

are in direct opposition to the international organizations. In some instances these non-international bodies have been formed by secessionists from international unions. The combined membership of the non-international organizations on Dec. 31, 1924, was 21,761, comprised in 268 local branches.

Membership of Independent Units.—There are 33 independent local labour bodies in the Dominion, 29 of which had a membership of 11,901 at the end of 1924. The remaining 4 have not reported as to their standing.

Federation of Catholic Workers of Canada.—During the period when the Knights of Labour operated in Quebec, there existed also four independent unions, one of labourers and three of leather and shoe workers. Up to 1902 these several bodies were represented at the annual conventions of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada. In that year, in an effort to eliminate a duplication of unions and bring the independent bodies under the banner of the international organizations, the Trades Congress denied them further representation. The Knights of Labour assemblies gradually disappeared, but the independent unions continued to exist. With the advent in 1912 of the Mutual Labour Federation of the North, the first organization to confine membership to adherents of the Roman Catholic church, a stimulus was given to this movement, and several of the existing independent unions, the number of which had increased during the decade 1902 to 1912, became identified with what are termed National and Catholic unions. In 1918 a conference of these bodies was held in Quebec city, followed by other meetings in Three Rivers in 1919 and Chicoutimi in 1920; the delegates at the latter conference, numbering 225 from 120 unions, decided to establish a permanent central body to co-ordinate the work of the scattered units. Accordingly, at the 1921 conference held in Hull, at which approximately 200 delegates, representing 89 unions, were present, a constitution to govern the new body was approved. The name selected was Federation of Catholic Workers of Canada, and permanent officers were elected, the constitution and by-laws becoming effective on Jan. 1, 1922. From information at hand, there are 94 National and Catholic unions with a combined membership of 25,000.

One Big Union.—A number of delegates from Western Canada to the Quebec convention of 1918, dissatisfied with the alleged reactionary policy of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, held a caucus, at which it was decided to concentrate their energies towards having the Trades Congress legislate in accordance with their views. Some months later a meeting of delegates was called by the British Columbia Federation of Labour, to assemble immediately following the annual convention of that body, which, for the first time in its history, met outside of the province under its jurisdiction, in Calgary. The conference assembled on Mar. 13, 1919, with 239 delegates present; the outcome of the meeting was the formation of an industrial organization, the "One Big Union." On June 11, 1919, a conference of the advocates of the new body was held in Calgary to further the plans of organization. The next meeting, termed the first semi-annual convention, was held in Winnipeg in January, 1920. The O.B.U. had made much progress during its short existence, having a membership of 41,150 at the close of 1919. From the outset, the O.B.U. met with much opposition from the old-established labour unions, represented by the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, which was opposed to the substitution of industrial unionism for the existing system of craft unions. Since 1920, however, the O.B.U. has been on the decline; many of the original members have given up their membership and re-affiliated with their respective parent bodies.