

[Reported for the Baltimore Sun]

THE NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS

THIRD DAY.

The National Labor Congress assembled yesterday, at the Front Street Theatre, at 10 A. M. Tice roll was called, and the proceedings of yesterday read and approved.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES. Mr. James Hyland, of Maryland, chairman of the committee "on shortening the hours of physical labor," made the following report:

WHEREAS there comes from the ranks of labor a demand for more time for moral, intellectual and social culture, and believing that this demand is the result of that condition of progress in which the workingmen of this nation are prepared to take a step higher in the scale of moral and intellectual life; therefore be it

Resolved, That it be enjoined upon the members of this convention, as they go to their respective localities, to use all honorable means to agitate the eight-hour question; publicly and privately, and to effect some plan of organization whereby we may secure the combined strength of the working men of this nation to effect this great labor reform, believing that agitation and organization are the two great levers by which we are to accomplish this important result. That so far as political action is concerned, each locality should be governed by its own policy, whether to run an independent ticket composed of workingmen from its own ranks, or to use the political parties already existing, but at all events to cast no vote except for men pledged to the interests of labor.

The above report was adopted, and reconsidered. Mr. Roberts spoke in favor of the report, as also Mr. Phelps. Mr. Harding opposed it, as also Mr. Francis, Mr. Reid of N. Y., and Mr. Schlegel, of Illinois. Finally the report was, by yeas 28, nays 22, recommended to the committee, with instructions to report a plan of political action.

The congress then adjourned until 2 o'clock.

Afternoon Session.

The Congress reassembled at two o'clock.

Mr. A. C. Cameron, of Illinois, chairman of the committee on Trades Unions and strikes, made the following report:

Recognizing as a fundamental truth that in "union there is strength," and believing also that all reforms in the labor movement can only be effected by the intelligent, systematic effort of the industrial classes; and believing also that the effort can at present best be directed through the several trades organizations, your committee would recommend the formation of unions in all localities, where the same do not exist, and the formation of a national organization in every branch of industry as a first and most important duty of the hour, and claim that no man has performed his duty, either to himself, his family, or his fellow workmen, who has heretofore neglected or refused to do so.

Believing also that the efforts of a convention should be directed to devise the most available and practical means by which this united action may be obtained, and knowing that a large number of our skilled mechanics are excluded from these organizations by past delinquencies, which it would be judicious to overlook, would recommend that an invitation be extended to all such to re-enroll themselves in the great army of labor, and that all local unions be earnestly requested to extend the olive branch of peace, and receive such applicant in a spirit of conciliation, and that the first of January, 1867, be named as the time when such opportunity shall expire by limitation. Your committee would also suggest that a more rigid enforcement of the apprenticeship system should be insisted, believing that such action would redound to our interests, as our Trades' Unions are or should be organized upon the principle of rendering a quid pro quo, and so long as botches are recognized as competent workmen, this principle is rendered a nullity.

They would also suggest that as there are a great many laborers who do not form part of Trades' Unions, and as it is desirable to bring all within the ranks of the labor movement, that a general workingmen's association be recognized as belonging to the general organization, and entitled to seats in any future Labor Congress.

Your committee would also recommend the establishment of mechanics' institutes, lyceums and reading rooms wherever practicable, and that said institute be erected on grounds owned by several labor associations.

With regard to the subject of "strikes," your committee give it, as their deliberate opinion, that as a rule they are productive of great injury to the laboring classes; that many have been injudicious and ill-advised, and the result of impulse rather than principle; that those who have been the fiercest in their advocacy have been the first to advocate submission; and would therefore discountenance them, except as a dernier resort, and when all means for amicable adjustment have been exhausted.

Your committee would also recommend the appointment by each Trades' Assembly of an arbitration committee, to whom shall be referred all matters of dispute arising between the employers and employees, believing the earlier adoption of such a system would have prevented a majority of those ill-advised, so called strikes.

In conclusion, your committee would again refer to the all-important question of organization as a panacea for this growing evil, because when every mechanic is enrolled in a union of trades, strikes will become impossibilities. Nor can this be taken as a menace to employers, knowing, as we do, that the principle involved is not aggressive but defensive in character, founded on the principles of eternal truth and justice. On the contrary, they believe it would be the means of creating a bond of sympathy between the employer and employee, and inaugurating a reign of confidence and mutual esteem in place of the antagonism and jealousy at present existing.

On motion, the report was received without debate, and adopted.

