this Congress desires to direct public attention to the fact that imported harness are being sold on a very large scale as genuine Irish manufacture; and for the guidance of home purchasers who are desirous of supporting native industry we believe that the Merchandise or Trades’ Marks’ Acts should be so amended that all imported articles of saddlery, harness, &c., into Ireland should be stamped in such a way as to clearly indicate the name of the country in which they are manufactured.”

IMPORTATION—BOOKS, ETC.

Mr. A. Moore (Bookbinders), moved:—

“That this Congress deplores the continual importation of all classes of books into this country, and desires to call the attention of the public to the fact that the imprints on the titles and at ends of books are no guarantee that they are produced in Ireland, as cases have recently been brought to notice where the foreign imprint has been erased or covered over by the bookseller’s name.”

Mr. E. L. Richardson seconded.

Mr. Lyons supported the motion.

Mr. Murphy (Belfast) said that if he were to be told that he was not to buy any book unless it were printed in Ireland, he was opposed to that policy. He would read a good book no matter where it was printed. He would agree with the resolution so far as it dealt with books turned out under unfair conditions. If they were to be told that work turned out by trades unionists in England at 36s. weekly as against 30s. in Dublin, should be excluded because that book was not printed in Ireland, they in the North would be against it.

Mr. M'Manus said he had no sympathy with a resolution that prohibited trades unionists work of a better and cheaper nature from elsewhere being placed upon the market. Let the people at home strive to turn out an article equally as good and equally as cheap as that produced elsewhere.

Councillor Daly said he did not agree with the idea that trades union produced books should be imported into this country simply because it was trades union work. He submitted that those in whose interests the last two speakers' had spoken were well able to take care of themselves. It rested with the clergy to keep out of the county many books they brought into it. One small portion of the clergy had set an example, and the majority should imitate that of their brothers who worshipped at another shrine.

The resolution was passed.

#### ORDNANCE WORKSHOPS.

The President moved, Mr. John Farren seconded, the following resolution which was adopted :—

“That we urge the Parliamentary Committee to continue to press the just claims of Irish artisans for an extension of the Ordnance Workshop system to Ireland; and we regret that so far no practical effect has been given to the recommendations made by the Duke of Connaught before the Committee on War Office Organisation—viz., that Ireland should be made a self-contained, self-supporting organisation, as far as the forces go, and that the Irish Ordnance workshops should be allowed to manufacture everything they can; and especially in view of the facts brought to the knowledge of the War Office officials that repairs and construction of new work can be, and has been, done in the saddlers' and other workshops at Island Bridge Barracks more efficiently, expeditiously and economically by civilian tradesmen than by incompetent army artificers.”

#### ARMY AND NAVAL SUPPLIES IN IRELAND.

On the motion of Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Canty, it was agreed :—

“That the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to direct the attention of the Army Council to the grave injustice inflicted upon Irish trades and industries by the systematic importation of almost every manufactured requisite necessary for the use of his Majesty's troops in this country; and to urge that means be adopted whereby an equitable share of the levies raised for the up-keep of the Services should be returnable to the taxpayers of Ireland.”

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

Mr. Camplisson (Brushmakers) moved, Mr. Mulcahy seconded, and Mr. C. Darcus (Belfast), supported the adoption of the following proposition :—

“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 contract 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 Brush-makers for an equitable share of the work required for the army in Ireland, and urges 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 Reorganisation, 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?"

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

On the motion of Mr. Darcus, seconded by Councillor Robert Gageby, J.P. (Belfast), the following Report of the Parliamentary Committee was taken as read:—

FELLOW DELEGATES,—Your Committee herewith present a record of their proceedings for the past twelve months, which, they submit, shows distinct progress and encouraging results, notwithstanding the disappointing nature of the response to their appeals for financial support. They are glad to observe that the members and chief officials of amalgamated societies whose head offices are on the other side of the Channel are gradually coming to recognise the Irish Trades Union Congress as a valuable ally in the work of reform, and are giving official sanction to the claims of their Irish branches for affiliation. They trust the members in Ireland of such amalgamations as have not as yet determined to come in, will take steps to press upon their executive committees their right to support the Irish Congress, equally with the existing right of their fellow-members to support the English Congress, from the common fund of their unions.

*The Irish Parliamentary Party and the Congress.*—At their meeting immediately after the adjournment of the Kilkenny Congress, your Committee ordered copies of resolutions dealing with questions then before Parliament to be forwarded for the consideration of the Irish Party, together with a letter conveying the thanks of the Congress for their action on the occasion of the second reading of the Trades Disputes Bill of last session. The following reply has been received:—

House of Commons, 2nd June, 1904.

Dear Mr. Richardson—I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed letter of the 1st instant, with copy of a resolution adopted by the Trades

Union Congress in appreciation of the action of the Irish Parliamentary Party in the matter of the Trades Disputes Bill on the occasion of its second reading in the House on the 22nd April; also copies of resolutions of the Congress on the Shops Bill and the housing question. These resolutions will be placed before the party at their next meeting.—Believe me, very truly yours,

W. ABRAHAM, Joint Hon. Sec.

E. L. Richardson, Esq.

*The Housing Question.*—It will be remembered that in the session of 1903 an Act was passed dealing with the housing of the working classes in England. While the Bill was going through the Irish members were asked whether they desired its provisions extended to Ireland, or that Ireland should be dealt with in a separate measure. The Irish members, having regard to the special needs of Ireland, desired that the latter course should be followed. The arrangement which had been come to was followed up by a question put by Mr. Nannetti at the request of your Committee who asked the Chief Secretary whether he purposed introducing a Bill dealing with the housing of the working classes in towns in Ireland, and whether regard would be had to the Petition on the matter presented to the House on behalf of the Irish Trades Union Congress on the 23rd February, 1904. To both questions the hon. member got a most specific answer in the affirmative. The Kilkenny resolution on the question having been forwarded to Mr. Wyndham, an acknowledgment was received intimating that "The Labourers Bill is now before Parliament." The Chief Secretary's attention was again directed to the fact that the Congress resolution and petition had regard, not so much to the labourers' question as to the housing question in towns, with a request that, if he could not redeem his promise to bring in a Bill then, he would hold out some hope that the question would be dealt with in the session of 1905. The following correspondence is instructive:—

Irish Office, Old Queen Street, S.W., 12th July, 1904.

Dear Sir—Mr. Wyndham desires me to acknowledge your further letter of the 9th inst., and to say that there are so many Bills to be considered by Parliament before the end of the session that it would be quite useless for the Government to introduce another measure. As to next session, the time has not yet arrived for the Government to consider what measures will be brought forward.—Yours truly,

H. K. NISBET.

The Secretary, Irish Trades Union Congress.

Irish Trades Union Congress, Dublin, 19th November, 1904.

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

Sir—Referring to my letters to you of the 29th June, 9th July, and 4th August last, re the Housing question in Ireland, and to your reply of the 12th July, in which you state that—"As to next Session, the time has not yet arrived for the Government to consider what measures will be brought forward"—I am instructed by my Committee to inquire whether you can now give any hope that the promise made by you in the House last Session, in reply to a question put by the hon. member for the College Green Division of Dublin—viz., "That you purposed dealing with the Housing question in a separate Bill"—will be redeemed during the ensuing Session of Parliament.—Your obedient servant,

E. L. RICHARDSON, Hon. Sec.

Irish Office, Old Queen Street, London, S.W., 25th Nov., '04.

Dear Sir—In reply to your letter of the 19th inst., I am directed by Mr. Wyndham to state that he cannot give any undertaking with respect to the legislation that may be introduced in the next Session of Parliament.—Yours truly,

M. HORNBROOK.

E. L. Richardson, Esq., Dublin.

Mr. Nannetti, however, introduced a Bill early this Session embracing all the points for which Congress contend; but there is at present no hope of its getting even a second reading. It will therefore be seen that the promise made by the ex-Chief Secretary that he "purposed dealing with the Housing question in Ireland in a separate Bill" has yet to be redeemed. With regard to the Labourers' Bill of last Session (referred to in Mr. Wyndham's letter of the 4th June, 1904), which was eventually dropped, your Committee at their meeting on the 30th July adopted, and forwarded to the then Chief Secretary the following resolution:—

That this meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Congress, condemns the unjustifiable attitude of the Chief Secretary and the Government in regard to the Labourers (Ireland) Bill, which was inadequate in its financial provisions, introduced too late in a congested condition of Parliamentary business, and, after being remitted to a Grand Committee, much valuable time was lost by unnecessary adjournments, culminating in the withdrawal of the measure, notwithstanding the Chief Secretary's pledge, subsequently endorsed by the Government in the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament; and we pledge ourselves to use all the means at our command to press the Government to introduce and carry into law satisfactory measures to give adequate dwellings to labourers in rural districts, and full provision for the better housing of the working classes in towns and urban districts.

*Shop Hours.*—The Shops Early Closing Act became operative in August last; but so far as your Committee have observed, its voluntary character and cumbersome procedure are likely to render its object absolutely useless, and justifies them in calling for the Bill promoted by the National Amalgamated Union as the only method of securing redress for over-worked shop assistants. Your Committee, however, observe that Lord Avebury (the actual promoter of the Government measure of last year) has adopted the principle of compulsion in his Bill for the Sunday Closing of Shops, now before a Select Committee of the House of Lords, and in accordance with resolutions adopted at last Congress dealing with (*inter alia*) this question. Your Committee are supporting Lord Avebury's proposals, and have submitted to the Select Committee the following petition:—

*To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal  
in Parliament assembled,*

The Humble Petition of the Irish Trades Union Congress.

SHOWETH:—

That whereas the bodily health and strength of very large numbers of male and female shopkeepers and shop assistants are suffering grievous injury as a result of the unreasonably long hours during which they are obliged to labour in shops and similar places, and whereas the Sunday opening of shops has increased, is increasing, and it is believed will increase, unless the present law is strengthened. Therefore, your Petitioners pray your Right Honourable House to enact the Shops'

(Sunday Closing) Bill introduced by the Right Hon. Lord Avebury, by which it is sought to provide that all shops (with certain exceptions) should be closed on Sunday. And your Petitioners will ever pray.

