

# THE NATIONAL LABOR CONVENTION.

## Appointment of Committees—Report of the Committee on the Eight-Hour Law—Sustaining the National Credit—A Monument to be Erected in Memory of the Late President.

### SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The convention of the National Labor Union resumed its sessions on Tuesday, at half-past nine o'clock, in the Assembly Buildings, Philadelphia. A large attendance evidenced that the interest in the proceedings had not flagged.

The first business was the reading, correction and approval of the minutes of Monday, after which the chairman announced committees on condolence, on president's address, on platform, and on organization and constitution. Mr. Mc. Mahon, of Maryland, and Mr. Cavis, of Washington, D. C., are on the committee of condolence; Mr. Stockton, of Maryland, and Mr. Cavis, of Washington, on the committee on the president's address, and Isaac Myers, colored, on the committee on organization and the constitution.

### THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

The following report was presented, read and referred to the committee on labor:

To the National Labor Union: The committee on eight-hour law respectfully reports that the law of Congress making eight hours a day's work for all employees of the government has, after encountering much opposition, gone into practical effect under proclamation of the President of the United States. This result would have been induced only by extraordinary obstructions interposed by enbordinates whose duty it was to carry out the will of Congress in its enactment. Their opposition, however, was encouraged by two attorneys general, and was only overcome by prerogative usually interposed when insurrection dedes civil power, or when supreme laws are to be enforced. We can therefore judge of the result only by the force necessary to overcome it.

We congratulate workmen on the success of this measure of right, and ask them to be encouraged to press for further amelioration. They must not suppose opposition yet overcome; that law is revocable, and enmity will attack it in many ways. They must be united and alert for all resorts. Even now, in at least one navy-yard, by bell-ringing and roll-call eight and a half hours' attendance of workmen is exacted, to make no account of the time extracted in traveling to and fro. In connection with this subject, attention is called to the fact that the eight-hour law took effect from and after its passage, and its advantages attached at once; yet the disbursing officers of the government withheld from the workmen twenty per cent. of their pay, and the President expressly prohibited those officers from making good this deficiency. This body should memorialize the Congress of the United States to make provision for their claims, and not compel the claimants to await the slow and expensive process of prosecuting their rights before the departments. Respectfully submitted,

A. T. CAVIS, for committee.

### THE NATIONAL CURRENCY AND PUBLIC DEBT.

Moses W. Field, of Michigan, offered the following, which was referred to the committee on platform:

*Resolved*, That the national money known as the greenback currency is popular and satisfactory to the working millions of the country, and experience has fully demonstrated that the national credit is our best basis for a sound and reliable circulating medium.

Mr. Field offered the following, which was referred to the committee on platform:

*Resolved*, That the reduction of the interest on the public debt is a question of urgent necessity, and the only available and practicable plan to accomplish that end is to be found in the issue of United States notes, called "greenbacks," to pay the "five-twenty" bonds and all other obligations of the government that, by the strict letter of the law, can now be paid in lawful money.

*Resolved*, That Congress should provide for the funding of that portion of the national debt not required for a circulating medium, by the issue of long bonds, bearing interest not exceeding 3.65 per cent., and that our United States currency notes, at the option of the holders, should be convertible or reconvertible into such bonds at par.

### PROTECTION TO AMERICAN LABOR.

Mr. Field offered also the following, which was likewise referred to the committee on platform:

"Whereas the price of American labor is above the wages paid for labor in other countries; and whereas the products of the cheaper labor of foreign countries when imported into the United States compete with the productions of American labor in our home markets, to the manifest injury of our workmen, thereby decreasing enterprise, industrial independence and diversity of employments, and tending to degrade our labor and force down the wages of American workmen to the level of the ill-paid millions of Europe; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we demand such adjustment of the duties on all commodities produced by the labor of foreign countries as will adequately protect American labor, and restrain the excessive importation of commodities abroad which we have the raw material, the skill and the ability to produce in our own country."

### MEMORIAL TO THE LATE PRESIDENT.

Mr. John M. Bossong, of New York, offered the following, which was referred to the committee on platform:

*Resolved*, That a tax of ten cents be levied upon each workman represented in this National Labor Union, five cents of which is to be appropriated to the erection of a suitable monument to the memory of William H. Sylvie, and the remaining five cents for the support and education of the wife and children of our deceased president."

