

"LABOR OMNIA VINCIT."

REPORT

OF THE

EIGHTEENTH

Irish Trades Union Congress,

HELD IN THE

TOWN HALL, GALWAY,

ON

JUNE 5th, 6th and 7th, 1911.

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

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June 5th, 6th and 7th 1911.

Edited by P. T. DALY.



Irish Labour Party
& Trade Union Congress

13/79

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Committee.*

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REPORT
EIGHTEENTH

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE, 1911-12.

CHAIRMAN:

MR. M. J. O'LEHANE, DUBLIN.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

MR. JOSEPH CLARKE, DUBLIN.

Miss MARY GALWAY, Belfast.

R. O'CARROLL, T.C., P.L.G.,
Dublin.

W. O'BRIEN, Dublin.

GEORGE GREIG, Belfast.

JIM LARKIN, Dublin.

TREASURER:

D. R. CAMPBELL, 11 KIMBERLEY-STREET, BELFAST

(To whom all Remittances should be made payable).

SECRETARY:

P. T. DALY, TRADES HALL, DUBLIN

(To whom all Communications should be addressed).

REPORT
OF THE
18th Annual Irish Trades Union
Congress,
GALWAY, 1911.

FIRST DAY—JUNE 5th, 1911.

The Eighteenth Annual Irish Trades Union Congress opened in the Town Hall, Galway, on Monday, June 5th, 1911. The Secretary having called the delegates to order, announced that Miss Mary Galway (Belfast), Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, would open the Congress.

Miss Galway, having taken the chair, said it gave her much pleasure to open the proceedings at that their Eighteenth Annual Congress (hear, hear). She hoped the business would be conducted in such a way as would reflect credit on the labour movement in Ireland—with strength, and yet with moderation, but, above all, with self-respect and self-reliance (applause). The Parliamentary Committee had been considering a number of the questions which were to be dealt with, and they had instructed her to state that pending the decision of Standing Orders Committee the delegates of the Workers' Union and of the Dublin Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Farriers would not be permitted to take part in the proceedings (applause). They had decided to leave the matter of credentials in the hands of Congress. She declared Congress open (loud applause).

Mr. Larkin (Dublin) said that under the circumstances the delegates concerned should withdraw.

Mr. Harris, the delegate representing the Workers' Union, said he would not withdraw.

Mr. Larkin said that, so far as he was concerned, he would see that no business would be transacted until these delegates obeyed the ruling of the chair.

Mr. Harris said he would not withdraw at the dictation of Mr. Larkin.

There were loud cries of "Order," but the two delegates taking part remained on their feet.

Mr. Larkin was heard to say that no clique would be allowed to rule the Congress.

Mr. Egan, J.P. (Cork), said the delegates concerned had a perfect right to remain in the hall, as there were members of the public present.

Mr. Larkin—Yes, in the public gallery; but not on the floor of the Congress.

After some discussion,

The Vice-Chairman ruled that neither of the delegates concerned should participate in the business of the Congress until after the report of the Parliamentary Committee was submitted.

OFFICIAL WELCOME.

Mr. H. M. A. Murphy, Vice-Chairman of the Galway Urban Council, in rising to welcome the delegates to Galway, said they had to thank, in the first instance, their committee for selecting Galway, and in view of their coming there, they had endeavoured, as far as possible, to keep the spell of good weather until their visit would be over (laughter). They would be impressed with one thing certainly, that they would see, unfortunately, a great number of ruins of the past of Galway. Seeing the work that the trades unionists had done over and over again in different parts of Ireland for the advancement of trade and commerce, they had a great deal of confidence in their body, and they were especially thankful to them for coming amongst them at such a crucial moment. It was crucial because of the hopes at present held out that Galway would be established as a port for the All-Red Route (applause). He trusted that their hopes would not be shattered by any rival schemes in Ireland, and that Galway would get the position to which the city was entitled as a stepping-stone from the old world to the new (applause). They had great hopes that this might come to pass. Galway, as they knew, even at present, although its trade and commerce had been declining, yet held some position in the commercial world. Its situation was admirably adapted for this particular scheme. They stood at the outermost point of the Western coast, the nearest point to America, and were connected with the city of Dublin by a splendid line of railway running through the midland counties, and making an excellent centre of distribution for the North and South of Ireland. They all hoped that this scheme would come to Ireland, because it would be a national benefit; and if it came to Ireland, then Galway was the place to which it should come (applause). Mr. Murphy went on to say that the trades unionists had been doing splendid work to encourage trade and commerce in Ireland for the last eighteen years; and he only hoped that they would

be able to continue that work with greater advantage to themselves, and that they would bring some of the benefits to Galway, where they were so badly needed (applause). Representing, as he did, the Galway Urban Council, who were the representatives of the Galway people, he had only again to thank them, and to hope that during their stay in Galway, they would not only have useful and fruitful discussions and do good work, but that they would enjoy themselves (applause).

Dr. T. Walsh, the Chairman of the Galway Reception Committee (who was received with loud cheers), on behalf of the Urban Council and the citizens and workers of Galway, was pleased to support Mr. Murphy's welcome. The coming of the delegates at the present was, as Mr. Murphy had suggested, a sign of hope. He did not know what strange chance inspired them to fix upon Galway for their Congress—a city in which there was practically no trade—but he hoped, whatever chance it was, it would be both fortunate for the delegates and for Galway (applause). Walking around the city, they could see that Galway was not always at the low ebb at which it was to-day. It was at one time one of the chief seaports of the United Kingdom; it was the centre of such trade and commerce as there was at that time; it was the distributing centre for the greater part of Ireland. Circumstances, political and economical, brought about a change, with the result that Galway now stood at is was at present. But there were signs, as Mr. Murphy had said, that there was a change for the better (hear, hear), and they took their advent amongst them as the first signal of the change. They looked upon them as the doves coming back with the olive branch; they looked upon them as the sign that the flood of apathy and neglect which had been surrounding them for centuries was at last declining; and on that account the people of Galway would welcome them with very warm hearts, though they could not afford to do so with such open hands as they would wish. But, although Galway could not provide them with the artificial entertainments with which they were accustomed to be provided in other cities, he could say that perhaps in no county in the United Kingdom could they put at their disposal more of the entertainments provided by nature (applause). They had magnificent lake and river and sea, mountains, moor, and bog scenery, and he hoped that they would enjoy them all to the full (loud applause).

Mr. Moloney, U.D.C., and Mr. Michael Crowley, U.D.C., also extended to the delegates a hearty céao míle fáilte.

Mr. Joseph Simon, Secretary of the Reception Committee (who was greeted with loud applause), said it was with great pleasure he rose to support the expressions of welcome. Although Galway was a city with a glorious past, it was to-day a city of decay; but they hoped and expected that the Trades Congress would have an effect that would live for time, and restore it to the position it once held as the city of the West (applause). As far as the workers

of Galway were concerned, they had a good old Irish cead mile failte for them (applause). About twelve months ago the first spark of trades unionism was lighted in Galway by the establishment of a branch of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners. This society had done wonders, and they hoped that their fellows would do the same in the future. It was expected that they would try to do their best after the Congress. They had hoped for the formation of a Trades Council before the Congress, but it did not come up to their expectations. He attributed that to the fact that it was now late in the day to teach the older workers trades unionism. The seed of it should have been sown forty years ago (applause), and should have borne fruit in having Galway that day a town of prosperity, and not of decay. He deplored the fact that local contractors in Galway sent abroad to Denmark and elsewhere for the raw material when they could get it in Galway as good, if not far better, than from the foreigner (applause). He believed that those materials must have been made under unfair conditions, when they could be brought from one end of the world to the other and be sold there at a cheaper rate than the local man could manufacture them. "Where," he declared, "is the use of speaking of supporting industries when you will not get home industries supported by men in your own town? Why should any capitalist plant up-to-date machinery in any town when they had their own contractors sending to foreign countries for the material, and getting it manufactured and wrought in Galway?" They have to-day a firm, Messrs. McDonagh and Sons, equipped with the best machinery obtainable, and he was sorry that it was neglected, and not used by their contractors. They would, it appears, sooner have the foreigner than give a shilling to the local employer. How could they expect those men to employ them when their contractors won't support them? He might say that Mr. Martin McDonagh is Chairman of the Urban Council—and they were all very sorry that he was ill—and he had sent a message to him to-day that he was in ill-health, and that he was in sympathy with the movement, and that he will stand by them in every sense of the word, and was sorry that he could not attend (applause).

Mr. M'Carroll, T.C., Derry, moved a vote of thanks to the Urban Council representatives. He mentioned that a branch of the Tailors' Association had been established in Galway for the last forty years (applause).

Mr. Walker, Belfast, seconded, and it was adopted by acclamation.

ELECTION OF CONGRESS OFFICERS.

Mr. Joseph Simon (Amalgamated Society of Carpenters), Galway, was unanimously elected Assistant Secretary.

Messrs. John Murphy (Belfast), Timothy Hegarty (Cork), and Thomas Lawlor, P.L.G. (Dublin), were appointed Tellers.

Messrs. Henry Rochford (50 votes), Wm. Hayes (48 votes), P. J. Lea, P.L.G. (43 votes); W. Walker, J.P. (34 votes), and William O'Brien (32 votes) were elected as Standing Orders Committee. Messrs. Greig (13 votes) and Patrick Lynch (23 votes) were also nominated.

Messrs. P. Lynch, P.L.G., and John Hanlon were elected Auditors.

On the motion of Mr. Joseph Simon (Galway), seconded by Mr. P. J. Lea, P.L.G. (Dublin), Mr. D. R. Campbell (National Union of Life Assurance Agents, Belfast) was unanimously elected President of Congress.

Upon rising to deliver his address, the President was received with loud applause. He said:—

FELLOW-DELEGATES—I desire at the outset to return you my sincere and heartfelt thanks for having honoured me by selecting me to preside over our Eighteenth Annual Congress. It is with a considerable amount of trepidation and diffidence that I attempt to occupy the position so ably and suitably filled by my predecessors. The year which we look back upon has witnessed nothing important nor vital to the interests of trade unionists. Notwithstanding the improved state of the labour market, and the consequent increased prosperity of the people, it is saddening to relate that the unemployed, the disinherited, despoiled, and dispirited “out-of-work” is still to be found in plenty in our midst. In times gone by economists looked on this as a natural and inevitable phenomenon of our commercial system when depression ensued; but it has for a considerable time been clearly demonstrated that even in the most prosperous periods there is a vast horde of dispossessed toilers vainly searching for work, appealing and begging for permission to labour—“leave to live by other men’s leave,” as the Jingo poet hath it (applause). What a striking commentary on our boasted civilisation—our higher education—our advanced thought! In order that a select few might continue to live lives of idleness, ease, and luxury, replete with every artifice to keep alive their jaded senses, thousands of honest, willing citizens must be kept in enforced idleness, penury, and privation! (Hear, hear.) For this is what it works out to—

THE WORKER IS DENIED HIS INALIENABLE RIGHT TO LABOUR,

in order that he and his should live and enjoy, simply because he cannot be used to another’s advantage (applause). I speak as one who has never suffered, personally, from the pangs and privation resultant from want of work, but as one who has had ample opportunity of observing the horrible ruin it works in the flower of our race. The problem of unemployment is the vastest and

most appalling of our age; but I sometimes think if half the wit and ingenuity at present expended in the devising of new machines for the destruction of life and property, or other useless projects, was applied to a sane scheme for giving our people the opportunity to "live" we would indeed be blest (applause).

"Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

Would that we could imbue those in office with the belief that a healthy, independent race of free people was, as the poet said, the only real wealth that mattered:—

"This wealth is but a name
That leaves our useful products still the same:
Not so the loss."

