

# RESIGNS IN A BODY.

## Action of the Auxiliary Women's Labor Committee.

### ADA C. SWEET EXPLAINS.

#### It Is Said the Body's Views Have Been Ignored.

#### MEMBERS ARE INDIGNANT.

#### Pointed Letter Telling President Bonney of Their Action.

#### HE THINKS THEY WILL COME BACK

The Women's Committee on Labor Congresses, World's Fair Auxiliary, thinks it has not been treated justly and has resigned in a body. Its members claim that their views are evidently not the views of C. C. Bonney, President of the Auxiliary, and those high in authority, and as they do not wish to be placed in a false position they thought it better to step down and out and sever all connection with the movement. The committee was composed of Mrs. J. D. Harvey, Chairman; Ada C. Sweet, Vice-Chairman; Corinne S. Brown, Charlotte C. Holt, A. P. Stevens, Flora P. Tobin, Julia C. Lathrop, Isabella E. Hudson, Jane Addams, Florence Kelly, Ellen Gates Starr, and Florence Hilton. The letter of resignation, sent yesterday, reads as follows:

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 15, 1892.—To the President and Board of Managers of the World's Congress Auxiliary, World's Columbian Exposition, and to the President and Officers of the Women's Branch of the Auxiliary:

We, who upon your nomination accepted membership on the Women's Labor committee, World's Congress Auxiliary, present our resignation.

We have striven to be useful to the auxiliary by presenting for the approval of its President and board our ideas as to what would be a suitable program for the Labor Congress. In joint session with the Men's Labor committee a tentative program was arranged, unanimously adopted, and submitted to the head official of the auxiliary. This program, the result of a year of hard work, has been ignored. We have been made to see clearly that our ideas as to what subjects should be discussed, and the manner of their presentation at the Labor Congress are entirely irreconcilable with those of the President of the World's Congress Auxiliary. We have also learned by experience that there is no hope that the unanimous wishes and desires of this committee will be carried out, for the reasons above given.

We believe that no adequate presentation of the labor question, which now agitates the entire civilized world, is contemplated by the controlling power of the auxiliary, and we are not willing to have any appearance of connection with what will be offered as a substitute for a real labor congress.

We ask that the use be discontinued of all circulars, letter-heads, etc., bearing our names as members of the Women's Labor committee.

#### Miss Sweet's Explanation.

In explanation of their action Miss Sweet said:

"The primary cause of the dissolution of the committee was the unwillingness of its members who belong to labor organizations to accept responsibility for a congress in arranging for which their views had not been accepted in a single instance. The appearance of their names as members of a committee having charge of the Labor Congress would have embarrassed them very much under the circumstances. Not having any influence in fact they do not wish to appear to have any in the arrangement of the so-called Labor Congresses by the World's Fair Congress Auxiliary."

C. C. Bonney, President of the auxiliary, was seen at his office in the Home Insurance Building last evening by a reporter for THE TRIBUNE and asked what he had to say regarding the matter. He expressed some surprise and declared that he had not received the resignation and knew nothing about it.

"I will say, however," he continued, "that if the very estimable women of whom the Women's Committee on Labor is composed have seen fit to resign their action arises from a misapprehension of the situation, and I think that I may safely predict that when the plans for the Labor Congress are more fully understood the resignation will be withdrawn."

"These plans embrace a full and adequate presentation of every important aspect of the labor question by the most eminent representatives whose aid can be secured. The promise of coöperation on the part of the leaders in the labor movement is such that there now seems no reason to doubt the congress of 1893 will not only be successful, but in the highest degree promotive of the best interests of those who toil."

Mr. Bonney then went on to show that the general arrangements for this convention are in the hands of the following committee: Walter Thomas Mills, Chairman; Col. John S. Lord, Vice-Chairman; Gen. M. M. Turnbull, H. D. Lloyd, William R. Manierre, W. W. Catlin, John Gibbons, William J. H. Nicstadt, Charles G. Dixon, Z. S. Holbrook, D. D. Thompson, the Rev. O. P. Gifford, Prof. Richard T. Ely, Lyman J. Gage, and A. J. Eddy.

"No mixed committees," said Mr. Bonney, "have been appointed, but in all appropriate cases committees of women are created; not to have charge of subjects in general, but to look after the interests of women and children in all subjects and to coöperate with the general committee of men as occasion may require."

That there is much more of a grievance in the situation than the women set forth either in their letter of resignation or in Miss Sweet's statement was shown in the proceedings of the meeting held at the time the committee resigned. It is understood that a copy of these proceedings was also sent to President Bonney, but he claimed not to have received it.

#### Their Grievances in Detail.

The report is as follows:

To C. C. Bonney, President of the World's Congress Auxiliary, World's Columbian Exposition—Dear Sir: We the undersigned members of the Program and Invitation Committee of the Department of Labor beg leave to submit to you the following report:

Having carefully considered the program transmitted to us Dec. 6, through Mrs. Henrotin, Vice-President of the Woman's Branch of the Auxiliary, we find it utterly impossible to suggest speakers upon the topics therein assigned.

First—We find this program singularly free from all those expressions and ideas upon which working people are at present founding their hopes of advancement and in the discussion of which they are most interested.

Second—We believe that upon so neutral a program it would be impossible to secure the coöperation of the leaders representing the various labor organizations and schools of economic thought, and that a labor congress without the coöperation of such leaders would be useless.

Third—We believe that a discussion upon the very general and vague lines therein indicated would be futile and justly arouse the suspicion of laboring people as to the sincerity and good faith of the committee inviting speakers.

Fourth—The committee realizes that a congress held at such a time must be somewhat judicial in character, but we believe that the program of Dec. 6 is one which would be of interest only to statisticians and specialists, but not to laboring people.

Fifth—The Labor Congress should be of a broad and unsectarian character, and we feel that any reference to the proceedings of any ecclesiastical body, although bearing on the labor question, would not be judicious.

Sixth—The Woman's committee of the W. C. A. and Labor Congress, having carried on an extensive correspondence for months upon a tentative program which has been submitted to you, and of which no topic or subtopic appears in the program returned to us, do not believe that any attempt of ours to amend the program of Dec. 6 would be successful.

Having served for more than a year as members of a harmonious and energetic committee under the leadership of Mrs. J. D. Harvey as chairman, we deemed it but courteous to submit the reasons of our action to the General committee before handing in our resignation to you. Having done this, and our action meeting with their approval, we now beg you to relieve us of further duty.

JANE ADDAMS,  
A. P. STEVENS,  
C. S. BROWN,  
JULIA LATHROP,  
C. C. HOLT.

Charles E. Dixon, a member of the General

committee, intimated in a short talk that the religious feature was probably the real bone of contention. but President Bonney, said another interested gentleman, undoubtedly hit the mark when he said that "the committees of women appointed are not to have charge in general of any of the subjects, but to look after the interests of women and children in all subjects."

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