Signed for and on behalf of the Irish Trades Union Congress.

JAMES CHAMBERS, *Chairman.*  
E. L. RICHARDSON, *Secretary.*

*Local Government Contracts and Fair Wages Resolution.*—Your Committee again brought this question before the representatives of the County and other Councils in Ireland at their meeting on the 12th January last. After some discussion, the Chairman (Sir Thos. Esmonde, M.P.), gave notice that he would bring the matter forward at their next meeting. Accordingly, on the 27th April, at the quarterly meeting of the General Council of the County Councils of Ireland the following resolution, moved by Sir Thomas Esmonde, and seconded by Mr. Byrne, J.P., of Louth County Council, was unanimously adopted:—

That this Council approves in principle of the Fair Wages Resolution, and recommends it to the favourable consideration of all Irish public bodies. And with a view of facilitating its operation, suggests the insertion of the following in all advertisements for public contracts, viz.—“The Council will require that the contractor whose tender may be accepted shall pay not less than the minimum standard rate paid in the district, and observe the hours now recognised as proper there. That in every contract proper penalties shall be provided in case the contractor shall violate the above conditions, or sublet any portion of his contract, without consent (in writing) previously obtained. That it be made a condition of all public contracts that regular tradesmen only be employed to perform tradesmen's work; and that an official of the Council shall be authorised to inspect all work done by contractors, at such times during its execution as the Council shall direct.” This Council further recommends that the above be incorporated in all contractors' bonds.

Your Secretary and Mr. McManus were in attendance at the meeting, and suitably acknowledged the importance of the vote. As illustrating the progress your Committee are making in this matter, they submit an extract from an advertisement in the public Press from the Donegal County Council inviting tenders for printing, dated 9th February, 1905:—

N.B.—The Council will require the contractor whose tender may be accepted to pay not less than the minimum standard rate paid in the district, and to observe the hours now recognised as proper there; and that in every contract proper penalties shall be provided in case the contractor shall violate above conditions or shall sublet any portion of his contract without consent (in writing) previously obtained. That it be made a condition of all corporate contracts that regular tradesmen only be employed to perform tradesmen's work, and that an official of the Council shall be authorised to inspect all works done by contractors at such times during its execution as the Council shall direct.

And another from the Committee of Management of the Waterford District Lunatic Asylum inviting tenders for supplies, dated 18th March, 1905:—

No tender will be considered from any person who does not guarantee to observe the fair rate scale of wages approved of by the House of Commons, and to adhere to the hours, and conditions of labour recognised by the various trades in the district.

*Merchandise Marks Act.*—On the 28th March, a Select Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to inquire into the operation of the Trades Marks Act, and to report as to the amendment thereof, if necessary. Your Committee immediately communicated with Mr. Edward Blake, M.P. (Longford), the only Irish representative on the committee, forwarding copies of the Congress resolutions calling for the amendment of the Merchandise Marks Act, and inquiring if the terms of the Committee's reference included the consideration of that measure. Mr. Blake replied as follows :—

House of Commons, April 9, 1905.

Dear Sir—I have your letter of 29th with reference to the Bill relating to Trades Marks.

So far as I can judge this Bill has no such relation to the Merchandise Marks Act as would justify an attempt to amend the latter Act in the way proposed.

I will, however, bring the matter up, and if it is thought open to the Committee to consider such a proposal as you indicate I will write you again.

So far as I can gather from your letter the grievance of which you complain is one which must touch England as well as Ireland.—Yours faithfully.

EDWARD BLAKE.

Mr. E. L. Richardson, Secretary, Dublin.

*Ordnance Workshops and Receiving Depots.*—Notwithstanding the unfavourable character of previous declarations of the Secretary of State for War and the Army Council on the questions of maintaining ordnance workshops and receiving depots in military centres in Ireland, whereby Irish contractors and Irish workers might get a chance of competing in the tenders for military supplies, the following letters give some hope that the persistent demands of Congress in this matter must ultimately be successful :—

War Office, London, S.W., 7th December, 1904.

Sir—I am commanded by the Army Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th ultimo, referring to previous correspondence on the subject of Ordnance Workshops and Receiving Depots in Ireland, and to state for the information of the Congress that the subject is still receiving attention.—Your obedient servant,

E. W. WARD.

War Office, London, S.W., 31st March, 1905.

Sir—I am commanded by the Army Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, on the subject of the establishment of Ordnance Workshops and Receiving Depots in Ireland, and, in reply, to refer you to War Office letter of 1st March, 1904, 7101-4837. [See p. 26, Kilkenny Report.]

I am to state that inquiry, which necessarily has to go into considerable detail, is still proceeding. Without wishing to anticipate the final result of the inquiry, and while believing that it may be possible to increase local purchase of stores by local officers, the Army Council observes that the inquiry so far as it has gone, tends to show that it would not be advisable on various grounds to adopt a system whereby all contract stores required by the troops in Ireland would be delivered in and inspected in Ireland.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

R. H. BRADY.

The Secretary, Irish Trades Union Congress.

*War Office and Canteen Contracts.*—The following communication speaks for itself :—

War Office, London, S. W., 28th June, 1904.

Sir—With reference to your letter of the 10th inst., forwarding resolutions adopted at the Irish Trades Union Congress with regard to—(1) Military canteen contracts in Ireland; and (2) War Office contracts for wagons, I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you with reference to (1) that military canteens are controlled by the officers and men concerned, who make their own purchases wherever they think best. In regard to (2) I am to inform you that any good firm in Ireland may tender for the supply of wagons, not only for those required for use in that country, but also for supplies generally, and the Army Council would be quite prepared to add any well recommended Irish firm to the list of contractors for this supply.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

R. H. BRADE.

The Secretary, Irish Trades Congress.

Your Committee direct the special attention of the delegates interested in contracts for the supply of army wagons, &c., to the latter portion of this reply, which they regard as fairly satisfactory. They also beg to mention that in the Financial Relations debate, on the 15th May, Mr. Field and Mr. Clancy drew attention to the manner in which Ireland was treated in the matter of Army and Navy contracts and canteen supplies, on information supplied them by your Committee.

*Government Contracts.*—The Newry Branch of the Amalgamated Painters, having failed to obtain satisfaction from the General Prisons Board in the matter referred to below, invoked the aid of your Committee: at the same time the Dublin Metropolitan Painters were endeavouring to rectify a similar local grievance—whereupon your Committee framed the following joint interrogatory, which was put by the member for College Green on the 23rd February:—

Mr. NANNETTI—To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that labouring men have been employed at painting work at Newry Bridewell under the General Prisons Board, and at the Viceregal Lodge, Dublin, under the Board of Public Works; whether remonstrances have been directed to both of these public departments on behalf of the regular painters of the districts mentioned, claiming the work done by these labouring men as belonging to the regular painting trade; whether the Commissioners of Public Works are to the regular painting work contrary to expert judgment; and whether, in view of the unsatisfactory character of the replies received, he will represent to the General Prisons Board and the Board of Works the desirability of securing "competent workmen" to perform tradesmen's work in this trade, in accordance with the terms of the Fair Wages Resolution.

Mr. WYNDHAM—Complaints were made to the Prisons Board respecting the manner of the performance of the contract for work at Newry Bridewell. The matter engaged the attention of the Board and instructions were issued with a view to avoid the recurrence of similar complaints. The remainder of the question concerns the Board of Works, and I would ask the hon. member to be good enough to address his inquiries to my hon. friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

The Newry men expressed satisfaction at the success of your Committee's intervention; and subsequently the following supplemental question was asked:—

Mr. NANNETTI asked the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the difference of opinion existing between the Board of Works and the operative

painters as to the employment of labourers to do painting work at the Viceregal Lodge, Dublin, he would take some expert evidence on the matter; and whether he would say what was the rough work these men were engaged on?

Mr. CAVENDISH said one labourer only was employed part of his time for rough painting, such as fencing, garden and pit frames, barrows, &c. He did not consider that expert evidence was needed to decide that such work was of an unskilled description.

Mr. NANNETTI asked was it not work on which a tradesman could be employed? He would raise the question on the Estimates.

*Steam Engines (Persons in Charge) Bill.*—In response to the resolution of Congress urging the Government to grant facilities for the passing of this Bill, which Mr. Jacoby had charge of last Session, and on which evidence was given before a Select Committee on behalf of the Congress in 1903, the Home Secretary, in forwarding for the information of the committee a copy of the report of the Select Committee, points out that the proposals in the Bill were adversely reported upon. The Bill has nevertheless been again brought in this Session by Mr. Joseph Walton, M.P. (Barnsley, Yorks). It came on for second reading on the 26th May; but it was talked out by its opponents. The delegates urging this matter must, however, continue to agitate for its enactment.

*Sub-Letting.*—With reference to the complaints of the operative plasterers that their interests suffer by the system of sub-letting adopted by contractors for ecclesiastical and other building work in Ireland, the resolution adopted by Congress was forwarded by instructions to the Standing Committee of the Bishops of Ireland at their meeting at Maynooth, to which the Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan has been good enough to send the following reply:—

Bishop's House, John's Hill, Waterford, 26th June, 1904.

My Dear Sir—I am asked by the Standing Committee of the Bishops of Ireland to say that their Lordships will bear in mind, as the occasion may arise, the resolution of your Parliamentary Committee in reference to the system of sub-letting work in the plastering trade.—Faithfully yours,

✠ R. A. SHEEHAN, Bishop of Waterford.

The Secretary of the Board of Works also acknowledged the receipt of a similar communication regarding the work in connection with the erection of the new Royal College of Science, which he undertook to lay before his Board; and subsequently in reply to a further letter from your Secretary, he writes:—

Office of Public Works, Dublin, 6th December, 1904.

