

[Reported for the Baltimore Sun.] THE NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS.

FOURTH DAY. The National Labor Congress reassembled yesterday in Front Street Theatre, at 9 A. M.

The roll was called, and the proceedings of Wednesday read and adopted.

REPORT ON NATIONAL ORGAN.

Mr. W. Cooper, chairman of the committee on a national labor organ, made the following report.

The committee, after a careful consideration of the subject, are unanimously of the opinion that, in view of the great diversity of interests represented in the labor organization, it is inexpedient at the present time to designate any paper as the especial organ of this national labor union, but would recommend, instead that all the proceedings connected with the present or future action of this body be published simultaneously in those papers devoted to the cause of labor reform.

After a lengthy discussion the report was adopted.

REPORT ON PUBLIC LANDS AND NATIONAL DEBT.

Mr. Wm. H. Stewart, of Michigan, chairman of the committee on public lands and national debt, made the following report:

The committee on public lands and national debt have had the several petitions and communications referred to them under consideration, and after giving them their careful attention, the time allotted by the Congress not being sufficient to enter minutely into the subjects, would report as follows:

The cause of the complaint is the monopoly of the new or government lands, using the legislation of the country as the medium by which this monopoly is created. We find something over three hundred millions of acres of these lands, a large amount being excluded from taxation, and have been for a series of years. That the subject of agriculture we accept as one of great importance. Considered as the base of all wealth—at least we cannot subsist without this all-important industry—it would seem superficial for any one at this day and condition of civilization to accumulate evidence to prove the importance of this industrial pursuit; that cheap living necessitates a larger area of labor, not only in the increased consumption of manufacturing products, but as a defence against foreign importation of these articles.

Much of the protection that is now urged by the manufacturer as necessary to protect him is occasioned by the high price of living, and your committee would here state that they consider it a very essential step towards correcting the evil complained of when this Congress shall resolve that this government shall no longer be the medium by which land monopoly shall be established in our new States and Territories. To attempt to enlarge our commerce and manufacturing by neglecting so important a principle of political economy would be like substituting the apex for the base of the column.—The prayer of the petitioners should be granted, particularly at this time, as we think it will have a wholesome influence in checking legislation in a wrong direction. The early founders of the government considered it unjust and unconstitutional to deal in class legislation with respect to the public domain.

Madison wrote against it; President Monroe, in the language of Thomas H. Benton, in his "Thirty Years' Review," says "that he had exhausted all argument in the language to prove that this power did not exist, and for a correct understanding of this subject nothing further may be said." Gen. Jackson refused to sign bills for making special grants of land, and bringing to his support and position the favor and sympathies of a large party. His position was, that it was bad economy, unjust to the pioneer agriculturist, and destructive to the material interests of the country; that the lands in the hands of a few capitalists would be likely to make the necessities of the settler their opportunity. He therefore recommended in his message to Congress just what your petitioners would respectfully ask of this Congress, to declare that no person, individual or corporate, should get between the settler and the government on the public domain. This position was taken when the subject of class legislation was presented in its most objectionable form.—Had the Montana land grant become a law, and a precedent for future legislation, your committee cannot see any rights that the people could have in these lands, other than through the sufferance of a few political adventurers or capitalists that may meet at every session of our Congress. Your committee would respectfully represent that cities on the western slope of this continent, others more centrally located, have sprung up, as if by magic, eclipsing in material wealth and prosperity many of our most favored cities after a growth of half a century. This prosperity we offer as demonstrative proof of the change asked for by the petition. The laborer in this case was master of the situation; he had only to labor and to thrive. The British land system had not been sufficiently perfected by our government to take in this distant region from him a portion of his hard earned toil. Wherever the hand of nature had planted her treasures he was free to make his lodgment; to supply civilized life with any and all its wants. It is this principle that we wish to see applied to all our agricultural lands.

