



THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL
Irish Trades ✱
✱ Union Congress

WILL BE HELD IN

DUBLIN

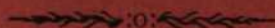
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Whit-Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday,

1907.



"LABOR OMNIA VINCIT."



REPORT
OF THE
FOURTEENTH
Irish Trades
Union Congress,

HELD IN

The City Hall, Dublin,

MAY 20th-23rd, 1907.



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

REPORT
OF THE
FOURTEENTH
Irish Trades Union Congress

HELD IN THE
CITY HALL, DUBLIN,
ON
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY,
20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd May, 1907.

Edited by E. L. RICHARDSON.



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

DUBLIN :
PRINTED BY BERNARD DOYLE, THE TRADE UNION PRINTER,
LOWER ORMOND QUAY,
On Paper made in Ireland.

Parliamentary Committee.

—:O:—

CHAIRMAN :

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

VICE-CHAIRMAN :

MICHAEL EGAN, J.P., CORK.

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

MISS GALWAY, Belfast.

STEPHEN DINNEEN, Limerick.

GEORGE GREIG, Belfast.

GEORGE LEAHY, Dublin.

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

14th Annual Irish Trades Union Congress.

DUBLIN, 1907.

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 have pleasure in submitting for your consideration their Thirteenth Annual Report.

In common with the organised workers of the United Kingdom, your Committee rejoice that since the last meeting of Congress two measures of first importance to wage-earners have been placed upon the Statute Book—the Trades Disputes Act, and the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Trades Disputes Act.—In regard to the Trades Disputes Act—the restoration of the Magna Charta of Trades Unionism—it will be remembered that at the date of our last report two Bills upon this question were before Parliament—one promoted by the Government, the other by the Labour Party, of which our colleague, Mr. Walter Hudson, M.P., had charge. Having carefully examined both measures your Committee adopted and forwarded the following resolution to the Prime Minister and other members, including the Secretaries of the Irish Parliamentary Party :—

“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 Disputes Bill, introduced by the Attorney-General on the 28th July, 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.”

It is hardly necessary to mention that the Government subsequently acknowledged the strength of the case for the protection of Trade Union funds, and practically adopted the measure promoted by the Labour Party, which, as already stated, is now law.

Workmen's Compensation.—The Consolidated Workmen's Compensation Act comes into operation on the 1st July next. Your

Committee regard it as one of the best additions to the Statute-Book, albeit defective in one or two points, as, for instance, the absence of compulsory insurance for small employers and the exclusion of out-workers and Government servants. All other workers are, however, included within its scope; painters' plant comes within the term "scaffolding"; the 30 ft. limit is abolished; "serious and wilful misconduct" cannot now defeat a claim for compensation, while many other hitherto anomalous restrictions have been swept away. Generally speaking, your Committee are pleased to report that almost every point contended for by your Secretary on your behalf before the Departmental Committee in 1904 has been conceded.

On the question of compulsory insurance, it is right to say that the Government acknowledged its importance when the measure was before the House, and a Committee appointed by the Home Secretary has been taking evidence on the point for some time past, the general tendency of which goes to prove the contention in its favour as a necessary corollary of the Compensation Act. You will be asked to endorse that view.

Another Departmental Committee has been collecting evidence, in connection with the Compensation Act, as to what diseases and injuries (other than injuries by accident) due to industrial occupations are distinguishable as such, and can properly be added to diseases enumerated in the third Schedule to the Act so as to entitle to compensation persons who may be affected thereby. The only diseases at present scheduled are anthrax; lead, mercury, phosphorous or arsenic poisoning; and ankylostomiasis (mining); but the Home Secretary has power to extend the schedule according to the findings of the Departmental Committee's report.

Notification of Accidents.—Another measure of some importance was also passed during the Autumn Session, amending the law relating to returns and notifications of accidents in mines, quarries, factories, and workshops. The Act carries out certain recommendations contained in the report of the Departmental Committee appointed in 1901. Heretofore, an accident was reportable if it prevented a workman, on any one of the three days following the day of the accident, from being employed for five hours at his ordinary work. The Act makes one whole day's absence, whenever it occurs, the notification standard in certain classes of accidents, with penalties for non-compliance.

The Unemployed Act.—Your Committee in due course forwarded to the proper quarter the resolution adopted at Athlone, complaining of the failure of the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905. The President of the Local Government Board subsequently announced the intention of the Government to set apart £200,000 from the Consolidated Fund for the purpose of making the Act work during the winter, stating, however, that the grant was but a

temporary palliative, pending the report of the Royal Commission on Poor Laws. But the Act, and regulations of the L.G.B. thereunder, are so full of conditions and restrictions that even the well-meant efforts of Mr. Burns have failed to give satisfaction, and the measure remains, in Ireland at all events, practically inoperative. You will again be asked to demand more effective methods for dealing with this great problem.

Fair Wages Resolution.—Frequent complaints having been made of the violation of the Fair Wages Resolution by Government contractors, a deputation from the Parliamentary Committee of the British Trades Union Congress waited on the First Lord of the Admiralty (Lord Tweedmouth) and the Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane) in March, 1906, with reference to the matter, when it was agreed by the Ministers referred to that any grievance which a trade union may have under the Fair Wages Resolution should be first notified to the Congress Committee. On the Committee making complaint to the department concerned two officials would meet two members of the Committee in conference, with the object of examining the complaint and arriving at a settlement. A further deputation from the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation subsequently, on May 21st, waited upon the Treasury with a like object. Your Committee put themselves in communication with Mr. Bryce on this question some considerable time previous to his resignation of the Chief Secretaryship, urging that they should be placed in a similar position as regards Government contracts in Ireland. Before leaving Ireland the right hon. gentleman caused the following letter to be forwarded to your Committee:—

Chief Secretary's Office,

Dublin Castle, 25th January, 1907.

Sir—With reference to your letter of the 29th ultimo and previous letters, I am directed by the Chief Secretary to state that he has had under consideration the application of the Irish Trades Union Congress that their Parliamentary Committee should be placed upon the same level, as regards Ireland, as the Parliamentary Committee of the British Trades Union Congress has been placed, as regards England, in connection with such complaints as may be made from time to time of violation of the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons by Government contractors; and I am to request that you will be good enough to inform the Congress that Mr. Bryce is prepared to accept the procedure in relation to such matters which have been approved by the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Secretary of State for War, namely, that in the case of any dispute a Sub-Committee of the Trades Union Congress should meet in conference the officials of the Department concerned with a view to effecting a settlement, if possible.

I am, however, to observe that the number of Departments under the control of the Irish Government which deal with Government contracts is small, and the amount of work involved is not great. The chief employer and contractor for the Government in Ireland is the Board of Works, which is under the control of the Treasury, and it will be necessary for your Congress to approach that Department separately. As regards the Departments which are immediately under his control, the Chief Secretary finds that the Fair Wages Resolution is already incorporated in the forms of contract used by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, the General Prisons Board, the Inspectors of Lunatics (as regards supplies for Dundrum Lunatic Asylum), and the Dublin Metropolitan Police (as regards

clothing). The resolution is also embodied in the contracts for clothing for the Royal Irish Constabulary, which are made by the War Office.

In conclusion, I am to state that the Chief Secretary understands that the Irish Trades Union Congress have urged that contracts for printing, &c., entered into by local authorities are Government contracts, and that they have approached the Local Government Board for Ireland with a view to having the Fair Wages Resolution applied to such contracts; but Mr. Bryce is informed that the Local Government Board have no power to do what the Congress have suggested, namely, to invalidate all contracts made by local authorities where the Fair Wages Resolution is violated.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

J. B. DOUGHERTY.

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

The concluding paragraph of the above letter refers to a resolution adopted at the Wexford Congress in 1905, asking the Local Government Board to urge upon local Boards the advisability of having all their contracts executed in accordance with the Fair Wages Resolution.

At the instance of your Committee, Mr. Walter Hudson brought the question of the evasion of the Fair Wages Resolution in Ireland before the Labour Party, with the following result :—

On Monday, the 4th March, 1907, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and Mr. Fenwick asked questions whether, in view of the complaints of both employers and men in regard to the working of the Fair Wages Clause in Government contracts, the Prime Minister would consider the appointment of a Committee to discuss and advise how the purpose of the clause could be better carried out.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, in reply said—I have carefully considered the question of the working of the Fair Wages Clause in Government contracts in consultation with the heads of the Departments concerned, and I have come to the conclusion, in view of the various difficulties which have from time to time arisen in the interpretation and working of the clause in Government contracts, that the question of how far the purposes of the resolution can be effectively attained should form the subject of inquiry. I have, therefore, decided to appoint a Departmental Committee on the subject.

This Committee is at present sitting, and the Labour Party are making strong efforts to make the "Resolution" a genuine trade union clause.

Irish Poor Law Commission.—Your Committee, having fully considered the report of the Viceregal Commission on the Poor Laws, Ireland, unanimously resolved :—

That while accepting the recommendations of the Irish Poor Law Commission as calculated to bring about salutary changes in the existing demoralising methods of dealing with the aged and unfortunate poor, this Committee, on behalf of the organised workers of Ireland, declares that no measure of Poor Law reform can be accepted as satisfactory that fails to provide an universal system of State pensions for the worn out veterans of industry.

Copies of this resolution have been forwarded to the Chief Secretary and the Prime Minister.

The Commissioners in their report declare the development of the country's resources to be the only means of dealing with the poverty of Ireland. They recommend (*inter alia*) the abolition of the present workhouse system, the segregation of inmates into separate institutions, the placing of fever hospitals under the control of county and district committees, and the establishment of consumptive sanatoria. Also, that genuine workingmen travelling in search of employment should be provided with satisfactory documentary authorisation for obtaining from relieving officers food and lodging during their journey. Many other salutary recommendations are made which your Committee cannot conveniently refer to within the compass of this report. It is interesting to learn from a report issued on the 22nd April, 1907, that the sum applied during the financial year 1905-6 to the present system of poor-law relief in Ireland amounted to £1,960,966 !

The Railway Commission.—Following the transmission of Congress resolutions upon the handicapping of Irish industries by the existing railway system, your secretary was called as a witness on behalf of the Congress by the Viceregal Commission on Irish Railways on the 23rd November, 1906, and 3rd January, 1907. He submitted proofs of his evidence. Your Committee, while regretting that they were unable to furnish their secretary with evidence regarding rates and charges from practical experience, approved of the points made by him on the general industrial aspect of State ownership in his examination on the second day of his attendance before the Commission. From a careful perusal of the evidence already given by witnesses from every class in the community, your Committee are convinced that an overwhelming case has been made out for popular control or State acquisition of the railways of Ireland.

Canals and Waterways Commission.—The resolution adopted by the Wexford Congress, on the motion of the Stonemasons' delegate *re* canal rates on stone, and also that adopted at Athlone *re* State purchase of canals, having been sent to the Royal Commission on Canals and Waterways, their secretary forwarded the following acknowledgment :—

54 Victoria Street, Westminster,
London, S.W., October, 1906.

Dear Sir—I am directed by Lord Shuttleworth to acknowledge your letter of October 11th, and the important resolutions passed by the Irish Trades Union Congress, which shall be placed before the Commission.—I am yours very faithfully,

W. B. DUFFIELD.

E. L. Richardson, Esq., &c.

Ordnance Workshops, &c.—With reference to the claim of the Saddlers and other trades for the extension of the ordnance workshop system to Ireland, by giving effect to the evidence of the Duke

of Connaught before the Committee on War Office Organisation (See Report Cork Congress 1902, p. 18.), the following letter has been received in reply to a further representation by your Committee:—

War Office, London, S.W., 8th August, 1906.

Sir—In reply to your letter of the 29th June, forwarding copies of two resolutions passed at the thirteenth annual Irish Trades Union Congress, I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you that the policy of the Department in regard to these questions has been fully considered, and that it is not intended to depart from the decisions already communicated to you.

I am to refer you to the letter from this Department dated 10th August, 1905; and, with regard to the second resolution submitted in your letter under reply to say that the Army Council will be glad to receive for consideration the names and addresses of any Irish firms who may desire to be invited to tender for the supply of vehicles in competition with other firms in other parts of the United Kingdom.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

R. H. BRADE.

The Secretary, Irish Trades Union Congress.

Receiving Depot.—Your Committee in their last report anticipated (from communications received from the Army Council) that their persistent demands for the re-establishment of a Receiving Depot for Army and Navy Supplies in Ireland "would shortly be conceded." Before the close of the Autumn Session the Secretary of State for War, in reply to Mr. William Field, M.P., announced that the Inspection Depot in Dublin for the reception of samples and tenders for army supplies from Irish manufacturers had been completed. In future, in tenders for certain classes of goods for army supplies, delivery in Dublin will be allowed as an alternative to delivery at Woolwich. Your committee, therefore, feel justified in congratulating the trades concerned in this matter at having, through the medium of the Irish Congress, at length succeeded in securing this measure of justice.

The Truck Act Amendment.—The Home Secretary, having appointed a committee to inquire into the operation of the Truck Acts, and to consider and report what amendments or extensions of those Acts are desirable, particularly whether fines and deductions from wages should be prohibited, and whether the practice of shop assistants being lodged and boarded by their employers gives rise to abuses needing remedy, the resolutions adopted on the motion of the drapers' and shop assistants' representatives were forwarded to the chairman of the Committee, the Lord Advocate-General, who replied that they would receive his careful consideration. Your Committee understand that the representatives of the unions adversely affected have supplied the Truck Act Committee with conclusive evidence of the hardships and injustice entailed upon their members by the existing state of the law of Truck.

Contracts for Local Public Bodies.—Your Committee submit the following letter, which speaks for itself:—

Irish County Councils' General Council,

Offices: 10 Leinster Street, Dublin, Nov. 24, 1906.

Dear Sir—I beg to inform you that your letter of the 23rd June, enclosing a resolution of the Irish Trades Union Congress, urging that all 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, was before the annual meeting of the General Council, and that the question was referred to the decision of each individual Council.—
Yours faithfully,

A. KEOGH NOLAN, Secretary.

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

Factory Sanitation, &c.—In reply to the representatives of the Brassfounders and other metal trades, that existing facilities for sanitary accommodation in many of the workshops of the country are inadequate, the Inspector of Factories for the Dublin District writes:—

12 College Green, Dublin, 3rd July, 1906.

Dear Sir—I am in receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst. enclosing copy of resolution adopted at the Irish Trades Union Congress at Athlone, and, in reply thereto, I can only say that, so far as I am aware, the provisions of the Factory Act are carried out with respect to the provision of washing accommodation in brass-casting shops and other places where lead or other poisonous substances are used; but that, if you will supply me with the names of any firms where irregularity in this respect is known to you, I will take steps to have the proper provision made.—
I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN JACKSON, H.M. Inspector of Factories.

E. L. Richardson, Esq.

Your Committee are again obliged to remind the trades responsible for the resolution referred to that no response has been made to their repeated applications for the names of firms where the irregularity complained of is known.

Hackney Carriage Inspectors.—Regarding the repeated protests made by the Coachmakers against being shut out from positions as Hackney Carriage Inspectors, to which they claim to be entitled, the following further reply was received:—

Dublin Castle, 6th July, 1906.