Sir—I am directed by the Commissioners of Public Works to refer to your letter of the 19th ultimo on the subject of the resolution of the Irish Trades Union Congress (copy of which was enclosed with your letter of the 1st July, 1904) in regard to sub-letting in the plastering trade, and to observe that the statements made therein that plasterers' work which has been made the subject of a special contract is "scamped in an unworkmanlike manner" is not in accordance with the Board's experience of such work executed for them in buildings erected under contract; and that being so they see no reason for interfering with the discretion of their contractors.—Your obedient servant,

H. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

Seeing that sub-letting is virtually an established usage in this branch of the building trade, your Committee, having considered these letters, suggested to the Plasterers' Society the advisability of agitating for the employment of local labour as a more effective method of overcoming the grievance referred to.

With regard to the work of erecting the Royal College of Science, your Committee desire to mention here that on the 10th May in the course of the debate raised by the hon. member for South County Dublin on the administration of science and art institutions in Ireland, Mr. Victor Cavendish (Financial Secretary to the Treasury), in replying to complaints made by members for the city (Mr. Field and Mr. Nannetti), undertook that as far as possible Irish labour and Irish materials would be employed in the erection of that College.

*Railwaymen's Grievances.*—The following letter from the Board of Trade refers to the resolutions of Congress dealing with defects in the Railway Regulation Act, 1871, and the violation by Irish Railway Companies of the Hours Act, 1893:—

Board of Trade, Railway Department, 7 Whitehall Gardens,  
London, S.W., 28th November, 1904.

Sir—Adverting to your letter of the 19th instant on the subject of certain resolutions adopted by the Irish Trades Union Congress, copies of which were forwarded with your letter of the 10th June last, I am directed by the Board of Trade to inform you that the Department has given consideration to the terms of the resolutions; but the President of the Board could not undertake to introduce legislation to alter the law in the manner suggested.—Your obedient servant,

HERBERT JEKILL.

In the course, however, of a debate on these questions on the 18th April, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade admitted that "accidents to railway employees were still far too numerous; but that it was the intention of the Department to use their powers to the fullest extent to try to reduce their numbers as far as they could," and, with regard to the violation of the Hours Act, "the Board of Trade realised that the men were very much afraid to make complaints, as they believed that that would prejudice them with their employers; but the Board made and acted on independent inquiry, so as to hide the source from which the complaints originally came."

*Pensions to Workers Employed by Local Authorities.*—Your Committee again directed the attention of the Corporation of Dublin to the resolution adopted at the Kilkenny and previous Congresses for the institution of superannuation allowances for Corporation workmen. In November last the Municipal Council decided to promote a Bill in Parliament exclusively for this purpose, and your Committee are pleased to report that it has successfully passed all its stages in the Lower Chamber, and now awaits final ratification by the House of Lords. This, in the opinion of your Committee, is an important step forward, inasmuch

as the adoption by Parliament of the principle of pensions for workers employed by local authorities must hasten its general application by the State to all workers. They therefore congratulate both the Corporation of Dublin and their employees on the success attending the promotion of this matter.

*Old Age Pensions.*—A copy of the Congress resolution on this matter, forwarded to the right hon. member for West Birmingham, elicited the following reply:—

40 Prince's Gardens, S.W., 15th June, 1904.

Sir—I am directed by Mr. Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., and resolution passed at the Irish Trades Union Congress at Kilkenny, and to say that his views on the subject were fully expressed by him in his address at Birmingham to the representatives of the Friendly Societies on the 6th December, 1894, and to the National Independent Order of Oddfellows on the 29th May, 1901.—Yours obediently,

J. WILSON.

E. L. Richardson, Esq., Dublin.

A Bill for this purpose was, however, introduced by Mr. Channing, M.P. for Northamptonshire, on the 17th April. It provides for the payment of a pension of 5s. weekly to every person over 65 years of age who has established his claim to be placed upon the pension register by the superintendent registrar of the district in which he resides. Claimants must be British subjects who shall not have undergone imprisonment with hard labour for five years previous to the application. The pensions provided under the Bill are to be paid as regards two-thirds of the total amount thereof in any year out of the Consolidated Fund, and as regards one-third thereof out of the Exchequer contribution account of each county, which shall be from time to time supplemented as may be necessary from the local taxation fund. But in the absence of Government support there is not the remotest chance of its passing.

*Female Factory Inspector for Ireland.*—Your Committee having persistently pressed this question on the attention of the Home Secretary, are gratified to know that at last their efforts have been rewarded with success, as the following recital of events will show. On the 4th August last, in Committee of Supply on the Home Office vote, attention having been called to the necessity for appointing additional female factory inspectors, the Home Secretary stated that he hoped to meet the needs of the workers in this regard as early as possible. Whereupon the following letter was forwarded:—

Irish Trades Union Congress, Dublin, August 5th, 1904.

To the Right Hon. A. Akers-Douglas, M.P.

Sir—In view of the satisfactory announcement you are reported as having made in the House last night *re* the appointment of additional female factory inspectors, may I again press upon your attention the annexed resolution adopted by the Irish Trades Union Congress annually for many years past, on the motion of the representatives of the female textile workers of the North of Ireland, and to express a hope that their claim in this regard will meet with your sympathetic consideration.—Your obedient servant,

E. L. RICHARDSON, Hon. Sec.

A formal reply was received on the 7th August. On again communicating with the Home Secretary on the 19th November, the following letter was received :—

Home Office, Whitehall, London, 7th December, 1904.

Sir—With reference to your letter of the 19th ult. calling attention to your previous letters enclosing resolutions from the Irish Trades Union Congress, I am directed by the Secretary of State to say, for the information of the Parliamentary Committee of the Congress, that as regards the question of the appointment of women Inspectors of Factories in Ireland, the matter is at present under consideration.—Your obedient servant,

HENRY CUNYNGHAME.

And subsequently, in reply to a further letter of the 14th March last, the claim of the textile operatives was at length conceded :—

Home Office, Whitehall, 25th March, 1905.

Sir—With reference to your letter of the 14th inst., I am directed by the Secretary of State to say, for the information of the Trades Union Congress, that he has decided to appoint an additional Lady Inspector of Factories, who will devote the greater part of her time to inspection in Ireland, and for this purpose she will be stationed in Ireland. The appointment will be made in due course.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

M. D. CHALMERS.

On receipt of this satisfactory assurance your Secretary immediately forwarded a copy to the secretary of the Textile Operatives' Society, Belfast, who, in reply, acknowledged the services thus rendered by your Committee to the women workers of Ireland.

*Outworking in the Tailoring.*—On the same date (25th March, 1905), a further communication was received from the Home Secretary relative to the outworking question, in which he says :—“As to the resolution of the Congress on the subject of outworking in the tailoring trade, I am to say that the matter could only be dealt with by fresh legislation, and the Secretary for State regrets that he can hold out no prospect of any measure on the subject.”

*The Trades Disputes Bill.*—On the 18th November last year your Committee in conjunction with the Parliamentary Committee of the English Trades Union Congress and the Dublin Trades Council, promoted a demonstration in support of this Bill in the Rotunda, Dublin. The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor presided, and the speakers included the members for the city and county, members of the Corporation and Trades Council, and Messrs. Jas. Sexton and Will Thorn, of the Parliamentary Committee of the English Congress. The following resolution was unanimously adopted, a copy of which was forwarded to Mr. Balfour by your Secretary (who acted as secretary to the meeting) which elicited but a formal acknowledgment :—

That this meeting calls upon the Government to afford facilities for the passing of the Trades Union and Trades Dispute Bill, the second reading of which has secured a substantial majority in the House of Commons, and further pledges itself not to support any Parliamentary candidate who fails to declare his intention to vote for the Bill.

In order to secure, if possible, the united support of the Irish representation on the second reading division this Session, your Committee solicited the votes of the Irish Unionist Party, with the following result :—

House of Commons, 27th February, 1905.

Dear Sir—I beg to inform you that your letter of the 18th inst. has been considered by the Irish Unionist members, and they have requested me to state that, while they are unable to pledge themselves as a party to support the Trades Unions and Trades Disputes Bill, they will approach its consideration with an open mind, and will give careful attention to the debate when the Bill comes on for second reading.—Yours faithfully,

JOHN B. LONSDALE.

E. L. Richardson, Esq., Secretary Irish Trades Congress.

On Friday, 10th March, the second reading debate and division took place, when that stage of the Bill was carried by a majority of 122 and referred to the Grand Committee on Law, the Government having given their supporters liberty to vote as they pleased. The entire Irish representation is accounted for as follows, from which it will be seen that the only Unionist members in the majority were Messrs. Sloan, Russell, and Mitchell :—

For the Bill—Abraham, Ambrose, Barry, Blake, Boland, Burke, John Campbell, Carvill, Clancy, Condon, Crean, Cullinan, Delany, Charles Devlin, Joseph Devlin, Doogan, Duffy, Esmonde, Farrell, Field, Flynn, Gilhooly, Harrington, Hayden, Healy, Hemphill, Joyce, V. Kennedy, Kilbride, London, MacVeagh, M'Hugh, M'Kean, W. M'Killop, Mitchell, Mooney, Murphy, Nannetti, Joseph Nolan, J. F. X. O'Brien, K. O'Brien, P. O'Brien, P. J. O'Brien, James O'Connor, John O'Connor, T. P. O'Connor, John O'Donnell, O'Dowd, Conor O'Kelly, James O'Kelly, O'Malley, O'Shaughnessy, Power, Reddy, John Redmond, Roche, Russell, Sheehan, Sheehy, Sloan, Sullivan, Waldron, White, Young—64.

Against the Bill—Arnold-Foster, Atkinson, Carson, Corbett, Craig, Hamilton, Wm. Moore, Wolf—8.

