



THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL

Irish Trades 

 Union Congress

WILL BE HELD IN

LIMERICK

ON . . .

Whit-Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday,

1909.



"LABOR OMNIA VINCIT."

REPORT

OF THE

SIXTEENTH

Irish Trades Union Congress,

HELD IN

The Athenæum, Limerick,

On MAY 31st; JUNE 1st and 2nd, 1909.

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

IRISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS, 1894-1909.

Year.	No. of Delegates.	Locality.	President.	Secretary.	Treasurer.
1894	119	Dublin	Thomas O'Connell (Carpenter)	John Simmons	Patrick Dowd.
1895	121	Cork	J. H. Jolley (Printer)	"	J. H. Jolley.
1896	93	Limerick	James Dalton (Printer)	"	"
1897	86	Waterford	P. J. Leo (Pork Butcher)	"	"
1898	90	Belfast	Richard Wortley (Tailor)	"	P. J. Tevenan.
1899	62	Londonderry	James M'Carron (Tailor)	"	"
1900	77	Dublin	George Leahy, P.L.G. (Plasterer)	Hugh M'Manus	Alex. Taylor, T.C.
1901	73	Sligo	*Alex. Bowman, T.C. (Flax Dresser)	E. L. Richardson, T.C.	"
1902	98	Cork	Wm. Cave, Alderman (Bootmaker)	"	Geo. Leahy, P.L.G.
1903	86	Newry	Walter Hudson, M.P. (A.S.R.S.)	"	"
1904	74	Kilkenny	Wm. Walker, T.C. (Carpenter)	"	"
1905	72	Wexford	James Chambers, P.L.G. (Saddler)	"	E. W. Stewart.
1906	72	Athlone	Stephen Dineen (Baker)	"	"
1907	87	Dublin	James M'Carron, T.C. (Tailor)	"	"
1908	85	Belfast	John Murphy, P.L.G. (Printer)	E. L. Richardson, J.P.	"
1909	108	Limerick	M. Egan, J.P., T.C. (Coachmaker)	"	"

* In 1901 and from 1903 the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for the year was also President of the Congress.

REPORT

13/77

OF THE

SIXTEENTH

Irish Trades Union Congress,

HELD IN

THE ATHENÆUM, LIMERICK,

— ON —

MONDAY, TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY,

31st May; 1st and 2nd June, 1909.

Edited by E. L. RICHARDSON, J.P.



*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, 1909-10.

—:0:—

CHAIRMAN :

EDWARD W. STEWART, DUBLIN.

VICE-CHAIRMAN :

MISS MARY GALWAY, BELFAST.

M. EGAN, J.P., T.C., Cork.

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

D. R. CAMPBELL, Belfast.

M. HARVEY, Limerick.

H. ROCHFORD, Dublin.

TREASURER :

M. J. O'LEHANE, P.L.G., 56 HENRY STREET, DUBLIN.

(To whom all Remittances should be sent).

SECRETARY :

E. L. RICHARDSON, J.P., 7 MELROSE AV., FAIRVIEW, DUBLIN.

(To whom all Communications should be addressed).

REPORT

OF THE

16th Annual Irish Trades Union Congress, LIMERICK, 1909.

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

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

Since your Committee last reported to Congress, three measures of prime importance to the workers of Ireland have been placed upon the Statute Book—Old Age Pensions, the Children Act, and the Irish Party's Housing Act.

Old Age Pensions.—Of the first-mentioned Act it is needless to say that, notwithstanding the advanced age-limit and the poor law disqualification, it has proved an inestimable boon to many thousands of worn-out wage workers of the country. This great reform has been demanded year after year since the inception of the Irish Congress; and now that it has become law, our efforts must be directed to the removal of the restrictions which bar the most deserving—those who have been forced to obtain relief under the Poor Law system—from its provisions, and to the lowering of the age limit.

The Children Act.—This measure deals exhaustively with ways and means of protecting children and young persons from many of the social dangers and evils to which they have hitherto been subjected, and its promoters are hopeful that by kindly yet firm administration the children, especially of the poor, will secure a better chance of life and of becoming useful citizens.

The Housing Act.—This measure marks a substantial advance towards solving the Housing Problem in the cities and towns of Ireland, although, of course, it does not cover all the points referred to in the petition presented to Parliament by your Committee on the 23rd February, 1904, or in the resolutions adopted by Congress before or since. The Act provides for the extension of the period for repayment of loans to 80 years; it removes the limitation of borrowing powers of municipal authorities in regard to loans for housing schemes, and it provides for a grant of £160,000 from the

Government, to form a nucleus of an Irish Housing Fund, the interest thereon, which is calculated to produce £6,000 a year, to be distributed to municipal authorities in proportion to their liabilities in respect of moneys borrowed for housing schemes, and it gives power to consolidate and pay off loans already obtained, and re-borrow on more advantageous terms. To Mr. John J. Clancy, M.P. for North Dublin, belongs the credit for the passing of this Act.

Unemployment.—At their meeting on the 1st August last your Committee considered the situation in Ireland as regards unemployment. The reports presented to them from the principal industrial districts indicated that during the then approaching winter distress from want of employment would be even more acute than the preceding seasons. They thereupon adopted a resolution urging that where distress committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act had not then been set up, steps should immediately be taken to secure whatever advantages that Act affords pending further legislation; calling upon the Irish members to secure more liberal grants from the Treasury for Irish distress committees; and directing the attention of the President of the Local Government Board “to the abnormal distress from want of employment which exists at present, and is certain to be accentuated during the ensuing winter in Ireland.” And at their meeting in September your Committee resolved to petition Parliament in favour of the Labour Party’s Right to Work Bill. The following Petition was thereupon presented, on behalf of your Committee, by Mr. Walter Hudson, M.P., on the 19th October:—

The Petition of the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress,

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

1. That your Petitioners are delegated to represent over 70,000 organised artisans, labourers, and female workers in Ireland;

2. That your Petitioners have been duly authorised by their constituents to pray your honourable House to give effect and sanction to any Bill introduced into your honourable House for the purpose of alleviating distress from want of employment in the United Kingdom.

3. That for this purpose your Petitioners pray your honourable House to give legislative sanction to the “Right to Work” Bill brought before your honourable House on behalf of the Labour Party in March last, or any measure that will secure (1) a complete registration of unemployment; (2) that the responsibility of carrying out an Unemployed Workmen Act shall become part of the ordinary work of municipal authorities; and that the Imperial Government shall co-operate with the local authorities in this work. That the machinery for carrying out these principles shall be—(a) All local authorities must register unemployed workmen within their area; (b) municipal authorities must create a statutory unemployment committee; (c) an advisory committee must be created by the Local Government Board; (d) unemployed commissioners must be appointed; (e) the Imperial Exchequer must pay the greater part of the cost; (f) National land must be used for the purpose of the Act; (h) National resources now going to waste must be utilised for the purpose of the Act; and (i) the culpable unemployed must be separated from the honest unemployed.

4. That your Petitioners believe your honourable House would be relieving the deplorable conditions under which great numbers of the workless workers of the United Kingdom are at present suffering by giving legislative sanction to the proposals herein set forth.

5. Your Petitioners, therefore, pray that your honourable House will take such steps as may be necessary to secure the immediate passage of an Act of Parliament for these purposes.

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

Signed by the President and Secretary in the name, and by the authority, of the Irish Trades Union Congress, this 12th day of October, 1908.

MICHAEL J. EGAN, J.P., T.C., Chairman.
E. L. RICHARDSON, J.P., Secretary.

The King's Speech at the opening of the present Session contained the promise of a measure for "the better organisation of the labour market through a system of co-ordinated labour exchanges with which other schemes for dealing with unemployment may subsequently be associated"; and a reference to the Report of the Poor Law Commission, whose recommendations "are engaging the careful attention of my Government." As an amendment to the Address the Labour Party moved: "That in view of the serious distress arising from lack of work, the proposals of the Government are altogether inadequate for effectively dealing with either the root causes or the evils arising out of unemployment." The amendment was defeated by a majority of 104 votes—viz, 205 for, 101 against. Subsequently, on the 30th April, the Labour Party again submitted their Unemployed Workmen ("Right to Work") Bill for second reading. Your Committee, on the 24th April, communicated with Mr. J. E. Redmond, M.P., and Mr. J. B. Lonsdale, M.P., requesting the attendance and support of the Irish, Nationalist and Unionist Members for the Bill. Mr. Lonsdale failed to reply, but Mr. Redmond wrote that the Nationalist members "who are present will support the Labour Party in bringing forward the Bill." The Government, however, opposed, and the measure was defeated by a majority of 115. The following is how the Irish members voted:—

For the Bill.—Abraham, Ambrose, Barry, E.; Boland, Burke, Delaney, Devlin, Duffy, Esmonde, Ginnell, Halpin, Hayden, Hazleton, Hogan, Joyce, Kennedy, V. P.; Kettle, Kilbride, Lardner, M'Kean, Meagher, Meehan, F. F.; Murphy, J.; Murphy, N. J.; Nannetti, Nolan, O'Brien, K.; O'Connor, J.; O'Doherty, O'Dowd, O'Kelly, C.; O'Malley, Philips, Power, White.—35.

Against the Bill.—Russell, Barrie, Clark, Craig, C.; Craig, J.; Fetherstonhaugh, Hamilton, Marquess of; Lonsdale, Wolff.—9.

On the 19th May the President of the Board of Trade, in asking leave to introduce the promised government measure for Labour Exchanges, outlined the main features of the scheme, in which your Committee are in general agreement; but reserve any further expression of opinion or action until they have had an opportunity of examining the Bill in detail.

Afforestation.—Your Secretary was called as a witness before the Royal Commission on Coast Erosion on the 20th July, 1908, to give evidence upon the potentialities of afforestation as a method of dealing with unemployment. The following is a brief press report of his evidence :—

Mr. Richardson, Secretary to the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Congress, said afforestation was work suitable to the physical capacity of the unemployed, and their work was equal to ordinary unskilled labour. He did not think the work would take men back to the land, but it would keep men now on the land from flooding the labour market of the towns. The Dublin Corporation had been approached by the Irish Afforestation Society with a view to tree planting by the unemployed on land at the new waterworks in County Wicklow. There were a large number of saw mills in Ireland, and there were considerable imports of manufactured and rough timbers, and only a small percentage of land in wood. The Irish Trades Union Congress had passed a resolution in favour of legislation to compel owners to cultivate greater portions of their holdings. The underlying idea was more employment in country districts. He also submitted resolutions complaining of imported joinery and foreign-made butter packages as showing the scarcity of native material. Scarcity of work caused many Irish labourers to cross over to England and Scotland to engage in harvest operations. The estimated number was 25,000 annually. Afforestation would afford winter employment. Dublin was the only place in Ireland which had a really effective Distress Committee. There were 5,561 able-bodied workers in receipt of poor-law relief in Ireland. Compared with the population, Dublin was the most charitable city in the world. He thought that national afforestation would be a help to Ireland.

The Commission has reported in favour of afforestation as a State enterprise.

Chief Secretary's Letter.—Regarding the matters brought before the Chief Secretary by deputation, as printed in your Committee's last report to Congress, Mr. Birrell has forwarded the following letter in further explanation of the attitude of the several Departments concerned :—

Chief Secretary's Office,

Dublin Castle, 21st September, 1908.

Dear Sir—With further reference to your letter of July 9th, Mr. Birrell asks me to say that he has now obtained replies to the inquiries he made of the various departments concerned respecting certain of the matters which were laid before him by a deputation from the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress.

Outworking in Tailoring Trade.—He is informed by the Secretary of State that the conditions of home work in the tailoring and other trades have been investigated by a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and that this Committee reported towards the end of last month. The recommendations in the Report will be very carefully considered by the Government.

Female Factory Inspectors, &c.—A lady inspector is now stationed permanently in Belfast, and gives her whole time to special duty in Ireland, and the questions of sanitation and ventilation in factories and workshops throughout Ireland have been carefully attended to by the inspectors, whose reports show that improvement is being steadily made. Since the year 1894 there have been two District Inspectors' Offices in Ireland—one in Dublin and one in Belfast, and additional office accommodation has now been provided both in Londonderry and Cork, where communication can be made direct to the inspectors in charge.

Truck Acts and "Living In."—The amendment of the Truck Acts, and the "living-in" system are now being considered by a Departmental Committee, which is expected to report in the autumn.

Night Work in Bakehouses.—With regard to the complaint made by the deputation that the conditions of work in bakehouses are exceedingly bad, Mr. Birrell is informed by the Secretary of State that the inspectors' experience of factory bakehouses does not bear out the complaint. It is possible, however, that the complaint refers to the sanitation of workshop bakehouses, which is a matter for which the local authorities are responsible.

Fair Wages Resolution.—The Board of Trade inform Mr. Birrell that the working of the Fair Wages Resolution is being considered by a Committee appointed by the Treasury. This Committee, however, does not deal with contracts made by local authorities, and the only information as to the conditions as to wages included in the contracts of local authorities to which you can be referred is that given in a return relating to the United Kingdom issued by the Home Office in 1905 (Parliamentary Paper 307). If your Committee have reason to think that local authorities in Ireland have been surcharged for accepting tenders which are higher than the lowest tender solely by reason of the working of a fair wages clause, and will submit the particulars, Mr. Birrell will have the matter carefully looked into.

Marking of Foreign Goods.—The Board of Trade inform Mr. Birrell that the question of marking foreign-made goods has often been brought before them in relation to the United Kingdom as a whole; and it has been held that the great objection to any system of marking such goods is that it acts as an advertisement for foreign-made goods. This, at least, is the case under the existing Merchandise Marks Act. On these grounds the extension of the principle has always been resisted by the Board of Trade, and Mr. Birrell is sure that Parliament would not entertain a proposal to introduce any such system as regards goods manufactured or produced within the United Kingdom for sale within the United Kingdom.

Postal Servants' Grievances.—As regards the complaint as to promotion in the Postal Service, Mr. Birrell is informed that in the interests of the efficiency of the whole service it has been found necessary to regard postmasterships as staff appointments, for which the entire staff in any part of the United Kingdom are eligible to compete, and not as appointments to which the staff of the particular office concerned have a special claim. Out of the applicants, each head of a department chooses the best under his control, and the final selection is made from the list thus made of well-qualified and meritorious officers. The final selection depends largely on seniority, though if other things were approximately equal, preference would be given, as regards Irish postmasterships, to Irish officers. In the application of this system, which, in the interests of the efficiency of the whole service, and of the staff as a whole, is considered to be the fairest that can be devised, English officers are sometimes promoted to Scotch and Irish postmasterships, and Scotch and Irish officers to English postmasterships; but Mr. Buxton has no reason to suppose that the system works unfairly to Ireland. He is satisfied that if Irish officers had the sole right of promotion in Ireland, and no right to promotion to offices in Great Britain, the staff would not view the change with favour. As regards the superior offices of lower status than postmasterships, it is the rule that the succession to such appointments lies in the office in which the vacancy occurs, if a qualified officer can be found upon the staff. Mr. Birrell is informed that there is very rarely occasion to go outside the staff of the office concerned when such an appointment has to be made, and that this course is adopted only upon clear proof that it is necessary in the interests of the public service.

Ordnance Workshops in Ireland.—The Financial Secretary to the Army Council informs Mr. Birrell that there is nothing to be added to the latest official letters on the subject of establishing ordnance workshops in Ireland. These are:—Contracts 298, of 4th August, 1906, and contracts, 405, of 29th July, 1907. The War Office adds that it is quite open to Irish firms to apply to be noted on the War Office lists, and to tender in competition with other firms. Any such tenders will be fairly considered from the point of view of price, capacity, and quality.

Inspection of Hackney Carriages.—As regards the inspection of hackney carriages in the city of Dublin, the Chief Secretary is informed that the duties discharged by the Inspector of Police in charge of the Carriage Department, financial and others, are of a varied character, requiring considerable police experience and knowledge of the Hackney Carriage Laws and Regulations. The inspection of vehicles forms but a small part of his duties, and the Chief Commissioner is satisfied that it can be adequately discharged, owing to the practical experience and training the inspector has received in the working of the Department. For these reasons no change in the system is contemplated.—I am, yours faithfully,

W. R. DAVIES.

E. L. Richardson, Esq., J.P.

Deputation to Mr. Redmond.—On Saturday, 13th February, 1909, Mr. John E. Redmond, M.P., with Messrs. John Dillon, M.P.; J. J. Clancy, M.P.; T. Harrington, M.P.; Joseph Nolan, M.P.; M. Joyce, M.P.; P. O'Brien, M.P.; William Field, M.P., and other members of the Irish Party, met a deputation from your Committee at the Mansion House.

Mr. Nannetti, M.P., in introducing the deputation, said they believed that it was through the Irish Parliamentary Party, aided and assisted by their trades unionist friends in England, that the amelioration of the difficulties with which trades unionists had to contend would be effected. On several occasions the Irish Party had shown their sympathy with the trades unionist movement. Representatives were there from Cork and Belfast, and a lady representative (Miss Galway) representing the women trades unionists of Belfast, Limerick, and Dublin was also present.

Councillor Egan, J.P., Cork, said he had been deputed to make a few remarks with reference to the Merchandise Marks Act. They looked for a fair day's wages for a fair day's work. They were doing their best to help the industries of the country as against the articles dumped into it, and they knew that many articles that came into this country at the present time were produced under better conditions of labour than the workers of Ireland got for the goods they produced which were now getting the Irish Trade Mark. With regard to the inspection of hackney carriages, they contended that it should not be ex-policemen, but men who had a practical knowledge of these vehicles who should be inspectors.

