

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Trades and Labor Congress
OF CANADA.



HELD AT MONTREAL, QUE.

ON

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, AND FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER
19TH, 20TH, 21ST AND 22ND, 1899.



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TORONTO.

OFFICERS OF THE CONGRESS

1899-1900

President—RALPH SMITH, M.P.P. Box 392, Nanaimo, B.C.
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Secretary-Treasurer—GEO. W. DOWER 11 Louisa St., Toronto, Ont.

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A. W. PUTTEE Winnipeg | A. W. JOHNS Winnipeg

Executive Committee for British Columbia.

JAMES WILKES, *Vice-Pres.* Rossland | H. HARRISON, Rossland
J. B. McLAREN, Rossland | GEO. A. COLDWELL Victoria

PLATFORM OF PRINCIPLES.

1. Free compulsory education.
2. Legal working day of eight hours, and six days to a week.
3. Government inspection of all industries.
4. The abolition of the contract system on all public works.
5. A minimum living wage, based on local conditions.
6. Public ownership of all franchises, such as railways, telegraphs, water-works, lighting, etc.
7. Tax reform, by lessening taxation on industry and increasing it on land values.
8. Abolition of the Dominion Senate.
9. Exclusion of Chinese.
10. The Union Label to be placed on all manufactured goods were practicable, and on all government and municipal supplies.
11. Abolition of child labor by children under fourteen years of age; and of female labor in all branches of industrial life, such as mines, workshops, factories, etc.
12. Abolition of property qualification for all public offices.
13. Compulsory arbitration of labor disputes.
14. Proportional representation with grouped constituencies and abolition of municipal wards.
15. Direct legislation through the initiative and referendum.
16. Prohibition of prison labor in competition with free labor.

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Hamilton, Ont.
, Toronto, Ont.

.. Moncton
.. St. John

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.. London
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.. Rossland
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PROCEEDINGS.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER,

MONTREAL, September 19th, 1899.

The Fifteenth Annual Session of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada was called to order at 10.30 a.m. by Mr. S. Fitzpatrick, President of the Central Trades and Labor Council, who welcomed the delegates to the city of Montreal, and then introduced His Worship, Mayor Prefontaine, who in a few words welcomed the delegates on behalf of the citizens and assured them a pleasant time in the city.

Aldermen Brunet, Jacques and Dupré were also introduced and spoke a few words of welcome.

Mr. Fitzpatrick then introduced Mr. Ralph Smith, President of the Congress, who thanked the Mayor and Aldermen for their kindly welcome, and assured them that the delegates would fully appreciate the kindness of the citizens of Montreal.

Mr. John A. Flett, Vice-President of the Congress, Mr. James H. Sullivan, of Baltimore, Md., the fraternal delegate from the American Federation of Labor, and Mr. W. D. Mahon, president of the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees of America, also addressed the Congress after which President Smith declared the Congress open for the transaction of business.

On motion the President appointed as a Credential Committee Messrs. D. A. Carey of Toronto, John C. Scott of Quebec, A. S. Johnston of London, James Wilkes of Rossland, and John T. Mortimer of Winnipeg.

The Congress then adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Congress was called to order at 2.15 p.m.

The Committee on Credentials presented the following report.

PROCEEDINGS OF LABOR CONGRESS.

To the Officers and Members of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada :

Your Committee on Credentials beg leave to report as follows : We have examined the credentials of the following and certify to their right to a seat at this Congress :

TRADES COUNCILS.

Quebec Trades and Labor Council.....	GEORGE MAROIS. JOHN C. SCOTT. PHILIPPE PELLETIER.
Montreal Federated Trades Council	J. B. MACK. A. GARIEPY. J. AINEY.
London Trades and Labor Council.....	ANDREW S. JOHNSTON FRANK PLANT JOSEPH T. MARKS.
Toronto Trades and Labor Council	JOHN ARMSTRONG. D. A. CAREY. I. H. SANDERSON.
Rossland Trades and Labor Council	JAMES WILKES.
Hamilton Trades and Labor Council	JOHN A. FLETT.
Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council	JOHN S. MORTIMER.
Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Association	P. M. DRAPER. C. S. O. BOUDREAULT. S. KELLY.
Montreal Central Trades and Labor Council	S. FITZPATRICK. H. GRAVEL R. BISSONNETTE.

DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES.

D.A. No. 20, K. of L., Quebec	EDWARD LITTLE. P. J. JOBIN. JOSEPH VOYER.
D.A. No. 18, K. of L., Montreal	J. H. DODD. C. J. McFACKEN. H. McCAULEY.

FRATERNAL DELEGATE.

American Federation of Labor.....	J. H. SULLIVAN, Baltimore, Md.
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TRADES UNIONS.

Nanaimo Miners Union.....	RALPH SMITH.
Vancouver Typographical Union	F. W. FOWLER.
Winnipeg Typographical Union	A. W. PUTTEE.
Quebec Typographical Union.....	EDWARD JACKSON.
Jacques Cartier Typographical Union	URBAIN LAFONTAINE.
Ottawa Typographical Union.....	L. A. TREPANIER. W. T. BYRNES.
Montreal Typographical Union	T. FLAWN. SILAS W. REID.
Toronto Typographical Union	HUGH STEVENSON. T. H. FITZPATRICK. W. J. WILSON.
Montreal Cigarmaker's Union	B. MONGEAU. W. MENARD. J. LAROCQUE.
Toronto Street Railway Employees Union	MAGNUS SINCLAIR.
Montreal Plasterers Union	CYPRIAN MAILHOT. ERASME CHARBORNEAU.
Ottawa Plumbers, Gas and Steam Fitters	FRANK W. PRODRICK.
Moncton Federal Labor Union, No. 1.....	MURRAY FLEMING. CHARLES J. MCCARTHY.
Montreal Federal Labor Union, No. 5	WILLIAM KEYS.
Toronto Machinists Union	R. H. DEE.
Montreal Glass Bottle Blowers Association.	JAMES STEPHENSON.
Montreal Machinists Union, No. 111	F. ROBERGE.
Montreal Coopers Union.....	DELPHIS VERDON.

PROCEEDINGS OF LABOR CONGRESS.

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Montreal Carpenters Union, No. 134	J. B. GENDRON.
Ottawa Sheet Metal Workers.....	THOMAS A. WOOD.
Winnipeg Street Railway Employees Union.....	JOHN A. OLIVER.
Ottawa Labor Association	JAMES MACOUN.
Ottawa Painters Union.....	S. J. KELLY.
Union No. 8, Montreal L. S. M.	JOHN KANE.
Montreal Federal Labor Union, No. 7,	WM. DARLINGTON.
Fraternity of Shoe Workers, St. Hyacinthe.	NAP. SAMSON.
Toronto Bakers Union, No. 204.....	JOSEPH THAIN.
Quebec Barbers Association	J. E. BOUCHARD.

LOCAL ASSEMBLIES, K. OF L.

Local Assembly, No. 2436, Montreal	R. A. OAKLEY.
Local Assembly, No. 3227, Montreal	FELIX BROGGIE.
Local Assembly, No. 6292, Montreal	W. H. SMITH.
Local Assembly, No. 10061, Quebec.....	WILLIAM GUTHRIE.
Local Assembly, No. 2023, Fur Fleshers and Shavers, Montreal.....	THOMAS COURVAL.
Local Assembly, No. 1959, Granite Cutters, Montreal	PHILIP STOCK.
Local Assembly, No. 2305, Toronto.....	D. J. O'DONOGHUE.

Local Assembly No. 2023, Knights of Labor, of Montreal, have sent credentials for three delegates, when, according to its membership, it was only entitled to one. The names of the delegates are: Ferdinand Piche, H. Gadbois and Thomas Courval.

We recommend that one delegate be seated, and the Congress decide which of them. [Delegate Courval was afterwards seated].

Local Assembly No. 2436, Knights of Labor, send two credentials, both signed and sealed by different officers. We find that the credentials signed by R. Keys and L. Z. Boudreau have paid per capita tax to this Congress. We also find that the one signed by J. Morin and J. H. Dodd have paid no taxes, and we ask Congress to decide which delegates shall be seated.

Respectfully submitted,

D. A. CAREY, *Chairman.*
JOHN T. MORTIMER, *Secretary.*
JAMES WILKES.
A. S. JOHNSTON.
JOHN C. SCOTT.

Moved by Mr. Draper, seconded by Mr. Flawn,

That the report of the Credential Committee, so far as the names of those delegates whose credentials were not protested, be adopted and that the protested credentials be referred to the Congress. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Darlington, seconded by Mr. Keys,

That the delegates from L. A. No. 2436, whose credentials are duly sealed and signed, and who have paid per capita tax to the Trades and Labor Congress be seated. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Jobin, seconded by Mr. Armstrong,

That Mr. St. Pierre be appointed to act as French translator. Carried.

The President then presented his annual address as follows:—

Officers and Members of the Fifteenth Annual Session of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada:

FELLOW WORKERS: It gives me much pleasure to again meet the representatives of the several labor organizations of this broad Dominion at this the Fifteenth Annual Session of Congress. A review of the work done during the past year reminds us of the

necessity for determined and persistent effort, as so many selfish interests are anxiously seeking to frustrate our efforts to accomplish better conditions for the organized workers of the country.

That persistency ought to be encouraged by the amount we accomplish in spite of influences which are against us, one thing is certain, the labor problem of the Dominion is being studied and is demanding the attention of the politicians to a larger extent than ever before.

The principle that has brought this about and must ever continue to demand such attention is the amount of intelligence and fairness with which we make our demands.

It is easy for us to be prophets of future Utopias, and whilst high ideals are of great value, impossible and extravagant ones are of doubtful utility; our strength increases proportionately to the abandonment of impossible things and must ever increase only as we intelligently interpret the future by the past.

It is easy to excite large bodies of men by loud-mouthed declamations of professional heroism, on the lines of going to have our rights adjusted, whether the capitalists or the governments are willing or no; this cry moves quickly, but dies as readily without accomplishing anything.

Our demands are for justice, and as we continue to intelligently prove this we get our wrongs righted.

This national union ought to be encouraged to-day, because of the influence it is exerting in this great Dominion, our work in the past has been difficult, direct results of our labor perhaps have not been clearly seen, a fact that is true of all initiatory work; what is true of every new industry in having to do so much to clear the way is true of this Congress, but the harvest is springing rapidly, sufficiently at least to encourage us.

