

# THE ECHO.

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## MEETINGS.

### CENTRAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF MONTREAL.

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Meets in the Ville-Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, the first and third Thursdays of the month. Communications to be addressed to P. C. CHATEL, Corresponding Secretary 127 1/2 St. Lawrence street.

**RIVER FRONT ASSEMBLY,**  
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Rooms, K. of L. Hall, 662 1/2 Craig street. Next meeting Sunday, Sept. 18, at 2.30. Address all correspondence to  
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Meets every Friday evening at eight o'clock in the K. of L. Hall, 662 1/2 Craig street. Address all communications to  
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**PROGRESS ASSEMBLY,**  
No. 3852, K. of L.  
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1711, K. of L.  
Meets next Sunday, in the K. of L. Hall, 662 1/2 Craig street, at 7 o'clock.  
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## DOMINION CONGRESS.

### EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION.

Important Resolutions Discussed—  
Election of Officers—Montreal  
Next Place of Meeting.

After the welcome at the City Hall, recorded in our last issue, the President nominated Messrs. Banton, Boudreau and McAndrew a committee on credentials, and Congress adjourned to meet again in the afternoon.

On re-assembling, the first business was the reading from the City Clerk of an invitation to the delegates to take a drive round the city. The invitation was accepted, but not without an amendment being offered.

Mr. St. Pierre, of Montreal, was appointed French secretary during the session. The following standing committees were appointed:

Standing Orders—D. A. Carey, Toronto; David Hastings, Hamilton; P. J. Ryan, Montreal; Antoine Choquette, Ottawa; Benjamin Bock, St. Catharines.

Ways and Means—George Harris, Toronto; C. Malhot, Montreal; D. R. Gibson, Hamilton.

Auditors—R. Keys, Montreal; Daniel Curtin, Guelph; Robert Mackell, Ottawa.

On Thanks—P. J. Jobin, Quebec; Robert Platt, Montreal; John Armstrong, Toronto.

On President's Address—Isaac T. Miller, Toronto; J. A. Rodier, Montreal; Fred Walter, Hamilton.

On Report of Executive Committee—D. J. O'Donoghue, Toronto; Wm. McAndrew, Hamilton; L. Z. Boudreau, Montreal.

The report of Secretary-Treasurer Dower was then received. It showed that the per capita for the year had been placed at eight cents, and the receipts at this rate had been \$446.12, which, added to the balance on hand, makes the total receipts \$452.02. The expenditure for the year has been \$397.18, leaving a balance on hand of \$54.84.

The report of the Executive Committee was received. The committee is composed of Urbain Lafontaine, chairman; Geo. T. Beals, A. W. Wright, A. Lavigne, Charles March, Louis Z. Boudreau, George Gale, Luc Routier, Geo. W. Dower, secretary.

The report of the sub-committee appointed to consider the subject of the current rate of wages on Government works was included in the report. The reports from the Legislative Committees from the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario were also included in the report and read.

Referring to the Chinese Immigration Act, passed at the recent session of the Federal Legislature, the report says: "The only bill in the interests of labor introduced in the House of Commons during the past session was one by Mr. Gordon, M. P. for Vancouver Island, amending the Chinese Immigration Act. The provisions of the bill were in the direction of increasing the tax from \$50 to \$100 and decreasing the number of Chinese allowed to be carried by steamships by one half. When nearing the end of the session the Government took charge of the bill and passed the same, but in such a changed form as practically to leave the law as it was unchanged." In conclusion, the report says that the committee are of the opinion that the time is not far distant when the demands of labor must be granted.

It was moved by Mr. David Hastings, seconded by Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue, "That a special committee be appointed to consider the report on the changes required in the interests of labor organizations in the Act respecting insurance corporations passed at the last session of the Ontario Legislature." The following committee was appointed in accordance with this resolution: Messrs. D. J. O'Donoghue, Hastings, Benson, Walters and Crowhurst.

It was moved by Mr. F. St. Pierre, and seconded by Mr. J. A. Rodier, "That this congress approves of the bill for the early closing of stores and other business places presented at the last session of the Legislature of the Province of Quebec." The proposition was carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. J. A. Rodier, seconded by Mr. F. St. Pierre, "That the congress appoint a special committee to look into the means of abolishing convict labor in the reform schools of Quebec."

## SECOND DAY.

The Trades Congress met promptly on time and at once, under the guidance of President Lafontaine, proceeded to dispose of a large order paper made up chiefly of resolutions sent on from the committee.

Letters were read from Victoria Trades Council, expressing regret that delegates could not be sent to the Congress, and detailing the grievances of workmen on the Pacific slope. The clause of the immigration act limiting Chinese immigration to one for every fifty tons of burden of ships bringing them is deliberately evaded, and not content with Chinese, a scheme is now on foot to work one of the great coal mines with Japanese labor. The Victoria Council wishes the admission of Japanese regulated. The construction of the Government steamer India on the Clyde while home shipbuilders on the Pacific slope were idle was pointed out as a nice evidence of the promised protection of a paternal government. The matter of eight hours for a standard day was urged as a subject for action by Congress, with the request that the Dominion Government be asked to put an eight hour clause in all contracts for public works.