Mr. Greig, Belfast, said they wanted to ask the Parliamentary Party to render all the support in their power to the principle contained in the Labour Party's Right to Work Bill. The Act of 1905, though it had done some good, had failed in reaching the classes of people it was specially intended for. It was easy to give specific cases where an employer in the course of a single day had discharged 1,500 men, knowing perfectly well that in a week, a fortnight, or a month hence, he would have the same men at the gates looking for employment. These men had got to live, and the many discriminations made under the present Act were, they contended, unfair. Dublin was as bad as any town in the country, and Belfast was not very far behind it.

Miss Galway, on behalf of the Textile Operatives, said with regard to factory inspection, the Factory Act, though not perfect, would work sufficiently well if there were sufficient inspectors to carry out the Act. The Government had only appointed one lady inspector for all Ireland, though she understood that lady had now got an assistant; but on account of the Factory Act not being sufficiently enforced, it was a great danger to the health of the women employed in these factories. The system under which fines under the Truck Act were imposed should be entirely altered. Those fines were a source of revenue to many firms, who fined good workers as well as bad workers. They should abolish fines, and if workers could not do their work dismiss them. She would ask the Irish Parliamentary Party to support the abolition of all fines.

Councillor McCarron, Londonderry, thanked the Irish Party for the support given to the Sweated Industries Bill. It was one of the many obligations which

the workers of both countries were under to the Irish Party. No employer who treated his employes fairly should be afraid of this Bill. If this Bill was passed it would be a great boon to the trade to which he belonged—the tailors. If the out-workers were excluded, he thought the Bill would be no benefit. Dublin was teaming with sweating and out-workers, and he hoped they would not be excluded from the Act. Undoubtedly, the Irish Party was a Labour Party, and they wanted no other Labour Party to represent them in the House of Commons.

Mr. S. Dineen, Limerick, asked the Party to support the Bakehouse Bill, and, with regard to army contracts in the matter of baking, he asked that the contract should only be given to fair houses.

Mr. John Murphy, Belfast, spoke of the waste of money involved in promoting Private Bill legislation in Parliament. He also dealt with the question of the Fair Wages Clause, and said the principle should be more strictly enforced than it was at present.

Mr. James Larkin said he desired to say that the police in Ireland, instead of assisting the Trades Disputes Act, had proceeded against them under Acts which had been passed in Ireland for political purposes. He believed in using any weapon that was in their hands, but he did not believe that the Irish Party was a Labour Party. He hoped the Irish Party would support the claim for compensation for the relatives of the people shot in the Belfast riots. National transit was the most important matter for this country. They asked the Irish Party to insist on nationalising the canal and railway systems of Ireland, and also to get their own shipping and run it under their own flag.

Mr. E. W. Stewart said, in asking the Irish Party to go to Parliament and assist them in securing ameliorative measures, he was speaking on behalf of the Sinn Feiners, for at the last Congress they had no less than three Dublin Sinn Feiners competing for seats on the Parliamentary Committee, and one of them moved two resolutions demanding legislation, and they were supported by the other two (laughter). The Shop Hours Act had been an absolute failure on account of its permissive character. In any Act dealing with Sunday trading, hairdressers should be included. They demanded the inclusion of shop assistants in the Truck Act to abolish the living-in system. They wanted under the Character Note Bill that it should be compulsory on employers to give a written and truthful character or testimonial and not one regarded as a privileged communication in law.

Mr. E. L. Richardson, J.P., said they were thankful for the efforts made by Mr. Clancy and the Party for the passing of the Housing Act, which would do away with a great many of the slums of their large cities; but they were somewhat disappointed with its financial provisions. If a local authority had power to purchase up blocks of tenement house property and put them in a proper state of repair, it would be doing a good deal to solve the conditions under which some of the workers in the older towns had to live. Under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act the title deeds of the property purchased should be sufficient security for the advance.

Mr. John Redmond, M.P., said—If I reply to the deputation in a comparatively brief statement, I hope you will understand that it is not that I do not take a very serious view of the importance of every single topic that has been advanced. Allow me, in the first place, to express, on behalf of the Irish Party and my own behalf, our thanks to the Irish Trades Congress Parliamentary Committee for having come to meet us. I think that the appointment of a Parliamentary Committee by the Trades Union Congress is a very wise step, and I may say for myself that I only regret that communications between that Committee and the Irish Party in the past have not been as frequent or as constant as I think they might have been (hear, hear). Because any communication coming to us from this Committee will be welcome; any information you send us will be used by us, and I think it is of importance to the great interests concerned that you should keep in touch with the Irish Party, and I, therefore, invite this Committee to give us their views and keep us in possession of any information they have as regards any topic affecting the great interests they represent. I listened with interest to everyone of the speakers coming from Cork, Belfast, Derry, and Dublin, and having carefully listened to all

the different topics they mentioned, I can most truthfully say that there is not one of those topics with which the Irish Party has not been actively concerned for years and years. When I entered the House of Commons there was no Labour Party, but for my part I have always claimed, and, I think, truthfully claimed, that in that state of affairs the work of the Labour Party was done by the Irish Party. Since the Labour Party came into existence in England we have found ourselves, I may say, generally speaking, in complete sympathy with them and their aims and objects; we have supported them on almost every occasion, and in the same way, they, I am happy to be able to say, without a single exception, have supported Home Rule for Ireland, and every demand we put forward on behalf of the masses of the Irish people. On all these subjects, before that Labour Party came into existence, we worked, and I believe we were a Labour Party, and the only Labour Party in the House of Commons, and I believe we are a Labour Party to-day, and I am perfectly certain to-day that the leader of the existing English Labour Party would be only too glad and too proud to admit that whenever he or his Party were in a difficulty, in nine cases out of ten he can count on us as supporters of his views. I don't intend to go through the different topics that have been mentioned, they have been very numerous, the Merchandise Marks Act, and in connection with the Irish Trades Mark, and I hope that Mr. Egan, of Cork, will place his views before the Industrial Association who are working this Irish Trades Mark; I would not venture to express an opinion on his views at this moment, but I think he ought to put those views before those responsible for the working of this Trade Mark. On the hackney car inspectors and questions of that kind, manifestly the view that has been put forward here to-day is a fair and reasonable view, but it is not for me to dilate on those at the present moment. On the great question, perhaps the greatest of them all that was mentioned, the question of unemployment, we, in the last Session of Parliament, acted in unison with the Labour Party; and I feel perfectly certain we will be able to act on similar lines in the future. I was glad to hear the tribute paid by Mr. Richardson to Mr. Clancy's exertions on the question of housing; the passage of that Housing Bill was almost entirely due to him. I never could have passed it without his assistance; and it would never be on the Statute Book only for his ability, and the earnestness and persistency with which he worked it; and I am glad to see, from Mr. Richardson's speech, that the importance of that is realised. It is only a beginning. Even if we had an Irish Parliament you could not do everything at once, you would have to do it by steps. But here is a case where we have made a good step, far in advance of England. We have obtained for Ireland a measure which, in principle, is far ahead of anything England possesses, and far ahead of anything proposed by John Burns in his Bill. That is a great achievement; and it is an indication that we are trustworthy representatives of the masses of our people in the towns in Ireland; and our Party is not merely engaged in agrarian or purely political questions, but we are engaged in questions affecting the daily life of large masses of people in the towns. I content myself by assuring you that we will welcome communications and advice from you, and assistance from you; and we will in future, as in the past, endeavour to fulfil for Ireland in the fullest sense the function of a Labour Party, believing that we are the Labour Party, as far as Ireland is concerned. I thank you sincerely for having come to see us; and I can assure you that whilst your visit will not increase our zeal—I don't think that is possible—in the cause you represent, at the same time it will be an encouragement to us, because it will show us that our efforts in the past, such as they have been, have met with a due recognition from the workers in the towns (hear, hear).

Mr. J. P. Nannetti, M.P., said, on behalf of the workers in towns, he begged to return Mr. Redmond their thanks, and he wished to say one word in regard to the observation made by Mr. Larkin. When Mr. Larkin was in the middle of the great struggle he had in Dublin, he (the speaker) got a telegram, and while it was against the rules of the House at that time to attempt to raise the question, he went to his leader and consulted him, and, Mr. Redmond having given him the cue, he was able to get up and call attention to the matter and get a declaration from Mr. Asquith that the Chief Secretary would deal with the subject.

The proceedings terminated.

Stationary Engine Drivers.—Regarding the long-existing dispute between the two Societies of Stationary Enginemen in Dublin, which was remitted to your Committee from last Congress for adjustment, we beg to report that a draft scheme of settlement was decided upon at our meeting on the 14th February. Its terms were discussed, amended, and provisionally signed at a meeting of representatives from the two unions, subsequently accepted by separate general meetings of each, and finally ratified at a joint meeting of both Societies; the local members of your Committee attending and personally conducting the proceedings throughout the entire negotiations, resulting in the representation of the combined unions at this Congress under the title of the Irish Stationary Engine Drivers' Society, &c.

The Copyright Act.—At the instance of the Dublin Printers' Employment Committee, the Committee adopted the following resolution, copies of which were forwarded to the Prime Minister and the President of the Board of Trade :—

"That as the recently enacted Patents Act provides that all manufactured articles protected by a British patent must now be produced in Great Britain and Ireland, resulting in securing increased employment at home on work hitherto executed abroad, the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress, in view of the dearth of employment in all branches of the printing trade, calls upon the Government to amend the Copyright Act so that similar provisions shall apply to all printed matter copyrighted in the United Kingdom."

Both Mr. Asquith and Mr. Churchill acknowledged receipt without expressing any opinion on the matter.

Arbitration in Labour Disputes.—Your Committee have considered and approved the following memorandum which the President of the Board of Trade has issued to Chambers of Commerce and Employers' and Workmen's Associations :—

1. Under the Conciliation Act of 1896 the Board of Trade has power to appoint a Conciliator in trade disputes and an Arbitrator at the request of both parties. These slender means of intervention have been employed in cases where opportunity has offered and the work of the Department in this sphere has considerably increased of recent years. In 1905 the Board of Trade intervened in 14 disputes and settled them all; in 1906 they intervened in 20 cases and settled 16; in 1907 they intervened in 39 cases and settled 32; while during the first eight months of the present year no fewer than 47 cases of intervention have occurred, of which 25 have been already settled, while some of the remainder are still being dealt with.

2. It is not proposed to curtail or replace any of the existing functions or practices under the Conciliation Act, nor in any respect to depart from its voluntary and permissive character. The good offices of the Department will still be available to all in industrial circles for the settlement of disputes whenever opportunity offers; single Arbitrators and Conciliators will still be appointed whenever desired; special interventions will still be undertaken in special cases, and no element of compulsion will enter into any of these proceedings. But the time has now arrived when the scale of these operations deserves, and indeed requires, the creation of some more formal and permanent machinery; and, with a view to consolidating, expanding, and popularising the working of the Conciliation Act, I propose to set up a Standing Court of Arbitration.

3. The Court, which will sit whenever required, will be composed of three (or five) members, according to the wishes of the parties, with fees and expenses to

members of the Court and to the Chairmen during sittings. The Court will be nominated by the Board of Trade from three panels. The first panel—of Chairmen—will comprise persons of eminence and impartiality. The second will be formed of persons who, while preserving an impartial mind in regard to the particular dispute, are nevertheless drawn from the "employer class." The third panel will be formed of persons similarly drawn from the class of workmen and Trade Unionists. It is hoped that this composition will remove from the Court the reproach which workmen have sometimes brought against individual Conciliators and Arbitrators, that, however fair they mean to be, they do not intimately understand the position of the manual labourer. It is believed that by the appointment of two Arbitrators selected from the employers' panel and two from the workmen's panel in difficult cases, thus constituting a Court of five instead of three persons, the decisions of the Court would be rendered more authoritative, especially to the workmen, who, according to the information of the Board of Trade, are more ready to submit to the judgment of two of their representatives than of one. As the *personnel* of the Court would be constantly varied, there would be no danger of the Court itself becoming unpopular with either class in consequence of any decision; there would be no difficulty in choosing members quite unconnected with the case in dispute, and no inconvenient labour would be imposed upon anyone who consented to serve on the panels. Lastly, in order that the peculiar conditions of any trade may be fully explained to the Court, technical assessors may be appointed by the Board of Trade at the request of the Court or of the parties to assist in the deliberations, but without any right to vote.

4. The state of public opinion upon the general question of arbitration in trade disputes may be very conveniently tested by such a voluntary arrangement. Careful inquiry through various channels open to the Board of Trade justifies the expectation that the plan would not be unwelcome in industrial circles. The Court will only be called into being if, and in proportion as, it is actually wanted. No fresh legislation is necessary.

5. Steps will now be taken to form the respective panels.

1st Sept., 1908.

W. S. C.

Your Secretary has been selected as a member of the Workers' Panel.

Fines and the Living-in System.—The recommendations of the Committee appointed in 1906, at the instance of the Labour Party, to inquire into the subject of fines and the deductions from wages and the "living-in" system, are set forth in 32 clauses. The Committee advise that fines should be totally abolished in the case of young persons of 16 years and under, and they suggest many restrictions on fines and deductions in the case of adults. The Committee also recommend the extension of the provisions of the Truck Act. In regard to the "living-in" system, the Committee recommend that power should be given the Central Authority to make regulations regarding sanitation, ventilation, accommodation, and the supply of food unfit for consumption, and that provision should be made for the inspection of these boarding premises. Mr. Stephen Walsh, M.P., and Mrs. H. J. Tennant, who were members of the Committee, issue a minority report, in which they express themselves as being altogether against the system of fines for injury to materials, and in favour of the complete abolition of the "living-in" system. The Congress resolutions on Truck and "Living-in" were before this Committee during their proceedings.

The Fair Wages Resolution.—Your Committee think it needless to refer to the Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to investigate the working of the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons of February, 1891 (to whom the resolution on the question adopted at Belfast was forwarded), seeing that on the 10th March last the House adopted the following, which was moved on behalf of the Government by the Postmaster-General (Mr. Sidney Buxton), as an amendment to a somewhat similar motion moved by Mr. John Hodge on behalf of the Labour Party:—

“That, in the opinion of this House, the Fair Wages Clauses in Government contracts should be so amended as to provide as follows:—The contractor shall, under the penalty of a fine or otherwise, pay rates of wages and observe hours of labour not less favourable than those commonly recognised by employers and trade societies (or in the absence of such recognised wages and hours those which, in practice, prevail amongst good employers) in the trade in the district where the work is carried out. Where there are no such wages and hours recognised or prevailing in the district, those recognised or prevailing in the nearest district in which the general industrial circumstances are similar shall be adopted. Further, the conditions of employment generally accepted in the district in the trade concerned shall be taken into account in considering how far the Fair Wages Clauses are being observed. The contractor shall be prohibited from transferring or assigning directly or indirectly to any person or persons whatever any portion of his contract without the written permission of the Department. Sub-letting, other than that which may be customary in the trade concerned, shall be prohibited. The contractor shall be responsible for the observance of the Fair Wages Clauses by the sub-contractor.”

This was accepted by Mr. Shackleton, on behalf of the Party.

Technical Training of Apprentices.—On the 6th August, 1908, your secretary and treasurer waited by appointment on the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Right Hon. T. W. Russell, M.P.), and discussed with him the resolution of Congress on the technical training of apprentices in Ireland. As a result of their representations, the right hon. gentleman undertook to draft a scheme for the various technical education committees to secure the co-operation of the employers throughout the country in the direction indicated in the Congress resolution. In reply to subsequent correspondence the following letter was received:—

Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland,
Dublin, 13th February, 1909.

Dear Mr. Richardson—The Vice-President has had under consideration your letter of the 5th inst. and previous correspondence, and desires me to write you on the matter. We are all strongly convinced of the desirability of securing the attendance of apprentices at Technical Schools. The Department sought quite recently to obtain statistics as to the number of apprentices in various industries in towns where there are Technical Schools, and the number of those attending the Technical Schools. It was, however, found extremely difficult to collect reliable information. We have from time to time, and in many ways, urged upon technical committees the desirability of getting into touch with employers, and urging them to give facilities to their apprentices to attend classes at the Technical Schools, and we have given facilities for the formation of classes for apprentices in our Technical Schools, as you will see from Section IV., page 11, of the enclosed regulations. A

number of technical committees have already taken action in the direction we desire, as in Waterford, Limerick, and Kilkenny, and conferences have been held with employers and some facilities granted. We are anxious to go further in this direction, and propose to issue some suggestions to technical committees. The Vice-President thinks it would be useful if we were to discuss the matter, and I should be very glad if you found it convenient to talk over the whole question with me. I venture to suggest some time on Monday next, if this should prove convenient. Believe me, yours faithfully,

GEO. FLETCHER.

E. L. Richardson, Esq., J.P.

Your officers accordingly had a further interview as arranged; and in reply to a subsequent inquiry as to what progress had been made in the matter, the following letter was received:—

Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland,
30th April, 1909.

Dear Mr. Richardson—Yours of the 19th. We hope to issue a memo. to Technical Instruction Committees on the co-operation between Committees and Employers. The necessity for this has been again and again urged upon them, and much has been done in this direction, but perhaps a further memo. will help to keep their attention directed to this most important matter.—Yours sincerely,

G. FLETCHER.

Your Committee have invited Mr. Fletcher to address the Congress on the question.