REPORT ON CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS AND PRISON LABOR.

Mr. Alex. Troup, of Mass., chairman of the committee "on co-operative associations and prison labor," made the following report:

Resolved, That the National Labor Congress, on their return to their constituents, recommend that petitions be circulated and forwarded to the different Legislatures urging upon them the passage of Co-operative acts.

Resolved, That having considered the matter of convict labor at some length, your committee are of the opinion that if convict labor cannot be entirely abolished, that the same compensation should be demanded by the United States and the respective States of contractors contracting for convict labor as that paid in workshops outside of the prisons; and your committee would most respectfully recommend that the workingmen petition Congress and their respective Legislatures on this subject.

The report was received, and adopted without debate.

REPORT ON ADDRESS TO WORKINGMEN.

Mr. A. C. Cameron, of Illinois, chairman of the committee on "An Address to Mechanics and Workingmen," made the following report:

Your committee to whom was referred the duty of preparing an address to the mechanics and workingmen of the United States, setting forth the necessity and benefits of the eight-hour system, and the most available means by which the same may be obtained, beg leave to report that, after a careful review of the whole matter, and considering the fact that such an appeal would be subject to the criticism of the entire capital press of the country, which, much as it may be deplored, controls that public opinion without which we can never be successful in our present contest; realizing, also, that it should be catholic in spirit, comprehensive in scope, simple in diction, and unanswerable in argument, are convinced that more time is requisite in its preparation than the present session of this convention affords, therefore respectfully suggests that two weeks be allowed them after its adjournment to present the same, believing the reasons given will be sufficient for the delay asked.

The report was received and adopted.

REPORT ON PERMANENT ORGANIZATION.

Mr. Wm. P. Blades, of Md., chairman of the committee "on permanent organization," made a report thereon, which was read and recommended. On motion, Messrs. Harding and Troupe were added to said committee. Mr. Blades subsequently made an amended report thereon, as follows:

Resolved, That this Congress organize a "permanent National Labor Congress," by selecting the following named officers, viz: a president and one vice-president at large, and one vice-president from each State, Territory and District represented in this Congress. The said vice-presidents are to act as corresponding secretaries for the labor organization in their respective States, &c.; one recording secretary and one assistant recording secretary, and one corresponding secretary and assistant corresponding secretary; a treasurer and a financial committee of three. The president shall be authorized to appoint a vice-president from the States not represented in this Congress as soon as he may find some proper person so to appoint.

Resolved, That every Trades' Union, Workingmen's Association and Eight-Hour League shall be entitled to one delegate in this Congress for the first five hundred (500) members, or less, and for every additional five hundred or fractional part thereof, one additional delegate, and every National or International Union shall be represented by one delegate. It shall be the duty of the said officers of this organization to carry out the acts of the present Labor Congress, to direct agitation, and further the interest of the labor movement by all possible means. The sessions of the Labor Congress shall be annual, and be held alternately in the different sections of the Union, in the season of autumn.

The president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, vice-president at large, and treasurer shall form the executive board; that shall meet from time to time for the transaction of business. The executive board shall have power to levy a tax of twenty-five cents a year upon each member belonging to the National Labor Union. The report was received and adopted.

A resolution was adopted fixing the time of holding the next Labor Congress on the 3d Monday of August, 1867.

REPORT ON EIGHT-HOUR SYSTEM AND POLITICAL VIEW.

Mr. James Hyland, of Baltimore, chairman of the committee "on reducing the hours of physical labor," to which was recommended the report submitted by them this morning, made a final report, as follows:

WHEREAS there comes from the ranks of labor a demand for more time for moral, intellectual and social culture, and believing that this demand is the result of that condition of progress in which the workingmen of this nation are

prepared to take a step higher in the scale of moral and intellectual life;

And whereas the history and legislation of the past has demonstrated the fact that no dependence whatever can be placed on the pledges or professions of the representatives of either existing political party, so far as the interests of the industrial classes are concerned; therefore

Resolved, That the time has come when the workingmen of the United States should cut themselves aloof from party ties and predilections, and organize themselves into a "National Labor Party," the objects of which shall be to secure the enactment of a law making eight hours a legal day's work by our national Congress and several State Legislatures, and the election of men pledged to sustain and represent the interests of the industrial classes.

Resolved, That the most available means to secure the desired result is by systematic agitation, establishment of Eight-Hour Leagues, the aid and labor of the public press and public speakers; and this Convention recommend to the several delegates the necessity of immediate organization.

