

Section 5.—Organized Labour in Canada.

The Dominion Department of Labour publishes an annual report on labour organization; this sets out the various branches of unionism in existence, the principles on which they are founded, their chief activities, and statistics of the different groups comprised in the trade unions of the Dominion. Reference is also made in this annual report to the principal international labour organizations with which the organized workers of 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 who came from that country 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 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 workers formed in Canadian cities.

The usual résumé of the origin and growth of the trades union movement in Canada has been omitted in this edition, owing to considerations of space. The interested reader is referred to pp. 712-714 of the 1930 edition of the Year Book and to "Labour Organization in Canada, 1930", published by the Dominion Department of Labour. This latter publication presents the history and present organization of trades unionism in the Dominion in a very comprehensive manner. The following paragraphs give a short sketch of the present organization of the five main groups into which Canadian labour organizations now fall.

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. This 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 47 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 1930 meeting in Regina being counted as the 46th. 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 1930, the Congress received payment of per capita tax on the Canadian membership of 61 international bodies and also from two national organiza-