Foreign-made Butter Packages.—The deputation above mentioned also referred to the resolution adopted at Belfast protesting against the importation of foreign-made butter packages, especially by the butter merchants and creamery managers in Limerick. Mr. Russell considered the practice inconsistent, and promised to direct attention to the matter. Subsequently, on the 15th September, the Department wrote:—

“Adverting to the resolution on this subject adopted by the Irish Trades Union Congress at their meeting on the 8th and 10th June last, I have to acquaint you, for the information of the Congress, that the Department’s Instructors in Dairying, who visit periodically a large number of Irish creameries, have been directed to recommend the use of Irish-made packages conforming with the specifications approved by the Department. In drawing up these specifications, the Department consulted the principal makers of butter-packages in Ireland and adapted the specifications to meet the requirements of the Irish saw-milling trade.”

War Department Contracts.—At the Dublin Congress in 1907, a resolution was adopted, on the motion of the representative of the Limerick painters, protesting against the employment of unskilled labour on the painting contract for Limerick Barracks; but in the absence of definite information your Committee could do nothing practical. The matter was again referred to at Belfast last year, and subsequently your Committee were furnished with detailed evidence of the evasion of the Fair Wages Resolution by the contractors in question. After prolonged correspondence with the Army Council, the following decision was arrived at:—

Contts :/Labour(2)/79.

War Office, London, 21st April, 1909.

Sir—In reply to your letter of the 19th inst. and previous correspondence, relative to the painting contract at Limerick Barracks, &c., I am directed to inform you that the matter has been fully investigated and that it has been decided that further contracts shall not be placed with the firm in question.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. DE LA BERE,
Director of Army Contracts.

Factory Inspection.—Your Committee are pleased to report that in response to the persistent agitation for increased factory inspection, an additional lady inspector has been appointed for Ireland, with offices at 124 Donegall Street, Belfast. Miss Galway, speaking for the Textile Operatives of Ireland, in a letter to your Committee, thanks the Irish Trades Congress “for the valuable services rendered with regard to this matter.” Your Committee beg to report that a Departmental Committee has been appointed by the Government to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the increase in the number of reported accidents in certain classes of factories and workshops and other premises under the Factory Acts, and to report what additional precautionary measures are, in their opinion, necessary or desirable. The Committee, of which Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P., is chairman, includes—Mr. A. M. Carlisle, of Messrs. Harland & Wolff, Belfast; Messrs. A. H. Gill, Ramsay Macdonald, and Henry Vivian, M.P.’s, and Miss Mona Wilson. Mr. Alexander Maxwell, Home Office, acts as secretary.

The Dock Labourers’ Disputes.—In their last report your Committee made reference to Belfast Dock Labourers’ lock-out, in which Mr. Larkin was engaged as an official of the National Union of Dock Labourers. Subsequently further trouble of a similar nature arose both in Dublin and Cork, which led to friction between the officials of the National Union and Mr. Larkin, culminating at a later date in the starting in the three centres mentioned of another union in the same industry under the name of the “Irish Transport Workers’ Union,” with Mr. Larkin as organiser, and which, your Committee are informed, was largely made up of former members of the National Union. Your committee were neither apprised nor consulted regarding these transactions. At their meeting on the 13th February they received a letter signed “Michael M’Keown, Secretary, Irish Transport Workers’ Union,” from 11 Victoria St., Belfast, requesting them “to appoint a Sub-Committee to inquire into the merits of the dispute between the Irish Transport Workers’ Union and the National Union of Dock Labourers in Belfast—the members of the last-named union are at present blacklegging on the members of the former union.” After considerable discussion, the matter was remitted to the Belfast Trades Council; and it was further decided, Mr. Larkin dissenting, that, pending a settlement of the dispute, no invitation to attend the Congress be sent to the Transport Workers’ Union. Your Committee subsequently received the following letter :—

National Union of Dock Labourers in Great Britain and Ireland.

Executive Offices: 46 Hanover Street,

Liverpool, 1st March, 1909.

Dear Richardson—At our Executive Meeting on Friday a resolution was adopted to the effect that “We, on behalf of the Union, protest against Mr. James Larkin voicing the opinions or representing in any way the Dock Labourers and Transport Workers of the United Kingdom, or any part of it; as he was originally elected on your Parliamentary Committee as the representative of our Union; and has since broken away and formed an opposition union in Ireland.” I am also instructed to point out to you that whilst the Irish Trades Union Congress may not be strictly bound by the decision of the Joint Board of the British Trades Union Congress, the Labour Party, and the Federation of Trades, that it is nevertheless contrary to the policy laid down by that body—viz., “that any so-called new trades union started with the object of catering for any class of workers for which industry an organisation had before existed, shall not be recognised by any of the three National bodies mentioned.” As this affects all Trades Councils affiliated with the Labour Party, I am justified in assuming that your Congress will, at least, give the matter its careful consideration.—Yours fraternally,

JAMES SEXTON, General Secretary.

Mr. E. L. Richardson.

Protecting the Docker.—The committee appointed to consider and report “what would be the best means of securing to persons employed in dock labour who are paid by weight or measurement the means of checking the correctness of the wages they receive,” have presented their report. The committee (upon which representatives of the National Union of Dock Labourers served) found that in some cases—*e.g.*, in the case of coal and grain—cargoes are weighed or measured at the point of loading or unloading. They accordingly recommend—and this applies to most Irish ports—that where dock labourers are paid at piece-work rates, and the goods they handle are weighed or measured by their employers at, or near, the place where the work is done, the workers should have the right to appoint a check weighman at their own expense. This check-weighman to have similar rights, &c., to those prescribed by the Coal Mines Regulation Acts for similar positions at mines. In cases, however, where cargoes are not weighed or measured at the point of loading or unloading, the committee recommended that the employer should be required to furnish to the men a certificate of the quantities of goods handled by them, based on such information as the employer himself can obtain. Where this certificate is questioned by the workman, the employer should be required to furnish reasonable evidence of its accuracy to a representative of the men; and it is left to the workmen employed whether they should appoint one of themselves or an outsider (for instance, an official of their union) as their representative. It is also recommended that any such representative found guilty of abusing his position should be punished. The Labour Party have introduced a Bill embodying these recommendations—Compulsory Weighing and Measurement. Second reading 28th May.

Sweated Industries and Trade Boards Bill.—As a result of the recommendations made last year by the Select Committee on Home-Work (referred to in your Committee's last report) the Government prepared and introduced their Trade Boards Bill, which is practically the same in its terms as the Sweated Industries Bill of last year. Your Committee communicated with the leaders of the Irish Nationalist and Unionist Parties requesting their support in widening the scope of the measure by having other workers included in the Schedule. The second reading of the Bill was taken on the 28th April; and it having been stated that, at the instance of the Irish members and on account of possible injury to Irish cottage industries, Ireland would be excluded from its provisions, your Committee forwarded on the 27th April strong letters of protest to the President of the Board of Trade, and Mr. J. E. Redmond, M.P., and Mr. A. Henderson, M.P., Chairman of the Labour Party. The following are the replies received:—

Board of Trade, Whitehall Gardens,
London, S.W., April 29, 1909.

Sir—I am desired by Mr. Churchill to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th inst., written by instruction of the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress, on the subject of Trade Boards Bill; and I am to say that the views which it expresses will receive Mr. Churchill's careful consideration.
—Yours faithfully,

E. MARSH.

E. L. Richardson, Esq., J.P.

House of Commons, 28th April, 1909.

Dear Mr. Richardson—I desire to acknowledge receipt of your protest re Trades Boards Bill. I was somewhat surprised when I heard rumours that it had been arranged to exclude Ireland from the scope of the Bill. We have heard nothing officially, and you may rely upon our doing everything we can to prevent such a proposal being carried.—Yours truly,

A. HENDERSON.

[Private.]

House of Commons, April 29th, 1909.

Dear Mr. Richardson—I have your letter of the 27th inst., with regard to the Trades Boards Bill, and, in reply, have to say that we are carefully considering how the best interests of Ireland can be served in connection with this Bill. All the suggestions contained in your letter will have careful attention.—Very truly yours,

J. E. REDMOND.

The second reading of the Bill was carried without a division.

The Shops Bill.—In acknowledging the receipt of resolutions adopted at last Congress, requesting the inclusion in the promised Government Shops Bill of the principle of compulsory closing and a limitation of hours to 60 per week, and the closing of hairdressers' shops on Sundays, Mr. Herbert Samuel, Under Secretary to the Home Office, writes to say that "the representations submitted will have his attention."

Irish Railways Commission.—The Belfast resolution in favour

of the Nationalisation of Irish Railways having been forwarded to the Vice-Regal Commission, the following reply was received :—

1030-08.

Vice-Regal Commission on Irish Railways,
13 St. Stephen's Green, N.,
Dublin, 23rd June, 1908.

Sir—With further reference to your letter of the 15th instant, transmitting copy of a Resolution on the subject of the Nationalisation of the Irish Railways adopted by the Irish Trades Union Congress, I am directed to inform you that the Commission have decided to print the terms of this Resolution in the Appendix to the Fourth Report, which, it is anticipated, will be issued shortly.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEO. E. SHANAHAN, Secretary.

E. L. Richardson, Esq., Secretary Irish Trades Congress,
7 Melrose Avenue, Fairview, Dublin.

Formal replies acknowledging receipt of this resolution have also been received from the Prime Minister and the President of the Board of Trade.

Co-Operation.—In compliance with the desire expressed “that immediate steps should be taken to establish on a practical basis a co-operative organisation which would be the means of welding more closely together the workers of this country, and at the same time helping the development of native industries,” your Committee have been in communication with the Co-operative Union, Limited, Manchester, and with the Executive of the Co-operative Union in Ireland, from whom they have received a good deal of valuable information. We have, however, come to the conclusion that the matter is one which can only be practically dealt with by bodies of workers in local centres and districts, and with that object the Co-operative Union have kindly supplied copies of pamphlets on the subject, which will be distributed to the delegates. In addition the Executive in Ireland are prepared to do anything they can to help trade unionists in the formation of new societies where none already exist, or in inducing workingmen to join those already in existence in their vicinity. Co-operative societies are already working in many centres in Ireland, notably, in Belfast, Derry, and Dublin. Should any number of workers desire to establish a store in their locality, the Secretary of the Irish Executive, Mr. Wm. M. Knox, 42 Indiana Avenue, Belfast, will be glad to render every help. We have invited a representative of the Irish Executive to address the Congress on this important subject.

Miscellaneous.—Formal replies, acknowledging the receipt of letters enclosing copies of resolutions adopted by Congress have been received from—

The Prime Minister (*re* University Bills, Irish Private Bill Legislation, Nationalisation of Railways, Unemployed Workmen, Workmen's Compensation Insurance, Fair Wages Resolution, Eight Hours Day).

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*re* Old Age Pensions, Housing the Workers, Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, and Insurance).

The Home Secretary (*re* Female Factory Inspector, Workmen's Insurance, Character Note Bill, Merchandise Marks, Night Work in Baking Trade).

President Board of Trade (*re* Railwaymen's Responsibilities, Locomotive Enginemens' Certificates, Steam Engines (Persons in Charge) Bill, Merchandise Marks, Bakers Night Work).

President Local Government Board (*re* Housing the Workers, Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, Unemployed Workmen).

Chief Secretary (*re* Primary Education, Small Dwellings Act, Importation, Private Bill Legislation).

Secretary Fair Wages Committee (*re* Amendment Fair Wages Resolution, War Office Contracts).

Secretary Truck Act Committee (*re* Living-in, Amendment of the Truck Act).

Secretary Home Work Committee (*re* Outworking, Sweated Industries Bill).

Secretary General Council County Councils (*re* Direct Labour Contracts for Local Bodies, Sanitary and Water Inspectors, &c.).

And from the Secretaries Irish and Labour Parties.

Bills Introduced.—Bills have been introduced during the present Session, and are now in various stages, dealing with—Death Certificates Charges (Mr. Gill); Engines and Boilers, Persons in Charge (Mr. James Haslam); Factory and Workshop Act Amendment (Mr. Jowett); Handloom Weaving (Mr. Sloan); Hours of Labour, Bakehouses (Mr. Wilkie); Housing of the Working Classes (Mr. Bowerman); Nationalisation of Railways and Canals (Mr. W. Thorne); Payment of Jurors (Mr. Lloyd Morgan); Railways Eight Hours (Mr. Hudson); Shops (Sir Charles Dilke); Sunday Closing Shops (Sir John Kennaway); Sweated Industries (Mr. Hills); Town Tenants, Ireland (Mr. O'Malley), &c.

All of which your Committee present as their Report.

Signed,

MICHAEL EGAN, J.P., T.C., *Chairman.*

GEORGE GREIG, *Vice-Chairman.*

MARY GALWAY.

JAMES M'CARRON, T.C.

STEPHEN DINEEN.

JOHN MURPHY.

JAMES LARKIN.

E. W. STEWART, *Treasurer.*

E. L. RICHARDSON, J.P., *Secretary.*

Limerick, May 29th, 1909.

FIRST DAY.—Monday 31st May, 1909.

The Sixteenth Annual Irish Trades Union Congress opened on Monday, 31st May, 1909, in The Athenæum, Limerick.

Mr. George Greig, Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, presided at the opening proceedings.

Mr. M. Harvey, Hon. Sec. Reception Committee, read a number of letters and telegrams from prominent local friends and sympathisers wishing the Congress success.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee, said he had much pleasure in welcoming the delegates to the Sixteenth Irish Congress. It was not his duty to impose anything in the nature of a speech upon them, but he had much pleasure in calling upon Alderman Joyce, M.P., to give them a welcome to the old historic City of Limerick.

Alderman Joyce, M.P., who was received with applause, said as usual he had been called on unexpectedly to say a few words. It seemed to be the way always with him. He was beginning to look upon himself as the man in the gap. When all fruit fails welcome haws. It was a pleasant role that had been imposed on him by the chairman, and that was to voice Limerick's welcome to the delegates to the Trades Congress, and he did so with infinite pleasure. He was delighted that it was in his power to be present to listen to some of their deliberations there that day. He was proud that Limerick had the honour of being the place in which the Annual Irish Trades Congress is being held. He thought he might say with perfect truth that labour had made giant strides for the past thirteen years since the Trades Congress was held in Limerick before (hear, hear). He had to say also that a great deal more remained to be done. He looked upon the Trades Congress as the annual Labour Parliament of Ireland, to look into the year's working, to see what advances have been made, to check any defects that might arise, and to put the organisation of labour on such a sound and perfect basis that every man who works with the labour of his hands and the sweat of his brow would be always proud on any platform to proclaim himself, as he (Alderman Joyce) did, a working man (hear, hear). He hoped that their visit to Limerick would be a pleasant one; he was sure he hoped that the weather would pick up, and he hoped that the surroundings of the city would look their best, and he knew that some of the delegates who had been there were highly pleased with the place already. He hoped that that great Congress would be an immense success, and that they (Irishmen) will handle their business in such a way as will reflect credit on the Trades Union organisations, and that in the coming year greater strides will be made even than had been made in the past. With these few words he begged to welcome them to the City of the Violated Treaty (applause).

Mr. J. Vaughan, Chairman of the Limerick Trade and Labour

Council, on behalf of that body wished the delegates a hearty *cead mille failte*. There were moments when sometimes their heads hung down, but he hoped that the results of that Congress would be the upliftment of the workers. He trusted that when again they met in Congress he could stand up and be proud of the work they had left behind them in that town (hear, hear).

Mr. Martin Leahy, J.P., T.C., also joined in the welcome, and said when he looked at that Congress he thought it was a happy day for the representatives of Irish labour when they severed their connection with the English Conference. For sixteen years in that country that Congress had made most gigantic strides, and gained concessions that were never anticipated on behalf of the working classes of the country. He was sure never in the history of any country had a body of men achieved in such a short space of time the marvellous results which they had received from their conferences. Their Congress was started sixteen years ago, when trades unionism was looked upon as akin to violence, but now the public and the employers look upon trades unionism as a boon and blessing to the workmen of the country (hear, hear).

Mr. R. P. O'Connor (Limerick Typographical Society) joined in the welcome to the delegates, and said the states of labour and the labouring man had improved. There was one thing they could claim for the labour cause, and that was that it was a united cause, and as Councillor Leahy had mentioned to them about the severance of the Irish Trades Congress from the English one, he thought they had no reason to complain of or regret that step. A good many other parties in the country would do well if they followed on the lines that they did. They had united the men of what they used to call the Black North with the men of the warm-hearted South and with these of the East and West, and when they had succeed in doing that he thought they had given a lesson to other Irishmen to go and do likewise (hear, hear).

Mr. R. Dorman (Limerick Industrial Association) said he believed every true Irishman and every true patriot who knew anything of the economic history of their country in the past would give a whole-hearted welcome to a body such as the Trades Congress. Through the organisation of the various trades in the country they were doing more probably than any other body in the community to bring Irishmen of all creeds and politics and sections together to realise no matter how they might differ on important questions, so far as the material well-being and upliftment of our common country is concerned, they could sink all these differences, and form a plan for the upliftment of the most needy portion of the people of our native land. Anybody who studied the modern history of Europe would see that the nations where workingmen were not organised were the countries where bloodshed takes place before there is any elevation of the working classes. Therefore, on his own behalf, and on behalf of the outside citizens, he gave them a

hearty welcome, and trusted their meeting and their deliberations would be the cause of stimulating the workers of that city (hear, hear).