What are the evidences that our efforts are and will be crowned with success? (a) That the representation of this Congress comprises the labor interests of the whole Dominion, I think we can say with some amount of pride, that we have a larger national representation than any organization in the Dominion (excepting the Dominion Parliament), and we anticipate that before long our provincial representation to this Congress will be equal to that of the National Government.

There is the greatest necessity for a National Union, yea, and I may add, for an International Union, production is becoming more and more a social act, the rapid introduction of factories and railroads is multiplying cities, and making all rural regions their suburbs.

The power of electricity is narrowing the world by increasing the rapidity of both production and distribution.

Our competitors are not only near at hand, across our streets, but everywhere, thus every single employer's contract with a single employe or local union is governed not by the local conditions, but by national and international competitions and combinations.

We must recognize (as the existence of this Congress proves) that we are dealing not with personal or local but with national or international problems.

The sweating conditions of Montreal or any eastern city affects us nationally; we recognize that our national industries, production and distribution, is a social act whose abuses can only be remedied by social action on a scale as large as itself. Our local provincial unions are accomplishing much by exposing and seeking to check local abuses as they arise, we are pleased to remark through representatives from our provincial union, are more and more being induced to consider the claims of labor, but our higher and more permanent reforms must come from our National Government.

It is the business of this Congress to represent to our Dominion politicians our national grievances. These to-day are represented from this Congress by delegates from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Looking over the work of our Executive Council as regards their representation to the Ottawa Government, we can detect a growing disposition on the part of Ottawa to listen attentively to our appeal, I am certain, that they consider such appeals to-day more thoroughly than ever before. This is evidence of our increasing influence in the Dominion.

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In a few matters of detail we have entirely succeeded in influencing that government to accede to our request, but I am sorry to have to refer to the many important questions, although strongly supported in some cases by a large majority of the people in the Provinces affected by the same, and others advocated by the Labor Unions of the Dominion, repeated attempts have been made by the Executive of this Congress to get concessions from the Government, and up to the present we have failed.

I desire to make special mention of the efforts of the Legislative Committee of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council, and especially the persistent and intelligent efforts of our old and honorable pioneer, D. J. O'Donoghue, in his attempt to get the Trade Mark and Design Act passed through the Dominion Senate. I read an account of his efforts with great pleasure, and I may say that his outspoken words reminded me only of his constant habit of saying what he believes to be true at the proper place and at the proper time. I am very sorry to say, however, that such efforts were lost so far as the immediate work is concerned, yet he continues to believe that another attempt will bring the desired result.

There are two important pieces of legislation to which I must refer in this connection, as I consider our Executive Committee have received favorable answers from the Government regarding the same, and yet no results have followed.

I mean the Alien Labor Law and the Chinese Immigration Act. The Premier, Mr. Laurier, stated that the Parliament, at the request of the Government, had passed the Alien Labor Law, not because they were in love with such methods, but because such laws might help the American people to see the error of their ways. The Government refused to enforce the law on the understanding supposed to exist between them and the United States Government, that uniform legislation would be brought about, and in the meantime our people would not suffer by any one-sided discrimination, yet it has been shown, on the floor of the House of Commons, that Canadian laborers have been deported from the United States since such an understanding has been made; Italians have been brought from Buffalo, under contract, to work on the Grand Trunk Railway, and during the late strike of the trackmen belonging to that Company many instances could be given of people being brought into Canada under contract. We remember with horror, however, the suicide of Alexander Reder, the cloak maker, in the city of Toronto. This is a sad commentary on our civilization. He had been imported with others, under contract, by the T. Eaton Co., Limited, to take the place of workers on strike, and upon finding this out, he preferred self destruction to being a scab. On making appeal to Lubelski, Eaton & Co.'s agent, for money to pay his fare back to New York, was refused; the desperate man then said, the only alternative was suicide. Lubelski replied, "He did not care what he did, he could either hang or drown." Everlasting honor is due the man who would die rather than bring defeat and disaster upon his fellows, but eternal disgrace hangs over the life of the men who, for a few coppers, would drive a fellow mortal to despair and death.

We are anxious to get legislation that would prevent any one coming here under contract, but surely the Government ought to have protected us, by the legislation already enacted from unscrupulous contractors and others. In this, however, they have failed, and our friends are still taking unfair advantage over us. Not by making, but by enforcing, law can a people be taught to see the error of their ways.

With regard to the Chinese Immigration Act there were a few things that encouraged me very much (within a few days of the closing of the House) to believe we would get redress on this matter.

The first was that the present Government pledged itself to do whatever was thought best by the British Columbia members, regarding the Chinese question; then again, the Government (or the Premier) had positively stated that he agreed with the principle of further restricting the Chinese to our Executive Committee; furthermore, our Member from Vancouver had brought in a bill and had gone thoroughly into the question on the floor of the House, a Bill which would have been supported by both sides of the House, so far as British Columbia members were concerned. Right up to a few days of the close of the session our members were assured that relief would be given to our important grievance; they decided, however, to do nothing, and were weak enough to blame the opposition for obstructing the passage of the Bill.

These fine promises, instead of being fulfilled, leave us, in my opinion, in a worse condition than before, as their non-fulfilment only gives the hordes of Chinese an incentive to get into the country before a greater possible restriction is placed upon them.

I think I am expressing the sentiments of the large majority of the members of the Congress, when I say that we have lost confidence in the word and the promises of the Government at Ottawa.

With regard to the operation of organized labor throughout the Dominion this has been a year of considerable strife, notably the London street railway strike. This has been a long and fierce battle. One thing, however, is clear, the public sympathy is with the employees, denoting clearly the justice of their cause.

Other important conflicts throughout the Dominion, particulars, of which will be contained in the reports of the Provincial Executive Committee's, have demonstrated clearly that our claims have been just, by having the support of the people, living in these several districts, who were acquainted with the facts of each case. I desire to say a few words more on what I consider to be the business of this Congress in the future.

We are the advocates of stated principles, and this Congress had its platform sanctioned and printed at the last session. There is one thing before us to-day, as there has not been before, our efforts are and ought to be concentrated on these sixteen principles. I believe this concentrated effort on the dequisation of these principles will hasten on rapidly the good we seek.

As a Congress, we seek to have them placed upon the statute books of our country, by approaching persistently our politicians, as committees representing organized labor all over the country. An organized vote is our greatest necessity; the effort necessary to bring these questions before the Governments will accomplish most when they are brought before our prospective members of Parliament, and voted for or against entirely upon their agreement with the principles or their rejection of the same.

If our platform is right and just for the workers of the country, it is right and just that we should vote only for the men who are willing to make the laws that bring such justice.

Does the history of our labor agitation teach us anything concerning the best way of getting anything what we regard as right and just? I think it does. We have no right to expect to have our business done properly without having men to do it who know by experience the justice of our claim.

This remedy is in our own hands. Is it necessary to remind each other that our complaints against Governments, after all, are baseless, a poor man's vote counts as much as the rich man's. The poor man's vote, as an individual, is as secret as the rich man's. The combined votes of the poor people are greater than the combined votes of the rich, the majority elects the man who is willing to do what such majority thinks is right. Where then, is the justice of our complaint! I am aware of its weakness, I am aware of the subtle and sham interest taken in men just before an election, I am aware that small inducements tempt us to overlook our own best and future interests; in this a great deal of education is necessary. That is the business of this Congress, when jealousy of each other can be displaced by jealousy of our real and constant enemy, our salvation will be very much nearer.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the members of the last session of Congress for electing me to this honorable position. I am sorry to say, however, that owing to the great distance that I live from the great centre of our work I have been unable to be one with your Committee, in presenting your grievances to the Dominion authorities, and whilst I agree that the gentlemen who did so are fully as capable as any possible members of this Congress, I consider at the present, and perhaps for a few years to come, as I said when you elected me, it is absolutely necessary for your President to be within easy reach of the seat of Dominion Parliament. In order that this may be accomplished, I frankly state my unwillingness to stand for re-election at this Congress. Hoping you will receive this suggestion in the spirit it is given, that the work of our Congress, in future will be abundantly successful.

Respectfully submitted,

RALPH SMITH,

President of Trades and Labor Congress.

The Secretary presented the report of the General Executive Committee and of the Committees of the Provinces of Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia, as follows:—

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

To the Delegates to the Fifteenth Annual Session of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada:—

GENTLEMEN,—Your Executive Committee beg to present the following report, which is necessarily short, as the report of the President covers all the subjects that could be touched upon in this report.

Immediately after adjournment of the Winnipeg session all resolutions passed by the Congress bearing on Dominion legislation were forwarded to the various ministers. The same were officially acknowledged.

On April 18th a Committee composed of Mr. Charles March of Toronto, Mr. William Keys of Montreal, Mr. T. H. FitzPatrick of Toronto, Mr. A. R. Macdonald of Ottawa, and Mr. Geo. W. Dower of Toronto, waited on the Right Hon. Sir Wilfred Laurier. The subjects brought up were the prohibition of Chinese and Japanese immigration, the amendment of the Trades Marks and Designs Act, the publishing of the Crow's Nest Pass investigation, the publishing and circulation by the Bureau of Statistics of information as to labor and wages, the extension of the day labor system, the enforcement of the Act respecting inspection of gear and tackle, that labels be placed on all prison made goods, the passage of a Copyright Act, and that the Alien Labor Law be amended to cover all aliens imported under contract no matter from what country they came, and that said Act when passed be enforced.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in his reply to the delegation, acknowledged that the questions brought before the Cabinet required thought, and would receive the careful attention of the Government. He might as well be frank and say that some of the things advocated by the delegation would be favored by the Government, while on others there would be difference of opinion. Taking up first the proposed exclusion of the Chinese and Japanese, he pointed out that there was a great ethical difference between the two people. His information showed him that the Chinese were absolutely impervious to progress and remained anchored to old-fashioned methods, while the Japanese were anxious to learn the ways, habits and methods of the Europeans. As to the Chinese being filthy, their quarters were certainly pestilential and a menace to health. He had quite an open mind as to the exclusion of the Chinese; and as to the Japanese, without violating any state secret, he might state that the Home Government might feel very strongly on the subject of anti-Japanese legislation. The Chinese Empire was going to pieces, but Japan, healthy and progressive, was an ally of Her Majesty, and his hearers being Canadians and British subjects, they could understand that if the Japanese Emperor should make representation against a Japanese exclusion bill there might be strong remonstrances that could not be passed over. The Chinese and Japanese could not be treated as on the same level, and the members of the labor organizations should be acquainted with their different conditions.

