

of Labour, which, in addition to dealing with trade matters, speaks for the organized workers of the United States on the subject of legislation. In Canada, the legislative mouthpiece of organized labour is the Trades and Labour Congress, which body is strongly representative of the international labour movement, as its affiliated membership is largely drawn from international organizations which have in the first place been affiliated with the American Federation of Labour. Under the travelling card system now in vogue, members of the various unions move as they desire between the two countries and are entitled to all rights and privileges established in localities where local branches are in existence. Canadian members of international organizations are eligible for the highest offices in the gift of their organizations, and in some instances have been elected to these posts.

In addition to the international trade unions in Canada, there are labour bodies which are termed non-international. Some of these organizations were founded by former members of international unions, who, for various reasons, severed their connection with the parent bodies. There are also a number of independent labour unions in the Dominion whose establishment in a few instances was due to unsatisfied grievances of local unions as against their central organizations.

A statement of the development of organized labour in Canada would not be complete without a reference to the Knights of Labour, an organization formed in the United States in 1869, to which all classes of workers were admitted. The Knights of Labour, which in 1885 reached its greatest numerical strength with about 1,000,000 members, extended its jurisdiction into Canada, establishing district and local assemblies in many localities in the Dominion. Seventeen of these were operating in 1891 in the province of Quebec. Soon after that, however, dissension took place in the ranks of the organization, owing to the difficulty of uniting workers of different crafts in one body. The international crafts organizations, which had in the meantime become united under the banner of the American Federation of Labour, formed in 1881, offered strong opposition to the Knights of Labour, which in a few years ceased to be an important factor in the labour movement of the continent.

Trades and Labour Congress of Canada.—Through the initiative of the Toronto Trades Assembly (now the Toronto District Trades and Labour Council), the first national labour organization, the Canadian Labour Union, was formed in Toronto in September, 1873. The organization held its second and third annual meetings in 1874 and 1875, but disappeared as a result of the serious depression of the later 70's. In 1883 the Trades and Labour Council of Toronto, feeling the necessity of the wage-earners of Canada having a medium through which to express their opinions, assumed the responsibility of calling another trades and labour congress, which met in Toronto on Dec. 26, with 45 delegates. On the summons of the Toronto council, a second meeting, with 109 delegates, assembled on Sept. 14, 1886, the first occasion on which any labour body outside of the province of Ontario was represented. A permanent organization was effected at this meeting under the name of "Trades and Labour Congress of the Dominion of Canada". This was the title of the organization until 1895, when the title "Trades and Labour Congress of Canada" was adopted in preference to "Canadian Federation of Labour". Since 1886 conventions have been held annually, the 1926 meeting in Montreal being counted as the 42nd. The Trades and Labour Congress is representative of international trade unionism in the Dominion, the bulk of its membership being drawn from the international organizations which have local branches in Canada. According to reports for 1925, the congress received payment of per