On the motion of Councillor M'Carron (Londonderry), seconded by Mr. John Murphy, Secretary of the Belfast Trades Council, a vote of thanks was passed to Alderman Joyce and those who joined in welcoming the delegates.

Alderman Joyce, having replied, the Congress proceeded with the business on the agenda.

ELECTION OF CONGRESS OFFICERS.

Councillor Lynch (Cork) moved, Mr. John M'Mahon (Dublin) seconded, and it was unanimously agreed, that Mr. E. L. Richardson, J.P. (Dublin) and Mr. Mathew Harvey (Limerick) act as secretaries to the Congress.

Messrs. H. Rochford, M. J. Keogh (Dublin), and J. Mooney (Limerick) were elected tellers.

On a vote the following were elected Standing Orders Committee:—Councillor Patrick Lynch, Cork; Mr. Thomas Cassidy, Londonderry; Mr. J. Cronin, Limerick; Mr. Thomas M'Connell, Belfast, and Mr. P. T. Daly, Dublin.

Messrs. D. R. Campbell, Belfast, and John Lynch, Limerick, were elected auditors.

On the motion of Mr. John Vaughan, president Limerick Trades Council, seconded by Mr. W. White,

Councillor Michael Egan, J.P. (Cork) was unanimously elected President of the Congress. Upon taking the chair he delivered the following address:—

The President (Councillor Egan, J.P., Cork), said:—

FELLOW DELEGATES,

The opening words of my address to you will be of thanks, heartfelt and sincere, for the proud position you have placed me in to-day—a position the greatest and grandest a workingman can occupy—the elected and selected of his fellow-workers to preside over their deliberations in fully constituted meeting assembled, where each and every thing which is for the good of the worker, and striver, and toiler, will be put forward, ventilated, and discussed, and some practical end and issue pointed out and found by which his lot and the lot of those depending on him may be made more bright, happy, and cheerful, while he or she goes through the allotted span earning their bread by the sweat of their brow. I am sorry to say I cannot report that this has been a good year in the labour world. The Board of Trade returns for some time back have not been of a very roseate nature, with the exception of seasonable fluctuations in trades such as

printing, building, furnishing, woodworking, &c. As compared with a year ago, there was some improvement in the worsted, linen, hosiery, and lace trades, but in most of the other industries there was a decline. In fact, moderate, fair, and depressed, are the only words of "encouragement" that have met our eyes for the period I allude to.

A very important and very just Act, which we all welcome and approve of, and which will, I hope, be more fully referred to by some of the speakers later on, came into force on the 1st January of this year. I allude to the Old Age Pension Act. Gentlemen, this is a matter on which, I may be allowed to say, I feel strongly, and have spoken strongly, several times. May I point out that a man in a Government office, in the army, navy, or police, who styles himself (ironically) "public servant," but who is in reality the "public master"—is entitled to, and gets, a pension far and away beyond 5s. per week at the age of 55 years at the outside. You and I, fellow-workers, are "public servants," real and true. We contribute by our labour to the wealth of the nation and community; and I hold, and hope you hold with me, that we are entitled, and justly and well entitled, to provision for old age from the public commonwealth which we have built up, at, at least, the same age as the other deserving "public servants," who get their retiring allowances at, viz., 55 years, and I hope this great conference will throw all its weight, by an unanimous resolution, in favour of the reduction of the qualifying age to that figure, and the raising of the pension to even a considerably higher figure than that at present given.

It is my ardent desire, and yours also, that the Sweated Industries Bill will become in a short time a reality. You all know the cruel, slave-driving, and demoralising results to helpless women and children accruing from such pernicious systems as sweating the health and strength from the bodies of our fellow-creatures, leaving them hopeless and despairing wrecks, uncared and unprovided for in this world of rush and worry. Those immediately representing Labour in the House of Commons will, I am sure, do their duty in striving to have this measure passed as soon as possible into law, thus stamping out one of the greatest curses the toilers are afflicted with.

The abolition or modification of Sheriffs' fees at Parliamentary elections is a matter that must be also dealt with. Those fees are stumbling blocks to the chances of Labour representation receiving proper recognition. It is monstrous to imagine that the masses are debarred from having their ideas and grievances ventilated on the floor of the House of Commons through their inability to provide the large sum of money necessary to satisfy the demands of the sheriffs. The importance of this subject cannot, for a moment, be questioned, for on it hinges the right of the workers to adequate representation in the Legislative Assembly across in Westminster.

Therefore, I sincerely hope that this matter will be kept fully in the forefront of our programme until the obstacle is removed.

During the year an effort to make higher education available to the masses in Ireland has become law by the Irish University Act, of which the main provisions have been published and debated again and again. I will not weary you with the details, but I do say that, in my opinion, the Act in itself should be supplemented by a very liberal scheme of scholarships in the primary schools, which would place the possibility of a university education within the practical reach of every boy and girl attending those schools, and whose abilities, inclinations, and application would mark them as fitting persons, whose further educational training would entitle them to higher positions in science, art, politics, and professional callings, which are now only open to the children of wealthy and well-off parents. I am sure you and I agree with the words of the great living philosopher, who writes: "We advocate education not merely to make the man the better workman, but the workman the better man." Let us remember it is from those who are now attending school the great men and women of the future will spring, and let us endeavour to put the highest facilities within the reach of our children, to enable them to take their proper place, and play their proper part in the great events and changes in the stirring times to come.

Recent events in the Labour world among us have demonstrated, always the more clearly, the absolute necessity of the presence of Labour magistrates in every great centre of population, and in any district where a large proportion of the inhabitants are of the working class. The great English lawyer, Lord Coke, says: "The whole Christian world hath not the like office of Justice of the Peace if duly executed." I would like you to note the proviso in the last three words, and conjure up before your mind's eye, to your own knowledge, thinking now dispassionately of events which have occurred, perhaps, years ago, how many times has this great office not been "duly executed." You, of course, understand I make those remarks from general, not from particular, observation, but I do unhesitatingly say the upbringing and education of a man, his mixing with a certain strata of society only, his reading only newspapers and journals of certain views, would be apt to give a certain bias to his mind. The authorities acknowledged some time back the claim of this Congress that Irish trade unionists should be placed upon a proportionate equality with the trade unionists of England in the matter of appointments to the magisterial bench. While Irish appointments have been made, they are not in the smallest degree proportionate to what the working classes are justly entitled to, and in this connection it behoves this Congress, through its Parliamentary Committee, to leave nothing undone to have the rights of the masses amply recognised. I care not who says to the contrary, it is beyond all question essential that the

interests of the Workers should be watched and safeguarded on the magisterial bench at the present time as well as on any of the public boards of the country. Are we not all aware of the logic of this statement? The race, rush, and fight for mere existence that the toilers have got to face nowadays shows the necessity of protecting them against unfair treatment and vindictive prosecutions. Consequently, our duty in this direction is very clear.

It is with great pleasure I can bear testimony to the remarks of the Chairman of the Cork Industrial Development Association recently, in which he spoke of the earnestness and ability of the representatives of the trades who were associated with him in forwarding the objects of that patriotic body. It would, indeed, be strange were it otherwise. It is our sacred duty to forward and develop by every means in our power any idea, institution, or project which would tend to give increased employment under fair conditions, in an old, or aid in the inception of a new, industry among us. I read within the last month that the Japanese had driven the French makers entirely from the markets of the world in the supply of the imitation pearl buttons for wear in shirts and gloves, and it grieved me to think that we here in Ireland were in a matter of initiative and executive lagging behind a nation comparatively small, and 30 years ago unknown among the industrial countries of the world. This is certainly not as it should be, and every endeavour to alter for the better will command the unanimously hearty support of this and every succeeding Irish Trades Union Congress.

It is only right and fitting that we should not forget the "wounded companions who stood, in the days of stress, by our side"—I mean our unemployed brothers. Only those who have gone through the experience can understand the awful position of the man, who, anxious to work but cannot get it, walks about the streets or roads uselessly and unavailingly looking for what should be State provided in every civilised nation—work; while, in the misery of the bare room he calls "home," the children languish and starve. For the unemployed man who, in the good days, when everything was smiling and the future wore a mask of hope, had given "hostages to fortune," is now left desolate, except for the assistance of his fellow trade unionists; while the impecunious son of a so-called "good" family has no difficulty in obtaining a snug "crib" or easy sinecure from what is called a "decent Government." What does the starving, despairing husband and father call it? Need I tell you? Herculean work is before us to remedy this appalling state of affairs. The "wounded soldiers" have got to be looked to. Their sufferings during life's hard battle must be alleviated, and no matter what has been the cause of their displacement, we are in duty bound to come to their rescue. The Unemployed army of workers is not alone a disgrace to human and manly feelings, but it is a

danger to the safety of the community. The State will have to seriously set itself to the task of remedying the unemployed canker that is slowly eating the very vitals of our virility. Half-hearted efforts or temporary nostrums to meet the situation are only playing with the problem. It has too dangerous an aspect to be dealt with in that fashion. All that goes to constitute economic soundness must be invested in solving the one great horror of our time—viz., the spectacle of our own flesh and blood struggling, starving, and dying in the midst of plenty. The problem of unemployment includes all other problems which arise from, and grow out of, poverty, individual and national. It may seem strange to speak of national poverty, but I use the term quite seriously. The real test of a nation is the degree to which its people have opportunity of maintaining themselves in such decency and comfort as to live their lives above the plane of mere struggle for existence. We are told that many of the unemployed are unemployable. What has brought them to that deplorable state? Is it not unemployment itself that is responsible for broken-down physiques, despair, and absolute indifference as to the future, of the poor wretched wrecks of toil who are parading the towns and cities of Great Britain and Ireland at the present moment? To lift them out of their wretched state is the key to the solution of the unemployed problem—a task Trade Unionism must bravely face.

Fellow delegates, you will note I have spoken very little Trade Unionism in itself to you. Candidly, I considered—and I know full well I am right—there was, there is, or will be ever, any necessity to point out the right path, or the necessity of following it, to you. The people you represent would not have sent you here if they considered you wanted any instruction as to the way you ought to go. I accept their judgment and bow to it. But if I have instead indicated some matters which affect those we represent, it is only for the purpose of pointing out, in my opinion, how those objects may be successfully looked for, striven for, and finally attained. We represent here in Ireland, either as Trade and Labour or Land and Labour bodies, the majority of the people of the country. We hold, either in ourselves, or as balancing parties, the whole Parliamentary and Municipal Representation of the island, and I hold—my life long, and particularly my recent experience has convinced me—that a continued, persistent, and judicious use of those powers is the one means, more than any other, by which our cause can be forwarded, strengthened, and secured. Fight for our own man, if possible; if not, for him whom the local or general leaders think is the most sincere and most reliable in his friendly feelings towards us, but there must be no divided counsels. We must all be joined in one solid, sledge-hammer of unanimity, which, with repeated blows on the anvil of public opinion, will forge whatever weapon or tool we may require from the iron of circumstances. Our political organisation as workers must be as perfect as our Trade Unions. We must be a power in the land—a

force to be reckoned with—when statesmen meet and the future of empire is fashioned. A portion of the great God's family standing proudly erect, always striving, ever looking for our own, not wishing for more, sternly refusing to take less, a friend to be relied on, a foe to be feared, but always striving for right and justice. It was John Mitchel who stated that the farm labourer in barracan breeches was a greater asset to and produced more for the community than a field marshal in his grandest uniform. We are all aware that everything in this world is produced by work from the land—the land we thank kind Providence for; and the great Sage of Chelsea has said of work: "There is a perennial nobleness and sacredness in work. In idleness alone is there perpetual despair," and I will rejoice if my words will cause you to leave this old historic city of the "broken treaty"—having made a treaty with yourselves not to be broken—to vindicate the nobleness and sacredness of our vocation, and to help to bring us all to the grand consummation of our just hopes, which we and those before us have so long struggled and worked for—

Labor Omnia Vincit.

On the motion of Mr. John Farren (Dublin), seconded by Mr. D. R. Campbell (Belfast), the Congress passed a warm vote of thanks to the President for his address.

Mr. James Moloney (Limerick Bakers) inquired why the motion sent in from his society did not appear on the agenda.

Mr. Richardson, replying, explained that a motion in exactly similar terms had already been received from the Irish Bakers Union, which appeared on the agenda, and to which Mr. Moloney could speak.

Mr. Moloney expressed dissatisfaction, and said he would refuse to speak to any proposal coming from that union.

The President hoped that such narrow matters of trade rivalry would not enter into the proceedings of the Congress (applause).

ELECTORAL REFORM.

Councillor M'Carron (Londonderry) moved:—

"That this Congress call upon the Government to introduce at the earliest opportunity a measure of electoral reform which shall provide (a) a reduction of the qualifying period by which electors may be placed on the register to at least three months; (b) the appointment of a registrar, whose duty shall be to see that all duly qualified voters are placed upon the register; (c) the payment of returning officers' expenses and the payment of members of Parliament by the State; (d) the holding of all elections to a new Parliament on the same day; (e) the abolition of plural voting and university representations."

He said, with regard to the first proposal, it was a great hardship upon the workingman who was a ratepayer that if he found it

necessary from any cause to change his address he was thereby deprived for a considerable time of his right to exercise the franchise. Dealing with the question of university representation, he said he had never been able to understand what it meant. The representatives of universities in Parliament were not the representatives of any industrial class or of any producing class. Therefore, they should cease to represent the universities. No man should be elected to Parliament except by the votes of an industrial community, and the university representation should, therefore, cease to exist.

Mr. G. Greig (Belfast) had an amendment to the effect that the resolution should call upon the Government to institute an inquiry into methods of proportional representation or second ballots, so that the most effective means of securing the true representation of the electors might be embodied in the new Reform Bill.

As the mover of the resolution accepted the amendment, Mr. Greig seconded the resolution as amended by him.

Miss Galway (Belfast) had a further amendment to the effect that the following addition should be made to the provisions of the suggested legislation:—

“The amendment of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Acts in the direction of greater stringency, and the extension of the franchise to all adults, male and female.”

Messrs. E. W. Stewart (Dublin), and J. St. C. Halfpenny (London) supported the motion and addendum.

Councillor M'Carroll accepted the second amendment also, and the resolution was carried with the addition of Mr. Greig's and Miss Galway's amendments.

RETURNING OFFICERS' FEES—AFFILIATION WITH THE LABOUR PARTY.

Mr. P. Murphy, P.L.G. (Cork) proposed:—

“That the incoming Parliamentary Committee be instructed to use every legitimate means in their power to invoke the services of the Labour Party and the Irish Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons to have framed and introduced a Bill empowering the Treasury to pay all fees due to the Returning Officers at Parliamentary elections, as only by such means can Labour representation in Parliament be adequately secured.”

The following addendum, in the name of Mr. D. R. Campbell, was accepted by the proposer:—

“And this Congress heartily recommends to the trade unionists of the country affiliation with the Labour Party, for the purpose of promoting the election of independent labour representatives to Parliament, and urges upon trades councils in industrial constituencies in Ireland the advisability of obtaining candidates to stand on Labour lines, and pledges itself to support such candidates if constitutionally selected.”

Mr. D. R. Campbell seconded.

The amendment was opposed by several on the grounds that it would be inadvisable to be bound to the Labour Party, in view of the position they took up with regard to secular education.

Mr. John Murphy (Belfast), explained that year after year they had asked for direct labour representation; this year they were only emphasising their demand, and this view was supported by Messrs. Thos. Murphy, A.S.R.S.; Stewart and Halfpenny.

Messrs. J. Nolan, O'Lehane, P.L.G., and Canty opposed the addendum.

On a division there voted for the resolution and addendum, 69; against, 3. The resolution was therefore adopted.

STANDING ORDERS REPORT—(1).

Councillor Patrick Lynch (Cork), Chairman Standing Orders Committee, reported that they had before them a deputation from the Irish Transport Workers Union, representing branches in Dublin, Cork, Waterford and Dundalk, who complained that their affiliation to the Congress had been refused by the Parliamentary Committee; and after hearing statements from Mr. Larkin and others they recommended (by 3 votes to 2)—

(1) "That the Congress be requested to accept the affiliation of the Transport Workers Union."

(2) The Standing Orders Committee also recommended Congress to adjourn at 1.45 p.m. to accept the Reception Committee's invitation to a trip to Killaloe.

(3) Nominations for the election of Parliamentary Committee to be handed to the Secretaries before 12 o'clock on Tuesday.

The second and third paragraphs of the report were accepted *nem con.*; the consideration of the paragraph relating to the admission of the Transport Workers Union being deferred to Tuesday's session.

Congress adjourned to Tuesday morning at 9.30.

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SECOND DAY.—Tuesday, 1st June, 1909.

Congress re-assembled at 9.30 a.m., the President, Councillor Egan, J.P., in the chair.

Minutes of first day's proceedings read and confirmed.

The President said, with regard to that portion of the Report of the Standing Orders Committee presented yesterday, dealing with the affiliation of the Irish Transport Workers' Union, he was obliged to rule it out of order, as the whole question would come up for consideration on the Parliamentary Committee's Report.

After some discussion, the chairman's ruling was accepted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS.

Councillor M'Carron (Derry) proposed :—

“That we call upon the Government to amend the Local Government Act, in so far as it related 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.”