Resolved, That in order to carry out the aims and objects of the above resolutions, we recommend to every friend of the movement to vote for no candidate not unequivocally pledged to vote for a law making eight hours a legal day's work and favor all measures of labor reform.

Resolved, That where a workingman is found available for any office, the preference should invariably be given to such person.

The question being taken on the adoption of the report,

Mr. Roberts, of Pa., opposed the adoption of the report. He prophesied that the political measures recommended would prove a failure, and they would become the laughing-stock of the country if they attempted to form a national labor party.

Mr. Cameron advocated the report. He put no faith in professional politicians. He looked to the future. They must send men to represent them from the ranks of labor, and not as they have hitherto done, from the ranks of capital.— That is why the interests of labor have always been betrayed. He would not say that labor and capital are antagonistic, but that they have hitherto been, cannot be denied. He spoke for 200,000 mechanics and laborers in Illinois, and they are in favor of cutting loose from all existing political organizations. The labor movement is yet in its infancy, but they will not have long to wait before it is in the ascendant.

The subject was further discussed by Mr. Read, of New York, and Mr. Francis, of the District of Columbia, in favor of the report.

Mr. Stewart said an active minority can achieve more than a conservative, passive majority. He favored the report.

Mr. Baldwin, of New York, opposed the report.

Mr. Harding said he knew when he got the report recommended that it would bring out the sentiments of delegates. This Congress had met for the purpose of sending out this thunder-bolt to make the workingmen legislate and up to their duty. We propose now to legislate for ourselves as other interests in legislative halls now concern their own interests. He referred to the action of the Massachusetts Assembly, to which the labor party had fifty-two men elected on the workingmen's eight-hour ticket. They have to use their party power as a wedge—to divide other parties who combine against them. If they are not successful at first, they will be in the future.

Mr. Troup said they might as well take their stand to-day as at any other time. He favored an independent ticket.

Mr. Hinchcliffe said the workingmen had been alwaysajoined on both sides. Contending parties had made use of them as long as they were of service, and then threw them aside.— They have the numerical strength, and if properly organized they would be successful in less than two years.

Jonathan C. Fincher spoke at length, and denounced the report as recommending an impracticable object. The formation of an independent national labor party was an absurdity. They had not the means to put in operation the machinery of a great party movement. It would result in a war of labor against capital. If they attempted to carry it out, the present labor movement would prove a failure, and there will not be another convention for twenty-five years.

Messrs. Thomas, of New York, A. J. Judge, and others spoke in favor of the report, and the entire discussion was very earnest and able.— Finally the previous question was called, and the report was adopted by yeas 35, nays 21, as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Martin, Jas. H. Reid, Francis DeBain, Emmons, Iles, Alfred, Cameron, Schlegel, Hinchcliffe, McCauley, Spalding, Troupe, Bolan, Cogswell, G. Rand, F. Reed, Overton, Blades, Wilson, Griffin, Judge, Doan George, Stewart, Schroeder, Ashworth, Harman, Jessop, Thomas, John Reid, Harding, Maps, Ware, Armstrong—35.

Nays—Messrs. Gibson, Phelps, Clark, Whaley, Hyland, Anid, Storey, Barnett, Gillespie, Kirby, Cather, Cooper, Everitt, Potter, Flaritz, Sapp, Baldwin, Kline, Bernard, Dalzell, Roberts, Bolcom, Lee, Fauth—21.

Whole number present 50. Majority for the report 11.

Of the Baltimore delegates the following five voted for the report: Messrs. Overton, Blades, Wilson, Griffin, and Judge. The following twelve voted against the report: Messrs. Hyland, Asid, Storey, Barnett, Gillespie, Kirby, Cather, Cooper, Everitt, Potter, Flaritz, and Sapp.

Mr. Spalding moved that all the committees who have not reported, be requested to make their final report to-morrow at 10 o'clock; which was adopted.

The committees which have not yet reported, are on "national organ of labor," on "public lands and national debt," on "conference with the President," and the final report of the committee on resolutions.

On motion, the President appointed the following committees:

On Ways and Means—Messrs. Spalding, Rano, Baldwin, Reid, Ashworth and Judge.

On Finance—Messrs. Harding, Reid, Emmons, Iles and Baldwin.

On Printing—Messrs. Cameron, Stroup, Sleeper, Armstrong, and Roberts.

The convention then adjourned until this morning at 9 o'clock.

It is expected that the Congress will finish their labors to-day.