(Loud applause.) But is there a remedy Yes, we believe there is. Is not, then, this state a divine ordination? We believe not. We are of opinion that all that is necessary on the part of our legislators is the desire to remedy the existing state of affairs (hear, hear). "Where there's a will there's a way," is an adage of our childhood, and here it seems to be peculiarly applicable. On several occasions has the Labour Party's

RIGHT TO WORK BILL

been introduced in the British House of Commons, only to meet with a disheartening reception. The meagre support accorded it has certainly not been encouraging, but, nevertheless, we believe, with all its shortcomings, it is the only genuine attempt which has been made to cure, in a practical fashion, this heartrending, social evil (applause). What is it that is wrong. Is it that these islands are too poor to provide Is it that Mother Nature has dealt out her share with a sparing hand? Nothing of the kind, but the reverse. All that is necessary to make a happy, contented, enlightened, and ennobled community is here in our midst (hear, hear). What, then, is wrong? Is there a delegate in this assembly to-day who has any doubt as to the cancer, who is still in ignorance of the simple process which results in a third of our population being continually below the level of subsistence I think not. I hope I may be pardoned for appearing to labour this aspect of our present-day condition, but I submit that there is no more direct challenge to the efficacy of our organisations, no graver indictment of our apathy, no more threatening menace to our continued well-being than the unemployed and idle unit at both ends of the scale (loud applause). Here we have the complete diagnosis of the disease. I subscribe fully and wholeheartedly to the doctrine that

"HE WHO SHALL NOT WORK NEITHER SHALL HE EAT,"

and the sooner we lend our aid to give it practical effect the better (hear, hear). It is high time the worker allowed the "other

fellow" to slide off his back in order that he might strengthen his vertebræ, which has been too long bent. The removal of the Poor Law disqualifications from the Old Age Pensions Act was a much-needed reform, which has not come a moment too soon. As a member of a Pensions Sub-Committee I have had ample opportunity of seeing how cruelly this restriction worked,

DENYING TO THOSE WHO WERE LIKELY TO BENEFIT

to the greatest extent the relief afforded by the Act. Long overdue as this piece of legislation was, it is gratifying to record that no more humane work has been done for the aged toilers of our country (applause). That being so, let us bestir ourselves, and secure that the much-needed reduction in the qualifying age and other improvements shall not be unduly belated (hear, hear). Few of those assembled here can hope to reach the allotted span of three score and ten; and it is regrettable to observe that a great many who now do, draw not their pensions for long. A speedy reduction of the age limit to 65, and in special cases to 60, should be our aim (applause). The disabilities under which our unions suffer by reason of the now famous "Osborne judgment" tend not to diminish, but rather increase, with the lapse of time. The ramifications of this piece of iniquitous class ruling have been varied and interesting, and I am seriously concerned now as to whether it would not have been wiser for the various unions to have accepted and followed the advice given by some at the time—to

IGNORE THE JUDGMENT ALTOGETHER AND CREATE AN IMPASSE

—probably a more effective piece of propaganda than that chosen (hear, hear). As it is, we hope the Labour Party will spare neither time nor energy in their demand for a complete reversal of this judgment, and a full restoration to unions of the right to indulge in all forms of political propaganda permitted to the individual (loud applause). It is to be regretted that the formation of the "Boards" provided for under the "Trades Boards Act" has not been proceeded with in a more earnest fashion. Already in the sister isle some of the scheduled trades are beginning to reap the benefit of the Act, and nowhere should its application be more welcomed than in this country. As an instance of how this Act is

BEING ADMINISTERED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE TOILERS,

let me quote a few figures relating to past and present earnings of those engaged in some of the scheduled trades. The starvation wage earned by the women chain-makers at Crudley Heath has been increased from 1*d.* per hour to a minimum of 2½*d.* per hour, and that of the lace finishers of Nottingham from 1½*d.* per hour to a minimum of 3*d.* per hour. This indicates the boon this piece

of legislation has been to the poorly-paid worker. But the latest instance, that of the "boxmakers" of London, Birmingham, &c., serves to illustrate even more forcibly the great need there was for such "Boards" as the Act provides for. The wages of these workers, who, like outworkers in all other trades, labour in and pay the rent out of their own homes, ranged from $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $1\frac{3}{4}d.$ per hour. The new rates fixed by the Board of Trade are:—

From July 1, 1911, ...	...	$2\frac{3}{4}d.$ an hour.
From February 1, 1912, ...	...	$3d.$ an hour.
From February 1, 1913, ...	...	$3\frac{1}{4}d.$ an hour.

Calculated on a fifty-two hour week, this last-mentioned rate will yield a wage of of $14s. 1d.$, and the difference between $7s.$ or $8s.$ and $14s. 1d.$ to a Hoxton box-maker only a Hoxton box-maker knows (applause). It behoves, however, the workers and, indeed, trade unionists generally, to keep a

CLOSE SUPERVISION OVER THE SELECTION OF INDIVIDUALS

to represent the workers on these "Boards," as already there is evidence of the "gentle influence" of the "master hand" being brought to bear in this respect. The subject of "sweating" having loomed so largely in the public eye in my native city during the year, I may be excused if I briefly refer to it. Arising out of a scathing condemnation of the "low rate of wages paid to outworkers in the linen and cognate trades," contained in the report of the Public Health Officer for Belfast (Dr. Bailie), the Health Committee of the Corporation inquired closely into the charges,

AND FOUND THEM FULLY JUSTIFIED

(applause). Subsequent public demonstrations organised by the workers of the city were held, at which a "sworn inquiry" into the conditions and wages paid in the linen and allied trades were demanded, and all possible measures used to enforce the demand being met.

It is pleasing to record that the Government, after considering the matter for nine months, has finally announced that an inquiry will be held. This achievement is due in a large measure to the persistence with which the case for the workers was put by Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., the only representative of the city having any sympathy for, or the slightest actual knowledge of, the condition of the people who toil for bread (applause).

"They work and starve, their children breathe and die :
 For we, that count as men, have sunk so low.
 We set our wives to labour, eat the bread
 Of children, from the cup of misery drink
 The bloody tears that we still cause to flow.

THE EDUCATION OF THE YOUTH OF THIS COUNTRY

is one of the most important subjects to which the workers could devote their attention. The recent reports issued by inspectors demonstrate most clearly the ineptitude of our present system of privately managed schools, disclosing in some parts a state of affairs which would disgrace a Hottentot village (hear, hear). I have been privileged to inspect some of them, and believe them to be more fit for rearing swine than for the education of our children. Protests have been made all over the country time and again, but without any practical result. This, in my opinion, will ever be so until the people of the country shall demand that

THE CONTROL OF THE WHOLE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

shall be vested in the people themselves (loud applause). Then, and only then, will it be possible to impart to our children an education worthy of the name, under sanitary conditions and an atmosphere that bespeaks knowledge. Then, and only then, can we hope to lay that foundation upon which the future men and women of our nation are to be reared (applause). To my mind, the question of the education of the child transcends all others. The fact that we have so consistently neglected it in the past shows that we ourselves have not yet appreciated the true meaning of education. I may be charged with holding an obtuse view of this question, but I am strongly of opinion that if we

CEASED TO PLACE SO MUCH RELIANCE ON "BOOK EDUCATION"

and endeavoured to impart to the child information at first hand on the realities of the life by which it is surrounded, developing the naturally inherent gifts of each, we would be treading the proper path. The monumental ignorance of the average child leaving school, say, at fourteen years of age, is saddening to observe. One is tempted to dwell on this aspect of our treatment of the child, but time forbids. Let me say, however, that, in my humble opinion, the information imparted and the methods employed in the early years of the child are of infinitely greater importance than any other activities of our educational system, Technical or University.

THE ACT FOR THE FEEDING OF NECESSITIOUS SCHOOL CHILDREN

has conferred an inestimable boon on the children of the poor in the sister isle. Why such a beneficent piece of legislation was not made applicable to Ireland from the outset passes my comprehension. Surely, if there was one spot in the Empire where such a humanitarian act as the feeding of the hungry was a crying need, that spot was Ireland (applause), where, on the meagre wage earned by the majority of workers, it is absolutely impossible to feed the children. The operations of the Act in England have demonstrated that not only can the school children be fed cheaper

but that the consistent, scientific dieting has been exceedingly beneficial from a health standpoint. To attempt to instruct the child whose stomach is empty, is a piece of refined cruelty—incompatible with our claim to be a civilized community—more barbarous than the lowest animal (hear, hear). In different parts of the country, from city and urban councils, and other public bodies, have resolutions gone forth demanding that the scope of the measure referred to shall be speedily broadened to include our island. Let us join with them in that demand (applause), so that that the hungry child shall have proper nutrition, the best piece of education it is in our power to bestow.

THE MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

should also be made compulsory in this country. There is now only one opinion on how to secure a healthy population, viz.—by careful attention to the children in their early years. The experience gained by the application of this method, and notably by the operation of school-clinics in various parts of England, demonstrates that thousands of useful lives are yearly sacrificed on the altar of apathy. Let us be active, then, and use our undoubted influence to remove such a terrible reproach (hear, hear). The recently suggested

REVIVAL OF THE EIGHT HOURS' DAY AGITATION

should speedily find a reflex on this side of the Channel. No object more deserving of serious attention and earnest propaganda on the part of trade unions could be mentioned. We are, I think, fully agreed that eight hours per day is sufficient for any man or woman to work. Why, then, should we falter in our efforts to secure it? The great Australian Labour Party was practically built up through its endeavour to secure this concession, and this should be an earnest time for us to go on and do likewise. The reduction of the hours of labour, besides lightening the burden of toil on the vast body of workers, would, in addition, absorb many thousands at present unemployed, and thus act as a factor in the solution of that pressing problem. In this regard, one cannot refrain from paying a tribute to

THE PRINTING TRADES' FEDERATION

in their successful issue from their recent battle for a reduction in the hours of labour and improved conditions. Defeats, on the workers' side have been, in recent years, so much the order of the day, that it is pleasing to be able to record this victory on the part of the printing trades—a victory over which every trade unionist in the country must feel proud. This success may be taken as an indication, and by some will be viewed as a demonstration, that the only hope of the workers in the future lies in strong concerted action, guided by a federation of all the different units concerned. This expresses my own personal opinion. Quite

recently, in my own city, we had a threatened stopping of work on the part of a whole industry, in justification of certain claims made by the workers engaged therein. This spirit of unity, and its manifestations, have been called by various names; but without quarrelling over terminology, let us agree that where one toiler is wounded—

WHERE ONE TRADE OR CRAFT IS INJURED—

the whole body suffers (hear, hear). The introduction of the Bill for State Insurance against invalidity and unemployment is so recent as almost to forbid comment. Not until one has carefully studied the full text of the Bill would one be justified in offering criticisms of its provisions. Trade unionists, however, desiring that no curtailment of their sphere of action shall result, no encroachment on the rights, which have taken generations of toil, sacrifice, and suffering to establish, must keep a close watch on the development of the measure. Where the danger of this lies must be apparent to all who have followed the comments since the introduction of the Bill. At the same time, it must be conceded that no measure has been introduced in recent years so pregnant with possibilities of social well-being (applause). As the realisation of these, however, will largely depend

ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES

foreshadowed by the Bill, it were prudent to refrain from further comment at present. I do not wish to unduly prolong my remarks, but ere concluding I should like to refer, briefly, to a subject which should be of interest to all organised workers of this country. At different Congresses resolutions have been put forward and pious opinions expressed that the workers of this island would be acting wisely in endeavouring to construct a party of its own, with the object of furthering and developing the many social projects in which they take a deep interest (loud applause). I feel, then, that I should be neglecting my duty did I not suggest that, after having long considered this matter from an academic standpoint, we set ourselves seriously about doing something to give our desires practical shape. Far be it from me to animadvert on the sins of omission or commission of others, but let me here point out that the old adage, "If you desire a thing well done, do it yourself," seems to be particularly apposite. In all those countries where the intelligence of the workers has been concentrated on

THE FORMATION OF A "WORKERS PARTY,"

there industrial and social legislation has been the most progressive. The reasons for this are obvious (hear, hear). Let our motto be: "Ourselves by ourselves be befriended"; for whether our legislation continues to emanate from Westminster—which seems unlikely—or whether it finds expression nearer home, the

task of the workers of this country will ever be the same—to keep a watchful eye over everything presumably done on their behalf, and to have a say in the doing of it. Only let us approach the subject in a spirit of true comradeship and success is sure to follow. And now time insists that I shall draw my remarks to a close; and in so doing let me express a wish that we shall cling as steadfastly as ever to our principles, with the constant faith that our endeavours to uplift and educate will be a determining factor in our country's development. Imbued with

ASPIRATIONS LAUDABLE AND ENNOBLING,

let our fight be one, ever waged against the havoc wrought by the "devil's-hoof of competition," with the death-blight for ever in its trail, carried on until we establish the rights of those who create, but enjoy not, for the purity of the sweated woman and the starved child; until the "beauty of life" has been restored to the despoiled, responding eagerly to our comrade's call—

"Come, ye that listen, rise and gird your swords,
Win back the fields of Ireland for the poor.
Give roses to your children's fading cheeks,
And to the hearts of women hope again,
Bring back content unto the lives of men."

(Loud cheering).

On the motion of Alderman McCarthy (Kilkenny), seconded by Mr. J. Larkin (Dublin), a hearty vote of thanks was passed, by acclamation, to the President for his eloquent and thoroughly practical address.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Mr. Arthur Murphy, P.L.G. (Dublin), proposed, and Mr. T. Hegarty (Cork), seconded the adoption of the Report of the Parliamentary Committee, as follows:—

FELLOW-DELEGATES.—In presenting their report for the past twelve months, your Committee regret that through a number of causes—but more especially to the state of public business in Parliament, the discussion and conference on the Veto Bill and the Budget, as well as the consequent disarrangement of legislative enactment resulting on the dissolution of Parliament—there has been little progress in furthering the demands of the workers of Ireland as pronounced at the last Congress.

Following the customary procedure, copies of all the resolutions adopted at the Seventeenth Annual Congress at Dundalk were forwarded to the various Parties in Parliament, as directed, with covering letters. This course was also adopted in forwarding the resolutions to the various Ministers, Government Departments, and

officials concerned, as well as to the various urban, rural, and district councils and other public bodies; but your Committee regret that further than acknowledgments of a formal character they have little to report under this head.