Absent—Hon. R. T. O'Neill, Col. M'Calmont, Col. Saunderson, J. B. Lonsdale, Sir James Haslett, John Hammond, Wm. Redmond (in Australia), Major Jameson, Wm. O'Brien, Capt. Donelan, Wm. O'Doherty, Hugh Law, E. M'Fadden, Swift MacNeill, Capt. Hill, James Wood, J. H. M. Campbell, Jeremiah Jordan, Col. Nolan, M. J. Flavin, T. O'Donnell, James O'Mara, Jasper Tully, J. Gordon, John Dillon, Dr. E. T. Thompson, M. A. MacDonnell, G. Murnaghan, J. J. O'Shee, P. J. Kennedy, Peter Ffrench, and D. J. Cogan—32.

Notwithstanding the majority recorded for the second reading, by which it was assumed that the House accepted the principle of the measure, the Government succeeded in so mutilating it in committee that the promoters were forced to abandon it, the Solicitor-General being credited with the statement that "the Government never intended the Bill to go through, no matter what happened in Committee." The Bill was withdrawn on the 26th May.

*Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill.*—The Government's promised Bill for amending the Workmen's Compensation Act, originated in the House of Lords on the 21st March. At the time of writing this report it had passed through all its stages in that House without amendment. The Bill is based on the recommenda-

tions of the Departmental Committee of last year (before which your Secretary gave evidence on behalf of the Congress). The terms of reference precluded the consideration of Government responsibility, and admitted only of amendments based on the principle of the Act of 1897—that is the personal liability of employers.

Your Committee have given this Bill their earnest attention. They find that, while in some respects disappointing from a labour point of view, it is on the whole fairly satisfactory. It is intended that the application of the original Act shall be extended to tramways, workshops, laundries, docks, wharfs, quays, and warehouses. It shall also apply to quarries, irrespective of depth or machinery; to buildings undergoing alterations or decoration, irrespective of the height, thus abolishing the vexed question of the 30 feet limit, and including within its scope all painters' plant—a most desirable advance on the principal measure. A further clause makes the employer liable for injuries to a workman while absent from the employer's premises, provided he is on his employer's business. This gets rid of much legal hair-splitting on the phrase "in, on, or about a factory." Men employed in loading, painting, or repairing a ship, or working on vehicles or vessels used as carriers by land or inland navigation, or engaged in the care of horses or locomotives, are also brought within the scope of the Act. It is also provided that a workman must give notice of an accident within six days of its happening, and must make a claim for compensation in writing within three months, or in case of death, his representative must claim within six months of death. Technical terms such as "railway," "tramway," "factory," "building," "engineering work," &c., are also more extensively defined, whereby large numbers of workers hitherto excluded, are now to be brought within the scope of the Act. These are shortly the main features of the Bill.

There is, however, no provision made for seamen, notwithstanding the recommendations of the Departmental Committee; nor are shop assistants, or other workers wholly excluded from the principal Act, admitted. Another defect is that no alteration is made in the provision for payment of compensation before the expiration of a fortnight after injury. Your Committee hope, when the Bill comes before the Commons, to make an effort to have these and other defects rectified, and have forwarded the text of the Leeds Resolution to the Secretaries of the Irish Party and the Government. It will, however, be observed that most of the amendments repeatedly called for by Congress are satisfactorily dealt with in this measure, and, with the above reservation, your Committee approve the Bill.

*Labour Minister.*—The King's Speech promised a Bill for the creation of a Minister for Labour. This question has been dealt with at several Congresses since 1895, and, of course, Mr. Balfour and his predecessors have been fully informed as to the desires of

Irish workers in that regard. A measure for creating a Minister of Commerce and Industry has been introduced, which provides for the establishment of a Bureau under the control of a Minister and consisting of a permanent council of experts representing various trades and industries, elected for a definite period of five years. It is proposed that the duties at present carried out by the Board of Trade, and part of the work of the Local Government Board, and Board of Agriculture appertaining to trade and commerce will be transferred to the new Bureau, which is also to undertake the collection and publication of statistics and information relating to the industries of the country, and may establish a department of manufactures to foster and develop manufacturing interests.

*The Unemployed.*—The King's Speech also promised a Bill dealing with the problem of the unemployed. The Government proposals, which are confined to England, provide for the establishment of a number of district boards with one central supervisory body, on the lines of the voluntary organisations which sprang into existence in London during the distress last winter. The functions of the district boards are largely limited to those of labour bureaus, the creation of relief works being vested in the central body. As regards finance, there is an equalising rate, each district contributing in proportion to its rateable value. The rate is limited to a  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the pound, which may be increased to 1d. under special sanction of the Local Government Board. In anticipation of an effort being made to have the measure extended to Ireland, your Committee submit the above brief synopsis. The Bill, whether or not it passes through, is a Government recognition of the claims of the unemployed, and as such must be productive of beneficial results.

*Miscellaneous Bills.*—The usual crop of legislative proposals, dealing with many phases of the Labour question, have been introduced; but beyond obtaining first reading, little or no further progress is likely to be made in getting any of them through during the present session.

*Death of Lady Dilke.*—In conjunction with the Cork Branch of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants and the Cork Trades Council, your Committee had arranged to participate in a great trade union demonstration in the Southern Capital on the 28th October last, at which the Right Hon. Sir Charles Dilke, M.P., was to have been the principal speaker; but owing to the lamented death of Lady Dilke two days before the fixture, the meeting was abandoned. Your Committee immediately tendered to Sir Charles the condolence of the trade unionists of Ireland on the sudden demise of this earnest worker in the cause of Labour.

*Scottish Trade Union Congress.*—In obedience to the decision of the Kilkenny Congress, Messrs. Wm. Walker, T.C. (Belfast), and

John Simmons (Dublin) attended the Ninth Annual Scottish Congress which was held at Hawick on April 26-29. Their report is submitted herewith:—

We beg to report attending the ninth annual meeting of Scotch Trade Unionists to convey, on behalf of the Irish Trades Union Congress, fraternal greetings and to associate once again with our Scotch co-workers in that spirit of common brotherhood which is taking the place of sectional aspirations the world over.

Accompanied by Mr. Kier-Hardie, M.P., we participated in a public meeting of the workers of the town on the evening of the 27th April, and on the 28th, after witnessing an interesting presentation to the member for Merthyr-Tydvil, were officially received by the Congress.

We were heartily welcomed, and in your name wished continued prosperity to our Scottish brethren. Their Congress, marked by business ability and steadiness of purpose, was presided over by Mr. Robert Smilie, a veteran in the cause of labour. The agenda embraced practically everything the Irish Congress aspires to accomplish, and the keynote of the proceedings (as it is also the keynote of the Irish and British Congresses), was that the time had departed when labour, cap in hand approached the various party organisations, appealing for support for those measures which so vitally concern our welfare, and that the time had come for the workers of the kingdom to seek salvation by men of their own class elected to do their work and maintained irrespective of all other interests, which seek to thwart that aim. May the day soon come.

WM. WALKER.

JOHN SIMMONS.

Your Committee, in face of the state of their finances, are reluctantly compelled to recommend that the practice of sending delegates to Scotland shall, for the present, be discontinued. They feel sure their Scotch friends will not misunderstand their action in this regard, and that fraternal greetings will still continue to be exchanged between both Congresses in whatever manner may seem to each most expedient.

*Conclusion.*—In summing up this and former reports, your Committee confidently submit that, considering the restricted nature of their resources, much has been accomplished for the workers of Ireland, which could not have been overtaken had the Irish Congress been non-existent. They, therefore, earnestly hope some practical measures will be adopted to obviate in future what may almost be termed *ad misericordiam* appeals for financial support, to enable their successors to carry on the work they will be expected to perform.

(Signed.)

JAMES CHAMBERS, *Chairman.*  
 STEPHEN DINEEN, *Vice-Chairman.*  
 EDWARD W. STEWART, *Treasurer.*  
 JAMES McCARRON, T.C.  
 HUGH McMANUS.  
 WILLIAM WALKER, T.C., P.L.G.  
 WALTER HUDSON.  
 GEORGE COATES.  
 E. L. RICHARDSON, *Secretary.*

Wexford, June 10th, 1905.

On the paragraph on sub-letting in the plastering trade (page 28),

Mr. George Leahy (Dublin) said he objected to the words in the report which stated that sub-letting was virtually an established usage in the plastering trade, and he moved that they be deleted. Sub-letting was not recognised in the plastering trade in Dublin.

Mr. Doyle (Dublin) said he agreed with Mr. Leahy. If it were admitted by the Congress that sub-letting was an established branch of any trade, wages would fall.

Mr. Richardson said the Parliamentary Committee took their information from the only representative of the building trade on the committee, and it was decided on his evidence that plastering work was generally sub-let.

Councillor M'Carron (Derry) said there were master plasterers all over the country who were allowed to take contracts, and that to his mind was sub-letting just as much as sub-letting to the men.

The President said the Parliamentary Committee accepted the objection and agreed to delete the paragraph which Mr. Leahy objected to.

On the report of the delegates to the Scottish Trades Union Congress (page 34),

Mr. Lyons (Dublin) referred to a paragraph in the report dealing with the fraternal greeting extended to their Scotch co-workers. He complained that the same fraternal greeting was not extended by Scotchmen. They had come over here and ousted their members from employment. The Typographical Society did not object to Scotchmen coming to the open market and obtaining employment, but they objected to the members of the Typographical Society being put out of employment in Dublin to make room for men from over the water. They considered this was a breach of trades unionism.

Councillor M'Carron (Derry) said the greeting referred to was a friendly act between the trades unions of the two countries, and had nothing to do with any dispute between the societies.

Mr. Hugh M'Manus said the objection to the paragraph in the report was a most ignoble, parochial way of bringing forward a grievance.

Mr. Simmons said he thought if the members of the Typographical Society were canvassed they would not be in harmony with the views of Mr. Lyons. It was an insane idea to think that he, a delegate to the Scotch Congress, should parade the grievance of the Typographical Society before all Scotland.

