

THE CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS.

FIRST DAY.

On Tuesday afternoon of last week, the Canadian Labor Congress commenced its labors in the Trades' Assembly Hall.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

GENTLEMEN,—In the name, and on behalf of the Toronto Trades, I rise formally to open the proceedings of this Congress, and in doing so, with their desire, extend to you the right hand of fellowship, and welcome you, to this, the Queen City of the West.

At the conclusion of his admirable address, Mr. Carter was loudly cheered by the delegates.

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The following were appointed a committee on credentials:—J. C. MacMillan, Trades' Assembly, Toronto; Mr. Coleman, Tailors, Ottawa; Mr. McCracken, Iron Moulders, Hamilton; Mr. Bridge, Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners, London, Ont; John Hewitt, Trades' Assembly, Toronto.

A short recess was taken to enable the Committee on Credentials to examine credentials, and the following delegates were credited:—J. W. Carter, J. C. MacMillan, and John Hewitt, of the Toronto Trades' Assembly; James McMullan, Amalgamated Engineers, Toronto; G. W. York, Coopers, No. 13 of Ontario, St. Catharines; W. O. Edwards, Coopers, No. 8, Seaforth; Thos. McGregor, Iron Moulders, No. 26, Hamilton; Mr. Dunneath, Coopers' Union, No. 17, Bowmanville; William Joyce, C. A. Harcourt, and W. P. Bonsall, Toronto Typographical Union; John Stewart, Toronto Bakers' Union; William Magness, Grand Scribe K. O. S. C., St. Catharines; J. Holt, K. O. S. C., 315, Toronto; M. Derham, A. Lloyd, R. Stark, K. O. S. C., 159, Toronto; W. Hunter, Iron Moulders, 189, Cobourg; Alex. McClinchy, Coopers, No. 3 of Toronto; T. Bridge, Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners, London; A. McCormick and Thomas McDuff, Bricklayers and Masons' Union, Toronto; John Calvert, K. O. S. C. Lodge No. 212, Hamilton; James Walter Levesley, Machinists and Blacksmiths, No. 1 of Ontario; Samuel Gregson, Bricklayers and Masons, Ottawa; D. J. Coleman, Tailors' Union, Ottawa; John Stephenson and John Templeman, Carpenters and Joiners, Toronto; D. J. O'Donoghue, Typographical Union 102, Ottawa; John Carroll, Tailors Union, St. Catharines; Jas. Bondidier and John Kelly, Operative Tailors, Toronto; D. Robertson, Free Stone Cutters, Ottawa; Martin Laughlin, Maurice O'Connell and John Wilson, Longshoremen's Union, Toronto; John Dodd, Limestone Cutters, Ottawa; Joseph Lane, Painters' Union, Toronto; Isaac Hodgins, M. and B. Union, No. 2, Hamilton; Wm. Phillips, K. O. S. C., No. 242, London; D. Craig and Wm. McDougall, Amalgamated Engineers, Hamilton; Wm. Gibson and Wm. Brown, Iron Moulders, No. 28 Toronto.

TEMPORARY OFFICERS.

On the motion of Mr. Wm. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Lane, of Toronto, Mr. J. C. Carter was unanimously elected President.

A vote was then taken between Messrs. Magness, Hewitt and Levesley, and subsequently Messrs. Hewitt and Magness, respecting the Secretaryship. The voting stood—Hewitt, 20; Magness, 18.

Mr. Hewitt was declared elected accordingly. The Congress then proceeded to the appointment of Committees on various matters, and resulted as follows:—

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION.

Messrs. O'Donoghue, Levesley, Robinson and Craig.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Messrs. Dodd, Dunneath, Derham, O'Connell and Bonsall.

PRISON LABOR.

Messrs. Hodgins, McClinchy, Kelly, Gregson and York.

IMPORTED AND CHEAT LABOR.

Messrs. Coleman, McCormack, Edwards, Wilson and Calvert.

ARBITRATION.

Messrs. Craig, Philips, Bondidier, Stevens and McMillan.

HOURS OF LABOR.