### A COMPREHENSIVE SERIES OF RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. West, of Mississippi, offered a preamble and resolutions of the most comprehensive character. The preamble comprises two clauses of great length, and the resolutions are sixteen in number, touching upon a great variety of subjects, and advancing ideas of a somewhat novel character. The preamble commences with the assertion that "all political power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and established for their benefit." It next enunciates, as a fact, "that all freemen are equal in political rights, and entitled to the largest political and religious liberty compatible with the good order of society, as also the use and enjoyment of the fruits of their labor and talents;" then asserts "that no man or set of men are entitled to exclusive, separate public emoluments, privileges or immunities from the government, but in consideration of public services," and closes with this declaration:

"We are admonished by the imperilled rights of labor throughout the United States to organize and agitate in its behalf, with the decree 'In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread,' and the adage that 'The price of liberty is eternal vigilance,' enthroned in our hearts and emblazoned as mottoes on our banners, assured of success over corrupt political schemers, and the speculators and bankers who are preying like harpies upon the fruits of honest labor, and thus restore to our political and social systems that equilibrium of rights and justice, so necessary to good government and domestic tranquility."

The first resolution is as follows:

*Resolved*, That we organize under the name of the Water Valley Division of the National Labor Reform party, and cordially invite all freemen to join us who are engaged in productive industry, and obeying in good faith the Divine decree by eating bread in the sweat of their faces; all who open up and cultivate farms, build cities, construct railroads, erect factories, toil in workshops, teach schools, labor in their professions of law and medicine and divinity or preaching the Gospel, as also those 'who by intellectual labor extract the principles of science from the great arcana of nature, and give them practical forms of art and direct the hand of industry."

The second resolution declares that laborers in all departments of useful industry are suffering from a system of monetary laws which were enacted during the late war as measures, it was assumed, "necessary to the life of the nation." The third asserts "that the national banking system, being inimical to the spirit of liberty and subversive of the principles of justice, and without warrant in the constitution of the United States, justice, the aspirations of honest industry and the spirit of imperilled liberty demand its immediate repeal, and the substitution of legal tender treasury notes as the exclusive currency of the nation." The fourth resolution declares "that this division of the national labor reform party is opposed to the continuation and creation of banks by acts of incorporation, by either State or national authority, with the privilege of making, issuing or putting in circulation any notes, bills or other paper of any other bank to circulate as money, except the legal-tender treasury notes herein contemplated." The fifth, "that the present rate of interest is in excess of and disproportionate to the increase of national wealth, and being the governing power in the distribution to capital and labor, is oppressive to the producing classes." The sixth, "that the revenue laws of the United States should be altered so that, instead of subordinating labor to capital, they may afford just protection to labor and the industrial interests of the whole country. The seventh, "that the legal-tender treasury notes should be made a legal-tender in the payment of all debts, public and private, and convertible at the option of the holder into government bonds, bearing interest at the rate of three per cent. per annum, with the privilege to the holder to reconvert the bonds into treasury notes; or the treasury notes into bonds at pleasure. The eighth, that the claim of the bondholders, that the bonds which were bought with greenbacks, and the principal of which is by law payable in currency, should nevertheless be paid in gold, is unjust and extortionate. The ninth resolution, that the exemption from tax of over two thousand five hundred millions of dollars in government bonds and securities is a violation of the just principles of revenue laws, and until they are made subject to taxation we are opposed to any appropriation for the payment of any interest that may accrue.— The tenth declares that land monopolies are at variance with the doctrine that "all freemen, when they form a social compact, are equal in rights," and if persisted in must ultimately result in the subversion of free institutions, as also the social and political well-being of the laboring masses. The eleventh, that the contemplated organization of a gigantic money corporation to import labor from China and India, upon the assumption that our climate and productions are not adapted to the labor of white men and women, and only suited to the natives of China, India and Africa, is calculated to deceive and mislead intelligent Europeans and others of our