In replying to the other subject presented Sir Wilfred Laurier said he was gratified to know that the deputation was satisfied with the action of the government in respect to day labor and he would use his influence to have the system extended. In regard to the Alien Labor Law he stated that the question was now before the Anglo-American Commission, and in the meantime the Act would not be enforced. The passing of a copyright law on the lines of the request of your Committee would receive the attention of the Government.

In a subsequent interview with Sir Louis Davies, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, he stated that the law regarding Inspection of Gear and Tackle was not enforced owing to the objection of vessel owners, who claimed it was not necessary as no accidents of any moment occurred at any port in the country. However, he would again investigate and see what could be done in the matter.

The Act for the protection of union labels was again introduced and passed the House of Commons but met defeat for the second time in the Senate. It is to be hoped an effort will again be made next session to have labels legalized.

A circular addressed to all foremen on the Intercolonial Railway has reached your Committee. It is signed by one G. R. Joughins, Mechanical Superintendent, and states that the management of the I.C.R. wishes to introduce the piece work system in the various shops. At the request of Federal Labor Union, No. 1, of Moncton, a strongly worded protest was forwarded the Minister of Railway and Canals, but up to the present an answer has not been received.

Correspondence was continued with the Secretary of the "Provincial Workingmen's Association," located in Nova Scotia, but no results were achieved. This organization embraces the miners of the Province, and has a large membership. Your Committee would suggest that some steps be taken to bring about at least a friendly intercourse between your Congress and this eastern organization.

During the year five charters were issued to organizations in various parts of Canada, there being now six unions directly connected with the Congress. In this connection it would be well to state that the Congress will have to take some decisive steps to provide those unions with means to carry on their business. At the present time we have not a constitution or by-laws for local organizations or any kind of ritual, stationery or supplies. This matter has been before the Congress on two different occasions but no action of any kind was taken. Your Committee would suggest that a committee composed of members of the incoming Executive, situated in one part of the country, be a committee with distinct instructions to at once proceed to prepare and issue ritual, constitution and by-laws governing locals connected with this Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

RALPH SMITH, *President.*

GEO. W. DOWER, *Secretary.*

ONTARIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,—The Executive Committee for the Province of Ontario have not this year anything of vital importance to bring before the Congress, as the work laid down for it at the last session in Winnipeg was confined to using its best endeavors to have enforced the Acts that are already on the Statute Book. There is, in the opinion of the Committee, some of the best labor legislation in the country on the books of Ontario, but it is almost impossible to have it enforced. There is some influence at work that counteracts the efforts of men who have the interests of labor at heart to force the Government to live up to the law of the land. It has been the experience of every labor man that after the fight to get an Act passed has been made and it has become law the trouble has only commenced, for you have got to keep hammering away all the time to make the Government put the law in force, and if the people who are opposed to the Act have any pull with the party in power it is almost impossible to get any Act in the interest of labor enforced. This has been clearly demonstrated in the Ontario Factories Act. Every delegate to the Congress knows how difficult it is to get a conviction under the Act, though it is no fault of the Act, but of the enforcement of it. When complaints are made to the Government we are told to notify the inspector that something is wrong in a factory and produce the necessary evidence and it will be attended to. This is not much satisfaction to labor men to be placed in the position of detectives or spies while there are Government inspectors appointed to do the work, but who will not do their duty because it might take away some votes from the party in power to prosecute a manufacturer who was deliberately violating the Act.

The same may be said of almost every Act passed in which people who work for wages are interested, and it is becoming more and more evident that if organized men ever hope to get justice at the hands of the party in power they must show their influence at the ballot box and elect men pledged to support the labor platform, and compel the Government to enforce the Acts passed in the interest of the wage-earner.

The Executive Committee waited upon the Ontario Government at its last session and laid before it the various matters suggested by the Congress. The interview was anything but satisfactory, in fact there was absolutely nothing gained. The question of putting labels on prison made goods was talked over and was not well received by the Government. The abolition of improved labor-saving machinery in the Central Prison and the work being done by hand by the prisoners was discussed, and while it was acknowledged that the arguments advanced by the Committee were in the best interest of the whole people, the Government could not see its way clear to act on any of the suggestions made by the Committee. The overcrowding of the prisons was also denied by the Cabinet while the inspectors' report showed such to be the case. It is a notorious fact that in Toronto there are numbers of children working in factories that should be at school and who are under the age allowed by the Act, and when this matter was brought to the attention of the Cabinet it received the same cold shoulder that the rest of the complaints received, and when cases were cited the Minister in whose charge the enforcement of the Act is told us to practically act as detectives for the inspectors and report to them.

In fact it was quite clear to the Committee that the Cabinet had no sympathy with them and did not want to be bothered listening to what the Committee had to say, and that they had simply granted the interview because it is customary to do so, never intending to do anything asked by the Committee.

In marked contrast was the interview had with Sir Wilfred Laurier, in Ottawa. Sir Wilfred was gentlemanly and courteous, listened patiently to the matters urged by the Committee, and replied at some length, acknowledging the justice of the requests and giving definite promises that he would do all in his power to have the grievances remedied and promising that every question brought to his attention would be carefully considered.

As it is in the opinion of the Committee that the only way to get from the Government what is our right is to elect men who are in sympathy with the labor cause, it is recommended that in all cities and towns the local labor organizations should be requested to do all in their power to elect men pledged to support labor interests, irrespective of what political party they may belong to.

The Committee would ask the Congress to consider the advisability of placing in the field one or more organizers for the purpose of organizing the lumbermen and others who are at present unorganized and of granting them charters from this Congress. The Committee believe that sufficient revenue could be raised from this source to pay all expenses in connection therewith.

Respectfully submitted,

T. H. FITZPATRICK, *Vice-Pres. for Ontario.*

MANITOBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,—The Manitoba Branch of your Executive submit for your consideration, the following report :

Since the Congress has met in Winnipeg last year, your Executive has closely watched the progress of legislation affecting the labor interest and has noted an amendment to the Bake Shops Act limiting the hours of labor to 60 per week. While this is in the right direction the Act remains practically inoperative, because it is optional with municipalities to appoint inspectors to enforce the law, and even were inspectors appointed it would be beyond their power to detect violations as there is no provision when the day's work shall begin and end. The number of hours is also too long, the demand being for a nine-hour day.

The present Mechanics' Lien Act is, we are informed by the Trades Council, also in an unsatisfactory state, as the cost of entering suit under its provisions is problematical, and it is also of too complex a nature for its provisions to be properly understood, and while amendments have been made they are not what we desired or even what ministers of the Crown assured the Trades and Labor Council would be the case.

PROCEEDINGS OF LABOR CONGRESS.

The increasing growth of industries in Western Canada and the consequent larger employment of women and children in factories and workshops has, we regret to say, necessitated an Act regulating the hours of labor and improving the sanitary conditions of such places.

Accidents on the railroads in this western country have been a frequent occurrence of late, some of them attended with serious and fatal results. Your Executive spent much time in collecting evidence as to the primary causes of these accidents and had reason to believe that in many cases they were due to the use of worn-out locomotive boilers, the inspection of which had been systematically neglected. Your Executive interviewed the Local Government, memorialized the Dominion Government, and demanded an investigation into the causes of these accidents. An investigation into a fatal accident which occurred on one of our local railways was promised, but in regard to the C. P. R. and others operating under a Dominion charter we were informed it was purely a federal matter and outside the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government. Your Executive would recommend that a demand be made for a thorough governmental system of inspection of the rolling stock and roadbeds of railways operating in Canada.

Your Executive would recommend the Congress to consider the advisability of having Dominion legislation to govern the aforementioned and kindred matters, as there is a tendency on the part of provincial legislatures to evade responsibility in these respects.

Your Executive has reason to strongly condemn the present immigration policy of the Government. The maintenance by Government of an Immigration Department at enormous expense to the country cannot be justified when the most important question which this question raises is left without consideration, namely, how in the face of the keen competition for employment which this flooding of the labor market creates can the standard of life of the working and producing population be maintained.

While the Government refuses to enforce the recognition of a minimum wage or regulate the hours of labor on industries and works within its control it has no right in justice or morality to flood the country with large numbers of the pauperized workers of Europe and Asiatic countries to the serious detriment of those who only have their labor to sell. The reports which are persistently circulated as to the necessity for immigration do not emanate from the mass of the people, but rather from land speculators, corporations and other exploiters of labor, whose financial interests are served by having at all times a glutted labor market provided for them at the people's expense.

In Manitoba we have experienced a revival of so-called business prosperity, which has been accompanied by a number of strikes to secure a wage in proportion to the increased cost of living which such business prosperity invariably entails. The demands of the workers were in most cases conceded.

Your Executive has pleasure in reporting that mainly as a result of your deliberations being held in Winnipeg last year the organization of the workers in various branches of industry has proceeded by leaps and bounds, notably Garment Workers, Cigarmakers, Railroad Employees, Laborers, Teamsters, Retail Clerks, Tinsmiths, Street Railway Men, Stage Employees, Bakers, Boilermakers and Pressmen.

There has also been a substantial increase in the membership of many of the older organizations.

The efforts of the Trades and Labor Council of Winnipeg have been directed during the year along the line of securing the adoption of the Union Label on municipal contracts and supplies, the extension of the principle of doing work by day labor, the acquisition of municipal franchises, the institution of the system of free text books in our public schools. Where the Council has been successful the results have already proven to be of immense benefit to the whole community. By day labor the city has had better work at less cost, with fairer conditions of employment to the worker. During the year the waterworks and city lighting have come under municipal control.

Your Executive also report with pleasure a movement towards securing direct labor representation in the Dominion Parliament. The organized labor forces of Winnipeg have come to the conclusion that to meet and pass resolutions in favor of better government in the interests of labor without backing it up at election times is of use only for its educational effects and stops there.

The Trades and Labor Council, in conjunction with the Labor Party, have taken a referendum of the Unions as to financial and voting support. Their mandate being for action along this line, a meeting was held and resulted in the nomination of Mr. Arthur W. Puttee, member of the Typographical Union, and Editor of *The Voice*, the pioneer labor paper of Western Canada, who stands now ready (when it pleases the Government to hold an election) to test the strength of the reform and labor vote of Winnipeg.