Sir—Referring to your letter of the 2nd inst., I am directed by the Chief Commissioner of Police to state that the police who have been trained in the Hackney Carriage Department of the Dublin Police are found by experience to be fully competent to discharge the duties required of them under the Hackney Carriage Acts.—
I am, sir, your obedient servant,

J. M. GOLDSMITH.

Mr. E. L. Richardson.

The Cork Corporation formally acknowledged receipt of the resolution on this question, which was forwarded to them at the request of the Cork coachmakers. Your Committee are of opinion that, as regards Dublin, the demand of the coachmakers can only be attained either by an amendment of the Hackney Carriage Acts or the transfer of the police to the control of local authorities, as in England.

Technical Training of Apprentices—Complaints having been made that employers do not give sufficient facilities to trade apprentices in the matter of technical education, representations were again made to the department with the following result :—

Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland,
Upper Merrion Street, Dublin, July 11th, 1906.

Sir—Adverting to your letter of the 2nd inst., enclosing copy of a resolution with reference to the training of apprentices in a full technical knowledge of their trades, unanimously adopted at the recent Irish Trades Union Congress at Athlone, I have to inform you that the Department will again bring the terms of the resolution under the notice of the local authorities concerned.

I may add for the information of your Committee that as a direct result of a similar resolution passed by the Irish Trades Union Congress last year, and a circular letter which the Department addressed to the local authorities on the subject, several classes for apprentices were established, and the employers of labour in the districts were requested to afford facilities to apprentices wishing to join the classes.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

T. P. GILL, Secretary.

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

Sunday Trading.—The report of the Joint Committee of Lords and Commons on the subject of Sunday trading in its main features follows the lines of the Bill brought in by the Chairman (Lord Avebury) last year. The Committee found that although Sunday trading has in many localities increased of late years, the existing law is practically inoperative. They recommend that the penalties should be increased and that local authorities should have powers conferred on them to make by-laws exempting certain trades or districts where there are special circumstances to justify exceptional treatment. Provision is also made for not unduly curtailing the opportunity of using places of refreshment on Sundays, and it is suggested that, under proper conditions, tobacco shops might be allowed to remain open on Sundays for the same hours as public houses.

In acknowledging receipt of the Congress resolution on this subject, Lord Avebury wrote :—

6 St. James's Square, S.W., June 20th, 1906.

Sir—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter. I am glad your Association is in favour of our Bill. You may rely upon it that I shall do my best to pass the measure.—I am, your obedient servant,

AVEBURY.

Merchandise Marks.—Having obtained a favourable place in the ballot for private members' Bills, Sir Howard Vincent secured the second reading of his Merchandise Marks Amendment Bill on the 15th March, 1907. Subsequently on coming before the Standing Committee on Trade on the 15th April, Mr. J. P. Boland, M.P., moved an amendment, intended to secure the marking of all goods of foreign manufacture, "including the separate articles enclosed in any cover or other package." Your Committee furnished the

hon. member with definite particulars, together with Congress reports and resolutions, to strengthen his case. But the Government declining to assent, on the ground that it would impose obligations on the Customs authorities which it would be impossible to carry out, Mr. Boland was forced to withdraw. As it at present stands the Bill simply substitutes the words "Made abroad" for "Made in Germany," &c., &c., on imported goods.

Labourers and Town Tenants' Acts.—Your Committee consider it proper to note the passing of these two measures, which, though not directly affecting the trade union movement, have a very important bearing upon the general labour position in Ireland.

The object of the first mentioned Act is to better the condition of agricultural labourers in rural districts by providing them with suitable dwellings and garden allotments. "Agricultural labourer" is defined to mean a man or woman who does agricultural work for hire at any season of the year on the land of some other person, and includes hand-loom weavers, and fishermen doing agricultural work, or any person (other than a domestic or menial servant) working for hire in a rural district whose average wages in the year preceding the lodgment of any representation affecting him, do not exceed 2s. 6d. a day, and who is not in occupation of land exceeding one quarter of an acre. The sum of £4,250,000 is available out of the Irish Land Purchase Fund, together with moneys from other sources for the provision, by Rural District Councils, of labourers' cottages and allotments, the expenses consequent on working the Act being met by a rate levied on such district. At their meeting in August last your committee resolved:—

That this meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress expresses satisfaction that the representations repeatedly made by them regarding the conditions under which the agricultural labourers of Ireland have so long been obliged to exist have at length been brought to fruition by the passing of the Labourers Act, and begs to thank the Chief Secretary and the Irish Members for their efforts in securing this measure of justice for a deserving class of Irish workers.

The Town Tenants Statute is the first legislative concession to the demands of the town tenants in Ireland, and secures to them the benefit of improvements which they, by their own industry, energy, and enterprise have made in, and which add to, the letting value of the premises they hold. Broadly speaking, it is computed that the persons to whom the provisions of the Act are more or less directly applicable number in round figures about one-and-a-half millions; and its importance to the community at large is emphasised by the striking circumstance that, while there has been a general decrease in the population of the whole country for many years, and whilst also the rural population since 1891 has decreased by several thousands, yet the population in towns, in the same period, has increased by 139,670, and recent statistics would appear

to show that this tendency towards an increase in the towns still continues.

Housing of the Town Workers.—On Tuesday, 18th June, 1906. Mr. William Redmond asked the Chief Secretary whether, in view of the need for better housing of the artisans and labourers in the towns of Ireland, he could promise that the matter will engage the attention of the Government at an early date. Mr. Bryce said he was aware of the need mentioned in the question and of the importance of the subject generally, and he hoped it might be possible to find time before long to consider what should be done to amend the law bearing on it. So many other urgent questions, however, were before the Irish Government at this moment that he could not at present make any more definite statement. Mr. William Redmond—Has the right hon. gentleman's attention been called to the fact that his predecessor made a definite promise to introduce legislation on this matter,* and when he is considering this matter will he also give attention to the report of the Conference recently held in Dublin? Mr. Bryce said he would take a note of the hon. member's remarks.

Workingmen Magistrates.—In accordance with the decisions of Congress on this question your Committee again applied to the principal Trades Councils for the names of representative workingmen in their districts whom they desired to recommend for appointment to the Commission of the Peace. The Councils of Cork and Londonderry only complied, and the names furnished, together with one from Athlone, were in due course submitted to the Lord Chancellor, who replied that the appointment of Borough Magistrates rested with the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and not with him. The same names were then forwarded to His Excellency, with the following result:—

The Castle, Dublin, 9th March, 1907.

Sir—I am directed by His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant to acknowledge the receipt of your letter and enclosure of the 7th inst. His Excellency desires me to state that he will be pleased to consider the matter, and a further reply will be sent in due course.—I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

ROBERT V. BOWEN-COLTHURST.

E. L. Richardson, Esq.

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

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

Sir Charles Dilke's Meeting.—In conjunction with the Cork Trades Council and the Cork Branch of the Amalgamated Shop Assistants' Union, your Committee arranged with the Right Hon. Sir Charles Dilke to address a great Labour Demonstration in that city during the Parliamentary recess. The meeting took place in the Cork City Hall on the evening of Tuesday, the 8th January last, and was carried out by the local Committee with great success. The Lord Mayor presided, and several public representatives and Labour leaders spoke. Your Committee was represented by their Chairman, Councillor M'Carron (Derry), Mr. E. W. Stewart (Dublin), and Mr. M. Egan (Cork).

The Athlone Congress.—Your Committee have been much gratified at receiving the following resolution from the Urban District Council of Athlone :—

Urban District Council, Athlone, 7th June, 1906.

Dear Sir—I am directed by my Council to send you the enclosed copy of resolution which was unanimously passed at the meeting of my Council on last evening.—Your obedient servant,

P. V. C. MURTAGH, Clerk.

Mr. E. L. Richardson.

On the motion of Mr. Denis Connell, seconded by Mr. Michael J. Lennon, it was unanimously resolved :—"That we, the Urban District Councillors of Athlone, thank the Congress of United Labour for selecting Athlone as their meeting centre, and trust their next meeting will also be held here."

The Labour Party.—Your Committee note with the keenest admiration the splendid work performed by the Labour Party since the beginning of the present Parliament, and they submit that it is but the fruit of the spade-work performed by the Congresses of the three Kingdoms, without which the work of the Party would be in vain. The motions brought before the House on the evenings which members of the Party secured in the ballot, included one for the Provision of Old Age Pensions out of State Funds (agreed to 14th March, 1906); the payment of Trade Union rates to all Government employes, and recognition of Trade Unions by the various Government Departments (accepted by the Government 1st and 8th March, 1906). In addition there was a motion for the political Enfranchisement of Women (talked out); and another to put an end to the evictions of workmen on strike who happened to occupy houses belonging to their employers (withdrawn, on sympathetic speech being given by Government, May 30th, 1906). A small Bill to class as undesirables aliens who are brought to these countries to take the place of workmen on strike was successfully piloted by the Party through the House of Commons, but was stranded in the Lords. On the Committees which dealt with Workmen's Compensation, reform of the Income Tax, the procedure of the House of Commons, the Provision of Meals for School Children, Electric Supply, Taxation of Land Values, Nationalisation of Canals, the Postal Servants, and with various other subjects upon which

Special Committees have sat, members of the Labour Party have been active and vigilant. In the House itself the Party has been in the front, equal with, and often superior to, old Parliamentarians in debating powers, as, for instance, Mr. Philip Snowden's old age pensions speech on the Budget debate on April 24th, 1907. But the Party has throughout been guided by the principle that its members were sent to Parliament to do work, and not to talk; and your Committee thank them for what they have already done, and what we hope they will be able to do, for the workers of Ireland and Great Britain.

Irish Party's Support.—Your Committee have also to acknowledge, with thanks, the attention given by members of the Irish Party to the representations and recommendations frequently made to them on your behalf during the past year. Their support was especially sought for the Trades Disputes and Workmen's Compensation Acts, and for other matters dealt with at Athlone, which in due course were submitted to Mr. Redmond, who replied:—

House of Commons, 21st June, 1906.

Dear Sir—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 19th inst., enclosing copies of resolutions passed by your Congress at their meeting at Athlone, and, in reply, have to say that the matters referred to therein will have my most careful consideration.—Very truly yours,

J. E. REDMOND.

E. L. Richardson, Esq.

Cumann Na nGaedheal and Amalgamated Societies.—Your Committee had before them at their meeting in February last a letter forwarding a resolution adopted at the annual Convention of the Cumann na nGaedheal in the Mansion House on the 4th November, 1906, as follows:—

"That, recognising the evil effects on Irish industries by the various trade unions of Ireland being amalgamated to English societies, we consider the time has arrived when the Irish trade unions should combine and organise an Irish Federation of Trade Unions."

Your Committee had also before them the report of a speech delivered in the same place on the 1st August, 1906, by the Secretary of the Dublin Master Builders' Association at the annual general meeting of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers of Great Britain and Ireland, in the course of which he said:—

They (the Dublin builders) had found their Association of much assistance in times of trouble. They had recently a strike of considerable dimensions in Dublin in connection with one of the trades with which they worked (the bricklayers). It was a bitter fight, and they (the employers) came to the conclusion that they should import men to carry on their work. They sent to the secretary of the Federation, and he put them in touch with the different centres on the other side, with the result that they got great assistance to enable them to carry their ends in the dispute.

In commending these significant observations to the attention of Irish trade unionists, it was unanimously resolved:—

"That this Committee, with fullest knowledge of the facts, refutes the reference to amalgamated trades contained in the resolution of Cumann na nGaedheal; resents the attempts of Irish political societies to create division among trade unionists; and emphatically declares that while the employing and capitalist classes, irrespective of politics, creed, or nationality, continue to form associations, trusts, and combines for the protection of vested interests and the exploiting of wage-workers, it is imperative that the trade unionists of Ireland and Great Britain should draw closer together and more perfectly solidify their organisations, so as more effectually to resist the pressure of the competitive system, and secure the legitimate fruits of their labour."

Miscellaneous.—Bills have been introduced, and are now in various stages, with but little chance of getting through this Session, dealing with Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge), Home Work Regulation, Bakehouses (Hours of Labour), Housing of the Workers, Eight Hours Day, Character Note, Coroners Inquests (Railway Fatalities), Nationalisation of Railways, Mines, and Canals, Shops, &c., &c.

Official replies have been received by your Committee from all His Majesty's Ministers and from the various Government departments to whom copies of resolutions or other communications concerning the work of the Congress were forwarded.

All of which your Committee present as their Report.

(Signed.)

JAMES McCARRON, T.C., *Chairman.*

JOHN MURPHY, P.L.G., *Vice-Chairman.*

WALTER HUDSON, M.P.

JAMES CHAMBERS (Dublin).

GEORGE GREIG (Belfast).

MICHAEL EGAN (Cork).

STEPHEN DINEEN (Limerick).

E. W. STEWART, *Treasurer.*

E. L. RICHARDSON, *Secretary.*

Dublin, May 18th, 1907.

FIRST DAY.—Monday, 20th May, 1907.

The Fourteenth Annual Irish Trades Union Congress was opened on Monday, 20th May, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, Dublin.

The Congress was called to order at 11 o'clock by Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G. (Belfast), Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, who briefly welcomed the delegates to the Congress, and trusted that their deliberation would be productive of good results. He had much pleasure in calling upon the Chief Magistrate of the City, the Right Hon. J. P. Nannetti, M.P., to welcome the Congress on behalf of the citizens.

The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, M.P., then received the delegates on behalf of the Corporation and city. He said it afforded him the greatest pleasure to be present and extend to them, on behalf of the citizens of Dublin, a very hearty and cordial welcome to their city (hear, hear). He knew that the work they were engaged in was work not, he might say, of a personal character to themselves, but for the amelioration and betterment of the workers of the country. He knew that their deliberations in the past had been productive of good results (hear, hear). All that they had claimed had not been granted up to the present; but when they looked at the Statute Book and saw the many measures that had been passed in the interests of the working classes, he thought that the Irish Trades Congress might claim that they had materially assisted their fellows in England in placing on the Statute Book measures calculated to materially improve the position of the workers (hear, hear). They had only to look at the legislation of last year, and they would find there that the rights of combination had been acknowledged. The famous Taff Vale judgment had been set aside. That judgment, whilst it affected the people of England, also affected them in Ireland. The Compensation Act would come into force in July next. The Irish workers had assisted in the framing and passing of the Act. There were many other measures that had not yet received the assent of Parliament; but by means of their Congress he believed that in the near future many other measures which they had demanded for years would be placed on the Statute Books. There was one thing they would all be anxious to see passed—old age pensions. They had the principle acknowledged that it was the duty of the State to provide for the worn-out soldiers of industry (applause). There was another very important matter to which the Congress had drawn attention—the housing of the working classes (hear, hear). That was a question they would have to grapple with, and the sooner the better. He regretted to say that the promises made to himself by a former Chief Secretary had not been carried out; but it would be his duty and the duty of the Party to which he belonged, with the assistance of the Trades Congress, to endeavour to bring about some means whereby the workers

in their cities and towns should be properly housed (applause). There was no question that affected them more in that country than the proper housing of the working classes, because he attributed the great death-rate that prevailed, particularly in the city of Dublin, to the unfortunate manner in which the workers were housed. In conclusion, his Lordship again welcomed the delegates to the city, and hoped that their deliberations would be attended with good results (applause).

Mr. George Greig (Belfast) proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor for attending.

