

THE LABOR CONGRESS.

Official Minutes of the Recent Meeting in This City.

PRESIDENT SHUPP'S ADDRESS.

The Preamble and Constitution—Rules of the Order and Resolutions. State Journal Reprinted.

Laboring Men in Line.

From The Weekly Unionist.

In pursuance of a resolution passed by the Nebraska State Labor Congress in Omaha, February 19, 1892, decreeing that the Congress should convene in Lincoln the first Sunday in July, 1893, the second session of Nebraska State Labor Congress was called to order promptly at 2 o'clock p. m., on Sunday, July 2, 1893, in Central Labor Union Hall, in Lincoln, Neb., President Shupp in the chair.

J. B. Shupp, president, Leo L. Ujm, secretary and D. Clem Deaver, treasurer, were in attendance, and Thomas E. Smith, vice president, and D. Hopkins, sergeant-at-arms, absent.

J. W. Vogan, G. W. Willard and Julius Meyer were appointed as a committee on credentials and reported the seating of the following delegates on the constitutional basis of representation outlying each labor organization to one representative and central labor bodies to three delegates each:

Central Labor Union, Omaha—Alfred Fawcner, John B. Shupp, D. Clem Deaver.

Central Labor Union, Lincoln—C. E. Woodard, Paul C. Hamann, J. W. Vogan. District Assembly, No. 126, K. of L., Omaha—H. Cohen, M. R. Huntington, Charles Nelson.

KNIGHTS OF LABOR ASSEMBLIES. J. M. Thompson, Local Assembly No. 1808, Lincoln.

E. R. Overall, Local Assembly No. 5141, Omaha.

Mrs. C. F. Anspacher, Local Assembly No. 718, Omaha.

Carl Meyers, Local Assembly No. 4645, Omaha.

T. F. Yowell, Local Assembly No. 374, Omaha.

TRADES UNIONS. S. Reynolds, Clerks' National Protective Union, No. 92, Omaha.

Adolph Glese, Brewery Workmen's Union, No. 96, Omaha.

Julius Meyer, Musical Protective No. 22, Omaha.

F. L. Heacock, Machine Woodworkers' Union, No. 1, Omaha.

Oscar Cook, Coopers' Union, No. 10, Omaha.

C. Ryder, Carpenters' and Joiners' Union, No. 427, Omaha.

George W. Willard, Typographical Union, No. 190, Omaha.

C. H. Izard, Horsehoers' Union, No. 19, Omaha.

J. P. Hannihan, Electrical Workers' Union, No. 82, Omaha.

Thomas McGrath, Plumbers' and Gas Fitters' Union, No. 16, Omaha.

Charles J. Reber, Horsecollar Makers' Union, No. 11, Omaha.

J. A. Bowler, Painters' and Decorators' Union, No. 109, Omaha.

C. Peterson, Carpenters' and Joiners' Union, No. 883, Omaha.

John F. Newstrom, Cigarmakers' Union, No. 93, Omaha.

Edward Elster, Cigarmakers' Union, No. 67, South Omaha.

J. H. Kramer, Cigarmakers' Union, No. 143, Lincoln.

O. M. Holcomb, Tailors' Union, No. 184, Lincoln.

John Simpson, Machinists' Union, No. 360, Lincoln.

J. W. Emberson, Carpenters' and Joiners' Union, No. 373, Lincoln.

G. R. Knowles, Pressmen's and Stereotypers' Union, No. 6, Lincoln.

Ed N. Thacker, Typographical Union, No. 209, Lincoln.

Messrs Elster, Cohen and Thompson were appointed a committee to invite the deputy state labor commissioner to attend the session, but the committee were excused when it was made known that the commissioner was not in the city.

Call of roll showed all members present except absent officers as noted.

Minutes of the last session were approved as read.

The president then made the following appointments:

Committee on resolutions—G. W. Willard, J. F. Newstrom and H. Cohen.

Committee on Finance—C. H. Izard, C. Nelson and O. M. Holcomb.

Committee on Officers' Reports—J. W. Emberson, Alfred Fawcner and Edward Elster.

Law Committee—Alfred Fawcner, Ed M. Thacker, Paul C. Hamann and J. H. Kramer.

To expedite business, on motion, it was agreed that all resolutions should be referred unread to the committee on resolutions.

President Shupp then delivered the following address:

Comrades—I feel it no small honor to stand as the representative of the leading question of modern times, addressing a body of men whose own inclinations and the surging of their souls have elevated to the task of attempting in such measure as they may be able the problem which so many thinking men have not the courage nor the power to attack with their pens and their tongues, and which has become the most important of our age.

As the oppressive ills which now afflict the people have been legislated upon us by representatives of aggregated capital and the employing class, we declare the true means for the betterment of our condition to be to legislate away all legislated wrongs by united action at the polls.

To this end we call upon all industrial organizations of farm and factory workers, all trades unions, farmers' alliances and Knights of Labor assemblies, and all thoughtful men and women who love liberty better than class privileges and who see in the present unequal system of distribution and rapid concentration in the hands of a few of the wealth created by all a fearful menace to human rights, we earnestly call upon all such to join us in our crusade for the emancipation of the wage slave, and the following principles:

1. As the land, which is the source of

all wealth, and containing, as it does, the raw materials with which and on which man must labor to live, is the God-given element to all men, as is air and water, we denounce the monopolization of land by private ownership as the mother of all other monopolies and a crime against mankind by operating as a fatal bar to the exercise of our inherent rights to equal opportunities for existence and the pursuit of happiness alleged to be guaranteed by the constitution of our beloved country. Therefore, we demand that personal use—not ownership—shall constitute the only legal, as it is the only moral right, to possession of land.

That as in the past our duly elected representatives in congress and other legislative halls have only represented the private interests of the rich employing class and capitalists, the time has come when when all denominations of organized labor unitedly demand an opportunity of making their own laws and the direct guarding of their own interests, we declare in favor of the system of legislation known as the "initiative and referendum," and will work unceasingly towards the realization of this reform.

2. We demand that a volume of money sufficient to the necessities of convenient exchange of the products of labor be issued directly to the people without the intervention of banks, bankers or corporations, and that such money shall be lawful tender for all debts both public and private. We believe that the making and issuance of money is the exercise of the highest sovereignty of a free people and to preserve this right we will ever strive.

3. We demand that the national government shall acquire under the right of eminent domain and appropriate for the good of all the people all existing railroads, telegraphs, and telephones; and shall further construct such new railroads, and the extension of the telephonic service as the exigencies of the people require or the proper development of the country calls for.

4. We demand that all municipal communities shall own and operate all water works, gas and electric light plants and street car transportation, and distribute such service to the people at cost.

5. We demand the abolition of all conspiracy laws and of class and special privileges.

6. We deem it of vital importance to organized labor that the president and (as long as the senate exists) senators of the United States shall be elected by the direct vote of the people.

7. We are unanimously in favor of a more equal and exact system of taxation whereby the humble mechanic struggling to build and maintain a modest home for himself and little ones shall not be mulcted of a greater proportionate sum than the idle millionaire owner of residential palaces of ostentatious luxury and splendor may escape his just burden of taxation.

8. We call upon the law department of the state of Nebraska to rigidly enforce all laws, especially the eight-hour and the prohibition of child labor under the age of fourteen years.

9. We denounce the present contract system of public works and demand that the national, state, county and municipal governments shall directly supply all forms of needful improvements by day's labor.

10. We demand that mechanics and laborers shall have a first lien upon the product of their labor to the full extent of their wages.

11. We demand the enactment of laws providing for arbitration between employers and employed and to enforce the decision of the arbitrators.

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