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CONVENTION OF TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS CONCLUDED

Protracted Session Last Saturday--Lemieux Bill Considered--Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Reply to Congress--Election of Officers

The last formal session of the 1907 convention of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress on Saturday was of a protracted nature.

The work of the session was devoted to the clearing off the resolutions submitted by private members, and these should have been disposed of in an hour or less.

The most important business of the session came at the close, the consideration of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's reply to the congress telegram on the Japanese invasion. It satisfied no one and was depressing. It was what may be described as a diplomatic reply and left unanswered just what the congress desired to know--Sir Wilfrid's personal opinion. It was soon settled. The reply was contemptuously filed and congress decided the premier should next hear from the members when the battle of the Dominion polls was fought. They would answer at the ballot box.

Admittedly the Winnipeg congress ranks as the most successful that has been held and it ranks as history making in the fact that for the first time the aristocracy of labor, as it was called, the railway engineers, were well represented. They certainly took an intelligent part in the proceedings and, amongst the first to attend, were the last to leave the hall.

Vice President Simpson complimented the press for the generous and just rendition of events, and remarked that many things which were impartially dealt with and reported in Winnipeg would have been blue-pencilled in Toronto.

The Lemieux Bill

An amendment by Delegate Lehaney was proposed that the bill be amended to include all trades in the Dominion. The committee reported unfavorable on this, after some discussion.

On being put the amendment carried by 62 votes to 23. Under this vote the executive will be called upon to get the bill amended so as to include all trades and the solicitor promised to draw up an amendment.

It was agreed that clause 42 which provides that persons other than British subjects shall not be allowed to sit as members of a board of conciliation, be struck out.

Delegates Lehaney and Trotter proposed and seconded, to strike out clause 60: "Any person who incites, encourages or aids in any manner any employee to declare or continue a lock-out, or any employee to go or continue on strike contrary to the provisions of the act shall be guilty of an offence and be liable to a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$1,000."

The recommendation of the committee that the resolution be not entertained, was rejected and an instruction taken out to get the clause struck out was carried by 63 votes to 19.

The Fair Wage Clause

W. H. Reeve proposed that the following clause be added to the Dominion fair wage schedule: "the workmen employed in the work of the said contract shall not be required or allowed to work for longer hours than those fixed by that contract except for the protection of life and property, or in case of emergency."

Mr. Landers said that the resolution committee proposed that it be

referred to Delegate Reeve and the solicitor, as the schedule to which it referred did not accompany the resolution.

This was unanimously agreed to, and subsequently on the report of the solicitor, congress affirmed the resolution.

A number of resolutions asking for the granting of the union label to various firms were reported upon favorably, and passed by congress.

The Vancouver Riot

J. F. Lehaney proposed "that whereas, on the evening of September 7th last, an attack was made by some persons on the Japanese and Chinese quarters on the city of Vancouver, B.C., and was promptly ascribed to the trade unionists of that city, led on by foreign labor agitators, and whereas from reliable sources of information we know positively that the trades unionists of that city were not responsible for nor engaged in the perpetration of the outrage, be it resolved that this congress condemn in unmeasured terms the disturbances and the parties responsible for them as unworthy the Anglo-Saxon people. And be it further resolved that we denounce the attempt to distort the facts of this case for the purpose of injuring the cause of international trades associations."

The resolution committee reported favorably on the resolution and it was unanimously affirmed by congress. Edward Empey proposed "that whereas the employers of labor in industrial centres, continue in a very large measure to employ children of very tender ages in factories and other places of industry, and whereas the employing of such children works not only to the disadvantage of the working men of our country, but also tends to stunt the mental and physical growth of our nation, be it resolved that the incoming executive be instructed to endeavor to have more stringent laws passed regarding child labor, and also that factory inspectors be given larger scope and more power to enforce such laws as may be now or in future enacted."

The committee reported favorably on the proposal and congress accepted it unanimously after several vigorous speeches in its support.

Annual Socialistic Resolution

Mr. Pettipiece proposed: "That the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada declares that it stands for absolute independent political action on the part of the working classes, that the collective ownership of the means of life is its ultimate aim, but we believe the best interests of the working classes can be served by granting provincial autonomy in the matter of political affiliation, the functions of congress' provincial executives being to carry out the policy formulated in their respective jurisdictions."

After much consideration the committee referred the resolution to the congress without any recommendation. After two hours had been spent in debating the resolution in the course of which one delegate characterized the proposal as to collective ownership as a dream. They lived in a practical age and could not go back to a dream. A division resulted in 39 voting for the resolution, and 51 against.

WE CLOTHE THE
MEN FROM
HEAD TO FOOT

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Reply

At Saturday afternoon's meeting of the congress, President Verville announced the reply of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to the resolution of congress regarding the Japanese invasion of British Columbia which was as follows:

Ottawa, Sept. 21

Alphonse Verville, M.P., President, Trades and Labor Congress, Winnipeg.