Obituary.—Your Committee regret to chronicle that since the last Congress the labour movement in Ireland has lost the services of the late Mr. Hugh MacManus, a past President and Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee. His loss to the Trades Union movement in Ireland, but particularly in the provincial portions of the country, may be well said to be irreparable, and his work in enforcing the Fair Wages Resolution will be missed by every section of workers in the country. Your Committee were represented at the obsequies by their Chairman, Mr. D. R. Campbell, and at their meeting following the late Mr. MacManus's demise adopted the following motion, which was forwarded to his bereaved widow:

“That we desire to place on record our sincere sorrow at the demise of the late Hugh MacManus, Irish Organiser of the Typographical Association, a former member and secretary of this Committee; that his death has removed from the ranks of the Irish Trades Union movement a stalwart leader, whose work in the provincial towns of Ireland has been of inestimable service to all grades of the Irish Labour movement, and whose loss may be well said to be irreparable; that we extend to his bereaved widow and relatives this our heartfelt expression of sympathy in their great sorrow; and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Mrs. MacManus and to the Press.”

The Payment of Members and Returning Officers' Fees.—Your Committee had this matter under consideration at their meeting immediately following the pronouncement of Mr. J. E. Redmond, M.P., that Ireland should be excluded from the provisions of the measure, and the following resolution was adopted and forwarded to the leaders of the different sections of the representatives of Ireland in Parliament, as well as to the Chief Secretary for Ireland and the Chancellor of the Exchequer:—

“That we reiterate the demand of the Irish Trades Congress, already forwarded to the leaders of all parties in the House of Commons, that members of Parliament should be paid, and we demand that in any Bill introduced with this object Ireland shall be included; and, furthermore, we are of opinion that the fees of Returning Officers should be an Imperial charge and defrayed by the State.”

Replies were received from Mr. J. E. Redmond, M.P., formally acknowledging the resolution; from Mr. W. O'Brien, M.P., assuring your Committee of his hearty concurrence; and from the Chief Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer acknowledging the receipt of the resolution.

Your Committee sought to interview the Right Hon. the Chief Secretary for Ireland on this and other matters, but regret that their efforts were not successful. Your Committee desire to gratefully acknowledge the efforts of Mr. J. P. Nannetti, M.P., in this connection, as well as his ardent support on all questions affecting

the Trades Union movement in Ireland. Your Committee heard with deep regret of his recent severe illness, and had pleasure in congratulating him on his recovery.

Your Committee also sought an interview with Mr. J. E. Redmond, M.P., but owing to various causes the hon. gentleman could not receive them until the Whitsuntide Recess.

Public Bodies in Ireland and the Irish Trades Union Congress.—Your Committee desire to reiterate the wishes of former Parliamentary Committees in regard to the very urgent need for organization amongst the workers of Ireland to press upon the various elective bodies in the country the necessity for these bodies giving due consideration to their claims. Although there has been a slight increase in the interest shown by the bodies referred to over other years, still in the great majority of cases the demands of the Congress, if not utterly ignored, are treated with scant courtesy, and are either marked “read,” “postponed for further consideration,” or barely read to the meeting and no action taken. The Dublin Corporation and the Dublin Boards of Guardians, North and South, endorsed the demands of the Congress at Dundalk, but we regret to say that events proved in connection with at least one of these Boards that the endorsement was merely “lip service.” The resolutions were also endorsed by the Clonmel Corporation. Your Committee hope therefore that steps shall be taken at once to secure for labour a fair representation on all Irish public boards, in order that the interests of the workers may be properly safeguarded.

The Osborne Judgment.—Your Committee regret very much that although they forwarded the resolution adopted at last Congress to the Leaders of the various political parties in the House of Commons, they received only formal acknowledgments in reply, excepting the Labour Party, who expressed their hearty concurrence with the terms of the resolution. As this question is so closely connected with that dealt with in the former paragraph, your Committee are glad to report that the matter is at present being pressed forward.

Public Contracts and the Fair Wages Resolution.—Your Committee regret to learn that a number of public boards are to be found in Ireland who still flout the demands of the workers for the recognition of the Fair Wages Resolution, and allow the work executed for them to be done under unfair conditions of labour. The excuse formerly offered was the fear of members' surcharge, but the following judgment given by the Chief Baron in the Court of King's Bench has removed that fear. In quashing the surcharges, he said:—

“The first matter we have to decide is whether the surcharge in respect of the boots should be allowed. It appears to me, and,

looking at the whole case (although I do not think that it is accurately stated in the minute prepared at the time), I hold, that the true reason of the action of the prosecutors was that contained in the statement of Mr. Jones, of which a *precis* was taken down by the auditor. It is this:—'We are bound under the rules by the fair rate of wages resolution, and we know, as a matter of fact'—and I may say for myself that the correspondence shows that that was the truth—'that this tender that was not accepted was a tender by a house that did not accept that fair trade resolution, and whose general business was not conducted according to that resolution.' Now, the fact of their general business not being governed by the resolution did not render them incompetent to tender, but I think it was a matter that these gentlemen were entitled to take into consideration, when they were considering whether or not they would accept the tender. Public bodies in their efforts to carry out, as best they can, the resolutions of the House of Commons, ought not only to put this clause into their contracts, but also should guard to the best of their ability against that clause being rendered a dead letter by their action, giving rise to difficulties in their ascertaining whether it had been complied with or not. I was very much struck from the commencement of Mr. Matheson's argument with this: How could it be ascertained, by what kind of supervision could it be ascertained, that this fair wages resolution was applied to this particular work in an establishment which was generally worked upon different principles? It is stated in the affidavit of the manager of the establishment that he divides his business into different departments—I suppose one department in reference to the soles of boots, and another in reference to the preparation of uppers, and a third in relation to sewing on the uppers to the soles—but if, in each of these departments, the same one man was, during a certain number of hours in the day, to work at one rate of wages, that is, at the lower rate, and during another part of the day, that is, when he was working for the asylum, at a higher rate of wages. How would it be possible for the Committee to check and see that this resolution had been fairly and honourably carried out? I think that was the substance of what actuated these gentlemen, although the words of this minute are not very accurate; and I think they were entitled to take into consideration the fact that the establishment did not adopt that resolution generally, and give weight to it in determining which of the particular tenders in question they would accept."

So that the action of any public board in giving away a contract to a firm who employs underpaid or sweated labour shows not a fear of surcharge of its members, but a deliberate violation of fair play to the workers, and your Committee trust that action may be taken by the organized workers to prevent a recurrence of such treatment in the future.

State Insurance.—Another of the schemes considered at the last Congress was the question of State Insurance, and your Committee

are glad to report that the Government has introduced a Bill to deal with the matter, but as the P.C. has had no opportunity of considering it, whilst heartily approving of the principle underlying the Bill, they are not in a position to endorse all its provisions.

Royal Commission on Life Assurance.—The motion requesting the representatives of Ireland in the House of Commons to interview the President of the Board of Trade on the question of the appointment of a Royal Commission on Life Assurance was forwarded to the different parties, but only formal acknowledgments were received from Mr. Redmond and Mr. O'Brien, whilst the Unionist Party did not as yet extend the courtesy of an acknowledgment.

Shops Bill.—Your Committee were disappointed that the Home Secretary did not introduce the Shops Bill during the Autumn Session. It has however been introduced during the present Session, and whilst hailing with satisfaction any attempt to deal with any of the many grievances of the workers engaged in the distributive trades, we regret that this Bill falls far short of the demands of the Irish Trades Congress. Your Committee forwarded copies of the following resolution to the Leaders of the Irish Parliamentary Party, the All-for-Ireland Party, the Labour Party, Ministers, and the Unionist Party, asking for their assistance in having the Bill amended in the direction indicated. Courteous replies were received in acknowledgment from Messrs. John E. Redmond, M.P., and Wm. O'Brien, M.P., but no acknowledgment has been received as yet from the Unionist Party. Copies of the resolution were also forwarded to the Home Secretary and to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, from both of whom formal acknowledgments were received, but there does not seem to have been an earnest desire on any side, if we except the Labour Party and some individual members of the Irish Parliamentary Party, to give effect to our demands. The following is the resolution referred to:—

“That whilst welcoming the proposed Shops Bill, we are strongly of opinion that the Bill should be amended so as to limit the working hours to fifty-four per week, and also to have inserted a clause providing for a compulsory weekly half-holiday; and that copies of this resolution be sent to Mr. Churchill, M.P.; to Mr. J. E. Redmond, M.P.; Mr. W. O'Brien, M.P.; and to the Whips of the Nationalist and of the Unionist Parties of Ireland, as well as to the Whips of the Labour Party.”

Sunday Work.—A clause in the Shops Bill, we are glad to say, prohibits Sunday trading, with certain exceptions, in the Distributive Trades. We regret this provision has not been extended to Hairdressers, who have been so long contending for it.

Trade Boards Bill and Sweating in the Linen Trade in Belfast.—The Vice-Chairman of your Committee (Miss Mary Galway) for

some years past has brought forward charges of flagrant sweating amongst the Textile Operatives in the North of Ireland, which have been invariably denied by the employers. But Miss Galway's charges have been clearly substantiated by Dr. Bailey, Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Belfast, whose report discovers an alarming state of affairs in the City of Belfast, disclosing sweating of the most inhuman type. Your Committee had the matter under consideration at their last meeting, and forwarded the following motion to the Irish Parliamentary Parties and to the Home Secretary and the Chief Secretary for Ireland:—

“That the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress repudiate in the strongest possible terms the statement made by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of Belfast (Mr. M'Mordie, M.P.) that there was no ‘sweating’ in the linen trade in Belfast; that we call for a sworn inquiry into the hours, wages, and conditions of labour of out-workers in the linen and cognate trades; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the proper quarters, and every effort made to give it effect.”

Your Committee feel that their especial thanks are due to Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., for his hearty co-operation and support. Mr. Devlin has been indefatigable, and your Committee are confident that they will succeed in getting the Trades Boards Bill applied.

Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge).—This Bill has not been re-introduced; but hope is entertained of getting it introduced again next Session. Amongst the provisions of the Bill are that all persons having charge of steam engines and boilers shall pass a practical examination as to their fitness for such duties, and, on passing such examination, shall be granted certificates of competency, and that no person shall be allowed to take charge of any steam engine or boiler who does not hold such certificate; also providing that in factories in which machinery is used, and where steam or electricity is generated for the motive power thereof, a practical male person of not less than 21 years of age shall be appointed for the purposes of working the machinery. As applied to locomotive engines, it is required that no engineer be allowed to have charge of or drive a locomotive engine without being in possession of a certificate of competency from the Board of Trade, five years' experience as fireman and engineman prior to the passing of the Bill to be the qualification for a certificate. The desire of the promoters of the Bill is to make it a criminal offence for any locomotive engineman, fireman, or cleaner to drive a locomotive over any road he is not conversant with.

Organizing Work in Galway.—As directed by last Congress, your Committee arranged to assist in organizing the workers of Galway. A largely-attended meeting was held in the Town Hall, Galway, on February 19th, under the presidency of Dr. Walsh, U.D.C., at which the Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary attended on behalf

of your Committee. The proceedings were most enthusiastic, and resolutions were adopted with acclamation extending a hearty welcome to the Irish Trades Union Congress, arranging to initiate a local Trades Council, and protesting against the importation of manufactured articles into Galway to the detriment of the workers of Galway, as well as against the action of some of the Galway employers who refuse to pay a fair wage or recognise fair hours of labour.

The Findings of the Railway Commission.—Your Committee had this question under consideration, and adopted the following resolution, which was forwarded to the various Parties in the House of Commons, as well as to the responsible Ministers:—

“That we endorse the findings of the Railway Commission; that we are of opinion that all railways should be owned by the people and worked for their benefit, whilst heartily approving of the demands of the Railway Clerks’ Association and of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants safeguarding the interests of the existing staffs and extending to them such further safeguards as they have expressed themselves desirous of obtaining.”

The Workers’ Union.—The question committed to your Committee by last Congress *in re* the Workers’ Union was duly investigated by them. The various Unions—the Brushmakers, Dublin Corporation Workmen, and Irish Transport and General Workers’ Union—were communicated with, as well as the Workers’ Union, and invited to send representatives to the meeting of your Committee. The three Unions first mentioned sent representatives as requested. The Brushmakers’ representative alleged that during the dispute with Messrs. Varian, of Dublin, to which their delegate drew the attention of Congress, members of the Workers’ Union were employed in Messrs. Varian’s doing the work of the men who were on strike; the Corporation Workmen’s representative alleged several acts in the Dublin area which, in the opinion of their Society, were detrimental to Trades Unionism, particularly the publication in the Dublin Press of matters of a confidential character, the publication of which was injurious to the labour movement; the Transport and General Workers’ Union representatives alleged that the Workers’ Union were working in opposition to the interests of the labour movement in Dublin. They quoted the letter produced by the Dublin Corporation Workmen delegates at last Congress and published in *The Harp*, and said that in Dublin and other districts in Ireland they had reason to know that the members of the Workers’ Union had undercut their members and helped employers to reduce wages. The letter forwarded to the Richmond Asylum Board was a case in point. The Transport Workers had endeavoured to establish a “minimum standard,” and

while they were so engaged the Workers' Union had written the letter in question. In the absence of any representatives from the Workers' Union, your Committee decided to postpone the consideration of the matter to a special meeting to be convened to deal with the question, and the Secretary of the Committee was instructed to procure from the Richmond Asylum Committee a copy of the letter above referred to, the Workers' Union having repudiated the authenticity of the letter published in *The Harp*. The Workers' Union having refused to send representatives to attend the special meeting or the ordinary meeting, the matter was fully considered at the meeting of your Committee, held on February 18. After consideration of the correspondence and examination of the charges, it was decided that the Workers' Union had been guilty of acts which were detrimental to the interests of the labour movement, and, in the opinion of the Committee, was unworthy of recognition in the Irish labour movement. The Committee further decided to recommend the forthcoming Irish Trades Congress at Galway to refuse affiliation to the Workers' Union, or to any of its branches. This decision was duly communicated to the General Secretary of the Workers' Union, Mr. Charles Duncan, M.P. Your Committee desire, in justice to the Workers' Union, to say, that they allege that no official complaint was ever received by them from the complainants—a statement which was denied by the representatives of the complainant Unions. The Workers' Union further contend that it is outside the province of your Committee to investigate the charges pending such complaints being officially communicated to them. In view, however, of the statements of the complainants' representatives, your Committee felt their duty was to submit their decision for your consideration.