Mr. Keogh (Dublin) supported the resolution.

Councillor Daly appealed to Mr. Lyons to withdraw his objection.

The President also asked Mr. Lyons to withdraw his objection. He would have an opportunity of ventilating the grievance later on.

On the paragraph referring to pensions for Corporation workmen (page 29),

Mr. Hughes (Dublin) proposed, and Mr. Canty seconded a resolution thanking the Corporation of Dublin for presenting and passing through Parliament a Bill granting pensions to their employees.

Mr. Murphy (Belfast) said what the Northern members of the Congress all along aimed at was the granting of old age pensions all round. By this Bill they were simply adding to the number of privileged persons in Dublin. A man in the employment of the Corporation got a pension; while a man in a different shop, working under worse conditions, got none. He thought Congress was wrong in endorsing the action of the Dublin Corporation unless they put in the additional words, saying they were in favour of old age pensions all round, and he offered his strongest objection to the resolution.

Mr. Lyons supported, and Mr. Darcus opposed the motion, which was, however, adopted.

On the paragraph *re* Female Factory Inspectors for Ireland (page 30),

Miss Galway (Textile Operatives) moved, and Councillor Gageby (Belfast) seconded a resolution thanking the Congress for the kindly way in which they had in past years received the resolution regarding the appointment of a Female Inspector for Factories, and especially thanking the Parliamentary Committee for their efforts in the matter. It was further resolved that the President and members of the Parliamentary Committee should sign, on behalf of the Congress, the petition in favour of a further increase in the number of Female Factory Inspectors.

On the paragraph referring to the death of Lady Dilke, the Secretary read a letter from the hon. secretary to the Lady Dilke Memorial Fund. It was decided that the trades councils of the country be appealed to, to help the object which the Memorial Committee contemplated.

The report of the Parliamentary Committee was then adopted *nem con.*

#### RAILWAYMEN'S INCREASED RESPONSIBILITIES DEMAND SHORTER HOURS.

Mr. Walter Hudson (A.S.R.S) moved, Mr. T. Kavanagh seconded, and it was resolved :—

“That this Congress, while duly observing the evolution in the methods of railway transit (by the introduction of larger and more powerful locomotives, the running of longer and heavier trains, and the adoption of other modern means of traction, resulting in the railway companies securing greater economies in working) which has so largely increased the responsibilities and risks and mental and physical strain upon the men so engaged on long runs and

continuous duty, is of opinion that the circumstances of their conditions demand immediate relief, by the adoption of a shorter working day, and appeals to all workers to help to secure by organised effort, in addition to Parliamentary interference, an eight hours day."

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

Standing Orders Committee recommended—(1) That the delegates from the Dublin Typographical Society be permitted to amend their resolution on "Reciprocal Trade Unionism" by inserting an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to inquire into the question at issue between the Dublin and the English and Scottish societies; (2) the advisability of appointing a deputation from Congress to interview the Master Builders' Association with the object of bringing the lock-out in Dublin to a close.

The report was adopted.

#### SUNDAY LABOUR.

On the motion of Mr. H. Rochford (Hairdressers' Assistants), seconded by Mr. M. J. O'Lehane (Irish Drapers' Assistants) it was agreed—"That as the system of Sunday Labour in the Hairdressing and other trades stands condemned, this Congress, pending the enactment of the Shops (Early Closing) Bill promoted by the Shop Assistants National Union, extends its warmest support to Lord Avebury's Shops (Sunday Closing) Bill now before the House of Lords, and respectfully claims for that measure the practical support of the Irish members when it comes before the House of Commons."

#### NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE.

The following were nominated for election on the Parliamentary Committee:—James Chambers, saddler, Dublin; P. T. Daly, T.C., printer, Dublin; Stephen Dineen, baker, Limerick; J. T. Duignan, brassfounder, Dublin; Michael Egan, coachmaker, Cork; Francis Farrell, coachmaker, Dublin; John Farren, sheetmetal worker, Dublin; Walter Hudson, A.S.R.S., Dublin; George Leahy, plasterer, Dublin; John McCarthy, T.C., baker, Kilkenny; James McCarron, T.C., tailor, Londonderry; Samuel McCormack, T.C., baker, Belfast; Hugh McManus, printer, Belfast; Joseph Mitchell, bookbinder, Belfast; M. J. O'Lehane, drapers' Assistants, Dublin; John Simmons, carpenters, Dublin; E. W. Stewart, shop assistants, Dublin.

Councillor Gageby, J.P., and Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G. (Belfast), were also nominated but withdrew.

#### ELECTION OF SECRETARY.

Mr. E. L. Richardson, being the only delegate nominated for the secretaryship, was unanimously elected.

The Standing Orders were at this stage suspended to hear the following deputations :—

DEPUTATION FROM SCOTCH TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

Mr. John Wilson (Scotch Trades Congress) having tendered the fraternal greetings of the Scotch Trades Unionists to the Congress delegates, said they did not regard their position as purely ornamental. They believed it stood on a practical basis. They thought that the interests of the workingmen of Scotland and the interests of the workingmen of Ireland were very closely connected, but those interests could only be properly considered and defended by extending as deeply and as widely as possible a thorough knowledge of the conditions of work in Scotland, and of knowing the conditions in Ireland. A movement like theirs necessarily depended on the good-will existing between leading men in Scotland and Ireland, and on the activity and on the ability of the men who managed it. They stood on the broad doctrine that the interests of the workers of Ireland and the workers of Scotland were identical. If a worker from Dublin went to Glasgow, and worked for a smaller wage than obtained in that country, they held that he was injuring them in Glasgow. In the absence of disputes a workingman from Dublin or Belfast was as much entitled to earn his living in Edinburgh or Glasgow, so long as he worked for the same wages as the men who were born and bred there (applause). They wanted to be rid of those local and provincial ideas (hear, hear). The line of idea that said Glasgow for Glasgownen, Dundee for Dundeemen, Dublin for Dublinmen, Belfast for Belfastmen, was absolutely subversive of the interests of the workers of the country. The improvement that had taken place in the condition of the workers of Scotland was due to the persistent pressure of the organised workers, and not to anybody outside the movement (hear, hear). Trades unionism was absolutely necessary to keep the rates of work and pay at the present point, to prevent wages from going back. It was their duty to mark anything that affected the interests of the workers and labour question, and to insist on such a change in the law as would secure that the present burthens of rent, &c., which the workingmen pay be wiped out. They should refuse to recognise these local and provincial distinctions and educate all workingmen that they would not get redress except by combining all the forces of labour (applause).

Mr. Baird (Glasgow) said he was very pleased and very proud to come there as an ambassador of labour to the Irish Trades Union Congress. He had been very anxious for the honour when he heard that the Trades Union Congress of Ireland was to meet in the old, historic town of Wexford, renowned in song and story as one of the battlefields of Ireland (hear, hear). He expressed the hope and the desire that their deliberations would result in furthering and strengthening the cause of labour in Ireland, further

closing up the ranks of democracy, and the further improvement of the conditions of the common people generally. He was quite aware that the common ends of Trades Unionism both in England, Ireland and Scotland, were very much the same, and he could understand that the workers of Ireland were battling for the betterment of their condition as workers in the shape of reduced hours and increased wages. But he had been somewhat struck, during the time he had been amongst them, and listening to their deliberations, with a certain note that seemed to him to sound throughout the proceedings; that was the question of developing and fostering the home industries of Ireland. That was a very laudable object he admitted, and he also admitted that Ireland for the Irish, Scotland for the Scotch, and England for the English was a justifiable position to take up. He went further and said, "Britain for the British," including Ireland. In England and Scotland they had developed their industries, but the mere development of industries was not going to be the social salvation of the common people of the country (hear, hear). Notwithstanding the development of their home industries in Scotland and England, they had an army of unemployed, the pauperisation of the people was ever on the increase, and a large proportion of the workers who had reached the age of 65 were in receipt of parochial relief or were ending their days in the cold shades of poor-houses and local institutions. The social salvation of the workers depended on the share of the fruits of their labour that the workers received. Decisions like the Taff Vale case has paralyzed the right arm of Trades Unionism in this country, but the men who were affiliated to the labour movement in England and Scotland were determined to use the Parliamentary machinery of the country on behalf of the working classes of the nation. When they considered the position of Parliament at present one could not but understand the real necessity for a step of this kind being taken. They desired land reform in Ireland, England and Scotland, but they found in Parliament the landed interests were represented by 156 members, not confined to one side of the House or the other. Capital was represented by 216 members, and those were the men whom the democracy had been sending to Parliament for years. Three-quarters of the 40 millions of people were workers, and they had only twelve representatives in the House of Commons to champion the cause of the down-trodden, to champion the cause of labour. Six of those were tied to the coat-tails of the Liberal Party, and their voice was practically nil in the House of Commons as a labour force. The other six had done some good and noble service under very adverse and trying circumstances, but they hoped that after the next General Election that six would be increased by 60.

Councillor Daly (Dublin) moved, and Councillor Gageby, J.P. (Belfast) seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to the Scotch delegation, which was passed with acclamation.

## DEPUTATION FROM CUMANN NA LEABARLANN.

Mr. T. W. Lyster (National Library) said he wished the Congress to express their sense of the importance of giving to the poor Irish boy and girl a chance of reading good books throughout the country in Ireland. They wanted them to serve as intellectual ornaments in Ireland and provide something good for the young people to read. Rural life was very dull at present, and when the young people got anything to read it was often in the shape of books and pamphlets that were very unfit to read.

Mr. H. Dixon also addressed the Congress at some length. He pointed out that in Wexford they had absolutely nothing in the shape of public recreation or amusement of any kind for the young people—the boys and girls who left school. If a requisition were signed by the ratepayers or people of the town as a whole the Corporation or Urban Council would have to levy the rate of 1d. in the £ for the purpose of providing a free library or reading room, whether they liked it or not. Their attention should be given to the education of boys who left school—the boys from from 15 to 20 years, which meant the making or unmaking of a good Irishman. They might by acting otherwise keep them off the street corners, but that was all. Carlyle had referred to the library as the poor man's university, and it was the university of more than the poor man. By educating their youth they would help on the industrial movement also (applause).