Mr. Michael Egan (Cork) seconded the proposition, which was enthusiastically adopted.

The Lord Mayor, having replied and taken leave of the delegates, the business of the Congress was proceeded with.

Messrs. E. L. Richardson and John Simmons were appointed Secretaries to the Congress.

Messrs. H. Rochford and M. J. Carroll (Dublin) were elected tellers.

Messrs. John M'Mahon, Patrick Lynch, P.L.G., George Leahy, Mathew Harvey, and John Farren were elected Standing Orders Committee.

Messrs. M'Carthy, T.C. (Kilkenny) and Nash (Limerick) were appointed auditors.

On the motion of Mr. John Lumsden (President Dublin Trades Council), seconded by Councillor M'Carthy (Kilkenny),

Councillor James McCarron (Londonderry), was unanimously elected President of the Congress. Upon taking the chair he delivered the following address:—

FELLOW DELEGATES.—I have to return thanks for the honour you have done me by electing me to preside at this the Fourteenth Annual Irish Trades Union Congress; and while I shall try to discharge the duties of Chairman impartially and faithfully, I feel sure I can rely on your loyal and hearty co-operation in having the business of the Congress carried out in that creditable and successful manner characteristic of previous gatherings.

This is the third occasion on which we have met in the Capital, and this time under very favourable circumstances. We open Congress simultaneously with that of the great Irish International Exhibition, where the handicrafts of the sons of toil of many lands can be seen, and which, we hope, will be an incentive to Irishmen, regardless of creed or politics, to emulate the industrial progress of the workers of those countries, the results of whose skill are now being displayed in Dublin.

Permit me to say, as a kind of introduction to the few remarks I shall make, that since we meet last year in Athlone the Trades Disputes Bill has become law, and we may, I hope, be pardoned in congratulating ourselves on the passing of that measure, which restores to us that birth-right of freedom which again enables us as

Trade Unionists to do what we have always contended we were justified in doing—that is, disposing of our funds according to rules, and of our labour as we desire.

There are many matters that militate against the industrial prosperity of this country, and consequently many reforms are urgently needed which, we as workers—in fact, which all Irishmen—should agitate to bring about; and, if accomplished, would, I believe, go a long way towards promoting Ireland's prosperity. Let us ask ourselves: What is the cause of the rural labourers flocking into our cities and towns, where, literally speaking, there is no employment for them? Because Ireland is fast becoming a huge cattle-ranch where men and women are being daily displaced by herds and sheep. In districts where formerly hundreds were employed in agricultural pursuits there are now only a few cattle to be found. Where are those healthy peasants now, who once were the pride of the land? alas! they are populating the slums of the large towns in this and other countries, many of them physical and moral wrecks, a menace to organised labour, and a burden to the community and to themselves. Some remedy must be found to make rural life more acceptable. But what is the remedy?—aye, that is the trouble. The Labourers Act recently passed may remedy this state of affairs to some extent; but in order that cottages and allotments should be occupied by the people for whom they are intended, work adjacent to his home must be found for the labourer; and the only means of accomplishing that, I make bold to say, is to amend the Land Act so as to compel the owners of land to cultivate a certain proportion. This may seem a somewhat coercive suggestion, but an evil that is the cause of the draining of a country's life-blood can only be got rid of by the application of drastic remedies. It may be argued that this would be interfering with the freedom of the tenant farmers who have at exorbitant prices bought out their farms. But surely a party and a Government who agreed to the granting of £12,000,000 (twelve millions) in relief of the old landlords cannot refuse to compensate the tenant farmers, if necessary, for any loss the suggested legislation might inflict upon them.

Another question of great importance to the workers is the taxation of land values, I don't, of course, refer to land used for agricultural purposes, but rather to the land adjacent to and upon which our cities and towns are built, which if used for agriculture would realise but a few pounds per acre, but when occupied for commercial purposes, brings, in many instances, several pounds per foot. Yet the "owners" who receive such rents never contribute one penny of capital or experience, one moment of anxiety, in bringing about the conditions which enhance the letting value of what they term their "property." It cannot be contended that there is either equity or justice in a law which entitles a few men, who neither sow nor reap, to appropriate the wealth created in this

way by the energy and industry of a whole community. How long is this iniquitous system to continue? When will this millstone be taken from around our necks, by making landlords pay taxes in proportion to the amount of unearned increment they receive out of the land? If this reform were accomplished landlords would not cling so tightly to their acres, and the opportunity of acquiring land for recognised public utility would not be the almost impossible task it is to-day.

I ask you, fellow-workers, is it not our duty—and not ours alone—but the duty also of the business and trading classes of this country to unitedly strive to bring about the reforms of which I have spoken, and thereby help to solve the many questions, both social and commercial—particularly the Housing of the Working Classes—which press heavily upon the whole community. We read in the daily Press of the alarming extent of the death rate amongst the children of our poor as compared with those of the rich—attributed, and rightly so, to the unsanitary conditions under which the children of the workers (a nation's greatest asset) are compelled to live. No more noble work could engage us than agitating to make the homes of the little ones more healthy and happy by removing them from the dens in which so many of them are housed, and by providing open spaces by clearing away the physical and moral contaminating districts to be found in all our large cities.

The interests of capital and labour are not identical in all things; but on the question of widening the opportunities of trade and commerce by removing the restrictions I have referred to, and in uplifting the workers and the poor by obtaining the reforms suggested, our interests are identical; and, consequently, capital and labour should have a common platform from which such reforms could be advocated.

As an humble "rank-and-file" worker not engaged in trade or commerce, I know nothing of railway rates, freights or management, and consequently cannot from practical experience express an opinion on their working. But from a careful perusal of the evidence given before the Viceregal Commission, now inquiring into the railway systems of this country, I am convinced that some drastic change is necessary, which, if it is to be effective in reviving the industries of Ireland, cannot stop short of nationalisation or public control, as advocated over and over again by this Congress.

While we welcome the Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, which removes many of the anomalies and defects which heretofore prevailed, we feel bound to protest against the exclusion of the out-workers from the Act. Why is this class of worker—the most oppressed, and who requires more than the ordinary protection of the law—excluded? Surely, it was not the intention of Parliament to place a premium on out-working by ex-

empting from all responsibility employers who sweat these poor wretches. As most people are aware, the sweaters' victims, especially in the tailoring trade, work under the most unsanitary conditions, where germs of typhoid and many other diseases abound. In fact, many of the so-called workshops are veritable death-traps, yet no protection is vouchsafed to those who are compelled to work in dens of this description. This, I think, should prove the power of combination to those who persistently refuse to become members of trade unions. Here you observe that the most oppressed and downtrodden workers are denied the protection afforded to others working under much more favourable conditions, and the reason is because the sweaters' victims have no organisation to voice their wrongs and to demand the redress of the grievances under which they suffer. Some may, perhaps, contend that people who do nothing to help themselves should not receive help. That, from a trade-union standpoint, is a short-sighted policy, inasmuch as the manufacturers who employ those people are in competition with fair employers, and are consequently able to place their products in the market—viz., clothing, furniture, &c.—much cheaper than the fair employer, with the result that the latter is undersold and the legitimate workers displaced. We should, therefore, as representing the trade unionists of this country, demand in the interests of justice and equity that all workers should be afforded the protection of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The Education Question is one there is so much controversy about that I feel diffident in making any reference to it. However, one cannot help complaining of the exceptional treatment given to England, Scotland, and Wales as compared with Ireland, so far as concerns monetary grants, proper equipment of schools, and payment of teachers, &c. But the burning point (and I admit it is a thorny one) agitating trades unionists is whether secular or religious instruction should or should not be taught at the same school. I am of opinion that, as combined workers, we should demand of the Government a proper system of secular education. But it should be understood that this united demand must not prevent those who are so disposed, as subjects of the State, supporting a scheme for religious training in public schools if those responsible for the education of the children desired it. But what about higher education? Are we satisfied with the present system, which places universities out of the reach of all but the monied classes? In the United States, by ability alone, a boy can pass from the primary to the high school, and thence to the university—an educational system—which enabled men like Lincoln and Garfield to become capable of occupying with credit and honour the highest position in the gift of their fellow-countrymen. In several of the American universities are to be found students who, at the same time, earn wages as firemen, lamplighters, tram conductors, &c. Imagine the consternation that would arise amongst the Trinity

College aristocrats—and, for that matter, amongst the adherents of the suggested Catholic University were it established—if one of the Dublin tram conductors presented himself at either establishment with a student's certificate of admission. But at whose door does the blame rest? At the door of the masses themselves, who seem to be ever influenced by party cries to range themselves on either the Tory or Liberal side, prepared to rush at each others throats to their own undoing. And the party leaders, are they not truly described by the poet, when he writes—

Thief opposed to thief, in lofty scorn are seen,
While Freedom's form hangs crucified between.

The problem of Old Age Pensions has been so much before the public lately that it is not necessary I should refer to it at any length. However, let us consider that the ordinary worker during, say, forty years of labour, creates ten times more wealth than he consumes, yet when he becomes physically unfit to create more he is thrown aside, like a piece of worn-out machinery, on the scrap heap. This, in my opinion, should and must be altered by the establishment of a well-regulated scheme of old age pensions that will ensure the worn-out worker something better than a workhouse bed or a pauper's grave when his days of wealth-production are over.

But, fellow-workers, how are these reforms to be brought about? I tell you the work is ours; and if we are to succeed, we cannot delegate to others that which we should do ourselves. We cannot expect our employers to marshal and lead us to victory. Will their influence be exerted to ameliorate our sufferings?—will the capitalist Press champion our cause?—will its columns be open to us to ventilate our wrongs?—will either political party legislate on our behalf?—in a word, do you think our rulers will consider our demands if we are not in a position, by thorough organisation, to compel them to do so?

In ourselves we are thus or thus, "He who would be free must himself strike the blow." Then let "Onward, Upward" be our watchwords, until such time as we are placed in the position our wealth-creating capacity, our industry and intelligence, entitle us to occupy. Let it be ours to go onward while a wrong remains—

"To be conquered by the right,
While oppression lifts a finger;
To affront us with its might,
While an error clouds the reason,
Or a sorrow gnaws the heart,
Or a serf awaits his freedom—
Action is the wise man's part."

Mr. John T. Duignan (Dublin) proposed and Mr. Charles Darcus (Belfast) seconded a warm vote of thanks to the President for his address, which was passed by acclamation.

The President briefly replied.

IRISH COUNCILS BILL.

Mr. E. W. Stewart moved that the standing orders be suspended for the purpose of taking into consideration a special report of the Parliamentary Committee relative to the Irish Councils Bill then before the House of Commons.

Councillor P. T. Daly seconded, and the motion was adopted. The report was as follows :—

The Parliamentary Committee, having had under consideration the statement of the Chief Secretary when introducing the Irish Council Bill, and also the provisions of that Measure, desire to place on record the following opinion, viz. :—

That in its present form the Bill holds out little hope to the Irish working class of effective efforts to improve their conditions, and our opinion is based upon the following reasons :—

1. The Bill proposes to set up an ultra-administrative body (within the sphere of the eight Departments relegated to it) with limited finance quite insufficient to satisfy the pressing needs of Ireland, without any power to add to the sources and volume of its revenue, and bereft of any authority to enforce even its limited decisions.

2. In the body proposed to be set up, the Measure retains the highly objectionable and undemocratic principle of a nominated element, which has invariably been hostile to working class interests.

3. The Measure contains no specific provision for payment of representatives—a condition now universally acknowledged as necessary to adequate labour representation on public boards.

Under these circumstances we can only regard the Bill as it stands as a constitutional cripple, more likely than otherwise to hamper and irritate industrial improvement in Ireland, unless subject to far-reaching amendments in its financial and other provisions.

(Signed), JAMES M'CARRON, T.C., *Chairman.*
E. L. RICHARDSON, *Secretary.*

May 18th, 1907.

Mr. E. W. Stewart said that the Parliamentary Committee looked at the Bill entirely from the worker's point of view, and they were not, as a Trades Congress, interested in its political aspects. The Parliamentary Committee had come to the conclusion that the present proposals in the Bill could not and would not have satisfactory results so far as the workers were concerned, and he moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. Murphy, P.L.G. (Belfast), seconded the motion. He said that it was only wise and right that, while they did not pose as politicians, as workers they should express their views upon the

measure as it affected their particular interests. It was only the wish of the Parliamentary Committee that this Bill would materially assist the workers in carrying out the ideas and aspirations they all had in common. He, therefore, felt they were perfectly justified in expressing their views as separated entirely from partisanship in any shape or form. They felt that the Bill would not further their interests as a working class community.

Mr. Canty opposed the adoption of the report, as he said he had sufficient confidence in the Irish Party to say that justice would be done to the workers. He thought it was waste of time for the Congress to deal with the matter. On the following day they would have a National Convention, and it was premature for the Congress to discuss a Bill which the Irish nation had not considered. He thought it was folly for them to come there mixing in politics where there was a political Party to deal with such matters.

Mr. Walter Hudson, M.P., said that he agreed entirely with the terms of the report. There were one or two vital principles in the Bill fraught with the utmost interest to the industrial welfare of the country. When they came to the matter of setting up new Councils for administrative purposes the measure should carry with it not only the power of electing a person, but also the power of keeping those persons on it, and thus give the workers of the country a fair opportunity of taking a share in the representation on such bodies. That was a most important principle, and he for one regretted deeply that it had not been embodied in the measure. As workers, they said emphatically that the measure was weak and needed considerable strengthening. They were not there to condemn the Bill. They did not for a moment wish either entirely to approve of it or reject the measure; but they said that it did not adequately meet the requirements of the industrial community, and did not give the workers a fair opportunity of taking a share in the Council. There were undoubtedly opportunities of amending the Bill in Committee and in its Report stage. They as a Labour Party in the House of Commons had nothing to gain or lose by the acceptance or rejection of that measure, so far as the Party was concerned, but they had decided that they would support the Bill so far as it met the requirements of the people generally. They said at once that it was too weak, but that it was capable of being completely transformed in the course of its passage through the House of Commons. They desired that it should be transformed, and he trusted that the Congress, viewing the matter from the industrial workers' standpoint, would pass the report and give not only the Irish Party but the whole of the democratic element in the House of Commons an opportunity of doing their very best to shape and mould the Bill into a character which would make it more acceptable and more beneficial to them, when the Bill, if accepted, became law and was placed on the Statute Book. There was an opportunity of making the measure a practical one, so far as administra-

tion was concerned, and it was purely an administrative Bill. Dealing with the nominated element in the proposed new Council, the speaker said that it was totally undemocratic. That was a feature of the Bill that the combined efforts, not only of the Irish Party, but of all democratic representatives, should be brought to bear upon.

Councillor P. T. Daly expressed himself opposed to the Bill, in consequence of its shortcomings. He thought the Committee's report did not go far enough in condemning it. This was the place for them to discuss it, and so far as the alleged National Convention was concerned, he would like to know how many of them had been invited to it. The Bill was an attempt to free the Government from carrying out their pledges on the Education question. The Government would be relieved from carrying out their work, and when establishment charges had been met there would only remain a residue of £236,000 out of the £4,146,000 which was to be allocated to Ireland. The nominated element referred to by Mr. Hudson had been introduced by a body of alleged democrats.

The report was adopted, there being only one dissident.