It concerned the workers of the country very much. At present the elections were held in January, an unsuitable time for workers to go to the polls ; therefore, they were in favour of this change. The moneyed class had their own coaches and motors to go to the polls, but it was otherwise with the ordinary workingman and people without the facilities of the rich.

Mr. James Feenan (Belfast) seconded the proposition.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

STANDING ORDERS REPORT—2.

(1) Election for Parliamentary Committee to take place on Wednesday morning at 10. Doors to be closed from that hour until 10.30, and no person to be admitted during the half hour. The roll of delegates to be called, and as each answers, to be handed a voting paper.

(2) Mr. Milner (Coachmakers) made application to be allowed to move four resolutions *in globo* not on agenda. The Committee, from evidence, believe that it was impossible for the U.K.S. of Coachmakers to have the resolutions in at the time allowed by Standing Orders ; but the Standing Orders Committee also wish to point out that in future no deviation from the agenda should take place, as same would lead up to grave abuses.

(3) Permission be granted to Flax Roughers and Yarn Spinners to move resolution—copy of which each delegate will be supplied with.

(4) That Mr. Fletcher, of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and Mr. Knox, of the Co-operative Union, be heard at 12 o'clock.

(5) Movers and seconders only of non-contentious motions on agenda be allowed to speak.

(6) Parliamentary Committee's Report to be taken up at 12.30.

On the motion of Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Feenan, the report was adopted.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Mr. L. Corrigan (Amalgamated Carpenters, Dublin) moved :—

“That this Congress is of the opinion that the Old Age Pensions Act will not be satisfactory until amended so as to provide for a

minimum pension of 5s. per week, without conditions, to men and women of 60 years of age; and in the case of persons who, by reason of their affliction of blindness, are rendered incapable of earning their living, the age limit to be entirely removed. And that, in the meantime, as the Government of the day has promised to amend the Old Age Pensions Act so as to remove irksome restrictions, this Congress hereby resolves that no amendment will be satisfactory which does not include the complete abolition of the Poor Law disqualification."

Mr. Greig (Belfast) seconded the proposition, with which, he believed, the Congress would be in entire sympathy. It might be some time before the resolution would become operative. The Poor Law condition should be removed, for the administration of the Poor Law outdoor relief in Ireland was more brutal than in the sister countries.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Farren (Dublin) proposed, and Mr. P. T. Daly seconded:—

"That this Congress enters its emphatic protest against the manner in which the aged poor in Ireland are being systematically deprived of their Old Age Pensions."

The resolution was agreed to.

FACTORY INSPECTORS.

Mr. J. Vaughan (Limerick) proposed:—

"That this Congress is of opinion that the present staff of Factory Inspectors in Ireland is totally inadequate for the proper carrying out of the duties of the position and impartially enforcing the provisions of the Factory and Workshops Act, and we believe it is absolutely necessary that his Majesty's Government should take such steps forthwith as will tend to remedy the matter by the appointment of additional inspectors and sub-inspectors, such appointments to be made from the ranks of duly qualified men and women who have practical knowledge of the duties gained in the factory and workshop."

Mr. D. Donovan seconded.

Passed unanimously.

OUTWORKING.

Councillor M'Carron proposed:—

"That this Council urges upon the Parliamentary Committee the necessity of having the Factory and Workshops Act so amended as to make it imperative on 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 peoples' 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."

Councillor P. Lynch (Cork) seconded, and the resolution was passed unanimously.

TRADES BOARDS BILL.

Miss M. Galway (Belfast) moved :—

"That this Congress desires to express its earnest hope that the Trades Boards Bill, now before Parliament, will be speedily passed into law, and that its scope may be extended so as to include all sweated trades, both factory and home work; and that we strongly urge the Parliamentary Committee to use every endeavour to have Ireland included in the Wages Board Bill."

She said that up to this very day women were being ruthlessly "sweated," working for $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 1d. an hour under the very eye of the Imperial Parliament. It was nearly time for them to take the example of Australia, which established a minimum wage. She trusted the Bill would be passed into law.

Mrs. M'Caughey (Belfast) seconded, and the resolution was passed.

SWEATING IN THE TAILORING TRADE.

Councillor M'Carron proposed :—

"That as the Sweated Industries Bill, introduced by Mr. Winston Churchill, does not include all the workers employed at the tailoring industry, and in view of the fact that the worst forms of sweating exist among those engaged in the making up of clothing ordered under what is known as the 'bespoke' trade, who are excluded from the provisions of the Bill, this Congress is of opinion that no measure will effectively mitigate the sweating evil that does not include this section of the tailoring industry; and we call upon the Irish members to do all in their power to have these workers brought under the control of the proposed Wages Boards."

He said that the Bill was of no service to them unless amended. He mentioned that in his opinion no sweating was as bad as that practised in the tailoring trade.

Mr. William O'Brien seconded, and the resolution was passed unanimously.

HOURS OF LABOUR.

Mr. T. O'Sullivan (Gas Workers and General Labourers) moved, Mr. J. O'Callaghan seconded, and it was resolved :—

"That in view of the present rapidity of production, the continuous introduction of labour-and-wage-saving machinery, and the consequent displacement of manual labour in many industries, this

Congress declares in favour of a shortening of the hours of labour to not more than eight per day, or 48 hours per week, as a means towards the absorption of many of those workers who are thrown out at some season of the year from employment; and also calls on all the organised workers of the United Kingdom to make this one of the test questions at all Parliamentary and Municipal elections."

STANDING ORDERS REPORT—3.

The Standing Orders Committee recommended that, as a matter of urgency, the question of the affiliation of the Irish Transport Workers Union be taken up and settled by Congress immediately. This involves the suspension of the Standing Orders.

On a division 49 voted for the report and 34 against. A two-thirds majority not having been secured, the recommendation of the Standing Orders Committee was not entertained.

COMPULSORY EARLY CLOSING.

Mr. M. J. O'Lehane, P.L.G. (Drapers' Assistants) proposed:—

"That, as voluntary effort in connection with early closing has practically failed, we are of opinion that a vigorous movement should be instituted at once so as to bring about a compulsory closing order, and that the Irish and Labour members of Parliament be asked to support any measure of legislation which may lead to the shortening of the present hours, and, that pending such legislation, we call upon all workers to support only those firms which close at reasonable hours.

"That we hereby repeat our approval of the expressed intention of the present Government to amend the Shop Hour Act, 1904, and we are of opinion that the amendment should take the form of a limitation of the hours of employment to 60 per week (including meal times) as well as a system of compulsory closing."

Mr. J. Feenan (Shop Assistants' Union) seconded, and the motion was passed.

NIGHT WORK IN THE BAKING TRADE.

Mr. Stephen Dineen (Bakers) proposed:—

"That this Congress instructs its Parliamentary Committee to at once impress upon the Government the urgent necessity of passing such enactments as will prohibit night work being carried on in the baking trade in this country."

He said they should agitate for the right to work by the light of heaven instead of by artificial light, and until they had attained to that point they could not claim to have been emancipated.

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

Mr. Feenan (Belfast) thought they were making a mistake in advocating day work.

The President thought the Limerick workmen knew their own business best.

The resolution was adopted.

HALF-TIMERS.

A motion appeared on the agenda on this question in the name of the delegate representing the Hackle and Gill Makers. On a division it was by leave withdrawn.

HAIRDRESSERS' SHOPS.

Mr. H. Rochford (Dublin) proposed :—

“That the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to take such steps as may be necessary to insure the insertion of a clause in the Government promised Shops Bill providing for the closing of hairdressers' shops on Sundays.”

He said 75 per cent. of their workers in Dublin were not paid their wages until after 12 o'clock on Sunday, and remarked that the people who were strong in their support of trade unionism were to a large extent the customers of these shops for Sunday hair dressing.

Councillor Lynch (Cork) in seconding, said that the great difficulty they had was to get their customers to come at certain hours, and not to be coming, say, on Sundays. If the members of the Trades Councils even agreed not to come at such hours it would be a great thing, and a good example.

The resolution was passed.

THE HOUSING QUESTION.

Mr. Farren (Dublin) proposed :—

“That we reiterate our claims for a more earnest solution of the Housing Question in Ireland, and we furthermore call upon all local authorities to exercise to the full the powers they already possess to mitigate the existing evils.”

Mr. P. T. Daly seconded, and the resolution was passed.

WAR OFFICE CONTRACTS.

Mr. John Cronin (Limerick) proposed :—

“That this Congress protests against the practice of the War Department inviting and accepting tenders from contractors who are often quite unable to carry out the services undertaken by them, thereby causing large sums of money allocated for local works to be diverted into other channels to the loss of our tradesmen, labourers, &c.”

Mr. E. J. O'Neill (Dublin) seconded, and the resolution was passed.

MILITARY V. CIVILIAN LABOUR.

Mr. Patrick Murphy, P.L.G., proposed :—

“That this Congress views with alarm the action of the Minister of War and the Postmaster-General in substituting military for civilian labour in the South of Ireland, thereby depriving hundreds of Irish workers of the means of living in their own country, and helping to swell the ranks of the unemployed ; that it be the imperative duty of the Parliamentary Committee to at once bring this injustice under the notice of the Labour Party and the Irish members of Parliament with the object of getting the matter subject to debate in the House, and bring every pressure to bear on the responsible Ministers for a reversal of such order.”

He said that it was a most important resolution. The practice by the Minister of War and the Postmaster-General of substituting military for civilian labour was most unjust, and one which their members of Parliament should look to.

Councillor Lynch (Cork) seconded the proposition, and said the Cork Trades Council had already complained of the attempt of the Minister of War to displace civilian labour in the South of Ireland by employing men of the Royal Engineers to do the work. Seeing what the Minister of War was doing, the Postmaster-General had made a similar attempt with regard to the Cork Post Office, thus daring to do in the South of Ireland they would not attempt to do in England.

The resolution was carried, and it was agreed to send copies to the Labour Members and the Irish Party.

POSTAL QUESTIONS.

Mr. J. M'Carthy (Irish P. O. Clerks' Association) moved ; Mr. R. H. Croker seconded, and it was resolved :—

(a) “That this Congress emphatically condemns the recent action of the Postmaster-General in withdrawing official recognition from the Association of Irish Post Office Clerks, and places on record its opinion that such action is a decided blow at the rights of organisations as well as being inimical to the best interests of the public service and public requirement.

(b) “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.”

PRISON-MADE BRUSHES.

Mr. W. Murphy (Brushmakers, Dublin) moved :—

“That this Congress condemns in the strongest manner the action of the Irish Prisons Board in supplying Government offices with convict-made brushes, as admitted by them by letter to the Dublin Trades Council on the 12th November, 1908, thereby inter-

fering with legitimate labour ; and, further, we are of opinion that the Act empowering the Board to teach convicts skilled trades should be amended."

Mr. H. Mayne (Dublin) seconded the proposition, which was adopted.

IRISH PRIMARY EDUCATION.

Mr. P. T. Daly (Dublin) proposed :—

"That in accordance with the necessities and general tendencies of the present age, we consider that Primary Education in our country should be under the control of a democratically elected board, and as the representatives of those immediately concerned, we demand that a popularly elected board be substituted for the present inefficient and reactionary body having control of Primary Education in this country ; that the Act for the Feeding of Necessitous School Children be extended to Ireland, and be made compulsory in its application ; and that copies of this resolution be sent to the secretary of the General Council of County Councils, and also to the secretaries of the Irish and Labour Parties, and to Mr. Birrell."

He called attention to the action of the National Board, and the latest appointment to that Board was of a person who did not know much about primary education. It was lamentable to hear people talking of the parsimony of the British Treasury in dealing with this question when the money voted was not given for education by the Board. The failure of the boys at the technical schools was owing to their non-attendance at the primary schools. There was also the fact that of the £23,000 voted some years ago, they gave £17,000, and they got it down last year to £7,500, of which the generous National Board gave back £3,000 (shame). There was no greater body of slaves in all Ireland than the National teachers. They were knocked about by all sections, while the Board were afraid to face the music, stating that the present state of things was but a temporary remedy. They could not expect their boys and girls to know anything about freedom while their teachers could not exercise it. To have the boys and girls free they should have the teachers free.

Mr. J. Nolan (Bookbinders, Dublin) seconded. He spoke in scathing terms of the action of the Commissioners in withdrawing the class book, of which so much had been heard, on the ground, he presumed, that it might be calculated to inspire in the minds of the children anything in the nature of revolutionary ideas or a sense of pride derived from the distinction of their progenitors.

Mr. O'Lehane asked that copies of this resolution should be sent to all the Irish County Councils.

This was agreed to, and the resolution passed.

THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.

Mr. P. T. Daly (Dublin) moved :—

“That we call on the County Councils of Ireland to refuse to levy any University rate unless the pupils of ability and industry attending the primary schools—that is to say, the children of the masses—be given, as in other lands, by a liberal system of scholarships, financial help to go forward from the primary school to the University, and thus place the best trained talent at the disposal of the nation ; that if the new National University of Ireland is to be in fact as well as in name National, the language, literature, and history of Ireland should get a prominent place in its curriculum, which should be framed, not for the convenience of a few possible foreign students, but in accordance with the educational aspirations, facilities and needs of the Irish democracy ; that apart from patriotism and sentiment, we hold that if the masses are to be given equality of opportunity, the second language compulsory for matriculation should be that which the pupils of National schools have now in most places facilities for acquiring—the National language of Ireland ; that we take this opportunity of reiterating our strongest protest against the narrow class-spirit which excludes extern students from the advantages of the new Universities, and which compels them to seek at foreign universities degrees which Irish universities, professing to be National and democratic, propose to deny them.”

He strongly urged the County and Borough Councils of Ireland to refuse to levy any rate in aid of the new University until the demands contained in the resolution were conceded.

Mr. Harris (Belfast) seconded the motion. He protested against the words of Professor West-Ridgeway in a recent speech when he referred to the children of the workers as the offsprings of the wastrels of the country.

The motion was carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT OF THE TRUCK ACT.

Miss Galway (Belfast) moved :—

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

She mentioned that in evidence recently given before a committee on fines in Belfast an instance was submitted by her where a worker whose wages amounted to 11s. 4d. in the week was fined 6s. 7d. If a worker was not able to do her work the remedy was to dismiss her, and that, she claimed, was sufficient. All fines should be abolished.

The resolution was seconded by Mrs. M'Caughey, and carried unanimously.

NOMINATIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

The Secretary at this stage read the nominations for election of new Parliamentary Committee. (See p. 50).

VOTES OF CONDOLENCE.

The Standing Orders being suspended, votes of sympathy were passed to the relatives of the late Mr. P. J. Hayes (Limerick Printers), who was an elected delegate to Congress; to Mr. J. Feenan (Shop Assistants' Union, Belfast), who was obliged to leave on receipt of a telegram announcing the death of his mother; and to Alderman John M'Carthy (Kilkenny Trades Council) on the recent death of his wife.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Mr. George Fletcher, of the Department of Technical Instruction, addressed the Congress, saying he was there by invitation of the Parliamentary Committee, and as the outcome of a meeting of the Departmental representatives with that Committee. The question on which he wished to address the Congress was technical education—the technical education of apprentices, and the relation between the employers of labour and technical committees. Technical schools had, he need hardly tell them, become a great adjunct to the workshop, and no one that he had heard took exception to their value. If they looked abroad they would see that every country in Europe, and also the United States, attached the greatest importance to technical education. In Ireland, at present, they had eight or nine trades' preparatory schools in existence to prepare pupils for industrial careers. Their secondary schools here in Ireland had a wider scope than in England. They had a sound system of experimental science and practical drawing, while mechanical instruction was also given. He referred to what had been done in the preparatory schools and the co-operation given by employers in the work which had been approved by the Department. Any resolutions on the subject passed by the Congress would have very great weight. The Department were anxious to have all the technical education imparted bear on the industries of the country, and with this object they were anxious to have all the information and assistance possible (applause).

CO-OPERATION.

Mr. William Knox, President Belfast Co-operative Society, next addressed the Congress, and said co-operation would be complementary to the good they could do by trades unionism. Twenty years ago co-operation was introduced into Belfast, and it was only five years ago they got round the corner. Success had since attended them. Last year they had a membership of 4,400, a share capital of £25,094, a turn-over of £137,548, and a dividend of £8,130. That helped to illustrate what had been done there by co-operation, which was a democratic movement that they all could

join in (applause). The movement was one which had also advanced the rates of wages for workers, and it was one they could all take part in (applause).

On the motion of Alderman M'Carthy, Kilkenny, seconded by Mr. Harris, and supported by Mr. J. St. C. Halfpenny, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Knox, both of whom replied and answered questions put to them.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

On resuming after luncheon.

The Chairman said they would now take up the Report of the Parliamentary Committee, and he asked the Congress to consider it patiently in a quiet manner. He appealed to them in an especial manner to discuss any contentious matter properly.

The Secretary then read over the various headings in the Report. In the section dealing with the deputation to Mr. Redmond on Saturday, 13th February last, Mr. Farren said he took exception to a paragraph in the Report in the speech of Mr. Stewart, which was given. Mr. E. W. Stewart was there reported to have said :—" In asking the Irish Party to go to Parliament and assist them in securing ameliorative measures, he was speaking on behalf of the Sinn Feiners, for at the last Congress they had no less than three Dublin Sinn Feiners competing for seats on the Parliamentary Committee, and one of them moved two resolutions demanding legislation, and they were supported by the other two." Now, he objected to any member of the Parliamentary Committee going before the Chief Secretary, and saying he represented any political party.