Messrs. Levesley, Bridge, Lloyd, McDuff and Templeman.

PRINTING.

Messrs. O'Donoghue, Stewart, Brown, Joyce and Magness.

ORGANIZATION.

Messrs. McDougall, Stark, Harcourt, Gregson and Carroll.

LEGISLATION AND LABOR BUREAU.

Messrs. Coleman, Hewitt, Holt, Gibson and Lane.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

It was moved by Mr. Hewitt, and carried unanimously, that the following order of business be followed:—Roll call, reading the minutes, reports of officers, reports of standing committees, reports of special committees, unfinished business, new business, adjournment.

ADMISSION DURING THE SESSION.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried, to admit the members of the Press during the session, and visitors by permission of the chairman.

The Congress shortly afterwards adjourned till 8 o'clock next morning.

SECOND DAY.

MORNING SESSION.

Pursuant to adjournment the Congress assembled at 8 o'clock, the President, pro tem, in the chair.

The minutes of previous session were read and approved.

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The Committee on Credentials recommended Mr. W. S. Nixon, of the Typographical Union of Hamilton, to take his seat in the congress. Adopted.

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION.

The Committee on Constitution presented their report, and the Congress proceeded, in committee of the whole, Mr. D. O'Donoghue, of Ottawa, in the chair, to the discussion of the Articles seriatim. The first four articles were thus adopted, when the committee rose, and reported; and their report was adopted as follows:—

ARTICLE I.

Sec. 1.—This body shall be known and designated as the Canadian Labor Union.

Sec. 2.—Its objects shall be to agitate such questions as may be for the benefit of the working classes in order that we may obtain the enactment of such measures by the Dominion and Local Legislatures as will be beneficial to us and the repeal of all oppressive laws which now exist.

Sec. 3.—To use all means consistent with honor and integrity to so correct the abuses under which the working classes are laboring, as to insure to them just rights and privileges.

Sec. 4.—To use our utmost endeavors to impress upon the labouring classes of this country the necessity of a close and thorough organization, and of forming themselves into subordinate unions wherever practicable.

ARTICLE II.—MEMBERSHIP.

Sec. 1.—The Congress of this Union shall be composed of delegates who shall derive their election directly from labor organizations that now exist or may hereafter exist, and that the said delegation shall be elected annually.

Sec. 2.—All Trade Unions and other protective organizations in the Dominion of Canada, shall be entitled to one delegate for the first one hundred or fraction of one hundred, two hundred or less, two delegates; upwards of two hundred, three, and no Union shall be entitled to more than three delegates.

Sec. 3.—All delegates before taking their seats in the Convention, shall present credentials signed by the proper officers of the Union or other labor organization they claim to represent.

ARTICLE III.—MEETINGS.

Sec. 1.—The Congress or the League shall meet annually on the first Tuesday in August, at such place in the Dominion of Canada, as a majority of the representations present at a regular meeting of the Congress shall decide.

Sec. 2.—Delegates from fifteen working men's organizations shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Sec. 3.—Special meetings shall be called by the President, at the request of fifteen workmen's organizations representing five trades, announcing the time and place of holding such meeting, for which at least one month's notice shall be given.

ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES.

Sec. 1.—The officers of the Union shall be a President, first, second and third Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, Treasurer and Warden.

Sec. 2.—It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Congress and preserve order therein. He shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for, sign all orders on the Treasurer, authorize drafts of money, report at each annual meeting the workings of the League, and all his official acts he shall cause to be issued at least two months previous to a meeting of the League in a circular notifying each subordinate organization sending a delegate. (He shall also have power to grant charters and furnish all necessary documents for the opening of subordinate Leagues, on proper application. He shall, immediately after the opening of the session, appoint the following committees, and

other committees not otherwise provided for—on Finance; on President's Report; on Treasurer's Report; on Ways and Means; on Constitution; and on the Welfare of the Organization. The President shall appoint a Standing Committee of one from each county represented, and perform such other duties that of right pertain to his office.