The following is the letter complained of and referred to above, forwarded to the Richmond Asylum Committee by Messrs. Wallace & Co., to whom it was written, and with whom the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union allege they were in dispute:—

[Copy.]

"THE WORKERS' UNION,

"Branch Dublin, No. 78, 20th August, 1909,

"Hillel Hall, Francis Street,

"DUBLIN.

"DEAR SIR—With reference to the discussion which took place at the Richmond Lunatic Asylum, I would like to point out to you that the Workers' Union never has fixed a rate of wages for Coal workers, so that the Chairman (Mr. Jones) must have had wrong information given him. However, if your men join our Union we will give them Trade Union protection. Several contractors, for peace sake, I suppose, have made their men join our Union, such as Mr. Thompson, Townsend Street. I understand there is a lot of men in your firm will not join the Transport Union. I must point out to you our Union is conducted

on different methods to the Transport Union. Up to the present it has both the respect and goodwill of employers and employees. Of course, we never try to force a man to join us against his will, but as ours is a recognised Trades Union, recognised and affiliated by the Irish Trades Congress, we give every man who joins us Trade Union protection. We enrol members every Saturday evening at 8.30, 15 Winetavern Street.

"Yours truly,

"PAT. J. MCINTYRE,

"Secretary."

"Messrs. Wallace & Co."

Trades Councils in Cork.—Your Committee learned with regret that a rival body to the Cork United Trades and Labour Council had been inaugurated at Cork. They offered their services to arbitrate in the matter, but the Cork District Trades Council did not see their way to accept, and so the regrettable division must be left to heal in time.

Old Age Pensions.—Since last Congress, your Committee forwarded the resolution adopted *re* reducing the age limit for participants to sixty years, and asking that the Poor Law disqualification should be removed. Your Committee are pleased to report that the Poor Law disqualification has been removed, but, as yet, there has been no reduction in the age limit.

Other Bills.—Owing to the Government securing the allocation of Parliamentary time, little progress was made with Bills introduced in the labour interest. Mr. Williams, however, introduced the Trade Law Amendment Bill on February 20, which seeks to amend the law as interpreted by the Osborne Judgment; a Bill dealing with Accidents in Mines was also introduced and enacted; and a Bill to amend the Feeding of Necessitous Children Act was also introduced, but made little progress.

Labour Exchanges.—The attention of your Committee was directed to cases where Labour Exchanges were alleged to be supplying men to take the place of men in establishments where labour disputes were in progress. Upon investigation, your Committee decided to recommend the secretaries of societies in dispute with employers to notify the Labour Exchanges every seven days during the continuance of the dispute.

Presentation to Mr. E. L. Richardson, J.P.—Following the suggestion of last Congress, your Committee decided to promote a fund to make a presentation to Mr. E. L. Richardson, former

Secretary to your Committee. A circular was drafted and approved by your Committee, and sent to the trades affiliated to Congress as well as to gentlemen outside the movement. Your Committee made a grant of £5 to the fund, and regret they were not in a position to grant a larger amount.

All of which your Committee present as their Report.

(Signed),

D. R. CAMPBELL, *Chairman.*

MARY GALWAY, *Vice-Chairman.*

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

WILLIAM MURPHY.

DAWSON GORDON.

JOSEPH CLARKE.

THOMAS McCONNELL.

M. J. O'LEHANE, *Hon. Treas.*

P. T. DALY, *Hon. Sec.*

REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Mr. W. Walker, J.P., Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee, reported at this stage as follows:—

(a) "We recommend that the matter of the affiliation of the Workers' Union be determined upon the report of the Parliamentary Committee.

(b) "*In re* Dublin Branch Amalgamated Farriers—that as no fresh developments have occurred since last Congress to warrant the interposition of the Standing Orders Committee, we recommend that the branch be not now affiliated; but that the incoming Parliamentary Committee take steps at the earliest possible moment to try and harmonise both Unions.

(c) "Objection having been raised to Alderman Dillon's credential as representative of the Paviers, we recommend that the credentials issued to Mr. Dillon be confirmed.

(d) "That Congress adjourn at 1.30 p.m.

(e) "That if Mr. Owens, Delegate, A.S.R.S., be further absent through failure to obtain leave, Mr. Good be empowered to move all resolutions standing in his name."

Mr. R. O'Keeffe (Amalgamated Carpenters), moved, and Mr. Thomas Halpin (D.T.P.S.) seconded, the adoption of the Report.

Mr. P. Lynch, P.L.G. (Cork), proposed, and Mr. J. Buckner (Limerick) seconded, an amendment, "to delete recommendation *in re* Paviers' delegation."

Messrs. Greig (Belfast), Clarke (Dublin), McCarron, T.C. (Derry), and Murphy (Belfast), spoke in support of the amendment; and

Messrs. Larkin (Dublin), O'Carroll, T.C. (Dublin), and McConnell (Belfast) against it.

The amendment on being put, was defeated—36 voting *against*, and 23 *for*.

The original motion was then put, and carried unanimously.

At this point the Congress adjourned until 9.30 on Tuesday morning.

SECOND DAY—TUESDAY, JUNE 6th, 1911.

The business of the Congress was resumed on Tuesday morning, Mr. D. R. Campbell presiding.

Minutes of preceding day's proceedings having been read and confirmed.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE REPORT.

Mr. W. Walker, J.P., presented Report of Standing Orders Committee as follows:—

After the Workers' Union case is disposed of, Standing Orders to be suspended to deal with—

- (a) Insurance Bill.
- (b) Trade Union (No. 2) Bill.

After Standing Orders are resumed, the Delegate from the Co-operative Union to address the Congress. Ten minutes to be allowed.

Movers of Nos. 3, 31, 36 and 54, dealing with Shops Bill, to meet together and draw up a general resolution.

Resolution 4 to be taken instead of 43, which will be dropped.

Movers of 5 and 21 to meet.

Resolution Nos. 6, 29, and 46 to be disposed of when Standing Orders are suspended.

Movers of Resolutions 8, 9, and 34 to meet.

That Resolution 10 be taken, and that the mover of Resolution 33 speak to same (33 being dropped).

That mover of Resolutions 12, 14, 15, 16, 49, 49A, 50, first section of 57 and 62 meet.

Fair Wages.—Movers of Resolutions 13, 22, 47 and 60 to meet. Resolution No. 17 to be taken as a motion, and 44 as an amendment to same.

Truck Acts.—That Resolution 18 be taken, and No. 53 incorporated (No. 37 to be dropped); movers of both to speak to the same.

Resolution 23, with amendment, to be taken.

Factory Inspectors.—That Resolution 35 be taken, and No. 52 dropped; the mover of same to speak to No. 35.

No. 48 Resolution to be taken; amendment ruled out.

No. 51, with amendment, to be taken.

Nos. 56 and 59 to be taken together; movers to meet.

On the motion of Mr. Thomas McConnell, seconded by Mr. Dawson Gordon, Standing Orders Committee's Report was adopted.

RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSION ON P.C. REPORT.

Alderman McCarthy (Bakers' Federal Union) expressed the hope that in future, when the Secretary was forwarding resolutions of Congress to local bodies he would notify the labour representative on the different Boards, so that they might attend.

Mr. Thomas Halpin (Dublin Typographical Society)—What are they elected for if it is not to watch such matters. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Thomas Murphy (Dublin Carpet Planners) asked did Alderman McCarthy know the amount of labour that would incur. He agreed with the former speaker.

SWEATED INDUSTRIES.

Mr. Larkin asked how it was that the Committee did not consider the question of sweating in Dublin as well as in Belfast. There was, he said, just as much sweating in Dublin and other Irish towns as in Belfast. He, therefore, thought the proposed inquiry in Belfast could be extended to Dublin and other Irish cities.

Mr. Simon thought the Commission should be sent to Galway also; because, he said, there was sweating there as well as in other places.

Miss Galway said that the inquiry in Belfast had been largely obtained as a result of a strong local agitation. She quite agreed that women workers were sweated as much, or perhaps more so, in Dublin as in Belfast, but the local people ought to do something to pave the way for an inquiry in places where they considered it was required.

Mr. Dawson Gordon pointed out that the inquiry dealt with the linen and cognate trades, and that it would be extended to any place where these trades were carried on.

THE WORKERS' UNION.

Mr. W. Walker, J.P. (Belfast Trades Council), said, in order to save the time of the Congress, he would move that "the question be referred to the incoming Parliamentary Committee with plenary powers to deal with the matter."

Mr. Greig seconded the motion. He said they ought to avoid discussing the petty jealousies between societies. He was afraid the personal element made itself felt in matters of this kind. That Congress was not the proper tribunal to discuss questions of this kind.

Mr. O'Brien (Dublin) moved as an amendment, that a vote be taken without discussion. No matter what they did now the question would come up again. That being so, he did not see why they should not vote now without discussion (hear, hear).

Mr. Canty (Dublin) maintained that the question should be debated and dealt with openly, and not behind backs (hear, hear). If they referred the question to the Parliamentary Committee it would be three months probably before they would get a report. Whatever their mode of procedure, they should proceed at once (hear, hear).

Mr. Clarke (Dublin) said the new Parliamentary Committee would have before them just the same materials as had been considered and dealt with by the old Committee. No new matter could be introduced (several members, "Yes.") Would it be fair to the old Committee to allow new matter to be submitted to the new Committee? He submitted that it would not (hear, hear).

The Chairman said the Parliamentary Committee could not inquire into anything that could not be dealt with next year. Their action would be subject to revision, even though they had plenary power to deal with the matter in hand. He might add that any reference to the Parliamentary Committee at present would be out of order. There was a motion before the meeting, and their observations should have reference to that.

A Delegate—Surely you are not going to prevent this matter being fully discussed?

Chairman—Any reference to the Parliamentary Committee would be out of order.

Mr. McCarron, T.C. (Derry)—How can we refer to the matter under discussion without at the same time discussing the whole question?

Mr. Murphy (Belfast)—The Parliamentary Committee's decision is incomplete. Is it out of order to refer to that?

Chairman—It is. We are not discussing that. The whole point is whether it is advisable to have such a discussion at all. It would not be right to go into the subject of the action of the Parliamentary Committee, as the members of that Committee would not have an opportunity of defending themselves.

Councillor McCarron (Amalgamated Tailors, Derry) appealed for fair play. Were they going to try a man or an organisation without giving the man or a representative from the organisation an opportunity of entering a defence? (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. Larkin (Transport Workers, Dublin) said he for one objected to any man being condemned before he got every opportunity of defending himself. Mr. Harris should be heard (hear, hear). He was delighted to notice the spirit of fair play which pervaded the previous speaker. It was a pity he did not think the same at former Congresses, when he (Mr. Larkin) was being tried (applause).

Mr. R. O'Keeffe (Amalgamated Carpenters, Dublin) proposed, and Mr. T. Lawlor, P.L.G. (Amalgamated Tailors) seconded—"That the question be now put," which was agreed to without a division.

Mr. O'Brien's amendment was then put to the meeting, and declared lost.

Mr. Michael Canty (Corporation Workmen, Dublin) proposed, and Mrs. McCaughey (Textile Operatives, Belfast) seconded—"That the matter be now taken up; but that the discussion be limited to one speaker on each side."

Mr. W. Walker, J.P. (Belfast Trades Council), asked the mover to allow each speaker fifteen minutes.

Mr. Canty agreed, and his motion being put to the meeting, was declared carried; 30 voting *for*, and 25 *against*.

Mr. Arthur Murphy (Amalgamated Tailors, Dublin) entered his most emphatic protest against the time of the Congress being frittered away with these matters (hear, hear). It was a regular battle royal between two Unions on the floor of the Congress, and important motions bearing on the most vital interests of his and other trades waiting to be discussed (applause).

The amendment being put as a substantive motion,

Mr. Whitley (Belfast Typographical Association) moved, and Mr. W. Walker, J.P., seconded, a further amendment, viz.:—"That the charges be read out by the Secretary; and that Mr. Harris be heard on one side and a representative of the P.C. on the other."

Mr. Whitley's amendment was carried by 36 *for*; 13 *against*.

