

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL Irish Trades **

* Union Congress

WILL BE HELD

IN ATHLONE,

ON -

Mhit-Monday, Tuesday & Mednesday,



"LABOR OMNIA VINCIT."

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REPORT

OF THE

THIRTEENTH

Irish Trades Union Congress,

HELD IN

Longworth Hall, Athlone,

JUNE 4th, 5th & 6th, 1906.

Published by authority of the Congress and the Parliamentary Committee.

drish Labour Party & Trade Union Congress

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Irish Grades Union Congress

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MONDAY, TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY,

4th, 5th and 6th June, 1906.

Edited by E. L. RICHARDSON.



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DUBLIN

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Parliamentary Committee.

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CHAIRMAN:

JAMES M'CARRON, T.C., DERRY.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

JOHN MURPHY, P.L.G., BELFAST.

James Chambers, Dublin.

Stephen Dinneen, Limerick.

Walter Hudson, M.P.

Michael Egan, Cork.

George Greig, Belfast.

TREASURER :

E. W. STEWART, 179 CLONLIFFE ROAD, 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

OF THE

13th Annual Irish Trades Union Congress,

The following is the Report of the Parliamentary Committee presented to the Congress, the discussion upon which will be found in the Second Day's proceedings, infra.

Fellow Delegates .- Your Committee beg to present a record

of their proceedings for the past twelve months.

During the period under review a change of Ministry and a General Election took place which, of course, interrupted the continuity of your Committee's negotiations with the chiefs of the different Government Departments; and although a harvest of practical results cannot reasonably be looked for during the declining days of an effete, or the spring-time of a new, administration, your Committee are gratified to be in a position to report substantial

progress, with hopeful anticipations of the future.

In common with all other bodies qualified to speak on behalf of Labour, your Committee rejoice at the awakening of the British democracy and the consequent formation of an Independent Labour Party in the new Parliament. They took the earliest opportunity of offering, in your name, heartiest congratulations to the new members. Their pleasure is, however, tempered with regret at the loss to the Labour movement in Ireland of their colleague, Mr. Walter Hudson, whose election as senior member for Newcastle-on-Tyne, with a poll of 18,659 votes and a majority of 6,717, was one of the sensations of a sensational General Election, and who consequently severs his official connection with the Irish Trades Union Congress.

The Irish Parliamentary Party and the Congress.—As usual, your Committee, immediately after the adjournment of the Wexford Congress, notified the secretaries of the Irish Party of the decisions arrived at regarding matters then before Parliament, and received the following acknowledgment:—

House of Commons, July 3, 1905.

Dear Sir—Re resolutions of Irish Trades Union Congress, we are directed by the Irish Parliamentary Party to acknowledge your letter of the 27th ult., accom-

panied by copies of important resolutions on the subjects of Sunday Labour, Ordnance Workshops, and Army and Naval Supplies in Ireland, and to say that they will receive most sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Party.—We are, yours faithfully,

WM. ABRAHAM, Hon. Secs. J. C. FLYNN,

E. L. Richardson, Esq.

Technical Instruction.—In regard to the resolutions adopted—
(1) asking the Department to impress on the employers of the country the desirability of granting increased facilities to their apprentices in the matter of technical education; and (2) urging the Government to apply the Technical Education programme of 1905 to Ireland, the following replies speak for themselves:—

[No. 16536/05.] Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin, 27th July, 1905.

Sir—Adverting to your letter of the 24th ultimo, enclosing copy of a resolution with reference to the training of apprentices in a full technical knowledge of their trade, unanimously adopted at the Twelfth Annual Congress of Irish Trades Unionists, I have to express the satisfaction of the Department at the action taken by the Congress, as they regard the resolution as a most useful one. The Department will bring the terms of the resolution under the notice of the local authorities concerned, and request them to communicate them to employers within the areas administered by their Schemes of Technical Instruction.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

T. P. GILL, Secretary.

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

[No. 17434/05.] Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland,

Upper Merrion Street, Dublin, 14th August, 1905.

Sir—Adverting to your letter of the 4th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a resolution adopted by the Irish Trades Union Congress urging the application of the "Technical Education Programme to Ireland," I have to inform you that the Department have under consideration a revised scheme for the distribution of grants to Technical Schools, which provides for attendance grants in respect of instruction in commercial and technological subjects. The Department hope to have this scheme in operation during the Session 1st August, 1906, to 31st July, 1907.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

T. P. GILL, Secretary.

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

Receiving Depot—Service Supplies—Ordnance Workshops.—Your Committee are pleased to report progress in the matter of their demand for the effective working of Receiving Depots for Army and Navy supplies in Ireland. It will be remembered that the report of the Wexford Congress (p. 26) contained correspondence between your Committee and the War Office which gave some hope that the persistent demands of the Congress in this matter "must ultimately be successful." As may be observed, that hope has been justified:—

[Contracts/194. Q.M.G.(C).] War Office, London, S.W., 10th August, 1905.

Sir—I am commanded by the Army Conneil to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, forwarding copies of resolutions passed at the Twelfth Annual Irish Trades Congress held at Wexford in June last, relative to the establishment of Ordnance Workshops and Receiving Depots in Ireland.

I am to point out that it is not intended to extend the functions of Ordnance

workshops in Ireland or elsewhere so as to include manufacture, but to restrict their

functions as at present to repairing work, which provides the necessary training for military artificers in the duties they have to carry out in war.

Local purchases are made in Ireland so far as these can be economically effected; but as explained to the deputation of the Congress which waited upon the Secretary of State for War in September 1902, the difficulty experienced by this Department is that additional Irish firms of producing capacity do not come forward to tender for army supplies in competition with manufacturers in other parts of the United Kingdom.

With regard to the brush industry, I am to say that special steps are about to be taken to test the possibility of placing orders for brushes in Ireland, with pro-

vision for local inspection. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

E. W. WARD.

The Secretary, Irish Trades Union Congress.

The intimation contained in the final paragraph of the above was immediately communicated to the Dublin Branch of the United Society of Brushmakers, who acknowledged the efforts of your Committee as follows :-

> United Society of Brushmakers (Dublin Branch), 11 Lower Rutland Street, August 19th, 1905.

Dear Mr. Richardson-I beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours of August 14th, which was read at our monthly meeting held last night, re army and navy contract for brushes, and seems to be satisfactory. With best wishes to you. Yours truly,

MATTHEW CAMPLISSON, Secretary.

The question was further referred to in Parliament at the instance of your Committee on the 5th of April of this year, when Mr. Field, M.P., asked the Financial Secretary to the War Office-

Whether there is a receiving depot at Island Bridge barracks or at Mountpellier Hill, Dublin, where supplies for the Army are largely stored; whether, if so, arrangements will be made to enable Irish contractors to have their goods inspected and delivered in Dublin instead of sending them to Woolwich; and whether he is aware that the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland stated to a deputation from the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Congress that he considered this a reasonable request.

Mr. Haldane, the new Secretary of State for War, in replying, said :-

It is proposed to initiate tentatively a system of local inspection for such stores as it is considered can be advantageously obtained and passed into the service at Island Bridge, and the necessary buildings for this purpose will be commenced in the present financial year.

Subsequently the following appreciation of the efforts of your Committee appeared in all the metropolitan newspapers :-

18 Middle Gardiner Street, Dublin, 17th April, 1906.

Dear Sir-As a member of the Brushmakers' Society delegated to voice its interests at the Dublin Trades Council, Trades Congress, and other public boards for some years past, I believe I would be lacking in my duty if I failed to recognise, through the medium of your journal, the valuable services rendered to my society and its members by those who assisted me in securing for my trade orders of a very substantial character from the Army Council. Apart from the fact of creating employment for Irish workmen, it is gratifying to know that such orders have been entrusted to two Irish firms—one in Belfast, and the other Messrs. Varian, Talbot Street, Dublin. Such orders, when subsequently executed by those firms, were examined in the Curragh instead of Woolwich, a concession in itself which deserves the greatest appreciation from us, inasmuch as Irish brushes when transmitted to Woolwich underwent such rough usage in transit that they were more or less unfit for inspection, in consequence of which our Irish firms were seriously handicapped in competing with those firms across the Channel. In this connection I wish to acknowledge the valuable services rendered to my society by the Parliamentary Committee, through their able and energetic secretary, Mr. E. L. Richardson, who has been hammering at the War Office and Chief Secretaries for some years past in our interests; also to express publicly my appreciation of the interest taken by two members of the Irish Party—Mr. J. P. Nannetti, M.P., Lord Mayor, and Mr. William Field, M.P.—in ventilating our grievances with the War Office in Parliament, and we confidently rely on their future support.—Yours faithfully,

JOHN MOLONEY.

Your Committee direct the special attention of delegates interested in this question to the important statement made by the War Office authorities in the letter above, that "the difficulty experienced by this Department is that additional Irish firms of producing capacity do not come forward to tender for Army supplies in competition with manufacturers in other parts of the United Kingdom," and they venture to hope, now that the War Office has initiated, tentatively, a system of local inspection for Army stores, such advantage will be taken of the concession by Irish manufacturers as will ensure its permanent establishment.

Your Committee regret the attitude of the Department on the question of Ordnance Workshops, though they are hopeful that the new Government will take a more sympathetic view of their

claims.

War Office Contracts and the Fair Wages Resolution.—As an instance of the manner in which the officials of great spending departments of the Government enforce (?) the Fair Wages Resolution in the execution of their contracts, the following correspondence is instructive. In August last the attention of your Committee was directed to the following statement from the Secretary of the United Cabinetmakers:—

United Cabinetmakers, Trades Hall, Dublin, 30th August, 1905.

Dear Sir—At the end of March or the beginning of April, 1905, the Ordnance Department at Island Bridge issued tenders for the supplying of 80 oak falling leaf tables. Several of the city firms tendered, amongst others Messrs. T. & C. Martin and Millar & Beatty. Messrs Todd Burns secured the contract, and immediately placed the order with a cross-Channel firm. Our Society took the matter up, and communicated with the Senior Ordnance Officer at Island Bridge Barracks. He replied stating that the contracts were to be made, as far as possible, locally. He put himself in communication with Messrs. Todd Burns, with the result that the work was brought back to Dublin. Messrs. Todd Burns then went to a fair wages house in the City (Messrs. Buchanan & Stevenson) and asked them would they make 15 of the tables as near the English price as possible, to enable them to strike a bargain. The firm agreed and made the 15 tables, but as the sweater's price did not pay them they would not make any more. Messrs. Todd Burns then sent the balance of the tables to be made in Messrs. Gamble's, of Birkenhead, which has the reputation of being one of the largest sweating dens in the country. We hope the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress will endeavour to fight this matter, as it is directly antagonistic to the Fair Wages Resolution of the

House of Commons, and if there is any more information I can give I shall be happy to wait on you any time that is convenient to you.—Believe me, yours sincerely,

D. MULCHY, Secretary Joint Committee.

E. L. Richardson, Esq.

Your Secretary immediately addressed to the then Secretary of State for War a remonstrance, setting out the facts as above stated, and asking—"(1) Whether Messrs. Todd, Burns & Co. will be entitled to tender in future for War Department work? (2) What steps will be taken to prevent a recurrence of this flagrant breach of the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons? and (3) Whether the Department purpose remonstrating with Messrs. Todd, Burns & Co. for their action in this matter?"

This communication was formally acknowledged on September 7th. No further reply having been received up to the 10th November, your Secretary again pressed for an explanation, with the following result:—

[Q.M.G.(C)] War Office, London, S.W., 14th November, 1905.

Sir—In reply to your letter of the 11th instant, relative to the alleged subletting of a War Department contract for Oak Tables, I am directed to inform you that the matter is still under consideration.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

G. MILEY, for Director of Equipment and Ordnance Stores.

The Secretary, Irish Trades Union Congress.

and finally :-

[Contracts/Firms T/169. Q.M.G. (C).]

War Office, London, S.W. 22nd November, 1905.

Sir—Your letter of September 2nd, addressed to the Secretary of State for War, has been under consideration, and in reply I am commanded by the Army Council

to submit the following observations:—
The complaint of the Trades Union Congress is that a local order given to Messrs. Todd, Burns & Co., of Dublin, was sublet by them. It was also alleged, although not positively and without any details being given, that the order was executed at rates below those current in the district where the work was done.

It has been ascertained that the order in question was given by the local military authorities; and in such local orders, which have hitherto been restricted to small urgent requirements, the House of Commons Resolution as to subletting and current rates of wages has not been inserted. Under these circumstances it cannot be held that Messrs. Todd, Burns & Co. have violated any condition of contract,

I am to add, however, that the question of introducing the House of Commons Resolution into similar contracts in future is under consideration.—I am, sir, your

obedient servant,

E. W. WARD.

The Secretary, Irish Trades Union Congress.

If your Committee have thus succeeded in securing the insertion of the Fair Wages Resolution in all orders for supplies required by local military authorities, they submit the matter raised by the United Cabinetmakers has been productive of good results.

On this matter it may be mentioned that early this year the Parliamentary Committee of the British Trades Congress succeeded in obtaining from the present Secretaries of State for War and Home Affairs and the First Lord of the Admiralty an undertaking that in the event of of any complaint being in future made, by trades

interested in contracts for these departments, of the violation of the Fair Wages Resolution, a Committee of Inquiry would be granted, consisting of two officials from the Department concerned and two members of the Congress Committee. Your Secretary immediately urged that the Irish Office should secure the same facilities for complaints made by the Committee of the Irish Congress. Mr. Bryce's reply is as follows:-

Irish Office, Old Queen Street, London, S.W., 27th April, 1906.

Dear Sir-The Chief Secretary desires me to say, in reply to your letter of April 25th, that he has been making inquiries of the three Departments mentioned by you with a view to ascertaining what undertaking has been given to the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress on the question of the Fair Wages Resolution. He has at present received replies from two of the three Departments mentioned by you, and will send a reminder to the third. When he has the necessary information before him, he will communicate further with you.—Yours faithfully,

W. R. DAVIES.

E. L. Richardson, Esq.

Factory and Workshop Sanitation.—In response to the complaint contained in the resolution adopted at last Congress (page 46 of report) of the want of wash-hand and other sanitary conveniences in establishments connected with the metal and engineering industries, the following has been received:-

[F 8055/5] Home Office, 18th September, 1905.

Sir-I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst., forwarding copy of a resolution adopted at the Twelfth Annual Congress of Irish Trades Unionists held recently at Wexford, and to assure you that the same shall receive attention. It would, however, facilitate the making of inquiries into the alleged irregularities if you would be so good as to forward to this Department at your convenience the names and addresses of the occupiers of any such workshops as those referred to in which the sanitary or other provisions of the Factory Act are contravened .- I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. DAWKIN CRAMP, for Chief Inspector of Factories.

The Secretary, Irish Trades Union Congress.

and subsequently the Inspector of Factories for the Dublin District wrote :-

Star Life Buildings, 12, 13, and 14 College Green, Dublin,

28th September, 1905.

Sir-I called at your residence this afternoon, but was not fortunate enough to

find you at home.

I am requested by the Chief Inspector to ask you to supply the names and addresses of the firms complained of in the resolution passed by the Irish Trades Union Congress at Wexford, with respect to the want of wash-hand conveniences in Plumbers', Brassfounders' and other establishments connected with the metal and engineering industries, in order that the defects complained of may be remedied.

Will you also please say if the complaint refers to the North of Ireland, and if so let me have names, &c., of the places there, so that they may be transmitted to H. M. Inspector, North of Ireland District.

I shall be at my office on Monday next, from 10 a.m. to noon, if you could make it convenient to call to see me there.—Yours truly,

JOHN JACKSON, H. M. Inspector of Factories.

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

Your Committee regret that, notwithstanding repeated applications, the trade responsible for the complaints referred to failed to furnish your Secretary with the required information, and consequently your Committee are placed in the somewhat invidious position of being unable to give evidence in support of their own allegations.

Irish Material for Irish Public Works .- With reference to the resolution passed on the motion of the Stonecutters' Union of Ireland, calling upon the authorities concerned in the erection of the new College of Science and other public buildings in Ireland, to use Irish stone, "where stone, or substitutes for stone, are specified," the following letter has been received :-

[15748-05.1 Office of Public Works, Dublin, 18th November, 1905.

Sir-I am directed by the Commissioners of Public Works to refer to your letter of the 11th instant, on the subject of the new Royal College of Science, and in reply to inform you that the resolution which accompanied your letter of the 4th July last will be borne in mind when the stone to be used in the new building is being determined.

With regard to your inquiry relative to the commencement of the erection of the college, I am to state that the removal of the old buildings and the excavation of the site have been completed. A tender for building the foundations has also been accepted, and this work is now in progress. The remaining work will proceed without unnecessary delay. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

GEO. E. SHANAHAN, Assistant Secretary.

The Secretary, Irish Trades Union Congress, Parliamentary Committee, Dublin.

Your Committee have since learned that Irish stone will be very largely used in the erection of the College of Science, and that the undertaking given by the late Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Victor Cavendish), on the 10th May, 1905, that Irish labour would as far as possible be employed, will be observed. Your Committee urge upon the Stonecutters' Societies the desirability of making out a case for the transit of stone as evidence for the Canals Commission.

Sunday Labour.-The resolution condemning the unnecessary system of Sunday labour in the Hairdressing and other trades was in due course forwarded to Lord Avebury, whose Shops (Sunday Closing) Bill was at the time before the House of Lords; but on the 29th June last, their Lordships threw out the measure on second reading. Lord Avebury has, however, returned to the question, and has secured the appointment of a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons of the present Parliament to consider and take evidence as to the desirability of passing the Bill. Delegates from trades concerned should apply to be heard in favour of such an enactment.

The Poor Laws.—Some time before the close of the final Session of the last Parliament, Mr. Balfour announced his intention of appointing a Royal Commission to inquire into the working of the Poor Laws. Your Committee immediately made representations

that the interests of the workers should not be overlooked in the selection of the Commissioners and urging the appointment of a representative Irish Trade Unionist. Mr. Balfour replied as follows:—

10 Downing Street, Whitehall, S.W., September 16th, 1905.

Dear Sir—Mr. Balfour desires me to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which you have addressed to him on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress, with reference to the proposed Royal Commission on the Poor Law, and, in reply, to say that note has been made of the representation which it contains.—I remain, yours faithfully,

WILFRID M. SHORT.

E. L. Richardson, Esq.

When the Commission was subsequently constituted it was found that the workers were entirely ignored; an omission which the present Government have done something to rectify by the appointment of Mr. F. Chandler, J.P., General Secretary of the Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners; but Ireland is not in it.

Reciprocal Trades Unionism.—The resolution and instruction on this matter, which referred to working disagreements between the Typographical Societies of the Three Kingdoms, engaged the attention of your Committee; and after some correspondence had passed between your Secretary and the officials of the Societies concerned, the question was referred to a conference in Dublin at which your Secretary and Councillor Daly were present. The representative of the Scottish Typographical Association declined to attend; but the differences between the Dublin Society and the T.A. were, your Committee believe, amicably adjusted thereat.

Dublin Bricklayers' Lock-out.—In accordance with instructions your Committee sought an interview with the employers in June last, but beyond a courteous acknowledgment nothing further was heard from them. The dispute was subsequently settled by arbitration.

Miscellaneous Replies.—Formal acknowledgments of the receipt of letters covering resolutions have been received from the Home Secretary (Out-working in the Tailoring Trade, Overtime Schedule, Punishment for Breaches of the Factory Act, Night-work in Bakeries, Merchandise Marks Act, Coroners' Inquests); President Board of Trade (Railwaymens' Grievances); Chief Secretary (Housing Problem in Ireland, Magisterial Investigation in Labour Cases, Private Bill Legislation); Sir H. Plunkett (Railway and Canal Rates) and from the County Councils General Council (Public Contracts and Foreign Manufacture, Fair Wages Resolution, Sanitary and Water Inspectors, and Municipal Workshops); the Industrial Development Association (Importation), and the Institute of Architects (Subletting Plastering Work).

Royal Commission and Select Committees.—Your Committee report that the Government have appointed a Royal Commission on Canals and Inland Waterways; a Select Committee to examine and test appliances designed to diminish danger to men employed in railway service, on which Mr. Richard Bell, M.P., has a seat; and a Select Committee to inquire into the Housing of the Working Classes, of which Mr. Laurence Ginnell, M.P. for North Westmeath, is a member. Your Committee have applied to be heard in regard to the latter subjects.

Dissolution of Parliament.—Parliament was dissolved on the 8th January, 1906, and on the 19th February the new Parliament was formally opened: the King in his Speech from the Throne promising that Bills would be submitted dealing with the law regulating Trade Disputes, amending the Workmen's Compensation Acts, the prevention of Plural Voting at Parliamentary elections and for amending the Unemployed Workmen Act, amending the Labourers' Act (Ireland). The three first-mentioned Bills are now in an advanced stage.

Deputation to the Chief Secretary.—At the earliest possible moment your Committee sought and obtained an interview with the new Chief Secretary for Ireland (The Right Hon. James Bryce). The day appointed for our interview was January 27th—the day after Mr. Bryce's re-election for Aberdeen. As may be observed from the following report, your Committee dealt with a great number of questions which from time to time engaged the attention of the Congress. Mr. Bryce's reply is set out in extenso:—

On Saturday afternoon, 27th January, 1906, at 3 o'clock, in the Council Chamber, Dublin Castle, a deputation from the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Congress waited upon the Chief Secretary, the Right Hon. James Bryce, M.P., for the purpose of laying before him their views on certain matters affecting the welfare of the workers.

The deputation consisted of Mr. Stephen Dinneen, Limerick, Chairman; Councillor McCarron, Londonderry, Vice-Chairman; Messrs. James Chambers, E. W. Stewart, Walter Hudson, M.P.; George Leahy, J. T. Duignan, and E. L.

hardson.

Sir Henry Robinson, Vice-President Local Government Board, was present.

Mr. Richardson said, as Secretary of the Committee, he had the honour to introduce the deputation. They represented between 70,000 and 80,000 of the organised workers of Ireland. Their Congress was formed some twelve years ago, and they appeared before him as the representative Minister of this country, and much in the same way as the representatives of the British Trades Union Congresses interview British Ministers they desired to address him (hear, hear). Each member of the deputation would now bring under the notice of the Chief Secretary the particular matter affecting his own trade. Mr. Dinneen, of the Bakers' Society, would be the first speaker.

would be the first speaker.