Sec. 3.—It shall be the duty of the Vice-Presidents to perform the duties of the President in case of his absence or resignation—in their proper order—and give the President such assistance in the discharge of his duties as he may call for.

Sec. 4.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Union; forward to the Treasurer all orders on him authorizing drafts of money, and issue all calls that may be ordered by the President. All expenses he may incur in his official capacity shall be paid by the Union, and he shall receive such amount for the faithful discharge of his duties as the Union may determine at its regular sessions.

Sec. 5.—It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and take charge of all moneys belonging to the Union, pay all orders regularly drawn upon him and signed by the President—as required by the Constitution—or special direction of the Union, and none others. He shall report to the President of the Union monthly the amount of receipts and disbursements, by item; from whom received and to whom paid, together with the amount on hand. He shall also keep a Dr. and Cr. account between this Union and each subordinate League under its jurisdiction, and all other Unions in connection with this Union. He shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, give security in such sum as the Union may determine, that he will at the expiration of his term of office, or sooner, if required by the Trustees, pay and deliver up to his successor in office or such person as may be designated by the Union, or during recess, by a majority of the Trustees, all moneys, evidences of debt, books, papers, accounts and property of the Union pertaining to his office. He shall receive for his services such remuneration as the Union may from time to time determine.

Sec. 6.—It shall be the duty of the Warden to take charge of the door during the sessions of the Union, and to admit none but delegates unless otherwise ordered.

Sec. 7.—The Vice-President shall constitute a Board of Trustees of which the first in order shall be chairman, who shall receive from the Treasurer elect before entering upon the duties of his office, a bond for the security required by the Union, which shall be signed by at least two securities and should the amount in the Treasurer's hands ever exceed that for which his bond is drawn, the trustee shall deposit such excess in such bank or trust company as the Union may direct, and no money shall be drawn therefrom without the order of the Union, the cheques to be signed by the President, Treasurer and a majority of the Trustees. The bank book shall be kept in the hands of the President of the Union.

Sec. 8.—It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee of one from each county to organize subordinate Leagues of skilled and unskilled laborers in the towns and villages of their respective counties, open reading rooms wherever practicable, and keep themselves informed of the progress of the organization of their county and report to the President at least once in three months.

The Secretary intimated that he had received a letter from Mr. J. G. Hodgins, LL.D., Deputy Superintendent of Education, inviting the members of the Congress to visit the Normal School. The communication was received, and the following resolution offered:—

Moved by Mr. J. C. MacMillan, seconded by Mr. W. J. Levesley, and passed unanimously, "That the thanks of the Canadian Labor Congress are tendered to Mr. J. G. Hodgins, D.D., LL.D., Deputy Superintendent of Education for Ontario, for his kind invitation to visit the Museum of the Normal and Model School, and that we attend and see the Museum."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After the members returned from visiting the Normal School, the Congress went into session and proceeded to

THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President—J. W. Carter, Toronto Trades' Assembly.

1st Vice-President—D. J. O'Donoghue, Typographical Union, Ottawa.

2nd Vice-President—Wm. Magness, K. O. S. C., St. Catharines.

3rd Vice-President—Isaac Hodgins, Machinists and Blacksmiths Union, Hamilton.

Secretary—John Hewitt, Toronto Trades' Assembly.

Treasurer—J. C. MacMillan, Toronto Trades' Assembly.

COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION.

The Committee on Organization presented their report as follows:— "That having taken the matter entrusted to their consideration, we beg leave to suggest, that whilst seeking to organize the different Unions already in existence, we should not lose sight of the fact that a large proportion of the labor of Canada is still unorganized. For the purpose of thoroughly organizing the labor of the Dominion, we would suggest that printed circulars, setting forth the advantages to be derived from union, be issued to the committeemen for each county, to be distributed by them to the best advantage, in localities where no organization at present exists, and requesting those that are willing

to, or that have already organized, to communicate with this Canadian Labor Union, with a view to solidification and concentration of power, by sending their delegates to represent them in this body. We would further recommend that in places where the number engaged at one trade or calling is too small to form a distinctive Union of any one trade, that workmen should be urged to unite in forming a protective body, composed of those working at all trades in such places, such body to be called an Amalgamated Labor Union, or some other appropriate name, and that such Unions be entitled to representation in this Union in the same ratio as is provided for in the case of regularly organized Unions. We would, however, strongly deprecate the encouragement or allowance of men joining such organizations that referred to in any place where there is already a society of the trade to which they belong, or where there are sufficient numbers of any one trade to form a separate Union.