NATIONALISATION OF IRISH RAILWAYS, CANALS AND MINES.

Mr. Hugh M'Manus (Belfast) moved :—

"That this Congress desires to reiterate 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 by the Government, as recommended by evidence at the Viceregal Railway Commission. That this Congress reaffirms previous resolutions in favour of the nationalisation of mines."

He said that the evidence which had been given before the Viceregal Commission on Irish Railways had shown how the railways had injured the development of Irish industries. There were something like forty boards of directors in Ireland, but as the distinguished County Court Judge of Limerick had said, there was not out of that number a board of management (laughter). The exorbitant railway charges on goods sent from one part of Ireland to another, as compared with the through rates, had also been demonstrated at the Viceregal Commission. He held that if the railways were nationalised they should be worked by the nation for the benefit of the nation (applause). He dealt with various anomalies in the matter of railway rates, and showed how they militated against the development of local industries. There was a feeling growing, he continued, not alone in Ireland, but throughout the three kingdoms, that the future development of Irish railways should be controlled by the State. He firmly believed that when the Congress came to discuss this question they would carry the

resolution unanimously. With respect to the waterways, they were controlled by the railway companies.

Mr. L. Corrigan (Dublin) seconded the resolution.

Mr. R. O'Carroll moved as an amendment :—

Delete all after the word "goods" on third line and insert the following—"1st, that the present system of managing Irish railways is detrimental to the interests of Ireland; 2nd, that the placing their management in the hands of the British Government would be also detrimental to Ireland; 3rd, that, on the other hand, it would be a great advantage to Ireland if all the Irish railways were put under one management, subject to the control of some body representing the people of Ireland, and that the General Council of County Councils could be made use of as such a representative body if no other representative body were formed; 4th, that the necessary legal powers should be given to the General Council, or other representative body, to purchase all the Irish railways, and to borrow money for that purpose on the security of the rates of the whole of Ireland, which, added to that of the railways themselves, would make the security so perfectly safe that the necessary money could be borrowed at a reasonable rate of interest."

He said that, in his opinion, it would militate against the revival of our industries if the railways were handed over to the British Government, who would work them, not in the interest of Ireland, but in the interest of the British trader. Ireland suffered from a commercial and industrial ailment that England did not suffer from, and consequently required different treatment.

Councillor P. T. Daly seconded the amendment.

Mr. Thomas Foy said that at present the railways in Ireland were worked in the interests of the shareholders, irrespective of the interests of the country.

Mr. W. G. Maunders, of the Railway Servants Amalgamated Society, supported the resolution of Mr. M'Manus. He said he did so from a very broad standpoint. He took into consideration the fact that the railways in Ireland were managed by various boards of directors, and if the railways were nationalised they would be managed by a central authority, and thereby effect a large economy. At present the railways were antagonistic to each other. The saving effected in working by the central authority would lead to a reduction of rates and fares. The condition of the workers would also be improved.

Councillor Sheehan (Dublin) said that they did not want the railways to fall into the hands of the British Government, as they understood the British Government. They ought to see that the body to whom the power of purchasing the railways was given would be representative of the people.

Mr. John Lumsden said the time had arrived when Ireland

must make an earnest demand for the nationalisation of the railways, as the present system was unsatisfactory in every respect.

Mr. Geo. Greig (Belfast) also supported the resolution, and said that he thought the amendment might cause some diversity of opinion. He did not think that any effort was required from a gathering of that kind to pass such a resolution. The amendment was somewhat premature, and would be misconstrued by the opponents of nationalisation owing to the division of their votes. He appealed to the mover of the amendment to withdraw it.

Mr. Walter Hudson, M.P., said that if they wanted the best for the country and the best method of developing the country the question of mining was most important. With regard to the railways, if they were to choose between the resolution and the amendment he would be in favour of the resolution, as at the present time they could not deny the right of the Government to control the railways.

Councillor O'Lehane spoke in support of the amendment, as he believed the railways should be controlled by an Irish authority. The word "Nationalisation" would be a misnomer unless the railways were controlled by a national authority.

Mr. Charles Darcus (Belfast) said that the present system of railways in Ireland had to be got rid of. The first consideration that must strike any mind was that the change was a consideration of money. Who was going to raise the money to purchase the railways? It must necessarily be the Government. Whether the Government controlled the railways directly or not was a matter of detail.

Mr. Wm. Murphy (Dublin) said he was not in favour of spending public money for the purpose of purchasing the Irish railways. (A voice—"Would you steal them?") (Laughter).

Mr. Stewart (Dublin) who opposed the amendment, said he did not see how the control of the Irish railways by such a body as that mentioned in the amendment would make any difference from the present form of control.

Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G. (Belfast), said that it was a pity that one of the suggestions of the speakers could not be carried out. That was the one that we should acquire the railways without purchasing them. They were all thoroughly agreed that the people who owned these railways were being well paid. But, after all, the Ten Commandments prevented them from thus acquiring the railways. He appealed to those who put the amendment forward to recognise the fact that they were all agreed that the railways should be acquired by the people, and managed in their interests. It would be a mistake to adopt the amendment, because the railways must be managed either by the State directly or by some representative body.

Messrs. F. Farrell and Thos. Milner also spoke.

Mr. D. Keily (Cork) moved, and Mr. M'Manus seconded, that the question be put, which, on a division, was carried by 42 to 15 votes.

The President then put the amendment—For, 17; against, 49. The amendment was, therefore, lost. On the main question the same division was taken, and the motion passed. Two other propositions on the same subject appeared on the agenda paper in the names of Mr. L. Corrigan and Mr. Thomas Foy, but were not proceeded with.

LABOUR REPRESENTATION.

Mr. Joseph Mitchell moved :—

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

Mr. Larkin (Belfast) who seconded, said there was no reason why they should not have an Irish Independent Labour Party. Let them be pledged to Home Rule—that would follow as the night the day—but they should above all be pledged to the cause of labour.

Councillor P. T. Daly, who spoke against the motion, moved, and Mr. Milner seconded, “the previous question.” The motion was lost by 40 votes to 22, and the debate was resumed.

Mr. Murphy, P.L.G. (Belfast) spoke in favour of the resolution.

Mr. Milner said there was no necessity for a Labour Party while they had the Irish Party, which was in reality a Labour Party.

Mr. Murphy (Dublin) asserted that the Irish Party had been an absolute failure. He advocated an alliance with the English Labour Party.

Mr. J. O. Carroll (Cork) National Amalgamated Painters, said there were too many parties in Ireland already to allow room for an Independent Labour Party. His society had decided by a vote of its branches to have a representative of their trade in Parliament. They would select a constituency where they would secure the greatest victory at the polls. They did not care whether he was an Irishman, Scotchman, Englishman or Welshman, Catholic, Protestant or Presbyterian, so long as he was a painter and trade unionist. Why cannot other trades follow this?

Councillor Sheehan (Dublin) spoke in favour of a Labour Party, independent of politics.

The debate was continued by Messrs. O'Neill, M'Loughlin, Keily, Lumsden, Canty, M'Manus, O'Keefe, Maunders, and Stewart, after which

The resolution was carried by 36 votes to 20.

CO-OPERATION AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Councillor O'Lehane moved :—

“That this Congress is of opinion that more cohesion and co-operation should exist amongst trades unionists of this country for

the development and protection of our industries, and for our mutual protection and advancement; and further, with the view of giving practical effect to this resolution, a small committee be appointed to confer with the Parliamentary Committee and report on the matter."

He said that the motion which stood in his name was one of the most important on the agenda. The necessity for closer co-operation amongst the units of the labour movement has very often been apparent. They should on all occasions be prepared to recognise the dictum "that an injury to one concerns all." But while saying that he desired to state that in so far as the recent dispute in which his association was concerned, he had nothing to complain of with regard to the assistance of the Dublin trades. It could not have been better and he desired to avail of this opportunity to thank them most sincerely for their valuable aid in the matter. He thought the time had arrived when the trades unionists of the country should put their heads, and their shillings, too, together, in order to more effectively defend their interests, and where the opportunity arose to develop and resuscitate their industries, for nobody could say that opportunities did not exist, and he trusted that they would apply themselves to this important and necessary work at once. He thought the establishment of trades union banks would be the best means of giving effect to the resolution. The small committee which he suggested should be appointed would present a scheme to the Parliamentary Committee which he was sure would meet with their approval (hear, hear).

Mr. W. J. Leahy (President Court of Conscience) seconded the resolution, and said he was sure the project would be supported by the trades unionists of the country.

Mr. Foy (Railwaymen's Society) supported the resolution, and said he brought forward a somewhat similar motion six years ago, but owing to some misunderstanding it was not carried. He hoped this resolution would be adopted now and put into practical effect without delay.

The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

Constitution of the committee referred to Standing Orders Committee for report.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE REPORT—(1).

Mr. George Leahy, Chairman Standing Orders Committee, reported—(1) That they recommend the proposers and seconders only of resolutions (Nos. 6—11 with addendum to No. 8) to speak, with usual time allowances. (2) Having considered the objection raised by the Stationary Engine Drivers as to the right of the Independent Stationary Engine Drivers to be represented at Congress, they desire to point out that as precedents have been established at previous Congresses, to which no objection was raised, they cannot entertain the objection; but they strongly

recommend that a joint committee of representatives of both societies should be formed with a view to bringing about a better understanding than at present exists.

On motion made that first part of report be adopted,

Councillor Daly moved as an amendment that all non-contentious resolutions be spoken to by movers and seconders only.

Mr. O'Kelly seconded. Amendment adopted.

Mr. Jas. Chambers moved, Mr. Edward Brooks seconded, and it was agreed that the second part of the report relative to the Engine Drivers question pass.

IMPORTATION—COACH-BUILDING.

Mr. Francis Farrell moved, Mr. Thomas Milner seconded, and it was agreed :—

“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-building industry in the prosperous condition it occupied in the past.”

IMPORTATION—JOINERY.

On the motion of Mr. E. J. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. R. O'Keeffe, it was resolved :—

“That this Congress condemns in the strongest manner possible the importation of foreign joinery, and calls upon architects, builders, and private employers, and all others requiring joinery to have same made in Ireland under fair conditions, and thereby help to encourage the manufacture of joinery in this country and give all concerned in its manufacture much needed employment.”

IMPORTATION—BOOKS.

Mr. A. Moore (Dublin) moved :—

“That this Congress protests against the continued importation of all kinds of Prayer Books, Religious works and Account Books by Irish Publishers, Booksellers and Manufacturers, and in view of the widespread desire to resuscitate and develop our decaying industries, we solicit the co-operation of clergymen, authors, public bodies, shopkeepers and others to use their influence to stay the flood of importation so disastrous to the industrial life of the country. Furthermore, this Congress considers the amendment to the Merchandise Marks Act essential, to prevent matter bound in other countries being foisted on the public as ‘home manufacture’ to the detriment of employers and employed in the Bookbinding Trade.”

Mr. Thomas Milner seconded.

Mr. Mitchell (Belfast) as a practical bookbinder, and a member of the same amalgamated society as the mover, protested against the bringing forward of such resolutions.

Councillor Daly supported the motion.

Mr. M'Manus (Belfast) speaking against the motion, said he believed the support that had hitherto been given to the motion was merely pious opinion. There was not a Catholic prayer book or other book on a religious subject that could be used throughout Ireland without receiving the imprimatur of the Diocesan. They should go to him and make representations on the subject.

Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G., was speaking against the motion when the Congress adjourned to 9.30 Tuesday morning.

CONGRESS DINNER.

On the invitation of the Reception Committee the delegates dined together in the Gresham Hotel at 7 o'clock. The Lord Mayor and other members of the Corporation, with many prominent citizens were also present.

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SECOND DAY.—Tuesday, 21st May, 1907.

Congress re-assembled at 9.30 a.m., the President, Councillor M'Carron, in the chair.

Minutes of first day's proceedings read and confirmed.

The debate was resumed on the resolution submitted by Mr. Moore, protesting against the importation of prayer books, &c.

Mr. A. Moore, referring to Mr. Mitchell's (Belfast) attitude towards the resolution, said that Mr. Mitchell had not come there as a bookbinder. Mr. Mitchell did not represent the feelings of the bookbinders. He was there as a delegate from the Belfast Trades Council.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

IMPORTATION—STAVES FOR BUTTER BOXES, DAIRY UTENSILS, ETC.

Mr. M. Harvey (Limerick) moved :—

"That this Congress condemns the importation of foreign staves and packages into Ireland for the packing of Irish butter, in view of the fact that Irish packages have been proved by practical men to be equal, if not superior, both in quality, price, and workmanship, to any imported, and we request butter merchants, creamery proprietors and managers who have the interest and welfare of the country at heart, to use their influence to stay the importation so disastrous to the trade of Ireland."

In moving the resolution, Mr. Harvey said that they manu-

factured as good staves and packages in the South of Ireland as anywhere, and condemned the importation of foreign ones. He submitted samples branded with the Irish trade mark, and asked the support of Congress in their efforts to maintain this industry in Limerick.

Mr. W. J. Leahy (Dublin) seconded.

Mr. M'Namara moved to add after "Ireland," last line :—

"And further, that this Congress urges upon farmers, cow-keepers' associations, and all concerned, the desirability of having their dairy utensils and creamery fittings made and repaired in Ireland by fair labour, as the practice of giving such orders to firms who send them out of the country is helping emigration and retarding Irish industry." Also, "That public lighting committees and gas managers be requested to place their orders for meters and lamps with firms who make and repair same in Ireland under trade union conditions."

Mr. John Farren seconded, and Mr. Harvey accepting the addition to his resolution, it was adopted.

IMPORTATION—HARNESS.

Mr. James Chambers moved, Mr. Francis Farrell seconded, and it was agreed :—

"That this Congress desires to direct the attention of all horse-owners in Ireland to the fact that the wholesale importation of an inferior class of harness, saddles, &c., into this country means the destruction of that industry at home, and we appeal to them when purchasing such goods, to give the preference to home-made articles, and to be on their guard against the palming-off of imported work as genuine Irish manufacture, and for the guidance of home purchasers we believe that the Merchandise or Trades Marks Act should be so amended that all imported manufactured work into Ireland should be stamped in such a way as to clearly indicate the place of its origin."

A MELANCHOLY INTERLUDE.

At this stage the Chairman read a telegram from Mr. M. J. Carroll (one of the tellers) to the effect that owing to the death of a relative he would be unable to attend the remaining sittings of Congress.

Mr. G. Leahy (Dublin) moved, and Mr. Buckner (Limerick) seconded, a vote of condolence with Mr. Carroll, which was passed in the usual way.

Councillor Sheehan was then elected to act as teller in Mr. Carroll's stead.

IMPORTATION—BRUSHES.

Mr. Wm. Murphy moved :—

"That this Congress deplores 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."

Speaking to the resolution Mr. Murphy said that he differed from a great many of the former speakers on the subject of importation. They had no complaint to make about work manufactured in England, Scotland, Ireland, or Wales by fair labour. They were able to compete with goods from those countries and send their work there. What they could not compete with was prison labour and work from the industrial schools of Germany.

Mr. John Farren seconded, and the resolution was then carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT OF MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

Mr. John M'Manus moved :—

"That in the opinion of this Congress the mark of origin should be impressed on glass bottles imported in this country, as on other manufactured goods, and calls on the Government to amend the Merchandise Marks Acts so as to have the stamp of origin stamped on all bottles imported from the Continent."