Mr. Dinneen said he wished to call attention to the question of night-work in bakehouses. In the first place, he had to complain of the way in which this question was treated by Resident Magistrates. Under the 1st and 2nd Victoria, Chapter 20, and Section 13, bakers were forbidden to work at their trade on the Lord's Day. They had tested the matter on three separate occasions—one in Waterford and two in Limerick. The Resident Magistrate in Waterford before whom the case was

brought described the Act as an absurdity. If any of the workers were being tried under an Act of Edward III, or George, these Acts would not be described as absurdities at all. In one of the cases in Limerick the man was fined 5s., and in the second the magistrate dismissed the case. With regard to the Inspectors, they had to complain that in some cases there was no supervision, and in others there was great laxity in the inspection as regarded sanitation and accommodation. He knew one case where a boy was working under age. According to the Act of Parliament, no boy under 18 years of age should be allowed to work at the trade. This boy under 18 was found at work, and forsooth because the employer wrote to the Chief Inspector crying peccavi the prosecution was withdrawn. They had a Bill in 1890, backed up by Mr. John Burns, to abolish night-work altogether.

Mr. McCarron, T.C., Londonderry, said he desired to call attention to the fact that the number of Factory Inspectors was not at all adequate to cope with the

amount of work. There were 160 Inspectors and 30 assistants.

The Chief Secretary—Are you speaking of the Three Kingdoms or of Ireland?
Mr. McCarron—I am speaking of the Three Kingdoms, and this number of inspectors have to look after four millions of workers. It was impossible for such a small number of inspectors to do the work. With regard to the tailoring trade in Dublin, for instance, there was a great amount of out work done in the domestic workshops which the factory inspectors are incapable of dealing with.

The Chief Secretary—Do you suggest that they have not enough power or that

there is not enough of them?

Mr. McCarron-They have not enough statutory power and there is not enough of them. The only way to procure proper inspection, so far as the tailoring trade was concerned, was to compel the employer to provide workshop accommodation for every one of his employes. Tailoring was the only trade where workshop accomodation was not provided by the employers. In the engineering and shipbuilding trades workshops had to be provided and any amount of accommodation. In the tailoring trade people were allowed to carry the work home and make it up under the most unfavourable conditions. In many cases it was known that disease raged in the houses where the work was made up, and to prevent the sanitary authorities having the dwellinghouses scheduled as being unsanitary the people did not notify the outbreak of disease, with the result that disease was spread through the city.

The Chief Secretary-Through the clothing?

Mr. McCarron-Yes; there was a certain Parliamentary candidate who came forward in Dublin one time. He gave a coat to be made. It was taken to a certain house and there was smallpox in that very house at the time. More inspectors should be appointed from the ranks of the workers.

The Chief Secretary—There are sub-inspectors now taken from the workers.

Mr. McCarron said yes; but a great many were not taken from the workers.

The best possible inspectors would be people who understood the work. Then, again, the Parliamentary clause was not adhered to. Some adequate notice ought to be given to the workers when the work was to be reduced. But, of course, the most important point was the impossibility of the inspectors to look after the interests of four millions of people employed in the Three Kingdoms-

The Chief Secretary—How many inspectors have you in Ireland?

Mr. McCarron said he could not tell at the moment. The next question to which he wished to direct attention was the hardship of having to go over to London for the promotion of private Bills in Parliament. That involved an

enormous lot of unnecessary expenditure.

The Chief Secretary—I am well aware of that. We have special Private Bill Legislation in the case of Scotland.

Mr. McCarron—Yes; we want somewhat the same provision as Scotland. would save a lot of money uselessly spent in London, and it would at the same time circulate more money in Ireland.

The Chief Secretary-You would not be satisfied with the Scotch system

mutatis mutandis?

Mr. McCarron-Something like it. We hope before the present Government is long in office we will get something in Ireland which will enable us to do even more than to promote private Bills.

Mr. Chambers said the grievance which he desired to bring under the observation of the Chief Secretary was one of long standing -that was the persistent refusal by the War Office authorities to comply with the claim put forward by the Irish workers for the establishment of a Receiving Depot for Irish-made goods, and also the extension on a small scale of the Ordnance workshop system to Ireland. The Irish Trades Union Congress had been hammering at this question for many years, and the question had been raised repeatedly in Parliament. The War Office always replied with a heavy discharge of excuses. In the Ordnance workshops in Woolwich there was a large number of civilian tradesmen of various crafts employed in the construction and repair of army supplies. In the Ordnance workshop at Island Bridge there were only four civilian tradesmen employed—one blacksmith, two carpenters, and one engine-driver. During the South African war it was hoped that the people at the War Office had determined to treat the Dublin workingmen fairly by giving them employment offering to civilian tradesmen. No doubt, during the war a good many were kept at work at Island Bridge, but the moment the war ended they were fired out. It was clearly established that the civilian tradesmen at Island Bridge were able to do the work more economically, more efficiently, and more expeditiously than the unskilled army men who replaced them. The Duke of Connaught, when Commander-in-Chief in Ireland, was examined before the War Office Commission, and he recommended that the Irish Ordnance workshop should be allowed to manufacture everything they could, nothing came of that recommendation of his Royal Highness. With regard to the need of a Receiving Depot in Ireland, it was only fair to Irish contractors that there should be some place in Ireland where their work could be examined, instead of being put to the cost of sending it to Woolwich for examination. That grievance could be met by the appointment of an official examiner for Ireland, and that fact alone would be a great inducement to Irish manufacturers to tender more largely for army contracts. In considering these matters it ought to be borne in mind that over-taxed Ireland had to pay heavily for the upkeep of the army.

Mr. Stewart said he desired to lay before the Chief Secretary some matters more directly affecting a section of the workers who had hitherto obtained very slight legislative attention; he referred to the shop assistants. Their most immediate trouble lay in the excessive, from the health point of view, and unnecessary, from a public convenience aspect, long hours of employment they had to endure. No adquate remedy for these admittedly bad conditions could be found except in legislative restriction of the hours of employment. The body which he represented, numbering close on 20,000 shop assistants, had repeatedly appealed to the Trades Congress, as a representative of the great bulk of working class opinion, and it had as repeatedly endorsed their claim for a compulsory measure of early closing. The Shop Hours Act of 1904, which was enacted as a result of a House of Lords' Committee's report on the subject, in principle recognised the evil, but in practice utterly failed to even partially deal with it. It suffered from the defects of being a measure requiring involuntary effort to enforce, and was so cumbersome in procedure as almost to deter any local authority from making the effort to operate it. He hoped the new Parliament would amend this condition of affairs. Another pressing evil affecting shop-workers was the system of "living-in" or payment in "truck" instead of current coin. This system was unfair and oppressive, and not only deprived the shop-worker of the personal liberty which the spirit of the age demanded; it nearly always deprives him of the electoral rights of citizenship, and also, perhaps, more often than otherwise allowed him to be cheated by firms making a profit on the "truck" instead of spending the amount charged to him as wages

on his maintenance-The Chief Secretary-You mean the system whereby the assistant resides in

the shop instead of private lodgings.

Mr. Stewart-Yes; in other words he is paid in "truck." The Truck Acts have abolished this refarious system in other lines of employment. He suggested their extension so as to cover shop assistants.

One other point he desired to mention was the growing practice of Sunday trading. In Ireland it had not yet grown to an extensive evil in most lines, and they did not want it to do so. There were two notable. notable exceptions -- in the tobacco and the hairdressing shops where the assistants in Dublin, especially, had to do an enormous amount of Sunday workChief Secretary—You would like to prohibit the hairdressing and tobacconists' shops being open at all on a Sunday?

Mr. Stewart-Yes; there is a tendency to open shops, such as small drapery

shops in some quarters-

Chief Secretary-In Ireland? There is no such tendency in Scotland or England.

Mr. Stewart—In some very good districts there is an occasional shop open; they are not many, and I don't make much point of it. In Belfast (continued Mr. Stewart) he was glad to say, as far as the hairdressing trade was concerned, the practice did not exist, only very slightly so. Its existence in other places was more a matter of careless custom rather than public convenience or necessity. To meet this evil they suggested the adoption of some measure on the lines of the Sunday Trading Bill introduced by Lord Avebury in the last Parliamentary Session. That Bill was intended to prohibit all Sunday trading.

Mr. Hudson, M.P., desired to say a few words in reference to the just claims of

the railway workers.

Mr. Bryce-I am familiar with the Railway Acts and the points with reference

to the shortening of hours, &c.

Mr. Hudson said he would be very brief and refer only to one or two points. As to the Railway Hours Act, 1893, and the Railway Regulation Act, they found that the procedure was exceedingly slow so far as reports were concerned, and they had come to the conclusion that the representations made under the Act did not receive the attention they deserved. Too long a period existed between the report and the making of any decision. He instanced cases in Ireland in which a report to the Board of Trade was not answered for twelve months. Sometimes when an improvement was effected for a month or so a relapse took place to the old condition or worse, and this kind of thing discouraged the men from making representations under the Act, so little benefit accrued. They suggested that the Act should be so amended as to compel the companies to make returns of all hours worked over twelve per day. In France they were insisted on; and they would further urge that the onus of complaint should be removed from the shoulders of the men who were actually working. It was not an unknown thing that men were actually intimidated from making complaints, and the onus should really be removed to the State Department, who should have inquiries made by competent men with technical knowledge of the work of Sub-Inspectors of the Board of Trade. Next, as to the Railway Regulation Act, '71, he pointed out that a Railway company not reporting an accident to an employe was liable to prosecution; but he quoted a case that occurred in November, 1901, in which a guard's van at Monasterevan rolled over an embankment, but it was never reported to the Board of Trade or included in the official returns of accidents. A question was put to the President of the Board of Trade asking would they prosecute for the non-reporting, but it was pointed out that they did not take the responsibility of complaining, and that the individual who complained should report and prosecute. They considered that it was the duty of the Board of Trade. There was another point the deputation wished to bring forward, and that was as to the right of representation at coroners' inquiries. On one or two occasions a Bill on the subject was introduced, but it never went into Committee. During the time of their late General Secretary they asked for an alteration in the law, and that a right should be given for their appearance at such inquiries as representing the next-ofkin, and to bring out the various technicalities for the benefit of the industrial classes and the prevention of further accidents as far as possible, especially in country districts.

Mr. Bryce-That rests at the discretion of the coroner, does it not? And I do

not see why he should refuse.

Mr. Hudson—Yes, no doubt, and in many cases certainly, in Dublin and Belfast and elsewhere, there has not been the slightest objection. But there are places where the objection has been raised. Solicitors objected, and generally the objection was allowed.—

The Chief Secretary-To your appearing for the next-of-kin or on behalf of the

trade :

Mr. Hudson-The next-of-kin. There was another point he was requested to

bring before his notice-namely, the question as to the railway and canal rates in this country, which operated very much to the disadvantage of the trade, especially the stone trade—rough and dressed stone. Something undoubtedly was required to be done in respect to these canal rates, which acted seriously to the detriment of the development of trade in the country, imported goods having the advantage over local.

Mr. George Leahy said he desired to draw attention to the important question of the housing of the working classes. During the Session of 1903 an Act was passed dealing with this question in England, and at that time Mr. Wyndham promised to the Irish Party that legislation would be brought in dealing with Ireland. On the 23rd February, 1904, a petition was presented to the House, and Mr. Wyndham promised that legislation would follow, and this question was so important that they desired most strongly to be placed on an equality with their English brethren. On the other side of the water suitable dwellings at cheap rents were available. Here it was not so. Under the tenement system the rents charged were above the means of the average workingman. The tenement system was in fact mostly degrading and demoralising. Early last session Mr. Nannetti, the member for College Green Division, brought in a measure which fully dealt with the subject, and as drafted covered all the ground, but whether from pressure of business or for some other cause, it never went beyond the first reading. He felt quite sure that Mr. Nannetti would again introduce the Bill, and that the new Liberal Government would adopt the measure. The question of borrowing powers under the Housing of the Working Classes Act was one of much importance, especially as they were so often met with the objection by the local authorities that their borrowing powers were exhausted.

Mr. Bryce How would you propose to prevent the local authority in such a case becoming bankrupt, if, as you say, their borrowing powers were exhausted?

Mr. Leahy-But that would not occur under the Housing of the Working

Classes Act, for it is remunerative to build dwellings for workers.

Mr. Bryce-But suppose they had borrowed for other purposes nearly to the extent of their powers that the rates would bear, would it be right to borrow more? Mr. Leahy-Well, that is just what they say.

Mr. Bryce-And as a man of business would not that aspect present itself to

your mind?

Mr. Leahy-At any rate, we only want to be placed on an equality with our

English brethren.

Mr. Duignan said he desired to refer to the Merchandise Marks Acts as connected with Ireland, and particularly the bottlemaking trade. The various articles should show where they came from. A great many bottles were used in Ireland for medicine, for instance-

Mr. Bryce-Yes, and for other things, also (laughter).

Mr. Duignan—Yes, and whatever the purpose to which they were applied, the trade should, as far as possible, be kept at home. Large consignments came in canvas bags or wooden cases which were marked "Made in Germany," or Vienna, and when the came in the canvas bags or wooden cases which were marked "Made in Germany," or Vienna, and when the came in the canvas is the canvas and when the canvas is the canvas and when the canvas is the canvas in the canvas is the canvas in the and when the contents of these cases were put out on the market no one could tell where they came from.

Mr. Bryce-You would like to have each bottle definitely marked?

Mr. Duignan-Yes; in Dublin the bottles manufactured had a distinctive mark, and they knew by it where they were made; but the name was in such a place that very few noticed it-namely, on the bottom of the bottle.

Mr. Bryce-In fact you must finish the bottle before you find it (laughter). Mr. Duignan—That is so (laughter). He contended that the Merchandise Marks Act ought to be extended so as to make each article be marked. In the brass trade articles came over with the name on them, but that was filed off by the distributors. They should not be permitted to interfere with the original marks, Finally, he urged that regulations should be enforced making it compulsory that persons in charge of steam boilers should hold certificates of competency.

Mr. Bryce—I think you are quite right in that.

Mr. Richardson said now that all the other members of the deputation had spoken he desired to say a few words. In the King's Speech of last session three

matters were mentioned as likely to receive attention—(1) The question of the unemployed; (2) the improving of the status of the Board of Trade and the establishing of a Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and (3) the Workmen's Compensation Bill. It was to be hoped that the present Government would take these questions up where the last Government had left off and carry them into effect. The workers had shown at all events during the present elections that they would like some consideration to be paid to their grievances, and he (Mr. Richardson) was sure that the establishment of a Ministry of Commerce and Industry would be a great advantage and would be of great benefit to Ireland. With regard to the Workmen's Compensation Acts, he happened to be one of the witnesses examined before the Departmental Committee some years ago, and while they all believed the findings of that Committee were excellent, the Bill introduced last year was not all the Departmental Committee desired. For instance, the proposal was very objectionable that provided that notice of an accident must be sent to the employer within six days, that a claim be made within three months, and that proceedings to enforce the claim must be commenced within three months after the claim has been made. At the present time a notice of the accident should be made "as soon as practicable" after the accident, and a claim must be made within six months. It would thus be seen that the Bill seeks to impose grave limitations which would menace the rights of injured workmen under certain circumstances. Another bad proposal was to allow a workman over sixty years of age to contract out of the full provisions and benefits of the Act, and agree to accept smaller sums than hitherto. It was easy to understand how an unscrupulous employer might work that to his advantage.

The Chief Secretary-That was intended, I presume, to make it possible for people over sixty years of age to get employment. That was a desirable object in

Mr. Richardson-Yes, sir; but unfortunately the way it was provided in the Bill would leave it open to an unscrupulous employer to take an unfair advantage. The Chief Secretary—It would be very undesirable to old people that they should not get work after reaching sixty years of age.

Mr. Richardson-It is often the case that a man at sixty is as good as a man of forty. The Chief Secretary-I know people over sixty that did a great deal of hard

work, including the last Prime Minister but three. He did good work at eighty-five. Mr. Richardson-Yes, but a man is here made to accept such terms as the

employer would impose.

The Chief Secretary-But a man at sixty might not be as efficient. I am not

saying the proposal in the Bill was right.

Mr. Richardson—Another unfair proposal was that the lump sum paid in re-demption of a weekly payment shall not exceed £500. There had been no limit formerly. The proposal that in case an injured workman was only able to obtain work at a less rate of pay to that he received prior to the accident, the maximum weekly compensation he should receive should not exceed 50 per cent. of the difference was also unfair. Hitherto that was left to the discretion of the judge. Continuing, Mr. Richardson suggested a series of amendments, amongst which was the inclusion of all workmen within the Act, and several others dealing with the question of compensation.

The Chief Secretary, in reply, said-Gentlemen, I am glad to have had the pleasure of meeting you. I acknowledge not only the great care with which each of you have stated the points which you wished to bring before me, but also the moderate tone of your disposition to endeavour to effect your objects in a most practical and reasonable way. You have raised a very large number of topics, so large a number of topics, indeed, that I am afraid that within the limits of my time it would be impossible to deal with all with anything like fulness, especially as many of them are very difficult and intricate. I may further observe that all the points you have raised, almost without exception, I think, are points which belong to some department of the Executive Government other than that with which I have the honour to deal, and in reference to which, speaking broadly, legislation would probably be uniform for the whole United Kingdom, because it is desirable that in matters of labour and trade legislation should, as far as possible, be uniform for the whole of the United Kingdom. Therefore, you will easily understand that I cannot speak very positively as to the course which his Majesty's Government will take upon those questions which belong to the Departments of my colleagues without consultation with them. I can, however, indicate generally the views which I think will be taken by the Government on these matters. I begin with the last subject which was raised—that was the working of the Workmen Compensation Act. There can be no doubt that Act requires improvement in many points. I believe it should be extended—in fact, I think it should be extended to seamen, and a good many other improvements made to it-but without having the report of the Departmental Committee before me, I can hardly express any opinion on what the nature of these amendments should be. However, I am quite sure it will be easy for the Government to deal with the question as soon as possible, but I cannot say if time will be found for it in the next Session. I hardly hope so. I am sure it is a question of importance, and there has already been much litigation about it, so that it would be very desirable to simplify the Act, and thus avoid the loss of money that has arisen owing to the expenditure on legal fees and other matters-expenditure which might be no gain directly to the workingmen. As regards the question of a Minister of Industry, I have no doubt the Government would be anxious to deal with the point you have raised. I regret very much that a Bill which the late Government brought in was not passed, but I hope that one will be passed as soon as possible. You are, of course, aware that the Ministers of the Board of Trade and the Home Office between them are practically a Ministry of Commerce and Industry, but it is a considerable inconvenience, no doubt, that the functions of the two Departments should be separated. Doubtless the raising of the Board of Trade to a first-class office would contribute to the enlargement of its functions, and give it greater importance in the eyes of the country, and I think that ought to be done. As regards the Unemployed Act, no doubt it was passed in a very inadequate and unsatisfactory way, but it raises a question of the greatest possible difficulty. I do not despair myself of seeing something done in various ways, but I do not think it would be possible for us to make the provision of work an Imperial charge, because that would practically mean an undertaking on the part of the State to provide work for everybody, and I do not think the State could possibly undertake it, for it would really mean taxing people who are working themselves, and who, perhaps, are on the verge of poverty, for the benefit of those who might not be so industrious. Having said that, I may say also that I do not think it was a measure which would considerably diminish unemployment. It might possibly provide kinds of public works which would possibly be available for the unemployed, and I have hopes that that may be done. As regards steam boilers and persons in charge, that, I think, is a Bill which is much needed. We carried it in the House of Commons two or three times, I spoke on its behalf two or three times, and I should hope it may be passed. As to the baking houses, I have no doubt there is a special case for bakehouses, and that some special legislation is needed for their benefit, and I hope the subject will have attention. Similarly there are many points in the Factory Acts which may be amended, and as soon as time can be found it is desirable to frame an Amending Bill taking up the different points. You think there ought to be more inspectors. There are a good many sub-inspectors. The number of applications for such offices that pass through my hands is very large, and if they are not enough there ought to be more. I assent to what you say as to the danger of spreading disease by the manufacture of clothing in insanitary houses, but I am not sure I would go so far as to interdict workmen from working at home, nor do I think the gentleman who mentioned this matter said so; nor do I think that the gentleman who objected to the shop assistants living in the houses of their employers objected altogether to that system. I have known cases of employers who provided better housing for their employes than they could possibly have obtained outside, and many advantages which they otherwise would not have obtained. At the same time I am quite prepared to believe there are cases in which there are serious abuses, and I have no doubt they ought to be dealt with. This is a matter which belongs specially to the Home Office, but I will convey to the Home Secretary what you have said upon the housing question. If there are any other points which arise in Ireland, and which are not equally well known to the Home Office in Eugland, I shall be very happy to indicate them to the Home Office when they proceed to prepare a Bill on this subject. I come next to the subject of Private Bill legislation. I think it is very desirable you should have the means of dealing with Private Bills in Ireland similar to the Scotch system. There is another class of society not represented here to-day, and which is not always so popular with other classes in the community—I think undeservedly so, for I believe it myself to be a deserving class—which would benefit by Private Bills being tried in Ireland, and that is the legal profession.

Mr. Richardson-That would be one of the steps to the "larger measure."

The Chief Secretary-That is not one of the questions which you have raised, and it is not a question which I can deal with now. There are great disadvantages in taking Bills all the way from here to Westminster. The only people who like it are, perhaps, those who are paid as witnesses, who go over there and have a good time in London (laughter). It would have the effect of cheapening the expense of promoting Private Bills. I am with you on that. As to the ordnance factories, this is a matter not especially within my knowledge, but I will convey to the War Office what you have said about them. Then about the purchase of army stores in Ireland. That is really a most difficult question, as to what regulations you ought to make about purchase. Speaking generally, it is to the interest of the whole community to make a purchase in the cheapest market, and wherever a purchase can be made giving equal justice to all parts of the United Kingdom without imposing an unreasonable charge on the Treasury we might reasonably ask in that that Ireland should be fully considered; but, of course, where the stuff was wanted in Ireland it would be a saving to have it purchased here. I will be very glad to represent your views on that subject. Similarly with regard to the arrangements for inspection in Dublin. As regards the Shop Hours Bill, the subject has been very much debated in the House of Commons. We have had a Bill every Session that Lear represents. that I can remember. There has usually been a majority in favour of it, and my impression is that the Bill generally gets lost in the House of Lords, and that is the reason why more has not been done. I am sorry you think there has been an increase in Sunday trading. I should not have thought that there was in England or Scotland. I am sorry to hear that there has been so here. It is certainly very much in the interests of everybody that one day in seven should be absolutely free from every kind of work, and you have all our sympathies in that. As regards the railway questions, mentioned by Mr. Hudson, they are of considerable importance, and there is another one which he did not refer to—that is about automatic couplings. I don't know whether I may take it from you that you are satisfied with what has been done for the prevention of accidents by the automatic couplings.

