

Section 9.—Organized Labour in Canada*

At the beginning of 1951 there were 1,028,521 labour union members in Canada, an increase of 2·3 p.c. over the figure for the previous year. The majority of the unions in Canada are affiliated with a central labour congress and their membership is listed in Table 44. In addition, each of the three largest congresses are discussed 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 of 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 includes 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, grouped as far as possible into federations according to industry, formed a central organization, the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour.

* Information concerning unions is published in the Department of Labour annual publication, *Labour Organization in Canada*.

42.—Membership of Unions in Canada, 1918-51

Year	Members	Year	Members	Year	Members
	No.		No.		No.
1918.....	248,887	1929.....	319,476	1940.....	362,223
1919.....	378,047	1930.....	322,449	1941.....	461,681
1920.....	373,842	1931.....	310,544	1942.....	578,380
1921.....	313,320	1932.....	283,096	1943.....	664,533
1922.....	276,621	1933.....	285,720	1944.....	724,188
1923.....	278,092	1934.....	281,274	1945.....	711,117
1924.....	260,643	1935.....	280,648	1946.....	831,697
1925.....	271,064	1936.....	322,746	1947.....	912,124
1926.....	274,604	1937.....	383,492	1948.....	977,504
1927.....	290,282	1938.....	381,645	1949.....	1,065,639
1928.....	300,602	1939.....	358,967	1951 ¹	1,028,521

¹ Figures for 1949 and previous years, are as at Dec. 31; figures for 1951 are as at Jan. 1.