The Secretary having read the charges and the correspondence, Mr. Harris, on behalf of the Workers' Union, said that the two sides of the case had not been heard. He repudiated on behalf of his Union a letter written by Mr. M'Intyre, the Dublin Secretary of the Union, to the Richmond Asylum Board, stating that the Workers' Union Board never had fixed a rate of wages for coal workers (hear, hear). That letter had been sent by Mr. M'Intyre without the knowledge of his Union, and that being so, he repudiated it, and the writer of the letter would be dealt with in due course. Members of the Union had been accused of working as

blacklegs in the brushmaking trade in Dublin, but the speaker, as organiser of that Union, had never received any official complaint from the Brushmakers' Society to that effect. He asked them after the charge had been made against the members of their Union for an official statement, giving the dates on which the members alleged had "blacklegged," as these men were actually at the time in receipt of "locked-out" money; and it seemed absurd that while they were in receipt of such money, they were at the same time working as blacklegs. By allowing an individual delegate to make such a charge against a Union, without giving any proof of it, they would be establishing a most unfair and improper precedent.

Mr. James Nolan (Bookbinders, Dublin)—Is M'Intyre still an official of the Workers' Union?

Mr. Harris—He is; but this is the reason that he is—

There were loud cries of "Chair," and the speaker was not allowed to proceed with his statement.

Mr. Murphy (Dublin) replied on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee. He dealt with the charges against the Workers' Union, which would not be affiliated, he said, by the Dublin Trades Council.

Councillor Egan, J.P. (Coachmakers, Cork), moved, and Mr. W. Walker, J.P., seconded, and it was agreed—"That the question be now put."

The Chairman explained that the question was that the whole of the report of the Parliamentary Committee be adopted.

Councillor McCarron objected, and said that only the matter under consideration should be dealt with.

Mr. Larkin said that they were voting as to whether they were in favour of the expulsion of the Workers' Union or not.

The Chairman repeated that the question was whether the whole report should be adopted.

Mr. Larkin said he wished to ask three questions—whether the Workers' Union was expelled owing to certain things they did in Cork; whether it was expelled by the Dublin Trades Union for the same thing for which they had been expelled by the Cork Trades Council—blacklegging; and whether Mr. Harris was a member of the Upholsterers' Union?

Mr. Thomas Murphy, President Dublin Trades Council, stated that the Union had been expelled by the Dublin Trades Council.

The motion for the adoption of the Parliamentary Committee's Report was then put, and carried unanimously.

STATE INSURANCE BILL.

Mr. Walker (Belfast) moved a resolution dealing with the Insurance Bill. He said that while the Congress heartily endorsed the principle of the Bill, they urged the Parliamentary Committee to take such steps as would secure the following, amongst other,

amendments:—That the provisions of the Bill be extended to include provision for insurance in the event of death. That the number of members to constitute an approved society be reduced from 5,000 to 1,000, and that societies five years in existence prior to the passing of the Bill, should be considered approved societies. That the area of compulsion be extended to the employment benefit section, and that Section 1, Clause 63, which seeks to debar a working man from receiving benefit if his unemployment is due to a strike or a lock-out, be deleted. That the benefits to the different trades by the making of an additional grant to the Exchequer to cover the heavier liability in mechanical, engineering, ship-building, or construction of vessels, and other trades be equalised. That the worker shall have an equal right with the employer to compound his payments to the fund; and that Section 74, which, if adopted, would tend to the lowering of the wages, should be deleted. That a larger State grant than is specified in the Bill should be secured. That provision for the return to a contributor, or to the placing to his credit for future contingencies, such sums and the interest thereon as may be held to his credit at such time as he may have been employed within an approved trade, but which would, unless so provided for, be lost by his voluntary or involuntary transfer to employment outside the scope of the employed section of the Bill. That sub-section (g) of Clause 32, which forfeits at death all moneys in the Post Office standing to the credit of such depositor, be deleted. That sub-section (b) of Clause 32, dealing with the exhaustion of Post Office funds, shall be supplied by moneys provided by the Treasury. That sub-section (a) of Clause 11, dealing with the accident benefit, be deleted; and that specific provision be made for trade unions to administer and pay out to its members the unemployed and in such other cases sick benefit under the Bill.

The speaker said that in his opinion they should endeavour to secure a larger share of State grant than was proposed by Clause 60 in the Bill. Then, with regard to the contributions to the fund, each party should contribute one-third—the State a third, the workman a third, and the employer a third. They should countenance no effort from outsiders for the rejection of the Bill.

Mr. Clarke (Dublin) thoroughly agreed with Mr. Walker that no outside power should be allowed to kill the possibility of the Bill being extended to Ireland. A great strain had been put upon the financial resources of the Unions for years past, and it was time they obtained relief. He believed that the Irish Party, as a body, would agree to every amendment that was sent from that Congress, and that, so far as Ireland was concerned, it could be made thoroughly workable. It was said that in view of the granting of self-government they should take no steps to complicate the financial relations between the two countries, but in his opinion it was nearly time that workers should do something for themselves, and help their fellow-workers (applause).

Mr. Greig (Belfast) said they had to consider how the adoption of the Bill would affect the efficiency of trades unionism. He trusted that pressure would be put on the Irish Party to carry out the views of the workers. He moved as an amendment that the clause in the resolution dealing with the funeral benefits be omitted, as he considered it would clash with vested interests, and be impossible to carry.

Mr. John Hanlon (Royal Liver Agents) seconded the amendment; which, after some discussion, was withdrawn.

Mr. Hayes (Belfast Bakers) said it would be impossible for his society to muster together 5,000 members, because there were scarcely five thousand members of their trade in existence in Ireland. He thought that owing to the economic conditions of the country there should be an amendment introduced reducing the number of members necessary to qualify a Friendly Society to administer the Bill to its members. He hoped that the Irish Party, regardless of whether the measure benefited Unionists or Nationalists, would not permit Ireland to be excluded from the operations of the measure (hear, hear).

Mr. J. Nolan (Dublin) said the Congress should consider the Bill from a purely Irish standpoint. As at present prepared, the Bill applied indiscriminately to Ireland and England, and he thought the measure fell far short of what they might have expected for the workers from the State. Ireland certainly deserved separate treatment in the matter of State Insurance, but as she was entitled to local autonomy, she should not have a Bill of this kind administered by people who did not know her local requirements (applause).

Miss Galway (Belfast) said that owing to the low wages of the women workers in the linen trade of Belfast their society were not able to pay sick or unemployed relief at present, and if the contributions of the workers were stopped by the employees under the new Bill, she feared it would be the means of taking from their society a large proportion of its members. In this respect State Insurance would hit their society very hard.

Mr. Simon (Galway) said the man who voted against the Bill would be a traitor to Ireland, because the Bill, with proper amendments, would be a great benefit to the people. Let them not be led astray by any of the County Councils, no matter what they heard.

Mr. M. J. O'Lehane (Dublin) proposed the following addendum to the motion:—"That for the purposes of the Bill a special Board be established in Ireland, such a Board to be elected by the County and Borough Councils, and by the Approved Societies, and that any surplus which may accrue be retained in Ireland for expenditure in Ireland; that the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to communicate at once with the various Trade Unions and Trade Labour Councils, requesting them to forward immediately any suggestions or amendments upon which they may decide, and that a

meeting of the Parliamentary Committee be held not later than the 1st July to consider the position and forward amendments to the proper quarters."

Mr. James Larkin seconded, and spoke strongly as to the necessity of amending the Bill in the interests of the workers.

Mr. M'Carron, T.C., Derry, said he refused to recognise the right of the County or District Councils of Ireland to dictate to the workers of Ireland as to whether they should accept the Insurance Bill.

Mr. O'Lehane's addendum was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Johnston (Amalgamated Shop Assistants) Belfast, moved, and Mr. H. Rochford (Dublin Trades Council) seconded, the following addendum:—

"That Congress strongly urges upon the necessity of enlarging the medical insurance clause of the Bill so as to provide the dependents of the insured persons with free medical attendance."

The resolution was carried unanimously.

TRADE UNION (NO. 2) BILL.

Mr. W. Walker, J.P. (Belfast Trades Council), proposed, and Mr. Joseph Clarke (Amalgamated Carpenters), Dublin, seconded, and it was unanimously resolved:—

"That this Congress regrets that the Government have not seen their way in the Bill now before Parliament to restore to Trade Unions the right exercised by them for 25 years prior to the Osborne Judgment. That we urge upon the Irish members the necessity of securing by statute the abrogation of judge-made law upon this question, and failing the obtaining of same we demand the following (amongst other) amendments to the Bill, viz.:—

"To amend Clause 5 Section 1, by making the declaration of the voting through the ordinary society channel, the acquainting of each member with the result thereof, and that the latter part of this clause be simply inserted in the rules of the Union.

"To amend Clause 5, Section 2, by making it obligatory upon each member objecting to the 'political' levy to make his objection in writing at the first of each financial year, failing which such member will be assumed to agree with the levy."

REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Mr. Walker, Chairman, Standing Orders Committee, presented the following report:—

That Congress sit to 5.30 on that (Tuesday) evening.

That consideration of balance-sheet be taken as first business on Wednesday morning.

That voting for Parliamentary Committee take place between 10.30 and 11 a.m. on Wednesday.

That non-contentious resolutions be only spoken to by the mover and seconder, except in the cases of grouped resolutions, when the movers of each incorporated resolution be given an opportunity to express their views on their own society's resolution.

That Congress sit on Wednesday until business is completed.

On the motion of Mr. J. Clarke, seconded by Mr. H. Mayne, these recommendations were agreed to.

PAYMENT OF MEMBERS.

On the motion of Mr. Wm. O'Brien (Dublin Trades Council), seconded by Mr. Henry Rochford (Dublin), the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

“That this Trades Congress, representing the workers of Ireland, reiterate the unanimous demand made year after year by the Congress and all other representative bodies, in favour of the payment of Members of Parliament and their Election expenses; and we enter our protest against the suggestion that Ireland should be excluded from the provisions of the Bill about to be introduced to effect these democratic reforms.”

THE HOUSING QUESTION

Proposed by Mr. Wm. O'Brien (Dublin Trades Council), seconded by Mr. Rochford (Dublin), and passed:—

“That this Congress reiterates our claims for a thorough solution of the Housing Question in the towns and cities of Ireland, as the present condition of affairs leaves the tenants at the mercy of unscrupulous and rack-renting landlords, and the time has arrived when the Legislature should intervene in the matter by the introduction of a full measure for the tenants' protection; that copies of this resolution be sent to the Chief Secretary and the Chairmen of the various parties.”

THE SHOPS BILL.

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

“That this Congress welcomes the Shops Bill at present being considered in Parliament, which establishes for the first time the principle that the State recognises the necessity of regulating the hours of shop workers; but we express disappointment at some of its provisions; that we favour a 60 hours' week, including meal times of not less than one hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea; compulsory closing of all shops for a statutory half-holiday; that the term 'shop assistant' shall include any person employed in or about a retail establishment not affected by the Factory Acts. Further, that it is imperative, in the clause relating to closing orders, that the word 'shall' be inserted in place of

'may.' We consider this absolutely necessary for the purpose of making the Bill effective, and reducing the difficulties of inspection; that we instruct the incoming Parliamentary Committee to forward copies of this resolution immediately to the Right Hon. Winston Churchill, Home Secretary, and to the Leaders and Whips of the parties in Parliament; that we strongly condemn Sunday trading, and we protest against the exclusion of hairdressers from the provisions of the Shops Bill."

In dealing with the resolution, Mr. O'Lehane said he hoped the suggestion as regards the limitation of the hours would be given effect to. Compulsory closing on the half-holiday would give satisfaction to both employers and employees.

Mr. Rochford (Dublin Hairdressers), in seconding, strong pro-
 against the exclusion of hairdressers from the provisions of the Act, particularly that portion dealing with the Sunday trading. The motion was supported by Messrs. Johnston and Ingram, Belfast, and was passed unanimously.

THE FEEDING OF NECESSITOUS SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The following resolution was agreed to on the motion of Mr. Wm. O'Brien (Dublin Trades Council), seconded by Mr. Henry Rochford (Dublin):—

"That this Irish Trades Congress, realising that there are attending the elementary schools of Ireland many thousands of children who are insufficiently fed, and thus incapable of fully benefiting by the education offered them, and further realising that it is the duty of society to use all its best resources on behalf of its weakest members, amongst whom such children may be included, hereby demands the extension to Ireland (with whatever special provisions are found necessary) of the Act empowering local authorities to make provision for the feeding of necessitous school children; that the P.C. be instructed to take steps to give effect to this resolution."

INSPECTION OF LOCOMOTIVE BOILERS, CERTIFICATES, ETC.

Proposed by Mr. Joseph Finnegan (Irish Stationary Drivers), seconded by Mr. McClure, and passed:—

"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 possible opportunity.

"That this Congress calls upon the Government to prepare a Bill for the greater safeguarding of human life and property from accidents caused by explosions of locomotive boilers or fire-boxes—

1st, by providing for the proper inspection of locomotive boilers by the Board of Trade; 2nd, by providing for 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 (firemen) are left solely in charge 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 served five years on the footplate as fireman, and that applicants must pass through the various stages of locomotive work as at present—cleaner, fireman, then driver.”