Mr. Hudson—I am very glad, sir, that if you have anything at all upon your mind that you should have mentioned that. I was one of the Commission for the Prevention of Railway Accidents for 1900, and we are not exactly satisfied with the administration, as far as it has gone. I do not think I would be going too far if I was to say that a Committee of the Commission, upon which I sat, upon inventions also recommended that there should be an exhibition of the whole of the inventions that had been produced, and that we should have them tested under ordinary circumstances on full sized carriages, but nothing whatever was done, and we are really at

a deadlock on the brake question.

The Chief Secretary—I hope we shall try to put pressure on to get it settled. The reason why the Board of Trade are not acting more strongly is because their statutory powers are rather limited. I am not sure whether of late years a little more might not have been done. My recollection of the debates we had in the House of Commons when Mr. Bell brought the question up, was that the House was of opinion that something ought to be done, and I think on one occasion we put the Government in a minority upon the subject.

Mr. Hudson-That is so.

The Chief Secretary—Similarly with regard to the reporting of accidents. It is new to me that the railway companies neglect to report accidents. I thought they were bound to do so, and, of course, if they don't do so, then there is a dereliction of duty. As regards the representation at coroner's inquests, I don't see there is any reason why the next-of-kin should not be allowed to appear there.

think instructions to the coroners would probably be enough for that purpose. As regards the railway and canal rates, that is a question of the greatest possible difficulty and importance. The House of Commons made a tremendous effort to grapple with that question about 1891-92, and the rates were brought down to some extent. I think it is very likely that the rates upon stone are too heavy, and the rates altogether are a serious question. I think that is one of the gravest questions in the industrial interests of Ireland. I propose to address myself to it as soon as I can find time and see what can be done. I am not altogether without hope that we may make the canals more valuable and may do something to cheapen the transport of heavy materials like stone. One way or another the question of railway rates and transportation in Ireland is one of the most important question that affects the material welfare of the country, and something ought to be done. As regards the housing of the poor, I interposed a question to Mr. Leahy on the subject with regard to the question of rates. We must bear this in mind; you know you cannot have local bodies becoming bankrupt, and you cannot undertake to provide houses for one part of the community at the expense of another, that is to say your housing projects must always be limited by making them pay their own cost. I don't understand any of you to suggest that people should be housed below cost price at the expense of the rates. My hope is that something may be done to cheapen the procedure by which the housing is done. I believe that the Local Government Board entertain a hope that the proceedings with regard to housing, both in town and country, may be considerably cheapened, and in that way local authorities may be encouraged to make more rapid progress in regard to the proper housing. subject is one of the greatest possible importance, and his Majesty's Government intend to deal with it, and when we deal with it in England and Scotland, we shall deal with it in Ireland also. You know that the Merchandise Marks Act has had a very curious history. It was passed in order to benefit the home trade by making people buy articles that were made in Great Britain and Ireland as opposed to the articles made abroad, and it was supposed that if an article was marked "Made in Germany" every patriotic individual would prefer to buy a home-made article, but that did not turn out to be true; the people preferred the cheaper article, although there might be a British article in competition with it. But there was a further result, that when the foreigner discovered that there was an article imported from this country, although "Made in Germany," he, instead of coming to the British Islands for his goods, and giving us, at all events, the handling of the goods for export, went straight to Germany, and it turns out that the Merchandise Marks Act has been the means of benefiting Germany instead of England, and consequently that the promoters of that Act, notably a prominent Protectionist, the member for Sheffield, brought in a Bill to remedy that by an Act which was never passed. I noticed what was said by Mr. Duignan on the subject of bottles, and I think that his view is that if the bottle was marked as made in Ireland it would have a great preference over the foreign bottle. I am bound to say the experience we have had of the Merchandise Marks Act does not prove that. The article made in Germany sells just as well as the article made here.

Mr. Duignan - In the case of bottles, it is not so.

The Chief Secretary—It may not be; bottles may touch men's hearts more than other things (laughter). But I will take a note of your suggestion, and if the Merchandise Marks Act is dealt with—it is not within my Department—I will see that your suggestion is properly considered. I don't see that it will be possible to restrict it to one article only.

Mr. Duignan-All articles; I only mentioned that one.

Mr. Stewart-In Ireland preference is given to the Irish article.

The Chief Secretary—Then you are more patriotic in Ireland than in England. I have tried to deal with all the matters that you have mentioned, and I may say that they will all have my attention. Those I feel I can usefully bring before my colleagues shall, of course, be submitted to them, and if there is anything which you, as Irishmen, feel in any of these matters, especially on Irish questions, more likely to escape the notice of the Home Office in England, you will let me know of them, and I shall be very happy to see that full justice is done to any plans or

wishes which any of your unions in Ireland or anyone connected with Irish industries, shall wish to bring before me.

Mr. M'Carron, on behalf of the deputation, thanked the Chief Secretary, and

the deputation withdrew.

Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905.—So far as Ireland is concerned, your Committee have only to remark that this Act is practically non-existent; and were it not for the Fund promoted by the Queen in London, the measure would have proved absolutely abortive all over Great Britain. You will be asked to express your dissatisfaction, and to demand an effective remedy.

Trades Disputes—Workmen's Compensation.—Your Committee having carefully considered the Bills before Parliament dealing with Trades Disputes and Workmen's Compensation, adopted the following resolutions at their meeting on the 5th April, copies of which were forwarded to the Prime Minister, and the Secretaries of the Irish and Labour parties:—

"That this Committee, acting for the organised workers of Ireland, having considered the provisions of the Trades Disputes Bill and the Workmen's Compensation Bill, Resolved:—

"TRADES DISPUTES.

"That no measure of relief from the effects of the Taff Vale and other judicial decisions can be regarded as satisfactory which leaves the funds of trade unions open to claims for damages for the acts of individuals, and that consequently the Government's Trades Union and Trades Dispute Bill, introduced by the Attorney-General on the 28th ulto., is, on this point, wholly unacceptable; that, as the Bill promoted by the Labour Party passed second reading stage three times, and recognises equal treatment for employers and employed before the law, it is desirable that facilities should be afforded for its enactment during the present Session.

"And resolved :-

"WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

"That while welcoming the Workmen's Compensation Bill as a decided advance in legislation for the better protection of the lives and limbs of wageworkers, the Committee declare that no measure of this class can be considered satisfactory—

"(1) That excludes from its provisions any workperson employed for profit

within the United Kingdom;

"(2) That fails to provide a scheme of compulsory State insurance for compen-

sation purposes;
"(3) That fails to provide for increased powers of factory and workshop

inspection by men of practical workshop experience.

"And, furthermore, this Committee urge the amendment of Sub-clause 2 (a) of Clause 1, to ensure the payment of compensation from date of accident; of Clause 13, to include shop assistants and clerks within the definition 'workman'; and of the third schedule, to include all dangerous trades; and the complete deletion of Sub-clause 2 (d) of Clause 1, which proposes to abolish existing rights by excluding (except under certain circumstances) all workmen in every employment where the number employed does not exceed five."

In regard to the Trades Disputes Bill, the Government have acknowledged the strength of the case for the protection of Trade Union funds by agreeing to accept the principle contended for by the Labour Party in this connexion. Your Committee also report

that up to the time of going to Press with this Report the Grand Committee on Law (by 30 votes to 21, on May 7th) reduced the period from which compensation for injuries shall be payable, under the New Compensation Bill, from seven days (as proposed) to three days; the existing law stipulates fourteen days; and (on May 10th, without a division) deleted from the Bill the obnoxious Clause 1 (2d.), referred to in the final paragraph of your Committee's resolution.

Notification of Accidents Bill.—This measure is a Government Bill and will likely become law this session. It proposes to carry out certain recommendations contained in the report of the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the notification of industrial accidents, in 1901, by altering the period of disablement which makes an accident reportable from three to one whole day's absence from ordinary work, and by increasing the penalty on employers for failure to so report from £5 to £10. It substitutes for section 19 of the Factory Act of 1901 detailed regulations for these The measure also deals with accidents in mines.

Steam Engines (Persons in Charge) Bill.—The second reading of this Bill was down for the 30th March, but owing to Mr. Hudson's Trades Disputes Bill being first on the order paper, and the debate thereon lasting to the hour for adjournment, it was shut out. It will, however, be seen from the report of the Chief Secretary's speech to your Committee that he has hopes that the Steam Engines (Persons in Charge) Bill will be passed by the present Parliament. Mr. Will Steadman has brought in a Bill for a similar purpose, which has obtained first reading.

Truck Act-Living-In.-Your Committee have pleasure in reporting that on the 9th of April the Home Secretary appointed a Committee to inquire into the working of the Truck Acts and Living-In. The Right Hon. Thomas Shaw, M.P., Lord Advocate for Scotland, is chairman of the Committee, and among the members are Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald, Labour M.P. for Leicester, and Mr. F. Madison, Labour M.P. for Burnley. The terms of reference are :-

"To inquire into the operation of the Truck Acts, and to consider and report what amendments or extensions of those Acts or changes in their administration are desirable; particularly whether fines and deductions from wages should be prohibited, and further to consider and report whether the practice of shop assistants and certain classes of work-people, being lodged and boarded by their employers, gives rise to abuses needing remedy by the extension of the Truck Acts or by other action of the State."

Your Committee immediately placed the resolutions of Congress before the chairman, with a request that evidence might be heard from the representatives of shop assistants in Ireland. The

Lord Advocate replied :-

Lord Advocate's Chambers, Edinburgh, 19th April, 1906. Sir-I am directed by the Lord Advocate to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 11th inst., with enclosure, and am to say that you may rely on their receiving his Lordship's careful consideration.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES G. MILLAR.

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

On the 27th March Mr. Seddon, M.P., asked the President of the L.G.B. whether he intended to seek powers by legislation or otherwise to apply the conditions of inspection for model lodging houses to premises where shop assistants were compelled to sleep in under the Living-in system. Mr. Burns, in reply, said he would take a note of the suggestion, so that it might be considered when a suitable opportunity presented itself for legislation on the subject; but he could not undertake to deal with the matter this session.

Hours of Labour (Bakehouses) Bill.—Mr. Wilkie, Labour member for Dundee, has, at the request of the Operative Bakers Associations, re-introduced this Bill, which limits the hours of labour in bakehouses to 48 per week; but your Committee regret to say there is no hope of its reaching the Statute Book this session.

State Aid for the Blind.—Mr. T. H. Sloan, M.P. for South Belfast, asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 27th March whether, in view of the report of the late Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the condition of the blind in the United Kingdom, and the recent report of the International Conference held in Edinburgh last year, he proposed to grant State aid for the education of the blind in Ireland; and, if so, when? Mr. Bryce, in replying, said the Government were considering the question of reintroducing the Irish Education (Afflicted Children) Bill, of last session, under which it was proposed to give State aid towards the education of blind, deaf and dumb, and other afflicted children. This Bill was introduced and read a first time on the 17th May. Mr. W. Steadman, M.P., on May 7th introduced a Bill having for its purpose the technical education, employment, and maintenance of the blind.

Merchandise Marks.—It having been suggested that "Made in Germany" and such like terms stamped upon articles made abroad, served rather as an advertisement for foreign manufactured goods, Sir Howard Vincent, M.P., has introduced a Bill to amend the Merchandise Marks Act by superseding the above-mentioned words by simply "Foreign Imported" or "Colonial," according to the circumstances of each case; but whether this amendment will serve to help Irish industry your Committee can express no opinion.

Feeding the Children.—One of the most important events of the Session, so far, has been the practical adoption of the Labour Party's Bill for feeding necessitous school children. The Bill, which is framed as an amendment to the Education Acts, provides that (a)

The local authority may feed children who, from insufficient food, cannot take full advantage of the education provided; (b) the cost, where desired, may be recovered from parents or guardians; (c) such feeding is not to be deemed parochial relief. There is every likelihood that this Bill will be passed this Session, and that Ireland may be included in its scope, but your Committee urge that the measure is too permissive in its terms; the "ifs" and "mays" should be strengthened.

Payment of Members and Election Expenses.—On the 6th March the House of Commons resolved unanimously that all official election expenses should be paid out of public funds. The Government in acquiescing, seemed to think the money should come out of the rates, but the Labour members insisted that it should come out of Imperial taxes. By a further vote on the 7th March the House resolved by a majority of 238 that members of Parliament should be paid £300 a year; but the Prime Minister said that the money could not be found for the present.

Old Age Pensions.—On the motion of Mr. James O'Grady, M.P. for Leeds, the House on the 14th March unanimously adopted a resolution in favour of universal Old Age Pensions. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, however, while declaring himself in favour, poured cold water on the proposal by stating that as he stood pledged to retrenchment there was no money for the purpose. So that, like the payment of members and election expenses, this desideratum is still in the initial stage. Your Committee, however, suggest that the various trades councils should impress upon the poor law boards in their respective districts the desirability of submitting to the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws evidence in favour of this measure of reform.

Shops Bill.—A Bill to amend the law relating to Shops, promoted by the Shop Assistants' Amalgamated Union, was introduced on the 25th April by Sir Charles Dilke. The measure, which is backed by Mr. Nannetti and Mr. Seddon, is intended to apply to Ireland, and is drawn on the same lines as the Bill of 1904. The first three clauses have, however, been modified in consequence of the passing of the Shop Hours Act, 1904. It proposes to amend the Shop Hours Act by compelling local authorities to make closing orders for their areas, while empowering them to refer to the rate-payers the question whether any order shall come into operation. The Bill determines the latest closing hours for each day which may be fixed, leaving the local authority free to distribute the particular closing hours over different days of the week.

The Vaccination Laws.—On the 25th April a motion was moved, but subsequently withdrawn, by Mr. Lupton, M.P. for Sleaford (Lincolnshire)—"That, in the opinion of this House, Vaccination ought no longer to be obligatory on those who regard it as useless

or dangerous"—the President of the Board of Trade undertaking to consider reforms:—(1) to reduce the cost of administration; (2) to amend the procedure for securing certificates of exemption; (3) to reduce the cost of a parent making the statutory declaration that he or she conscientiously objected; (4) to suspend Vaccination from early infancy to some later period; (5) to inquire into the general working of the Act; (6) to consider whether the administration of the Act should be transferred from Boards of Guardians to Health Authorities; and (7) to obtain uniformity in the infliction of fines.

Hours of Railwaymen.—A formal reply has hitherto been the result of your Committee's representations to the Board of Trade regarding the excessive hours of railwaymen. Last year, however, your Committee published in their Report a letter from the then President, in which he stated that he "could not undertake to introduce legislation to alter the law in the manner suggested." On Wednesday, May 16th, 1906, on the motion of Mr. Alden, the House of Commons agreed—"That the hours of railway servants are still in many cases excessive, notwithstanding the operation of the Hours Act of 1893, and call for stringent action by legislation and administration to secure their reduction to a reasonable standard." Mr. Walter Hudson, M.P., seconded the resolution. It will be your Committee's endeavour to help in giving practical effect to that motion.

All of which your Committee present as their report.

(Signed.)

STEPHEN DINNEEN, Chairman.

JAMES McCARRON, T.C., Vice-Chairman.

EDWARD W. STEWART, Treasurer.

JAMES CHAMBERS.
P. T. DALY, T.C.

WALTER HUDSON, M.P.

GEORGE LEAHY.

J. T. DUIGNAN.

E. L. RICHARDSON, Secretary.

Athlone, June 1st, 1906.

FIRST DAY.-Monday, 4th June, 1906.

The Thirteenth Annual Irish Trades Union Congress was opened on Monday, 4th June, 1906, in the Longworth Hall, Athlone.

The Congress was called to order at 12 o'clock by Councillor James McCarron (Londonderry), Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, who was supported on the platform by the Very Rev. Dr. Campbell, Dean of Clonmacnoise; the Very Rev. Father O'Farrell, Adm.; Rev. Father McManus, C.C.; Rev. Father Kennedy, C.C.; Rev Mr. Watson, Presbyterian Minister; Mr. R. Baile, M.A., J.P., Chairman Urban District Council; Mr. Wm. Smith, J.P.; Mr. Thomas Chapman, J.P., the members of the Urban District Council and the Congress Committee.

Telegrams were read from the Right Hon, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, regretting his inability to be present at the opening proceedings, but promising to attend later on; from Mr. B. Doyle, Dublin, wishing the Congress success; and letters from local

gentlemen regretting absence.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Trades Council and the Parliamentary Committee, welcomed the Congress to the old historic town of Athlone where they met that day in the interests of labour alone, and he hoped and trusted during the three days' discussions of various resolutions they should all remember that everything must be subservient to labour. Every man there was possessed of religious and political views-a man who has not religious or political views, if he made that statement or a statement in that direction, he would scarcely believe him-but they must not let religious or political views obtrude themselves on the Congress or on the status of labour and of workingmen in this country. In opposition to no one they were present for the purpose of trying to improve themselves. They recognised that under the present social system there must be capitalists, and they were not opposed to capitalists, but were there to devise means whereby they might get a fair share of the capital and wealth they helped to create. That was the only question they took up, and that was the position he hoped and trusted would be maintained. If a capable man-a leader in the movement, who represents the views of labour-puts forward the views of the workers, he should be respected, irrespective of his religious and political views. It was not his province to make speeches and would therefore conclude by calling on Mr. R. Baile, Chairman of the Urban Council, to address them.

Mr. R. Baile, M.A., who was received with loud applause, said, on behalf of the Urban Council and people of Athlone, he bade them welcome to that ancient and historic town, representing as they did, the Trades Unionists of Ireland. One could not shut his eyes to the fact that Trades Unionism had a good many enemies, a good many detractors, arising from the opinions formed of the actions of Trade Unionism at certain times, or in particular cases. He supposed the

strongest trade unionist would himself deplore the actions in certain instances, and would justify it only by calling it a desperate remedy for a desperate disease. Yet, after all, honestly, in this economic revolution, in the striving for liberty, and recognition for the rights of labour, was there any excess which did not find its parallel in other revolutions which had eventually issued in good for the people concerned? Trades Unionism was a power now. It had replaced much in the old order of things. It remained to be seen that while it was well to have a giant's strength, it was not always well to use it as a giant. He proceeded to urge that profit-sharing was the solution of the conflict between capital and labour; and he would ask them to recommend that the Bill for labourers' dwellings now before Parliament might be extended to urban districts such as theirs.

Very Rev. Father O'Farrell, Adm., said—I have very much pleasure in endorsing the eloquent speech of the worthy Chairman of our Urban Council, and I join with him in bidding you, gentlemen, a hearty welcome to Athlene. I hope your Congress will be a great success, and your deliberations fruitful in advancing by every legitimate means the cause of trade and labour in this country, and making your influence felt in the sister isles, and also trust you will have fine weather and a pleasant time during you stay in this historic old capital of the Midlands.

Very Rev. Dean Campbell, in the course of a neatly-worded address, said he had little expected to be called on to make a speech. He had intended to come merely as an interested listener. Mr. Baile had dealt so fully with the different questions to be discussed by the delegates that it was unnecessary for anyone else to say anything. He would, however, join with his rev. friend who had preceded him in wishing them all a hearty welcome. They in Athlone had an impression that their town is the hub of Ireland (applause). Some of his friends in the north-east corner of Ireland thought that the National centre of gravity lay there (laughter). In Athlone they had a different impression. In any case, Athlone occupied the central position in regard to a number of questions to which he could not refer. In Athlone they had solved one problem which he hoped would soon be solved throughout Ireland—they had learned to live in peace, love and harmony with all (loud applause). That goes a long way towards the solution of many questions in Ireland. He hoped that their deliberations would be marked by that sweet reasonableness which they were trying to cultivate in Athlone—the sweet reasonableness of consideration for others. There is an old passage in an old book, the name of which he would not mention, but which some of them would recognise: "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ" (loud applause).

The Rev. Mr. Watson contented himself with saying ditto to

what the other speakers had said.

Mr. William Smith, J.P., said-I am greatly delighted to see such a gathering of the representatives of the workingmen here today. I have been a workingman for the past fifty years. It is about that time since I commenced to work for three shillings a week. Whatever I have done since I have done myself (applause). I claim to be a workingman in the thorough sense of the word. As such I welcome you and speak to you. I rejoice at having seen the day which has put into our new Parliament a body of workingmen who will make it move (loud applause). I see that the workingmen are at the root of every movement in those kingdoms, and I am convinced they will make things hum (loud applause). I think we are at the beginning of a new era, and I believe that the laws which in the past have been made by the aristocracy will soon be reformed. I hope we will have a share of it here in Ireland (A voice, Home Rule). I believe that all our public bodies will be greatly increased in usefulness by the admission of working members (applause). Even here I have seen with great delight the action of the workingmen who have got into the Urban Council-I may say for only a year. They had already effected a great improvement. I was on the Council myself, and I saw nothing done for the workingman. If I only had a few of the present men at my back I think something would have been done. I only wish to add my hearty welcome to the Congress to Athlone, and to wish you all a profitable and pleasant time here (applause).

Rev. Father Kennedy said the Chairman had remarked that capital and labour are not opposed. This is very plain when we consider their mutual relations. Some people, however, think that the fruits of the toil should go to the labourer. To produce wealth, brains, capital and labour must be combined. The most any one person can expect is a fair share of the wealth produced. This is a good principle enunciated by the late Pope. Addressing the rich people of the world, he said, "Remember the workingman is your brother, and he is entitled to a fair share of the wealth which his labour helps to create." Mr. Baile had referred to the action of the Church in regard to the rights of labour. The Church holidays give the workingman a little breathing time in his labour, and nowa-days the labourer has certain specified days of rest, a thing which is very desirable. With regard to the constructive policy of building up the industries of this country, there is an absolute necessity to help on our manufactures, not only to strengthen the existing industries, but to create new ones. The late Lord Lieutenant said that if we could not make our own protective laws we could do a great deal by voluntary protection, by buying our own produce, when as good and as cheap as that of other countries. He hoped that the deliberations of the Congress would be fruitful of good results for the working classes of Ireland.