"I have given due consideration to your request that immediate steps be taken to terminate the treaty with Japan. I would observe that this treaty, when brought into existence, did not apply to Canada, and that some few years ago, in response to the repeated expressions of public opinion and with a view of affording to Canadian producers an opportunity of the growing Japanese trade, the Canadian government became a party to this treaty, and that it was unanimously ratified by the Canadian parliament.

"The treaty has proved of great advantage, and our trade with Japan under it has greatly increased. You base your appeal for the denunciation of the treaty on the allegation that a crisis has arisen in British Columbia by reason of the unprecedented influx of Japanese. Whilst it is true that most regrettable incidents have occurred in Vancouver there, seems reason to doubt that the cause was the influx of Japanese, as I am in possession of a telegram from the mayor of Vancouver, which has been rendered public, which expressly avers that the disturbances were directed against Asiatics generally, rather than against Japanese. Under such circumstances any precipitate action might be regrettable, and before committing themselves to such a course the government think that they should carefully enquire into causes which within the recent past have caused a greater influx to our shores than previously of Oriental people. (Sgd.) WILFRID LAURIER."

Election of Officers

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted in a continuance of the old executive in office.

James Simpson re-nominated A. Verville for president. He said he deemed it expedient at this time that Mr. Verville should remain in office for at least another year. The members of the executive had worked harmoniously up to the present time, and had initiated policies and directed the destinies of the conference to the best of their ability. While it had been his honor to occupy the junior position on the executive board, and while it was natural for a man to seek the higher office, he desired to say that he considered the vital interests of the congress more important than the mere satisfying of individual ambition. The discussion that morning had emphasized the importance of the plans for perfecting the organization, and increasing the influence of the congress. He was satisfied from the suggestions and recommendations that had been made that the congress would enter upon the year 1907-8 with greater prospects of success than it had ever entered on a fresh year in the past. For that reason he had much pleasure in nominating Mr. Verville.

W. V. Todd endorsed every word that had been said in respect to Mr. Verville; but felt it his duty to make another nomination. He believed that it was possible for congresses as well as political parties or any other deliberative bodies to get into a rut; and such being his opinion, he wished to make a move to keep the congress out of a rut. He might have no supporters, but he believed in the expression of opinion as long as it was the honest reflection of a man's thought. He nominated Robert Hungerford, who had had a splendid record for good, honest work, and was for several years president of the Toronto Trades and Labor council.

R. Hungerford, declining the nomination, said he was a little sorry that one or two delegates should have so far forgotten themselves as to demonstrate no very kindly feeling towards him. They

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should have waited to find out just where he stood before doing so. He did not think any person, who knew him or knew his connection with the congress at previous conventions, could say he had ever acted in a selfish manner. He thought he had made as much sacrifice for the trades union movement as any man in Canada. He appreciated Mr. Todd's eulogy, but he wished to say he had no desire to stand for the position.

President Verville was then declared re-elected amid loud applause. P. M. Draper re-nominated Jas. Simpson as vice-president; A. G. Perry second, and the election was unopposed. On the motion of H. Albert, P. M. Draper was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

The provincial committees were then appointed as follows:

Vice-president for the province of British Columbia, J. C. Watters, Victoria; executive committee, S. Kernighan, Vancouver; O. Sieverius, Victoria; A. G. Perry, Vancouver. Vice-president for Alberta, J. F. L. Cheney, Coleman; executive, T. R. Wesman, Edmonton; W. M. Leonard, Edmonton, and J. H. Dunlop, Calgary. Vice-president of Saskatchewan, Hugh Peat, Regina; executive, Jas. Somerville, Moose Jaw; T. A. Stanlake, Regina; T. M. Molloy, Regina. Vice-president for Manitoba, W. J. Bartlett, Winnipeg; executive, W. P. Head, Brandon; H. T. Albert, Winnipeg; S. W. McKinnon, Winnipeg. Vice-president for Quebec, G. Francis, Montreal; executive, A. Anderson, Montreal; J. A. Masse, Montreal, and Mr. Moisan, Quebec. Vice-president for Ontario, O. Bancroft, Toronto; executive, C. O. Hahn, Berlin; J. H. Barnett, and P. Gray, Fort William. Vice-president for Nova Scotia, J. T. Joy, Halifax; executive, Jas. Flanagan, P. King and P. J. Healey, Halifax.

Resolutions Settled

The following resolutions which had passed through the hands of the committee were approved:

In favor of collective ownership of all the means of production and distribution.

In favor of an eight-hour day for street railway employees on Sunday.

In favor of the registration of steam-fitters and plumbers.

In favor of a workman's compensation act on similar lines to those adopted by the imperial parliament.

In favor of the appointment for the protection of longshoremen.

Against the firing of employees. The resolution calling for the enforcing of apprenticeships was rejected. The resolution in favor of the appointment of a paid secretary was referred to the audit committee.