Mr. Geo. Leahy then moved, and Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G., seconded the following resolution:—

“That this Congress, mindful of the educational and moral advantages derivable by the people from properly equipped libraries and news-rooms, urges upon the District Councils of the country the desirability of adopting the Libraries Acts, and of providing the inhabitants of their respective districts with such intellectual facilities in this respect as the Acts provide for; that we call upon the workers to press this matter on the attention of their representatives upon all Urban and Rural Councils, and to support only those who undertake to promote the erection of libraries and reading-rooms in the towns and villages throughout Ireland.”

Messrs. John Simmons and H. Rochford supported the resolution, which was adopted unanimously.

## DEPUTATION FROM THE FEIS CEUIL.

Mr. Brendan Rogers addressed the Congress, in the course of which he said that the Feis Ceoil was an association of organised members—Irishmen—who came together for the purpose of restoring the musical possessions of the Irish people. Music ought to be, and should be, and is by right a hereditary possession of the Irish people. But they had become neglectful, and whereas they

found in England and Scotland in 99 per cent. of the schools music was taught, in Ireland it was only 14 per cent. Now, as 14 was to 99, so was the proportion of the music of Ireland at present to that of England. In Germany all the classes were found to cultivate the study of music, and in Wales away down deep in the mines they heard some of the most beautiful songs that the human ear had ever heard. And he was told there during an Estydfodd that he could go amongst them blind-folded and select a choir. He would like to urge this question upon them, as though the Welsh and Scotch music was beautiful, there was none so beautiful as that of their own country.

Mr. Henry Dixon also spoke, and said what the Typographical Society in Dublin had done for the cultivation of music, he would ask every other Trades Society to do likewise.

On the motion of Mr. M. J. Keogh (Printers) seconded by Mr. M. Camplisson, it was agreed "that this Congress urges all trades in the cities and towns in Ireland to make every effort to establish choirs in connection with each trade, and, if possible, to enter for the next Feis Ceoil."

Sufficient progress not having been made at this stage (2 p.m. Tuesday) with the Agenda, to enable the delegates to visit Johnstown Castle, in accordance with the report of Standing Orders Committee (page 16), it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. T. Kavanagh, to resume business at 3 o'clock. On resuming:—

#### THE DUBLIN BRICKLAYERS' LOCK-OUT.

Mr. Carroll, Chairman of the Bricklayers' Association, Dublin, got liberty to move a resolution tendering to the Dublin Brick and Stonelayers' Union an earnest expression of their moral and financial support in the present unfortunate lock-out in the building trade in Dublin. He said the main object of the Dublin builders was to wipe out the bricklayers altogether, and they thought the present an opportune time on account of the great depression in the building trade.

Mr. Doyle, P.L.G., Dublin, seconded the resolution, and said that notwithstanding the fact that the lock-out had lasted 104 days the Association had got financial support from many societies in Dublin. While one member of the trade was left there would be no such thing as working with imported free labour.

Mr. George Leahy, in supporting the resolution, suggested the appointment of a deputation to wait on the Master Builders for the purpose if possible of bringing about a settlement.

Mr. Richardson said if the Congress sent a deputation without giving them instructions to settle the dispute they would be politely shown the door by the Masters.

Messrs. Simmons, Canty and Farren supported the motion, which was adopted.

On the motion of Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G. (Belfast), seconded by Councillor Daly (Dublin), it was further resolved that a deputation from the Parliamentary Committee should seek an interview with the employers with a view to a settlement.

#### THE "LIVING-IN" SYSTEM.

Mr. O'Lehane (Drapers' Assistants) moved, Mr. E. W Stewart (Shop Assistants National Union) seconded, and it was agreed—

"This Congress records its opinion in favour of the abolition of the 'living-in' system, as applied to shop workers, because it deprives them not only of the social advantages which others enjoy, but also of the ordinary rights of citizenship; and as a means to its abolition we recommend the extension of the Truck Acts so as to include shop assistants."

#### AMENDMENT OF THE TRUCK ACT.

Mr. Joseph Mitchell (Belfast) moved—

"That all deductions from wages in the form of fines, inflicted as punishment for alleged offences or as indemnity for spoiled work, should be rendered illegal, either by a special Act of Parliament or by the requisite amendment of the Truck and Factory Acts."

Miss M. Galway seconded, and said that this resolution affected her class of workers more than any others. The girls were barefacedly robbed by reason of the system in vogue in big factories.

Messrs. M. Doyle, P.L.G., Hudson, and Murphy, P.L.G., supported the motion, which was adopted.

#### RECIPROCAL TRADE UNIONISM.

Mr. McManus moved, and Mr. John Murphy seconded, the suspension of the Standing Orders, to permit of a full discussion on the resolution on the Agenda under this heading. The motion was rejected by 27 votes to 13.

Mr. M. J. Keogh then moved—

"That in order to solidify the forces of trades unionism, and to prevent the straining of the friendly relations which should exist between kindred societies, this Congress urgently calls upon all trades unions to co-operate in sustaining each other, and thus secure unanimity of action and prevent breach of inter-trades unionism; and that the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to inquire into the matter in dispute between the Dublin Typographical Society and the English and Scottish Societies with a view to the settlement of the question at issue." Copies of this resolution to be sent to secretaries of Scottish and English Typographical Societies, and Scottish and English Trades Congresses.

He complained that English and Scotchmen came over to Dublin and did not conform to the rules of the Dublin Society.

The Congress then adjourned until 9.30 on Wednesday morning.

**THIRD DAY—Wednesday, 14th June, 1905.**

Congress re-assembled at 9.30 a.m., the president, Mr. James Chambers in the chair.

Minutes of second day's proceedings read and confirmed.

The adjourned discussion on Reciprocal Trade Unionism was then resumed by—

Mr. John Lyons, who seconded the resolution.

Mr. M'Manus said the Dublin Society had no grievance except in one particular case. He had to complain that Dublin men went to the country and did not conform to the usages of the Typographical Society.

Messrs. M. Doyle, P.L.G., T. Dunne, Mulcahy, O'Lehane, and Daly, T.C., supported the motion; and Messrs. Lynch, P.L.G., O'Neill, Stewart, Murphy, P.L.G., and Darcus, opposed. Carried by 22 votes to 12 against.

**STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE REPORT (NO. 4).**

Standing Orders Committee report that having carefully examined delegates' credentials they find that Congress consists of 66 delegates representing 73,000 Irish trade unionists. They recommend (1) that the remaining motions on the Agenda paper that are non-contentious be spoken to by the mover and seconder only; (2) that the sitting be continued until the conclusion of business; (3) that the ballot papers for election of Parliamentary Committee be issued at 11.30 a.m. and collected at 12 noon, the doors to be meanwhile locked.

Report adopted.

**SCRUTINEERS.**

Messrs. Darcus (Belfast), Keogh (Dublin) and O'Dowd (Limerick) were appointed Scrutineers to conduct the ballot.

**TRADE UNION v. TRADE UNION.**

The following motion, which stood in the name of Mr. M. Cook (Furnishing Trades Association), was ruled out of order by the President:—

“That this Congress condemns the action of the Belfast District Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners in striking against trades union cabinetmakers, and thus compelling their discharge, although there was no question of wages or conditions of labour involved, and declares that such conduct is detrimental to the interests of trade unionism as a whole, and also despotic towards the individual, especially in view of the fact that the actions complained of have in many cases resulted in a large amount of work being forced out of the country, to be executed in many instances by non-unionists in place of union men; this Congress, therefore, severely censures such action, and trusts that an understanding to

work harmoniously together will be arrived at between the kindred unions in all cases of a like character to that indicated in this resolution, as it is only by such means that the common danger can be successfully met, and the interests and principles for which trade unionism stands be advanced."

#### EXPERT EXAMINER AT CORONER'S INQUESTS.

On the motion of Mr. W. Hudson (A.S.R.S.), seconded by Councillor Gageby, J.P., the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"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 deaths while following their employment to be represented at coroner's 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)."

#### HOME OFFICE OVERTIME SCHEDULE.

Miss M. Galway (Textile Operatives) moved:—

"That this Congress protests against the recent action of the Home Office in scheduling certain non-textile factories for extended overtime without consulting the female workers concerned; and being convinced that the working of such overtime is detrimental to the health and well-being of non-textile workers, calls upon the Government to totally abolish overtime for women."

She complained that a great many women workers had died of consumption owing to overtime work.

Mrs. M'Caughey seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

#### PUNISHMENT FOR BREACHES OF FACTORY ACT.

Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G., moved, and Mr. M'Manus seconded:—

"That all serious breaches of the Factory Acts by employers or their responsible managers should be punishable by imprisonment without the option of fines."

Councillor Gageby, J.P., opposed. He said this was a backward step. What would they say if the employers passed a resolution that trades unionists should be imprisoned for infringement of the law?

The motion was carried by a majority.

## NIGHT WORK IN BAKERIES.

Mr. James Kane (Dublin Bakers) moved; Mr. J. M'Connell (Belfast Bakers) seconded, and it was resolved:—

“That in the opinion of this Congress the system of night work in bakeries is unsatisfactory and should be abolished by legal enactment; and that in the interests of the workers a more frequent inspection of bakehouses by the Home Office officials is desirable.”

## NATIONALISATION OF MINES AND RAILWAYS, ETC.

On the motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. M'Manus, it was agreed:—

“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 Irish canals, inland waterways and 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.”

## RAILWAY AND CANAL RATES.

Mr. O'Dowd (Limerick) moved:—

“That the present excessive railway and canal rates on stone—whether raw material or dressed work—is one of the greatest drawbacks to the stone industry, and we call on the parties responsible to remedy this grievance.”