Mr. Thomas Chapman, J.P., said—I, too, have been taken somewhat at a disadvantage, as I had no idea I would be called on to

speak here to-day. Dean Campbell was in a similar plight, but unlike Dean Campbell, I have not the happy knack of extricating myself from difficulties (laughter). I am a bad public speaker, so you will forgive me if I am not able to express my thoughts as well as I would wish. Some years ago I thought it was possible to remedy this defect, under which I suffered, and I decided to take a trip to Cork (laughter). I went out to Blarney-kissed the Blarney stone, and came back under the impression that I was an orator. At the very first meeting I had to attend I thought out a very nice little speech, but when I came to deliver it I started at the end, continued in the middle, finished up with the commencement, and got hopelessly mixed up (laughter). At the same time, Mr. Chairman, I am able to say how pleased I am to take part in welcoming the members of the Congress here to-day. Like them, I am a worker, and the son of a worker. I came to Athlone a boy twenty years ago, and during that time I have worked as hard as anyone ever worked in his life. (A voice-Self-made man). I am still a worker, and I always take pleasure in associating with men who, like myself, are toilers. I have always tried to do what I could in treating men fairly, and in more recent years, when circumstances enabled me, I have aimed at making the condition of those working with me as pleasant as possible, and to pay them what they are entitled to, viz-a fair wage for the work done. In this direction, I have done some little; I hope to be able to do more. I join with the other speakers in wishing a very hearty welcome to the members of the Congress to this old town of Athlone. I am sure that outside your labours in this hall you will find many places of interest well worth visiting about Athlone (applause).

Mr. Walter Hudson, M.P., in moving that the best thanks of the Congress be accorded to the reverend gentlemen and the members of the Urban Council for their very hearty welcome to the delegates, said his task was an exceedingly pleasant one. As a Congress man of a number of years standing, and as a man with broad cosmopolitan views, he rejoiced to see Mr. Baile and the leading townsmen standing together on the same platform with the clergymen of all denominations (applause). They, as Trade Unionists, were desirous that men in every station of life should have an opportunity of expressing their views on the different industrial problems of the day. The magnificent address given by Mr. Baile had interested him exceedingly. He did not agree with its every particular, but he gave Mr. Baile the greatest credit for his expressions of opinion. Mr. Baile had not seen, as they had seen, the great industrial conflicts; he had not been in the heat of the strife for the upraising of the low-paid, down-trodden workers. His (Mr. Hudson's) duty was not, however, to criticise. He only had to give to Mr. Baile credit for the preparation of the fine address they had listened to. The rev. gentleman who followed pointed out that they were met in the hub of Ireland. If they could set the matter right on its axis in such a

place they might not fear for the industrial future of Ireland. On the platform they had a noble example of the townspeople and the clergy of all denominations working in amity for the general prosperity (hear, hear). This welcome accorded to the Congress, from every section of the Church, should be an encouragement to them to set about achieving the aims of the workers irrespective of creed or political feeling (applause). Mr. Smith, one of the industrial kings of Athlone, had foreshadowed great benefits from the turn of the political tide in England. Although he himself belonged to the Labour Party in the House of Commons he believed that their presence there is for the general well-being of the country (applause). Everyone in the three countries recognised that the change in the constitution of the people's Parliament was a beneficial one. They were trying to make it what it never was in the past, thoroughly representative of the people and the people's views (applause). asked the gathering to accord a hearty vote of thanks to the gentlemen who had come there to wish them God speed in the work of uplifting the workers-in the work of leaving the world better than they had found it.

Councillor P. T. Daly (Dublin), seconded the vote of thanks. He, too, tendered to Mr. Baile his appreciation of the eloquent address which he had delivered. In some respects he differed from Mr. Baile, and in some respects he agreed with him. Mr. Baile had dwelt on the necessity for education on economic questions. He thoroughly agreed with that. In that Congress they had men who to be allowed to labour had to serve seven or five long years at a starvation wage. They did not want to coerce, but they wanted it to be understood that they went into the market with their labour, demanding an equitable share of the fruits which it brought (applause). He was particularly pleased with the remarkably witty address of the Rev. Dean, and with the remarks made by the woollen king of Athlone (applause). It was a delight to him to know that a large employer of labour like Mr. Smith had found out that it is best for the community to have workingmen on the municipal bodies (applause). That indicated that their movement is bringing out master minds, and that their meetings, year after year, tend to educate, and to rub off the corners.

The motion was passed with acclamation, and the Chairman of

the Urban Council replied.

Mr. E. L. Richardson (Dublin) and Councillor M. J. Hughes (Athlone) were elected Secretaries to the Congress.

Messrs. John Moloney, H. Rochford and T. Milner were appointed tellers.

Messrs. John Murphy, P.L.G. (Belfast), John M'Mahon (Dublin), Martin Leahy, T.C. (Limerick), Patrick Lynch, P.L.G. (Cork), and Richard O'Keeffe (Dublin), were elected Standing Orders Committee.

Messrs. M. J. Keogh and A. Moore were appointed auditors.

On the motion of Councillor Barry (Athlone), seconded by Councillor Hughes,

Mr. Stephen Dinneen (Limerick) was unanimously chosen President of the Congress. On taking the chair, he delivered the following address:—

Fellow Delegates.—My first duty is to return you my sincere thanks for the great honour conferred by electing me President of the Thirteenth Annual Irish Trades Union Congress. I fully appreciate the responsibilities attaching to the position; but if you are as unanimous in your intentions to assist me during our deliberations as you have been in voting me to the chair, I shall have no doubt as to the result. It will be our business during this and the following days to carefully consider the various resolutions submitted. Most of them have a direct bearing on the lot of the worker, and should become law. That you desire this is evident from the words carefully appended to each proposition—"and the Parliamentary Committee be instructed" to do so-and-so; though I don't suppose any of you expect your Committee to bring about the millennium inside of twelve months.

In the few words I desire to address to you to-day I shall confine myself to the consideration of two or three of the problems that obtrude themselves as barriers in the path of social evolution and retard the moral, physical and intellectual development of the wage worker; and I shall be bold enough to suggest ways and means whereby these problems might be satisfactorily solved.

Ireland's present industrial condition and the future towards which she must look engross the interest and anxiety, not only of the majority of our fellow-countrymen, but even of the more thoughtful of our neighbours across the Channel. Ireland's chronic state of poverty, utter industrial stagnation and agricultural depression, may be traced back to two great and well-marked sources -a bad and unpatriotic system of government and a still more unpatriotic and rotten system of land tenure. Nevertheless, we are constantly told that any consideration of Ireland's present or future condition must have reference to the incorrigible laziness and unthriftiness of her people. The saving's bank returns for the current year-aye, and for many years back-give the lie to the allegation of unthriftiness; while the charge of laziness does not become those who have done their best to discourage and destroy Irish industry. So excellent were the manufactures of Ireland of years ago that they commanded a considerable sale in continental and English markets; and the fine, soft scarlet cloth of the Southern province was prized in Spain both for its texture and colour, and was worn by the monarch, the court and the grandees of that kingdom. But "I shall do all that in me lies to discourage the woollen manufacture in Ireland," said the Royal William, in reply to a resolution passed by the British Parliament, then dominated

by merchants imbued with illiberal trade jealousy. What happened to the woollen industry followed in most other branches of trade. And then we are charged with laziness. But Ireland is not yet destitute of the resources requisite for the revival of manufacturing industry. She possesses the physical elements of every important art. Her people are not devoid of natural genius. And with common fair treatment a number of the arts and industries which formerly thrived and won gain and fame for Ireland are susceptible of resuscitation.

The secret of industrial progress—a lesson that Ireland must learn and apply is "the respect for Labour"—that spirit which has made America the great industrial power she is, as was testified by the practical men who compiled the report of the "Mosely Labour Commission." This secret England learned and applied so far back as 1834. But we in Ireland have not heard for many and many a year the watchword of industrial progress. In the fever-struggle of the land and political agitation of a century that note of encouragement passed unheeded and unheard, with the result that Ireland's population has declined by over 4,000,000 since 1846.

The workers of Ireland-all that is left of them-must, however, realise that Acts of Parliament or policy of Government cannot present us with prosperity ready-made. Still more assuredly must they realise that a Government policy cannot re-establish what has been already destroyed in fact by legislation. Nevertheless, an intelligent and patriotic administration can do a great deal towards making easier the march of a nation towards that much-talked-of millennium. It is given to a country to work out its own industrial salvation. Who can show us an example of a people who suddenly awakened to find themselves great and happy without any exertions of their own? The truth, is, that the future of industrial Irelandhaving assuredly reached a point whence real progress towards prosperity may begin-rests wholly in the energy, self-reliance and self-respect of the people themselves. There is, I believe, at present hope for the attainment of a better spirit both between the different classes and parties in the country and in the temper and policy of the Government, and every prospect of the making of a truer and honester effort to realise some of the objects which go to make a country happy and prosperous.

"A country will be rich or poor," says Adam Smith, "in accordance with the intellectual industry of its people." The Church, the professions, and even the police have hitherto been looked upon as the only possible and sufficiently alluring occupations for the young men of Ireland. For those who did not adopt these callings there appeared no resource but to emigrate. Our system of education is entirely out of gear with the wants of the country. The colleges and schools teach pupils how men lived and worked three or four thousand years ago, but ignore the urgency of visible facts

and their relation to true industrial education. Owing mainly, if not entirely, to the want of practical, combined with sound literary, instruction, thousands of our fellow-workers have had to quit their own country equipped only for the rudest labour in other lands, whilst skilled workmen from Great Britain and elsewhere are able

to procure lucrative posts in Ireland.

Lecturing on "Science and Industry" in Dublin some years ago, the late Professor Fitzgerald observed :- "Why are we so far behind in Ireland? Is it the fault of the farmers, or of the industrial classes? No. It is the fault of our educational system. The National Board won't fix their primary curriculum to the needs of the age; the Intermediate Board won't allow boys in an agricultural country to learn botany; Trinity College won't allow students in their first years to learn experimental science for fear it might thereby encourage schools to teach scientific methods. How can we expect any other results when the educational machinery of the country is controlled by a lot of very worthy old book-worms, with more sympathy for the theory of equations and Greek verse than for the industrial welfare of Ireland? How can we expect anything else when Trinity College, that should be a source of light, deliberately tries to prevent schools from training the youth of the country in scientific habits, and when the Intermediate Board, with ample funds at their disposal, deliberately refuse to take steps to insure that the knowledge they reward is more than a mere cram of words. It is all very well to complain that the industrial classes are not industrious; that they are not cleanly; that they are fond of loafing. But if this is true, whose fault is it? It is the authorities of the University of Dublin; it is the Board of Intermediate Education; it is the Board of National Education; it is those gentry who think more of sport than of industry, who have left it to the nuns to teach people to clear away dirt from their houses and the manure-heap from their door-step. Awake! O, leaders and Press of Ireland, before it is too late-before the people of Ireland are swept away, like the Red Indian and the Maori, by the competition of a people with capable leaders. The people are starving for bread, and you have given them educational stones!" So wrote this Fellow of Trinity just ten years ago. Are we better off today? At the present time Parliament is in the throes of a contest with the churches on the question of educating the rising generation of Britons; and the Government is making great efforts to appease the wrath of one religious body by transferring its grievances on to the shoulders of another. It may be our turn next. There seems to be but two ways out of the difficulty. The State should confine itself to secular instruction, giving equal facilities to all denominations to provide the religious education which may be desired by parents for their children; or, the State should provide religious education for all, according to the wishes that may be expressed by parents. I believe the ultimate solution will be found in the former course. In either case, however, the demand

of the workers remains-that education-primary, intermediate, technical, and university-should be free to all. Of course, apostles of retrogression clamour against the cost, and brutally denounce the expenditure of money on the education of the brats of the multitude -never apprehending, or, if apprehending, never caring to admit, that education is a national asset, and that where the advantage falls the cost should lie. The increased efficiency of its units means the increased efficiency of the State, and the State should, therefore, bear the charge. The extended education of the child requires from the parents serious sacrifices, and rarely affords them any material advantages. The child and the State-the latter in the greatest degree-benefit by the additional training, and the State ought, without further delay, to take upon its shoulders the whole burden of secular education. One comprehensive measure, one comprehensive tax, and one administrative authority, is the ideal which trade unionists unhesitatingly seek to attain.

Any condition of society, no matter how produced, which prevents a healthy family life is destructive of humanity and should be resisted. The condition may be inherent in the system, it may be artificially created by legislation or judicial decisions. In either case, it is man's sacred duty to insist upon such changes or remedies as shall put within reach of the industrious father the power to bring up a family in health. One of the most difficult and overwhelming problems that faces us to-day is that which relates to the housing of the working classes. Acts of Parliament have, no doubt, conferred considerable powers on local authorities for dealing with the matter, which have in many instances been taken full advantage of. Others, however, have been deterred from promoting housing schemes because of the difficulties of erecting suitable dwellings without involving a charge upon the rates. Such a charge would be met by many objections. The worker, honestly struggling to pay the rent of his own house, might reasonably protest against being taxed to pay for the houses of others. The employer who pays fair wages might also object to contribute towards providing houses for the workers of another employer who does not pay a living wage, and might regard it as a form of subsidising sweating. And lastly, our friend, the landlord, would not be slow to tell us that when he pays the rates on his own property he has done enough, without any additional burden. That may be all very true, and yet it may be questioned whether, even from the standpoint of economy, a rate devoted to housing schemes would not be well spent. It might be the means of preventing or minimising those frequent epidemics which, in our large centres of population, cost so much, not in money alone, but in human life. "There is no wealth in life," says Ruskin. The wisest and truest economy is, therefore, that which promotes the health, and wellbeing, and longevity of the people; and the most wanton extravagance is that which contemplates the destruction of the

physical energy and moral fibre that is going on in our slums, with little or no attempt at alleviation. To enable local authorities to cope with this evil in an adequate manner they should be given power to compulsorily acquire land outside their boundaries at agricultural value, and the time of repayment of loans on lands and buildings should be largely extended. Decent houses provided in part at the public cost is no more Socialistic that the provision of primary education at the public expense, or feeding the poorer children attending school. The question is, whether the housing evil is of such magnitude that public money should be spent for the public good in abating it. Admittedly this is the case: then, there is no difference in principle between the community providing decent and sanitary house-accommodation out of rates or taxes for a class who are, from circumstances over which they have no control, incapable of helping themselves, and paying the landlords a bonus taken out of the taxpayers' pocket for selling their estates at more than their market value.

The fundamental principle of civilisation is that there is no property rights in man. A man's labour power is part of him. It fluctuates with his health, decreases when he grows old, and ceases at his death. It cannot be divorced from him, and, therefore, cannot be property. Property may be bought, sold, or destroyed, without destroying the possessor thereof; it is the product of labour or of nature. An individual, a firm, or a corporation, runs an enterprise for the production of some form of property. By grant or purchase, land is obtained. Upon the land buildings are erected and machinery is installed, and to the plant is brought the necessary raw material. These things are called property, and based upon its possession contracts are entered into to furnish within a given time a stated amount of commodities. By putting this property, so to speak, in pawn, money is borrowed to pay operating expenses. But without labour, these things will produce nothing. Labour is obtained and production begins. Being in business to make money, the firm or company first endeavours to find out how much of any given kind of work a man can do at his highest capacity. That becomes the standard of production. Wages are fixed on that basis. But production largely exceeds the demand, and wages accordingly start on the down grade, until the labour of the husband cannot sustain the family. The wife helps in any way she can, and the children are eventually pressed into service. After a time the husband is squeezed out by the compelling forces of the competitive system operating upon the younger members, perhaps, of his own family, and he joins the dismal ranks of the unemployed. 'Tis the inevitable result of our present-day industrialism.

"There is nothing more deplorable in our civilisation," writes a journalistic friend, "than the gaunt spectacle of living human material moving idly about, looking vacantly hither and thither, or standing in groups at some heard-of place of employment, 100 men

looking for one man's job." Yet, notwithstanding the hundreds of reports issued, the number of relief funds started, the thousands of speeches delivered, and the passing of an abortive Act of Parliament, the Unemployed Problem becomes daily more acute. The main cause which leads to numberless willing workers being worklessas must be evident to all familiar with the matter-is the absence of any attempt to place production and distribution on an organised basis. In place of this necessary organization there is gambling in futures, corners in the necessaries of life, rigging of markets, and continuous financial and political manipulation-all of which have as counters the lives and happiness of the common people. Added to this is to be remembered that the increased productivity of labour has been unaccompanied by any adequate general reduction in working hours, or a sufficient increase in remuneration. Labour in every industry is immeasurably more productive to-day than twenty, ten, or even five years ago-that is, immeasurably larger results are now obtained from the same working hours than five years ago, largely due to faster and better machinery. The hours of labour are, however, practically the same, and the remuneration is in many instances even less. The result is, therefore, obvious. Faster and better machinery working the same number of hours mean larger output and greater profits. But the workers, receiving no corresponding increase in wages, are unable to buy back as large a proportion of what they produce, hence over-production, or, as it has been described, under-consumption, with still lower wages and unemployment.

Another cause of much distress among certain classes of workers at stated periods is the practice followed by contractors, public and private, of refraining from putting work in hands during winter months. In almost every business, indoor or outdoor, there is a slackening down in winter. Bad light and weather both add largely to cost of production. But what can workmen do? They don't receive sufficient during summer to tide them over winter. It would surely be cheaper and better to spend, say, £5,000 for extra labour-cost in winter than spend a like sum in extra poor law relief. Public bodies, at least, should not indulge in this penny wise pound foolish policy of holding back work during winter months.

Perhaps the greatest difficulty in dealing with this problem is the severing of the willing workless worker from the loafer. As trade unionists we have nothing to say about the latter—our concern is the willing man. The distinguishing feature about the loafer is that he makes no provision either for unemployment or any other risk the worker runs. But the man who is deserving—the willing man, the thrifty man, and the man who is himself trying to meet unemployment—is the trade unionist. In my opinion a potent, albeit a partial, remedy lies in a shorter working day—a working day elastic enough to prevent chronic unemployment and rigid enough to prevent systematic overtime. I cannot admit the objection advanced, that this would reduce the earnings of those

employed. Everyone knows that the greatest lever for reducing wages is the men outside, not the men inside, the factory gates.

I believe there is a sufficiency of wealth. There is also a sufficiency of employment. The problem is to get the wealth into the hands of those who labour, and distribute the labour so that all shall do their share. What operates against this is the monopoly of land, whereby the unearned increment flows into the hands of the monopolists, and the tax levied by the owners of wealth-producing machines for their use. The residue falling to labour is minimised by the weak economic position that labour occupies, by large numbers being unemployed, unorganised, and thereby unable to resist the necessity of seeking work at an even lower rate than ordinarily obtains. A shorter working day would not only relieve the unemployed pressure, greatly strengthen the economic position of the worker, and ease the drain upon trade union funds, but would, by a better sharing of the work to be done, exercise that spirit of brotherhood which should form the basic principle of organised labour.

At the present moment it is calculated that something like 900,000 wage-workers are idle in the United Kingdom. The whole question calls for treatment as a serious economic disease which afflicts the body politic. I hold that the responsibility of finding work for the unemployed should be undertaken jointly by the Government and the local authorities in each district, and that a special centralised department should be organised in a state of permanent readiness to deal with recurring periods of depression and distress, to watch and notify indications of approaching lack of employment, to obtain and disseminate information as to places where work can be had, to help in distributing labour where it is most needed, and in facilitating its removal from quarters where it is not wanted. By these means labour at present finding no employment might be engaged in laying out villages near great towns, in laying out roads and other means of transit from crowded centres to these villages, in reclaiming foreshores, in foresting, in establishing or utilising farm and labour colonies, and in such other ways as might be suited to the needs of respective districts. But even with all these palliatives, I have no hesitation in declaring that the Unemployed Problem will still be with us until the workers' Party becomes the dominant force in the State, and the evils of the Capitalist System, under which nineteen out of every twenty of us go down to the grave in poverty, is finally got rid of by the substitution of public for private control of industry. Then will be ended "the wrongs of the poor dumb millions," who suffer in being excluded by their poverty from the possibility of a free development of their powers and the enjoyment of the fruits of their labours.

It will be apparent from these few observations that many of the reforms which we as trade unionists are advocating are not limited to improving our own condition or protecting our own interests.

We seek also to ameliorate the condition of all who toil-especially those who are too helpless to help themselves. Much has been said of the tyranny of trade unionism, and some of us can recall the time when we were regarded as conspirators and revolutionaries, and when the Church also sought in various ways to discountenance the movement. But with all its deficiencies and sins, I claim that Trade Unionism has a title, both from what it has accomplished and what it seeks to achieve, to be regarded as a great humanitarian, and even a Christian, movement. The Founder of Christianitythe Carpenter of Nazareth-opposed Himself to the doctrine, prevalent then as now, of the survival of the fittest. So likewise, in the stress and struggle of modern, commercial and industrial life, Trade Unionism interposes on behalf of the weak and the helpless. As Thomas Carlyle approvingly says :- "It is to you, ye workers, who do already work, and are as grown men, noble and honourable in a sort, that the whole world calls for new work and nobleness. Subdue mutiny, discord, and widespread despair, by manfulness, justice, mercy and wisdom. Chaos is dark, deep as hell; let light be, and there is instead a green, flowery world. Oh, it is great, and there is no other greatness: to make some nook of God's creation a little fruitfuller, better, more worthy of God; to make some human hearts a little wiser, manfuller, happier, more blessed, less accursed. It is work for a God." With such inspiring aims and ideals, why is it that there is not more united action among the forces of labour ?-less apathy and indifference among our members ?less holding aloof from our ranks by those who should be with us? -less jealousy and distrust among our organisations? Is it not possible to mass and combine our forces, and by working together for the attainment of those reforms necessary for the well-being of all who toil, give effect to the noble exhortation of William Morris :-

"Come, then, let us cast off fooling, and put by ease and rest,
For the Cause alone is worthy till the good days bring the best.
Come join in the only battle, wherein no man can fail,
Where who'so fadeth and dieth, yet his deed shall still prevail."

Mr. Stewart (Dublin), moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Dinneen for his address. He said he was glad of the President's references to Irish education, with which he was in agreement. The position of education was not what it ought to be, because the education question was used as a football by contending religious bodies striving for supremacy. He agreed that the State should confine itself to secular instruction and take the full expense of the burden on its shoulders. The opponents of secular instruction were very fond of putting forward the suggestion that such instruction was Godless education—

Councillor McCarron—I wish to intervene. If I am to rule as Chairman, I desire to say that if Mr. Stewart proceeds in this form I cannot prevent others introducing matters of this kind. I ask him to confine himself to moving the vote of thanks.

Mr. Stewart—Perhaps it is not in order on a vote of thanks. I was not under the impression I was discussing it more than was necessary. However, I won't persist. I fully sympathise with the expressions of the President, and I content myself with formally moving the vote of thanks.