race, and to prevent them from immigrating to the productive lands and genial climate of the South. The twelfth, that convict labor in penitentiaries should be abolished, and the convicts employed outside of the penitentiaries in such service as shall conflict least with honest industry. The thirteenth, that it is a duty to guard with vigilant care the delicate and social rights of the daughters of toil who are engaged in various industrial pursuits, and solicit their hearty co-operation in our efforts to vindicate the rights of the laboring classes. The fourteenth, that religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to success, schools and other means of education should be encouraged. The fifteenth, that it is the imperative duty of the law-making power of the United States and of the several States to so harmonize every interest and economy in every department; that a day's work in State and national service shall be reduced to eight hours. The sixteenth and last, that "we will support candidates for office irrespective of past and present party associations whose avowed principles most nearly approximate ours, and whose character furnishes the best guaranty of fidelity, until such time as we shall deem it expedient to nominate candidates of our own."

The preamble and resolutions were referred to the committee on platform.

Mr. Walls, of Philadelphia, offered a resolution that the action of the congress on Monday in excluding Miss Susan B. Anthony from a seat on the floor as a delegate was not dictated by any feelings personal to herself, but solely by the want of an assurance that the society she professed to represent was a bona fide working women's association.

This resolution gave rise to some debate, when it was amended so as to give Miss Anthony a seat upon the floor. The yeas and nays were called, but as the list of delegates was in the hands of the printer, and inaccessible till after noon, the congress adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M.

The committee on credentials embodied in their report the names of the delegates from Baltimore trades' unions of colored men, declaring their credentials to be correct. No objection appears to have been made to their reception, and when the report of the committee was adopted they took their seats among the other delegates. The names of these colored delegates from Baltimore and of the associations which they represent are as follows: Robert H. Butler, Colored Engineers' Association; Isaac Myers, Colored Caulkers' Trades' Union Society; Ignatius Gross, Colored Moulders' Union Society, and James W. W. Hare, Colored Painters' Society. Besides these, there were present five colored delegates from the United Laborers and Hod Carriers' Association of Philadelphia, who were also admitted to the Convention.

### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The question as to the admission of Miss Anthony was resumed. Mr. Cameron stated that he had been authorized by Miss Anthony to withdraw her name, but on motion to lay the whole subject on the table, a division was called for, and fifty-six voted in the affirmative to seventeen against it. There was now much discussion as to allowing Miss Anthony to withdraw her name as a delegate. Miss Anthony said the course she had pursued was with a view to save the Congress from disgracing itself. Some of the delegates, however, thought that the Congress would not disgrace itself by its action. There were many speakers, one of whom, disregarding the question before the body, moved that the female physician, Mrs. Dr. Mary Walker, be permitted to address the Congress for fifteen minutes. Mr. McLane spoke at length, holding that the Congress had better divide; that the printers did not want women to work at their business, that they feared competition, and that a portion of the Congress had better secede. In the course of his remarks Mr. McLane was ruled out of order. On a call, the previous question was ordered, and immediately Mr. Cummings, from Massachusetts, moved a reconsideration, which being seconded, he proceeded to speak at some length, when he was repeatedly called to order by numerous delegates. He did not speak long before he brought in the subject of Southern plantations, and asserted that some colored members had opposed Miss Anthony, and that they should be ashamed of themselves. It was now stated that there was no foundation for this assertion, as no colored member had yet spoken. The delegate from Massachusetts then vainly attempted to explain that two men at the door had talked on the subject.

Then a female delegate from Massachusetts, Miss Martha W. Walbridge, spoke, and wanted justice done.

Mr. Cummings, of Massachusetts, again spoke at length, and notwithstanding he spoke more than any other two members, he complained that there was an attempt to interfere with free speech.

The motion to reconsider was then put to the Congress and failed.

Col. E. M. Davis then inquired of the president what was the position of Miss Anthony. He replied that by the resolution she was not allowed to withdraw her credentials. Col. Davis then proceeded to speak. He was called to order on the ground that there was no question before the body, but the president ruled that he had a right to speak, and his ruling was sustained. He closed by moving that Miss Anthony be received as a delegate. The yeas and nays were called for. A number of delegates now spoke. There was much confusion and calling to order, which at length ceased, when the committee on credentials reported the names of additional delegates. The yeas and nays were now taken and resulted—yeas 53; nays 52.