Mr. C. White (Stonecutters) seconded. Passed.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP SANITATION.

Mr. J. T. Duignan moved; Mr. J. Farren seconded, and it was agreed—

“That in the opinion of this Congress the existing facilities for sanitary accommodation in most of the workshops of the country is inadequate, and directs the attention of the Inspector of Factories especially to the want of wash-hand conveniences in plumbing, brassfounders' and other establishments connected with the metal and engineering industries.”

## SANITARY AND WATER INSPECTORS.

Mr. James Sweeney moved, and Mr. John Simmons seconded:—

“That this Congress is of opinion that in the appointment of sanitary and water inspectors the local authorities of Ireland should appoint none but practical plumbers to such positions 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.”

Mr. M. Doyle (Bricklayers) protested against the passing of this resolution.

Councillor McCarron pointed out that they had a practical plumber appointed to that position in Londonderry.

The motion was adopted.

#### TECHNICAL TRAINING OF APPRENTICES.

Mr. John Simmons proposed, and Mr. E. L. Richardson seconded the following resolution, which was adopted :—

“This Congress of Irish Workers declares that the time at the disposal of apprentices for acquiring a thorough technical knowledge of their respective trades is at present entirely inadequate, and urges upon employers the desirability of granting further opportunities, by allowing their apprentices a few hours' leave upon such days as they undertake to attend the technical schools, so as to enable them to become more proficient workmen; that the Department of Technical Instruction for Ireland be requested to press this matter upon local technical committees and employers' associations throughout the country.”

#### MUNICIPAL WORKSHOPS

On the motion of Mr. J. Farren, seconded by Mr. J. T. Duignan, it was resolved :—

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

#### HACKNEY CARRIAGE INSPECTORS.

Proposed by Mr. Geo. O'Callaghan, seconded by Mr. Gardiner, and adopted—

“That, in the opinion of this Congress, it is of importance that practical coachmakers should be appointed to the position of Hackney Carriage Inspectors in conjunction with the inspectors already appointed, as we believe it is against the interests of the public and the Coachmakers' Society alike that inexperienced police officers should hold the position of Inspectors of Hackney Carriages without the assistance of a practical man.”

#### OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Mr. Joseph Mitchell proposed; Mr. J. McConnell seconded, and it was agreed—

“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 the matter, as it is of the utmost urgency.”

## IRISH PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION.

On the motion of Mr. M'Manus, seconded by Mr. C. Darcus, it was resolved :—

That this Congress is fortified in expressing the general opinion now held by all sections of the people in Ireland, that the present system of Private Bill Legislation (involving serious, costly, and totally unnecessary delay and damage to the community, and pressing heavily upon trade and agricultural industry) demands immediate reform; and it is absolutely essential, to conduce to such reform and economy, that all necessary and relevant inquiries should be conducted locally in Ireland."

## MAGISTERIAL ADJUDICATION IN IRISH LABOUR CASES.

Mr. M'Manus moved; Mr. Egan (Cork) seconded, and it was resolved :—

"This Congress declares that the law requires amendment in respect to the adjudication of the lay or unpaid magistrates in all cases brought under the Masters and Servants' and Factory Acts, or actions between employer and employed under the Summary Jurisdiction or Petty Sessions (Ireland) Acts—all of which cases ought to be decided by duly qualified stipendiary magistrates."

## LABOUR REPRESENTATION.

Mr. John 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 this matter had been discussed at Kilkenny, and was passed by an overwhelming majority. He thought they would be wise in re-affirming their decision. They should organise a labour vote throughout the country. No matter what sympathies they had with political parties they should stand independent of any political party whatever.

Mr. George Leahy (Dublin) seconded the resolution.

Mr. Hugh M'Manus proposed the following amendment :—

"That this Trades Congress, while heartily concurring in the principle of Parliamentary Labour Representation, is of opinion that the financial support of the work of the Congress and Parliamentary Committee is a primary and main duty on the part of the trade unionists in Ireland, both those belonging to local and amalgamated societies, and thereby enable the Congress to more effectively carry out the propaganda of trades unionism, the material welfare of the workers, and the development of Irish industries."

He pointed out that the financial state of the Congress was a difficulty in the way.

Mr. Egan (Cork) seconded the amendment, and said in Cork at the present time they had nominated a man for the Parliamentary vacancy there, and there was no greater friend of the Irish workers throughout the length and breadth of the land.

Mr. Walter Hudson said the amendment was not relative to the issue.

Mr. Michael Doyle, P.L.G., supported the resolution.

Mr. Lyons (Dublin) said the Irish Parliamentary Party were doing for them all that a Labour Party could do. Recommendations had been made to the Chairman of the Irish Party, and they had always been carried out, and they got questions asked in the House of Commons whenever they wanted them. There was no room in Ireland for a Labour Party. In Dublin they had a man associated with them who represented College Green Division, and he was one of the strongest and most strenuous supporters of the interest of labour they had. He supported the amendment.

Councillor M'Carthy (Kilkenny) supported the amendment, and said they had good representation in the Irish Parliamentary Party, who on all occasions on which they were appealed to in the interests of labour worked like lions for them.

Mr. M'Manus eventually withdrew the amendment, and the resolution was passed by a majority.

#### WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND.

Mr. John Murphy (Belfast) moved, Mr. Geo. Leahy (Dublin) seconded, and it was agreed:—

"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."

#### IMPORTED JOINERY.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. E. J. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. R. O'Keeffe (Carpenters and Joiners):—

"That this Congress condemns in the strongest manner possible the importation of foreign joinery, and calls upon architects, builders, and private employers, and all others requiring same to have it made in Ireland under fair conditions, and thereby help to encourage a failing industry."

#### STEAM ENGINES BILL.

Mr. T. Kavanagh (Stationery Engine Drivers) moved:—

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

Mr. Walter Hudson (A.S.R.S.) seconded. Passed.

## TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME.

On the motion of Mr. H. M'Manus, seconded by Mr. J. Murphy, it was resolved :—

“That this Congress urges the Government to promulgate an Order in Council to apply the Technical Education Programme of 1905 to Ireland.”

## BALANCE SHEET.

The Balance Sheet and Treasurer's Statement (pp. 52, 53), which showed a balance in hands of £56 11s. 5d., was unanimously adopted on the motion of Mr. John Simmons, seconded by Mr. P. Lynch, P.L.G. (Cork).

## NEW STANDING ORDER—FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

Mr. E. W. Stewart (hon. treasurer), then moved :—

“That the minimum Annual Contribution from Affiliated Societies (assessed on their Irish membership), payable to the Treasurer not later than fourteen days previous to the meeting of Congress, shall be One Penny per member from all Societies of 250 members or under ; over 250 and up to 500, £1 8s. 4d. ; over 500 and up to 1,000, £1 10s. 0d., and £1 for each 1,000, or fractional part thereof, after the first 1,000 members, assessed on Irish membership. Trades Councils shall pay £1 for each 5,000 members or part thereof represented.”

Mr. M'Manus (Belfast) seconded. Messrs. Hudson, Richardson, Doyle, P.L.G., Murphy, Kavanagh and Leahy supported the motion, which was adopted *nem. con.*

## NEW STANDING ORDER.

Mr. Stewart moved, Mr. Hudson seconded, and it was decided that :—

“Nominations for next place of meeting shall be forwarded to the Secretary for inclusion on the Agenda of Congress, and only places so nominated shall be eligible for consideration.”

## ELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

The Scrutineers (Messrs. Darcus, Belfast ; Keogh, Dublin, and O'Dowd, Limerick) presented the result of the ballot, as follows :—

Mr. James M'Carron, T.C. (Tailor)	27	votes
„ James Chambers (Saddler)	26	„
„ E. W. Stewart (Shop Assistants)	26	„
„ P. T. Daly, T.C. (Printer)	25	„
„ H. M'Manus (Printer)	25	„
„ Stephen Dineen (Baker)	23	„
„ Walter Hudson (A.S.R.S.)	23	„
„ George Leahy (Plasterer)	22	„
„ John Simmons (Carpenter)	16	„

The Standing Orders provide that—"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." Messrs. Daly and M'Manus having each received 25 votes, it was decided on a show of hands that Mr. Daly should be elected. The votes cast for the other candidates were—John M'Carthy, T.C., 21; M. J. O'Lehane, 15; J. T. Duignan, 13; M. Egan, 12; Francis Farrell, 12; Joseph Mitchell, 12; S. M'Cormick, T.C., 11; John Farren, 10.

NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

Dundalk and Athlone were proposed as the meeting place for the Congress of 1906. Mr M'Namara (Athlone) having addressed the Congress, Dundalk was withdrawn, and Athlone chosen unanimously.

VOTES OF THANKS.

The usual votes of thanks having been passed to the Corporation of Wexford, the Press, and the President, the Congress concluded.



# BALANCE SHEET of Twelfth Irish Trades Union Congress, Wexford, 1905.

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.									
				£	s.	d.							
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.				
To	Balance from last Congress	-	-	78	8	8	By	Expenses P. C. Meetings	-	-	36	17	9
"	67 Delegates' Fees	-	-	50	5	0	"	Secretaries to Kilkenny Congress	-	-	2	0	0
"	Response to P. C. Appeal (see Detailed List)	-	-	56	9	11	"	Standing Orders Committee "	-	-	2	10	0
"	Sale of Congress Reports	-	-	7	2	10	"	Auditors' Fees	-	-	0	10	0
							"	3 Tellers to Congress	-	-	0	15	0
							"	Honorarium to Secretary (1904)	-	-	20	0	0
							"	" " Treasurer (1904)	-	-	2	2	0
							"	Delegation Scottish Congress	-	-	9	0	0
							"	Hall Porter, Kilkenny	-	-	0	15	0
							"	" " Dublin	-	-	0	10	0
							"	Postage, Stationery, Newspapers (Secretary)	-	-	4	10	0
							"	" " (Treasurer)	-	-	0	10	6
							"	Banking Expenses	-	-	0	5	0
							"	Two Delegations to Wexford	-	-	4	4	0
							"	Printing Balance Sheets, &c. (Kilkenny)	-	-	1	0	0
							"	Honorarium to Secretary (1905)	-	-	20	0	0
							"	" " Treasurer (1905)	-	-	2	2	0
							"	B. Doyle—Printing Account	-	-	28	3	9
							"	Balance in hands	-	-	56	11	5
				£192	6	5					£192	6	5

We have examined Books and Receipts connected with Balance Sheet, and found same correct.