Mr. Geo. Leahy, in seconding the vote of thanks, regretted that the President had omitted the temperance question from his address.

The vote was unanimously carried, and the President replied.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE REPORT-1.

Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G., Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee, reported that the Committee recommend an adjournment at 2 o'clock for one hour; that the afternoon sitting continue to 5.30; that Congress adjourn for the day at 1.30 on Tuesday to enable delegates to accept Mr. and Mrs. Dames-Longworth's invitation to Glynwood. Also that the circular from the Simmons Testimonial Committee be read, and a collection made during the election of the Parliamentary Committee on Wednesday; and that the two propositions on the agenda relating to the Truck Act be moved as one resolution.

Mr. J. T. Duignan moved, and Mr. Geo. Leahy seconded the adoption of the report.

Councillor Daly moved as an amendment that the Roll be called on resuming at 3 o'clock.

The Chairman ruled the amendment out, and the report was adopted.

TRADES DISPUTES BILL.

Mr. Charles Darcus (Belfast), moved :-

"That this Congress desires to emphasise previous declarations that no measure can be accepted which allows an action for tort to be taken against a trade union; and we call upon Irish Members of Parliament to support only a measure which embodies this view."

He said he did not wish to occupy the time of the Congress by going into any details, because he took it every trades unionist had been reading the matter up in the Press, and he was sure they were all thoroughly imbued with and were fully cognisant of what had been taking place for at least the last six months in Parliament. They knew that efforts had been made to settle the Trades Disputes Bill and that Trades Unionists were very largely in sympathy with the object of it. He described the subject matter of the Bill briefly, and said they would all wish to see it settled.

Mr. McConnell (Belfast), said as the matter had already been fully inquired into, and examined, he would content himself with seconding. It would set a good example to all if the Bill were got through as quickly as possible.

Mr. Daly, T.C. (Dublin), said he did not want to make any attempt at criticism, but he would like to draw attention to the last clause: "and we call upon the Irish Members of Parliament to support only a measure which embodies this view." They called upon the Irish Members to secure the passage of the Bill—

Mr. McConnell said there was no use in going into that. It was

only quibbling with words.

The motion was adopted.

AMENDMENT OF THE TRUCK ACT.

Councillor O'Lehane (Dublin), moved :-

(a) "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."

(b) "That, whereas the Irish Trades Congress has condemned the principle of making deductions from the wages of workers in factories on any pretence as contrary to the spirit of the Truck Act, the Parliamentary Committee be, and they are hereby instructed, to take all necessary steps to secure the inclusion in any amending Bill of a clause prohibiting deduction from the wages of workers engaged in the distributive trades in lieu of board and lodging, as, in the opinion of this Congress, the Living-in-System, which is being perpetuated by these deductions, is reprehensible in practice and a menace to public health."

He expressed regret that Miss Galway (Belfast Textile Operatives) was not there to move the resolution. He was sure they were all in sympathy with it. They were all agreed that deductions of any kind from the workers' wages should be declared according to Act of Parliament illegal. As regarded that question, he was sure the delegates there were thoroughly acquainted with that portion of the resolution which referred to the system which prevailed in all classes of shops, but more especially in those in the drapery line-viz., the deduction of wages in lieu of board and lodging. They all knew that in a great many cases wages were deducted in lieu of board and lodging. Last year he had made an unfortunate prophetic announcement which had since been sadly illustrated by a great fire which took place in Dublin during last year, and in which three valuable lives were lost. The same thing might occur if a fire broke out again, and it would be only by a miracle that a number of lives would be saved, and there was scarcely a town in which similar fires did take place, and in which the same thing occurred. They wanted to introduce into the Truck Act a clause which would prevent the giving of employment under such conditions. Then again, they had the question of the rights of citizenship. As they were aware those who lived in such shops were deprived of the franchise, and he believed they would all agree with him when he would say that those assistants should have the right to exercise that franchise as well as anybody else. They considered that a most disgraceful state of affairs. The speaker then dealt with the system from a health point of view and spoke of the system of supervision exercised over them by their masters, and which was tyrannising and unfair. He also said the system of deducting wages had a deterrent effect upon young men who wished to marry, and to this he ascribed in a great measure the low birth rate with which they were cognisant already.

Mr. David Barry, U.D.C. (Athlone), seconded.

CARRIAGE INSPECTION.

Mr. J. J. O'Farrell (Coachbuilders), moved :-

"This Congress is opinion that practical coachmakers should be appointed Hackney Carriage Inspectors instead of policemen, as is the custom at present, policemen having no technical knowledge to fit them for such positions; that job carriages should also be subject to inspection. That the Board of Trade should insist that practical Coachmakers be appointed carriage inspectors on all railways, and that the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to bring this matter before the Chief Secretary and the Parliamentary representatives of Ireland."

He said he wished to bring under their notice the fact that it would be desirable to have a copy of the resolution, if passed, forwarded to the Cork Corporation. There was just such a vacancy there now, and there were a couple of policemen applying for the job. With regard to the second part about job carriage inspection, he did not believe some of them were ever inspected, leaving a good many men idle, whereas if they had a practical man who knew his business instead of a policeman they would be enabled to give a good deal of employment. They knew well that a good many of the carriages sent out of Dublin, even to funerals, were a disgrace to the City and the citizens. If competent men were appointed they would be kept respectable and men could get employment during the winter months. Then they would like to see a competent carriage examiner appointed by the Board of Trade to examine railway carriages and find out any defects, and render them fit for the travelling public, or, in order words, to have a proper coachmaker appointed to examine them-a man who had properly served his apprenticeship to the

Mr. Milner (Dublin), in seconding, said the matter was one which had been before Congresses not alone in Ireland but in England and Scotland as well. He agreed thoroughly with Mr. Farrell's suggestion to have a copy of the resolution sent to the Cork Corporation as it might and probably would lead to one of the members of the trade being appointed to the vacancy spoken of. The job carriage was quite a new thing in the resolution. The

Board of Trade in the majority of decent railways had coachmakers appointed—men that knew the vital points and parts of a carriage. The matter was one which should be very thoroughly and warmly

supported.

Mr. Egan (Cork), said he regarded the question as a hardy annual. They might say that notwithstanding the move they had made year after year that no good accrued from it, but he sincerely hoped good would accrue from it, and that it would make for the betterment of the workers throughout Ireland. He might say that a vacancy would arise in Cork for a hackney-coach inspector, and it was to the public interest that a practical coachmaker should hold it, because such a man had a practical knowledge of the business. Look, he said, at the hackney carriages in Cork, Dublin, Belfast, or anywhere, and you will have to be pretty well insured before you would get into any of them. He agreed it was a good thing to have the resolution sent to the Cork Corporation, and in that connection, he might tell them, the Cork Council were not as bad as they were painted.

Mr. Hudson, M.P., said the question was one which introduced a new characteristic-viz., that the Board of Trade should insist that practical coachbuilders should be appointed to inspect carriagss on the railways. He would ask the mover did he mean the appointment of inspectors to examine the railway carriages as they were

standing in the station?

Mr. O'Farrell-Yes; carriage inspectors. They have such a one at the present time, but he only examines the wheels at the platform

to see if they are fit for the road.

Mr. Hudson said he did not think the Board of Trade would move so far as they were asked. Carriage inspectors, as they knew them, were made up of various classes of men. The passenger trains and more important expresses were examined by a class of men who were chiefly trained in the work of putting them on the wheels, and had to look after the fittings, bearings, &c. Consequently if they wanted a coachmaker to do that work they would have to make him competent in these matters.

Mr. Milner said that was out of order. They did not claim the

fitting department.

Mr. Hudson said they would have to be practical in appointments of that character. On the British lines they had men expert in all these matters.

The mover of the resolution said they wanted the body of the

carriages only.

Mr. Hudson-That being so, they cannot be inspectors in the proper definition of the word as understood upon the railways to-day.

Mr. Geo. Leahy (Dublin), said it was the duty of a coachmaker to do so. He was a man who understood the work, and they were, in his opinion, the best judges of what the duties of a railway carriage inspector should consist of, and he trusted the Congress would forward the resolution to the Cork Corporation as requested.

Mr. O'Keeffe (Dublin), also supported the resolution; also Messrs. Duignan, Chambers and Daly, T.C. The latter said he would like to take from the Dublin Corporation the onus of their doing anything wrong. In connection with carriage inspectors, they had no control over them. In Dublin they had no control over the carriages or licenses. He had known a carman in Dublin who carried certain men who were not persona gratia with the police, and he having refused certain information, his car was condemned the following morning by the police. That was simply because he refused to give the name of the man who occupied his car. In that connection, whilst the policeman could use his power, he passed over several other cars which were practically falling to pieces in the city of Dublin.

After some further discussion the resolution passed unanimously.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE REPORT-2.

Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G. (Chairman), recommended that the Standing Orders be suspended to consider the dispute in the Belfast textile trade; also that the resolutions dealing with Sunday Trading and with Hours of Labour be grouped.

The first recommendation was adopted and the latter sent back.

BELFAST STRIKE.

Mr. Charles Darcus (Belfast), then moved :-

"That the Congress desires to place on record its deepest sympathy for the female operatives in Belfast, both organised and unorganised, in the splendid stand they have made for better conditions of labour, and hope they will be triumphant in their just demands."

He said they were already aware of the facts. For the past eight or ten days a crisis had arisen in connection with the trade in Belfast in connection with the weaving and winding. There were at present 15,000 women workers affected, and were suffering considerably. Now that the trade had been revived, they considered they should have an increase in their wages. Others had benefitted considerably by the increased prosperity, and he could not understand how the weavers should have been left out, and why they should not have been placed on the same level as other workers. The workers were told they would have to resume work at the same wages, and employers hoped to starve them into subjection. He believed the matter deserved their sympathy and he moved the resolution.

Mr. Murphy (Belfast), seconded. He related the history of the struggle going on in Belfast. The flax workers and the spinners had got an advance, and the weavers were refused upon the allegation that the price of clothing had not gone up to the same extent as yarn. They were convinced that the employers could

afford to give an advance to them.

Messrs. Hillis and Gordon (Belfast), having spoken to the motion, it was unanimously adopted, with an instruction to the Secretary to wire it to Belfast.

ORDNANCE WORKSHOPS.

Mr. James Chambers (Dublin), moved :-

"That we urge the Parliamentary Committee to continue to press the just claims of Irish artisans for an extension of the Ordnance Workshop system in Ireland; and we regret that so far no practical effect has been given to the recommendations made by the Duke of Connanght 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."

He said it was unnecessary to dwell at any length upon the resolution. It was one of the many questions which came before them year after year. He complimented the Congress upon the progress it had made for the past two years. Coming to the question proper he said he noticed one resolution in the Congress in connection with the Brushmakers' Society in Ireland. Most of them might recollect they had been hammering at the question for years and years. In the Ordnance workshops at present they had but four Irish tradesmen, two carpenters, one blacksmith, and one stationary engine-driver, and in that respect he thought Irishmen were entitled to more consideration. They only wanted what was reasonable. They wanted work in that department done by tradesmen and not by soldiers. Everyone knew of the incompetency of these soldier workmen, and they wanted Irish tradesmen to be recognised in that department.

Mr. John Farren (Dublin), seconded. He said the previous speaker had dealt with everything so exhaustively it left nothing for him to say. He was surprised to see the amount of employment given in the Woolwich Department, and he thought in Ireland they should get a similar share. The Parliamentary Committee had done

a lot by getting a receiving depot in Ireland.

Mr. Byrne (Dublin), Mr. Wm. Murphy, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Milner (Dublin), also supported the resolution, which was passed.

CARRIAGE-MAKING FOR IRISH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

On the motion of Mr. Thomas Milner, seconded by Mr. J. J. O'Farrell, it was resolved:—

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, all carriages, waggons, and other vehicles for the use of the Army and other Governmental Departments in Ireland should be made in Ireland; that if this were done it would help to solve the Unemployed Problem in the coach-making and kindred trades. And that the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to bring this matter before the Chief Secretary and the Irish Parliamentary representatives."

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE REPORT-3.

The Standing Orders Committee recommended that non-contentious resolutions be spoken to by mover and seconder only.

After some discussion the report was adopted on a division by

25 to 15.

SUNDAY TRADING.

Mr. Henry Rochford (Dublin), moved :-

"That in consequence of the many hardships endured by the members of the Hairdressing trade by the obnoxious system of Sunday trading prevailing in Ireland, this Congress directs its Parliamentary Committee to communicate with the various parties in the House of Commons with a view to having the provisions of any Sunday (Shops) Closing Act as may be promoted in the present Session of Parliament extended to Ireland."

He said he was afraid he had to lay the blame for the hardships to which the members of his trade were subjected by Sunday morning work on the shoulders of the workers themselves. He alleged that even trade unionists who stopped work on Saturdays at 1 o'clock insisted upon patronising hairdressers' saloons on Sunday morning. He asked for the co-operation of the Congress to secure the passing of this Bill, as he believed it was only by legislation that this grievance could be removed.

Councillor O'Lehane seconded, and the motion passed.

SUNDAY WORK.

On the motion of Mr. McConnell (Belfast), for the President, seconded by Councillor McCarthy (Kilkenny), it was resolved:—

"That as the Executive Committee of the Irish Bakers' National Amalgamated Union regret to learn that work in the baking trade (at which is technically known as 'sponging') still prevails on the Day of Rest in many parts of the country; and as in their opinion such work is unnecessary, contrary to Divine law, and calculated to have an injurious effect on the morals of their fellow-workers, therefore they respectfully request the Parliamentary Committee to make such representations to the Government as may induce them to enforce the existing law, or to promote legislation making it an offence to start bakehouses before 12 o'clock on Sunday nights. That this Congress instructs the Parliamentary Committee to support Mr. Wilkie's Bakehouses (48 Hours) Bill now before Parliament."

NIGHT-WORK IN BAKEHOUSES.

Mr. B. Dinneen (Limerick), moved, and Councillor McCarthy

(Kilkenny), seconded :-

"That the time has come when the unnecessary system of night-work in the bakery trade be abolished, and we hereby call on our Parliamentary representatives to do their utmost in furthering this object."

Mr. Deane (Belfast), supported the motion, which was adopted.

HOURS OF LABOUR.

Mr. Patrick Lynch, P.L.G. (Cork), moved, Councillor M. Hughes

(Athlone), seconded, and it was resolved :-

"That in view of the present rapidity of production and the continuous introduction of labour-saving machinery and the consequent displacement of manual labour in many industries, this Congress declares in favour of shortening the hours of labour to not more than eight hours per day or forty-eight hours per week, as a means towards the absorption of many of these workers who are at some seasons of the year thrown out of employment; and also calls upon the organised workers of the United Kingdom to make this one of the test questions at Parliamentary and Municipal Elections; and this Congress further declares that the principle of systematic overtime should be abolished in all trades."

The Congress then adjourned.

THE PUBLIC MEETING.

At 8 o'clock a great open-air public meeting was held at the Dispensary, at which the following resolution was carried with acclamation:—

"That this meeting being of opinion that the cause of the workers can only be preserved and advanced by means of thorough organisation, hereby calls upon the workers of Athlone to combine together in their Trade and Labour Societies for their own protection, and the progress of the Labour Cause."

SECOND DAY.—Tuesday, 5th June, 1906.

Congress re-assembled at 9.30 a.m., the President, Mr. Stephen Dinneen in the chair.

Minutes of first day's proceedings read and confirmed.

THE EIGHT HOURS DAY.

Mr. M. Canty moved :-

"That this Congress, recognising the material and moral importance of shortening the hours of labour, instructs the Parlia-

mentary Committee to take such steps as will bring at once before Parliament the enforcement of an eight hours day by legal enactment,"

He said the resolution was another hardy annual, and on all sides of the question great arguments had been produced. In England the Trades Congress were looking at the Unemployed Problem from a legal point of view, and it was one of the questions the Trade Unionists must solve, and the only way to solve it was by reducing the hours of labour.

Mr. Tarleton (Dublin), seconded, and the motion was declared

carried.

LOCAL BODIES AND EIGHT HOUR DAY.

Mr. M. Canty moved :-

"That this Congress calls on the Dublin Corporation and other popular bodies to set a good example by reducing the hours of labour among their skilled and unskilled employes to an eight hour working day, or forty-eight hours per week, thus relieving the undue burden of workers and extending the area of employment to deserving workmen. That copies of this resolution be sent to clerks of Borough Councils, County Councils, and Urban District Councils,"

He said they had already passed a superannuation scheme in Dublin which was in practice now. The reduction of the hours would mean that one-fifth more men would be employed by local authorities. They had seen the starvation that was in Dublin last winter. There was a new Unemployed Act which the Government were putting into force, but it was no use to them as workers. They gave the Act right enough, but gave no money to work it. All local bodies should be asked to reduce the hours of their employes. He gave statistics showing the comparison between the conditions and pay of men employed in English and Irish towns as sewer men and sweepers.

Mr. Tarleton seconded the motion.

Mr. Greig (Belfast), objected. They had already passed a resolution which embraced this one. They had another one then, again, in the same strain. He agreed that by Trade Unionism they should get an eight hours day, but he objected to setting up one privileged class, as Mr. Canty's resolution had—a class which, in many instances, had done nothing for trade unionism. It was not desirable that they should split up their forces.

Mr. Canty, replying, said he was sorry he could not agree with him. At the same time he did not see why they should wait for Parliamentary action. He had past experience of this question, and was one of those who succeeded in getting an eight hour day passed in Dublin by voluntary action. It would take twenty years before the minds of their law makers would arrive at what they were

entitled to. He was sure the Congress did not want to keep men waiting for a Parliamentary move, if they could get what they wanted by voluntary action.

The motion then passed, Mr. Greig dissenting.

RAILWAYMEN'S INCREASED RESPONSIBILITIES DEMAND SHORTER HOURS.

Mr. Ward (Belfast), moved :-

"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 man so engaged on long runs and continuous duty, is of opinion that the circumstances of their condition 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."

He said that there was a great necessity that an eight hour day should be given to men in that capacity. He considered the time

was come when these men should have a shorter day.

Mr. Thomas Murphy (Dublin), seconded. He said it was all a matter of dividends with the railway companies, and they did nothing at all for the men who helped to earn these dividends. Under present conditions it was impossible for men to remain long in their employment. They could not endure it. It was the duty of the Congress to see that they got shorter and more reasonable hours.

The resolution was adopted.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE REPORT-4.

The Chairman of Standing Orders Committee brought up a further report which recommended—(1) that the six motions dealing with Importation be taken in succession, the proposer only to speak, except that referring to home-made bottles, upon which both delegates from the Bottlemakers' Society (Dublin) to speak; (2) nominations for Parliamentary Committee and Secretaryship to be handed in before 12 o'clock. At that hour the fraternal delegates from Scottish Trades Union Congress to address the Congress; after which the Report of the Parliamentary Committee to be taken. Congress to adjourn for the day at 1.30 p.m., to afford delegates an opportunity of accepting the invitation to Glynwood, as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dames-Longworth. The report also stated that the Congress consisted of 70 delegates representing 68,000 Trade Unionists.

The report was unanimously adopted.

Telegram was read from Councillor Wm. Walker (Belfast), regretting that the case of the locked-out mill-workers demanded his presence in Belfast, consequently his non-attendance.

CONTRACTS FOR LOCAL BODIES.

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

"That this Congress condemns the system so largely practised by Corporation, 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, the clergy of all denominations, the heads of religious houses, 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, and, where, possible, to see it in course of manufacture."

He said the resolution was one of those that had been before them for thirteen years, and they were still hammering at it. Lately the clergy had given a little thought towards the matter and were keeping the work at home, and spending the money at home where they collected it. He condemned the architects of all classes. He knew one in Dublin to recommend work done in Birmingham for a college in Ballina. When the speaker was serving his time there were upwards of 400 brassfounders in the country, and there were scarcely 150 now. Keeping the work at home would benefit architects and workingmen alike.

Mr. Malone (Dublin), seconded, and dealt with the practice of sub-letting. Year after year they had resolutions passed on the subject.

Mr. Byrne (Dublin), opposed. The resolution was not comprehensive enough. It dealt with one class only, and was a selfish resolution. He had found out that certain bodies were giving work to limited competitive contractors—giving it to firms whose employes were only getting 1d. per hour. Mr. Duignan had called it a hardy annual. Why not improve it and make it grow better?

Mr. McInerney (Limerick), said the jobbing smiths in that city were nearly wiped out, because the ironmongers were supplying imported work.

Mr. J. Treacy, Mr. Moore and Mr. Moloney (Dublin), also spoke on the question.

Mr. Duignan, replying, said why did not these trades send forward resolutions themselves. Why should they be opposed because they looked to their own interests.

The resolution was adopted with one dissentient.

PRINTING CONTRACTS FOR LOCAL BODIES.

Mr. M. J. Keogh (Dublin), moved :-

"That in the interests alike of the ratepayers, fair employers, and local labour, this Congress claims that all work and contracts for supplies for local governing bodies in Ireland should, as far as possible (consistent with the Fair Wages Resolution) be given to contractors within the rateable area of each governing body, respectively; and that the Local Government Board for Ireland, and the Irish County Councils' General Council be urged to officially recognise the equitable principle contained in this resolution."

He stated that a large firm in Dublin had estimated for work and had established themselves a few miles outside the city, where they executed the work. At the same time they reduced the wages of the workers 6 or 7 per cent. That system they as trade unionists could not recognise, and they hoped the members of the Congress

would take cognisance of the fact.

Councillor Daly, in seconding, said it was time the Congress should recognise the economic axiom that where the rates are raised there they should be spent. Unfortunately in Ireland the standard rate of wage extending over various localities was a very shifty quantity, and they have had to complain of the fact that some employers, whilst entering into the area of competition with men who were paying a higher rate of wage in the district, in which the rates were raised, if they could not be accused directly of sub-letting were indirectly guilty of such, and who paid their workingmen a lower rate of wage than the standard in the districts to which he referred. That was a great hardship on the workers and the fair employer.

Passed.

IMPORTATION-BRUSHES.

Mr. Wm. Murphy (Brushmakers), moved :-

"That this Congress depleres the continued importation of all kinds of brushes into this country, and directs attention to the fact that foreign made brushes are being sold on a large scale as Irish manufacture; and that for the guidance of purchasers desirous of supporting home industry the Merchandise or Trades' Marks Acts should be so amended that all imported articles should be stamped so as to clearly indicate the country in which they are manufactured."

He said that thirty-eight tons of brushes had been imported into Ireland last year. He would ask that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to Sir Howard Vincent and Mr. John Redmond, M.P.

Mr. Chambers (Dublin), seconded, and Mr. A. Moore also spoke.

