LABOR CONGRESS.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DOMINION LABOR CONGRESS AT QUEBEC

Many Important Resolutions Adopted
Immigration Factory Inspectors
National Currency Government
Ownership of Railroads
Shorter Hours, etc

The Dominion Labor Congress met and in session in Quebec, on Wednesday morning, the 2nd inst. Already delegates to the number of seventy delegates were present. Pierre A. Mercier was introduced and delivered a short address of welcome inviting the Congress to make use of the Legislative Assembly Chamber for the deliberations. The Congress was accepted with due appreciated remarks.

George Dower, Toronto, acted as English Secretary, and Joseph Ste. Quebec, as French secretary.

The President delivered his address, in which he referred to the Congress as the largest, strongest, and most worthy association of workingmen that had ever met in Canada. The usefulness and power of which were felt all over the country, and exhorted them to legislate and act so as to receive the sanction of public opinion.

COMMITTEES

The following committees were struck

Standing Orders—Messrs Reynolds, Quebec; John W Darcy, Toronto; J T Carey, St Catherines; Chaquette, Ottawa, and Bourdeau, Montreal

Ways and Means—J Beland, M P P, Montreal; A Lavigne, Ottawa; F C Cribben Toronto

Thanks—John Quinn, Quebec; Mrs Mary Daffey, Montreal; George Coulter, Toronto

Letters were read from Vancouver respecting Chinese labor and other matters, for which legislation was asked, also from the Montreal Trades and Labor Council, inviting the delegates to participate in the celebration of Labor day next Monday, which invitation was accepted.

A resolution was proposed demanding that the Ontario Legislature pass an act favorable to manhood suffrage the motion of Mr J Tobin the report was referred back to the Standing Committee, with instructions that the since of Quebec be included in the

FACTORY INSPECTOR

A resolution was considered on factory inspectors, when Mr Cribben, of Toronto, complained of the lack of accomodation for sitting down, etc, in the case of girls employed in shops and factories in Ontario.

D J. O'Donoghue, Toronto, urged that if inspectors failed in their duty they should be reported to the Government.

Mr. A. W. Wright, of Toronto, said as organized labor had not been consulted in the appointments of the inspectors, it should be thankful that one was good out of the three, and that the other two were no worse than they were. If female inspectors were asked, the demand for local inspectors should be emphasized.

Mr. Macdonald, of Cornwall, said other parts of Canada were not as bad off as Ontario.

Mr Jonin, of Quebec, corroborated those who were afraid of hurting the fine feelings of factory inspectors.

An amendment to the effect that the Government be asked to appoint local inspectors in the chief factory centres of Ontario was passed.

VARIOUS MATTERS

On motion of Mr Cribben, the Congress voiced sympathy with the eight hour movement, and expressed the opinion that legislative action thereon was desirable

Mr. Carey, of Toronto, carried a resolution objecting to the importation of skilled and unskilled labor to enter into competition with the artisans and workingmen of Canada, and asking the Government to cancel subsidies to steamship companies decoying such immigrants here

Mr Davey, of Toronto, moved and it was resolved that all railway and telegraph lines should be owned and operated by the Government and all gas, electric light, telephone and street railway companies and water works by the municipalities in which situated

Mr. D J O'Donoghue, seconded by Mr C. March, moved for a Workshop Investigation Act to be brought in by the Dominion Government After some discussion the motion carried by a vote of twenty three to ten

It was moved by Mrs Mary Daffey, of Montreal, seconded by Mr. Carey, "that the local Government be requested to appoint female factory inspectors Mrs Daffey drew the special attention of the Congress to the fact that there are many complaints respecting which the female operatives of cotton mills refer to delegates approaching a man inspector and from this fact a great evil exists

The motion was carried unanimously

Mr Armstrong, seconded by Mr Chapman, moved the abolition of the contract system in municipal, provincial and municipal works

It was moved by Mr D J O'Donoghue, seconded by Mr. March, "that the Government be petitioned to repeal the clause in the Seamen's Agreement Act not allowing any appeal after a conviction for any offense, and to grant instead the right of appeal in such cases." Carried

Moved by Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue seconded by Mr. C March "that the Congress requests of the Dominion Government the passage of such legislation as will have the effect of prohibiting the importation into Canada of Chinese labor, and of preventing the further admission under any circumstances of any of this undesirable class of immigrants." Carried

THURSDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

ASSISTED IMMIGRATION

The question of Senate and Government subsidies Messrs O'Donoghue, March, Tobin, Cribben and Beales strongly supported the adoption of a resolution in favor of Congress urging the Toronto Trades and Labor Council to act

The Trade and Labor Congress composed of regularly elected representatives of the various labor organizations throughout Canada, has come to the conclusion that for years past, and at the present time, the labor market of the Dominion has been and is constantly overstocked in all its branches, mechanical and manual, and therefore resolved that the expenditure of any public money in any way or manner for the purpose of assisting, bonusing or encouraging the inflowing immigrants of either or both the classes mentioned, adults or juveniles, from abroad to Canada is unnecessary and unjustifiable under such circumstances.

"That it resolved further, That as a consequence of the existence of such a condition of the labor market in the Dominion of Canada the existing and most leading system of bonusing immigrants should be abolished, and that only such possessed of financial wealth should be encouraged to come to this country

"Be it resolved still further, That it be an instruction to the Executive and Parliamentary Committee of this Congress to prepare and present to the Minister of Agricultural and Immigration in Canada a duly certified copy of this resolution and also that press upon his attention the great importance of such resolution on this subject, also that a certified copy of the same be forwarded to his Excellency the Governor General for such action as to him may seem most advisable

Delegate Fox, Quebec, showed that all the money spent on immigration was as much paid to drive Canadian taxpayers to the United States, and he quoted the census returns in support of his statement

Mr A W Wright contended that the speech of the mover, Mr O'Donoghue, was characterized by partisan feeling

Mr A W Wilson, Toronto, offered an amendment to the effect that, while this Congress was in favor of opening up and settling our wild lands by any reasonable expenditure other than the extension of financial assistance by Government to immigrants, they are opposed to the aiding, directly or indirectly, of the immigration of artisans, agricultural and unskilled labor, and recommend the withdrawal of subsidies now granted by Government to steamship companies, indoeing or decoying such immigrants to Canada

A W Holmes, D A Carey and A. W Wright supported the amendment, which, after an exciting debate, was carried

A resolution, moved by Mr Fox, of Quebec, and supported by Messrs John Gailes and others, was unanimously adopted, urging the Government of Canada to reimburse for their loss the sufferers by the landslide from Cape Diamond, of September, 1889

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The greater part of the afternoon was occupied with balloting for officers, which resulted as follows —

President—Urbain Lafontaine, Montreal, re-elected

Vice-President—George T Beales, of the United Laborers' Union, Toronto

Secretary Treasurer—Geo. W Dower, Toronto, re-elected

Executive Board—Ontario A W Wright, Toronto; A L Lavigne, Ottawa; C March, Toronto; Quebec George Gale, Quebec city; Lue Hoether, Quebec city; L F Bodreau, Montreal

Toronto was selected as the next place of meeting by a large majority

FRIDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Resolutions of condolence were passed by the Congress apropos of the decease of J. Corrigan, printer, of Montreal, an ex member of the Dominion Trades and Labor Council, and of the accidental killing by a railway train at Toronto on Thursday night of Martin Carey, brother of Delegate D A Carey.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION

Delegate Davey moved a resolution to the effect that the large amount of money in actual circulation is much too restricted for the extension of our commerce, and is ruinous to our credit, that it is necessary that the execution of public works required by the Government, as when terminated they will be not only for the good of the country but a source of revenue, that in consequence the Federal Government should issue additional paper money redeemable in thirty or fifty years, in sufficient quantity to cover the cost of said public works, or to substitute them if paid for by municipalities. Carried.

SHORTER HOURS FOR WOMEN

Mr Lepine, M P, moved that the Government of Quebec be asked to pass a law fixing at nine hours the length of the working day of women employed in work shops, shops and factories He thought that for women the commencement of their day should be fixed at nine o'clock.