Vancouver Trades Council sent on resolutions in place of delegates, because, as they said, the membership of labor organizations on the slope is steadily decreasing, while the number of unemployed is steadily increasing. The Dominion Government and C. P. R. says the letter seem bent on breaking up trades unions. The curse of Chinese immigration was dealt with in a very plain spoken fashion, some of the facts stated about the harems to which girls are brought from China and practically sold into slavery. Details of a terrible nature were given at the end of the letter, and the exclusion of the Chinese is held as the first plank of the labor platform on the Pacific slope. Attached were resolutions favoring the referendum, an eight hour day, and the abolition of the contract system on Government works.

Messrs. McAndrew, Boudreau and O'Donoghue presented a report recommending the adopting of the Executive recommendations on general legislations, with the exception of the proposal to establish a public library in Montreal, to which an amendment was made that such libraries be established by the municipalities instead of the Provincial Government as proposed.

A spirited debate then took place over a clause in the Ontario Executive's report on "An act to amend the act respecting the law of landlord and tenant," which had been hurried through the last session of the Ontario Assembly. Delegate O'Donoghue explained the law, summing up the charge as one that abolished the exemption from seizure of the few necessities of life formerly exempt, and giving landlords power to seize and sell for two months rent every stick in the house, even if the goods amount to far more than the value of the rent. In a lengthy debate which followed the law was handled severely as one which left poor tenants absolutely at the mercy of harsh landlords. In the end the report was adopted.

## ASSISTED IMMIGRATION.

Congress passed on to the report of the Committee on Standing Orders, presented by chairman D. A. Carey. This bristled with resolutions, the first of which related to assisted immigration and was presented by Delegate O'Donoghue, seconded by R. Glocking. The resolution declared that the expenditure of any public money, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting, bonusing, encouraging or decoying immigrants, either mechanical or manual, adult or juvenile, from abroad to Canada is unnecessary and unjustifiable under the circumstances.

There was a short explanatory debate in which it was shown that although assisted passages are no longer given, the Government of the Dominion maintains a large staff in Great Britain to talk up the advantage of Canada as a labor market. The result of this policy was the crowding of the cities with unemployed workmen. It was pointed out by Delegate O'Donoghue that, although there were 4,000 orphans in Ontario Government institutions, the Dominion Government paid \$2 per head bonus on children, often not of the best class, shipped to Canada by Dr. Barnardo and many others. During the debate Messrs. Armstrong, Mills, Choquette and March gave illustrations of the working of the law, Mr. Mills stating that the orphans brought out were often shamefully ill-treated.

Messrs. Beales and Benson of the Toronto Builders' Laborers' Union told how mechanics were deceived when coming to Canada and drifted into the ranks of unskilled labor, making the pressure on that class terribly hard. Mr. Beason suggested that Ontario and the other governments, instead of spending money on immigration, use it to place settlers on the cities on the free lands of the new sections. On the question being put, the motion was unanimously adopted. This is the first time in the history of the Congress that assisted immigration has been unanimously condemned.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

With G. T. Beals in the chair, the congress spent the major part of the afternoon in discussing the effect upon the trades union benefit societies of the recent Ontario Insurance Act, which provides that "any lawfully incorporated trades union in Ontario, which, under the authority of the incorporation act, has an insurance or benefit fund for the benefit of its own members exclusively, shall, upon due application for registry thereunder, be entitled to be registered on the friendly register."

The trades unions of Ontario are not incorporated, and thus they in effect suffer the same fate as the bogus insurance schemes, and have their insurance schemes barred out and made illegal. The subject was such an important one that a special committee was appointed to make a report. This they did, and recommended that the following definition be inserted in the act: "The term trades union or bona fide labor organization means such combination, whether temporary or permanent, for regulating the relations between workmen and employers or for imposing restrictive conditions on the conduct of any trade or business."

The discussion that followed showed a wide divergence of opinion on the subject, several of the delegates being in favor of the act as a protection against wild-cat schemes of insurance, while others maintained the act was inspired by the big insurance companies in order to wipe out the mutual companies. Ultimately an amendment of Delegate O'Donoghue's that "the registrar of friendly societies be asked to extend exemption from the provisions of the act to all trade organizations until the next session of the Provincial Legislature, with the view of enabling said organizations, through the Executive Committee of this congress, to secure incorporation and the passage into law of certain amendments to the existing law, which will the better enable them to comply with its provisions respecting benevolent features," was carried, and a committee having interviewed the registrar it was subsequently announced that the exemption had been granted.