Passed.

IMPORTATION-FURNITURE AND SHOP FITTINGS.

Mr. D. Mulcahy (Cabinetmakers), moved :-

"That this Congress emphatically condemns the enormous

amount of importation of furniture and shop fittings into Ireland, and especially to Dublin; and that we call on all those traders who are deriving their dividends from Irish sources to give the workers of this country a chance of existing by placing their orders at home."

He said he did not object to anything imported, provided it was made by Trades Union Labour. In such a case he preferred to see it coming across from England, rather than it should be made by sweat labour in Ireland, but a good deal of the stuff sold in small concerns came from the biggest sweating houses in England. They had got the contract from the Tourist Development Association for the furnishing of the Royal Marine Hotel in Kingstown, but did they reap the benefit. They were compelled by them to send to Derry some stuff to be made by a firm that employed a lot of boys, and where a man was told that he would have to finish a job in less time than was reasonably allowed for it, and that he must do it at 15s. If that was Irish Development then, he (the speaker) wanted none of it.

Mr. Johnstone (Dublin), seconded, and the resolution was passed.

IMPORTATION-COACH-BUILDING.

Mr. Thomas Milner moved, Mr. J. J. O'Farrell seconded, and it was resolved:—

"This Congress views with alarm the continued importation of all classes of carriages, vans, wheels, and coach iron-work, which, in their opinion, could be made better and as cheap in Ireland. And further appeals to the gentry, merchants, and corporations of Ireland to get their carriages, vans, wheels, and iron-work at home, and by so doing help to place the coach-making industry in the prosperous condition it occupied in the past."

IRISH-MADE BOTTLES.

Mr. Donaldson (Dublin), moved :-

(a) "That notwithstanding the many laudable efforts now being made to resuscitate the languishing industries of Ireland, and to stem the tide of emigration, this Congress views with alarm the great danger to the Glass Bottle-making trade of the continuous importation of large quantities of foreign-made bottles bearing no mark of origin upon them whereby they could be distinguished from homemade bottles, and in attempting to save it from dwindling away, strongly urges (1) That the public should note that one of the following letters, viz.—'R,''K,' 'B,' or 'W,' is blown on the bottom of every Irish-made bottle; and (2) That as the Merchandise Marks Act has had the effect of unduly advertising goods made in Germany, &c., to the detriment of home trade, the Bill introduced by Sir Howard Vincent requiring every article manufactured abroad to be simply marked 'Foreign Imported,' or 'Colonial' (as the case may be), deserves the support of this Congress."

(b) "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 mark of 'R,' 'K,' 'B,' or 'W.'"

He said the trade suffered a great deal from importation. Bottles were coming in continuously without any mark of recognition on them. The Irish bottle was different, and could always be distinguished. In Ireland in several firms they had introduced new furnaces for making them, and he was prepared to state that the Irish bottle-making firms were prepared to compete with any firm outside Ireland, and Irish workers were equal to English, Scotch, or any others. He himself was a Scotchman, and could speak from experience. If they got the custom of the public they would greatly benefit the trade. The consumption in Ireland was fifty times the manufacture.

Mr. Thomas Dunne, in seconding, said he noticed that on one occasion 100 gross of imported bottles were booked for Wexford. The decline in the trade was noticeable in Cork, Dublin, Limerick and elsewhere, and the supply was not anything at all like the consumption, and all because of the importation of bottles. At present in a small society they had 18 men working 5 days and had to go off the sixth to give the others a chance of earning wages. They had 30 or 40 men idle in the same small society. Councillor McCarthy had done a lot for them in Kilkenny, and he was sure other members of the Congress could do the same by helping to get the home-made article into clubs and shops.

Passed.

IRISH STONE-WORK.

Mr. Henry Madigan (City of Dublin Stonecutters), moved :-

"That we call on the clergy of Ireland to support the industry of the country by having the marble altars, pulpits, communion rails, &c., manufactured in Ireland, as we have a serious complaint that many of those works have been imported from Italy while our Irish artisans are unemployed, and also that we call on all public bodies who are giving contracts for public memorials to see that they are manufactured in Ireland, and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Gaelic League, the Industrial Association, District Councils, and the Hierarchy of Ireland."

He said he hoped the delegates would try to give effect to the resolution. It was supposed that such work as that referred to could not be done as well in Ireland as in Italy and other Continental countries. He wished to say that monumental work could be done in Dublin of as artistic a quality as anywhere else. Irish architects and Irish workmen would, benefit if the clergy would support them. There was no reason why orders should be placed outside the country.

Mr. George Leahy seconded the motion, which was adopted.

IRISH JOINERY.

On the motion of Mr. R. O'Keeffe, seconded by Mr. L. Corrigan, (Amalgamated Carpenters), it was resolved:—

"That this Congress desires to draw the attention of architects, engineers, contractors, private employers and others requiring joinery, to the vital necessity of having same made in Ireland under fair conditions, and so save a once flourishing industry from extinction."

RECEPTION OF SCOTCH DELEGATES.

The Standing Orders having been suspended, the delegates from the Scottish Trades Union Congress were received. They were Mr. George Carson, Glasgow, and Mr. J. C. Hendry, Brechin.

Mr. Carson, who first addressed the Congress, said he was delighted to be present once again at an Irish Trades Con-The first thing he should do was to convey to them the hearty good wishes of the people whom Mr. Hendry and he represented. He regretted very much that circumstances over which the Irish Trades Union Congress had no control, prevented them from sending a delegation to the Scottish Congress this year, but they sincerely hoped that in the future they would be able to do At any rate he came to say that when the question came before the Congress at Greenock, it was the unanimous feeling of the delegates there that notwithstanding the fact that none of the Irish Congress members could be there, there was no reason why the Scottish Congress should not send a delegation to convey to them in Ireland fraternal greeting. Some people in Britain looked upon the Irish Trades Union Congress as a kind of parochial thing of no particular value, and that it did no great good. If these people saw the enormous amount of work which had been done by the Irish Congress since its inception thirteen years ago they would change their opinion, and he had reason to believe they were changing it, because it was the democratic spirit of the Irish and Scotch that had developed the movement amongst the English Trades Unionists (applause). He felt that that work had been of immense advantage to their various trades in England and Scotland. They had done a great many things. They had succeeded in getting many amendments into the Workmen's Compensation Bill. So far as he saw from the evidence of Mr. Richardson 10 points out of 14 or 15 which were put by the Irish Trades Congress and their own had practically been embodied in the recommendations of the Enquiry Commission. The question of special interest was the Unemployed Workmen Act. They had been struggling for many years to get recognition from the State for their fellow-workmen, who, by reason of present conditions, could not get employment from time to time. Mr. Balfour introduced the Bill, and he (the speaker) believed it did contain provisions which to some extent recognised that principle. The employers became so alarmed that

they pressed Mr. Balfour to drop part of it, and he did so. Mr. Balfour did not represent the working class of this country at all. He represented his own class, and he did so effectively. They sought an amendment to that Bill, and so far as they were concerned, they would take nothing less than the recognition of the principle that every man willing to work must be provided with it by the State or Town Council. That would do much to brighten and better the lives not only of the unemployed but of Trades Unionists. He was pleased with the Irish Trades Congress. He knew it had done good work, and he knew they would do better in future, and they had increased the number of Trades Unionists by their splendid propaganda work throughout the country. They had a Labour Party in the House of Commons, and they knew what concessions had been granted through their efforts. Their business was to go on in that direction, and make it plain to the people who legislate for them that they wanted to have their Bills dealt with in an effective manner. and not be put off as they were from time to time. In conclusion he thanked the Congress for their kind reception (applause).

Mr. Hendry said it afforded him great pleasure to attend as their fellow-worker and wished them God speed. He regretted they had not a representation from the Irish Congress at Greenock, but he hoped the day would not be far distant when they would be again amongst them, and he could assure them of a hearty welcome. There should be such a connection between them. Because since history was written and even before that there was a very close connection between the two countries. In fact he believed he was an Irishman himself, although it was something like a thousand years since his forefathers left this fair and fertile isle to settle on the barren shores of Scotland. He believed that old relationship should be cemented. That he was glad to see was so already, and they were beginning to recognise that there was something more than whatever differences of race might separate them, however many mountains or rivers might lie between them. The workers all the world over were one in interest and in brotherhood. Coming to Ireland, and on his way to Athlone, and from what he had seen in different parts of the country on previous occasions, he had been struck by the signs of poverty and misery which he had seen. He asked why was it that in this the most favourably situated country in the world, and with the capabilities in certain directions which its people possessedwhy was it they found so much poverty and misery and so many workers struggling to make a bare livelihood? The same was found in every country in the world. Workers were down-trodden and were struggling for a bare livelihood. Well, the conditions were the same all over, so is the remedy the same. Because the workers were suffering under landlordism and capitalism, and until these were overcome the condition of the workingman would never be better than at the present moment (applause). The sooner they recognised that the better for themselves and those who were dependent upon them. There was only one way to secure the wealth they produced, and that was by organisation (applause). That could be best done through the medium of the Trade Union-a body that enabled them to fight for better conditions and to prevent the lowering of the conditions under which they already lived. conditions were beginning to change, in witness of which they had a proof in the many strikes which took place long ago. At that time while the worker might ultimately gain his end it was only through much struggling and suffering. They were beginning to realise that. In whatever way they might differ in other respects they should always be united in that idea. They should select men to represent them on the Town Councils, County Councils, and in Parliament itself. They should select men who were of themselves and who from bitter experience knew what they knew, and who were prepared to fight to the last inch to gain what they desired. saw the employers stood shoulder to shoulder when it came to a question of their own interests, and they had their delegations to see that they would not be hurt by legislation. If their association had their way the workers would get no legislation at all, because what was to the interest of the workers was often against that of the employers. The objects of the employer was to get as much work as possible for as little money as possible, and the object of the worker was to get as much money as possible for as little work (cries of dissent). Continuing, the speaker said, Yes; when an employer was trying to screw as much work as possible out of a man he is justified in retorting on his employer. In conclusion, he would extend the most cordial greetings to them, and trusted their meeting would be a success and that they would be enabled to do much good work for those who sent them there (loud applause).

Mr. Murphy (Belfast), moved, and Mr. Duignan (Dublin), seconded, a vote of thanks to the two delegates. The vote, on being put by the Chairman, was carried with acclamation.

SIMMONS TESTIMONIAL

With a small addition from the Congress funds, the tellers reported the collection of £5 5s., for the testimonial to Mr. John Simmons, Secretary Dublin Trades Council.

NOMINATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

The following were nominated for election on the Parliamentary Committee for the ensuing year: Messrs. James Chambers, Dublin; P. T. Daly, T.C., Dublin; Stephen Dinneen, Limerick; J. T. Duignan, Dublin; Michael Egan, Cork; J. Farren, Dublin; Geo. Greig, Belfast; W. Hudson, M.P., Dublin; George Leahy, Dublin; W. J. Leahy, Dublin; James McCarron, T.C., Londonderry; John McCarthy, T.C., Kilkenny; John Murphy, P.L.G., Belfast; Richard O'Keeffe, Dublin; M. J. O'Lehane, T.C., Dublin; Edward Stewart, Dublin.

Councillor Daly announced that he wished to withdraw his name from nomination as a member of the Parliamentary Committee. There was an accusation made against him in a Belfast newspaper by a delegate to that Congress—— A voice—"Order."

Mr. Stewart said he had to rise to a point of order. He submitted that it was not the usual practice for delegates who withdrew their

nominations to make speeches.

The President—I ask Mr. Daly to use his discretion in this matter.

Councillor Daly rose to continue his remarks, and Mr. Stewart said—"If a newspaper article is discussed at Congress the writer of the article has the right of reply."

Councillor Daly said that, while he was anxious that his credit and honour should be vindicated, he would bow to the ruling of the

chair.

THE SECRETARYSHIP.

Mr. E. L. Richardson (Dublin), being the only nominee for the Secretaryship, the President declared him unanimously re-elected.

THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Report of the Parliamentary Committee's work for the past twelve months (see page 3) was then taken.

A discussion arose in which Messrs. Duignan, Deane, Dunne, Johnstone, Moore, Canty and Hudson, M.P., took part. Eventually—

Mr. M. Egan (Cork), moved that the report be adopted.

Mr. Corrigan (Limerick), seconded.

Mr. Milner (Dublin), moved its rejection on the grounds that the Committee had not referred to the Hackney Carriage inspection grievance of the Coachmakers in the interview which they had with the Chief Secretary.

There being no seconder for the amendment, the report was

adopted, Mr. Milner dissenting.

THE PRINTING TRADE.

Mr. Keogh, one of the auditors, was permitted by the President to address the Congress. A delegate rose to order and questioned the right of the speaker to address the meeting at that moment.

The President said that Mr. Keogh had been attending to other duties, and he, therefore, allowed him to avail of an opportunity which he had not hitherto had. He had been doing business in connection with auditing the Congress accounts, and it would not be fair to prevent him speaking.

Mr. Keogh said that he only desired to draw attention to the fact that in the printing trade of Dublin they suffered under a grievance. Men came from Scotland, and they in Dublin had to recognise their cards. They do not subscribe to the local organ-

isations. They had representatives present from the Scottish Trades Congress, and he would like them to bear in mind this question. A man could not be a trades unionist in Glasgow and not a trades unionist in Dublin.

STEAM ENGINES BILL.

Mr. Jas. Finnegan (Dublin), moved, Councillor Daly seconded, and it was resolved:—

"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 the measure placed upon the Statute Book at the earliest opportunity."

CERTIFIED ENGINE AND MOTOR DRIVERS.

Mr. H. McClure (Belfast), moved :-

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, the time has arrived when the Government should be requested to prepare a Bill for the greater safeguarding of human life and property from accidents by explosions by steam boilers, caused by defects and the incompetency of attendants—(1) By providing for the proper testing of steam boilers by competent persons appointed by the Board of Trade; (2) by providing certificates of competency for attendants, and insisting that all persons taking charge of steam boilers and engines should hold such certificates. And that the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to urge the Government to promote a Bill making it compulsory that all drivers and assistants in charge of motor trains propelled by steam should hold certificates of competency, same to apply to all locomotive drivers and their assistants; and to renew their efforts in favour of automatic couplings on railways."

Mr. William Reid (Belfast), seconded, and the resolution was adopted.

TINSMITH'S WORK.

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

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, the Parliamentary Committee should use their influence with the farmers, Cowkeepers' Associations, and all concerned to have their dairy utensils and creamery fittings made and reparied in Ireland instead of giving their orders to firms who send same across the Channel, and when giving their orders to inquire if they are to be manufactured on the premises by legitimate labour; also that the Parliamentary Committee communicate with the gas managers and public boards through Ireland to give their orders to firms who make and repair gas meters, gas lamps, &c., in Ireland by legitimate labour."

SHOP LEGISLATION.

On the motion of Mr. E. W. Stewart (Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants), seconded by Councillor O'Lehane (Irish Drapers' Assistants), it was resolved:—

"That this Congress, having on previous occasions condemned the unsatisfactory conditions imposed upon workers in the various branches of the distributive trades, hereby desires to reaffirm its opinion on the following points: -(a) The long hours of employment in shops, which we condemn as injurious to the workers and as absolutely unnecessary to the interests of the general community, and we again repeat our opinion that no measure of voluntary relief can prove satisfactory in operation, and that the only proposals now before the public likely to have any practical value is the Bill promoted by the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, and introduced to Parliament by Sir Charles Dilke. (b) The 'Living-in' system, which we condemn as being fraught with many evils and a survival totally at variance with the progress of the present age. And we further declare that the Government should include Shop Assistants within the scope of the Workmen's Compensation Bill; and desire to express satisfaction that shop assistants' grievances have been included in the terms of reference to the Committee appointed to inquire into the working of the Truck Acts."

EARLY CLOSING.

Councillor O'Lehane moved :-

(a) "That we call on the organised workers to help in every possible way the movement for the earlier closing of shops, and we request them to support only the houses that agree to close at reasonable hours; and further, we are of opinion that the time has arrived when the workers should discriminate between fair and unfair houses in the distributive trades. (b) That we are convinced that no satisfactory or permanent amelioration can be obtained except by legislation of a compulsory nature, limiting the time for work, and fixing a definite closing hour, and that we call on the Parliamentary Committee to use every effort to have the existing law amended in this direction."

He said he hoped they would be able to get some legislation. It would be very helpful if the houses which closed early were patronised. They recognised that by legislation a reasonable working hour could be obtained.

Mr. Stewart (Dublin), seconded, and said if all the assistants would organise it would be very advantageous. The present hours were unnecessarily late, and the system should be discouraged by deserting those shops who close late, and making them feel the necessity of complying with public opinion.

Passed.

IRISH PUBLIC BOARDS AND THE FAIR WAGES RESOLUTION.

On the motion of Mr. H. McManus, seconded by Mr. Charles Darcus (Belfast), it was agreed :—

"That this Congress heartily endorses the action of the County Councils' 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 skilled craftsmen for tradesmen's work, and prohibit sub-letting; and this Congress, in the interests alike of the ratepayers, fair employers and honest workmanship, strongly urge upon Borough, County, and District Councils, Boards of Guardians, and all Irish Public Boards, the necessity of giving practical effect to the General Councils' recommendation. 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 and employers in connection with the class of work contracted for, cannot be recognised as fulfilling the provisions of the Fair Wages Resolution."

THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

Mr. Geo. Leahy (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 reckoued against the borrowing powers of local authorities, and that the period of repayment be extended to 100 years; (f) to apply section 2, Public Health Act, 1878, and section 21, Public Health Act, 1890, to tenement property; and (g) to abolish the terminal leasehold system. That administrative bodies be urged to build houses for the people in rural districts."

He said the resolution was one which commended itself to them as Irish workmen. They wanted taxation put on land values and wanted to have a fair rent court established. A full tax should also be put on the unoccupied houses. They saw by the public Press that town tenants would obtain legislation in the next Session of Parliament, owing to the action of the famous Clanricarde. But were they going to wait for another Lord Clanricarde? No, the matter

was entirely in their own hands. There are some members of the Dublin Corporation here and let him ask them what had been done by that body to see that the artisans of the City of Dublin would be properly housed. At election times they canvassed on the plea that they were all going to build decent houses, and still that cat cry went on. Let Councillor Daly ask himself what he had done of all that he had promised on public platforms. The present system was demoralising the artisans to-day. How could they become a temperate class of men when they had no decent surroundings? Going round the town of Athlone for the past few days, he noticed the workers were very badly off for housing accommodation, and he was told for a fact that a site had been procured, and that the people who claimed the land refused to allow them to be built in proximity to their college or convent. Such action on the part of those who were responsible for that could not be but condemned by every fairminded person. In every part of Ireland it was the very same way. He trusted the resolution before them would be unanimously passed. Let them say once and for all that as workingmen they demanded their rights.

Mr. D. Barry (Athlone), in seconding, said he had great pleasure in doing so on behalf of his society. He knew the fight they had to make in the interests of the working class of Athlone. The society of which he was a member had done a great deal, and on next Wednesday week they would have an inquiry in Athlone concerning the housing problem. It was a shame to see so many derelict houses in Athlone. It was very well to close them up, but where would they put the people? He hoped that the members of the Parliamentary Committee would urge the necessity of taxing land values and idle houses, and he hoped in the near future to see the workers of Athlone properly housed.

Councillor Daly opposed the resolution in order to reply to Mr. Leahy, who, he said, had made a veiled attack on him, and he had to make it a contentious question to reply. The question was one which was taking up the attention of Trade Unionists. He (Mr. Leahy) did not tell the Congress one of the principal reasons why the resultant efforts of the Conference on the housing problem did not prove effective in Dublin. He wanted to tell them the members of that conference worked just as hard for the improvement of the social conditions of the workingman in Dublin as any delegate there. Having said so much he would withdraw his opposition (laughter and applause).

The resolution was passed unanimously.

TAXATION OF LAND VALUES.

On the motion of Mr. Charles Darcus (Belfast), seconded by Mr. M. Mullrenan (Athlone), it was agreed:—

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, the time has fully

arrived when Legislation should be enacted for the Taxation of Land Values and the enforcement of the principle of betterment."

MOTOR CAR INDUSTRY.

Mr. J. J. O'Farrell (Coachmakers), moved :-

"This Congress is of the opinion that the coachmaking parts of motor cars is exclusively belonging to members of the Coachmaking trade, and would strongly condemn any infringement by the members of other trades; and further, this Congress appeals to the gentry and motor car agents of Ireland to have their car bodies made, painted, and trimmed at home."

Mr. Milner seconded.

Mr. D. Mulcahy (Cabinetmakers), on a point of order, asked whether the Congress was competent to decide the line of demarcation between two trades as implied in the proposition before the chair.

After some discussion.

Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G. (Belfast), moved the "Previous question."

Mr. Mulcahy seconded.

On a division there appeared for the "previous question" 31; against 15. The Congress then passed to the next business.

TECHNICAL TRAINING OF APPRENTICES.

Councillor Daly (Dublin), moved :-

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."

He said it was to the future interest of their trades that the boys should be technically instructed. Employers, they should remember, took out of the labour of the boy a great percentage of profit for the alleged advantage of instructing him in his trade. And, after all, it was the journeymen who instructed him. He thought, therefore, the employers should be asked to allow them time to acquire educational advantages, and as all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, they should also be allowed time for healthy recreation. One of the things they should guard against was that the money which had been voted for technical education in Ireland should not be given to secondary education for the employers' sons.

Councillor MacCarthy (Kilkenny), seconded, and advocated that the technical training of apprentices should become compulsory.

Passed.

IRISH PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION.

On the motion of Mr. M'Manus (Belfast), seconded by Mr. P. Lynch, P.L.G. (Cork), 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 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. The Minutes of Evidence and all other printing incidental to such inquiries to be executed in Ireland."

The Congress then adjourned until 9.30 Wednesday morning.

VISIT TO GLYNWOOD.

At 2 o'clock the Reception Committee provided well-appointed equipages in which the delegates drove to Glynwood to partake of the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Dames-Longworth.

-:0:

THIRD DAY-Wednesday, 6th June, 1906.

Congress re-assembled at 9.30 a.m., the President, Mr. Stephen Dinneen, in the chair.

Minutes of Tuesday's sitting read and confirmed.

FEDERATION.

Councillor M. Leahy (Limerick) moved :-

"That, in order to consolidate and protect the interests of all trades and labour bodies, it be an instruction to Congress to promote some scheme of federation among them, and thereby prevent non-unionists from reaping the advantages of trades union effort and labour, and we furthermore ask that all representatives of amalgamated societies ask their E.C.'s to assist them in carrying out this desirable object."