"In places where there are already organized trade societies, who have not been yet represented in this Congress, your Committee would recommend that a copy of the Constitution be sent to them, with a recommendation to join us, and setting forth the advantages to be derived from such connection.

"We would also recommend that party politics be kept out of this Union, as there is nothing that so tends to divide and separate workmen as the introduction of party opinions within their circles, and request that each delegate will also impress upon their Union the necessity of inculcating harmony within themselves, as the surest bond of unity and success."

WM. MACDOUGALL, C. A. HARCOURT, B. STARK, S. GREGSON, M. O'CARROLL.

After some discussion had taken place upon some points of the report,—

Mr. J. C. MacMillan moved, seconded by Mr. Craig, the adoption of the report, which was passed unanimously.

ARBITRATION.

The following report of the Committee on Arbitration was submitted and agreed to:

"That as there is so little to advance on this question owing to the want of its appliance to disputes in this country, but considering the favor with which it is received in other countries, and particularly in England, your committee would therefore urgently recommend the settlement of all trades' disputes by arbitration where practicable."

J. McMILLAN, Chairman, DAVID CRAIG, Secretary, WILLIAM PHILLIPS, JOSEPH BONDIDIER, JOHN STEVENSON.

THE HOURS OF LABOR.

The Committee on the Hours of Labor reported as follows:

"That having duly considered the subject, they found a reduction in the hours of labor was always followed by a corresponding advancement in the social and moral condition of the producing classes, and a great increase of the inventions of labor saving machines, as in the instance of the reduction of working hours to ten per diem; they therefore were of opinion that a further reduction to nine hours per day would be followed by still greater advancement in the mental and moral condition of the working classes.

"A reduction in working would also help to regulate the fluctuation of manufacturers, and be a remedy against a great amount of suffering arising from periodical depressions in trade.

"It is the common right of man to have a portion of the day at his disposal, to spend in recreation and mental improvement; and your committee fully believe that it would be to the interests of all classes to reduce the usual hours of business to such a limit as would enable all workers to enjoy a relaxation from it.

"In addition to cessation from labor on Sunday, we are of opinion there should be half a holiday each week, and we have a decided objection to overtime, as being calculated to defeat the benefits accruing from short hours."

J. W. CARTER, T. BRIDGE, A. LLOYD, J. TEMPLEMAN, T. MACDUFF.

A motion for the adoption of the report having been stated from the chair.

Mr. Hewitt said he would take exception to the number of hours mentioned in the report, believing it should rather be eight instead of nine hours. He alluded to the agitation that was going on in the United States, and thought that in so far as we were conceived the short-time movement would be fought out for us not on this but the other side of the lakes, and therefore he contended we should do all in our power to strengthen the hands of those who would bear the brunt of the war,— if we have a certain point to be obtained, we should state it definitely, and if we cannot achieve it at once, (as he was not sanguine we should,) still the principle would be before us, and if we did not achieve success, our successors would have to do it after us. He would therefore move, in amendment, that the report be referred back to the Committee, with instructions to change the hours from nine to eight.

Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue, in seconding the amendment, fully endorsed the previous speaker's remarks. He contended that workmen have a perfect right to fight for their status, and they should take every opportunity they could if bettering their condition. He fully believed that eight hours was a reasonable limit.

Mr. CRAIG, Hamilton, differed from the last speaker, and did not wish it to go out from that Congress that they were agitating for eight hours. Their position was quite different from that of their fellow workmen in Great Britain. They had a floating population to deal with, and it was extremely difficult to even get them organized. If they had out for eight hours they would have the capital of the country arrayed against them. (Hear, hear.) He had no doubt but it would