

the industrial problem is not confined to any one country, but it is world wide.

The British Trades' Unions have just held their annual congress at Newcastle, England. It was composed of 500 delegates, representing a constituency of 1,500,000. The first annual Trades' Union congress in Britain was held in 1868. It was composed of thirty-four delegates and represented only a few hundred unionists. Now several members of Parliament are returned distinctively as labor men.

The eight-hour day is one of the burning questions in England. At the congress last year the fight on the issue was virtually a drawn battle. At the congress this year a resolution was adopted favoring an international eight-hour day, operative in all trades except where a majority of organized workers of any special trade voted against it. This is different from a direct appeal to Parliament for an eight-hour day law, and shows that the congress was not particularly in favor of that movement.

The Newcastle Congress was marked for its conservatism and moderation, as compared with many of its predecessors, especially that of last year. But a noticeable feature of the general trend of the discussions was a leaning to protection as opposed to free trade.

Mr. Thomas Bart, who presided, is a member of Parliament for Morpeth. He is president of the Miners' National Union, which organization pays him \$2000 a year as salary to enable him to sit in Parliament. He is the ablest labor leader in Great Britain, and it was owing to his tact and judgment that the present Congress did not fall to pieces. The Durham miners and Lancashire cotton operatives talked loudly of secession. A good deal of opposition was shown to Mr. Fennick, the secretary. He is also a member of Parliament, a very conservative labor man. He opposed the eight hour day. His conservatism is not relished by the radical wings of the labor unions.

The deliberations of this convention showed that the condition of the industrialists in England is not prosperous at present. There was a good deal of discontent manifested by several delegations, both with the action of labor leaders and with existing institutions, but on the whole the congress was remarkable for its calmness and conservatism. This is taken as an evidence of latent strength, and of the disposition to proceed by constitutional agitation to effect reforms. The congress will meet next year in Glasgow.

The cost of a palace sleeping car is \$15,000, if vestibuled \$17,000.

THE WORK OF THE IRRIGATION CONGRESS.

THE Irrigation Congress performed good work during its three days session in this city. The object in view is praiseworthy. Whether the plans devised are founded in the deepest wisdom perhaps is open to doubt. What Utah would do with her arid lands if they were ceded to her by the Government, opens a question that involves many difficulties. Could capital sufficient be obtained to supply the needed water for irrigating them? Would not the boring of artesian wells and the construction of storage appliances involve an outlay so great that it would be appalling? Would it not be better for the Government to retain possession of the lands, devise means and provide funds for the production of the water and then sell the lands to settlers?

We do not pretend to answer these questions in the affirmative or to say that the scheme devised by the Congress is not a good one. We simply put these queries forward for the general public to ponder upon.

One point decided by a majority vote in committee of the whole we think was well taken. It was the provision in regard to the schools. The postponement of any benefits from the school lands—sections sixteen and thirty-six—until Statehood is achieved, has always appeared to us absurd. A Territory is certainly much more in need of help for public schools than a State would be with its increased wealth and diversified and matured means of income.

The proposition, therefore, to give to the school funds a secondary interest in the proceeds of sales of arid lands was a good one, applying to the Territories equally with the States to receive the benefits of the measure. The amendment introduced in committee of the whole by Delegate W. H. King of Provo, which carried by a large majority of the committee, was infinitely preferable to the original resolution as prepared by Delegate C. C. Goodwin, which only provided for the application of "surplus" funds to the schools. After the arid lands had been reclaimed there would be very little left for the schools, by way of a "surplus."

The introduction of the amendment was the cause of a breeze that threatened to raise ill-feeling, but it was dissipated before anything serious occurred. The Congress rejected the whole resolution, so the dispute was without avail, but the question involved was brought forward in another shape. And this shows that the California delegation, in opposing the clause refer-

ring to the schools, had no desire to do injustice to Utah or any other Territory.

It was a California delegate who introduced this separate resolution, which carried in the Congress:

"Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention that the committee selected to propose and present to Congress the memorial of this convention respecting public lands, should ask as a preliminary to the cession of all the land in the Territories in accordance with the resolutions of the convention, a liberal grant to said Territories and to the States to be formed therefrom of the public lands to be devoted to public school purposes."

Like all other Congresses, the disposition to display oratory rather than transact business was manifested, and much ability in that respect was exhibited. But after all, the discussion of the main question was productive of a good understanding of many important details, and the necessities of the arid regions of the country will be placed in good shape to be presented to Congress.

We think the project which started with the Governor, and to whom much credit is due, has so far been successful, and that while the irrigation question has been well ventilated, the visiting delegates have received favorable impressions of our Territory and its people.

IRRIGATION IN THE EAST.

THE Omaha Bee has this to say of the Irrigation Congress:

"It is a mistake to suppose that this is a matter which interests the West only. It is of concern to the entire country, because whatever benefits the West would derive from irrigation, the arid empire would be shared by every other section. The narrower view has prevailed, but it is losing ground, and broad minded men admit that it is of national character and importance."

This is a correct view of the situation. The irrigation question is not confined to the Territory west of the Missouri or the arid regions. Years ago the matter was introduced to the farmers of New York State, as a practicable remedy against the seasons of drouth which have been such a pest to them.

The idea was of course scoffed, and the man who raised the question became, in farm parlance, the "irrigation crank." But today the "irrigation crank's" ideas have taken root in the institutions of learning, and a course in agricultural study would not be recognized as complete without a certificate of acquaintance with them.

One of the largest horticultural farms in the State is fitted out with irrigation ditches and cultivated strictly upon the irrigation plan. One of the leaders of the movement has gone to the expense of fitting up his immense vineyard