

Reference is also made in this annual report to the principal international labour organizations with which the organized workers in Canada are affiliated.

Trade unionism in Canada occupies a unique position, by reason of the fact that most organized workers in the Dominion are members of organizations whose headquarters are located in a foreign country, viz.: the United States. This condition is explained when it is understood that workers move freely from one country to the other in order to find employment. In years gone by Canadian workmen who sought a livelihood in the United States greatly outnumbered those from the latter country who came to Canada. As industry was further developed in the United States, there arose a number of unions of various crafts, and with these the Canadian workers soon became affiliated. With the development of industry in the Dominion many of these Canadians subsequently returned to their native land, bringing with them the gospel of trade unionism and collective bargaining as a means of protecting their rights. In many instances these trade unionists became the nuclei of strong bodies of organized labourers formed in Canadian cities.

In the early part of the nineteenth century, a number of independent trade associations were formed in Canada, the earliest of which there is record being a printers' organization in Quebec city in 1827. The first union known to have been organized in the province of Ontario was also composed of printers, and operated in York (now Toronto), as early as 1834; both of these bodies were later superseded by branches of the International Typographical Union, which body in 1869 changed its name from National Typographical Union of the United States, on account of the inclusion of Canadian branches.

In 1851 a branch of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, a British organization composed of metal mechanics, was established in Toronto. In the years immediately following other branches were organized in other Canadian cities, the society having the whole Dominion for its operations. In 1888 the United Machinists and Mechanical Engineers of America was formed, and entered the field as a competitor for the organization of the craftsmen eligible for membership in the Amalgamated Society. The first Canadian lodge (No. 103) of the new body was formed in Stratford, Ont., in 1890, while lodges in Montreal (No. 111) and in Winnipeg (No. 122) were organized before the close of the same year. To meet the extension of the jurisdiction into Canada the name of the organization was changed in 1891 to the International Association of Machinists. Since that time the organization has added greatly to its Canadian following, having at the close of the year 1922, 93 local lodges with a combined membership of 8,400. On the other hand, the Amalgamated Society never added very greatly to its Canadian following, the largest number of local branches and members on record being in 1919, when they stood at 24 and 3,000 respectively. Negotiations were opened in 1919 by the general officers of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and the International Association of Machinists, with a view to effecting an amalgamation. As a result the Amalgamated Society on Sept. 30, 1920, withdrew its operations from Canada and also from the United States, where branches were also in existence, leaving the whole North American continent to the International Association of Machinists. Another British labour organization to establish branches in Canada was the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, now the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, which in 1860 chartered a branch in Toronto, twenty-one years before the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, now the chief organization in North America of the craft came into existence. In this case also, bickerings finally led to a unification whereby the members of the Amalgamated Society became also mem-