Your committee would here assert, as we have before intimated, that this system is not of American, but rather of British origin. The lands were in that country at an early day safely placed in the hands of a few individuals, and that they and their descendants have always composed the government of that country; that after 600 years, true to their instincts, the "land monopolies" sent to our shores their Alabamas to prey upon our commerce and destroy our institutions.—The power created by this system has all this while been steadily pursuing its relentless course, opposing any measure that may have for its object the amelioration of the condition of the people. Your committee would respectfully submit, that in no other form does wealth become so objectionable to the moral, social and material interests of the country. The lands in the colonies previous to the revolution were considered as belonging to the Crown; the British rulers were careful not to adopt a general system, but made special grants "to court favorites or those having friends at court," much the same as is now practiced at every session of our Congress. This power, then, it would seem, was not contemplated by this government, that we ought to treat it as an interloper, foreign to our interests and monarchical in its pretensions.

In view of the false position that politicians have accorded to labor and industry, we would propose the following sentiment, in order to restore them to their proper position, viz: "The tools to those that have the ability and skill to use them, and the lands to those that have the will and heart to cultivate them."

For the reasons adduced above, your committee would most respectfully recommend that the committee appointed by this house to visit and confer with the President be requested to call his attention to the subject, with a view to his co-operation in securing some appropriate measures of reform.

With reference to the public debt, we cannot see any objections to apply much the same as we would in cases of individual indebtedness.—For instance, it is conceded that Uncle Samuel or Brother Johnathan owes a large debt, that it is not possible, if desirable, to pay at this time. It is also conceded that he is the owner of a large farm that is not at all productive. Would it not be well first to improve this farm by occupation and cultivation in the most practical manner, with reference to the greatest amount of production? In the meantime, as debt becomes due, and perhaps sooner, the amount be funded in bonds running twenty or fifty years, that interest be reduced, and your committee think that it need not exceed four and a half or five per cent., and that they be made subject to taxation. It is fair to presume that our assessed valuation will double in that length, making the burden much lighter if paid by direct tax, which portion, at least of the burden of taxation should be laid in this way.

After considerable debate, the report was received and unanimously adopted.

THE EIGHT-HOUR REPORT.

Mr. Armstrong moved that the vote of yesterday, adopting the report of the committee on the eight-hour system, &c., be reconsidered; which was adopted.

A motion was then made by Mr. Spaulding to recommit the report for the purpose of modifying it to meet the views of the delegates opposing it.

Mr. Cather, of Baltimore, said he desired to give the reasons why a majority of the Maryland delegates voted against the report. He thought the circumstances by which they were surrounded in Maryland, ought to be satisfactory to the convention. He believed it would be inexpedient, and to the disadvantage of the working men of Maryland to engage in the formation of a national labor party forthwith. He wished the people of Maryland to know that they voted against it because they thought it was against the interests of the workingmen of Maryland at this time.—For several years past two-thirds or three-fourths of the voters of Maryland had been disfranchised. We have had no part or say in the government of the State, but through the liberality of the Governor they were about to acquire their right of suffrage. The objectionable feature of the report was the inauguration of the labor party movement at this time. When we acquire our rights, we are with you.

After some further discussion the report was recommitted.

Afternoon Session.

The Congress reassembled at 2 1/2 P. M.

Mr. Hyland, of Maryland, chairman of the committee to which the report on the eight-hour system and the political view was recommitted, reported back the resolutions (as published yesterday) with the first resolution amended so as to read as follows, the only material amendment being the addition of the lines quoted:

Resolved, That the time has come when the workingmen of the United States should cut themselves aloof from parties 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 who will sustain and represent the interests of the industrial classes. In view of this fact, we, the representatives of the workingmen of America, in congress assembled, recommend that steps be taken to form the same, and which shall be put in operation as soon as practicable.

The report, as amended, was adopted, with but one negative vote.

REPORT ON INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT.

Mr. Hinchcliffe, of Illinois, president of the Labor Congress and chairman of the committee, reported an interview with the President of the United States on the eight-hour question, reported that the committee had telegraphed to the President to learn at what time he would be pleased to receive them, but not having received any reply, the committee asked for further time to report; which was granted.

DISPATCH FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Subsequently the chair announced the following telegraphic dispatch from the President of the United States, addressed to John Hinchcliffe, Esq., President of the National Labor Convention:

"I will be most happy to receive the committee appointed by the National Labor Congress on Saturday. ANDREW JOHNSON."

A WORLD'S CONGRESS.