Your Executive is of the opinion that steps similar to this will have to be taken all over Canada before anything like serious attention will be accorded to our just and reasonable demands by any Government which may be in power.

The presence of labor members in the British, Australian, and New Zealand legislatures, and the effect of their work on the social and industrial conditions which prevail in these countries, should be sufficient evidence of the advantages accruing from such action.

Your Executive would, therefore, ask the Congress to endorse this movement.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN APPLETON.

JOHN T. MORTIMER.

C. C. STEUART.

BRITISH COLUMBIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

FELLOW WORKERS,—We, your Executive Committee for the Province of British Columbia, beg leave to submit the following report :

Your Committee, in compliance with instructions received, proceeded at the proper time to memorialize and interview the Government of British Columbia to the end that legislative redress might be secured to the many grievances so prominently brought to the attention of, and so extensively discussed by the delegates from our Province, at the last session of this Congress held at Winnipeg. Your Committee is delighted to report that in every instance their efforts were crowned with success.

In all our dealings with our Provincial Government the utmost kindness and courtesy characterised the conduct of the Ministers of the different departments toward your representatives. Every facility was afforded us to discuss exhaustively with the Executive Council all matters of interest and importance to the labor interests of British Columbia. Our overtures and representations were invariably received in a spirit of fairness, freely and fully discussed, the members of the Government became impressed with and fully convinced of the justice and reasonableness of our legislative demands, with the happy result that a great deal of legislation of a valuable character and of permanent and lasting benefit and advantage to the working people of this country, has been impressed upon our statute books during the last session of our Provincial Legislature.

As the foregoing intimates your Committee were successful in securing legislation that prohibits the employment of all workmen in the metalliferous mines of British Columbia for more than eight hours in every twenty-four. This measure is popularly known as the "Eight Hour Law," but is in reality one of the provisions of an Act entitled "An Act to amend Inspection of Metalliferous Mines Act," the remaining provisions of the Bill being exclusively devoted towards making the conditions of employment in said mines more conducive to the health and the security and safety of the lives and limbs of the workmen engaged therein. This law is one of the greatest importance to a very large and growing proportion of our working population, the value of which to the labor element of this Province it is extremely difficult for your honorable body to overestimate. On the 13th of June this law was carried into force and practical operation. As is usual, on occasions of this character, when any reform principle is applied or initiated, considerable agitation was indulged in by the plutocratic press, mainly inspired by political bias and prejudice. In none of the mining districts or other parts of the Province has the enforcement of this law resulted in injury to the public interest, with the exception of the Slocan division. Unfortunately, in that section, the mine owners insisted upon a reduction of 50 cents per day upon the workmen, which, of course, was rejected

by the Unions throughout that district. However, at present, there are 50 per cent. of the number of men (usually working when the mines are running full blast) employed doing development work, in many cases receiving union wages, or on the contract system by which these wages or better can be earned, and all evidences and indications point to an early and satisfactory settlement of the difficulty. It is supposed that some people cherish the illusion that this Bill will be repealed, but your Committee is confident that public opinion throughout the Province is so preponderously in favor of the law that no Government or party will dare to destroy its efficiency.

A measure was also passed entitled "An Act to amend the Master and Servants Act," which declares that all contracts under or by which labor is imported into this Province from any other Province or country to be null and void and of no effect as against the labor so imported. The usefulness of this law was recently demonstrated. Several miners were imported under contract from Sudbury, Ont., to work in the mines where labor troubles existed. These men, upon having the situation properly explained by representatives of the Union, promptly refused to work, and were delighted to find that by the application of this law no legal force could be used to compel them to fulfil the conditions of their contract. Other sections of this Bill prevent the continuation of petty annoying injustices as regards deductions in wages for purpose of creating funds for providing medical attendance, disposition of the same, etc., which are matters more of local than general interest.

A Bill was also placed on the Statute Book entitled "An Act respecting the proper Inspection of Boilers and Engines," the strict enforcement of which should prove effectual in reducing to a minimum accidents fatal and otherwise to workmen employed at and in close proximity to machinery and boilers, as it will ultimately by its operation remove unreliable and incompetent workmen from positions of trust and responsibility in this class of employment, as well as prevent boilers, engines and machinery in an unsafe condition from being used to the danger of lives and limbs of laborers.

A measure was made law entitled "An Act to extend the Rights of the Crown to prospect for Minerals on Railway Lands to all Free Miners." This Bill, in some respects, strictly speaking, may not be considered labor legislation, but is entitled to consideration as it is a victory of the masses of the people over the corporations of the country. Certain railway companies in the past have denied the right of free miners to prospect on their lands, save under such onerous and costly conditions that have not only discouraged but practically prevented the development of the section of the Province where such rights have been withheld. The law not only extends such rights to prospectors, but authorizes the Attorney-General to take such legal action as is necessary, at the expense of the Crown, to protect them in their rights in case of any dispute.

An Act entitled "An Act to amend the Provincial Elections Act," was also passed, which is worthy of more than passing notice. Under the old law, which is amended it required 12 months' residence in the Province, two months in the electoral district, and two months from the date of application must expire before names could be legally enrolled on the voters' list. Sections of this new amending Act provide very liberal residential qualifications. After six months' residence in the Province, one month in the electoral district, and two weeks from the date of application, any British subject can have his name legally enrolled on the voters' list of this Province. This law is of more actual than apparent value. The greater proportion of British subjects migrating into British Columbia, of course are laborers. There are good and strong reasons to suppose that the labor element will be more actively in evidence in future political campaigns than it has ever been in the past, and the more liberal the provisions of the Provincial Franchise Laws the less difficulty it will be by proper methods to increase the voting strength and augment the influences of labor.

A Bill entitled "An Act to further amend the Mines Regulation Act," was made law, Section 1 of which provides that coal miners in British Columbia, when working on the contract system, shall receive payment according to the actual weight of all coal mined by them before the same is screened. Certain coal mining companies in the past have perpetuated gross injustices upon the miners by weighing their coal after it had passed over the screens. What fell between the screens the mine owners retained for themselves and utilized to their own account. By a washing and re-screening process

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they manufactured nut coal, which sells for a fair figure per ton, coking coal, which finds a ready market, and firing coal for the boilers at the pit head. Of course the miners' labor produces all this coal, which is saved and utilized, but he receives no payment for the same whatever. This section prevents the continuation of this robbery. Other sections provide that any three miners shall have the right to lodge a complaint to the proprietor of mines of the presence of any person for the purpose of employment in any coal mine who may, through his ignorance and obstinacy, prove a source of danger to the lives of workmen engaged therein. Upon the complaint being submitted to and proven before a court of arbitration, consisting of the agent of the mine owner and committee of miners, with the Inspector as chairman, said dangerous person shall be removed. The question of dangerous persons, such as Chinese and Japanese, working in mines, has been of great importance to organized labor in British Columbia. Although legislation has been placed on the Statute Book prohibiting their employment (that is Chinese) in coal mines, some eight or nine years ago, the same had been utterly disregarded and flagrantly violated. Immediately upon the new Government acceding to power all Chinese workmen were withdrawn from the coal mines. The mining companies thereupon hired Japanese and placed them in their mines. The Government was equal to the emergency, and at the instance of the labor members introduced and passed an Act entitled "An Act to amend the Coal Miners' Regulation Act," which by its application prohibited Japanese persons from being employed in coal mines, and imposing heavy penalties for infractions of the Act. Organized labor was now jubilant; but it was felt that the problem of Asiatics being employed in coal mines was at last ended, but bitter disappointment was in store. The Dunsmuir Corporation carried a case through the Courts testing the constitutionality of the "Chinese Exclusion Act," with the result that a decision was handed down by the Privy Council of Great Britain declaring such legislation ultra vires of the British Columbia Legislature—in effect, that the Dominion, not the Province, had the right to enact such legislation. Of course, the Japanese Exclusion Bill is no doubt ultra vires also, as it contains the same legislative principle. The situation was now exceedingly discouraging. After years of agitation and legislative effort, we were told by the highest tribunal in the British Empire that it is not within the powers of the Province to grant legislative redress to this glaring grievance. But the Provincial Government was once more equal to the occasion, and passed an order-in-council requiring that "All persons engaged after the 9th of August to work in any coal mine must be able to read and understand and explain the provisions of the "Coal Miners' Regulation Act." This order-in-council has proved effectual in preventing the employment of Asiatics in our coal mines, and your committee is of opinion that the process of education necessary to enable these ignorant orientals to understand the "Coal Mines' Inspection Act" will undoubtedly prove too slow and costly an experiment even for the great Dunsmuir Corporation. Congress will now see that although in this controversy, at the present moment, we are masters of the situation, the scene of the conflict must be removed from Victoria to Ottawa. Your committee respectfully invite the serious consideration of Congress to this phrase of the question. It is safe to say that if the Dunsmuir authorities are possessed of the same disposition and determination as the Provincial Government of British Columbia to deal with this problem in the interests of Canadian labor, the Chinese question will be speedily and forever removed from the arena of politics and public discussion.

A measure was made law commonly known as "The Repeal of the Tax on Working Miners." Strange so say, and still more difficult to explain, under the old mining laws of British Columbia a tax of \$5 per annum was imposed upon all miners and laborers in metalliferous mines. Notwithstanding the obvious fact that this tax, or so-called license, could not be excused, condoned or defended upon any principle of uniformity or justice, past attempts to abrogate it have proved futile. This law repeals that unjust discriminative tax, and removes an oppressive load of taxation from off the backs of metalliferous mines operatives of British Columbia.

When Congress is made aware of the fact that all of the legislation in the interests of labor, dealt with in this report, with the exception of "The Master and Servants' Act,"—and even this received hearty Ministerial support—was introduced and enacted by the Ministers of the Crown as Government legislation, it must be admitted that the much slandered Semlin-Martin-Cotton-Hume-McKecknie Government of British Columbia has

redeemed every pledge given to labor, and demonstrated in a very substantial manner a strong desire and determination to improve the social condition of the industrial element of our Province, which is the strongest justification that can be submitted for the strong support they receive from the labor members of the Legislature.