He said that during the last six months of 1906 there were imported into five towns in Ireland—Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Tralee, and Limerick—23,917 gross of bottles, the value of which was £12,624. This would have provided work for about 100 men, not including the other men and boys attached to the bottle works.

Mr. M'Larren seconded, and the resolution was carried.

Mr. George Greig (Belfast) asked the President would the resolution on this subject be sent on as an amendment to the Merchandise Marks Act? The President of the Board of Trade had stated that it would be impossible specially to mark articles imported from foreign countries.

The President (Councillor M'Carron) said that it was the duty of the Parliamentary Committee of the Congress to devise some means by which the attention of the proper authorities would be directed to the resolutions of the Congress. Continuing, the President said—"We all of us should refuse to drink anything out of any bottles but those made in Ireland" (laughter).

SUB-LETTING IN THE PLASTERING TRADE.

On the motion of Mr. Geo. Leahy, seconded by John Lumsden, it was resolved :—

"That this Congress respectfully calls on members of the Institute of Architects to insert a clause in all conditions of contract to have plastering work executed by direct labour, under practical supervision, or the deletion of all plastering work from building

contracts and given to firms of master plasterers who are recognised by the Plasterers' Trade Society—a course which will ensure the proper execution of work, and the obtaining of fair and legitimate prices for same; and we furthermore desire to again draw the attention of the Standing Committee of the Catholic Hierarchy of Ireland to the conditions as laid down in this resolution; and that copies be forwarded to the Institute of Architects and the Standing Committee of the Catholic Hierarchy of Ireland."

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS.

Mr. Patrick Lynch, P.L.G. (Cork) 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."

Councillor Sheehan (Dublin) seconded.

Mr. Hugh M'Manus opposed the motion on the ground that the hunting up of voters who had removed seven months from the time their names were placed on the register would be more difficult to the workers' representatives. With regard to the idea that the weather was too harsh in January for a man who had been entrusted with the duty of exercising the franchise to devote five or ten minutes to go to the polling booth, it was absurd. The speaker then referred to the registration laws, and concluded by moving "the previous question."

Mr. Mitchell seconded, which on a division, was defeated.

The debate was then continued by Messrs. Farren, John Murphy, Duignan, John Collins, Daly, T.C., Stewart, Chambers, and M'Carthy.

Ultimately the motion was adopted, "May" being substituted for "August" on the fourth line.

CARRIAGE INSPECTION.

Mr. Thomas Milner moved:—

"This Congress is of 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."

Mr. Francis Farrell, in seconding, said railway carriages required more minute inspection than they were getting at present. With regard to police being capable of inspecting hackney car-

riages it was the most ridiculous form of government that he knew of, because the police were the ministers of the law. Whatever the policeman may know about baton charges and evictions, he (Mr. Farrell) said he knew nothing whatever about the inspection of hackney coaches—not even an emergency car he drives to evictions (laughter and hear, hear).

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Mr. Joseph Mitchell (Belfast) moved :—

“That this Congress again affirms the urgent necessity of giving State Pensions to old and disabled workers, and calls upon the Government to redeem its promise by immediately introducing a Bill providing pensions for aged workers.”

Mr. O’Keeffe (Dublin) seconded. He said it was a most important question on the paper. They were told that they were living under a most sympathetic Government (cries of “Question”). It will go down to posterity as “the most sympathetic Government.” The sympathy was like the sympathy of the man in the street, who puts his hands in his pockets and keeps them there—when you want anything—remarked Mr. O’Keeffe after a pause. Another sympathetic person was the sympathetic Asquith. They had heard about the Boer War. Where did the money come from to pay for it? The war cost £250,000,000. Why? It was simply to make a change from President Kruger to General Botha (hear, hear). This £250,000,000, invested at 3 per cent., would give 360,500 people 8s. per week, or 288,400 10s. per week. If that amount was invested at 5 per cent. it would give 600,961 people 8s. per week, or 487,688 10s. per week. The reason that this money was not invested for this purpose was because it would meet the wants of the industrial soldiers, who cannot get anything at all.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE’S REPORT (2).

On the motion of Mr. M. Egan (Cork), seconded by Mr. Duignan, the following report was adopted :—

The Standing Orders Committee recommend—(1) that the Report of the Parliamentary Committee’s work for the past year be considered forthwith; (2) that the Standing Orders be suspended at 12 o’clock to permit Mr. Larkin (Belfast Dockers’ Union) to move a special resolution *re* Belfast dock labourers’ dispute; (3) that the fraternal delegates from the Scottish Trades Union Congress address the Congress at 12 o’clock to-morrow (Wednesday); (4) that Congress adjourn at 1 o’clock to enable delegates and friends to accept the Lord and Lady Mayoress’ invitation for a trip round Howth Head.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE’S REPORT.

The Report of the Parliamentary Committee’s work for the past year (see page 3) was then taken paragraph by paragraph.

Messrs. Larkin (Belfast), and M'Loughlin (Dublin), objected to the action of the Committee *re* Sir Charles Dilke's meeting in Cork.

Mr. E. W. Stewart (Shop Assistants) explained the position of the Committee.

Messrs. Kiely and Murphy explained Cork's action, after which, on the motion of Mr. J. T. Duignan (Dublin), seconded by Mr. D. Kiely (Cork), the report was unanimously adopted.

THANKS TO THE COMMITTEE.

Mr. John Lumsden (Dublin) moved, and Mr. Patrick Lynch, P.L.G. (Cork) seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to the Parliamentary Committee for their past year's work, which was carried by acclamation.

THE UNEMPLOYED ACT.

On the motion of Mr. Wm. M'Loughlin, seconded by Mr. Wm. Murphy, 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."

THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

Mr. John Lumsden moved:—

"Whereas the Housing Problem in industrial centres in Ireland has become a danger to the commonweal; and whereas the existing law is inadequate to remedy the deplorable conditions under which the workers are at present compelled to exist; this Congress therefore declares that no measure purporting to deal with this question can be regarded as acceptable unless it embraces powers—(a) To tax land values; (b) to establish fair rent courts; (c) to levy the full taxable assessment on unoccupied houses; (d) to provide that the title-deeds of property to be acquired under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act be deemed sufficient security for the entire purchase-money advanced by local authorities, and that the cost of transfer be cheapened; (e) to provide that loans under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, shall not be reckoned against the borrowing powers of local authorities, and that the period of repayment be extended to 100 years; (f) to apply section 2, Public Health Act, 1878, and section 21, Public Health Act, 1890, to tenement property; and (g) to abolish the terminal leasehold system. That administrative bodies be urged to build houses for the people in rural districts."

Mr. J. T. Duignan seconded.

Mr. M'Loughlin opposed the motion, but after some observations withdrew his opposition and the resolution passed.

BELFAST DOCK LOCK-OUT.

Mr. James Larkin (Belfast), in accordance with report of Standing Orders Committee, moved :—

“That this Congress desires to express its heartiest sympathy with the locked-out dock labourers of Belfast, and would respectfully recommend their case to the trades unions of Ireland. We also express our ungrateful condemnation of the tyrannical action of Mr. T. Gallaher, the tobacco king, organiser of the new tobacco trust, in denying to his employes the right of combination, and his despicable conduct in importing foreign blacklegs for the purpose (in his, Gallaher's own words) of ‘smashing the men's union,’ and further calls upon all trade unionists to carry their principles into practices to refrain from assisting any blackleg employer.”

Mr. J. Doherty (Derry), Mitchell, Darcus, Daly, T.C., Murphy (Cork), Egan, Lumsden, G. Leahy, and Miss Galway, having spoken in support, the resolution was adopted.

NOMINATIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

The following delegates were nominated for the election of eight members of the Parliamentary Committee :—Michael Cauty, labourer ; James Chambers, saddler ; Stephen Dinneen, baker ; John T. Duignan, brassfounder ; Michael Egan, coachbuilder ; George Greig, labourer ; John Farren, tinsmith ; Francis Farrell, coachmaker ; Miss Mary Galway, textile operative ; Matthew Harvey, printer ; George Leahy, plasterer ; W. J. Leahy, cooper ; John M'Carthy, T.C., baker ; James M'Carron, T.C., tailor ; Joseph Mitchell, bookbinder ; Alfred Mear, railwayman ; John Murphy, printer ; Wm. Murphy, brushmaker ; Richard O'Keeffe, carpenter ; M. J. O'Lehane, T.C., shop assistant ; T. J. Sheehan, T.C., electrician ; E. W. Stewart, shop assistant.

The Congress adjourned until 9.30 Wednesday morning.

TRIP TO HOWTH HEAD.

In the afternoon the delegates, on the invitation of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, left Amiens Street Station by special train for a trip round the Hill of Howth. Tea was supplied at the Railway Pavilion and refreshments at the Summit Inn. The St. James's Band was in attendance and played an excellent selection of music during the evening.

Third Day—Wednesday, 22nd May, 1907.

Congress re-assembled at 9.30 a.m., the President (Councillor M'Carron) in the chair.

Minutes of Tuesday's sitting read and confirmed.

A QUESTION.

Mr. Lawrence Corrigan (Amalgamated Carpenters, Dublin), asked why the printed balance sheet, which the Standing Orders Committee said would be presented to the Congress on the second day, had not been presented?

Mr. John Farren replied that the treasurer could not get the auditors together on the previous day. The balance sheet would be in the hands of the delegates to-day.

The President said that they evidently had not been anxious about having it in the hands of the delegates on the second day this year, owing to there being a four day's congress.

A NEWSPAPER CRITICISM.

Mr. George Greig (Belfast) said a Dublin morning paper had stated that they had been unmindful of the hospitality of the Lord Mayor of Dublin in discussing the resolution regarding affiliation with the Labour Representation Committee. He said that he wished to dissociate himself from that view. He appreciated the hospitality of the Lord Mayor.

A Delegate rose and asked if the speaker was in order.

The President—He is not exactly in order. Continuing, the president asked did the paper in question think they were going to sell their birthright for a mess of pottage? He advised them to treat that paper with silent contempt. Any stick was good enough to beat a dog with.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE.

On the motion of Mr. E. L. Richardson, seconded by Mr. G. Greig, it was resolved:—

"That this Congress strongly urges upon the Government the necessity of immediately promoting a measure for compulsory insurance under the Workmen's Compensation Act, which comes into force on the 1st July, 1907."

INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE.

Mr. H. Kavanagh moved:—

"That this Congress instructs the Parliamentary Committee to take steps forthwith to secure the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into and report on, and recommend legislation on the subject of Industrial Assurance, including all private Acts of Parliament affecting Industrial Assurance Companies and Friendly Collecting Societies, the question of insurable interest and assign-

ments, as well as the charge for death certificates and the practice of obtaining new assurances."

Mr. P. Doyle seconded. Passed.

PENSIONS FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES.

Councillor M'Carthy (Kilkenny) moved :—

"This Congress is of opinion that his Majesty's Government should grant powers to all local authorities in Ireland to provide out of the local rates a reasonable pension for all Municipal employes, and that the Parliamentary Committee of this Congress draft and push forward a Bill exclusively for this purpose ; pensions to be based on the same scale as Poor Law Officers or Town Clerks, &c.

Mr. M. Canty seconded.

After considerable discussion, in which Messrs. Foy, P. Doyle, P. Walsh, Dineen, and the Secretary took part, the resolution was adopted with the omission of the instruction to the Parliamentary Committee.

TAXATION OF UNOCCUPIED HOUSES.

Mr. Richard Dunne (A.S.R.S.) moved :—

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, the time has arrived when legislation should be enacted for the taxation of unoccupied houses, and that we call on the Parliamentary Committee to use every effort to have the law amended in this direction, as we are sure it would be the means of reducing the exorbitant rents which the working-classes have to pay in our towns and cities."

He said that from his experience of Dublin rents, they were raised to twice their original amount. Rents had gone up to such an extent that the worker could not pay for a decent house.

Mr. W. G. Maunders (A.S.R.S.) seconded the resolution, which was adopted after some discussion.

TECHNICAL TRAINING OF APPRENTICES.

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

"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 for Technical Instruction for Ireland be requested to press this matter upon local technical committees and employers' associations throughout the country."

TECHNICAL EDUCATION—TRADES CLASSES.

Mr. E. J. O'Neill (Dublin) moved :—

"That this Congress condemns the system that prevails in the technical schools of this country in accepting as pupils in the various trades classes and workshops persons who are not tradesmen or apprentices—to the detriment and injury of legitimate and qualified tradesmen; and that this Congress is of the opinion that the teaching imparted to those trade classes and shops should be confined to tradesmen and apprentices, and calls upon the governors of the technical schools to see that only tradesmen or apprentices to the various trades receive tuition or be permitted to attend lectures in those trade classes and shops."

Mr. P. Walsh seconded.

Mr. Leahy (Dublin) opposed the resolution. He said that some of the trades classes in the Dublin Technical Schools had fallen through in consequence of the apathy of the trades in not taking up those classes.

Mr. Canty (Dublin) also opposed the resolution, stating that he would not keep anyone from gaining technical knowledge.

Mr. P. T. Daly, T.C., expressed surprise that Mr. O'Neill should bring forward such a resolution, more especially when he blamed the governors of the Technical Schools for the present condition of affairs. They could not prevent citizens from attending those schools when the apprentices and journeymen did not take sufficient interest in them.

Messrs. M'Loughlin (Dublin), Thomas Foy (Dublin), Allen (Belfast), P. Doyle, and Farren, opposed; and Messrs. Farrell, Larkin, and Milner supported.

On a division the resolution was carried by 26 votes to 23.

IRISH PRIMARY EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS.

Mr. Hugh M'Manus (Belfast) moved :—

"This Congress is of opinion that the present system of Irish Primary Education in National Schools requires radical improvement; that the National Schools require further improvements in respect of the sanitary and class-room accommodation provided, extension of open and covered play-grounds, more attention paid to cleanliness and warmth; and that this matter of Irish National Education should have a first place in any Irish reform proposed by the Government."

Mr. R. O'Keeffe seconded. Passed.

DEPUTATION FROM SCOTTISH CONGRESS.

At this stage Mr. John Robertson (Miners' Agent), Lanarkshire, and Mr. John T. Howden (Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners), Glasgow, fraternal delegates from Scotland, addressed the Congress at length, and conveyed the hearty good wishes of the

trade unionists of Scotland to their brethern in Ireland. They invited the delegates to send representatives to the next Scottish Congress which would be held in Edinburgh in the last week in April, 1908.

On the motion of Councillor Daly (Dublin), seconded by Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G. (Belfast), the thanks of the Congress was passed with acclamation to the Scottish delegates.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE'S REPORT (3).

The Standing Orders Committee reported having scrutinised the delegates' credentials and found that there were 89 accredited delegates attending Congress, representing a membership of 75,000 trade unionists in Ireland. They also recommended that the election of Parliamentary Committee be proceeded with before lunch interval. Passed.

SCRUTINEERS.

Messrs. Darcus (Belfast), Maunders (Dublin), and J. Carroll (Cork), were appointed scrutineers of the ballot.

ELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

On resuming after lunch the scrutineers announced the following as the result of the election for eight members of the Parliamentary Committee:—

	Votes.
1. Councillor Jas. M'Carron, Derry (Tailor). ...	51
2. Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G., Belfast (Printer). ...	43
3. Miss Galway, Belfast (Textile Operatives). ...	41
4. Mr. M. Egan, Cork (Coachmakers). ...	38
5. Mr. S. Dinneen, Limerick (Baker). ...	34
6. Mr. G. Greig, Belfast (Labourer). ...	34
7. Mr. E. W. Stewart, Dublin (Shop Assistant). ...	30
8. Mr. George Leahy, Dublin (Plasterer). ...	27

with Mr. E. L. Richardson, Secretary, form the Committee.

Eighty-two ballot papers issued and returned.

The unsuccessful candidates were:—Messrs. Canty, 9; Chambers, 26; Duignan, 14; Farren, 21; Farrell, 10; Harvey, 13; W. J. Leahy, 10; M'Carthy, T.C., 23; Mitchell, 5; Mear, 13; W. Murphy, 13; O'Keeffe, 11; O'Lehane, T.C., 21; and Sheehan, T.C., 11.

NON-CONTENTIOUS RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Denehy (Cork) complained of the time lost in discussing non-contentious resolutions.

The President said he was in the hands of the Standing Orders Committee, but he warned delegates that he would not tolerate opposition for the sake of prolonging discussion.

SCHOOL TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS.

Mr. L. Corrigan moved :—

"That this Congress considers the present system of not allowing candidates to compete at the examinations for appointments as National School Teachers, without having at least spent one year in a training college (no matter how brilliant they may have proved themselves otherwise in Civil Service examinations) is very unjust, particularly to children of the workers with limited means."

He said that in the trade to which he belonged, as well as in other trades, the members often found a difficulty in getting their sons apprenticed to their own trade.

Mr. D. A. Kiely (Cork) seconded, and in the course of the discussion which followed

Mr. Canty (Dublin) pointed out that the result of the present one-sided system was to prevent the brilliant children of poor parents in the country from getting a chance, as the money was not forthcoming for sending the candidates up to Dublin and keeping them in Marlborough Street for the prescribed period.

Councillor Daly and Mr. Murphy, P.L.G. also spoke.

The resolution was adopted by 29 votes to 2.

CIVIL RIGHTS FOR POST OFFICE SERVANTS.

Mr. G. Hurley (Irish P.O. Clerks' Association) moved :—

"That this Congress calls upon the Government to extend full civil rights to post office assistants and thus enable them in common with their fellow-workers to take their part in shaping the policy of the State."

He said that at present Post Office officials had no right to go on a political platform. They believed that they should have a right to a voice in the control of the rates they had to pay. The Postmaster-General could not get the salary which he had or the position which he held without being attached to some of the political parties in England. Postal officials had to pay for the support of the Army and Navy and all other taxes which the public were liable to. The election of postal officials to public boards would not interfere in any way with the discharge of their public duties.

Mr. J. Normile, in seconding the resolution, said that they claimed similar rights to those who paid rates. There should not be taxation without representation. They should have an opportunity of shaping the policy of the different boards in this country. He did not believe that any action of theirs in political matters connected with public affairs in this country could in any way interfere with them as public servants.

The resolution was adopted without a division.

PROMOTION IN THE POSTAL SERVICE.

Mr. B. C. Bergin (Irish Post Office Clerks) moved :—

"That this Congress enters its emphatic protest against the

system of promotion in the Post Office, by which the lucrative appointments in the Postal Service in Ireland are given to English and Scotch officials. That this Congress is of opinion that members of the Irish Service are fully competent to perform the highest duties they may be called upon to do, and declares that for each lucrative appointment given to an English or Scotch official, an appointment of similar value in Great Britain should be given to an Irishman. This Congress furthermore condemns the system of favouritism under which promotion in the Irish Service is obtained." He said they believed that the officials in the public service of the country should not have the right to promote to high positions in the Postal Service their friends and relations. Honesty, integrity and public service should be their rights to promotion.

Mr. Hurley (Irish P.O. Clerks' Association) seconded the resolution, which was agreed to.

THE DRAPERY TRADE.

Councillor O'Lehane (Irish Drapers' Assistants, Dublin), moved :—

"That this Congress condemns the present arbitrary system of instant dismissal so vigorously practised in the drapery trade, and we are of opinion that no individual should have the power of depriving another, or hundreds of others, of their livelihood at a moment's notice without reasonable cause; and, further, we believe reasonable notice should form the basis of agreement in all employments."

In dealing with the question Mr. O'Lehane pointed out that apart altogether from the hardships imposed by the system upon employes it was a source of many troubles and disputes owing to the power which it gave to individuals, power which, in many cases, was harshly used, with the inevitable result that discontent, which led up to strife, is unnecessarily created. A reasonable notice would give both the employer and employes more time for reasonable action, and many of the disputes which occur would be avoided.

Mr. D. Denehy (Cork) seconded the resolution.

Mr. O'Keeffe (Dublin) thought the resolution should not bind all trades unionists.

Mr. Stewart (Dublin) was of opinion that it would be more advantageous for employes in the case of disputes to be at liberty to leave at a moment's notice.

Mr. Murphy (Belfast) was of the same opinion.

Mr. Hurley (Post Office Clerks' Association) supported the resolution, and said he certainly should not like to have the system of instant dismissal applied to anyone. The meanest servant was entitled to receive reasonable notice.

Councillor P. T. Daly (Dublin) supported the motion, and said he understood their principal object was to use every means to

prevent "strikes," and the right to be dismissed at a moment's notice would not certainly tend towards that end.

Miss Mary Galway (Belfast) also supported the resolution, and instanced several cases of hardship in connection with the non-observance of the notice system by employers in the textile trades in Belfast.

The closure was moved, and on a division lost by 25 votes to 19. The discussion was continued by

Messrs. Walsh, Sheehan, T.C., Canty, Greig, and Milner.

Councillor O'Lehane having replied, the motion was adopted.

OUTWORKING IN THE TAILORING TRADE.

On the motion of Mr. John M'Mahon (Dublin), seconded by Mr. John Collins (Belfast), 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 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."

Mr. M. Canty seconded the motion, which was adopted.

ORDNANCE WORKSHOPS.

Mr. Jas. Chambers moved:—

"That this Congress urges the Parliamentary Committee to continue to press the just claims of Irish artisans for an extension of the Ordnance workshop system to Ireland, and we regret that so far no practical effect has been given to the recommendations made by the Duke of Connaught before the Committee on War Office Organisation, viz.—that Ireland should be made a self-contained, self-supporting organisation as far as the forces go, and that the Irish Ordnance workshops should be allowed to manufacture everything they can—and especially in view of the facts brought to the knowledge of the War Office officials that repairs and construction

of new works 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."

Mr. Farren seconded. Passed.

WAR OFFICE CONTRACTS.

Mr. Joseph Buckner (Limerick) moved :

"That the attention of this Congress be called to the unsatisfactory state of the painting trade as carried on in Limerick Military Barracks where unskilled labour is employed doing painters' work."

Mr. Neville seconded, and the motion passed.

WAR OFFICE CONTRACTS.

Mr. M. Harvey (for Limerick Trades Council) moved :—

"That it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to bring under the notice of the War Department the grave injustice which is being done to the Union Plasterers and Masons of Limerick by the employment of handymen and labourers to do regular tradesmen's work in the military barracks, Limerick."

Mr. Lynch, P.L.G. (Cork), seconded.

Mr. R. O'Carroll proposed that the word "several" be substituted for "Limerick" on the fourth line, which was accepted.

Mr. Cauty and Mr. P. Doyle opposed the motion.

Messrs. George Leahy (Dublin) and Carroll (Cork) supported.

Mr. E. L. Richardson (Secretary) said in regard to this and the previous resolutions, the Parliamentary Committee could do absolutely nothing with them unless they were furnished with definite particulars of the matters complained of, to lay before the War Office authorities.

The movers of the resolutions having undertaken to have this done, the closure was moved and agreed to, and the proposition passed.

CARRIAGE-MAKING FOR IRISH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

On the motion of Mr. Francis Farrell, seconded by Mr. Thos. Milner, it was agreed :—

"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."

STEAM ENGINES (PERSONS IN CHARGE) BILL.

Mr. M'Knight moved, Mr. J. Dodds seconded, and it was agreed :—

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

RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVES, ETC.

Mr. R. Emery moved ; Mr. J. M'Vernon seconded, and it was resolved :—

"That this Congress again calls upon the Government to prepare a Bill for the greater safeguarding of human life and property from accidents by explosions of locomotives' steam boilers or fire-boxes—1st, by providing for the proper inspection and testing of locomotive boilers by the Board of Trade ; 2nd, by providing certificates of competency by the Board of Trade for drivers in charge of boilers and engines, and insisting that all such shall be in possession of such certificates ; and that, where attendants are left solely in charge of boilers of steam rail motor carriages, that such men be in possession of a certificate of competency, and be senior attendants ; 3rd, that it be embodied in this Bill that no man receive a certificate who has not done five years on the foot-plate as fireman, and that applicants for such certificates must pass through the various stages of locomotive work as at present—cleaner—fireman—then driver."

HOME-MADE BOTTLES.

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

"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.'"

Mr. Mitchell (Belfast) asked what the letters represented.

Mr. M'Manus replied that they stood for "Ringsend," "Kings," "Burkes," and "Waterford," the names of the bottleworks in Ireland where their members were employed.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE'S REPORT (4).

Mr. George Leahy, Chairman Standing Orders Committee, reported that they had decided to ask the Congress to sit until 5.30 so that an early adjournment might be made on Thursday ; also that the Congress finances be taken into consideration as first business in the morning.

Recommendations adopted.

HOURS OF WORK IN SHOPS.

Councillor O'Lehane moved :

"That this Congress is of opinion that the hours worked in shops, particularly in the drapery trade, are excessive, unnecessarily so, and most injurious to the health of the assistants, especially the young ladies, and pending adequate legislation on the matter, which we believe should be of a compulsory nature, we call upon the workers and their families to abstain from late shopping, more especially on Saturdays."

He pointed out the serious, and unnecessary, hardships inflicted upon those who have to stand behind counters from, in many cases, 8.30 a.m. till 11.30. p.m. on Saturdays. What made this condition of affairs still more grave was the fact that the majority of those affected were young ladies. The present Early Closing Act was absolutely worthless. He hoped that now that the publichouses had to close an hour earlier than heretofore the drapery employers would have the good taste and the public spirit to, "off their own bat," close a few hours earlier on Saturdays. But he feared that, as stated in the resolution, nothing but a compulsory closing order would work satisfactorily. It was nearly time the trades unionists should discriminate between fair and unfair shops in the distributive and other trades, and he trusted the delegates would use their influence with their societies, families, and friends to prevent them from patronising those shops which keep young girls working inhumanly long hours, which remain open late not only on Saturday nights but on other nights as well, thereby compelling traders who are in competition with them to remain open also.

Mr. H. Rochford (Dublin Hairdressers) seconded, and proposed an addendum, which the mover accepted :—

"And to discourage the practice of patronising hairdressers' establishments on Sundays."

He said that the working class were the offenders in this respect, and what was worse than all it was mainly those who were themselves done work at midday on Saturday. It was a great hardship on hairdressers' assistants this unnecessary Sunday work, and a little consideration on the part of their fellow-workers could easily obviate the complaint.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

FORTY-EIGHT HOURS BAKEHOUSE BILL.

Mr. Dinneen (Limerick) moved ; Mr. Patrick Murphy (Cork) seconded, and it was resolved :—

"That it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to use every possible exertion in obtaining support for the Forty-Eight Hour Bakehouse Bill now before the House of Commons, as by helping to have this Bill passed into law the Congress will do a simple act of justice to the operative baker, by putting an end to the unnecessary and demoralising system of night work."

NEWSPAPER IMPRINTS.

On the motion of Mr. D. Denehy, seconded by Mr. D. A. Kiely, the following were passed :—

“That this Congress urges the application to Ireland of the law in force in England as to the imprints on newspapers, &c., and with that object requests the Parliamentary Committee to bring the matter at the first opportunity before the proper authority.”

FAIR WAGES RESOLUTION.

“That this Congress requests the Parliamentary Committee to urge upon the Labour Members of Parliament the desirability of having the principle of the House of Commons Fair Wages Resolution made more binding and effective in its application to all contracts by public bodies.”

FAIR WAGES RESOLUTION AMENDMENT.

Mr. A. Moore (Dublin) moved :—

“That this Congress urges upon the Irish Members of Parliament the necessity of having the ‘Fair Wages’ Resolution amended so as to insert the words ‘Trade Union.’”

Mr. Hugh M’Manus (Belfast) seconded, but said he would like the Congress to express itself more forcibly on this important matter, and suggested the following addendum :—

“And that this Congress again calls upon the members of the District, Urban and County Councils, and other Irish public bodies, having large contracts under their control, to have the Fair Wages Clause inserted in all their forms of tender; and, in order to prevent any violation of this condition, we would impress on all such public bodies the necessity of appointing an official for the purpose of visiting and inspecting the factory, workshop, or other premises of the persons that may have been entrusted with such contracts. We would also point out the advisability of having such officials accompanied by a special representative of the trade concerned to act as an expert and guide in all technical matters, conditions of working, &c., and that each trade shall pay the expense of its own representative. This Congress furthermore calls upon the workers in each district in Ireland to impress upon their local public representatives the necessity of having the Fair Wages Clause enforced in all contracts for which their boards have control and that this be made a primary pledge and condition of support at each election for any public representative position.”

The motion with the addendum (which was accepted by the mover) passed.

IRISH PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION.

On the motion of Mr. Charles (Belfast), seconded by Mr. George Leahy (Dublin), it was agreed :—

“That this Congress is fortified in expressing the general

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

The Congress adjourned until 9.30 on Thursday morning.

THEATRE PERFORMANCES.

In the evening many of the delegates and their lady friends availed themselves of the kindness of the Tivoli Theatre management, who threw open the doors of the little Burgh Quay house to the Congress.

—:O:—

FOURTH DAY.—Thursday, 23rd May, 1907.

Congress re-assembled at 9.30 a.m., the President, Councillor M'Carroll, in the chair.

Minutes of Wednesday's sitting read and confirmed.

THE BALANCE SHEET.

The first business dealt with was the annual balance sheet, which was put in the hands of the delegates on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Hugh M'Manus (Belfast Trades Council) moved its adoption, and Mr. John Farren (Dublin Trades Council) seconded.

Mr. Laurence Corrigan (Amalgamated Carpenters) pointed out that the balance sheet was not correct. The treasurer of the Parliamentary Committee was debited with 2s. more than the figures actually made out. The income stood at £244 15s 10d., and the actual figures were £244 13s. 10d.

The Treasurer said that the matter must be due to a printer's error.

The balance sheet was adopted (see page 57).

SANITARY AND WATER INSPECTORS.

Mr. J. Sweeney (Operative Plumbers) moved :—

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

Mr. John T. Duignan (Dublin) seconding, said he often met men in the uniform of a sanitary inspector whom he had known in

former days as grocers' assistants, or broken-down people of various sorts, and who knew just as much about what they were going to inspect as the man in the moon did.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP SANITATION AND VENTILATION.

Mr. J. Holloway (Brassfounders) 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 said that the authorities wanted to make the men in the factories themselves inspectors. The only inspector they had in some factories was the list of rules inside the door.