The Chairman (interrupting)—It was Mr. John Redmond, and not the Chief Secretary.

Mr. Farren said it was all the same to him. He objected to any member of a trades union appealing to anybody as a member of a political party.

Mr. Stewart said he would explain. He was not responsible for the way or form in which the gentlemen of the Press reported his remarks. Gentlemen of the Press summarise these remarks, and put what appears to them the salient points. But what appeared in the paragraph was substantially correct, but incomplete to the extent that in speaking on behalf of the Trades Union Congress he said to Mr. Redmond and his colleagues that they represented a very composite body of men, that they represented men who were trade unionists in the ordinary sense of the word, men who were Socialists, Sinn Feiners, United Irish Leaguers, Tories and Orangemen, and in appealing to them to take action in Parliament, to secure the passage of measures that this Congress demanded, they were representing the views of all these bodies—the views of all sections of labour in Ireland.

Mr. Farren accepted the explanation.

The adoption of the report was then moved by Mr. S. Bradley, seconded by Mr. John Murphy.

Mr. P. T. Daly moved to amend the report by omitting all under the heading "Dock Labourers Dispute." He said it was a matter of national importance. It was the first time in his recollection of a Trades Congress that anything like the exclusion of Mr. Larkin had happened. It was a queer instance of impartiality surely, that there were two separate organisations of bakers represented with no objection by anyone, while when there were two organisations of dockers one was excluded. They elected James Larkin last year on their Parliamentary Committee. He was expelled from that Parliamentary Committee by his colleagues there who had no more right than himself to be there. Surely they were going to have some common sense.

Mr. William Murphy (Dublin), in seconding Mr. Daly's motion, said that Mr. Larkin had organised to such an extent as they had never been before. He proceeded to give the entire history of the recent carter's strike associated with Mr. Larkin's name, the result of which, he said, was that Mr. Larkin started an organisation of his own and broke away from the National Union of Dock Labourers, which, he said, was an English institution, and there was no necessity for Irishmen to be subscribing to English funds.

Mr. Greig (Belfast), said that, in his opinion, a great deal more importance was attached to this discussion than it was worth (loud cries of "Question," and disorder). It was not for the Congress to join in personalities. Mr. Larkin broke away before the Committee had time to consider the matter, and their action was in support of no one person, but of trades unionism. There was a lot of dissension among Irish workers; but if this Congress was going to say that Mr. Larkin and his section could break away from the Amalgamated Union, then it was good-bye to trades unionism in Ireland. The Congress should not concern themselves with sectional differences, and they had no right to discuss it. The point the Congress had to decide was whether unity should be maintained or not. Let the Transport Union settle their differences with the National Union of Dock Labourers, and then the Congress would decide the matter.

Mr. Stewart (Dublin), said that Mr. Larkin had, in the first instance, gone to Belfast as the henchman of Mr. Sexton, the General Secretary of the National Union of Dock Labourers, and it was only when dictation would not be allowed that Mr. Larkin fell into the arms of Mr. P. T. Daly and some Socialists and Sinn Feiners. The division only took place on some personal or other ground, but not on the principles of trades unionism. This was a question of deliberately dividing trades unionism in the interests of a political party. Mr. Daly and his political faction were attempting to smash the combination of trades unionism in Ireland, and if they succeeded in capturing that Congress they would eventually

do so. It was now the feeling of the labour movement that every step should be taken to prevent the multiplication of organisations affecting the same trade or industry.

Councillor M'Carron (Londonderry), said that the Parliamentary Committee were forced to take up the attitude which they had done towards Mr. Larkin, and they regretted that it had become their duty to do so. They were asked to admit that Transport Workers' Union. What guarantee had they that that organisation would not split up into further factions in either Dublin or Cork, and then step in and demand recognition from the Trades Union Congress? They, as trades' unionists, were not opposed to the formation of an Irish trades' union, but they should not allow the principles of trades' unionism to be disregarded.

Messrs. O'Grady, O'Carroll, Cauty, Nolan and Farren also spoke.

Mr. O'Neill (Carpenters, Dublin), said he was sent by his society to oppose the admission of Mr. Larkin and his society. Secessionists in general were not much good.

Mr. Whitley (Belfast) asked did the organiser of the Dockers' Union when engaged at the strike in Belfast organise an Irish Dockers' Association? Certainly not. Organisers had a governing body to which they were responsible. When Larkin failed in Belfast he went to Dublin and Cork. What would be the result to trades unionism in Ireland if they broke away from their headquarters at Manchester or elsewhere? What would be the result but that which they could anticipate. They wanted in Ireland closer combination to meet the combinations of the employers. As far as he could see the way to settle this dispute was to bring the representatives of the two unions together, and not leave the issue to any two men snarling at and fighting with one another.

Councillor M'Carron (Derry), spoke in support of the action of the Committee, which he could not but perceive was of vital moment to trades unionism in Ireland. The decision of the Congress might mean the wiping out of their Committee and trades unionism, but the members had a duty to discharge, and they would not shirk it. As to Mr. Larkin being expelled, it was the hardest duty they had to discharge. But as a matter of fact he was elected as a representative of the National Dockers, and he had ceased to be a member of that union.

A delegate said that was a quibble.

Councillor M'Carron said it was no quibble, but the fact. They all recognised that Mr. Larkin did good work for the dockers of Dublin, but did that justify his secession from the parent association? He said not. He should have fought his cause at the proper place—the hall where the dockers discussed their business at their annual Congress. The Parliamentary Committee had nothing to do with the differences between Larkin and Sexton, but they had

something to do with the present situation. If they were asked to settle it the Committee would be ready to do so. The Committee was there, and the only desire the members had was to carry out the rules. No man should organise or carry out a strike without the permission of the Executive of his Union, otherwise, good-bye to good government in trades unionism. The democracy of the two countries and of Scotland should not fight—they could not afford to fight. They were brothers no matter what might be the colour of their skin—no matter at what altar they worshipped. The question of nationality should give way to the principles of trades unionism in that Congress. Mr. Canty of Dublin told the Congress they did not want any English societies.

Mr. Canty denied that he said so.

Councillor M'Carron said he took down the words, but at the same time he should admit the disclaimer. Did they want to break up the trades union organisation in Ireland? (Loud cries of "No.") In conclusion, he appealed to the delegates to give an honest vote to do what was right, not to think of Saxon or Irishman, and not by their vote break up the Congress.

Mr. John Murphy (Belfast) said Mr. Larkin was a great organiser, but he must be boss, or all the fat would be in the fire. If the delegates voted against the Parliamentary Committee, then the Congress would cease to represent Trades Unionism in Ireland. They were at the parting of the ways, and they would wreck or capture it for a another organisation.

The President said he was afraid the speeches would not sway a single vote. Accordingly, he asked the several speakers that were to follow to be as brief as possible.

The discussion was continued by Messrs. Campbell, P. Lynch, T.C.; O'Lehane, P.L.G.; Mitchell, Rochford, P. Murphy, P.L.G., and M'Nulty.

The closure having been carried, the president put Mr. Daly's amendment, when there voted—for 39; against 49. The president declared the amendment lost.

Mr. D. R. Campbell then moved:—

"That a committee of seven, consisting of three members of the Parliamentary Committee and four delegates, be appointed to inquire into the cause and development of the dispute in the National Union of Dock Labourers, and the subsequent secession of a large number of members, and the formation of the Irish Transport Workers' Union."

Mr. Harris seconded, and it was agreed to.

Subsequently the four delegates selected to act with three from the new Parliamentary Committee were—Messrs. Mitchell (Belfast), P. T. Daly (Dublin), P. Murphy (Cork), and M'Callion (Derry).

The Parliamentary Committee's Report was then adopted, and Congress adjourned to 9.30 Wednesday morning.

THIRD DAY.—Wednesday 2nd June, 1909.

Congress re-assembled at 9.30 a.m., the President, Councillor Egan, J.P., in the chair.

Minutes of previous day's proceedings read and confirmed.

STANDING ORDERS REPORT—4.

(1) The Committee report they have examined the credentials of delegates, and found that there were 110 delegates, representing 62 trades and trade and labour councils, with an aggregate membership of 89,395.

(2) *Re* the case of Mr. P. Dillon (Limerick Paviers), referred back to the Committee. After hearing further evidence, they decided that they re-affirm their previous decision.

(3) The following resolutions to be grouped, delegates in charge to select movers and seconders:—Living-in (21 and 21A), Railway Questions (23—27), Enginemen's Certificates (28 and 29), Importation and Irish Manufacture (30—32D).

The question of Mr. Dillon's qualifications as a delegate having been discussed, Councillor M'Carron moved and Mr. M'Manus seconded the rejection of paragraph 2 of the report. On a division there voted—for 34; against 37. The motion was declared lost, and the report adopted.

Messrs. Harris and Lea were elected tellers for the election of the new Parliamentary Committee in place of Messrs. Rochford and Keogh who were candidates.

THE "LIVING-IN" SYSTEM.

Mr. M. J. O'Lehane, P.L.G., proposed:—

"That as the majority of the Truck Acts Committee have refused to recommend the only solution of the 'Living-in' grievance—viz., its entire abolition—we are of opinion that the report of the minority should be adopted, as it is the only means by which the desires of shop employes can be satisfied in connection with this matter."

Councillor Walsh (Limerick) seconded.

Passed unanimously.

CHARACTER NOTES.

Mr. E. W. Stewart proposed:—

"That this Congress again endorses the claim of the shop assistants, railway servants, and other workers, where 'character notes' are the custom, that it should be compulsory upon employers, on request, to supply testimonials, and that same should be deprived of their privileged character at law so as to leave them open to libel actions if perverted by malice in the statements contained therein."

Mr. Nolan (Dublin) seconded.

Passed unanimously.

RAILWAY GRIEVANCES.

The following resolutions were taken together. Proposed by Mr. J. St. C. Halfpenny :—

(1) "That this Congress is of 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 Irish railways."

(2) "That this Congress expresses its regret at the omission of a representative of the Railway Servants from the membership of the Viceregal Commission on Irish Railways, and hereby requests the Parliamentary Committee to endeavour to secure provision in any legislation that may arise out of the Commission's recommendations that will safeguard the interests of the railway employes, and to ensure their terms of service to be at least as favourable as those enjoyed by the Postal Clerks."

(3) "And this Congress further expresses regret that several railway companies have up to the present shown no desire to meet the representatives of the men for the purpose of settling questions affecting the working staffs through the medium of Conciliation Boards, as provided by the Board of Trade Settlement in 1907, and requests the Parliamentary Committee to assist in bringing matters to an issue."

(4) "That this Congress expresses its condemnation of the practice in vogue on many railways of compelling stationmasters, clerks, and others to work on Sundays without compensation or time off in lieu thereof, and hereby requests the Parliamentary Committee to appeal to the House of Commons to regard no Bill as satisfactory which seeks to confer increased power upon a railway company that does not pay extra to those of its servants who are required to work on Sundays."

(5) "That this Congress is of opinion that all railway offices should be brought within the provisions of the Factory Acts, and hereby instructs the Parliamentary Committee to take steps to secure legislation accordingly."

(6) "That this Congress expresses its condemnation of the low salaries paid to the railway clerical staffs, and the long hours worked by some sections without extra payment."

Mr. C. Bunworth (Cork) seconded, and the resolutions were passed unanimously.

ENGINE MEN'S CERTIFICATES.

Mr. J. O'Grady proposed :—

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

(2) "That this Congress calls upon the Government to prepare a Bill for the greater safeguarding of human life and property from accidents by explosions of locomotive steam boilers or fireboxes—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, or 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 footplate as fireman, and that applicants for such certificates must pass through the various stages of locomotive work as at present—cleaner, fireman, then driver."

Mr. R. Henderson (Dublin) seconded.
Passed.

IRISH MANUFACTURE AND IMPORTATION.

In accordance with the report of the Standing Orders Committee, the following resolutions dealing with Irish Manufacture and Importation were proposed *in globo* by Mr. Wm. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Jas. Nolan:—

(1) "That in order to encourage Irish manufacture, and in view of the increasing installations of electric lighting, this Congress would earnestly request that all public boards, architects, and heads of establishments give an opportunity to Irish houses to compete for the making of electroliers and other brasswork before placing their orders outside this country, and that the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to send a copy of this resolution to the above-named."

(2) "That this Congress instructs the Parliamentary Committee to take immediate steps with the Cowkeepers' Associations and managers of creameries to give their orders for the fitting of creameries and the making of all the utensils connected with same to firms in Ireland who employ members of our trade union."

(3) "That this Congress calls on the public boards and gas managers of Ireland to have their gas meters and gas lamps made either by direct labour or by firms in Ireland who employ members of the trade union concerned."

(4) "That in the opinion of this Congress the continued importation of foreign-made joinery, coming from the sweating dens of the world, is most detrimental to the industrial development of this country, and, therefore, reiterates the demand for its total abolition, by calling upon all architects, builders, public boards, private employers, and others who may require joinery, to have it done in Ireland under fair conditions and by trade union labour, and thereby help to give employment to hundreds who are walking the

streets in idleness, with no means of subsistence other than the allowance received from their trade unions."

(5) "That this Congress condemns the action of the leading drapery houses of Dublin in placing their orders for furniture with imported foreign sweating firms to the detriment of the legitimate cabinetmakers of Ireland, and we request such of the public who may be desirous of purchasing Irish manufactured furniture to assure themselves that it is such, and not the shoddy stamped with the Irish trade mark, which is produced by white slavery in the sweating dens of Dublin."

(6) "That this Congress condemns the importation of foreign-made coopering work—viz., kegs and kiels—thereby causing great idleness amongst the coopers of Limerick and elsewhere, when such work could be made here much more suitably and satisfactorily for those who import it; and we call upon butter merchants, creamery proprietors, and margarine manufacturers to give their united support in getting their coopering work made in Ireland; and to those interested in the revival of Irish trades and industries we would point out that the sum of £3,000 yearly is sent out of Limerick for coopering work, which, if made in Limerick, would give much-needed employment to those of the coopering trade here."

(7) "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 manufactured, and for the guidance of purchasers desirous of supporting home industry the Merchandise or Trades Marks Act should be so amended that all imported brushes should be stamped so as to clearly indicate the country in which they are manufactured."

(8) "That this Congress deplores the evil influence of the increased importation of manufactured goods into Ireland, and expresses indignation of those who, by supporting foreign goods, assist the industrial degeneration of our country, encourage the continued exodus of our people, and add to the number of the unemployed. We, therefore, respectfully appeal to the elected representatives of the people and to our Governmental institutions not only to be assured that they obtain books of Irish manufacture, but that the work is done by firms recognised by the Bookbinders' Union (a list of which is being sent to each public institution). We also appeal to the patriotism of the Irish Hierarchy, members of religious orders, convents, and other institutions, the clergy of all denominations, and those who are entrusted with educational duties, to assist us in our endeavour to develop the material prosperity of our common country, and to destroy sweated labour, which demoralises and degrades the people."

On paragraph (4) dealing with imported joinery, Mr. L. Corrigan said:—

This resolution had been adopted by Congress year after year, yet they unfortunately found this importation still continues, whilst a great number of their members were walking the streets for want of employment. In fact for the year 1908 they had to pay in unemployment to their members in Ireland the sum of £8,343 4s. 5d., and if they added to that the amount paid in sickness brought about by want from lack of employment, they might at least add £2,000 more, whilst this importation from the sweating dens of the world was distributed wholesale all over the country. In some instances they were told that some special patent was required, but why not select a patent that could be secured in the country, as he considered it the duty of every Irishman to foster and encourage the industries of his own country.

Mr. E. J. O'Neill said his name was associated with the resolution for the past 14 or 15 years, but the passing of these resolutions year after year seems to have very little effect. He asked the Parliamentary Committee to adhere to Standing Order No. 10, the first clause of which directed them to endeavour to give effect to the resolutions carried, and thereby put a stop to the use of this importation, and render much-needed assistance to the joinery trade.

THE CONGRESS AND TRADES' DISPUTES.

Mr. J. Farren (Dublin) proposed the following resolution forwarded by the Dublin Trades Council :—

“That should a strike take place, having the approval of the local Trades Council, it shall be the duty of the Executive Council of the Congress to appeal for support from all trades unionists and those affected.”

He outlined the *modus operandi*, the initiatory proceedings to be taken by the local council, and thought that all Ireland should stand shoulder to shoulder in case of a strike or lock-out.

Mr. William Murphy (Dublin), in seconding, said that the recent carters' strike in Dublin showed them an example of the efficacy of solidarity. He thought that the local Trades Council should take the matter in hands first, and then let the Parliamentary Committee issue a circular to all the trades for help.

Mr. Thomas Murphy (Railway Servants) was against the resolution. What was the use of striking without the sanction of the Executive of their Society. They should not strike without having obviated the necessity of having to appeal to the public, in the first stages, for assistance.

Mr. J. Murphy (Belfast) proposed to strike out “Executive Council” on second line, and insert the words “Parliamentary Committee”; and add at end, after the word “affected”: “Provided always that the Parliamentary Committee shall have failed to

effect a settlement after being afforded an opportunity of considering the merits of the dispute."

Mr. Whitley (Belfast) seconded.

Mr. Milner (Dublin) spoke against the amendment.

Messrs. Campbell, O'Mara, O'Lehane, and Canty also spoke.

Mr. Farren accepted Mr. John Murphy's amendment, as also the last clause of a further amendment on the paper in the name of Mr. George Greig.