Mr Beland, M P P, seconded the motion which was adopted

PRISON MADE FURNITURE

The following resolution was adopted "That it is desirable in the interests of the working classes that all articles manufactured in prisons and reformatory schools should be exported and sold in foreign markets, instead of being brought into competition with the products of private industry in the Canadian market, and that the Government be asked to act upon this recommendation, that the Legislature of Quebec be asked to declare the expression convicts, or workingmen, in the law known as Mr David's bill, as signifying anybody working for wages or salaries, that the Quebec Government be asked to cause inspectors for factories outside the cities, as the existing inspectors are constantly required in the cities, especially in Montreal, that the Quebec Government be asked to establish a free public library Montreal

EDUCATION

Mr Tobin moved in favor of free education for the Province of Quebec

Mr Beland the mover of an amendment for free and compulsory education under the control of the different denominations and spoke briefly in support of his motion

After discussion by Messrs Tobin Rodier, Lepine Beland and others the motion was agreed to

It was resolved to recommend uniformity in the books employed in public schools in Quebec Province so long as they are approved by the Council of Public Instruction, and further, that the Provincial Governments of both Ontario and Quebec be asked to establish printing and binding establishments for the printing of all Government documents and of all public school books, so that the latter may cost as little a possible, and be thus distributed gratuitously to schools that the superintendents of these establishments be appointed independent of all political influence, and conducted only by the true interests of the country and of trade in general

Votes of thanks to Premier Mercier, the Mayor of Quebec, etc., were adopted

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr Beland, M P P, from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported in favor of granting $75 to Secretary Dower for his services during the past year, and to maintain the exemption tax at existing rate per year Carried

Mr A W Wright, from the committee on the report of the Executive Committee, reported favorably on the work of that body during the past year

The instrument having to the establishment of eight hours as a day's labor was discussed, and it was resolved to petition Parliament to legislate so that this object might be secured in at most three years from now, by a gradual abatement of the hours by three quarters of an hour per day each year

It was then decided to memorialize the Federal Government to provide for the better working of the Act respecting inspection of shipping bulls and tackle by removing the necessity of reporting to Ottawa on each case and then awaiting orders from the Department of Marine

The Congress adjourned at 4 p m.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Labor Lance Advocate

The pulpit and the press are launching out and lashing the workers at Ottawa pretty freely, and if half are at all sensitive, they must since pretty keenly under the many-sided application But even a criminal should have a hearing and a fair trial. Let us talk the matter over briefly, and to the point and we may see that the critics are too strong on one side There are but few people living at present who are as good as they ought to be, though there are a good many who are as good as they can afford to be Present conditions are unfavorable for developing a high moral standard of character. The trout has bright spots and a clear skin if he is in clear water, but if he is compelled to live in muddy water his coat gets tarnished There is reason to fear that the politicians have not been surrounded with a sufficiently clear moral atmosphere and it often happens that the criminal is no worse than many others who are uncaught. The case in hand is very special one and before we give judgment it would only be fair to consider what we are doing as a people to educate the public mind and what results we are aiming at as our moral standard

The writer is not pleading for the heedless but we must put the saddle on the right horse. There is a great deal of inaccuracy at the present day, a seeming to be, an effort to appear what we are not, who talks about Ottawa had better begin at home, and when the constituencies are right Parliament will be right also The public mind and sentiment is at fault and the people worship money The church is in all its divisions worships money The church knows that there is a God and by words they address Him, but only a few, a remnant, the salt, mysm it, and all the others worship money Money is the chief god of the Christian Church and when the earth's fountain of purity is thus frustrated what else is left to be pure? Human language fails to state the sin of the church sufficiently, while she accepts men who have become rich by fraud and worships the money they possess, and still further aggravates the evil by regarding the presence of the money as an indication of God's blessing Sin of this species can hardly go further

That the love of money is the root of all evil, is as true now as when Paul wrote it, and the church was never before so much under the control of money It is not to say that the love of money and use may I use it who has not got a single penny Money is the magnet that is drawing out the energies and aspirations of the people everywhere. And there are few Christians who let their light shine as they are directed by their Lord in order to lead others the better way Instead of Christian love ministering the point of contact and Christ is rarely felt in business It is too often allowed to make Himself felt in the church and how can we expect Christianity to be felt in business if it is not felt in the church and how can we expect circumstances to undo truth and righteousness in Parliament? Preachers do not seem to be far above the people in this matter Occasionally one is indifferent to money, but generally when two congregate to bid for the services of one man it has come to be a duty to go where there is most money, and when there are dozens in the camp the preacher is generally on the side of wealth. The greatest sin on this earth to day, the parent of all other sins, is the love of riches, or what specially, in our land means, who wish to make money, to collect dividends. There is no such change in a man's mind and when it is accomplished it will be seen as to the upper entirety obviously and invisible manhood, the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God will have an opportunity to appear