Mr. Duignan, seconding, described the resolution as another hardy annual. He wanted to know did they pay factory inspectors for wearing kid gloves and eye-glasses.

Mr. Richardson (Secretary) stated that in accordance with the request of the Inspector of Factories for the Dublin District, to whom copies of this resolution had been sent for the past two years, he had applied to the officials of the trade complaining, to be furnished with specific instances, but had received no response. He was afraid until that was done the resolution before the house would be ineffective.

The motion was adopted.

VENTILATION AND SANITARY INSPECTION OF WORKSHOPS AND FACTORIES.

Miss Galway (Textile Operatives) moved :—

"That, owing to the necessity for a more thorough and systematic inspection of workshops and factories in respect of ventilation and sanitary arrangements, more particularly in the clothing and textile trades, this Congress again reiterates their claims and demands that means shall forthwith be taken by the authorities to see that the health and lives of the workers shall be protected by every means within the Acts of Parliament now existing, or by fresh legislation."

She said that they had a great deal to complain of in this respect in Belfast. Some factories were admirable and others were scandalous. The sanitary authorities neglected their duty. It should not be the workers' duty continually to tell these people about the condition of the places in which they worked. The inspectors should go round and see that these places were kept in proper condition for the people. She characterised some of the workshops and factories in Belfast as a disgrace, and said there were many

complaints from the girls about the bad air. It was deplorable that so many of the girls died from consumption and other diseases. This was attributed by some people to the dirt of their houses; it was due to nothing of the kind. If the sanitary authorities did their work the girls would not die at such a rate.

Mrs. Elizabeth M'Caughey seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

CONTRACTS FOR LOCAL BODIES, ETC.

Mr. J. Holloway moved :—

"That this Congress condemns the system so largely practised by Corporations, Poor Law Boards, and other public bodies, in giving contracts to firms that are only agents for foreign manufacturers, and do not even keep a single tradesman in their employ; and that we call upon these bodies, 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."

Mr. J. T. Duignan seconded.

Councillor Daly opposed, but subsequently withdrew his opposition, and the motion passed unanimously.

CONTRACTS FOR LOCAL BODIES.

Mr. Wm. Murphy (Brushmakers) moved :—

"This Congress desires to direct the attention of public bodies, such as Boards of Guardians, Asylums, and other boards, that until municipal workshops are established, and in order to give proper effect to the Fair Wages Resolution, it is desirable when giving contracts for supplies, that none but manufacturers be considered, thereby ensuring not only the standard rate of wages being paid and the work being done by qualified tradesmen, but a saving to the rates of middlemen's profit."

He said that in his opinion middlemen put in for contracts at a lower rate than the manufacturer, submitted standard patterns, and then had to go to him to make an article as near to the pattern as possible. In order to allow of the middleman's profit the article had to be made inferior to the pattern.

Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G. (Belfast) seconding, said that a considerable number of local bodies adopted the Fair Wages Resolutions.

Councillor M'Carthy (Kilkenny) opposed the resolution, and said that for instance in his city there were not many manufacturers. Did they expect the public bodies in Kilkenny to vote that the articles be manufactured in Dublin, and so deprive the shopkeepers in Kilkenny of the money?

After further discussion, the resolution was carried unanimously.

CONTRACTS FOR LOCAL BODIES—DIRECT LABOUR.

Mr. R. O'Keeffe moved :—

"That this Congress calls on all members of Corporations, Urban Councils, Poor Law Guardians, and District Councils in Ireland to have all works in connection with same done by direct labour; we consider by so doing they will get better work done, be a saving on the rates, and go a long way in solving what is called the 'unemployed problem.'"

Mr. R. O'Carroll, in seconding, suggested the following addendum :—

"But this Congress feels called upon to protest against the practice of such public bodies employing handymen and labourers to perform regular tradesmen's work."

[Copies of this resolution to be sent to the Rathmines and Pembroke Urban Councils.]

Motion and addendum adopted.

CONTRACTS FOR LOCAL BODIES—VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS.

Councillor J. Moloney (Dublin) moved :—

"That this Congress requests the public Boards of this country to direct their committees of supplies not to consider the tenders of contractors who may have at any previous time been proved to have violated the terms of their contracts, or who have not up to the time of the consideration of tenders paid the standard wages and observed the working conditions recognised by the organised trades bodies of the country."

Mr. W. M'Loughlin (Dublin), seconding, said that contractors to the Dublin Corporation got things made out of the city, while the terms of their contracts provided that the articles should be made in Dublin.

Councillor Daly opposed the resolution, which was ultimately carried.

GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

Mr. Chas. Darcus (Belfast) moved :—

"That the Government be asked to appoint a Departmental Committee, to sit in Ireland, and inquire into the question of printing, and all other Imperial and Local Government Contracts in Ireland, and to report with reference to the matter."

He said it was high time that some Departmental Committee sat in Belfast to hear evidence on how these contracts were carried out. There were complaints made day after day about the dodgery which was carried on in connection with these contracts. There should be a committee before which they could tender facts and the evidence to show what grievances they had in respect to the contracts of local bodies and departments of the army and navy, and their performance in Ireland.

Mr. Hugh M'Manus (Belfast), seconding, said that three or four different Departmental Committees sat in London and took peripatetic evidence from various parts of the country with regard to Government contracts generally. The majority of the public boards in Ireland and other countries did not enforce fair wages resolutions in all Government contracts. There was supposed to be a specification inserted in the tender form stipulating that the fair wages of the district should be paid. This was practically a dead letter so far as Ireland was concerned.

The resolution was adopted.

NON-UNION NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION.

Mr. Hugh M'Manus (Belfast) moved :—

“That in the opinion of this Congress the existing evil of non-union newspaper, general printing, and magazine production, by means of underpaid man and excessive boy labour, should be brought under the notice of all public bodies and Irish workers generally, with a view to securing their co-operation in helping to crush a system of sweating of the worst description, whereby the wages paid on many provincial newspapers (existing on public boards' advertisements) are not only inadequate to the skill required, but are insufficient to give the workers the bare necessities of existence; and that this can be best accomplished by exposing all such newspapers and their methods, and publishing them in a manner to be approved by the Parliamentary Committee.”

He said that the majority of the papers in the country districts of Ireland were produced under anything but what they would term fair-wage conditions. Continuing, the speaker said—“The majority of the Nationalist papers in Ireland are owned or controlled by our Nationalist Members of Parliament. They are in favour of every reform that costs them nothing, and sympathise with all grievances but those of their own workmen. We have one illustrious patriot who considers 15s. a week sufficient payment for a week's work of a skilled tradesman. That says enough.”

Mr. G. Greig (Belfast) seconded.

Councillor Daly (Dublin Typographical Society) moved the following amendment :—

“And this Congress regrets to learn that no practical effort has been made by the officials of the Typographical Association to co-operate with the Dublin Typographical Society in abolishing the system of sweating and underpaid labour prevailing in the branch house of a certain Dublin firm within the sphere of the Typographical Association, as complained of at last year's Congress.”

Mr. J. T. Duignan seconded.

After an animated discussion, in which Messrs. C. Darcus, Murphy, P.L.G., and others took part, Councillor Daly withdrew his amendment on receiving an assurance from Mr. Murphy that he would do his best to have negotiations between the Typographical

Association and the Dublin Typographical Society carried out in regard to the complaints made.

Mr. Hugh M'Manus also gave a guarantee that he would see that a conference between the two societies would take place in Dublin at an early date on the request of the D.T.P.S., and on a statement of the grievances complained of being furnished to him.

The motion was adopted.

AMENDMENT OF THE TRUCK ACT.

Miss Galway moved :—

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

She said that this question was one that affected the members of her society. Only a few months ago they had to take up a case for a girl who out of 11s. 7d. a week had to pay 6s. 4d. in fines, though, the speaker alleged, what she was fined for had been proved to be not her fault at all, but that of the loom. The amount of fines paid by the girls in the year must be enormous.

Mrs. M'Caughey seconded, and the resolution was carried.

"LIVING-IN" SYSTEM.

Councillor O'Lehane (Drapers' Assistants, Ireland) moved :—

"That this Congress strongly condemns the present system of boarding and lodging shop employes as being inimical to their interests by depriving them of the ordinary rights of citizenship, and in addition inflicting serious injuries from health, physical and moral points of view ; and we trust the Truck Acts will be so amended as to make a continuance of the system impossible."

He said that this was a question which was now familiar to most trade unionists, and, thanks to the enterprise and courtesy of their old friend and colleague, Mr. Bernard Doyle, he, the speaker, was enabled to place his views before them in that interesting publication "The Trades Congress Annual"—a journal which he hoped they had all read. He was satisfied that the complete abolition of this pernicious custom was near at hand. It needed only a little further enlightenment of the public mind on the matter to seal its doom, because no man or body of men could stand up to defend a system which deprived an intelligent class of the common rights of citizenship, which compelled men and women to choose their companions. Just fancy, he said, being compelled to share the same room with a man or a number of men whom you have never seen, or with men who may be altogether objectionable to you. The system could not last and must go root and branch.

Mr. E. W. Stewart (Shop Assistants) seconded the resolution, and during the course of his remarks referred to the efforts which are being made to amend the Truck Acts in the direction desired

by shop assistants. A vigorous agitation against the system was now being carried on by shop assistants' unions, and it only needed a continuance and strengthening of this agitation to make the system impossible.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

A QUESTION OF ORDER.

Mr. Wm. Murphy (Dublin) at this stage called attention to Standing Order 12, which provided that at least one general Labour meeting should be held under the auspices of the Parliamentary Committee in each town during the sittings of the Congress, and asked why the Standing Order was not observed in Dublin.

Councillor O'Lehane also protested, and urged that had the drapery dispute not been settled before the opening of Congress, a labour demonstration would have been of great advantage to them.

The President replied that they did not think it necessary in the larger centres, where the daily papers published most of the Congress proceedings, to hold a further meeting. In any case he thought Dublin was thoroughly organised.

The matter dropped.

SANATORIA.

On the motion of Councillor M'Carthy (Kilkenny), seconded by Mr. A. Moore (Dublin), it was resolved :—

"In view of the continued increase in the death-rate of the workers resulting from pulmonary and tubercular consumption, this Congress is of the opinion that it is the duty of the State to provide the machinery necessary to cope with the rapid development of this much dreaded disease, and hereby instructs the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Congress to assist the Labour Party to draft and introduce into the House of Commons as early as possible a Bill for the establishment of Sanatoriums throughout the United Kingdom, the Bill to have a clause which shall cause consumption to be treated as an infectious disease, said Bill to be applicable to Ireland."

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE'S REPORT (5).

Mr. Geo. Leahy brought up final report of the Standing Orders Committee, which recommended—(1) That with regard to the resolution on Co-operation and Industrial Development (Councillor O'Lehane) passed on Monday, the following be appointed a committee :—Messrs. Foy (Railwaymen's Society), John Moloney, T.C. (Amalgamated Tailors), John Farren (Sheet Metal Workers), J. T. Duignan (Brassworkers), E. Brookes (Boilermakers), T. J. Sheehan, T.C. (Electrical Workers), E. O'Neill (Amalgamated Carpenters), and M. J. O'Lehane, T.C. (Irish Drapers' Assistants), that the latter be appointed hon. sec. *pro tem*; initial cost of printing and postage to be defrayed from Congress funds; (2) that Mr. Walter Hudson, M.P., be permitted to refer to the railwaymen's agitation

at the close of the agenda; (3) that both societies of Stationary Engine Drivers having agreed to accept the recommendation of the Dublin Trades Council—viz., the formation of a joint committee, with a member of the E.C. of Trades Council as Chairman, it is hereby ratified; (4) that the invitation from the Scottish delegates to be represented at their Congress in Edinburgh in 1908 be accepted.

Recommendations 1, 2, and 3, were unanimously adopted.

Recommendation 4 was opposed, and on a division there voted—For, 26; against, 25. The vote having been challenged, the President again put the question, when there appeared—For, 28; against, 28.

The Chairman then cast his vote against on the ground, he said, that the Parliamentary Committee, having fully considered the question and the ways and means at present at their disposal, came to the conclusion, without the slightest offence to their Scottish colleagues, that the money necessary to finance the delegation to Edinburgh might be better applied in propaganda purposes in Ireland. The Parliamentary Committee were considering a scheme which they hoped to put into practice during the next twelve months, and therefore, he hoped Mr. Holden and Mr. Robertson (the Scotch delegates) would understand and appreciate the course he felt bound to take.

Recommendation 4 was, therefore, negatived.

TOWN TENANTS.

On the motion of Mr. Thomas Foy, seconded by Mr. R. Dunne (A.S.R.S.) it was resolved:—

“That this Congress urges upon the Government the social and economic necessity of dealing fully with the Town Tenants’ question, by buying out the landlords’ interests and placing town tenancies under municipal and corporate control.”

MOTOR CAR INDUSTRY.

The following proposition, in the name of Mr. Thomas Milner (Coachmakers) was ruled out:—

“This Congress is of 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.”

TRADE ENCROACHMENTS.

By consent, the following motion, in the name of Mr. George Paisley (Millsawyers) was withdrawn, on his explaining that a conference of all the woodworking trades was about being held:—

“That this Congress is of opinion that the members of the

Carpenters and Joiners and Cabinetmakers Trades should not encroach on the rights of other trade unionists by working wood-working machinery."

RAILWAYMEN'S AGITATION.

The Standing Orders having been suspended,

Mr. Walter Hudson, M.P., in a vigorous speech, proposed :—

"That in the opinion of this Congress, the hours and wages of railwaymen should, in the interests of the travelling public and the men concerned, be revised, so as to give a shorter working day and more adequate remuneration for the work performed and the increased mental and physical strain. Further, we believe that negotiations for the settlement of all differences can best be conducted by the authorised official representatives of organisations on both sides."

Mr. Richard Dunne seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

NEXT YEAR'S CONGRESS.

On the motion of Mr. George Greig (President Belfast Trades Council), seconded by Mr. John Murphy (Secretary), it was decided that Congress meet in Belfast in 1908.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Votes of thanks having been passed to the Lord Mayor and Corporation, the Tramways Company, the Reception Committee, and the President, the Congress concluded.

VISIT TO GUINNESS'S BREWERY.

In the afternoon the delegates and their friends visited Guinness's Brewery, and were hospitably entertained by the directors.

VISIT TO THE EXHIBITION.

On Friday a day was spent at the Irish International Exhibition, where they were received and entertained by the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the Executive Council. Guides were provided, and the delegates having spent an enjoyable and instructive day, a vote of thanks, per Councillor M'Carron (Derry), Mr. P. Lynch (Cork), and Mr. John Murphy, P.L.G. (Belfast) was passed to Mr. Shanks and his co-directors.

It should be mentioned that the Dublin United Tramways Company placed their entire system at the delegates' service during the week.

BALANCE SHEET of Fourteenth Irish Trades Union Congress, Dublin, 1907.