Many notices of motion were put in, one of a somewhat unusual nature being presented by Mr. T. St. Pierre and R. Keys, of Montreal, as follows: Whereas the laboring classes can only obtain the highest welfare by the fullest development of the natural resources and commerce of the country; and whereas it is essential to attain this end that the country shall enjoy complete autonomy, and that its Government shall have full power to deal with all domestic or international questions without regard to the interests or desires of any foreign nation; and whereas Canadians have shown by their experience of nearly a century their ability for self-government; Resolved that this congress is in favor of the Canadian Parliament taking the necessary means to secure the establishment and recognition of the independence of Canada.

When this notice of motion subsequently came up for discussion an amendment by Delegate J. A. Rodier carried to the effect that the congress petition the Federal Government, at as early a date as possible, to submit to the popular vote the following questions, viz.:

"Is Canada to remain as now, a dependency of the British Empire?" as to "Imperial Federation," as to "Annexation," and as to "Independence."

It was also resolved that every labor organization in the country be furnished with copies of the resolution to take action thereon.

Among the miscellaneous motions passed were the following:

By R. Glocking, for Government printing bureaus to print school books at cost and supply them free.

By R. Glocking, to repeal the obnoxious clauses in the Ontario Landlord and Tenant Act.

By J. Knowlton, to petition the Dominion Parliament for a two-cent rate on railways.

By Hugh McCaffrey, for a union label.

By F. B. Downey, against property qualification for municipal office, with a rider by Mr. St. Pierre to watch closely that the Montreal property owners do not secure two votes to one for householders in municipal affairs.

By J. A. Rodier and T. St. Pierre, to petition the Federal Parliament and the Legislature of Quebec, asking them to appoint an inspector of the tackle and gearing used in loading and unloading ships at the port of Montreal.

By Ald. McAndrew, in favor of the prohibition of the importation to Canada of laborers under contract. This passed amid cheers, only one member voting against it.

## THIRD DAY.

At Monday afternoon's session of the Congress, during a discussion on changes in its constitution, an amendment was moved that all officers of the Congress must be delegates.

This was aimed at Secretary Dower, who was not a delegate, but numerous speakers went to his rescue and the Congress, after hearing of his splendid work for the cause, defeated the amendment.

Chinese immigration was the next topic, and this resolution was passed unanimously: "That this Congress, after careful consideration of the subject in all its phases, declares the admission of Chinese a menace and an undeniable danger to the moral, social, political and material interests of Canada, and should be totally prohibited, and that as the presence of those now in Canada entails extra and special expense on the whole people of such provinces as they sojourn in in large numbers, a special annual poll tax of \$100 be imposed on each Chinaman after a given date, and that each one be obliged to register at a given time and place, so that his place of residence may be ascertained when necessary; that the poll tax referred to be payable into the funds of the municipalities in which they are at the time of registration; and, further, that like laws respecting the importation and immigration of Japanese be enacted."

Railroad accidents were discussed and many thought that their frequency had some relation to the long hours and wearied condition of railway employees at times.

Delegate Back, of St. Catharines, seconded by William Glocking, Toronto, moved this resolution: "That on account of the numerous railway accidents, which it is believed are caused by officials working too many hours this Congress recommends that engineers, firemen, conductors, switchmen, telegraph operators on railways and brakemen shall only work 48 hours a week."

Delegate O'Donoghue, seconded by Geo. Harris, succeeded in having this amendment for a straight day of eight working hours in each 24, and it was adopted that way.

Other resolutions to the following effect were passed. For the appointment of male and female factory inspectors outside of cities in Ontario and Quebec; for a uniform system of school books in Quebec; that Government contracts for binding and printing be given to union firms pending the establishment of public printing bureaus.

## FOURTH DAY.

The principal business of Tuesday's proceedings was the election of officers, which resulted as follows:

President—George T. Beales, of the Builders' Laborers' Union, Toronto.

Vice-President—P. J. Jobin, of the Trades and Labor Council, Quebec and Levis.

Secretary-Treasurer—George W. Dower (by acclamation) of Typographical Union, No. 91, Toronto.

Ontario Parliamentary Committee—R. Glocking, of Bookbinders' Assembly, K. of L., No. 5 743, Toronto; Alfred Jury, Local Assembly K. of L. 1325, Toronto; David Carey, District Assembly, K. of L., No. 125, Toronto.

Quebec Parliamentary Committee—D. Marsan, Trades and Labor Council, Quebec; J. A. Rodier, District Assembly K. of L., No. 19, Montreal; R. Keys, Dominion Assembly, 2436, K. of L.

A motion by Delegate Gibson to meet at Hamilton was defeated by one vote, and a motion to meet in Montreal was carried by 27 votes. The Hamilton delegates were badly disconcerted at the result.

The report of the Committee on Arbitration was as follows: "Your special

Continued on page 5.