Mr. Harding, of New York, offered the following:

Whereas a World's Congress of Labor is about to be held in the city of Geneva, one of the cautious of the Swiss Republic; and whereas the time is now too short for a delegate to be sent from these United States, therefore

Resolved, That the Executive Council of the National Labor Union be authorized to tender the thanks of this convention to the Central Organization of Labor in Europe, together with a copy of the proceedings of this convention, bidding them God speed in their glorious work; and that the executive council, in the event of another such convention being held before another meeting of this Congress, they be authorized to send a delegate to such convention. The resolution was adopted.

SOUTHERN DELEGATES.

Mr. J. C. C. Whaley, of the District of Columbia, offered the following:

Whereas, it is both desirable and proper that the whole country should participate in the great labor movement which this convention essays to inaugurate, and whereas, the presence here of delegates from the States of Georgia and Virginia, and the reception of communications from the Trades' Assemblies of Mobile and New Orleans is a source of gratification and usefulness, offering an earnest of their desire and intention to join with us in this attempt to ameliorate the condition of the working classes, therefore

Resolved, That we hail with much pleasure the presence here of the delegations from the South, and cordially and fraternally invite the people of that section of our common country to join with us in the movement we have undertaken, and to again renew the reciprocal relations so unhappily suspended in the lamentable civil strife through which we have recently passed. The resolution was adopted.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION OF THE LABOR CONGRESS.

Mr. Tronp moved that the Congress proceed to the election of permanent officers of the Congress under the report on that subject adopted yesterday, and that the president first be elected by ballot, which was adopted. The following was the result: For Whaley 23, Hinchcliffe 8, Emmons 4, Scattering 5.

Mr. J. C. C. Whaley, of Washington, stated that he declined the position. The Congress refused to excuse him, and he was declared to be unanimously elected.

A vice-president at large was next balloted for, with the following result: Schlegler 31, Hinchcliffe 7, Scattering 3.

Mr. E. Schlegler, of Chicago, was then declared unanimously elected.

The following vice-presidents from the different States reelected in the Congress were nominated by their respective delegations, and unanimously elected: Massachusetts, Alexander Troupe; Maryland, Wm. Cather; Pennsylvania, Marshall Roberts; District of Columbia, Richard Emmons; Delaware, R. L. Mastin; New York, W. J. Jessop; Indiana, Jacob J. Aford; Michigan, Thomas M. Dolan; Missouri, James Ashworth; Illinois, A. C. Cameron; Iowa, James McKim; Georgia, Wm. B. Hiss; Virginia, D. B. Ballom; Connecticut, A. W. Phelps.

The following officers were also elected by ballot: Recording secretary, James B. Overton, of Baltimore, Maryland; assistant recording secretary, Wm. H. Lee, of Richmond, Virginia; corresponding secretary, William Gibson, of New Haven, Connecticut; assistant corresponding secretary, Henry George, of Detroit, Michigan; treasurer, John Hinchcliffe, of Baltimore, Illinois; financial committee, Thomas S. Everett, Baltimore; James Ashworth, Missouri; Wm. Baldwin, New York.

THE NEXT CONGRESS.

The Congress having Wednesday passed a resolution to hold another meeting on the third Monday of August, 1867, a motion was adopted to ballot for choice of place of meeting. The following was the result of the first ballot: St. Louis 14, Chicago 11, Pittsburg 9, Richmond 6, New York 4, Washington 4, Boston 4, Cleveland 2, Providence 1, Brooklyn 1. On the second ballot Chicago received 31 votes and St. Louis 17.

The chair announced that the next Congress would be held in Chicago.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Mr. J. D. Ware offered the following:

Resolved, That the thanks of this National Labor Congress be tendered to John T. Ford, Esq., for his generous tender of the Front Street Theatre for the use of this body; which was unanimously adopted.

The thanks of the Congress were then voted to the officers of the convention for the courteous discharge of duties; also, to the citizens of Baltimore for the many kindnesses received by the delegates at their hands; and also to the representatives of the press for their correct and impartial reports of the proceedings of the Congress.

A resolution was adopted authorizing the committee on the address to the workmen of the United States to have printed one thousand copies in English and five hundred in German of the address when issued, and that copies be sent to members, and otherwise circulated.

The committee on resolutions having stated that they would not be prepared to report until to-day, the Congress adjourned until 9 o'clock this day.