

Section 9.—Organized Labour in Canada

Information concerning trade unions is published in the Annual Report on Labour Organization in Canada, issued by the Department of Labour, Ottawa.

At the end of 1949 there were 1,005,639 trade union members in Canada. This represents an increase of 3 p.c. over the figure for the previous year, resulting chiefly from advances by some of the international unions and the inclusion of the Province of Newfoundland in the survey for the first time. The majority of the unions in Canada are affiliated with a central labour congress, the membership of which are listed in Table 46. In addition the three largest congresses are discussed individually below.

Trades and Labour Congress of Canada.—The Trades and Labour Congress of Canada 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 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 national organization which was formally set up in 1886.

Affiliated with the Trades and Labour Congress at the present time are 'international' trade unions, almost all of which are also affiliated with the American Federation of Labour, a number of Canadian or 'national' unions and a number of directly chartered labour unions.

Canadian Congress of Labour.—This Congress was organized in September, 1940, when the All-Canadian Congress of Labour, formed in 1927, amended its constitution to permit the affiliation with the Congress of the Canadian branches of those international unions which, in the United States, are affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organization. The Canadian Congress has also among its members a number of unions to which it has granted charters.

Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour.—National Catholic Unions in Canada date from 1901. In 1921 these local Catholic Syndicates, which are grouped in federations according to industry as far as possible, formed a central organization, the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour.

44.—Membership of Trade Unions in Canada, 1916-49

Year	Members	Year	Members	Year	Members
	No.		No.		No.
1916.....	160,407	1928.....	300,602	1939.....	358,967
1917.....	204,630	1929.....	319,476	1940.....	362,223
1918.....	248,887	1930.....	322,449	1941.....	461,681
1919.....	378,047	1931.....	310,544	1942.....	578,380
1920.....	373,842	1932.....	283,096	1943.....	664,533
1921.....	313,320	1933.....	285,720	1944.....	724,188
1922.....	276,621	1934.....	281,274	1945.....	711,117
1923.....	278,092	1935.....	280,648	1946.....	831,697
1924.....	260,643	1936.....	322,746	1947.....	912,124
1925.....	271,064	1937.....	383,492	1948.....	977,594
1926.....	274,604	1938.....	381,645	1949.....	1,005,639
1927.....	290,282				