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.			
			£ s. d.				£ s. d.
To Balance from last Congress	...	...	82 6 9	By P. C. Meeting, Athlone	...	...	3 12 0
" Affiliation Fees as per list	...	...	83 16 4	" Standing Orders Committee	...	...	2 10 0
" 89 Delegates' Fees at 15s.	...	...	66 15 0	" Secretary to Congress	...	...	1 0 0
" Sale of Congress Reports	...	...	7 3 0	" Tellers	...	...	0 15 0
" Delegates' Subscriptions to Simmons' Testimonial...	...	...	4 12 9	" Auditors	...	...	0 10 0
				" Two Caretakers	...	...	0 15 0
				" Telegrams, Belfast Strikers	...	...	0 1 1
				" Reporter	...	...	2 2 0
				" B. Doyle, Printer	...	...	10 0 0
				" Athlone,	...	...	0 18 0
				" Simmons' Testimonial	...	...	5 5 0
				" Address to Councillor Hughes and Delegation to			
				Athlone	...	...	3 5 0
				" Dilke Meeting in Cork	...	...	2 7 6
				" B. Doyle, Printer	...	...	25 17 6
				" Cheque Book	...	...	0 4 2
				" Banking Expenses	...	...	0 5 0
				" Hall Porter, Dublin	...	...	0 10 0
				" Secretary's Honorarium	...	...	20 0 0
				" Treasurer's	...	...	3 0 0
				" Postage, Stationery, &c.	...	...	0 15 6
				" P. C. Meetings	...	...	34 15 0
				" Secretary's Petty Cash Account	...	...	6 3 0
				" Attendance Railway Commission	...	...	1 0 0
				" Balance in Hand	...	...	119 5 1
			<u>£244 15 10</u>				<u>£244 15 10</u>

We certify we have examined the Accounts, Vouchers, and Receipts, and found same correct.

JOHN MCCARTHY, }
P. NASH, } Auditors.

AFFILIATION FEES.

	£	s.	d.
Dublin Saddlers' Society (1906)	0	6	3
" " (1907)	0	5	6
Typographical Association (Limerick Branch)	0	10	0
Dublin Coopers' Society	2	2	0
Amalgamated Society Railway Servants (balance, 1906)	1	10	0
" " (1907)	10	0	0
Amalgamated Union Bakers (Limerick Branch)	0	8	4
Amalgamated Society Tailors (Emerald Branch, Dublin)	0	18	4
Belfast Hackle and Gill Makers	0	7	6
Typographical Association Executive	2	10	0
Shop Assistants' Union	0	10	0
Dublin Sheet Metal Workers	0	5	0
Irish Glass Bottlemakers	1	0	0
Belfast Trades Council	3	0	0
Derry Trades Council	1	0	0
Amalgamated House and Ship Painters	1	10	0
Prudential Assurance Agents	0	3	8
Amalgamated Society Carpenters	5	10	0
Limerick Trades Council	1	0	0
Limerick Guild House Painters	0	5	0
Limerick Plasterers' Society	0	5	0
Brushmakers' Society, Dublin Branch	0	5	0
Bookbinders' Society, Dublin Branch	0	16	8
Irish Postal Clerks	2	10	0
Kilkenny Trades Council	1	0	0
Dublin Brassfounders	0	11	8
Amalgamated Society Wood-Cutting Machinists	1	8	4
Dublin Corporation Labourers	1	10	0
Athlone Trades Council	1	0	0
Dublin Operative Bakers	1	10	0
Irish Drapers' Assistants	3	10	0
National Amalgamated Labour Union	1	10	0
Belfast Bakers' Society	1	10	0
Dublin Hairdressers' Assistants	0	8	0
Irish Bakers' Amalgamated Union	1	10	0
Stationary Engine Drivers, Dublin	0	13	0
Dublin Council Postmen's Federation	1	1	0
Boilermakers, Dublin Branch	0	10	0
Dublin Operative Plasterers	0	16	8
Dublin and Belfast Loco. Engine Drivers	1	0	0
Textile Operatives of Ireland	1	10	0
Independent Stationary Engine Drivers	0	11	8
Dublin Brick and Stonelayers	1	8	4
Cork Trades Council	1	0	0
Amalgamated Society Tailors' Executive	3	10	0
Typographical Association, Belfast Branch	2	0	0
Dublin Trades Council	3	0	0
Belfast Tramway and Vehicle Workers	0	10	10
Irish Linen-Lappers' Union	1	0	0
Electrical Trades Union	0	1	6
Amalgamated Union Cabinetmakers, Belfast	1	8	4
U.K.S. Coachmakers	3	3	0
Derry Dock Labourers	0	10	0
Metropolitan House Painters	1	8	4
Dublin Typographical Association	2	10	0
Dublin Lodge Plumbers	0	11	0
National Union Dock Labourers, Belfast	1	10	0
National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades	1	8	4
Limerick Brick and Stonelayers	0	5	0

List of Delegates.

- Athlone Trade and Labour Council*—M. J. Hughes, J.P., P.L.G., Chairman U.D.C.
Alliance Cabinetmakers—P. Nash, Miles Street, Limerick.
Amalgamated Cabinetmakers—Wm. Allen, 34 Willowfield Gardens, Woodstock Road, Belfast.
Bakers and Confectioners, Dublin Operative—Patrick Brady and P. J. Lea, 8 Upper Bridge Street.
Bakers, Irish National Amalgamated—Stephen Dineen, Mount Vincent Cottages, Limerick.
Belfast Trades Council—^{Bookbinders} Joseph Mitchell, Hugh M'Manus, 17 College Street, Belfast.
Bottlemakers, Irish Glass—John M'Manus, 40 Doris Street, Ringsend; Thomas M'Laren, 18 Pembroke Cottages, Ringsend.
Boilermakers—Edward Brooks, 26 Gray Street.
Bookbinders, Consolidated—Andrew Moore, 3 Aungier Street, Dublin.
Brassfounders, Amalgamated—John Holloway, 13 St. Joseph's Place, Dorset St.
Bricklayers, Ancient Guild—Richard O'Carroll, 49 Cuffe Street, Dublin.
Brushmakers, Amalgamated—W. Murphy, 3 Fitzroy Avenue, Drumcondra.
Carpenters, Amalgamated—Laurence Corrigan, 25 Erne Street, Dublin.
Carpenters, Amalgamated (Dublin 6th Branch)—R. O'Keefe, Newtown Park, Blackrock.
Carpenters, Amalgamated (Dublin 5th Branch)—Patrick Walsh, 76 Heytesbury Street; E. J. O'Neill, 35 Lower Gloucester Street.
Coopers, Dublin Operative—W. J. Leahy, 25 Blackhall Street; P. J. Quinn, 8 Merchant's Quay.
Corporation Workers, Dublin—Thomas Cobb, Patrick Doyle, A. Rigney, and M. Canty, 27 Winetavern Street.
Cork Trades Council—Patrick Murphy, Michael Egan, Patrick Lynch, P.L.G., 47 Grattan Street, Cork.
Coachmakers, United Kingdom Society—Francis Farrell, Thomas Milner, Trades Hall, Dublin.
Derry Dock Labourers—John Doherty.
Dock Labourers National Union—James Larkin, College Street, Belfast.
Dublin Trades Council—John Lumsden, Wm. M'Loughlin, John Farren, and John Thomas Duignan, Trades Hall, Dublin.
Electric Trades Union—T. J. Sheehan, T.C., 124 Botanic Road.
Enginemen, Independent Stationary—Patrick Donnelly, Wellington Street; Edward Hore, 27 Lower Gardiner Street.
Enginemen, Dublin Stationary—J. M'Knight, J. Dodds, Trades Hall.
Enginemen, Belfast and Dublin Locomotive—Robert Emery, 186 Grosvenor Road, John M'Vernon, 323 Donegall Road, Belfast.
Hackle and Gill Makers, Belfast—Jas. Taylor, 59 Battenberg Street.
Hairdressers, Dublin Journeymen—Henry Rochford, Trades Hall.
Irish Drapers' Assistants—M. J. O'Lehane, T.C., M. A. O'Sullivan, Peter Kenny, F. E. Willis, 56 Henry Street, Dublin.
Insurance Agency Association, Prudential—Henry Kavanagh, Main Street, Rathfarnham.

- Limerick Trades Council*—John Neville, Lower Glentworth Street; Matthew Harvey, 46 Colooney Street.
- Kilkenny Trades Council*—John M'Carthy, T.C., P.L.G.; Maurice Moore, Trades Hall, Kilkenny.
- National Amalgamated Union of Labour*—George Greig, 22 Arva Street, Belfast; Edward Percy, 15 Daisyfield Street, Belfast; Henry White, Clear Stream Cottage, Ballysillen, Belfast.
- Painters, Metropolitan*—M. J. Carroll, 27 Aungier Street, Dublin.
- Painters, National Amalgamated*—J. O. Carroll, 2 Church Street, Cork.
- Painters (House) Limerick Guild*—Joseph Buckner, 28 Gerald Griffin Street.
- Plasterers, Operative*—George Leahy, 23 Blackhall Place; Patrick O'Kelly, 11 Thompson Cottages, Summer Hill.
- Plumbers Association, Dublin Lodge*—James Sweeney, 30 Arran Quay.
- Post Office Clerks, Irish Association*—G. Hurley, J. Normile, B. C. Bergin, 16 Henry Street, Dublin.
- Railwaymen, Amalgamated Society*—Walter Hudson, M.P.; Richard Dunne, 8 Pim Street; W. G. Maunders, A. Mear, 5 Parkview Terrace, Harold's Cross; Thomas Foy, 45 Strandville Avenue, Dublin.
- Shop Assistants, Amalgamated Union*—E. W. Stewart, 179 Clonliffe Road.
- Saddlers, Dublin*—James Chambers, 27 St. Ignatius Road.
- Tinsmiths and Sheet Metal Workers*—John M'Namara, Trades Hall.
- Tailors, Amalgamated*—Councillor Jas. M'Carron, Londonderry; John M'Mahon, Trades Hall, Dublin.
- Tailors, Amalgamated (Dublin)*—John Moloney, T.C., 10 Norfolk Market, Britain Street.
- Tailors, Amalgamated (Belfast)*—John Collins, 16 Stephen Street, Belfast.
- Tramway and Vehicle Workers, Amalgamated*—Wm. Scott, 130 Cosgrove Street, Belfast.
- Textile Operatives*—Mrs. Elizabeth McCaughey, 39 Sebastopol Street; Miss Mary Galway, 31 Crocus Street, Belfast.
- Typographical Association*—Denis Denehy, 3 Ophelia Place, The Lough, Cork.
- Typographical Association (Cork)*—Daniel A. Kiely, 47 Grattan Street, Cork.
- Typographical Association (Belfast)*—Charles Darcus, John Murphy, P.L.G., 20 College Street.
- Typographical Society, Dublin*—Patrick Daly, T.C., 33 Denmark Street.
- Woodcutting Machinists, Amalgamated*—Geo. Paisley, 3 Hewardine Terrace, Dublin.
- Scottish Trades Union Congress*—Mr. John T. Howden (Carpenters and Joiners), and Mr. John Robertson (Miners' Agent).

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. The Committee shall meet quarterly, or at such times as, in the opinion of the Chairman and Secretary, the exigencies of the Labour Movement in Ireland call for immediate action, and shall present a report of their proceedings to the next Congress. No candidate shall be eligible for election on the Parliamentary Committee unless he is a Delegate from his own trade society, labour union, or trades council. In no case shall more than one member of the same trade or occupation, or more than one representative of the same trades council, be allowed to sit, but this condition shall not apply to the election of Secretary. The 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. Parliamentary Committee's Report.—The Congress having been duly opened, the Parliamentary Committee shall present their Report for the past year, which shall be laid on the table for discussion, after the disposal of which their tenure of office shall terminate. A printed Balance Sheet, duly certified by the Auditors, 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.

INDEX.

- ACCIDENTS, Notification of, 4.
Affiliation Fees, 58.
Apprentices, Technical Training of, W., 38.
- BAKEHOUSE Bill, 46.
Belfast Dockers Lock-out, 36.
Bottles, Home-made, 45.
Balance Sheet, 48, 57.
- CANALS and Waterways, 7.
Carriage Inspection, 33.
Carriage Making for Government Departments, 44.
Congress Officials, &c., 7, 56.
Contracts for Local Bodies, 8, 50, 51.
Civil Rights for Post Office Servants, 41.
Co-operation and Industrial Development, 27.
Cumann Na nGaedheal and Amalgamated Societies, 14.
Carriage Making for Government Departments, 44.
- DELEGATES, List of, 59.
Drapery Trade, 42.
- EDUCATION, Primary, 39.
Elections, Local Government, 33.
Election, Parliamentary Committee, 40.
- FACTORY, Sanitation, &c., 9, 49.
Fair Wages Resolution, 5, 47.
- GOVERNMENT Contracts, 44, 51.
- HACKNEY Carriage, Inspectors, 9.
Housing of Town Workers, 12, 35.
Hours of Work in Shops, 46.
- IMPORTATION, 29, 30, 31.
Industrial Insurance, 37.
Inspectors, Sanitary and Water, 48.
Instant Dismissal, 42.
Irish Council Bill, 22.
Irish Party, 14.
- LABOURERS Act, 1906, 11.
Labour Party, 13.
Labour Representation, 27.
Local Bodies, Contracts for, 8.
Lord Mayor's Speech, 16.
"Living-In," 53.
- MERCHANDISE Marks, 10, 32.
Mines, Nationalisation of, 24.
Miscellaneous Bills, 15.
Motor Car Industry, 55.
Municipal Employees, Pensions for, 38.
Municipal Workshops, 43.
- NEWSPAPER Criticism, 37.
Newspaper Imprints, 47.
Notification of Accidents, 4.
Newspaper Production, Non-Union, 52.

OFFICERS, Congress, 17.
 Old Age Pensions, 34.
 Ordnance Workshops, 7, 43.
 Outworking, 43.

PARLIAMENTARY Committee Election, 40.
 Parliamentary Committee's Nominations, 36.
 Parliamentary Committee's Report, 3.
 Parliamentary Committee's Special Report, 22.
 Parliamentary Committee, thanks to, 35.
 Poor Law Commission, 6.
 Post Office Servants, 41.
 Postal Service Promotion, 41.
 President's Address, 17.
 Private Bill Legislation, 47.

RAILWAYMEN'S Agitation, 56.
 Railways Commission, 7.
 Railway Locomotives, &c., 45.
 Railways, Nationalisation, 7, 24.
 Receiving Depot, 8.
 Reception Committee's Arrangements, 30, 36, 48, 56.

SANITARY Inspectors, 48.
 Sanitoria, 54.
 School Teachers Examinations, 41.
 Scotch Congress Deputation, 39.
 Scrutineers for P.C. Election, 40.
 Shop Hours, 46.
 Sir Charles Dilke's Meeting (Cork), 13.
 Standing Orders Committee's Report, 28, 34, 40, 45, 54.
 Steam Engines (Persons in Charge) Bill, 45.
 Sub-letting Plaster-work, 32.
 Sunday Trading, 10.

TECHNICAL Education, Trades Classes, 39.
 Technical Training of Apprentices, 10, 38.
 Town Tenants, 11, 55.
 Trades Disputes Act, 3.
 Trade Encroachments, 55.
 Truck Act Amendment, 8, 53.

UNEMPLOYED Act, 4, 35.
 Unoccupied Houses, Taxation of, 38.

WAR Office Contracts, 44.
 Water Inspectors, 48.
 Workingmen Magistrates, 12.
 Workmen's Compensation, 3.
 Workmen's Insurance, 37.