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

Mr. Dawson Gordon (Flax Roughers and Yarn Spinners) proposed the following motions:—

“That this Congress instructs the Parliamentary Committee to take immediate steps to have the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, amended.”

“That Phthisis shall be one of the diseases scheduled under the Act.”

“The fixing of a minimum weekly payment of 12s. per week during the incapacity of a person over 21 years of age.”

“That, in the case of minors whose earnings had no ultimate prospect of being over £1 per week, that 10s. per week should be the minimum.”

“That the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to take such steps as may be necessary to secure the amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, by adding: ‘That the liability incurred and payable under the Act shall be a charge upon, and payable from, the Imperial Exchequer.’”

He also proposed the following clauses of a resolution forwarded by the Belfast District National Amalgamated Union of Labour:—

“That this Congress is of opinion that the present Workmen's Compensation Act should be amended as to make the minimum compensation for adults 12s. per week, in cases of non-fatal accidents, and for an alteration in the method of calculating average weekly wages, so as to insure that an injured workman shall not receive less than 50 per cent. of an ordinary full week's wages during his incapacity from work, subject to the maximum of 20s. per week.”

“To secure that no medical practitioner appointed as a medical referee under the Workmen's Compensation Act shall be eligible to act on behalf of an insurance company or employer, in any capacity, where fees are paid for decisions or reports.”

The following amendment standing in the name of the delegate of the Amalgamated Society of Farriers was not moved, as the

affiliation of that body was refused by Congress on the recommendation of the Standing Orders Committee:—

“Also to secure to the workman compensation for loss of an eye or other permanent injury to the body or limbs.”

Mr. Greig moved, as an amendment, the first Clause of the Belfast District National Amalgamated Union of Labour resolution:—

“That, in order adequately to protect the worker, and to secure for him the full benefit of the existing and future legislation, workmen’s compensation should be organised and provided for by the State, by charges upon the industries concerned, and free from any contribution by the worker; and further considered that the practice of insurance companies and employers at the present time defeat the objects of the existing legislation.”

The amendment was defeated by 38 votes to 9, and Mr. Gordon’s motions were adopted. The Congress then adjourned.

THIRD DAY.—WEDNESDAY, 7th JUNE, 1911.

Congress met at 9.30 a.m., the President (Mr. David R. Campbell) presiding.

Minutes of previous day’s proceedings were read and signed.

SAVINGS BANK ACT AND TRADE UNION FUNDS.

Mr. Dawson Gordon (Belfast) proposed:—

“That the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to take such steps as may be necessary to secure the amendment of the law in relation to the Savings Banks so that Trade Unions may have the same privileges as Friendly Societies: (a) in the depositing of the funds in the savings banks, and (b) in the obtaining of death certificates.”

Mr. Greig seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

CARRIAGE AND RAILWAY INSPECTORS.

Mr. Egan (Cork) proposed:—

“That this Congress is of opinion that practical coach-makers 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 coach-makers be appointed Carriage Inspectors of all railways, and that the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to bring these matters before the Chief Secretary and the Irish Parliamentary representatives."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Wm. Gardner (Dublin), and passed.

NOMINATIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Messrs. Campbell, D. R., Insurance Agent (Belfast); Clarke, Joseph, Carpenter (Dublin); Egan, Michael, J.P., T.C., Coach-maker (Cork); Galway, Mary, Textile Operative (Belfast); Good, John, Railway Servant (Cork); Gordon, Dawson, Flax Rougher (Belfast); Greig, George, Labourer (Belfast); Hobart, C., Cork Trades Council (Cork); Larkin, James, Transport Worker (Dublin); McCarthy, Ald. J., Baker (Kilkenny); Murphy, Wm., Brushmaker (Cork); O'Brien, William, Tailor (Dublin); O'Carroll, Richard, T.C., P.L.G., Bricklayer (Dublin); O'Lehane, M. J., Drapers' Assistant (Dublin); Whitley, H., Printer (Belfast).

IMPORTATION.

Mr. E. J. O'Neill (Amalgamated Carpenters) proposed, and Mr. A. Duncan seconded, the following resolutions dealing with importation:—

1. "That, recognising the intellectual activity which National University education is creating, we appeal to our Irish authors, whose literary contributions are rapidly increasing, to consider the claims and competitive efficiency of Irish firms and workmen, by having their work printed and bound in Ireland. We call on the clergy and other educationalists to see that their pupils are supplied with books of Irish manufacture and bearing the Irish trade mark, thereby helping to stem the continued emigration of our people."

2. "We reiterate our protest against commercialists availing of imported cheap stationery, often produced under sweated conditions, to the disadvantage of the Bookbinders' Union, whose policy is a living wage for its members."

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

4. "That this Congress calls on all members of Trades Unions and Trades Clubs to insist on having all beverages supplied to them served from home-made bottles which bear the trade mark R.K.B. or D.B.C."

5. "That this Congress deplores the importation of joinery, as the importation of this work is driving out of the country one of its principal industries in the building trade, and call upon architects, engineers, builders, and all public boards to have same made at home under fair conditions, and thereby give employment to joiners of this country, and save an old industry from becoming extinct; and that it be an instruction to our Parliamentary Committee to use every effort when opportunity avails to give effect to this resolution."

6. "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."

7. "That this Congress condemns the continued importation of carriages, vans, wheels and coach-ironwork or fittings, and call 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."

8. "That this Congress condemns the importation of fish barrels from abroad to this country, and calls on the fish merchants, curers, and all those engaged in the fish trade to pack their fish in barrels made in Ireland, which are as good and as suitable as those imported, and by this means help to give much-needed employment to the coopering and kindred trades, which are depending for their livelihood on the fishing industry carried on around our sea coast."

9. "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."

10. "That this Congress condemns the growing practice of clergymen of practically all denominations in Ireland in placing their orders for church furniture, organs and organ cases, and pulpits with continental firms, thereby depriving the workers of this country from deriving a livelihood from the funds which have, in the majority of cases, been subscribed in this country."

The resolutions were supported by Messrs. James Nolan (Bookbinders); Gilmour (National Furnishing Trades); Egan (Coachmakers), and opposed by Messrs. McKeown, T.C. (Transport Workers); Johnson (Shop Assistants); John Murphy (Printers), and were carried by 38 votes to 3.

FAIR WAGES.

Mr. James Nolan (Dublin) proposed the following resolutions:—

1. "That this Irish Trades Congress learns with regret that certain employers in the Irish districts, paying less than the minimum rate of wages, by availing of female labour, have secured certain bookbinding contracts for H. M. Stationery Office, thereby refusing to conform to the working conditions accepted as 'fair' by the Bookbinders' Trade Union. This Congress is of opinion that the necessary supervision is not exercised over the execution of contracts."

2. "We hereby request the Irish members of Parliament and the Labour Party to take such action as will secure a change in the Fair Wages Resolution, so that the principle of Trades Union wages and working conditions shall be construed by the Department as a basis of contract, and the various officials instructed accordingly."

3. "That the time has arrived when all public bodies in Ireland should have a clause inserted in their tender forms prohibiting contractors from employing non-Union labour, and that the Parliamentary Committee use all the means in their power to have the Fair Wages Resolution amended that public bodies can make it compulsory on contractors."

4. "That this Irish Trades Congress directs the attention of of all Irish public Boards to the decision of the Lord Chief Baron in the case of the *Richmond Asylum v. King* (L.G.B. Auditor), wherein the eminent lawyer, having set aside the Auditor's surcharges in dealing with the action of the Asylum Board in declining to give contracts to the lowest tenders on the ground that the proposed contractors, while undertaking to carry out the contract in accordance with the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons, did not observe the terms of that resolution in the conduct of their business generally, laid it down that 'public bodies, in their efforts to carry out as best they can the resolution of the House of Commons, ought not only put that clause into their contracts, but also should guard to the best of their ability against that clause being rendered a dead letter by their action giving rise to difficulties in their ascertaining whether it had been complied with or not, and they were entitled to take into consideration the fact that the establishment did not adopt that resolution generally, and give weight to it in determining which of the particular tenders in question they would accept.'"

5. "That this Congress calls upon the public Boards in Ireland to adopt and enforce the Fair Wages Resolution; that the attention of such Boards be drawn to the fact that in the placing of contracts the acceptance of the lowest tender is not compulsory nor always desirable; that orders for manufactured articles should,

whenever possible, be placed for execution in the districts where the goods are required, and not sent into rural localities where low wages are paid, as the latter course deprives the local workman of employment, while he is, in most cases, compelled to pay rates to bolster up inferior workmanship and unfair competition."

6. "That this Congress is of opinion that the necessary supervision is not exercised in the execution of furniture contracts issued by the different public Boards of Ireland, and that it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to communicate with such Boards with the object of representatives of the trades affected being allowed the privilege of inspecting the work in course of construction, and thus insure the carrying out of the provisions of the House of Commons' Fair Wage Resolution."

Mr. T. Lawlor (Amalgamated Society of Tailors), Dublin, seconded the resolutions, which were adopted.

AN IRISH LABOUR PARTY.

Mr. Thomas Murphy, Dublin, proposed:—

"That the Parliamentary Committee be, and they are hereby, instructed to formulate a scheme whereby a properly federated and controlled Labour Party may be maintained in Ireland."

He said that it was a deplorable thing to say that they could not look to a solitary Labour man in this country to represent them in the House of Commons. They had a few M.P.'s doing good work for them, but they had not been put forward on the Labour ticket, and he believed that if they went to fight on the Labour ticket they would be beaten every time. That was a sad state of affairs, and the Congress should do all in its power to remedy it. He believed that men of all shades of politics had come to the conclusion that there was a great change about to take place in Ireland in the way of some form of self-government, and they of the trades movement ought to be in a position before that change took place to have a proper organised Irish Labour Party.

Mr. Wm. O'Brien (Dublin) seconded.

Mr. W. Walker, J.P., Belfast, proposed as an amendment:—

"That this Congress of Irish Trade Unionists heartily recommends to the Irish Trades Unions of this country an immediate affiliation with the Labour Party to promote independent labour representation in Ireland."

He said there was no reason why they should divorce themselves from their English and Scottish fellow-workers by supporting a purely local Party. If the Irish Party opposed the State Insurance Bill they must look to the English Party to force it through the House of Commons, so at this critical juncture they must do all they could to support those who kept their interests steadily in view.

Mr. James Nolan, Dublin, supported the motion, and said they should not support the English Labour Party, which advocated godless education. Let them support a Party that would represent their ideals, and not support those who advocated a system of education that Ireland hated.

Mr. Johnston, Belfast, said that they should organise to support their own interests, and federate as closely as possible with the English Labour Party.

Mr. Michael McKeown, T.C., supported the resolution. He said he was cosmopolitan in many ways, but he was national in the sense that he thought first of his own country, and he was strongly opposed to merging his own nationality with that of any other country (applause). He was not opposed to federation with other countries for the purpose of trade alone, but for all other purposes he was opposed.

Mr. Canty, Dublin, also supported the resolution. He said that they were entitled to have an Irish Labour Party led and governed by Irishmen (applause).

Mr. Rochford, Dublin, said that they in Dublin knew that they could not win unless they established a party that was unattached to any political party. They wanted to establish a party in Dublin that would be answerable to that Trades Congress.

Mr. Larkin said their first duty was to organise the country, and the sooner they began the better (hear, hear). What were they to think of men like Mr. Walker who had stated that Lord Charlemont was a democrat? Lord Charlemont was nothing of the kind; he was an aristocrat.

Mr. Walker said he said nothing of the kind.

Mr. Larkin said he had quoted Mr. Walker accurately. Continuing, he criticised adversely the English Labour Party, and said that they had always to consult the Irish Party. When dealing with Labour questions, let the Congress not be humbugged by men who talked about internationalism. The Labour Party in the United States, Canada, or Australia, would never allow any English Labour Party to manage their affairs (applause). Why should they do so in Ireland? He declined to allow any Scotch, English, or Welsh party to come into this country to interfere with the Irish workers (applause).

Mr. Murphy, Belfast, said the Congress had passed year after year a resolution virtually in the form of Mr. Walker's amendment. If they started an Irish Labour Party, it would be regarded as a hostile act. When they got Home Rule they could form an Irish Labour Party, but in the meantime let them get all the service they could out of the English Labour Party. The establishment of an Irish Labour Party would be, he said, a false step.

Mr. McCarron, Derry, spoke in favour of the amendment. The capitalist knew no country or party; neither should those engaged

in the Labour movement. If they established an Irish Labour Party, he said they would not be able to finance it.

Mr. O'Lehane, Dublin, speaking in favour of the resolution, said that this matter had been under discussion at many previous Congresses. The affiliation with the Labour Party had been practically adopted on many occasions, but with what result? Any attempt made by the English Labour Party, as regards Labour representation in this country, was an absolute failure. Why didn't they advocate affiliation with Labour Parties in Belgium, Germany, and elsewhere? Why were they so enamoured of the Labour Party of England?

Mr. Walker—The Labour Party in Great Britain are affiliated to the International Labour Bureau.