Your Committee would be remiss in their duty if they did not express, in this report, their appreciation of the unremitting efforts and unflagging zeal of Ralph Smith, M.P.P., (our honored President), and Robert McPherson, M.P.P., labor member for Vancouver City, in a united effort with them to accomplish these reforms.

Your Committee also begs to express its hearty thanks for the moral support of the Trades Councils and Labor Unions of the Province, and also for financial assistance received from the Miners Union of the Western Federation of Miners of Kootenay and the Trades Council of Rossland, which enabled us to present and press our claims upon the Government during the session of the same house.

In conclusion, your Committee has pleasure in reporting that the growth of unionism in British Columbia has been phenomenal during the past year. This applies particularly to the mining region of the south-eastern portion, where live, active unions of miners and other laborers have been organized. Material increases in membership are also reported from the older established organizations of the Province. A stronger spirit of and desire for organization prevails than at any time in the past. Organized labor everywhere in the Province is taking a keen and active interest in public questions affecting their interests and welfare, a provincial federation for united political action being already in contemplation. All of which augurs well for the future success of the cause.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

JAMES WILKES,
JOSEPH WATSON.
HARRY COWAN.
WM. MCKAY,

On motion the President's address and the Committee Reports were referred to the Committee on President's Address and Executive Committee Reports.

Mr. Carey presented a verbal report on his position as fraternal delegate to the A. F. of L., which was received, and it was moved by Mr. Carey, seconded by Mr. Jobin, "that the question of raising funds to send a fraternal delegate to the next session of the A. F. of L. be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means." Carried.

The President appointed the following Standing Committees:—

Committee on Standing Orders and Resolutions—P. J. Jobin of Quebec, A. Gariepy of Montreal, Joe T. Marks of London, John Armstrong of Toronto, P. M. Draper of Ottawa, J. H. Dodd of Montreal, A. W. Puttee of Winnipeg, Ed. Jackson of Quebec, Hugh Stevenson of Toronto, C. Mailhot of Montreal, Murray Fleming of Moncton, D. Verdon of Montreal, T. A. Wood of Ottawa, W. H. Smith of Montreal, L. A. Trepanier of Ottawa.

Committee on President's Address and Executive Committee Reports—U. Lafontaine of Montreal, Frank Plant of London, I. H. Sanderson of Toronto, J. B. Mack of Montreal, F. Pelletier of Quebec.

Committee on Ways and Means—T. H. FitzPatrick of Toronto, J. Ainey of Montreal, F. W. Prodrick of Ottawa, C. J. McCarthy of Moncton, John C. Scott of Quebec.

Committee on Audit—A. W. Puttee of Winnipeg, John C. Scott of Quebec, M. Sinclair of Toronto.

Moved by Mr. Jobin, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and resolved,

That the hours of meeting of this Congress shall be from 9 a.m. till 12 noon, and from 2 p.m. till 5.30 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Puttee, seconded by Mr. Mortimer, and resolved,

That the rule of debate shall be that delegates speaking to a question be limited to five minutes and the movers of resolutions to ten minutes. A delegate shall not speak more than twice to any resolution.

Moved by Mr. FitzPatrick of Toronto, seconded by Mr. Stevenson, and resolved,

That all resolutions to be submitted to the Committee on Standing Orders and Resolutions be presented in duplicate.

The following communication was received and referred to the Committee on Thanks:—

WINNIPEG, MAN., September 15th, 1899.

To GEO. W. DOWER, *Secretary Trades and Labor Congress.*

Dear Sir,—Permit me, through you, to present to your honorable body a sample of Winnipeg's pioneer brand of union made cigars—the Winnipeg Fern Leaf. I make but one stipulation, to this effect, that in the distribution of the cigars that Vice-President, John Flett of Hamilton, to whose effective work, while here last year, the formation of my firm was made possible, shall not be overlooked. Wishing your Fifteenth Congress every success, and with kind remembrance to all friends, I have the honor to remain.

Yours truly,

JAMES BRICKLIN,

Proprietor Winnipeg Union Cigar Factory.

Congress then adjourned.

SECOND DAY.

WEDNESDAY, September 20th, 1899.

Congress was called to order at 9 a.m.

An invitation was received from the Mayor and corporation of Montreal to partake of the hospitality of the city at 4 p.m., and also to take a trip to Lachine and a car ride around the city and up the mountain on Thursday morning. On motion the invitations were accepted.

Moved by Mr. Darlington, seconded by Mr. Gariepy, and resolved,

That inasmuch as the only theatres in Montreal that we think worth patronizing are those where union labor is employed, such as the Arena, Academy, Queen's and Royal, and we strongly urge all union men and others who believe in fair wages for workingmen to patronize only the aforementioned theatres until the employees in the other theatres are organized.

The Committee on Standing Orders and Resolutions presented their first report, and submitted several resolutions, which were considered.

Moved by Mr. Plant, seconded by Mr. Puttee, and resolved,

That in every place where it is practicable a representative be appointed by this Congress to wait on the various labor organizations for the purpose of urging the advisability of direct affiliation with this Congress.

Moved by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Mack, and resolved,

That the Executive Committee of the various Provinces be instructed to demand of the Legislative Assemblies of the Provinces that the union label be placed on all printing required by them, and that the Executive of this Congress be also instructed to demand that the Dominion Government use the union label on all printing required for the Government.

Moved by Mr. Mortimer, seconded by Mr. Puttee,

Whereas, The wholesale importation of cheap labor seems to have become one of the principle functions of the Dominion Government; and whereas, this policy has worked serious injury to the wage-earning community by flooding the labor market and thus lowering the wage and standard of life; therefore be it resolved, that until the Government shall by legislation establish and enforce a minimum wage and maximum work day this Congress does most heartily condemn all bonusing and other Government assistance of immigration; and further, that it be an instruction to the Executive to lay this matter before the Government at the earliest opportunity.

The Committee reported unfavorably on the above resolution, and submitted the two following as substitutes therefor:

Moved by Mr. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Jobin,

Whereas, this Trades Congress is on record as raising no objection to honorable, frugal and industrious agriculturists coming at their own volition and expense to Canada, and settling on our vacant lands: at the same time we do most emphatically protest against the Dominion Government spending the people's money by granting assisted passages; as the present system of immigration is largely maintained in the interests of those connected with transportation and land speculation and those employers to whose profit cheap labor directly contributes, the right stamp of immigrant is not obtained by bonusing transportation companies, as these corporations never do exercise proper judgment in selecting a desirable class of settlers. Therefore, be it resolved that the incoming Executive place before the Government of Canada, at its next session, the wishes of this Congress as contained in the foregoing resolution.

Moved by Mr. Jobin, seconded by Mr. Armstrong,

Whereas the increasing tendency of invested capital in the various industries throughout Canada to combine, thereby increasing dividends at the expense of labor is most pernicious to the healthful prosperity of this country and degrading to the social and moral character of the wage-earning class, we hereby demand from the Federal Government legislation establishing and enforcing a minimum wage and maximum work day for all classes employed in factories and workshops in the Dominion.

After a long and animated discussion the motions submitted by the Committee were adopted, with the understanding that the original motion appear on the minutes.

Moved by Mr. FitzPatrick, of Toronto, seconded by Mr. Stevenson,
That the election of officers takes place at 2 o'clock on Thursday.

Moved in amendment by Mr. Jobin, seconded by Mr. Dodd,
That the word "Friday" replace the word "Thursday" in the original motion.
The amendment was carried.

Mr. Darlington gives notice that he will move at to-morrow's session of Congress,

That Article IV., Section I, of the Constitution be amended by striking out the words, "District Assemblies of Knights of Labor" and "Local Assemblies of Knights Labor."

Congress then adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Congress was called to order at 2 p.m.

The following invitation was received, and on motion accepted :

MOUNT ROYAL PARK,

MONTREAL, 20th Sept., 1899.

To the President and Delegates of the Trades and Labor Congress in session assembled :

DEAR SIRS,—The Mount Royal Park Incline Railway Co., Limited, have much pleasure in placing their road at your service during your stay in Montreal, and hope that you will all take a view of our City from the top of the Mountain.

Yours truly,

W. G. TURNER,

Sec. Treas. M. R. P. Incline Co., Limited.

Moved by Mr. Darlington, seconded by Mr. Keys, and resolved,

That this Congress instruct the Executive Committee of the various Provinces to urge the Provincial Governments to pass a law making it illegal for any village, town, city, or other municipality to offer bonuses, bribes or exemptions to manufacturers or employers of labor in general to settle or move into aforesaid places.

Moved by Mr. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Plant, and resolved,

That this Congress protests against the inhuman practice of compelling men to work seven days in succession, and affirm that one days rest in seven is a natural law and an absolute necessity of human life and cannot be broken with safety; therefore be it resolved, that it be an instruction to all organizations affiliated with this body to co-operate with any and all Associations to secure legislative enactment providing for one days rest in seven.

Moved by Mr. Mortimer, seconded by Mr. Puttee, and resolved,

Whereas, the aim of all democratic governments should be in the direction of obtaining the fullest expression of the public will in regard to the laws which are to govern them, and which they are expected to obey; and whereas the present representative system of government is fast assuming the form and essence of a dictatorship, and has led to the almost complete control of legislation in the interest of the wealthy capitalist class; and whereas, the power of the electorate is solely confined to the quadriennial choice of one individual who may represent anything or nothing, and who during his term of office may deliberately act contrary to previous promises without forfeiting his position as representative. Therefore, be it resolved that this Congress declares itself in favor of the adoption of the principle of the initiative and referendum in our political system as being the means best calculated to obtain government in the interest of the whole community, and the abolition of class legislation and class privilege.

Congress then adjourned.

THIRD DAY.

THURSDAY, September 21st, 1899.

Council was called to order at 2 p.m.

The following communication was received and the accompanying cigars received with thanks :

"STONEWALL JACKSON" CIGAR FACTORY,
64 McGill St., 83 and 85 Grey Nun St., Montreal, Sept. 21, 1899.

The Trades and Labor Congress, City :

DEAR SIRs,—It is with great pleasure that we tender you our best wishes for the success of your Congress, and our hope that your important deliberations will result beneficially to the interests of your Association.

That we are the sincere well-wishers of organized labor is evinced by the fact that not only has our firm run continuously and exclusively a union factory from the very beginning, when Cigarmakers' Trades Unions were first formed in Canada, but prior to that time, from the founding of our firm in the year 1858 (now forty-one years ago) our factory was always conducted on union principles.