The resolution, as passed, then read as follows:—

"That should a strike take place, having the approval of the local Trades Council, it shall be the duty of the Parliamentary Committee of the Congress to appeal for support from all trades unionists for those affected. Provided always that the Parliamentary Committee shall have failed to effect a settlement after being afforded an opportunity of considering the merits of the dispute. In no case, however, shall the Parliamentary Committee take action unless requested to do so by the Executive Council of the union directly concerned."

THE T.A. AND THE D.T.P.S.

The following resolution and amendment appeared on the paper:—

To be moved by Mr. M. J. Keogh (Dublin Typographical Provident Society).

"That this Congress of Irish Trades Unionists unhesitatingly condemns the action of the representative in Ireland of the Typographical Association in interviewing the employers in the Dublin area contrary to the agreement with the Dublin Typographical Provident Society, and without consultation with such society, at a time when the D.T.P.S. were negotiating for improvements in their working conditions; and, furthermore, we condemn the attempt to set up a rival organisation to the D.T.P.S. in the Dublin area, contrary to a former decision of this Congress."

Amendment to be moved by H. T. Whitley (Belfast T.A.); seconded by Mr. Thos. Cassidy (Derry T.A.).

Delete all after "Trades Unionists" in first line, and insert:—

"Regrets to learn that no practical effort has been made by the officials of the Dublin Typographical Provident Society to co-operate with the Typographical Association to solidify the forces of trades unionism and to prevent the straining of the friendly relations which should exist between kindred societies; therefore, this Congress urgently calls upon all trade unions to co-operate in sustaining each other, and thus secure unanimity of action and prevent the risk of any breach of inter-trade unionism."

When Mr. Keogh rose to move the resolution,

Mr. John Murphy (Belfast) intervened and said the proposal was a vote of censure on a union affiliated with the Congress. He therefore asked was the resolution in order?

The Chairman—I think I have a perfect right in ruling any motion out of order, and I rule this motion out of order.

Mr. Keogh several times appealed to the Chairman to allow the question to be discussed.

The Chairman said if the Congress did no more good than to put a stop to these petty squabbles they would have done some good.

Mr. Keogh—If you reject my resolution I will recommend the organisation to which I belong, and to which Mr. Richardson also belongs, to have nothing further to do with this Congress.

Amid loud expressions of dissent, Alderman M'Carthy protested that there were a dozen chairmen instead of one.

The Chairman (warmly)—Allow me to say I take dictation from no man, not even the great Alderman M'Carthy. I am going to insist on the business on the agenda being carried out in a proper manner. Henceforward I will rule with an iron hand, and I expect the delegates assembled here to do their duties in a proper manner.

Alderman M'Carthy again rose to speak, but was ruled out of order.

In order to test the Chairman's ruling, Mr. Keogh moved and Mr. Milner seconded: "That the Congress disagrees with the Chairman's decision."

On the question being put there voted—for 31; against 52.

The Congress, therefore, upheld the Chairman, and Mr. Keogh left the Hall as a protest.

STANDING ORDERS REPORT—5.

(1) Committee recommend the grouping of the following resolutions, movers and seconders only to speak:—Trade Union Label (38 and 38A); Industrial Insurance (39 and 39A); Contracts for Local Bodies (42, 42A, and 43).

(2) Owing to the disqualification of the Limerick Asylum Attendants, Resolution 45 was considered by the Committee, and they recommend that Mr. Pomphrett, of the Cork Attendants, be allowed to move.

(3) Committee rule that Resolution 47 (Amendment to Standing Order 2), is out of order under Standing Order No. 8.

(4) That permission be granted to Mr. Farren to bring under the notice of Congress the publication of the "Irish Labour Journal."

The Congress accepted paragraphs 1, 2, and 4, but rejected paragraph 3.

ELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

The Scrutineers presented their report on the ballot for the Parliamentary Committee as follows;—

	Votes.
M'Carron, Jas., T.C., Tailor (Londonderry) ...	41
Galway, Miss M., Textile Worker (Belfast) ...	40
Campbell, D. R., Insurance Agent (Belfast) ...	37
Rochford, H., Hairdresser (Dublin) ...	37
O'Lehane, M. J., P.L.G., Drapers' Assistant (Dublin)	36
Stewart, E. W., Shop Assistant (Dublin) ...	35
Harvey, Matthew, Printer (Limerick) ...	34
Egan, M., J.P., T.C., Coachmaker (Cork) ...	32

The above with the Secretary form the Committee.

Votes were also cast for—John Farren, 31; Thomas M'Connell, 30; Wm. Murphy, 29; S. Dinneen, 28; Geo. Greig, 25; John Murphy, 23; Joseph Mitchell, 22; M. J. Keogh, 19; Pk. Dillon, 18; Thomas Murphy, 16; M. Canty, 6.

INDUSTRIAL REVIVAL AND FAIR WAGES.

Mr. D. Mulcahy (Dublin) proposed:—

“That this Congress is of opinion that any scheme of Irish industrial revival which does not provide for the payment of fair wages to the worker is unsound and unworthy of the support of trade unionists.”

He alluded to the paucity of cabinetmakers employed in the metropolis and the poor wages given.

Mr. Allen (Belfast) seconded the resolution. There was, he said, a great deal of sweating carried on under the guise of Irish manufacture.

The resolution was carried.

IRISH TRADES UNIONS.

Mr. P. T. Daly (Dublin) moved:—

“That inasmuch as the demand for the political independence of Ireland is recognised by all the Congresses of organised workers, we declare that the the industrial independence of the workers in this country should be insisted upon, and as a means to that end all trades unions should be worked upon a national basis and federated with the workers of other countries.”

He did not object to membership in an amalgamated society, but he saw no reason why the workers of Ireland should not be members of Irish trades union organisations.

Mr. Farren (Dublin) seconded the proposition.

Councillor M'Carron (Derry) moved to strike out all after the word “workers” on second line and insert:—

“We consider the same a sufficient declaration of political rights; and we deplore the introduction of racial and party

divisions into our trade unions, which bring the wage-workers into conflict with one another, to their mutual harm and to the advantage of their exploiters, who (whatever their political or racial divisions may be) are combined on the economic field to keep the workers of all countries in subjection; and we therefore urge upon Irish workers to combine with their fellows elsewhere by the strongest ties and in the closest manner possible."

As claiming the right to govern themselves, they should govern their association according to the rules of trades unionism. They might all differ in politics, but once inside the Congress they should work on trades union lines. He could not agree with the resolution, which would sever them from the trades union societies of other countries. The words were there, and the resolution would wipe out the members of all amalgamated societies in Ireland.

Mr. Harris (Belfast) seconded the amendment. They did not find the employers separating, and why should the workers do so, which would be the effect of the resolution. What they wanted was that the workers of Ireland, England, and Scotland should be united. They in Ireland should work for unity, and not for separation, as proposed.

Mr. Canty (Dublin) said the Trades Congress of Ireland was started through not getting fair play from the English Congress. He thought the Congress should support the resolution.

Mr. Whitley (Belfast) said he did not want to enter into politics, but they had a grand opportunity of now proving to their fellow-workers in Ireland that they met to pay attention to trades union business. They should give a record of their work for all Ireland, and not for this or that particular portion of the country. The mover of the resolution had failed entirely to show that the political independence of Ireland had ever been recognised by any trades congress. As a delegate from the North of Ireland, where they did not weep and wail about their country, but where they tried to work for it, he protested against the introduction of party politics into the deliberations of the Congress.

Mr. O'Lehane (Dublin) believed that, as proposed in the resolution, trades unionism in Ireland should be worked on a National basis. The resolution should not object to amalgamated societies, and he was surprised that amalgamated society delegates should be for having Irish trades unionists bound hand and foot to executives in Manchester or elsewhere.

Mr. Stewart said the resolution was intended to insidiously work against trades unionism in Ireland. It was a subtle endeavour to undermine trades unionism here in favour of a political creed. He was a member of the Dublin Trades Council, and as such he repudiated the resolution which never came before that Council.

Mr. O'Lehane said it was adopted by the executive of the Council, and that was the usual course.

Mr. Richardson denied that such was the case, or that the resolution had ever been adopted by the Dublin Trades Council, or submitted to that body. He had a recollection of the procedure of the Executive of the Dublin Trades Council in such matters since the inception of the Congress, and he defied contradiction when he declared that the Executive in former years sent forward resolutions for the Congress only upon such questions as the Council in open meeting had from time to time expressed itself in favour. But never before did the Executive attempt to send forward in the name of the Council resolutions of such a contentious character as had been done then, and with the draft and principle of which the trades forming the mainstay of the Dublin Council could not agree to without repudiating their own associations.

The President said he was sorry for the way the Dublin Trades Council did their business.

On a division the amendment was carried by 50 votes to 19 for the resolution.

THE BALANCE SHEET.

A considerable discussion arose upon the auditors' report on the balance sheet. Eventually, on the motion of Mr. John M'Mahon, seconded by Mr. M'Callion, it was unanimously adopted, with an instruction moved by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Mitchell—"That the accounts of the Congress be closed on the morning of the opening day, and audited on that evening at the close of the day's proceedings; and that the recommendations made by the auditors that proper books be kept in future, be carried out."

TRADE UNION LABEL OR STAMP.

Mr. Mulcahy (Dublin) moved; Mr. Buckner (Limerick) seconded, and it was resolved:—

(1) "That in order to guarantee that all printing shall be executed under fair conditions, this Congress considers it essential that the registered Irish Trade Union Label of the Typographical Association should be recognised as an authorised imprint, and that its use should be impressed upon all printing work required for public bodies, trade and other societies, and commercial work produced under fair conditions of labour in the provinces."

(2) "That this Congress is of opinion that it would be in the best interests of all concerned if goods were so marked as to enable purchasers to be certain that same have been made under trade union conditions, and hereby instructs the Parliamentary Committee to take the necessary steps to bring the matter under the notice of the Government with a view to their registering a trade union mark or stamp to be placed on all goods made under trade union conditions."

INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE.

Mr. John Hanlon moved :—

(1) "That, having regard to the vast amount of funds involved and accumulated through the thrift of the people in the various friendly societies and industrial insurance companies registered under the Friendly Societies Act, it is the opinion of this Irish Trades Congress that the Friendly Societies Act of 1896 urgently requires amendment, especially section 8 of same, so that the funeral expenses of the father, mother, sister, brother, husband, wife, or child shall be legal insurable interests, and that the section of the Act of George III. (1774) having a contrary effect, be repealed."

(2) "That in the opinion of this Congress the time has arrived when a Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry or a Royal Commission should be appointed to investigate into the whole field of industrial life assurance with a view to legislation, extending insurable interests, rendering 'debt systems' and special canvassers without agreements illegal, and so protect both the insuring public and agents from the imperfections of the existing laws."

Mr. W. Bunting seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

PUBLIC BODIES AND WINTER WORK.

Mr. M. Harvey moved :—

"That this Congress desires to draw the attention of corporate and other bodies to the necessity for getting public work executed in winter time, thereby alleviating the great dearth of employment which exists in the winter months."

Mr. O'Driscoll seconded.

The mover accepted the following addendum, moved by Mr. Greig (Belfast), and the resolution with this addition was unanimously adopted :—

Add after the word "months" on last line :—

"And calls upon the Government to fulfil during the present Session the promises made by different members of the Cabinet 'to deal with the permanent causes and conditions of unemployment'; that in the opinion of this Congress no measure will be satisfactory unless it contains the principle of the right to work embodied in the Labour Party's Right to Work Bill."

CONTRACTS, SUPPLIES, &C., FOR LOCAL BODIES.

Mr. L. Corrigan, in accordance with the report of Standing Orders Committee, moved the following resolutions *in globo*. Mr. Harvey seconded, and they were unanimously adopted :—

(1) "That this Congress calls on the members of public boards in Ireland to have all their work done by direct labour under fair conditions, thus ensuring better workmanship, more employment, and a decided saving to the ratepayers."

(2) "That this Congress desires to direct the attention of public bodies, such as boards of guardians, asylums, and all other boards, that, until municipal workshops are established, in order to give proper effect to the Fair Wages Resolution, it is desirable when giving contracts for supplies that none but manufacturers' tenders 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 ratepayers of middlemen's profits."

(3) "That this Congress again condemns the sweating and 'ratting' competition in tenders for printing and advertising in connection with Irish public boards' contracts; that we again urge on the attention of all local bodies the necessity for the adoption of the Fair Wages Resolution in order that the interests of the ratepayers, the fair employer, and the competent workman may be protected; that we also condemn the action of Local Government Board auditors in surcharging on tenders without due consideration to the above interests; and that we instruct the Parliamentary Committee of this Congress to approach the Local Government Board with the object of inducing that body to take such steps as will provide that the public work of the country shall be executed under fair conditions."

(4) "That this Congress condemns the action of County Councils in giving their advertising contracts to newspaper owners who employ none but non-union and boy labour."

INSPECTION OF PRINTING OFFICES.

Mr. H. M'Manus proposed:—

"That this Congress considers that more attention should be devoted by the Factory Inspectors to the better sanitation and more efficient inspection of printing offices in Ireland."

Mr. Harvey seconded, and the resolution was passed.

ASYLUM EMPLOYEES.

Mr. Pomphrett (Cork) proposed:—

"That owing to the excessive long hours and the scale of wages paid to asylum officials, and the arduous duties which necessitate their strictest attention—the average man or woman so employed is not capable of performing without a risk of impairing their health—this Congress is of opinion that it should be the first duty of Asylum Committees to remedy; that same be brought under the notice of the Committee of Management of the Irish asylums."

Mr. Murphy (Cork) seconded the motion, and it was agreed to unanimously.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

Mr. J. Vaughan (Limerick) proposed:—

"That it be an instruction from this Congress to the Parlia-

mentary Committee to take the first opportunity to bring before the Treasury the urgent necessity that exists for proper accommodation in small centres for the purpose of Technical Education, which is of such vital importance to the country at the present time, and they be asked to grant every facility to Technical Committees, Borough Councils, &c., as may be required, for the proper carrying out of Technical Instruction in Ireland."

He was glad to say that the Limerick Committee had succeeded in getting the loan of £10,000 to build a new Central Institute, the Treasury having refused the loan.

Mr. Harvey seconded, and it was adopted.

AMENDMENTS OF STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. E. W. Stewart (for Parliamentary Committee) moved to strike out all after the word "of" on line 1, Standing Order 2, and insert:—

"(1) Delegated members or officials from *bona-fide* trade and labour unions, who are or have been practical workers at the trade or calling they represent; and (2) delegated members or officials from recognised trades councils, or similar bodies, who are or have been practical workers at the trade or calling they represent on such councils. The delegate's fees (15s. each), affiliation fees (as per Rule 3), and all personal expenses allowed such delegates must be defrayed by the union or council they represent."

Mr. Buckner (Limerick) seconded.

Mr. P. T. Daly (Dublin) moved to amend the proposed amendment by deleting "and" in third line. Also deleting all after the word "bodies" on fourth line down to and including the word "councils" on line six, and substituting therefor, after the word "bodies" on fourth line, the following:—

"And (3) any person qualified to represent a trade or labour union on any Irish trade or labour council duly affiliated to Congress, shall be eligible to represent such trade or labour union at Congress."

Mr. Campbell (Belfast) seconded.

Messrs. M'Carron, O'Lehane, Canty, and Harris having spoken, Mr. Daly's amendment was put and declared carried.

The amendment as amended was then adopted.

Councillor M'Carron (for Mr. Thos. Cassidy, Derry) moved to amend Standing Order 5 by adding thereto:—

"Scrutineers (5) shall be appointed before the distribution of ballot papers for the election of the Parliamentary Committee, and shall hand in a signed report to the Chairman of Congress as early as possible after vouching for the accuracy of the returns."

Mr. M'Callion seconded, and it was adopted *nem. con.*

Mr. P. T. Daly (for Dublin Trades Council) moved to amend Standing Order 10 as follows:—

(1) "That the words 'National Executive Council of Labour' be substituted for the words 'Parliamentary Committee.'"

(2) "That the National Executive Council or Parliamentary Committee be elected annually and consist of 9 members, including the officers, to be resident, as follows—viz., 3 in Leinster, 3 in Ulster, 2 in Munster, and 1 in Connaught. The members of the Executive Council to elect the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary from their own number."

(3) "That the resolution amending Standing Order 10, adopted at Athlone in 1906, be, and it is hereby, rescinded."

Mr. Farren seconded.

Messrs. Canty, Harvey, Milner, Campbell, M'Carron, and the Secretary having spoken, the motion was put and defeated by 33 to 21.

Councillor Lynch (Cork) moved a further amendment to Standing Order 10 by adding the following:—

"That the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for the year previous shall be President, and shall also be *ex-officio* a member of Congress, being remunerated for his attendance from the funds at the disposal of the Parliamentary Committee."

Mr. Murphy, P.L.G. (Cork), seconded, and on a division there voted—for 17; against 32. The motion was therefore lost.

CONGRESS FOR 1910.

It was unanimously decided that Congress for 1910 be held in Dundalk.

In accordance with report of Standing Orders Committee, the following resolutions, which did not appear on the agenda paper, were formally proposed, seconded, and adopted:—

IRISH TEXTILE INDUSTRY—COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY WANTED.

Moved by Mr. Dawson Gordon.

Seconded by Mr. John M'Alece (Flax Roughers and Yarn Spinners Union.)

