

## THE TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS.

The seventeenth annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada began its sessions in Brantford, Ont., September 17, Ralph Smith, Esq., M.P., of Nanaimo, B.C., the President, in the chair. The attendance was large, delegates from every province of the Dominion, and from every important industrial centre being present, composed of men who stand high in the organizations they represent.

The report of the Secretary, Mr. P. M. Draper, was on the whole satisfactory to the meeting, but it was noted that there were still 736 labor organizations in the Dominion unaffiliated with the Congress. Of 141 railway organizations but four paid per capita tax to the Congress, two in Toronto, one in Winnipeg and one in Hamilton. The total number of unions paying per capita tax to the Congress was 135, and the amount received \$809, as follows:—Ontario, 72 unions with 4,650 members, \$379; Quebec, 21 unions with 1,696 members, \$134; British Columbia, 30 unions with 1,214 members, \$177; Manitoba, 7 unions with 436 members, \$39; Nova Scotia, 1 union with 67 members, \$5; Prince Edward Island, 1 union with 83 members, \$14; New Brunswick, 3 unions with 235 members \$59.

Many of the matters discussed by the convention are of more than passing interest to readers of this journal. The President, in his address, speaking of the reforms they desired to bring about, said they had no right to expect that their objects could be brought about by revolutionary measures, but they should not play into the hands of their opponents by manifesting a disposition to mistrust the elected leaders of the movement all over the country. Referring to the alleged importation of aliens by the C. P. R. to take the place of striking trackmen, he said that it had been considered too costly a proposal for them to put the law in motion against the company; that he was convinced that the best and cheapest way to settle the matter was to have the Department of Labor assume the deportation of aliens rather than recovery of fines, without expense to the unions, but at the expense of persons violating the act. What organized labor wanted was an anti-contract law of general application—a law prohibiting as well as voiding the importation under contract from any country of laborers of any kind. Speaking of compulsory arbitration, Mr. Smith said that, considering the condition of affairs in Canada, he was convinced that the principle was worth a trial, impartial arbitrators to be appointed by the Government. He recommended the organization of a Canadian federation of labor, and though he believed that unionism should be international, such could be assured only by the strength of national unions.

The President, advocating the organization of a national Canadian labor federation, said:—"I think it is of vast importance that this Congress should accept some method of increasing its own usefulness. There ought to be a Canadian federation, for, whilst I believe that unionism ought to be international in its methods, to meet the necessity of combatting common foes, this usefulness is only assured by the strength of national unions. A federation of American unions, represented by a national union, and a federation of Canadian unions represented by a national union, each working with the other in special cases, would be a great advantage over having local unions in Canada connected with the national unions of America. I think greater success would be accomplished in the settlement of disputes in each country if the leaders of each were the representatives of their own national grievances. I do not reflect on any American officials who have handled our labor troubles in Canada, but I am certain

of this, that there are such distinctive differences in the condition of each that a presentment of Canadian matters by Canadian leaders, and vice versa by American leaders, would lead to a greater success, and would not in any way prevent a federation of the national bodies."

A resolution was passed that, owing to the militia having been called out to "aid the monopolist against the laboring classes" at Vancouver, London and Valleyfield, all union men should abstain from joining any military organization, except in case of the country being invaded. The resolution was discussed at length, the general opinion being in its favor, but it was thought by some that the passing of it would impress the public that the trade union organizations of the Dominion were disloyal. An amendment was moved providing that the question be referred to the different Trades and Labor Councils for discussion, and then brought before the Congress next year.

A resolution was passed that the Congress petition the Legislature to discontinue allowing non-union men to carry firearms to intimidate union men striking for better conditions, cases being cited as occurring at Toronto and Brantford during recent strikes. Another resolution was passed that "inasmuch as the work of the Lower House of the Province of Quebec is vetoed by the Upper House, this Congress place itself on record as in favor of the abolition of the Upper House."

The Congress also voted in favor of compulsory conciliation in labor disputes in preference to compulsory arbitration, which was recommended by the President. The teaching of Imperialism in public schools was disfavored, and concurrence was made in the Executive's suggestion to employ a capable lawyer to go to Ottawa to frame and endeavor to have passed bills beneficial to the working class.

Owing to the development of Canadian industries, the extension of trade abroad and the belief that the native population should be trained in the arts and sciences underlying the theory and practice of trades and manufactures, a resolution was passed instructing the Executive to promote the establishment of technical schools adapted to the requirements of the localities where situated, and under the auspices of the Dominion Government or otherwise.

As we have stated, the men who composed the Trades and Labor Congress have the confidence of their respective organizations, and are possessed of large influence in shaping the legislation of Canada. They are earnest workers, and their efforts are to create and regulate conditions in which every manufacturer is deeply interested. What are our manufacturers doing to keep in friendly touch with these organizations? We are not aware that any association of manufacturers, or employers of labor, sent delegates to the Congress bearing kindly greetings, expressing the wish that any actions taken would be for the best interests of the whole country, but it would have been a graceful act, and an eminently proper thing to do.

## DOLLARS ARE WANTED.

The migration of the patients from the Lakeside Home for Little Children, on Toronto Island, to the Hospital for Sick Children, on College street, this city, a few days ago, was a most pathetic sight. As is usual every year, with the advent of warm weather, some three or four score of suffering and helpless little children, who were being cared for in the College street institution, and their nurses and attendants, were carried in ambulances and carriages to the deck of a steamer awaiting them at the dock, and after a delightful