We are sending herewith five boxes of our Stonewall Jackson cigars for the use of your Congress, as a small token of our good wishes, and we will be pleased to have any of your members who so desire, call on us and visit our factory.

With our best wishes for the continued success of organized labor.

We remain, dear sirs, most sincerely yours,

H. JACOBS & Co.

The following telegram was received and read :

VICTORIA, B.C., Sept. 20th, 1899.

Ralph Smith, M.P.P., President Trades and Labor Congress of Canada :

Regret unable to send delegate. Wishing Congress all success.

WM. MCKAY, *President T. & L. Council.*

Moved by Mr. Jobin, seconded by Mr. Mailhot, and resolved,

That the time for receiving resolutions expire at 4 p.m. to-day.

An invitation was received from Mr. J. A. Dumas to have a group photograph taken. The invitation was accepted and 4 o'clock fixed upon as the time.

The notice of motion given by Mr. Darlington on yesterday, was moved by Mr. Darlington, seconded by Mr. Garipey, as follows :

That the Constitution of this Congress be amended by striking out of Art. IV., Sec. 1, the words "District Assemblies of Knights of Labor and Local Assemblies of Knights of Labor."

Moved in amendment by Mr. Sanderson, seconded by Mr. Jobin,

That the question lay on the table.

The amendment was carried.

PROCEEDINGS OF LABOR CONGRESS.

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The consideration of resolutions submitted by the Committee on Standing Orders and Resolutions was resumed.

Moved by Mr. Mongeau, seconded by Mr. Gariepy, and resolved,

Whereas, J. M. Fortier, cigar manufacturer of this city, has instituted proceedings against the Cigarmakers' Union, resulting in four of its members and a publisher being put under arrest on a charge of criminal libel. And whereas there has been on the part of Mr. Martineau, holding an aldermanic seat in the Montreal City Council, and Prosecuting Attorney, a vigorous but futile attempt to stifle the labor movement in the Courts of this City, by their objections against giving us our just and due right to plead justification on the ground that it is not in the public interest. Resolved that this Congress do extend its sympathy to the Cigarmakers' Union and contend when an employer of child labor does not pay wages enough in return for the labor given him, it is of public interest that the community at large be made acquainted with the character of the methods employed by him in the running of his business, and we congratulate the Cigarmakers' Union as well as organized labor in general in having defeated the machinations of this avaricious, greedy and most unscrupulous man.

Moved by Mr. Darlington, seconded by Mr. Kane, and resolved,

That this Congress instruct its various Executive Committees, also all delegates, to abolish where in force, and prevent where not in force, all taxes upon manufacturing industries.

Moved by Mr. Marks, seconded by Mr. Oliver, and resolved,

Whereas the operation of cars designated as "open cars" upon the streets of the cities in the Dominion of Canada are and have been proved to be extremely dangerous to the life and limbs of employees operating said "open cars," and as it has been shown that numerous employees operating said cars have and are frequently meeting with accidents, many of such accidents being of very serious nature; and whereas if properly and safely constructed cars were in operation on said streets, such accidents would not occur. Therefore, be it resolved that this Congress do strongly petition the Dominion Government to enact such legislation as shall compel street railway companies in the cities of this Dominion to have their cars equipped and constructed in such manner as will prevent the necessity of having employees walk along the foot rail of said cars (which is a risky and deadly trap to life and limb) in the performance of their duties.

Moved by Mr. Menard, seconded by Mr. Gariepy, and resolved,

Whereas the Senate of Canada, at its last session, has failed to pass the amendment sanctioned by the House of Commons, to the Trades Mark Act, so as to protect the Trades Union label; therefore be it resolved that this Congress instruct its Executive Committee to draft up a law legalizing Union labels and have same presented at the next session of Parliament.

The hour of 4 o'clock having arrived the Congress took a recess for the purpose of having a group photograph taken.

On re-assembling the President introduced the Fraternal Delegate from the American Federation of Labor, Mr. James H. Sullivan. In an able address he made a strong plea for organization and a spirit of brotherhood between unionists on both sides of the lines. Mr. Sullivan was followed by Mr. W. D. Mahon, President of the Amalgamated Street Railway Employees.

Congress then adjourned.

FOURTH DAY.

FRIDAY, September 23rd, 1899.

Congress was called to order at 9 a.m.

The Committee on Ways and Means presented the following report, which, on motion, was received and adopted :—

The Committee on Ways and Means beg to report as follows: After discussing the various financial questions of the Congress from all standpoints, recommend that the per capita tax for the ensuing year be 8 cents per annum, payable half-yearly, for affiliated bodies, and for local bodies holding charters from the Congress be 20 cents per annum, payable quarterly.

The Committee recommend that the sum of \$75 be paid to the Secretary-Treasurer for salary. Also that the sum of \$30 be granted to the Secretary-Treasurer for his expenses. That the sum of \$10 be granted to Vice-President Flett for expenses incurred by having to come to the Congress previous to the day of opening. That the sum of \$10 be paid to the French translator. That \$5 be paid to the caretaker of the hall.

In the questions submitted to your Committee re the Fraternal Delegate to the American Federation of Labor the Committee recommend that when the delegate is elected that it be with the distinct understanding that he be sent and that his expenses be paid first, if other accounts have to wait.

We recommend that the usual number of reports be printed in English and French.

Respectfully submitted,

T. H. FITZPATRICK, *Chairman.*

JOHN C. SCOTT.

F. W. PRODRICK,

JOS. AINEY.

C. J. MCCARTHY.

The Committee on Audit presented the following report, which was received and adopted :—

MONTREAL, September 22nd, 1899.

To the Officers and Delegates of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Gentlemen,—Your Audit Committee beg leave to report that it has examined the accounts of the Financial Secretary and find them correct, the totals and balance on hand being as below :

Amount received from per capita	\$486 71
American Federation of Labor, grant.....	100 00
Charter Fees, five at \$5.00 each.....	25 00
	<hr/>
	\$611 71
Expenditure for the year	527 95
	<hr/>
Balance	83 76

Respectfully submitted,

A. W. PUTTEE, *Chairman.*

M. SINCLAIR.

JOHN C. SCOTT.

The Committee on President's Address and Executive Committee's Reports, presented the following report, which was received and adopted ;

To the Officers and Delegates of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Gentlemen,—Your Committee to whom was referred the address of the President and the various Executive Committee reports, beg leave to report as follows :

We congratulate the President on his able address and commend it to all members of labor organizations.

In regard to the Executive Committee report we are pleased to note the satisfactory interview had with the Government but regret that no steps were taken to carry out the promises made. We also endorse the recommendation of the Committee in regard to the issuing of constitutions for local bodies.

The Ontario Committee is to be congratulated for the independent stand taken.

We concur in the report of the Manitoba Executive Committee and note with pleasure the progress made in Winnipeg in organization and better condition. We also desire to congratulate the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council for placing a candidate in the field for the Dominion bye-elections.

It is pleasing to note that the report of the British Columbia Committee is full of matter bearing on successes achieved during the past year, and your Committee trust that the same progress will mark organized labor in the Western Province in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

U. LAFONTAINE, *Chairman.*

FRANK PLANT.

I. H. SANDERSON.

J. B. MACK.

F. PELLETIER.

Consideration of the report of the Committee on Standing Orders and Resolutions was then resumed.

Moved by Mr. Flett, seconded by Mr. Wilkes,

Whereas the various reports from the Provinces and from the General Executive of this Congress are in effect to be that so far as our efforts by petitions and interviews with the Legislatures of the Provinces and with the Federal Government of this country, that nothing has been accomplished by the above mentioned methods ; resolved, that this Congress recommends that the various central bodies of labor in Canada take such steps to form themselves into political organizations on independent lines from the old capitalistic political parties, and wherever, in the opinion of our central bodies, they are in sufficient numbers to warrant placing candidates in the field that we endeavor to have direct representation in the various houses of Parliament on lines similar to the organized workers of Great Britain, British Columbia, New Zealand and Australia, and that hereafter members of labor organizations found on the platform and advocating the interest of the old political parties be regarded with suspicion, as decoys of the wage earners, and should be regarded as opponents of the advanced labor movement, and that this be submitted to a referendum vote of all of the organizations in affiliation with this Congress, and should such a vote be in the affirmative then immediately proceed on the above lines.

Moved by Mr. Sanderson, seconded by Mr. Carey,

That in the opinion of this the Fifteenth Annual Convention of the Trades and Labor Congress the time has arrived when the following questions should be submitted to a referendum vote of the various trades and labor organizations of the Dominion of Canada : 1. Are you in favor of independent political action and the formation of a party for such purpose ? 2. In the event of a majority of all votes cast being favorable to such action will you morally and financially assist after candidate or candidates have been chosen in your electoral district ?

The Committee reported unfavorably on both the above resolutions, and forwarded the following on to Congress as a substitute : —

That in the opinion of this Congress the time has arrived when the following questions should be submitted to a referendum vote of the different organizations affiliated with this body : 1. Are you in favor of independent political action and the formation of a party for such purpose? 2. In the event of a majority of all votes cast being favorable to such action, will you morally and financially assist in the event of such candidate or candidates being placed before the electorate? That it be an instruction to the Secretary-Treasurer to furnish a return of the said votes with all reasonable dispatch to the Executive Committee and the affiliated organizations.

After a very long and animated discussion, which was taken part in by almost every delegate present, the motion submitted by Messrs. Flett and Wilkes was carried by a large majority.

Congress then adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Congress was called to order at 2 p.m.

As the order of business was the election of officers, the President called Mr. James H. Sullivan to the chair. The election resulted as follows :—

President—Ralph Smith of Nanaimo, by acclamation.

Vice-President—John A. Flett of Hamilton, by acclamation.

Secretary-Treasurer—George W. Dower of Toronto, by acclamation.

Legislative Committee for New Brunswick—

Murray Fleming of Moncton, Vice-President.

W. H. Coates of St. John.

Thomas Killen of St. John.

Charles J. McCarthy of Moncton.

Legislative Committee for Quebec—

John C. Scott of Quebec, Vice-President.

P. J. Jobin of Quebec.

James B. Mack of Montreal.

Delphis Verdon of Montreal.

Legislative Committee for Ontario—

T. H. FitzPatrick of Toronto, Vice-President,

P. M. Draper of Ottawa.

Frank Plant of London.