SAMUEL McCORMICK, T.C., } Auditors.  
RICHARD O'KEEFFE, }

14th June, 1905.

EDWARD W. STEWART, Treasurer.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

TO

## Parliamentary Committee's Appeal.

	£	s.	d.
Dublin Brass Founders - - - -	1	0	0
Belfast Flax Roughers - - - -	3	0	0
Derry Trades Council - - - -	1	0	0
Dublin Trades Council - - - -	5	0	0
Dublin Coopers' Society - - - -	2	2	0
Amalgamated Painters' Executive - - - -	1	18	2
Dublin Tinsmiths - - - -	0	4	6
Cork Pork Butchers - - - -	0	10	0
Cork Car and Store men - - - -	0	8	4
Cork Branch Amalgamated Shop Assistants - - - -	0	3	4
Cork Branch Cabinetmakers - - - -	0	3	0
Cork Branch Iron Moulders - - - -	0	2	0
Amalgamated Railway Servants - - - -	10	0	0
Amalgamated Tramway and Vehicle Workers, Belfast - - - -	0	10	10
Textile Operatives of Ireland, Belfast - - - -	0	10	0
Belfast Branch Typographical Association - - - -	2	0	0
Dublin Branch Operative Plumbers - - - -	0	14	0
Typographical Association Executive - - - -	4	6	4
Sligo Trades Council - - - -	0	10	0
Belfast No. 1 Branch Amalgamated Millsawyers - - - -	0	10	0
Dublin Branch United Brushmakers - - - -	0	5	0
Amalgamated Shop Assistants' Executive - - - -	1	3	4
Dublin Saddlers and Harnessmakers - - - -	0	7	0
Belfast Bakers' Society - - - -	2	2	0
Dublin Branch Boilermakers - - - -	0	5	0
Irish Drapers' Assistants - - - -	3	3	0
Amalgamated Tailors' Executive - - - -	3	0	0
U. K. S. Coachmakers' Executive - - - -	3	3	0
Dublin Branch Amalgamated Millsawyers - - - -	0	9	1
Dublin Typographical Society - - - -	3	0	0
Limerick Mechanics' Institute - - - -	5	0	0

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## List of Delegates.

- Athlone Trade and Labour Society*—Thomas McNamara, The Strand, Athlone.
- Bakers, Belfast*—S. McCormick, T.C.; J. McConnell, Artisans' Hall, Garfield Street, Belfast.
- Bakers' National Amalgamated Union*.—Stephen Dinneen, 23 Mount Vincent Cottages, Limerick.
- Bakers' Operative Society, Dublin*—James Gunn, 8 Upper Bridge Street, Dublin; James Kane, do.
- Belfast Trades Council*—Joseph Mitchell, Engineers' Hall, College Street.
- Belfast Enginemen's Society*—James Pearson.
- Bottlemakers' Irish Glass, Dublin*.—Wm. Maguire, 6 Irishtown Road; Thomas Dunne, 1 Cambridge Terrace, Ringsend.
- Brushmakers' (United Society of) Dublin*—M. Camplisson, 11 Lower Rutland Street, Dublin.
- Bookbinders and Machine Rulers, Dublin*—Andrew Moore, 4 Aungier Street, Dublin.
- Butchers, Journeymen's Association, Belfast*—Joseph Quinn, 339 North Queen Street, Belfast.
- Boilermakers' United Society, Dublin*—Edward Brooks, 36 Gray Street.
- Bricklayers and Stonelayers' Union, Dublin*—Michael Doyle, P.L.G., 2 Sherrard Avenue; Richard Carroll, South Dock Street.
- Cabinet Makers' Alliance, Dublin*—Denis Mulcahy, 46 Capel Street.
- Carpenters' Amalgamated Society (6th Branch)*—Richard O'Keefe, Newtown Park, Blackrock.
- Carpenters' Amalgamated Society (3rd Branch)*—James Delaney, 3 Duke Row.
- Carpenters' Amalgamated (5th Branch)*—E. J. O'Neill, 35 Lower Gloucester Street.
- Cabinetmakers' Amalgamated Union*—L. Murphy, 56 St. Joseph's Place.
- Coachmakers (United Kingdom Society)*—George O'Callaghan, 7 Great Western Villas; Wm. Gardiner, 8 Royal Canal Terrace, Dublin.
- Cork Trades and Labour Council*—Michael Egan, Patrick Lynch, P.L.G.; George Coates, Mechanics' Institute, Grattan Street.
- Dublin Trades Council*—E. L. Richardson, P. T. Daly, T.C., John Simmons, F. Farrell, Trades Hall, Capel Street.
- Dublin Brassfounders*—John Thomas Duignan, 77 Lower Dorset Street.
- Furnishing Trades (National Amalgamated Association)*—Marshall Cook, 46 Hollywood Road, Belfast.
- Flaxdressers' Trade Union, Belfast*—Robert Gageby, T.C., J.P., Engineers' Hall, Belfast.
- Hairdressers' Assistants, Dublin*—Henry Rochford, 23 Fairview Strand.
- Irish Land and Labour Association*—Michael Ryan, D.C., Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick.
- Kilkenny Trades Council*—Wm. Pattison Black, Abbey Street, Kilkenny; John McCarthy, T.C., Trades Hall, Kilkenny.
- Labour (N. A. Union of)*—John Salters, Belfast; Thomas Montgomery, 41 Sandown Road, Ballyhackamore, Belfast.
- Labourers (Dublin Corporation)*—Michael Canty, Thomas Hughes, 10 and 11 Mary's Abbey, Dublin.
- Linenlappers Irish Union, Belfast*—James Bloomer, 39 Bendigo Street.
- Mill Sawyers, Dundalk*—John English, Seatown.
- Painters' Amalgamated Society*—Edward J. Harte, 8 John Street, Sligo.
- Plasterers, Dublin Operative*—George Leahy, 23 Blackhall Street.
- Plumbers, Dublin Operative*—James Sweeney, 30 Arran Quay.
- Railway Servants, Amalgamated Society*—Walter Hudson, 35 Melrose Avenue, Dublin; James Harvey, 6 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast.

- Irish Drapers Assistants*—M. J. O'Lehane, 56 Henry Street, Dublin.
- Shop Assistants (Amalgamated Union)*—Edward W. Stewart, 14 Nottingham Street, Dublin.
- Stonecutters, Operative Union of*—Charles White, 13 Phibsborough Avenue, Dublin; John O'Dowd, 50 Edward Street, Limerick.
- Saddlers (Dublin Society)*—James Chambers, 27 St. Ignatius Road.
- Stationary Engine Drivers, Dublin*—T. Kavanagh, Pigeon House Fort.
- Tramway and Vehicle Workers, Belfast*—Robert J. Moore, 14 Walbeck Street.
- Tinsmiths and Sheet Metal Workers, Dublin*—John Farren, 23 Usher's Quay.
- Tailors, Amalgamated Society of*—James McCarron, T.C., 2 Stanley Terrace, Londonderry; John McMahon, 28 St. Alban's Road, Dublin.
- Textile Operatives, Belfast*—Miss Mary Galway, 31 Crocus Street; Mrs. Elizabeth McCaughey, 10 Alma Street.
- Typographical Society, Dublin*—M. J. Keogh, John Lyons, 33 Denmark Street.
- Typographical Association (Irish Branches)*—Hugh McMannus, 14 Ardmoulin Street, Belfast; John Wadding, The Faythe, Wexford.
- Typographical Society, Belfast*—Charles Darcus, 30 Delhi Street; John Murphy, P.L.G., 33 Paxton Street.
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- Scottish Trades Union Congress*—Messrs. John Wilson, 39 Bishop Street, Anderston, Glasgow; Daniel Baird, 530 Rutherglen Road, Glasgow.
- Cumann na Leabharlann*—Messrs. T. W. Lyster; Henry Dixon.
- Féis Ceoil*—Messrs. Brendon Rogers; H. Dixon.

## STANDING ORDERS.

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- 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, or who shall have worked or be working at the trade they represent, or members of trade councils or similar bodies, by whatever name they may for the time being, be known. The expenses of such Delegates must be defrayed by the association they represent. No Delegate shall leave the Congress during the progress of business without the consent of the Chairman. The fee for each Delegate shall be 15s.
- 3. Financial Support.**—That the minimum Annual Contribution from Affiliated Societies (assessed on their Irish membership), payable to the Treasurer not later than fourteen days previous to the meeting of Congress, shall be One Penny per member from all Societies of 250 members or under; over 250 and up to 500, £1 8s. 4d.; over 500 and up to 1,000, £1 10s. 0d., and £1 for each 1,000, or fractional part thereof, after the first 1,000 members, assessed on Irish membership. Trades Councils shall pay £1 for each 5,000 members or part thereof represented.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Mode of Voting—Tellers.**—The Voting upon all matters shall be by show of hands. Tellers shall be appointed at the opening of Congress, whose ruling as to numbers shall be final. In cases where the Tellers disagree, the Chairman shall order a re-count.

**6. 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 trade councils in Ireland.

**7. 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.

**8. 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.

**9. 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.

**10. 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.

**11. 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.

**12. 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.

**13. 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.

**14. Next Place of Meeting.**—Nominations for next place of meeting shall be forwarded to the Secretary for inclusion on the Agenda of Congress, and only places so nominated shall be eligible for consideration.