

payment of a weekly grant to discharged persons under certain conditions, one of which is that such persons are pursuing vocational training or other educational training. At the request of the Minister of Pensions and National Health, arrangements were made whereby vocational training would be provided in training centres under the Department of Labour to members of the armed forces honourably discharged subsequent to July 1, 1941, who might be referred to such centres by the Department of Pensions and National Health. Provision was made to admit such persons to regular classes being conducted under the War-Emergency Training Program, classes being conducted under the Youth-Training Program or, subject to the consent of the school authorities, to existing classes carried on at provincial or municipal schools as part of their regular work. In the latter case the normal tuition fee was paid to the school authorities. Provision was also made for the establishment of special classes to provide vocational training to discharged members of the armed forces where necessary.

Section 5.—Organized Labour in Canada

Full information concerning trade unions in Canada, the number of branches, membership and other matters, is published in the annual report "Labour Organization in Canada" issued by the Department of Labour.

At the close of 1940 there were 365,544 members of trade unions in Canada. The Trades and Labour Congress of Canada reported 1,766 local branches with a membership of 165,398; the Canadian Congress of Labour, 448 branches with 82,801 members; the Confederation of Catholic Workers of Canada and other National Catholic Unions, 277 branches with 47,614 members; independent railroad brotherhoods, 353 branches with 25,405 members; other central organizations, 336 branches with 23,299 members; and independent local units, 88 with 21,027 members.

Thus there were 3,268 local branch unions in Canada of which 2,078 were international, 1,102 were Canadian and 88 were independent units. As compared with 1939, this represents a decrease of 28 branches but an increase in membership of 6,577.

11.—Membership of Trade Unions in Canada, 1911-40

Year	Members	Year	Members	Year	Members
	No.		No.		No.
1911.....	133,132	1921.....	313,320	1931.....	310,544
1912.....	160,120	1922.....	276,621	1932.....	283,576
1913.....	175,799	1923.....	278,092	1933.....	286,220
1914.....	166,163	1924.....	260,643	1934.....	281,774
1915.....	143,343	1925.....	271,064	1935.....	280,704
1916.....	160,407	1926.....	274,604	1936.....	322,473
1917.....	204,630	1927.....	290,282	1937.....	384,619
1918.....	248,887	1928.....	300,602	1938.....	385,039
1919.....	378,047	1929.....	319,476	1939.....	358,967
1920.....	373,842	1930.....	322,429	1940.....	365,544

Trades and Labour Congress of Canada.—The Congress is the oldest of the central labour organizations in Canada. After the disbanding of the Canadian Labour Union, which had drawn together local unions in Ontario and which had met annually from 1873 to 1877 inclusive, there was no central organization until 1883, when the Trades and Labour Council of Toronto called a conference of local unions and plans were made to establish a federal organization which was formally set up in 1886.