Mr. O'Lehane—That is exactly the position those who advocate the formation of a Labour Party in Ireland want to take up (applause). We have had red herrings drawn across the track in this discussion. We have heard the question of amalgamation and appeals made to prejudice, but we have got to look at this question from the point of view of the more thorough organisation of the Labour element in Ireland (applause). There were people there who would not vote for the resolution, because they were tied to one political party in Ireland. There were two elements in the Congress opposed to the resolution, and he was sure everyone there would understand the component parts of these elements, and why they were coalescing in order to get the amendment passed. He believed that at last a trial would be given to this proposal, and that a real Labour Party would be established in Ireland for political purposes. There must be no misunderstanding about it, that all those who were advocating a Labour Party in Ireland were internationalists in the true sense of the word, but they believed that there could be no internationalism without nationalism (applause). Those who desired to submerge Ireland as a national entity would vote for the amendment. Those who desired that Ireland was to be a national entity, with national recognition in a great international movement, would vote in favour of the resolution (applause).

Mr. Joseph Clarke thought they should have a scheme prepared and submitted to the next Congress. He could not admire their consistency in one day asking the Irish Party and the Labour Party to have amendments inserted in the Insurance Bil. to meet the needs of Ireland, and the next day publicly proclaiming that they had so little confidence in these men that they required a party to represent their own interests in Ireland. He thought that was the very height of nonsense.

Mr. Lynch, Cork, supported the amendment. He said that when Mr. Larkin was organiser of an English Union, and in receipt of the money of that Union in the way of salary, he preached allegiance to the British Labour Party on the streets of Cork.

Mr. Larkin—That is a deliberate lie.

Mr. Lynch—You are at liberty to say so if you like.

Mr. Larkin—But you are not at liberty, sir, to state what you know to be untrue.

Mr. Murphy, Belfast, said that Mr. Larkin had accused Mr. Lynch of a falsehood, and the President should make him withdraw.

Mr. Lynch, continuing, said that Mr. Larkin had turned his coat.

Mr. Larkin—I am not going to allow any man to say that I have turned my coat.

A heated scene ensued between Mr. Larkin and Mr. Lynch.

When order had been restored,

Mr. Walker (Belfast) said there could be no settlement of this question until the charges made by one delegate against another were withdrawn.

Mr. Lynch appealed to the Cork delegates to say that a charge made against him by Mr. Larkin was untrue.

The Chairman said he did not hear Mr. Larkin make the allegation, but if he did so he should certainly withdraw. He was sure not a delegate present believed one word of it.

Mr. Walker (Belfast) said if Mr. Larkin did not withdraw immediately, he would move the adjournment of the Congress. If the Chairman did not have these allegations withdrawn, it would be a standing disgrace to their movement.

The Chairman demanded a withdrawal from Mr. Larkin, and Mr. Healy, Dublin, also asked him to withdraw.

Subsequently both parties withdrew their statements in reference to each other, and the incident closed.

On a division, Mr. Walker's amendment was declared carried by a majority of 32 votes to 29.

ELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

Mr. Thomas McConnell (Belfast), on behalf of the scrutineers, announced the result of the ballot as follows:—

	Votes.
Miss Mary Galway (Belfast), Textile Worker ...	39
Mr. M. J. O'Lehane (Dublin), Drapers' Assistant ...	38
Mr. David R. Campbell (Belfast), Insurance Agent ...	35
Mr. Joseph Clarke (Dublin), Carpenter ...	35
Mr. William O'Brien (Dublin), Tailor ...	33
Mr. James Larkin (Dublin), Transport Worker ...	32
Mr. George Greig (Belfast), Labourer ...	30
Mr. Richard O'Carroll, T.C., P.L.G. (Dublin), Bricklayer ...	29

The above, with the Secretary, form the Committee

Votes were also recorded as follows:—For Mr. M. Egan, J.P., T.C., 25; Mr. H. Whitley, 25; Alderman J. McCarthy, 24; Mr. William Murphy, 23; Mr. Dawson Gordon, 17; Mr. John Good, 9; and Mr. C. Hobart, 3.

TRUCK ACT AMENDMENT.

Moved by Miss Mary Galway (Textile Operatives), seconded by Mr. M. J. O'Lehane (Dublin), and unanimously adopted:—

“That this Congress urges upon the Government the great necessity that exists for the amendment of the Truck Act, by adopting the recommendation of the Minority Report of the Truck Committee—namely, the abolition of all fines, deductions for bad work or damaged material, and bonuses.”

“That this Conference having carefully considered the Majority and Minority Report, in respect to the living-in system, hereby declares emphatically that no legislation will be satisfactory to shop workers which does not propose the abolition of a demoralising system, which deprives adults of the right of home, manhood, womanhood, and citizenship, and further calls upon the Government to introduce at the earliest moment legislation based upon the proposals made in the Minority Report, and further directs public attention to the danger to life from fire as an additional reason for the abolition of this system.”

TRADE BOARD ACT AND THE TAILORING TRADE.

Proposed by Mr. Thomas Lawlor, P.L.G. (Amalgamated Society of Tailors, Dublin), and seconded by Mr. Arthur Murphy, P.L.G. (Dublin):—

“That this Irish Trades Congress call upon the Irish and Labour Members of Parliament to urge upon the present Government the necessity of so extending the scope of the Trade Board Act so as to fix a minimum rate of wages for bespoke tailoring which shall not be less than the present Trade Union rate, which has been mutually agreed to by employers and employés.”

Mr. Wm. Walker, J.P., moved the following amendment:—

To add—“And in order to ensure that the rates paid shall be the Trade Union standard, the Labour Exchange Act be so amended as to make it compulsory upon each employer within the area covered by each Exchange to make to the manager thereof a return showing the wages of time workers and prices for piece-work of each section of the work-people in their employ; and every alteration of same should, within seven days of its coming into operation, be reported to the manager, who should provide a register, and enter thereon the information received; and

every worker replying to requests of employers should have access to such portion of the register as deals with the particular trade or calling that the employer belongs to."

Mr. Lawlor accepted the amendment, and the resolution as amended was adopted.

MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENTS IN TAILORING TRADE.

On the motion of Mr. Arthur Murphy, P.L.G. (Amalgamated Society of Tailors, Dublin), seconded by Mr. Thomas Lawlor, P.L.G. (Dublin), the following resolution was agreed to:—

"That we call upon the Parliamentary Committee to press the Government to introduce legislation on the following:—

(a.) "That it be illegal to advertise factory-made clothing as *bona fide* bespoke tailoring.

(b.) "And that where a customer asks to have their clothes made by Trades Union bespoke labour, and same having been proved to be made otherwise, a fine of the purchasing price of the clothes be inflicted for the first offence and for every subsequent offence imprisonment.

(c.) "And in order to give effect to the foregoing, that the Government appoint practical tailors as inspectors with power to visit workshops and factories, and whose duty it shall be to prosecute for any infringement against the law.

(d.) "And, further, that it be not illegal for Trades Unions to publish the names of employers who do not pay the Trade Union rate of wages of the city or town in which they trade."

OUTWORKING IN THE TAILORING TRADE

Proposed by Mr. Arthur Murphy, P.L.G. (Dublin), seconded by Mr. Thomas Lawlor, P.L.G. (Dublin), and passed:—

"That this Congress 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 people's homes, complete and efficient workshop inspection is impossible without an enormous and absurd increase in the number of inspectors. It is also our opinion that where bed-rooms or living-rooms are used as workshops they become a danger to the public health and tend to demoralise those engaged therein."

RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.

Proposed by Mr. John Good (A.S.R.S., Cork), seconded by Mr. Owens (Mullingar), and adopted:—

“This Congress is surprised to learn that the two principal railways in this country have persistently resisted, to the rights of the employés, to have their claims for improved conditions of service submitted to the machinery provided by the Boards in question, whereby the claims put forward in the National All Grades Programme adopted by the men, and presented to the Companies in 1907, are still waiting consideration. This Congress therefore instructs the Parliamentary Committee to call the attention of the Irish Party to the necessity of supporting the men’s representatives in Parliament in any action they may take in bringing pressure on the Government and the companies in seeking to compel the parties to an honourable carrying out of their obligations entered into with its employees as far back as 1907.”

RAILWAY SERVANTS’ HOURS.

On the motion of Mr. John Good (Cork), seconded by Mr. W. Walsh, the following was agreed to:—

“This Congress desires to enter its emphatic protest at the Railway Companies being allowed to work the engine drivers, firemen, guards, shunters, signalmen, and others directly connected with the movement of trains, such long hours as is disclosed by the return issued by the Board of Trade in pursuance of Section 4 of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, for the month of October, 1910. In the interests of the men and the public we desire to urge upon the Government, and the Irish Party in particular, to take steps to put a stop to a practice that has long ago been universally condemned.”

AMALGAMATION OF UNIONS BY INDUSTRIES.

Moved by Mr. John Good (Cork), seconded by Mr. Wm. O’Brien (Dublin), and unanimously adopted:—

“That this Congress is of the opinion that the present system of sectional Trades Unionism is unable to successfully combat the encroachments of modern capitalism, and realises that much greater achievements are possible and the redemption of the working classes would be hastened if all existing unions were amalgamated by industries, with one central executive elected by the combined unions, with power to act unitedly whenever there is a strike or lock-out in any industry, thus making the grievance of one the concern of all. This Congress therefore instructs the Parliamentary Committee to use its influence and co-operate with the English and Scottish Trades Union Congresses in any effort that may be made to bring this about.”

FACTORY ACT AMENDMENT.

Moved by Miss Mary Galway (Textile Workers):—

“That owing to the number of accidents of a serious character occurring in linen weaving factories through the escape of shuttles from looms inefficiently fenced, and the unwillingness of many employers to adopt the latest improvements in shuttle guards, this Congress is of opinion that the Factory Act should be amended so as to empower Factory Inspectors to compel the adoption of any improvements in fencing approved of by the Home Office.”

Seconded by Mrs. McCaughey, and passed.

EIGHT-HOURS' DAY.

Mr. Michael Canty (Dublin Corporation Workers), moved:—

“That this Congress, recognising the material and moral importance of shortening the hours of labour, instructs the Parliamentary Committee to take steps to bring at once before Parliament and the Municipal and Poor Law bodies in Ireland the enforcement of an Eight Hours' Day or a Forty-eight Hours' Week by legal enactment, and that copies of this resolution be sent to the proper authorities.”

Seconded by Mr. Tarleton (Dublin), and passed.

MEAT MARKING BILL.

Proposed by Mr. R. Ingram (Belfast Journeymen Butchers' Association), seconded by Mr. Greig, and adopted:—

“That this Congress endorses the action of those responsible for the introduction of the Meat Marking Bill, in which it is proposed to label frozen and chilled meat as such, thereby clearly indicating to the purchaser the class of meat that is being sold; and hereby instructs the Parliamentary Committee to do all in its power to assist the measure to become law.”

FACTORY INSPECTION.

Moved by Miss Minnie Rodgers (Lurgan Hemmers and Veiners), seconded by Miss Mary Galway (Textile Workers), and passed:—

“That this Congress urges upon the Government the great necessity that exists in Ireland for additional female factory inspectors, as the present staff is totally insufficient for the carrying out of the duties imposed upon them, and we earnestly urge the Government to take immediate steps to remedy the matter by increasing the present staff.”

MINIMUM WAGE.

Proposed by Mr. M. J. O'Lehane (Drapers Assistants), seconded by Mr. John Hanlon (Dublin), and adopted:—

“That the time has arrived when a fair minimum wage should be established by law in all callings, and we trust the Trades Boards Bill will be extended so as to embrace all workers in order to bring about this very necessary reform.”

THE HALF-TIME SYSTEM.

On the motion of Mr. Wm. Walker, J.P., seconded by Mr. Hayes (Belfast), the following was agreed to:—

“That the half-time system is a curse to the child, both physically and mentally; restricts the opportunity for the employment of adult labour; and tends to lower the wages of the workers in the industries affected, and should be abolished.”

MILITARISM.

Mr. Wm. Walker, J.P. (Belfast Trades Council), moved:—

“That this Conference, believing that Militarism and War are subversive of civilisation and national well-being, protests strongly against the heavy and growing burden of Armaments, which arrests social reform and endangers international solidarity, good-will and peace. It further affirms that Militarism, whilst profitable to certain financial interests, to the activities of which not a little of our scaremongering can be traced, imposes a needless tax on the lives and the wages of the workers, and threatens to inflict on Great Britain the evils of compulsory military service. The Conference, therefore, declares that disputes between nations should be settled, not by brute force, but by reason and arbitration, and urges the workers of this country to take organised action with their fellows in Germany and other lands in counteracting the influence of scares and in bringing about an understanding between all nations to secure international peace and to advance social justice. Further, as the best means of securing this, we endorse the findings on the subject of the International Labour and Socialist Congress held recently at Copenhagen, namely:—

(a) “That the principles of peace and international fraternity be taught in the public schools;

(b) “That working class organisations engage in an active peace propaganda;

(c) "That the Labour and Socialist Parliamentary Parties in every country exert all their influence with their respective Governments in favour of the holding of an International Convention to consider proposals for mutual gradual reductions of armaments with a view to the ultimate disbandment of all armies and navies ;

(d) "That treaties be subject to Parliamentary ratification before being signed."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Thomas Johnson (Belfast), and adopted.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

On the motion of Mr. Wm. Walker, J.P. (Belfast Trades Council), seconded by Mr. George Greig, the following was agreed to:—

"That this Congress views with dismay the gross neglect of elementary education in Ireland, and is of opinion that until the local authorities levy and collect rates for the maintenance and development of elementary education no satisfactory solution can be attained."