These few sentences are given in candor and truth and they seem to indicate that everything in all right in some other places beside Ottawa If we believe the book we should judge the church of the present day as being and numerous as to possess sufficient moral power to overwhelm society as the whole, and this is just the condition, for the church of the present day has no wish for a change who is joined to her idols of gold and of silver, or there her energies and interests are centered, and from that they can bestow distinctions and honor among men There is a heaven but it can take care of itself

MACKENZIE BOWELL

THOUGHTS FOR LABOR REFORMERS

There is but one minister in the world the sole man *Chronicle*

The burglar a trust is less about all the rest of there combinations It is organized robbery *Buffalo Herald*

There have recently been several news paper reports of children committing suicide after having played A young man who knew not how to guide a child with out a strap is out to have a child *Toronto Globe*

We are told very often that we have no insight in practical politics We will believe this when our enemies Liberal or Conservative, cease to hunt electoral fishing hooks with mutilated fragments of our program *London Truth*

We have *about 10,000,000* of people in this country who work very hard but seldom get a living wage And we have also foreign capitalists owning over $10,000,000,000 worth of our industries Where is the man to publicly assert that conditions such as these are healthy and desirable in a republic *N Y Herald*

It is notable that the Secular papers which make it part of their vocation to pour ridicule and scorn upon theological "heresy hunting" give no small part of their columns to the hunting down of political heresy, a fact which is a thing that, in politics, they constantly and copiously practice is as obnoxious when done in the theological world does not clearly appear —*Christian Leader*.

It is hard to get new ideas into old brains To a certain extent the human brain resembles cement In early years it is plastic, but, when it once becomes set, it is very likely to remain so and grow harder with the lapse of years. When any man has a batch of settled ideas in his mind and feels satisfied that they embody the be-all and end all of truth, he has become an intellectual imbecile and is incapable of further growth —*Minneapolis State*

The first thing for a man to do is to become the owner of his own soul. There are men who, in the presence of others, are always under restraint without many times realizing it The teacher is not he who pins the thought of the pupil, but he who causes him to think for himself and puts him in the way of being master of himself The very opposite is the effect of the undue influence It makes you smaller When you find yourself in such company get away from it, for it is an unhealthy, malign influence. —*Felix Adler*

"TRIFLING IRREGULARITIES"

Last night I was overtaken on the street by a Conservative friend, who must of late up to his place to get some fruit "There's nothing like sitting under your own vine and plum tree, said he "People who buy their fruit down street don't know what a pleasure it is to watch your own plums and pears getting bigger and softer, and larger colored, and more like honey every day. Why, it is enough to sweeten one's temper to see it Let that a fellow making a fuss about nothing just to look at 'em

"Go slow, my son, said I, "Trees in the nature of a test to make a fuss about nothing.

"Well, now it is," said he "Well look the everlasting pow wow the Liberal papers have been making over the trifling irregularities at Ottawa He went on to expose the foolishness of such partisan tactics, and I left him in the full flow of the words 'trifling irregularities I raised the examiner of his arguments As we turned *the corner of the street near his house a* group of boys noisily emerged from the shadow and I called out to

"Here we are" exclaimed my companion cheerily, "and now I can promise you a treat. Plums developed and pears that will fall without shaking Hullo, what's that?" This turned out to be three or four trees, torn and broken and stripped of the fruit Not a plum or pear remained "nothing but leaves The owner raved and stormed, and vowed seven different kinds of revenge His language was so strong that it cast a blight over the injured trees and made them look worse than before I request I him not to make such a fuss about nothing

"Nothing" he retorted "Do you call it nothing to be robbed in this outrageous way" The young dominie Dement was not the word he used, but it amounts to the same thing I call it plain, downright stealing I don't know what you call it

"Trifling irregularities," my man, I responded, soothingly "Mere trifling irregularities" *London Advertiser*

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