Mr. Treacy (Dublin) seconded the resolution. He said that the moral aid which affiliated societies derived from a Trades Council, though valuable in itself, was not the ne plus ultra of Trades Unionism. Notwithstanding that arbitration would appear to be the most reasonable and desirable method of settling disputes between capital and labour, it not infrequently happened that arbi-

tration was preceded by a fierce struggle, in which both had exhausted their resources (hear, hear). Past events had shown that the most powerful society, numerically and financially, failed to succeed against combined capital. What chance then had small isolated trades unions against the combinations of capital? The employers knew the weakness of the small unions, and they sought to accomplish their ends in the direction which offered least resistance. He did not advocate the brutal method of resorting to strike or lock-out for the purpose of holding one's own, or resisting encroachments, when he saw that moral aid must be substantially financed to be successful (hear, hear). It was regrettable that members of these isolated societies failed to realise their position in the great army of workers. Badly organised and badly equipped, the workers could not have an effective movement. He believed that amalgamation provided great benefits to the trade unionists, and was the stepping-stone to federation. There was nothing to prevent an Irish amalgamation, and from it an Irish federation.

Mr. Greig, Belfast, moved the following amendment :- Strike out the words "promote some scheme of federation amongst them," and insert "bring to the notice of all Trade and Labour Unions throughout Ireland the desirability of becoming affiliated with the General Federation of Trades Unions." In doing so he said it was in the hopes it would not be necessary for him to put forward the amendment. He regretted he was not present to hear the arguments of the mover of the resolution, but it seemed to him that a step in the wrong direction by one who stood up to support a Federation for Irish workers. The great bulk of the amalgamated unions in Ireland were already affiliated with the General Federation of Trade Unions. They recognised that unity was unity, and he believed that was most desirable from a Trades Union point of view. They were all along of opinion that the interests of the workers of Ireland were the same as those of the workers of England or Scotland. If that was the opinion of the delegates he could not see that there was any need for Irish Trade Unionists to start an Irish Federation in Ireland. There might be something in the argument that the General Federation did not meet the requirements of Irish Trade Unionists. Most of them knew they had got many concessions from the British Parliament, and they knew the hardship they had to get them, and he was sure without the workers beyond the water acting in conjunction with them they would not be able to get them. They were aware that the British Federation included Scotchmen and Irishmen. There were hundreds of Irish Trade Unionists in the General Federation, which had a reserve fund of £135,000. Many concessions had been granted which could not possibly be gained if Trade Unionists fought their rights in separate sections. The conditions of the entrance into the General Federation would render membership more easy. The entrance fee was only 6d. per member, and the 6d. and 4d. contribution had since been reduced

to 4d. on the higher scale and 2d. on the lower scale, so that it was quite within the reach of all, while the contributions in one year were no higher than 5s. on the higher scale on 90 per cent. of the members, and 4s. on the lower scale. It would be a sad calamity if the members of the Congress passed such a resolution.

Mr. Montgomery, Belfast, formally seconded.

Councillor Daly, Dublin, opposed the amendment. He looked upon Mr. Greig as a very intelligent man and one possessed of a great deal of knowledge. But he had been telling the members since he got up that the term Britain embraced Ireland as well as Scotland. He (Mr. Daly) understood that this was the Irish Trades Congress, but he (speaker) understood that the geographical description of Ireland remained unchanged. He had said it was impossible for the units in Ireland to do anything that was not done by the units of that society resident outside Ireland. What became of the automony that they were led to believe existed for the amalgamated societies resident in Ireland? Was he to be told that if a man joined a society in Ireland he would have to obey everything that came from headquarters. Mr. Treacy, in seconding the substantive motion, had destroyed the ground work of Mr. Greig's magnificent contention, who said it would be practically impossible for them to build up a federation in Ireland because of the enormous fund at the disposal of the British Federation. He did not question that they had enormous funds; but it came to this, that where a man had a large family to support he would require a large income to do it, and vice versa with the man with a small family-he could do it infinitely better upon a great deal less money. If the funds of the British Federation were large they should also understand that their liabilities were also large. He noticed that gentlemen addressing the Congress from the point of view that some of the delegates took up, always drew attention to the fact that their interest were identical with the workers in England and Scotland. On the broad principle, yes. But there were differences existing that made their practical interests not collateral with theirs. This was one case, where they knew it was an economic truth that money taken out of the country left that country so much poorer. He believed if the resolution were carried they would be able to start a federation in Ireland, which, under the imprimatur of this Congress, would be successfully carried through.

Mr. Darcus, Belfast, felt a difficulty in speaking, because he had sympathy with both Councillor Daly and Mr. Greig. The chief difficulty that presented itself was a financial one, and in the making of an Irish Federation that would have to be reckoned with. It was a question how far their English executives would allow the Irish Federation to make them responsible for financial liabilities in Ireland. Those who had gone across to one of the English Congresses knew they were very careful not to allow them in Ireland to

spend money until after they had exhausted every possible resource, and he believed if they had a federation in Ireland the reticence of the English body in assisting them in struggles would be greater than at the present moment. On the whole he supported Mr. Greig's contention that it would be better to move along with those across the Channel. He believed that in no case was union more necessary, especially union of the funds, which meant union in every way, because the men that controlled the funds controlled the war, and they could not enter into warfare of any kind in Ireland with out heavy financial responsibilities. Where was that money to come from—

Councillor Daly-Their generous hearts.

Mr. Darcus said he would rather, if he could, depend upon themselves than go begging round the three kingdoms (applause), but if the mill owners in Belfast were prepared to fight out the struggles against the funds an Irish Federation could control, the struggle would not last two months.

Mr. Canty supported the original resolution. Some years ago they had sent delegates across to the English Congress and they were so dissatisfied that they resolved to form an Irish Trades Congress. The members of the Irish societies had no proper representation in the British Federation. He maintained an Irish Federation ought to be able to maintain itself and it was optional for any man to join it. He believed in the policy of Sinn Fein. He had no practical opposition to the measure himself because he believed it would be better for the workers all over to be united, but he had some knowledge of Irish, English and Scotch workers, and he believed it would be injurious to them to pass Mr. Greig's amendment as it stood on the paper. He knew well that several delegates would be asked when they went back "who gave you permission to vote for this?" He concluded by asking Mr. Greig to withdraw.

Mr. Lynch, P.L.G. (Cork), said that from the statements made by Mr. Daly he could not remain a passive listener. To his mind Mr. Daly's opinion was narrow-minded, and he believed it a very bad policy for a man of Mr. Daly's opinions to adopt. He (Mr. Lynch) happened to be a member of an amalgamated union himself, and he and the association to which he belonged thanked God that they were amalgamated (hear, hear), because by being so they had obtained benefits they never could have received otherwise. He could say with authority that Ireland was receiving ten times more money than ever she sent across the water (hear, hear), and they had every reason to congratulate themselves on the fact that they were amalgamated, and he hoped Mr. Daly would find himself some day in the position of meeting the amalgamated employers of Great Britain and Ireland. Were they going to separate themselves from their brother workers while the employers joined hands all over Great Britain against them?

Mr. Murphy, P.L.G. (Belfast), said while willing to make allowances for whatever patriotic feeling might underlie the opposition to Mr. Greig's proposal, he could not help thinking that that was the practical one to carry out. He did not think they had yet arrived at such a state that they could form a separate federation strong and capable enough of fighting their own cause, or of undertaking the work that such a federation should perform. Mr. Canty had put forward the view that local societies had no right to vote for an English Federation. He thought it was dangerous to let that go unchallenged, because he believed that men representing local societies there should use their own judgment in acting in the matter. He hoped the Congress would have a better way of getting out of the difficulty than to take the doctrine of Mr. Canty. Everywhere he (speaker) had been he always preached the doctrine that they were an international body, and they had sympathies and sympathisers across the Channel just as much as in this country (hear, hear). Whatever their political differences might be they should make up their minds to the fact that the workers in the three kingdoms should remain united. He hoped the proposal to establish a federation in this country, which he considered impracticable, would be rejected.

Councillor M'Carron (Londonderry), said all the members of amalgamated societies were members of the General Federation. He reminded them of the trouble they had in getting contributions from the members of various societies, and the trouble they had to keep up the membership, and what would happen if they had to contribute to an additional federation. He would say they would not pay the additional 8d. So far as they were concerned they appointed members to that Federation. That was passed by an overwhelming majority. Could they afford to fight with their brother workers across the water? If they had not their assistance they would not be in the position in which they were to-day. With regard to the taking of money out of the country, in the very city from which Mr. Daly had come the Federation had, on behalf of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors, spent £5,000 in fighting their interests (hear, hear). If they had to rely on local assistance could they do that? Three thousand pounds was spent in Limerick in the same cause in fighting the master tailors. The master tailors united themselves against them, and were they going to break themselves up into sections and allow themselves to be beaten. He believed that was a mistake which the Congress should not make. With regard to representation, they held a Congress of their Amalgamated Society in England some time ago, and out of eleven delegates there six were Irish (hear, hear). Could they call that English. Irishmen were the pioneers of the labour movement across the Channel, and were they to fight with their brother Irishmen there, and who were prepared to help in any struggle which might come on.

Mr. M'Inerney (Limerick), said they knew how they were situated in Limerick as regarded amalgamation. They had their own societies and did business in the Mechanics Institute. It was hard that they should have a society of carpenters and a society of masons, or any other body, estranged from each other. They should have their interests looked after in common, and should avoid strikes. They had no objection to an Irish or English amalgamation or federation. It was a deplorable thing, at the same time, to see men imported from Cork and Kerry while their own men in Limerck were next door to starvation.

Mr. Duignan (Dublin), said the trade to which he belonged had their societies amalgamated all over the three kingdoms, and within the past few years they had received from that Federation of their own trade fifteen times the amount they paid into it (hear, hear). Therefore, at the present time he did not consider it would be practicable to form a separate federation. His society would not give up that benefit. When a dispute had been raised each man was entitled to receive 15s. per week, and they had to pay but 2d. per week per man. That was in cases of strikes or lock-outs. And if a man became dismissed from his employment through making himself obnoxious to his employer he was paid full wages until he got a suitable job. He was not rammed into one that did not suit him either, and they had the right of fellowship with their brothers across the water.

Mr. H. M'Manus (Belfast), said when they went to form an amalgamated society of printers in Wexford some time ago they could not do so. They could not regard amalgamated societies as anything less democratic than parochial. He might tell them an amalgamated society was as honest and wishful for the prosperity of Ireland as any parochial society.

Mr. Corrigan (Limerick), said it appeared to him that these people did not understand the working of amalgamated societies. He belonged to a society which embraced a membership of 68,000. The Irish membership was six or seven thousand, and their views

were common to all. He rose to support the amendment.

Mr. Stewart (Dublin), said a case had been made against the amendment on sentimental lines. It did not matter what they might like or what they would wish for. They had to consider the possibilities of the question under existing circumstances. The present circumstances were not such as would bring the object of the resolution within their purview. The gentlemen who had made a case against the amendment had let their hearts get the better of their heads in coming to a conclusion. He was astonished to hear Mr. Daly enter into the fray. At a meeting of the Dublin Trades Council Mr. Daly and his friends had succeeded in getting the idea of federation rejected by a small majority on an amendment, that before that recommendation was adopted by the Trades Council they should consider whether it would be possible to formulate a

scheme for the formation of an Irish Federation. What was the result? They had successfully skedaddled from their own amendment ever since, because it was not possible for them to produce that scheme. There were members of the Trades Council present who knew that, and yet Councillor Daly would advise them to take a course not logically consistent with their own arguments.

Mr. Deane (Belfast), said they had 10,000 workers in Belfast amalgamated across the water. From Mr. Daly's remarks he had learned one thing. That was that he had given them the geographical sketch of Ireland as to whether they were British or not. He (speaker) would have to look at his encyclopedia to see if Mr. Daly was correct (laughter). The idea of separating themselves from the British Federation was absurd. They had a strike in Belfast on one occasion when employers were looking for men across the water. The Trades Union men there communicated with the secretary of the General Federation. The latter at once telegraphed to the secretary of their society in Ireland, and the result was they knew far more about the matter than the employer himself. Without the co-operation of their brothers across the water they could do nothing.

The closure having been carried by 35 votes to 18, and Councillor Leahy having replied, the Congress divided on Mr. Greig's amendment—For, 40; against, 14. The Chairman declared the amendment carried. On being put as a substantive motion, there

voted-For, 36; against, 14. Carried.

PROPOSED LABOUR MINISTER.

Mr. E. L. Richardson moved:-

"That this Congress, having expressed the opinion that the interests of industry demand the creation of a Minister of Labour with Cabinet rank, urges the Government to redeem the promises of their predecessors in this respect." He said the resolution was one which had appeared at the first Irish Trades Union Congress and was now fairly within the range of practical politics. He believed the matter was thoroughly well understood and required no argument to propose it.

Mr. W. J. Leahy (Dublin), seconded. The motion passed.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP SANITATION AND VENTILATION.

Mr. J. T. Duignan (Dublin), moved :-

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, the existing facilities for sanitary accommodation in most of the workshops of the country is inadequate and ventilation very defective, and directs the attention of the Inspector of Factories especially to the want of wash-hand conveniences in brassfounders, plumbing and other establishments connected with the metal and engineering industries, and to the entire absence of proper means of ventilation, particularly in wet weather."

He spoke of the hardships which workers endured for want of sanitary accommodation in most workshops. In many places they had to work under glass roofs, and factory inspectors should take more cognisance of this matter.

Mr. Farren (Dublin), in seconding, said he was sorry to see there was no improvement this year, because factory inspectors did not visit these workshops. There was no accommodation whatever in a good many of them. There was not even a wash-hand basin to wash their hands in places where they were handling poisonous lead all day. Some shops in Dublin were as bad as the Athlone Woollen Mills in point of ventilation. He (Mr. Farren) was in there the day before, and he thought he never would get out to breathe the fresh atmosphere. He thought some steps should be taken to make those who had charge of the factory inspectors, compel them to do their duty.

The resolution was passed.

THE FACTORY ACT.

Mr. M'Connell (Belfast), moved :-

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

(b) "That in the opinion of this Congress the Factory Act should be amended so as to make it compulsory for the employers in the textile and non-textile industries to provide proper dining-room accommodation for their employes who are unable to go home for their meals."

Mr. Greig seconded. Passed.

OUTWORKING IN THE TAILORING TRADE.

On the motion of Mr. Moloney (A.S.T.), seconded by Mr. J. M'Mahon, it was resolved :—

"That this Congress urges upon the Parliamentary Committee the necessity of having the Factory and Workshops 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."

MUNICIPAL WORKSHOPS.

Mr. John Farren (Dublin), moved :-

"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 ratepayers, as well as having their work done in a more satisfactory manner."

He said if they had the municipal boards to do their own work they would have a better way of living and get more wages instead of having so much sweating work going on at the present time.

Mr. Duignan (Dublin), seconded, and said many municipalities endeavoured to ignore their protestations against this giving away of contracts. That was now, however, limited, through a good deal of their own class being on the public boards. But they were not in the majority there.

Passed.

PAYMENT OF MEMBERS, &c .- ADULT SUFFRAGE -- OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

Mr. E. L. Richardson (Dublin), formally moved :-

"That this Congress urges upon Parliament the necessity of immediately bringing about the following reforms, viz.—(1) The payment of members and election expenses by the State. (2) The adoption of adult suffrage, abolition of all property qualifications for electoral purposes, and a reduction of the period of residence required for registration from twelve months to a period of three months from the date of revision of register. (3) The introduction of a system of old-age pensions to be coincident with the gradual abolition of the present poor-law system, which is both costly and inefficient, and imposes the stamp of degradation upon those unfortunate enough to come under its influence."

Councillor Hughes (Athlone), seconded, and the resolution passed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS.

Councillor McCarron (Londonderry), moved :-

"That we call upon the Government to amend the Local Government Act in so far as it relates to County, Borough, and Urban Council Elections in Ireland by altering the dates of Nominations and Polling from January to August, and thereby prevent in future the inconvenience which the weather inflicts on those compelled to engage in contested elections in the month of January."

He said it was necessary they should have better accommodation for voters. It was not necessary to labour the question. They should arrange that voters would record their votes in more congenial weather.

Mr. W. J. Leahy seconded.

Mr. Geo. Leahy opposed. They should have another date beside

August. It was not suitable, as it was the only one in which workers could take a holiday. He suggested May or June.

Councillor McCarthy (Kilkenny), agreed, and it was decided to

alter the date to May.

LABOUR REPRESENTATION.

Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G. (Belfast), moved :-

"That this Congress of Irish Trade 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 it would be in the recollection of those attending previous Congress he had moved this, and it had been carried. He would ask the Congress to consider it apart from a political aspect, and from a labour representation point of view. They had now got a Labour Party in existence, and any reference to the amendment which was proposed to be put, would be ultra vires. In moving the resolution he had no fault to find with the Irish Parliamentary Party, but as such they did not represent entirely the views of the voters of Ireland. There were Unionists in Ireland as well as Nationalists, and he contended they should have a distinct Labour Party. They had such in England. They should pursue a logical course upon that point. The resolution had been for many years upon their books. It had done no hurt and caused no friction (a voice-"Query"), and its continuance on them would do no harm. It would do good. Those who admired the Irish Parliamentary Party would recognise that themselves. They would all like to see the labour men in Parliament, and they hoped to see it in the future. They, as workers, should have men in Parliament upon whom they could rely, and he would say in conclusion that if they passed the amendment they would be taking a retrogade step.

Mr. Greig (Belfast), seconded, and trusted delegates would take the same view of this question as they did of the Federation resolution. It would be difficult to say what their condition would be if it had not been for the strenuous advocacy of the Irish labour members on the floor of the House of Commons. He took it they would be better off if they had an independent labour party, the same as they had in England. The landed, commercial, railway, and professional interests were represented, and the workers here should be in the same position as the workers across the Channel. The employer classes here as on the other side, ranged themselves on one side against the interests of the workers, and it was absolutely necessary that they should throw in their lot with their English and Scotch brethren, and agree upon an independent

policy.

Mr. Hayes (Limerick), moved the following amendment:—
"Strike out all after the word 'Unionists,' and insert, 'cannot recommend the Trade Unions of this country to affiliate with the L.R.C.,

or to take any steps that would create a new Party, as, in our opinion, the Irish Party is everything that labour requires; such a division is at present undesirable, and would be detrimental to the interests of the country." He said, in moving the amendment, he was conscious that he voiced the opinions of the great majority of his fellow-countrymen. He was more than surprised to hear such a policy by men who, though giants in the labour cause, must own that they owed a sacred allegiance to the land of their birth, for whose national independence they should be prepared to make a small sacrifice. The doctrine of an undivided Irish Party should be their policy. Every man knew that there was not room for a new party in Ireland. At the present stage it was quite plain that a country fighting for its independence from an alien Government could not be too united. Therefore every man with the smallest appreciation for his country's freedom and prosperity would scout the suggestion of a new labour party. He could quite agree with the mover of the resolution if he confined his scheme to the North of Ireland, whose representatives had in all cases voted against the interests of labour. When made generally applicable the scheme was in their opinion both impracticable and detrimental. He would take a short survey of the work done by the Irish Party in the interests of labour for the 12 or 14 years. The Miners Eight Hours Bill got their undivided support on every occasion. The 12 o'clock stop for the textile workers was won by the Irish vote, for which the Irish Party received resolutions from all branches thanking them for their support. The Trades Disputes Bill of a few years ago was still fresh in the memory of every worker, and the Irish Trades Congress thanked the Irish Party by resolutions. Taking all these facts into consideration he did not see how the Congress could consistently advocate a new party. He would make a strong appeal to the sense of the workers present to support the amendment, and so prove they were not forgetful of the past services of the Irish Party (applause).

Councillor Leahy (Limerick), seconding, said the Irish Party were as much interested in the workers as any party they would send there on the labour ticket. That might be a good scheme for those north of the Boyne, but any man from the south who would try to put in a man purely on the labour ticket he thought he should be inside a lunatic asylum. There was a greater cause to be achieved in this country than the cause of labour, and until that cause was attained they could never get the bulk of the Irish workers to give their sole support and attention to any labour men no matter who they might be. They had a labour man in Limerick who embraced all that they required of him. If they could get men of that description he did not see why they should agitate for an independent

labour party.

Councillor Daly (Dublin), said he happened to be in an awkward position both with regard to the amendment and the substantive

resolution. It would be in the recollection of men who attended the Congress at Cork that he there proposed a resolution not exactly the same as that proposed by Mr. Murphy. Amongst the men he found in direct opposition to the motion was their friend, Murphy himself. The views he (the speaker) then expressed were sufficient to get Mr. Murphy off his feet to say that an attempt to get such a resolution passed was dishonest and deserved the condemnation of the Congress.

Mr. Murphy, P.L.G., said that was incorrect; he had used the word insincere, not dishonest.

Councillor Daly said he would accept the correction. Mr. Murphy at all events considered him insincere. While he (the speaker) advocated an independent labour party he also advocated they should be Irishmen too (hear, hear), and that they had a duty to do towards Irishmen. Mr. Murphy said they would have to keep politicians outside the Labour Party. Might he ask Mr. Murphy what he had done in Belfast since (hear, hear). That much he had against the resolution. He was sorry Mr. William Walker was not there from Belfast, because he had a word to say to him which he would not say behind his back. He desired to oppose the amendment also, because he believed they had no independent labour party in Ireland. Mr. Hayes, from Limerick, wanted them to endorse what the Irish Party had done. Such men would not be adequate representatives of the labour cause. Limerick was well represented in the interests of labour by men with whom he did not agree, but he asked them to look outside Limerick and see if their fellows throughout Ireland recognised the labour movement to be a potent force in the country. With regard to the Irish Party, he would say that the Irish Trades Congress had made itself felt upon the Labour question, so that if men in that connection did not give satisfaction, they would find that somebody else would take their place. He opposed both the resolution and amendment on these grounds.

Mr. David Barry (Athlone), said with reference to Irish Trades Unionists affiliating with the L. R. Committee, Mr. Murphy refers to the defeat of Mr. Wm. Walker, Belfast. I don't wonder that Mr Wm. Walker was badly defeated, because of the pledge he signed against his co-workers on sectarian, also on the Home Rule principle. He went directly against Catholicism and a Catholic University, wherein the poorest child in the land should be entitled to as high a grade of education as the richest.

