

# MANY IMPORTANT TOPICS DISCUSSED

Trades and Labor Congress  
Delegates Get Down to  
Business in Quick  
Order.

## RETURN OF ALIEN ENEMIES ADVOCATED

Convention Placed Itself on Re-  
cord as Favoring Crush-  
ing of Prussianism.

Among the principal resolutions put forward at Monday afternoon's session of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada was one dealing with the question of the return of alien enemies to the countries from whence they came, it being realized that labor conditions at the close of the war will be such that to turn the aliens loose on the market would be little less than a crime. This was referred to the committee on officers' reports, without debate.

### Urges Compulsory Education.

A resolution asking that the executives of the Trades and Labor Congress use every effort possible to have compulsory education laws enacted in all provinces, in view of the alarming number of illiterate people throughout the Dominion, was adopted by the convention, following an explanation by Delegate Trotter as to the meaning of the term "illiterate."

The convention went on record as in favor of the resolution put forward by the Sault Ste Marie and Steelton Trades and Labor Councils to the effect that legislation be passed making it compulsory for all employers of labor to pay their employees semi-monthly, monthly payments being considered an injustice to the laboring people.

An amendment of the factory laws relating to the protective measures employed in metal polishing establishments, in order that more efficient methods might be enforced, was approved by the delegates on a resolution from James Day, of the Metal Polishers, Buffers and Platers' International Union.

### Debate on Compensation Acts.

The resolution productive of most debate and one in which a difference of opinion between the members of the executive was strongly marked, was that put forward by the Moncton Trades and Labor Council, as follows:

"Whereas the Dominion government system of railways is running through more than one province of Canada where the compensation acts are different, and whereas it would simplify matters if there was a federal act covering all government railway employees;

"Therefore be it resolved that this Congress believes that such an act should be placed on the statutes of Canada, and that the executive council be instructed to bring this matter before the Dominion government at its next session."

The resolutions committee recommended non-concurrence in this resolution, the action of the committee being upheld by Vice-President Bancroft.

### President Crosses Swords.

President J. C. Watters favored the resolution and remarked that had the resolution committee consulted with him prior to making their recommendation they would undoubtedly have arrived at a different conclusion, as he was in possession of data showing that the resolution was necessary in the interests of the railway workers. By voting down the resolution, the Congress would leave the workers on such lines as the I. C. R. absolutely uncovered, this statement being combated by Vice-President Bancroft. President Watters then produced correspondence bearing out his opinions, one letter which bore considerable weight on the arguments put forward in support of the resolution being read from Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor.

Vice-President Bancroft complain

ed that the president had withheld this correspondence from the committee, to which President Watters replied that until the opening of the convention he had not known that the resolution was to be put forward.

Following further debate, pro and con, the matter was referred to the incoming executive, with instructions to review the situation as to the relation of the government railways employees and the Compensation Act.

Government ownership of all railways in Canada was advocated by the convention, resolutions defining the length of railroad sections and the number of men to be employed on said sections being also endorsed.

A resolution calling for one day's holiday in seven for restaurant and hotel workers received the approval of the delegates.

#### **Amendment to Fair Wage Clauses.**

An amendment to the fair wages clauses to provide for the payment of the established union rate of wages and for the union hours of the district in which government contracts were carried out, was put forward in a resolution by J. F. Marsh, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

It was pointed out that in a district which was not organized more than 50 per cent. the wages of the unorganized workers, which were the lowest, lowered the average current rate to less than the union scale.

This resolution was adopted in toto, no debate taking place, the same course being followed in the case of one asking that the federal government take necessary action to cause fair wage conditions to be acknowledged for the carpenters on works under the direction of the minister of railways and canals.

James Simpson and Fred Bancroft (Toronto) put forward a resolution embodying an act to provide for the licensing of firemen operating steam stationary boilers in the province of Ontario, which was adopted by the convention.

Considerable discussion took place on a resolution by Guelph Trades and Labor Council asking that the congress take up with the Dominion government the matter of release of unnaturalized men of enemy nationality from the detention camp at Toronto.

According to the resolution certain men were arrested and placed in the detention camp, but afterwards, on petition from the International Malleable Iron Company, where some of the men had been employed as laborers, were released and taken back into the employ of the company, loyal British subjects being forced to leave on their account.

The resolution further asked that an order-in-council be asked for making it imperative that all unnaturalized men of alien nationality be at once removed from civil life and placed in the detention camps.

While not concurring in the reso-

lution, the convention decided that the first part of the matter should be thoroughly investigated by the executive council.

### **Saturday Half Holiday Urged.**

The congress decided to urge upon the postmaster-general the need for an extension of the Saturday half holiday to letter-carriers, the parcel-post porters, porters, collectors and messengers being included in the resolution put forward by Branch No. 12, Federated Association of Letter Carriers, Vancouver.

Prince Albert Trades and Labor Council went one better by requesting the congress to ask the Dominion government to introduce a measure whereby the Saturday half holiday may be observed throughout the whole year in the Dominion. Their resolution was adopted by the convention.

### **Federations of Labor Scored.**

A resolution asking that the Trades and Labor Congress defray the expenses of placing a lobbyist at the

next session of the legislature of the province of New Brunswick, in view of the fact that a compensation act is to be introduced along the lines of those of Ontario and Nova Scotia, was not concurred in. The resolution was put forward by the N. B. Federation of Labor, and its purport brought from Secretary Draper the remark that he recommended an enquiry into the advisability of the continued existence of Federations of Labor.

Monday night the delegates, their wives and friends, gathered in the big hall of the Labor Temple. The floors were cleared and a most enjoyable evening of dancing and music was spent. The local Trades and Labor Council were the hosts. During the evening refreshments were supplied.

Among the 179 delegates present at the convention, one fraternal representative from the American Federation of Labor, Mr. H. T. Conway, Lafayette, Indiana, and one representative from a Canadian Federation of

Int. Brotherhood Maintenance of  
Way Employees—H. Irwin.

United Mine Workers of America—  
R. Foster.

Bro. Painters, Decorators and  
Paperhangers of America—A. E.  
Scott.

Paving Cutters Union of U. S. and  
Canada—R. E. Williams.

Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers,  
Brass and Silver Workers of North  
America—Jas. Daly.

Operative Plasterers and Cement  
Fin' shers Int. Association—Jas. Ward.

United Association Plumbers and  
Steam Fitters—J. W. Bruce.

Sailors Union of the Pacific (In-  
ternational)—W. S. Burns.

Printing Pressmen and Assistants  
Union—Thos. Hines.

Amalgamated Sheet Metal Work-  
ers Int. Alliance—T. Bertrand.

Int. Alliance Theatrical Stage Em-  
ployees and Moving Picture Operators  
of U. S. and Canada—J. Thibault.

Journeyman Stonecutters' Associa-  
tion of N. A.—Albert Gosselin.

Amal. Association Steel and Electric Railway Employees of America—  
Jos. Gibbons.

Journeyman Tailors Union of America—Francis Williams.

Int. Typographical Union—Samuel Hadden.