THE RIGHT TO WORK.

Moved by Mr. Wm. Walker, J.P. (Belfast Trades Council):—

"That in the opinion of this Conference Unemployment is an inherent feature of our competitive industrial system, and cannot be cured by any change in our fiscal policy. It therefore calls upon the Government to deal with the real causes and the evil effects of unemployment on the lines of the Labour Party's Right to Work Bill, and to this end demands the establishment of a Ministry of Labour, to which shall stand referred the establishment and control of Labour Exchanges, the provision of State Insurance, and maintenance of the regularisation of casual labour, and the establishment of a forty-eight hours maximum working week. The Conference also calls for the undertaking of a well-considered programme of works of public utility to be carried out by the most effective labour available, paid for at not less than Trade Union rates and under Trade Union conditions. The Conference further declares for the complete separation of the provision for the unemployed from any Poor Law Authority and from any stigma of pauperism ; and earnestly calls upon the Labour Party to use their undoubted power to its full extent in this Parliament so as to secure the carrying of these proposals into legislation at the earliest possible moment."

Seconded by Mr. George Greig, and carried.

VACCINATION ACT.

The following resolution was agreed to on the motion of Mr. Wm. Walker, J.P. (Belfast Trades Council), seconded by Mr. T. McConnell:—

“That this Congress is of opinion that the law in regard to the question of Vaccination should be the same in Ireland as it is in England; that the Conscience Clause should be or ought to be as essential to an Irishman as it is to an Englishman.”

REFERENCES AND RADIUS AGREEMENTS.

The following was adopted on the motion of Mr Thomas Johnson (Shop Assistants):—

“This Conference emphatically condemns the system of secret references and the iniquitous ‘Radius’ agreement, by which the difficulties of obtaining employment are accentuated, and calls upon the Labour Party in Parliament to press forward the Character Note Bill and the Restraint of Trades (Shops) Bill.”

LOCAL LABOUR ON PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

Proposed by Mr. Richard O’Carroll, T.C., P.L.G. (Bricklayer), seconded by Mr. Patrick O’Neill, and adopted:—

“That as the importation of workmen to districts where the supply of labour already exceeds the demand inflicts a hardship on local workers, this Congress requests the War Department in Ireland to make it a condition in the terms of its building contracts that local labour shall be employed as far as possible.”

“That this Congress instructs the Parliamentary Committee to take such steps as may be necessary to induce the Government to insert a clause in contracts for Barrack work in Ireland that will ensure a fair recognition of local labour, and so check the unjustifiable importation of labour for such work.”

TRADE UNION STAMP OR LABEL.

Moved by Mr. Hugh Gilmore (National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades):—

“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.”

Seconded by Mr. Wm. Walker, J.P., and passed.

AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 2.

Mr. H. T. Whitley (Belfast Typographical Society), proposed the following motion:—

“That Standing Order No. 2 shall read as follows, and become operative at next year’s Congress:—

“2. Delegates’ Qualifications.—The Congress shall consist of (1) delegated members or officials from trade or labour unions who are or have been *bona fide* workers at the trade or calling they represent; and (2) delegated members or officials from trades councils. Each delegate must represent a membership of not less than 50. Delegate’s fees, 15/- each, and affiliation fees (as per Standing Order No. 3), and all personal expenses allowed such delegates must be defrayed by the union or council they represent.”

Mr. Hall seconded, and Messrs. Lynch (Cork), McCarron (Derry), and Walker (Belfast), supported; Messrs. O’Lehane (Dublin), McKeown (Belfast), Larkin (Dublin), and McConnell (Belfast), opposed the motion, which, after considerable discussion, was withdrawn.

NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

On the motion of Mr. T. McConnell (Belfast), seconded by Mr. J. Simon (Galway), it was unanimously decided that next Congress be held in Clonmel.

VOTES OF THANKS.

The customary votes of thanks to the Chairman, the local Reception Committee, and the Urban District Council having been carried by acclamation, the Congress terminated.

BALANCE SHEET, GALWAY CONGRESS, JUNE, 1911.

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.							
			£	s.	d.						
To Balance from last Congress	118	2	8	By Auditors' Fees (Dundalk)...	...	...	0	10	0
„ 75 Delegates' Fees	56	5	0	„ Two Secretaries' Fees (Dundalk)	...	...	3	0	0
„ Affiliation Fees	64	15	10	„ Standing Orders, Committee, Dundalk	...	...	2	10	0
„ Collected from Delegates for Whitehaven Disaster Fund	4	1	3	„ Three Tellers	...	...	0	15	0
„ Sale and Advertisements on Congress Reports	9	5	0	„ Hall Caretaker	...	...	0	10	0
						„ Printing Balance Sheet	...	...	0	15	0
						„ Hall Attendant (Door)	...	...	1	2	6
						„ Refund Workers' Union	...	...	0	15	0
						„ Whitehaven Disaster Fund	...	...	4	2	0
						„ P.C. Meetings and Deputations	...	...	62	1	1
						„ B. Doyle, Printing	...	...	57	13	11
						„ Connacht Tribune, Printing	...	...	2	16	0
						„ Rent Hall Organising Meeting (Galway)	...	...	1	2	6
						„ Richardson Testimonial	...	...	5	0	0
						„ Secretary's Expenses, Postage, Carriage, etc.	...	...	8	18	3
						„ Do. Honorarium	...	...	20	0	0
						„ Treasurer's Petty Cash	...	...	0	5	0
						„ Do. Honorarium	...	...	5	0	0
						„ Balance in Bank	...	£67 9 1			
						„ Balance in Treasurer's hands	...	8 4 5			
									75	13	6
			£252	9	9				£252	9	9

We have examined the foregoing Statement of Accounts and compared the figures with the Vouchers produced, and found same correct.

PATRICK LYNCH }
 JOHN HANLON } Auditors.

June 5, 1911.

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 Delegate's fees (15/- 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. At least two meetings of the Parliamentary Committee (or a sub-committee of Parliamentary Committee) shall be held in the locality selected for the next year's Congress, such meetings to be arranged in conjunction with local Trades Council or organised trade unionists.

11. *Parliamentary Committee's Report.*—Report of the Parliamentary Committee, which shall have been transmitted to the Delegates at least three days before the assembly of Congress, shall be the business next following that of the election of Congress officers. And after the disposal of same the tenure of office of the Parliamentary Committee shall cease. A printed balance-sheet duly audited and 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.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

- Amalgamated Association of Tramway and Vehicle Workers*—Hugh Cunningham, 30 Lancaster-street, Belfast.
- Amalgamated Society Carpenters and Joiners, Dublin 5th Branch*—E. J. O'Neill, 35 Lower Gloucester-street, Dublin.
- Dublin 6th Branch*—Richard O'Keeffe, Newtown-park, Blackrock, Dublin.
- Dublin 3rd Branch*—Joseph Clarke, 28 Belvidere-road, Dublin.
- Galway Branch*—Joseph Simon, Bowling-green, Galway.
- Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants*—M. Owens, 9 Railway-terrace, Mullingar; J. Good, 97 Patrick-street, Cork.
- Amalgamated Society of Tailors*—James M'Carron, T.C., 48 Stanley-walk, Derry. Patrick Lynch, P.L.G., 2 Crosses-green, Cork.
- Dublin Branches*—Arthur Murphy, P.L.G., and Thomas Lawlor, P.L.G.
- Amalgamated Union of Cabinetmakers, Belfast Branch No. 8*—William Allan, 18 Springfield-parade, Belfast.
- Ancient Guild of Incorporated Brick and Stonelayers*—R. P. O'Carroll, T.C., P.L.G., 49 Cuffe-street, Dublin.
- Bakers, Belfast Operatives' Society*—Thomas M'Connell, 58 Oldpark-avenue, Belfast, and Wm. Hayes, 1 Garfield-street, Belfast.
- Bakers, Irish National Federal Union of*—Alderman John M'Carthy, Vicars-street, Kilkenny.
- Bakers and Confectioners, Dublin Operatives*—James Gunn, P.L.G., and P. J. Lea, P.L.G.
- Belfast and Dublin Locomotive Enginedrivers and Firemen*—Henry M'Clure, 98 York-road, Belfast, and Mr. W. Walsh, 3 Church-lane, Sligo.
- Belfast Journeymen Butchers' Association*—Robert Ingram, 280 Springfield-road, Belfast.
- Belfast Trades and Labour Council*—Wm. Walker, J.P., 41 Marsden-gardens, Belfast.
- Cork United Trades and Labour Council*—Cornelius Hobert and Timothy Hegarty.
- Carpenters, General Union*—P. Nangle, 23 Ivar-street, Dublin.
- City of Dublin Operative Farriers*—Benjamin Drumm, 53 Bolton-street, Dublin.
- Dublin Carpet Planners*—Thomas Murphy, 41 York-street.
- Dublin Corporation Workmen*—Francis O'Hanlon, James Tarleton, and M. Cauty, The Hall, Winetavern-street.
- Dublin Trades and Labour Council*—Henry Rochford, Ivy Lodge, Windsor-avenue, Fairview, and Mr. William O'Brien, 43 Belvidere Place, Dublin.
- Dublin Typographical Provident Society*—Thomas Halpin, 35 Lower Gardiner-street, Dublin.
- Electrical Trades*—H. Mayne, Trades Hall, Dublin.

- Flax Roughers and Yarn Spinners*—Dawson Gordon, 23 Columba's-street, Belfast.
- Irish Drapers' Assistants' Association*—M. J. O'Lehane, 56 Henry-street, Dublin.
- Irish Glass Bottle Makers*—A. Duncan, 78 South Lotts-road, Dublin, and P. Healy, Gunney-cottages, Dublin.
- Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, Dublin No. 1 Branch*—James Larkin, Thomas Foran, and Laurence Redmond, 10 Beresford-place.
- Dublin No. 2 Branch*—James Halligan, 9 James's-street, Dublin.
- Dublin No. 3 Branch*—John Bohan, 15 Basin-street, Upper, Dublin.
- Irish Stationary Engine Drivers*—Joseph Finnegan, 18 Reginald-square, Dublin.
- Belfast Branch*—M. M'Keown, T.C., Clonard Gardens, Belfast.
- Limerick Trades and Labour Council*—Joseph Buckner, 10 Asylum-vil'as, Limerick.
- Lurgan Hemmers and Veiners' Society*—Miss Minnie Rodgers, 79 North-street, Lurgan.
- National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades (Irish Branches)*—Hugh Gilmour, 135 Cupar-street, Belfast.
- National Amalgamated House and Ship Painters and Decorators*—P. J. O'Neill, 10 Upper Abbey-street, Dublin.
- National Amalgamated Union of Labour (Belfast District)*—George Greig, 41 Elgin-street, Belfast; James Graydon, 73 Sandhurst-gardens, Belfast, and Albert Lockett, 71 Witham-street, Belfast.
- National Union of Bookbinders and Machine Rulers (Dublin Branch)*—James Nolan, 10 North King-street, Dublin.
- National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks*—Thomas R. Johnson, 13 Ranfurley-drive, Belfast.
- National Union of Dock Labourers and Carters*—Mr. W. J. M'Nulty, 74 Long Tower-street, Derry.
- National Union of Life Assurance Agents*—Mr. D. R. Campbell, 11 Kemberley-street, Belfast.
- Galway Branch*—Messrs. P. Folan, Wood-quay, and Owen M'Donald, Prospect-hill, Galway.
- Operative Paviers*—Alderman Patrick Dillon, Violet Cottage, Thomond-gate, Limerick.
- Postmen's Federation*—W. Clubb, 13 Belgrove-street, Glasgow, and Thomas Gregory, Portadown.
- Typographical Association*—John Murphy, 12 Frederick-street, Belfast.
- Do. (Belfast Branch)*—Franch Hall, 22 Newington-street, Belfast, and H. T. Whitley, 297 Ardenlee-avenue, Belfast.
- Royal Liver Agents and Employees*—John Hanlon, 2A Millmount-avenue, Drumcondra.
- Textile Operatives of Ireland*—Miss Mary Galway, Avenue Hall, Lower Garfield-street, Belfast, and Mrs. Elizabeth M'Caughy, 10 Abyssinia-street, Belfast.
- United Brushmakers*—Wm. Murphy, 48 Bandon-road, Cork.
- United Kingdom Society of Coachmakers*—M. Egan, J.P., T.C., Cork, and Mr. W. Gardner, Dublin.
- United Patternmakers' Association (Belfast Branch)*—Mr. Robert Fleming, 1 Glandore-street, Belfast.

IRISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS, 1894-1911.

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 Worthly (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.
1901	73	Sligo	*A. Bowman, T.C. (Flax Dresser)	E. L. Richardson, T.C.	"
1902	98	Cork	Wm. Cave, Ald. (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	Jas. 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)	"	"
1910	85	Dundalk	James M' Carron, T.C. (Tailor)	E. W. Stewart	M. J. O'Lehane, P.L.G.
1911	75	Galway	D. R. Campbell (Insure. Agent)	P. T. Daly	"

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