So Miss Susan B. Anthony was received as a delegate.

It was resolved that Congress be petitioned on the subject of cooie labor, with a view of its prohibition.

A resolution that the government should take all railroads and operate them, with a view to prevent monopoly and secure low charges, was referred to a committee.

Mr. Stewart, of Michigan, offered a series of resolutions, among which was the following:

*Resolved*, That the franchises heretofore granted, by which our coal fields, iron, copper and other minerals, being no longer subservient to the public good, should be rescinded, that they may be developed, their production cheapened and increased to meet the demands of consumption, and to enable us to preserve the honor and integrity of the nation."

Colonel E. M. Davis then read an address to prove that a radical change is needed in the money system. The address was a long one, and concluded as follows:

"When this labor organization is ready, with its 500,000 votes, to lay aside all other interests and pledge itself to a reform in our money system, the rights of labor will be recognized by the law-makers of the land. Both of the two great parties will seek your votes, and, by the balance of power, you will be able to repeal odious laws and enact just ones." Adjourned.

[By Telegraph.]

### THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

PHILADELPHIA, August 18.—The Convention reassembled to-day, President Lucker in the chair. The resolution offered by Mr. West, of New York, declaring that the Convention recommend to the members of the labor party that they adopt such measures and amendments to the constitution of the United States and of the several States as will prevent any act of any legislative body from becoming a law until it has been submitted to the people for ratification, and duly approved by the majority voting thereon, after considerable discussion was referred to the committee on platform.

A resolution was passed appointing a committee to investigate the charges preferred against the miners and the miners' laborers in Pennsylvania by its press generally, and report to this congress whether such charges have any foundation.

Mr. R. Walls, from the New York Typographical Union, read a dispatch directing him to withdraw from the congress if Miss Anthony was admitted. A proposition to return the fee paid by Mr. Walls for admission to the congress, and that he be allowed to withdraw, led to much discussion, when the subject was laid over till the afternoon recess.

The following preamble and resolutions were adopted at a regular meeting of the New York Typographical Union, No. 6, at their meeting, held on Tuesday evening, and read in the National Labor Convention this afternoon:

Whereas the president of this Union and Mr. Alexander Troup waited upon Miss Anthony, in New York, in April last, and requested her to pay the scale of prices of the Typographical Union, No. 6, which she agreed to do, but has not done; and Whereas the statement made by her in the Labor Congress, at Philadelphia, that 'The Independent and other offices in New York city are not paying as high prices as The Revolution is false, and as there are female compositors who are receiving ten per cent. higher prices than are paid in The Revolution; and

Whereas the statement made by her in the said Labor Union that she did not know that the president of the Women's Typographical Union No. 1 was discharged from her office is false, the latter lady having had a long interview with her on the matter; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we consider it an insult to our entire organization to admit her as a delegate to the National Labor Congress.

In behalf of 2,000 printers. WM. STURK,  
President N. Y. Typographical Union, No. 6.

The foregoing was read by Mr. Waleh, to whom it was addressed, who said the document was one which would explain itself, and justify the withdrawal of the Typographical Union of the city of New York. If Miss Anthony was retained in the convention they would withdraw; if she was granted her exeat they would remain.

The question was taken, after discussion, on granting members of the Typographical Union leave to retire, and have refunded to them moneys they have paid, and decided in the negative by a large majority.

Mr. Cogswell, of Illinois, moved to reconsider the vote admitting Miss Anthony as a delegate. After considerable parliamentary skirmishing the motion was agreed to—yeas 72, nays 28.

Mr. O. B. Dailey, of Ohio, then moved that the credentials of Miss Anthony be not received.

After further parliamentary maneuvering, the vote on Mr. Dailey's motion resulted—yeas 63, nays 28. The result, of course, was to expel Miss Anthony as a credited delegate; at which there was much indignation among her friends.

Mr. Dailey now, however, moved to reconsider the vote just taken, but the motion was laid on the table. After some farther business the meeting adjourned.