Mr. Wm. Murphy (Dublin), said he agreed with a lot of what Mr. Daly had said in regard to the fact that Ireland did need an independent labour party. He would like to see that, but would also like to see they were Irishmen too (hear, hear). They heard the Irish Party had done everything to further the interests of the workers, but he held in the case of the introduction of a small

clause into a Bill, making for the betterment of the workers, they had given it a good deal of obstruction. He intended to support the motion on the agenda.

Mr. W. J. Leahy (Dublin), held the Irish Party had done as much as any party for workers, and in support of the Labour cause. They were losing time in debating a question they would never be able to carry out.

Mr. McConnell (Belfast), said references had been made to Mr. Walker. Mr. Daly seemed to think it a strange thing that North Belfast had not been won, but he did not know the difficulties which had to be dealt with. The constituency was one of the most difficult in the three kingdoms to fight. The workers of Belfast were divided in many ways, and Mr. Walker had a difficult job to handle. It had been said that none of the Belfast representatives ever voted in the cause of labour. There were two who always did so—Mr. Sloan and Mr. Devlin (applause).

Messrs. Geo. Leahy, Dublin; Deane, Belfast; M'Carron, T.C., Londonderry; Milner, Dublin, and Greig, Belfast, having spoken,

Mr. Hudson, M.P., said the debate referred to the Party of which he was a member. Mr. Milner had said that Party was a social democratic federation. He should say Mr. Milner was badly informed on the point. The S. D. F. withdrew from the Party some four years ago, and there were none of them in that Party to-day. He did not wish to say anything further on the matter than that he distinctly refused to stand on any other grounds than as a purely labour candidate (hear, hear). If they were to work out their own salvation it would be only by working for themselves and for the amelioration of the class to which they belonged (applause).

Mr. Canty (Dublin), said they should not consider either the resolution or amendment at all. They meant no benefit whatever. Mr. Hudson had told them there was no division in the English Labour Party. He was not two years back from London and he found there more division amongst them than the Irish Party here. Another thing he wished to point out was that skilled men ignored the claims of the unskilled men (cries of dissent, and "No, no"). He would therefore ask the Congress to withdraw the resolution and the amendment and to leave things as they were.

A motion to close the debate having been accepted by the Chairman, and carried by 34 votes to 8, the amendment was put, when there appeared—for, 17; against, 31. The amendment was, therefore, lost.

The resolution was also lost on a division by 33 against, to 18 for

VISIT OF THE LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN.

At this stage the Lord Mayor of Dublin (the Right Hon, J. P.

Nannetti, M.P.), entered and was received with applause. Having been presented with an address by the Athlone Trade and Labour Council.

The Lord Mayor, in reply, said when he made up his mind to come to the town of Athlone he little anticipated that an address would be presented to him from the Athlone Trade and Labour organisation. It would be idle for him to say he did not feel flattered at receiving this address. He took it, it was a recognition of himself as an humble worker, and as one who for a quarter of a century had been deeply interested in the Trade and Labour organisation of the country. He was Lord Mayor to-day, but he was yet a workingman (applause), and the responsibilities that had been placed upon him in no way took away from his mind the fact that he still recognised himself as one of the workers of the country (applause). He hoped it was unnecessary for him to say he did not suffer from swelled head (laughter and applause). Deeply as he appreciated the compliment paid to him by workers of Ireland in electing him to Parliament, and later on to the position of Lord Mayor, he yet felt that unless he belonged to them he never could have aspired to have been elected to such a position. Therefore, it was a pleasure to come amongst them. When he got an invitation from the Secretary he was considerably put about because he could not be with them from the commencement of the Congress. He had many duties to attend to. He was Lord Mayor not only of the workingmen, but of all the citizens of Dublin, and he had to remain in Dublin for the purpose of opening another conference, that of the Commercial Travellers. That was what prevented him coming to Athlone in the first stages of the Congress. He might say how pleased he was to see that their Congress had been a successful one. He was as deeply concerned in the welfare of the Congress as they were themselves that day, and he believed much good would result from it to the workers all over the country. He heard an observation since coming into the hall which he, as representative of the skilled workers, considered it his duty to repudiate. It was Mr. Canty who said that the skilled looked with contempt upon the unskilled workers (no, no). When they first established a Trades Council in Dublin he (speaker) and those associated with him, insisted that they should make it their principal charge to protect the unskilled labourers of the country. There was no such thing, he hoped, amongst them as jealousy against any one particular organisation or another. They were all workers, skilled or unskilled. The interest of the unskilled was the same with them as the interest of the skilled workers, and they would be unworthy of the charge placed upon them if they did anything by accident or chance which would be a source of injury to the unskilled workers of the country. With reference to the organisation of a separate Labour Party a good deal could be said on both sides, but he thought they in Ireland were in the happy position that they had a Labour Party already in England. The Irish Parliamentary Party were the Labour Party, and he asked them to take advantage of that Party. Where was the necessity of setting up new parties? The platform on which he was proud to stand was broad enough for every workingman. They could make the Parliamentary Party do everything they wished. They required no spur in that direction, he assured them. They were purely labour as well as Nationalist, and he as a worker could not be with them on the platform that day were it not that he was a Nationalist as well (hear, hear). He could not be a Member of Parliament were he a purely labour candidate, and he challenged contradiction when he said that not a single constituency in Ireland would return a man on the labour question purely. He believed Mr. Walker would have been a member but for the fact that he stood for labour only. If he took up the Orange or the Conservative side he would have captured the votes of one or other of these parties. In Ireland and England these things were totally distinct. They in Ireland had to be politicians whether they liked or not. He (speaker) hoped he represented them fairly. He tried his best to represent the workers of the country as they ought to be represented. He might not give that satisfaction that many of them required, but according to his lights he did the best he could, and if he failed in carrying out their wishes it was more an error of judgment on his part. He had never yet ignored a request made him by any working organisation or from the people, as a whole. He had their confidence, and he was prepared to work to the best of his ability in their interests, and he hoped he would occupy that position until some other man took his place. He was pleased to be with them there that day. He looked upon their organisation with a great deal of jealous regard, and he was anxious it should hold the most important place in the life of the country. He believed such meetings as they had to-day would do great good for the working men of Ireland. He feared they had not yet reached that stage we would wish. But they should not be too captious. Let them be tolerant with the men who did not agree with them. Let them recognise that every man was working for the same object—the betterment of the class they sprung from. Whether they were Nationalists or not they should have one idea before themthe betterment and welfare of their country (applause). He again thanked them very sincerely for the manner in which they had received him, and for the very kind address with which he had been presented (loud applause).

The Chairman then, on behalf of the Congress, thanked him for coming amongst them. Although they as workers might never attain to that high position, still, he hoped, they would follow up the ideals the Lord Mayor had put before them that day, to be tolerant to one another and to follow his example, though they might not agree on all things at all times. They knew they would have to differ at times so that they would have to agree (hear, hear).

He trusted Mr. Nannetti would be spared to them, and that he might live long to enjoy the honours conferred upon him. He would ask that a vote of thanks be passed to him with acclama-

The Congress then adjourned until 2 o'clock.

On resuming, the scrutineers-Messrs. M. J. Keogh (Dublin), Hayes (Limerick), and Montgomery (Belfast)-presented their report on the

ELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

as follows --

O'Keeffe, 7.

	Votes.
1. Councillor James M'Carron (Tailor), Londonderry	40
2. Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G. (Printer), Belfast	38
3. Mr. James Chambers (Saddler), Dublin	36
4. Mr. Walter Hudson, M.P. (A.S.R.S.), Dublin	
5. Mr. E. W. Stewart (Shop Assistant), Dublin	
6. Mr. Stephen Dinneen (Baker), Limerick	32
7. Mr. Michael Egan (Coachmaker), Cork	
8. Mr. George Greig (A. Union of Labour), Belfast	
Not elected :- Messrs. George Leahy (disqualified by	
Order), 23; M. J. O'Lehane, T.C., 14; J. T. Duignan, 1	
Leahy, 13; John M'Carthy, T.C., 13; John Farren, 10;	Richard

BALANCE SHEET.

On the motion of Mr. George Leahy, seconded by Mr. Thomas Dunne, the treasurer's statement of accounts (See p. 80) were passed.

BEFORM OF IRISH EDUCATION.

Mr. Charles Darcus (Belfast), moved :-

"That the present system of Elementary, Technical, Intermediate, and Higher Education in Ireland demands reforms in method of tuition and the better equipment of schools and management." He called attention to the fact that there were many schools in back streets and slums in cities which needed reform in every particular, and in many cases children were turned out to the inconvenience of traffic. With regard to Intermediate education great dissatisfaction existed.

Mr. Mullrenan (Athlone), seconded the resolution, which was passed.

FEEDING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Mr. M'Connell (Belfast), moved :-

"We are strongly of opinion that a Bill empowering the National Board to provide free meals for necessitous children attending Primary Schools should be passed into law forthwith." He said they knew there was a large number of children suffering from extreme poverty, or at least were not supplied with the proper amount of food. They were compelled to go to school, and suffered physically from want of proper nourishment to sustain them. It was as necessary that a child should be fed as educated.

Mr. R. Moore (Belfast), seconded the motion. Passed unani-

mously.

NATIONALISATION OF MINES AND RAILWAYS, ETC.

Mr. George Greig moved :-

"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." He said it would give railway transit in Ireland a great impetus. He observed that the carriage of a certain amount of eggs from Galway to London cost £4 4s., while carriage of the same quantity from continental towns cost 16s. 8d. If these imposts were removed a great deal more would be done to relieve the burdens under which industries of the country suffered than any alterations which could be made in the Fiscal System.

Mr. M'Clure seconded, and the motion passed.

THE UNEMPLOYED ACT.

On the motion of Mr. E. L. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Patk.

Lynch, P.L.G. (Cork), it was resolved :-

"That, as the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, has failed to alleviate distress from want of employment among the workers, this Congress declares that no amending measure can be regarded as satisfactory unless adequate funds are allocated from the Imperial Exchequer to provide work for the unemployed at Trade Union Wages and conditions."

WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND.

Mr. R. Moore (Belfast), moved, Mr. Geo. Greig seconded, and it

was resolved :-

"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."

TRADE DEPRESSION AND PUBLIC WORK,

Councillor D. Barry (Athlone), moved:— That this Congress urges upon Local Authorities the desirability of executing public work during periods of trade depression." He said he was sure the delegates at the Congress knew personally the state of affairs in Ireland during periods of trade depression. In such times the workers were in a very bad plight, and the local authorities should execute all the work they could get a hold of during the periods of depression.

Councillor M. J. Hughes, P.L.G. (Athlone), seconded. The

motion was unanimously carried.

VACCINATION LAWS.

Mr. Thomas M'Connell (Belfast), moved :-

"That this Congress calls upon the Irish Members to secure the extension to Ireland of the Conscience Clause of the Vaccination Acts, so that parents who disbelieve in the efficacy or wisdom of vaccination, or who want to protect their children from what they believe to be an injurious practice, may be relieved from the penalties now imposed for non-compliance with the Vaccination Act." He said he would not call the resolution a hardy annual, though it had been many times before them, and had been passed by one or two Congresses. He regretted no relief had been obtained for those who were opposed to vaccination, and who did not believe in its efficacy.

Mr. McClure (Belfast), seconded, and said the resolution gave them but another illustration of the different laws made in Ireland

and England.

Mr. O'Keeffe (Dublin), opposed. Medical evidence had proved the great benefit of vaccination, and when they had an outbreak of smallpox some time ago 99 per cent. of the cases which recovered had been vaccinated; others were not.

Councillor Daly supported the motion. He had a conscientious objection to have children vaccinated (a voice, "Mutilated"). Yes, and I will be summoned and fined because I don't carry out a law in which I cannot conscientiously believe.

Mr. Grieg also spoke in favour of the resolution, and so did Messrs. Duignan and Deane.

The resolution was declared carried, two dissenting.

PENSIONS FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYES.

Councillor McCarron, Derry (for Councillor Boyd, Belfast),

formally moved :-

"That this Congress is of opinion that his Majesty's Government should grant Parliamentary powers to all local authorities of Ireland to provide out of local rates a reasonable pension for all Municipal employes, and the Parliamentary Committee of this Congress urge the several Corporations in Ireland to promote a Bill exclusively for this purpose."

Mr. Duignan seconded, and the motion was adopted.

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDER 10.

On the motion of Councillor McCarron, seconded by Mr. H. McManus (Belfast), it was decided, on a division, by 34 votes to 9, that:—

"The Secretary shall be elected by Congress, and be ex-officion a member of the Congress and the Parliamentary Committee, and shall remain in office so long as his work and conduct give satisfaction to the Parliamentary Committee and the representatives attending the Congress. Should a vacancy occur between the annual meetings of the Congress the Parliamentary Committee shall have power to fill the vacancy."

CONGRESS, 1907.

On the invitation of the President of the Dublin Trades Council, acting for that body, the Congress decided to meet in Dublin in 1907.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Votes of thanks having been unanimously passed to the Reception Committee, Mr. and Mrs. Dames-Longworth, the Press, and the Chairman, who was presented with a handsome gong by the Athlone Trade and Labour Society, the Congress concluded.



BALANCE SHEET of the Thirteenth Irish Trades Union Congress, Athlone, 1906.

The same	NCOM	g.		£		d.	EXPENDITURE.	
To Balance from Congress, 196 " Seventy Delegates' Fees " Affiliation Fees " Sale of Congress Reports	05	in Table and Designation of the Day of the Day of the Congress of the Day of	A I THE COURT OF DESIGNATION OF	56 52 74 7	11 10 4	d. 5 0 8 0	By Standing Orders Committee (Wexford) " P. C. Meetings " Tellers to Congress " Secretaries " Auditors " Caretaker, &c., Wexford " Printing " " (carriage on) " " (B. Doyle) " Hall Porter, Dublin " Delegate to Athlone " Postage, Stationery, &c. (Treasurer) " Banking Expenses " Secretary's Honorarium " Treasurer's " Telegrams (Athlone) " Postage, Newspapers, &c. (Secretary) " Balance in hand	£ s. d 2 10 d 38 10 d 0 10 d 2 0 d 0 10 d 1 7 d 2 11 d 0 1 d 28 3 d 0 10 d 1 0 d 0 15 d 0 5 d 20 0 d 3 0 d 3 d 6 5 d 82 6 d
	T	otal		£190	10	1	Total	£190 10 1

Accounts examined and certified correct.

M. J. KEOGH, Anditors.

A. MOORE, Auditors.

EDWARD W. STEWART, Treasurer.

AFFILIATION FEES PAID.

£ 8. d 2 2 0 Dublin Operative Coopers ... 0 8 Amalgamated Union of Bakers (Limerick Branch) 2 10 0 Irish Post Office Clerks' Association ... Amalgamated Society of Painters 1 10 0 Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants' Executive 8 10 0 Amalgamated Society of Carpenters' Executive ... 5 10 0 0 11 Brassfounders' Society (Dublin) 1 17 8 Amalgamated Union Shop Assistants 0 1 10 Amalgamated Union Bakers' Executive ... 0 15 0 *** Irish United Enginemen (Belfast) 1 0 0 Athlone Trade and Labour Council 0 5 0 United Society Brushmakers (Dublin) ... 0 4 Amalgamated Society Painters (Sligo Branch) 0 Dublin Trades Council ... Amalgamated Society Tailors (Progressive Branch, 0 Dublin) 1 0 0 Limerick Trades Council 2 10 0 Typographical Association Executive ... Kilkenny Trades Council 0 0 1 10 0 National Amalgamated Union of Labour Executive ... 0 0 Dublin Operative Eakers Trish Drapers' Assistants 3 5 0 0 Irish Glass Bottle Makers ... Amalgamated Association Tramway and Vehicle 0 11 Workers (Belfast) ... 1 8 4 Amalgamated Furnishing Trades' Association 1 0 0 Stationary Engine Drivers, Dublin ... 1 0 0 Cork Trades Council City of Dublin Stonecutters ... 0 5 1 10 Belfast Bakers' Society Textile Operatives' Society, Belfast Tinsmiths and Sheet Metal Workers, Dublin 1 10 0 0 5 0 7 0 6 Irish Linen Lappers, Belfast 1 0 0 Belfast and Dublin Locomotive Engine Drivers 0 2 0 Typographical Society, Belfast Branch ... 1 10 0 Dublin Corporation Labourers 3 0 0 Dublin Typographical Society 0 10 0 Guild of Painters (Limerick) 0 16 Bookbinders (Dublin Branch) Amalgamated Society Tailors' Executive 3 10 0 0 10 0 Independent Stationary Engine Drivers, Dublin Municipal Employes' Association, Belfast Branch 0 United Kingdom Society Coachmakers' Executive ... 0 Belfast Trades Council Amalgamated Union Cabinet Makers, Dublin Branch 0 16 Amalgamated Society Tailors, Emerald Branch, Dublin 0 7 Hackle and Gill Makers, Belfast Dublin Hairdressers' Assistants 0 6 0 8 0 16 Dublin Operative Plasterers Amalgamated Society Tailors, Sligo Branch ...

Dist of Delegates.

Athlone Trades Council-D. Barry, U.D.C.; M. J. Hughes, P.L.G.; W. Mullrenan. Strand Street.

Amalgamated Society of Carpenters-L. Corrigan, 69 Henry Street, Limerick. Amalgamated Society of Carpenters (Dublin 6th Branch)—R. O'Keeffe, Newtown Park, Blackrock.

Amalgamated Society of Carpenters (Dublin 5th Branch)—E. J. O'Neill, 35 Lower Gloucester Street.

Amalgamated Society of Tailors-J. M'Carron, T.C., 2 Stanley Terrace, Londonderry; J. M'Mahon, 28 St. Alban's Road, Dublin.

Amalgamated Society of Tailors (Dublin Branches)—John Moloney, 5 Norfolk Market; Joseph Byrne, 5 Wilson's Terrace.

Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants—Thos. Murphy, La Findlater Street; T. Ward, 29 Eliza Street, Belfast; Walter Hudson, M.P., 35 Melrose Avenue.

Amalgamated Society of Painters-Joseph Treacy, 61 Mary Street.

Amalgamated Union of Cabinetmakers-J. Johnston, 31 Fontency Street. Amalgamated Tramway and Vehicle Workers-R. Moore, 14 Walbeck Street, Belfast.

Amalgamated Union of Labour-G. Greig, 7 My Lady's Road, Belfast; Jos. Hillis, 29 Springview Street, Belfast; Thomas Montgomery, 41 Sandown Road, Belfast.

Amalgamated Furnishing Trades Association-D. Mulcahy, 46 Capel Street. Amalgamated Union Shop Assistants-E. W. Stewart, 179 Clonliffe Road.

Belfast Trades Council-Wm. Walker, T.C., 17 College Street.

Belfast Operative Bakers—Thos. M'Connell, 58 Old Park Avenue; Edward Deane, Garfield Street. Belfast and Dublin Locomolive Engine Drivers-H. M'Clure, 49 York Road; Wm.

Reid, 51 Richardson Street.

Cork Trades Council-M. Egan, P. Lynch, P.L.G., 47 Grattan Street.

Dublin Trades Council-P. T. Daly, T.C.; E. L. Richardson, George Leahy, James Chambers, 116 Capel Street.

Dublin Typographical Society—M. J. Keogh, 33 Denmark Street.
Dublin Operative Coopers—W. J. Leahy, 25 Blackhall Street; P. J. Quinn, 9 Merchants Quay.

Dublin Stonecutters-Henry Madigan, 2 Keough's Cottages.

Dublin Brassfounders—John Thomas Duignan, 77 Lower Dorset Street.

Dublin Operative Plasterers—Patrick Malone, 41 Lower Camden Street. Dublin Hairdressers' Assistants-Henry Rochford, Fairview Strand. Dublin Corporation Labourers-M. Canty, J. Tarleton, 10 Mary's Abbey.

Dublin Branch Bookbinders—A. Moore, 4 Aungier Street.

Hackle and Gill Makers, Belfast—John F. Gordon, 331 Shankill Road.

Irish Drapers Assistants—M. J. O'Lehane, T.C., 56 Henry Street, Dublin.

Irish Glass Bottlemakers-John Donaldson, 19 Havelock Square; Thomas Dunne, 1 Cambridge Terrace, Ringsend.

Irish Bakers' Amalgamated Union-Stephen Dinneen, 23 Mount Vincent Cottages,

Irish Linenlappers Union-John L. Fergie, 30 Denmark Street, Belfast.

Independent Stationary Engine Drivers (Dublin)-John Morgan, 20 Lr. Gardiner

Street; P. Donnelly, 23 St. Joseph's Terrace.

Kilkenny Trades Council—J. M'Carthy, T.C., P.L.G., M. Stapleton, Trades Hall.

Limerick Trades Council—M. Leahy, T.C., Bedford Hotel; B. Dinneen, St. Lelia Street.

Limerick Mechanics' Institute-P. Haves, M. M'Inerney, M. Harvey, Bank Place. Municipal Employes' Association (Belfast) - A Boyd, T.C., 20 Agincourt Avenue. Typographical Association—Hugh McManus, 14 Ardmoulin Street, Belfast; C. Lyons, Athlone.

Typographical Association (Belfast Branch)—J. Murphy, C. Darcus, 20 College Street.

Typographical Association (Cork Branch)—D. Denehy, 3 Ophelia Place.

Textile Operatives—Mrs. Elizabeth McCaughey, 5 Spinner Street, Belfast; Miss Mary Galway, 31 Crocus Street, Belfast.

Tinsmiths and Sheet Metal Workers—John Farren, 23 Usher's Quay, Dublin, United Stationary Engine Drivers (Dublin)—James Finnegan, 10 Leary's Place,

Townsend Street.

United Kingdom Society Coachmakers—J. J. O'Farrell, 6 Upper Rutland Street;
Thomas Milner, 25 York Street, Dublin.

United Society of Brushmakers-W. Murphy, 80 Fitzroy Avenue, Dublin.

Scottish Trades Union Congress-Mr. Geo. Carson, 7 Garturk Street, Govanhill, Glasgow; Mr. J. C. Hendry, Brechin.

STANDING ORDERS.

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

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

3. 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 trades 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. 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 Secretary shall be elected by Congress, and be ex-officio a member of the Congress and the Parliamentary Committee, and shall remain in office so long as his work and conduct give satisfaction to the Parliamentary Committee and the representatives attending the Congress. Should a vacancy occur between the annual meetings of the Congress the Parliamentary Committee shall have power to fill the vacancy.
- 11. Parliametary 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. A printed Balance Sheet, duly certified by the Auditofs, to be presented to each delegate on the second day of the meeting.
- 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.