I. H. Sanderson of Toronto.

Legislative Committee for Manitoba—

John T. Mortimer of Winnipeg, Vice-President.

A. W. Puttee of Winnipeg.

R. A. Pyne of Winnipeg.

A. W. Johns of Winnipeg.

PROCEEDINGS OF LABOR CONGRESS.

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Legislative Committee for British Columbia—

James Wilkes of Rossland, Vice-President.

J. B. McLaren of Rossland.

H. Harrison of Rossland.

George A. Coldwell of Victoria.

Fraternal Delegate to the A. F. of L.—

David A. Carey of Toronto.

The selection of the next place of meeting was declared in order, and the following cities were placed in nomination. Ottawa, Ont.; Rossland, B.C.; St. Hyacinthe, Que., and Kingston, Ont.

The following telegrams were read:—

ST. HYACINTHE, September 21st, 1899.

The Mayor of St. Hyacinthe invite the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada to hold its next session in this city.

E. P. RICHER, Mayor.

OTTAWA, ONT., September 22nd, 1899.

P. M. DRAPER, Labor Congress.

Arrange to meet in Ottawa. Will be heartily received.

T. PAYMENT, Mayor.

The vote resulted as follows:—

Rossland	16
Ottawa	35
St. Hyacinthe	2
Kingston	4

And Ottawa was declared the next place of meeting.

The President resumed the chair, and appointed as a Committee on Thanks Messrs. Wilson of Toronto, Jackson of Quebec, Macoun of Ottawa, Marks of London, and Keys of Montreal.

The consideration of resolutions submitted by the Committee on Standing Orders and Resolutions was resumed.

Moved by Mr. Wilks, seconded by Mr. Mortimer, and resolved,

Whereas, in the Dominion political campaign of 1896, Sir Wiltred Laurier, Premier of Canada, pledged his government to be guided by the advice of Western Liberals in respect to legislation against Chinese immigration; and whereas, Western members of Parliament, both Conservative and Liberal alike, are unanimous in their expressions of opinion that the unrestricted immigration of Orientals must inevitably result in permanent and incalculable injury to the labor and business interests of the country; and whereas, Mr. G. R. Maxwell, M.P. of Vancouver city, has introduced, in the sessions of 1897-98, of the Dominion Parliament, legislation to increase the head tax on Chinese coming into Canada from \$50 to \$500, but without avail, as the same, instead of being pressed to a final issue, has been held in abeyance, and the reasons submitted therefore are extremely unsatisfactory to this body; therefore be it resolved, that this Congress expresses its hearty endorsement of the aforesaid legislation and demands the Government of the day to support the same thereby redeeming their ante-election pledges in regard to his question, solemnly made to and accepted in good faith by the people of Western

Canada; be it further resolved, that in the opinion of this Congress the Chinese immigration question is one of sufficient importance to justify a united and determined effort on the part of organized labor throughout the entire Dominion to defeat any party or politician in the approaching Federal elections that prevents this much needed and desired law from being placed on the statute books of Canada.

Moved by Mr. Flett, seconded by Mr. Scott, and resolved,

That whereas the members of the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees of America, Division No. 97, of London, Ontario, have been engaged in a desperate struggle for months for the right to belong to a labor organization, this Trades and Labor Congress of Canada hereby expresses to them its hearty sympathy and appreciation of the splendid battle so heroically waged against a grinding monopoly; and be it hereby resolved that the Executive of this Congress is hereby empowered and instructed to issue a printed appeal to organized labor throughout the Dominion asking for their financial assistance in bringing this long contested battle to a successful and satisfactory conclusion.

Moved by Mr. Mortimer, seconded by Mr. Puttee, and resolved,

That Clause 8, of the Platform of Principles, be amended to read as follows: "Abolition of the Dominion Senate, Direct Legislation by means of the Initiative and Referendum.

Moved by Mr. Menard, seconded by Mr. Mongeau, and resolved,

That this Congress deems it necessary that the various Executive Committees be instructed to petition their respective Governments to so amend the educational Acts that the education of children shall be compulsory and that the books and supplies be provided free to pupils.

Moved by Mr. Lafontaine, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and resolved,

That this Congress puts itself on record as in favor of a National Bank.

Moved by Mr. Vardon, seconded by Mr. Bissonnette, and resolved,

That this Congress petition the Dominion Government to establish a Board of Arbitration to adjust all disputes between employers and employees.

Moved by Mr. Prodwick, seconded by Mr. Brynes, and resolved,

Whereas, one of the great causes of disease is unsanitary plumbing, and that in the great majority of Canadian towns and cities no satisfactory system of inspection exists; resolved, that the incoming Executive urge upon the municipal governments of the Dominion the necessity of appointing a plumbing inspector in every city.

Resolution of Winnipeg Labor Party, re Government Currency.

That this party (the Winnipeg Labor Party) considers the power possessed by the private chartered banks of the Dominion in expanding and contracting at will the supply of money in circulation is a pernicious one and operates to the detriment of the people; that it considers the issue of money of all kinds is distinctly and exclusively a State function, and that the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada use its influence to urge the Government to assume this function and issue money of all denominations in a volume sufficient to meet the just needs of the country and upon a non-intrinsic basis.—Carried.

Resolution of Winnipeg Labor Party, re Political Action.

Whereas many other classes of the community suffer equally with workingmen from the oppression of trusts, monopolies and the privileges granted to corporations; therefore this party is of the opinion that trades unionists should cooperate as far as possible with other reform bodies to secure the reforms we desire and which it has been found impossible to obtain from the present political parties; especially are we of opinion that trades unionists should give increased attention to the accomplishment of their objects through legislation, particularly by returning representatives from their own ranks to our govern-

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ing bodies ; we further invite Congress to formulate some plan whereby concerted action could be taken by all labor organizations throughout the Dominion on political issues,—
Carried.

Moved by Mr. Dodd, seconded by Mr. Gravel, and resolved,

Whereas, numerous accidents have occurred in the various electric plants in the Provinces ; be it resolved, that this Congress now in session, demand of the Provincial Governments to appoint an expert electrician as general inspector of electric plants.

Moved by Mr. Marks, seconded by Mr. Johnston, and resolved,

That Article 14, of the Platform, be amended to read as follows ; " Proportional representation, with grouped constituencies and abolition of municipal wards."

Moved by Mr. Marks, seconded by Mr. Johnston, and resolved,

That the following article be added to the Platform, immediately preceding or following the article on proportional representation, any necessary change in the numbering of the articles being made accordingly : " Direct Legislation through the initiative and referendum."

Moved by Mr. Puttee, seconded by Mr. Mortimer, and resolved,

Whereas, the lack of proper inspection of locomotive boilers is a serious menace to the life and limb of employees of transportation companies and the public, and a number of fatal accidents having occurred, and enquiry into the causes thereof being sought, it is found that inspection cannot be enforced by Provincial Governments because the railways are inter-Provincial and come under Federal law ; therefore be it resolved, that the Executive of this Congress be instructed to petition the Dominion Government for an effective locomotive boiler inspection Act.

Moved by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Mr. Marks, and resolved,

That whereas the system of electric railway transportation is rapidly spreading in the Dominion and that eventually this will be the prevailing mode of transportation, not only in cities but throughout the country at large ; and whereas, it is absolutely necessary for the protection of life and property of the public that employees operating electric cars should be competent and qualified to perform such duties with the least possible risk to the public ; therefore be it resolved, that this Congress do petition the Dominion Government to place upon the Statutes an Act to provide that employees of electric railways shall be compelled to serve an apprenticeship of 30 days, and that said employees shall be required to pass a final examination as to competency before entering upon active duty as an employee of said electric railways.

Moved by Mr. Mack, seconded by Mr. Mongeau, and resolved,

That this Congress instructs the Executive Committee for the Province of Quebec to take steps to amend the Factory Act of their Province in the direction of extending the sanitary powers of inspectors, establishing a better system of registration, and more stringent regulations in regard to child labor, length of work-day, etc.

Moved by Mr. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Verdon, and resolved,

That the non enforcement of the Alien Labor Law on the part of the Federal Government is deserving of the strongest condemnation of organized labor, and that this Congress hereby place itself on record as approving of said condemnation.

Moved by Mr. Darlington, seconded by Mr. Kane, and resolved,

That this Congress request the Government to pass an Act compelling all manufacturers of canned goods to have the date when the goods are canned clearly placed on each can.

Moved by Mr. Mortimer, seconded by Mr. Puttee,

That it be an instruction to the Executive to press upon the Dominion Government the necessity of having uniform Federal legislation governing factories and workshops, bake shops and mechanics lien.

Referred back to the Congress with the statement that the Committee report unfavorable because of the fact of interference in Provincial rights. Report of Committee concurred in.

Moved by Mr. Wilkes, seconded by Mr. Carey, and resolved,

Whereas, this Congress regrets the failure of the Executive Committee of Ontario to secure the enactment of an eight-hour law for the benefit of the underground workmen of the Metalleferous mines of that Province; and whereas, since the enactment of such a law by the British Columbia Government this body is not aware that in any part of the British Empire does the ten hour system apply to the aforesaid workmen in such mines; and whereas, in the opinion of this Congress, common justice demands, owing to the extremely hazardous character of the employment, that the Government of Ontario should pass an Act prohibiting any person from being employed under ground in the mines of that Province for more than eight hours in any one day; therefore be it resolved, that the Executive Committee are hereby instructed to place the above mentioned facts prominently before the Government and make such representations as are necessary to induce them to grant this just and necessary law.

Moved by Mr. Wilkes, seconded by Mr. Johnston, and resolved,

That the Executive Committee for the Province of British Columbia be instructed to take such steps as are necessary to secure the enactment of an eight-hour law for the benefit of all workmen engaged upon public works and improvements, and to secure the insertion of an eight-hour clause in all contracts for the performance of labor upon said public works to which the government may be a part; and further, that the attention of the Committee be directed to the Mechanics' Lien Law of the aforesaid Province to the end that the same may be made more simple of application and more efficacious in protecting and safeguarding the interests of labor.

Moved by Mr. Garipey, seconded by Mr. Carey, and resolved,

That this Congress order the preparation of a manual explaining in a manner suitable to the comprehension of young people the objects and aims of the labor movement, the application of the principle we advocate to existing social and economic conditions, and the results which would follow thereon, and that we use our influence to have such a manual adopted as a text book in our public schools.