"That this Congress deplores the continuation of short time in the Ulster textile works, causing intense hardships to men, women, and children; and, apprehensive as to its still further continuance, we call upon the Government to institute an inquiry into the whole status of textile manufacturers in Ireland. (a) Whether the short time movement is a result of the financial instability lately so much in evidence in America, or (b) whether it is due to a desire on the part of either spinners, manufacturers, agents, or commission houses to maintain a high level of selling prices, or (c)

whether it is due to the cost of raw material and what action should be taken to develop the supply of home grown material, and (d) whether prior to the boom of 1906 and 1907, spinners, manufacturers, and finishers worked at a loss, and if so, what? and (e) whether during the boom enhanced prices were obtained, and what profits were made, or (f) whether prior to the inauguration of short time in November, 1907, speeding up of both machinery and workers had taken place, and (g) whether in the lessened period of work with the consequent lessened wage, an almost equal amount of work has been extracted from both the worker and the machine. Whether it is due to any process of either speeding up, new inventions, new processes, or a less finished article, and what steps can be taken to secure to the workers in the textile industry a minimum wage fixed so as to maintain in comfort those employed."

COACHMAKERS' GRIEVANCES.

Moved by Mr. Thomas Milner.

Seconded by Mr. Thomas Boyle.

(1) "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 by civilian labour under fair conditions. That if this were done it would help to solve the unemployed problem in the coachmaking and other trades. That the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to place this matter before the Chief Secretary for Ireland and the Irish Parliamentary representatives."

(2) "That this Congress is of opinion that all motor car bodies required for use on Irish roads should be made, painted, and trimmed under fair conditions in Ireland, motor bodies made in Ireland being far superior to any others on the roads of this country. This Congress appeals to motor car agents to have their car bodies made, painted, and trimmed at home, and so develop this important industry in Ireland."

(3) "That this Congress condemns the continued importation of carriages, vans, wheels, and coach-ironwork or fittings, and calls on the gentry, merchants, corporations, and public companies of Ireland to have all their coach building done at home under fair conditions, and so help to restore this ancient industry to its former prosperous position in Ireland."

(4) "That 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 be inspected and disinfected at regular periods in the interest of public health. That the Board of Trade should insist that practical coachmakers be appointed Carriage Inspectors on all railways, and the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to bring

these matters before the Chief Secretary and the Irish Parliamentary representatives."

DUBLIN LABOUR JOURNAL.

Mr. John Farren, by leave of the Congress, referred to the first issue of the new Dublin Labour Journal, and appealed to the delegates to make the publication known among the members of their respective trades, in order to secure for the venture as much support and as wide a circulation as possible.

VOTES OF THANKS.

The customary votes of thanks to the Chairman for his impartial and able conduct in the chair, and to the Reception Committee for their pleasant trip to Killaloe on Monday afternoon, and their bountiful hospitality in entertaining the Congress to dinner on Tuesday evening, having been carried by acclamation, the Congress terminated.



AFFILIATION FEES.

	£	s.	d.
Railway Clerks' Association	1	8	4
Royal Liver Agents' Union	0	12	6
National Union Dock Labourers	1	10	0
Prudential Agents' Union	0	7	9
Amalgamated Railway Servants	10	0	0
Electrical Trade Union	0	5	0
Amalgamated Carpenters	5	10	0
Dublin Operative Bakers	1	10	0
Amalgamated Tramway Workers	1	8	4
Irish Drapers' Assistants	3	10	0
Irish Linen Lappers	0	10	0
Hackle and Gill Makers	0	8	4
Irish Stationary Engine Drivers	1	8	4
Dublin Operative Coopers	2	2	0
Typographical Association	2	10	0
Textile Operatives Society	1	10	0
Irish Post Office Clerks	2	10	0
Limerick Bakers	0	7	6
Dublin Brassfounders	0	11	1
Shop Assistants Union	0	13	7
Amalgamated House Painters	1	10	0
" Society Tailors	3	10	0
" Union of Labour	1	10	0
Dublin Trades Council	3	0	0
Gasworkers Union	2	10	0
Dublin Typographical Society	2	10	0
Flax Roughers Union	1	10	0
Dublin Corporation Labourers	1	10	0
Derry Dock Labourers	1	0	0
Dublin Plumbers	0	13	4
Alliance Cabinet Makers	1	8	4
Brushmakers	0	5	0
Workers' Union	1	10	0
Flaxdressers Union	0	15	0
Cork Asylum Attendants	0	5	0
Belfast and Dublin Loco. Engine Drivers	1	0	0
Cork Coopers	0	10	0
Belfast Bakers	1	10	0
Limerick Trades Council	1	0	0
Postmen's Federation	3	10	0
Limerick Asylum Attendants			
Dublin Tinsmiths	0	5	0
Belfast Butchers	0	15	0
Limerick Coopers	0	5	0
Dublin Paviers	0	2	6
Limerick Plumbers	0	2	1
Irish Bakers' Union	1	10	0
Belfast Typographical Society	2	0	0
Kilkenny Trades Council	1	0	0
Dublin Bookbinders	0	16	8
Amalgamated Cabinetmakers, Belfast	1	1	0
U.K.S. Coachmakers	1	13	0
Cork Trades Council	1	0	0
Dublin Hairdressers	0	8	0
Belfast Trades Council	3	0	0
Limerick Gasworkers	0	5	0
Limerick Painters	0	5	0
Dublin Saddlers	0	5	0
Irish Bottlemakers	1	0	0

List of Delegates.

- Amalgamated Railway Servants (Kingsbridge Branch)*—T. Murphy, 1A Findlater Street, Dublin.
- Amalgamated Carpenters*—L. Corrigan, 25 Upper Erne Street, Dublin.
- Amalgamated Carpenters (Limerick Branch)*—J. Cronin, 29 Collooney Street. W. White, Caledonian Place.
- Amalgamated House Painters*—H. Dennis, 1 Charlemont Row, Dublin.
- Alliance Cabinetmakers*—D. Muleahy, 59 Mary Street, Dublin.
- Amalgamated Railway Servants*—J. O'Meara, 20 Sullivan Street, Dublin. G. Glynn, 5 Roxtown Terrace, Limerick.
- Amalgamated Carpenters (Dublin 5th Branch)*—E. J. O'Neill, 35 Lower Gloucester Street.
- Amalgamated Tailors*—James M'Carron, T.C., 48 Stanley Walk, Derry. P. Lynch, T.C., 2 Crosses Green, Cork.
- Amalgamated Tailors (Emerald Branch, Dublin)*—John M'Mahon, Trades Hall. Arthur Murphy, Trades Hall.
- Amalgamated Tailors (Progressive Branch)*—W. O'Brien, 43 Belvedere Place, Dublin.
- Amalgamated Tailors (Belfast 2nd Branch)*—G. Burns, Artisans Hall, Garfield St. D. Marshall, 9 Evelyn Avenue.
- Amalgamated Tailors (Londonderry Branch)*—H. M'Callion.
- Amalgamated Tailors (Limerick Branch)*—M. Murphy, Clare Street. J. Mooney, Ellen Street.
- Amalgamated Union of Labour*—George Greig, 41 Elgin Street, Belfast. S. Bradley, 68 Harrybrook Street, Belfast. J. Graydon, 41 Elgin Street, Belfast.
- Amalgamated Tramway and Vehicle Workers*—A. Farrell, 104 Hillman Street.
- Asylum Attendants (Cork)*—M. Pomphrett.
- Amalgamated Cabinetmakers (Irish Branches)*—W. Allen, 34 Willowfield Gardens, Belfast.
- Belfast Typographical Society*—H. S. Whitley, 291 Ardenlee Avenue. John Murphy, 333 Woodstock Road.
- Brassfounders (Dublin Branch)*—L. O'Brien, 23 Bayview Avenue.
- Brushmakers (Dublin Branch)*—W. Murphy, 38 Primrose Avenue.
- Belfast Journeymen Butchers*—
- Belfast and Dublin Loco. Engine Drivers*—
- Belfast Bakers*—A. Dodds, 24 Devey Street. S. M'Connell, 58 Old Park Avenue.
- Bookbinders (Dublin Branch)*—J. Nolan, 10 North King Street.
- Belfast Trades Council*—J. Mitchell, 45 Harrybrook Street. D. R. Campbell, 11 Kimberley Street.
- Cork Trades Council*—P. Murphy, P.L.G. Charles Bunworth. M. Egan, T.C., J.P., 47 Grattan Street
- Cork Typographical Society*—David O'Carroll.
- Dublin Trades Council*—P. T. Daly, 190 Clonliffe Road. John Farren, 23 Usher's Quay.
- Dublin Corporation Labourers*—M. Canty, Winetavern Street. J. Tatleton, Winetavern Street. T. Cobbe, Winetavern Street.
- Dublin Hairdressers' Assistants*—H. Rochford, 28 Fairview.
- Dublin Operative Bakers*—P. J. Lea, 8 Upper Bridge Street. J. Gunn, 8 Upper Bridge Street.
- Dublin Typographical Society*—M. J. Keogh, 33 Denmark Street.
- Dublin Operative Coopers*—Hugh Reilly, 9 Merchant's Quay. P. J. Quinn, 9 Merchant's Quay.

- Dublin Paviers Society*—Thomas Reilly, 65 St. Joseph's Place.
(*Limerick Branch*)—P. Dillon.
- Dock Labourers Union*—J. Sexton, 46 Hanover Street, Liverpool.
W. J. M'Nulty, Derry.
(*Drogheda Branch*)—R. Nugent, 15 Peter Street.
(*Derry Branch*)—T. O'Hara, 33 Lewis Street.
- Dublin Tinsmiths*—R. Kingsman, Trades Hall.
- Electrical Trades Union*—H. J. Mayne, 36 Foster Terrace, Dublin.
- Flax Roughers*—J. M'Alleece, 36 Brookfield Street.
Dawson Gordon, 32 Columbia Street, Belfast.
- Flaxdressers' Union*—
- Gascorkers' Union*—T. O'Sullivan, 5 Arthur Villas.
J. O'Callaghan, 2 Maria Villas, Cork.
- Hackle and Gill Makers*—James M'Crossan, 2 Elizabeth Terrace, Ardoyne, Belfast.
- Irish Bakers Amalgamated Union*—S. Dinneen, 23 Mount Vincent Cottages,
Limerick.
- Irish Drapers' Assistants*—M. J. O'Lehane, P.L.G., 56 Henry Street, Dublin.
- Irish Linen Lappers' Union*—
- Irish Glass Bottle Makers*—L. Byrne, 4 Irishtown Road, Dublin.
Thomas M'Laren.
- Irish Post Office Clerks*—J. M'Carthy, 3 Carlisle Terrace.
R. H. Croker, "The Retreat," Limerick.
- Irish Stationary Engine Drivers*—R. Henderson, 26 Lower Gardiner Street.
J. O'Grady, Pigeon House Fort, Dublin.
- Kilkenny Trades Council*—Alderman M'Carthy.
Walter Waters.
- Limerick Trades Council*—John Vaughan.
D. Donovan.
D. O'Driscoll.
M. Harvey.
- Limerick Bakers' Society*—James Molony, 6 St. Munchin's Terrace.
Patrick Maher, New Road.
- Limerick Coopers*—Joseph Bowles.
- Limerick Gascorks*—M. Keating, 65 Henry Street.
S. Tobin, 1 North Strand.
S. Halpin, 2 Stokes Lane.
- Limerick Plumbers' Society*—Thomas Lynch, 10 Newenham Street.
- Mechanics Institute (Limerick)*—P. Walsh, T.C.
John Lynch.
- Painters Society (Limerick)*—Joseph Buckner, Gerald Griffin Street.
W. Allen.
- Plumbers (Dublin Branch)*—John Kelly, Trades Hall.
- Postmen's Federation*—H. J. Lincoln, 4 Lanhill Road, London.
T. Donovan, 18 South View, Cork.
- Postmen's Federation (Limerick Branch)*—T. Guina, 3 Roche's Street.
J. Lahiff, Mount Pleasant Avenue.
- Prudential Agents' Association*—W. Bunting, 14 Bloomdale Street, Belfast.
- Railway Clerks' Association*—J. St. C. Halfpenny, 337 Grays' Inn Road, London.
- Royal Liver Agents*—J. Haulon, 21 St. Ignatius Road, Dublin.
- Shop Assistants Union*—J. Feenan, 24 Clondara Street, Belfast.
E. W. Stewart, 179 Clonliffe Road, Dublin.
- Textile Operatives' Society*—Elizabeth M'Caughy, 40 Sebastopol Street.
Mary Galway, 31 Crocus Street, Belfast.
- Typographical Society (Limerick)*—J. Christie, 3 Mountpleasant Avenue.
- Typographical Association*—T. Cassidy, 1 Clifton Street, Derry.
H. M'Manus, 14 Ardmoulin Street, Belfast.
- Workers' Union*—J. Harris, 11 Victoria Street, Belfast.
- U.K.S. Coachmakers*—T. Boyle, 8 Richmond Row.
T. Milner, 22 Temple Street, Dublin.

STANDING ORDERS.

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

2. Delegates' Qualifications.—The Congress shall consist of (1) Delegated members or officials from *bona fide* trade and labour unions who are or have been practical workers at the trade or calling they represent; (2) delegated members or officials from recognised trades councils or similar bodies; and (3) any person qualified to represent a trade or labour union on any Irish trade or labour council duly affiliated to Congress, shall be eligible to represent such trade or labour union at Congress. The Delegates fees (15s. each), affiliation fees (as per Rule 3), and all personal expenses allowed such Delegates must be defrayed by the union or council they represent.

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. *Scrutineers* (3) shall be appointed before the distribution of the ballot papers for the election of the Parliamentary Committee, and shall hand in a signed report to the Chairman of Congress as early as possible after vouching for the accuracy of the returns.

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

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.

- AFFILIATION with Labour Party, 28.
Afforestation, 6.
Apprentices Technical Training, 13.
Arbitration, 11.
Asylum Employes, 54.
Affiliation Fees, 60.
- BAKEHOUSES, Night Work in, 7, 9, 33.
Birrell's (Mr.) Letter, 6.
Bills Introduced, 1909, 19.
Balance Sheet, 52, 59.
Board of Trade and Arbitration, 11.
- CHARACTER, Notes, 9, 43.
Children Act, 2.
Contracts, Local Bodies, 53.
Chief Secretary's Letter, 6.
Co-operation, 18, 38.
Copyright Act, 11.
Contracts, War Department, 14, 34.
Congress Officials, 22.
Compulsory Early Closing, 33.
Congress and Trades Disputes, 47.
Congress for 1910, 58.
Coachmakers' Grievances, 57.
- DEPUTATION to Mr. Redmond, 8.
Dublin Labour Journal, 58.
Dock Labourers' Disputes, 15.
Dockers' Protection, 16.
- ELECTORAL Reform, 27.
Early Closing, 33.
Enginemens' Certificates, 44.
- FACTORY Inspection, 6, 8, 15, 31.
Fair Wages Resolution, 7, 13.
Foreign Goods, Marking, 7.
Foreign-made Butter Packages, 14.
Female Factory Inspectors, 6, 8.
Fines and Living-in, 12.
- HACKNEY Carriage Inspection, 8.
Housing, 2, 9, 34.
Hours of Labour, 32, 34.
Hairdressers Shops, 34.
- IRISH Trade Mark, 8.
Irish Trade Unions, 50.
Industrial Revival and Fair Wages, 50.
Irish Primary Education, 36.
Irish Manufacture and Importation, 45.
Industrial Assurance, 53.
Irish Textile Industry, 56.

LABOUR Exchanges Bill, 5.
 Living-in, 12, 43.
 List of Delegates, 61.
 Local Government Elections, 30.

MARKING Foreign Goods, 7.
 Merchandise Marks Act, 8.
 Military *v.* Civilian Labour, 35.

NIGHT Work in Bakehouses, 7, 33.
 National University, 37.

OLD Age Pensions, 3, 30.
 Ordnance Workshops, 7.
 Opening Proceedings, 20.
 Outworking, 6, 31.

PARLIAMENTARY Committee's Report, 2, 39.
 Parliamentary Committee Nominations, 28.
 Parliamentary Committee Election, 50.
 Petition on Unemployment, 4.
 Prison-made Brushes, 35.
 Postal Servants' Grievances, 7, 35.
 President's Address, 22.
 Private Bill Legislation, 9.
 Public Bodies and Winter Work, 53.
 Printing Offices, Inspection of, 54.
 Past Congresses, 2nd page of Cover.

RAILWAY Commission (Irish), 17.
 Railway Grievances, 44.
 Redmond's (Mr.) Speech, 9.
 Returning Officers' Fees, 28.
 Right to Work Bill, 5, 8.

SHOP Hours, 9, 17, 33.
 Sweated Industries, 8, 17, 32.
 Standing Orders, Amendments of, 55.
 Standing Orders Committee's Report, 29, 30, 33, 43, 49.
 Standing Orders, 63.
 Sunday Trading, 9.

TECHNICAL Training, 13, 38, 54.
 Trades Boards Bill, 17, 32.
 Truck Act, 9, 37.
 Trades Disputes, 47.
 T.A. and the D.T.P.S., 48.
 Trade Union Label or Stamp, 52.

UNEMPLOYMENT, 4.

VOTES of Condolence, 38
 Votes of Thanks, 58.

WAR Department Contracts, 14, 34.



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 Union Congress

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1910.