Moved by Mr. Wilks, seconded by Mr. Jobin, and resolved,

Whereas, attempts have been made to import miners and mine laborers into British Columbia from Eastern Canada and other points to the detriment of the labor element of that Province; therefore be it resolved, that since this Congress has on previous occasions expressed itself against the principle of contract labor every delegate here assembled pledge himself to do everything possible to prevent labor from being imported into the Western Provinces under contract.

Moved by Mr. Keys, seconded by Mr. Oakley,

That Messrs. Penny and Prefontaine, M.P.'s be held responsible for the appointing of a competent inspector of gear and tackle at the Port of Montreal.

The above motion was reported unfavorably by the Committee, and the following introduced as a substitute, which was adopted:

Moved by Mr. Jobin, seconded by Mr. Jackson,

That the Executive Committee of the Congress be instructed to press upon the Dominion Government the appointing of, and also to urge upon their local representatives the nominating of, gear and tackle inspectors in all the harbors of the Dominion.

Moved by Mr. Verdon, seconded by Mr. Bissonnette, and resolved,

That this Congress instructs the Executive Committees of the various Provinces to take the necessary steps to induce all brewers, packers and others using large quantities of barrels, to have their work done by union coopers, and bear the stamp of said unions.

Resolution of Winnipeg Labor Party, re Direct Legislation and the Senate —

Whereas, the partizan nature of our government bodies and the strong partizan feeling that prevails throughout our country and amongst labor organizations generally, materially interferes with securing such legislation as would meet the popular demand for reforms, especially such as affects labor interests; therefore we would recommend that the principle of direct legislation by means of the initiative and referendum be adopted by your body and urged as a substitute for the present Senate.—Carried.

Respectfully submitted.

P. J. JOBIN, *Chairman*.
J. T. MARKS.
P. M. DRAPER.
A. W. PUTTEE.
HUGH STEVENSON.
MURRAY FLEMING.
T. A. WOOD.
L. A. TREPANIER.

A. GARIEPY.
JOHN ARMSTRONG.
J. H. DODD.
ED. JACKSON.
C. MAILHOT.
D. VERDON.
W. H. SMITH.

Committee on Standing Orders and Resolutions.

Mr. Armstrong was granted the privilege of introducing the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

That the sum of \$50 be appropriated towards defraying the expenses of our fraternal delegate to the American Federation of Labor, to be held in the city of Detroit.

The Committee on Thanks presented the following report, which was received and adopted:—

To the Officers and Members of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada:

We, your Committee on Thanks, beg leave to submit the following recommendations; (1) That the thanks of this Congress be and is hereby tendered to the Mayor and corporation of the City of Montreal for the handsome manner in which they entertained the delegates and visitors to this Congress, by allowing the free use of their Council Chamber for our session, and the trip down to Lachine Rapids, and also for the fine exhibition of the fire department. (2) To the Street Railway Company of the City of Montreal for the very pleasant trip on the electric cars over their system, enabling the delegates to view the various points of interest; also to Ald. Stevenson for accompanying the delegates; also to R. Bousset, assistant city clerk, who also accompanied the members on their trip. (3) To the Mount Royal Incline Railway Co. for the elevation to which they assisted the members of the Congress to rise above the scenes of every day life. (4) To Hon. Mr. Berthiaume, of *La Presse* for the banquet tendered to the delegates and friends of the Labor Congress. (5) To the press of the city for the reports and comments on the proceedings of the Congress. (5) To the Reception Committee for their earnest efforts in trying to make the stay of the delegates and their friends in the city as pleasant as possible. (7) To the Stonewall Jackson Cigar Co. and Mr. James Bricklin, Winnipeg, for cigars supplied to the members of the Congress during its sessions. (8) To organized labor generally in the city of Montreal, for evidences of fraternal feeling evinced towards members of the Congress during their stay in the city. In conclusion we beg to expres

PROCEEDINGS OF LABOR CONGRESS.

our sincere appreciation of the hospitable manner and courtesy with which delegates have been met with on every hand, and we feel sure that all the delegates to the fifteenth annual session of the Congress will return home with nothing but the most pleasant recollections of our stay in the beautiful City of Montreal.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. WILSON, *Chairman.*

WM. KEYS.

ED. JACKSON.

J. M. MACOUN.

J. T. MARKS.

There being no further business the Congress adjourned to meet in the City of Ottawa, in September, 1900.

Geo. W. Dower
Secretary T. and L. Congress of Canada.

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CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME AND OBJECT.

SEC. 1.—The name of this organization shall be the "Trades and Labor Congress of Canada."

SEC. 2.—Its object shall be to unite all the labor organizations of the Dominion so as to secure the repeal of existing laws, the enactment of new laws or amendments to the existing statutes in the interest of wage-earners, to formulate and discuss all subjects pertinent to the cause of labor, and to further by every honorable means, the welfare of the working classes.

SEC. 3.—It shall form organizations in localities where none at present exist, either into local union, or assemblies of the Knights of Labor, but in no case shall any body of workingmen belonging to any trade or calling at present having an International or National Union be granted a charter. In the event of the formation of an International or National Union of the trade or calling of the union so chartered being formed, it will be the duty of the proper officers of the Congress to see that the said union becomes a member of said International or National Union.

SEC. 4.—Unions so organized by this Congress shall be known as "Federal Labor Unions," and shall hold regular meetings at least once a month for the purpose of strengthening and advancing the labor movement. The fee for a charter shall be \$5.

ARTICLE II.—REPRESENTATION.

SEC. 1.—The Congress shall be composed of delegates duly elected and accredited from Trades Councils, Central Labor Unions, Trades Unions, Federal Unions, District and Local Assemblies of the Knights of Labor and Directories of the Industrial Brotherhood in the Dominion of Canada.

SEC. 2.—The basis of representation shall be as follows: Trade Unions, Local Assemblies of the Knights of Labor, Federal Unions, and Directories of the Industrial Brotherhood shall be allowed one delegate for each one hundred members or under, and one for each additional one hundred or majority fraction thereof; Trades Councils, Central Labor Unions, National Trades Unions, General Directory of Industrial Brotherhood and District Assemblies of the Knights of Labor, three delegates each. Two or more Trades Unions or Local Assemblies of the Knights of Labor, whose aggregate membership does not exceed 150, may unite and send one delegate. No proxy representation will be allowed, and all delegates must be members of the bodies they represent, except in the case of bodies composed of delegates from local organizations, at least six months prior to and at time of election, but nothing in this clause shall be construed to prevent unions or assemblies from combining to send one representative who is a member of one of such unions or assemblies; provided nothing in this clause shall prevent organizations being represented not six months organized.

SEC. 3.—All delegates will be required to produce credentials signed by the presiding officer and Secretary of the organization they represent, and bearing the seal of the same where such exists. Where two or more organizations have united to send a delegate, as provided in section 2, his credentials must bear the signatures of the presiding officer and secretary of such organizations, and also the seal of the same, where such exists.

SEC. 4.—Notice of the election of delegates, together with their names and addresses and the number of members in the organization they represent, shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Congress at least ten days before the date of meeting of said Congress. Credentials must be made out on duplicate forms furnished by the Secretary of the Congress—one to be forwarded to said Secretary, and the other presented at the meeting to the Chairman of the Committee on Credentials.

ARTICLE III.—MEETINGS.

SEC. 1.—The Congress shall meet annually, at such time and place as shall be agreed upon at each session; provided that it shall be in the power of the Congress, at any session, to decide by a majority vote not to meet for two years.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE IV.

SEC. 1.—The revenue of the Congress shall be met by a per capita tax as follows: Trades and Labor Councils, District Assemblies of the Knights of Labor, and General Directory of the Industrial Brotherhood, 12 cents per year; Trades Unions, Local Assemblies of the Knights of Labor, and Directories of the Industrial Brotherhood, 8 cents per year, and Unions chartered by the Congress and not having to pay to an International or National head, 20 cents per year, payable quarterly.

SEC. 2.—This per capita tax shall be forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer in two equal instalments, due and payable on or before the 15th of November, and the 15th of May in each year, except as in the case of Federal Unions, who shall remit quarterly.

SEC. 3.—All organizations which have not contributed to the income of the Congress during the last past year, and wishing to be represented by delegates at any Annual Session, will be required to pay to the Secretary-Treasurer the amount of one-half year per capita in advance, the same to count as the instalment due and payable on the 15th of November ensuing.

ARTICLE V.—OFFICERS.

SEC. 1.—The officers of this Congress shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Vice-President for each Province of the Dominion and a Secretary-Treasurer.

SEC. 2.—There shall also be elected a Legislative Committee of three from each Province of the Dominion.

SEC. 3.—The Executive Committee of the Congress shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and the General Legislative Committee.

ARTICLE VI—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SEC. 1.—The President shall preside at all meetings of the Congress and of the Executive Committee, shall call the Executive Committee for business at his discretion, or upon requisition of three members of it, and shall perform such other duties as are usually within the province of a presiding officer of a deliberative body.

SEC. 2.—The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in case of the absence or resignation of that officer.

SEC. 3.—The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a correct account of the proceedings of the Congress, and shall at the close of each session, prepare and have printed a report, which shall contain a record of the business transacted; he shall receive all money payable to the Congress, giving his receipt for the same, and shall expend it in payment of the just debts of the Congress; shall issue to all labor organizations in the Dominion, so far as he may be able, circulars notifying them of the session of the Congress, together with blank forms of credential, at least eight weeks prior to the date on which it is to meet, and shall arrange for reduced railway fares for delegates and forward to all whose election he may have notification the certificates which will enable them to obtain the same.

SEC. 4.—The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President at such time and place as he may select, and shall act for the Congress during the intervals between its sessions; they shall watch the Provincial Legislatures and Dominion Parliament as to all measures and matters before those bodies which may specially affect the interests of labor, and shall, as far as possible, endeavor to further the legislation decided on by the Congress at each session, or such other legislation as shall by them be deemed advisable. They may appoint one or more of their number, if the revenue of the Congress will permit, to attend the Provincial Legislatures or Dominion Parliament and press for legislation in the interests of wage-earners, or act in conjunction with the delegates of any other organization to that end.

ARTICLE VII.

SEC. 1.—The Constitution or any of its clauses may be amended at any regular meeting of Congress, one day's notice being given, on a majority vote of delegates present.