

Unity League, made up nearly half the total union membership in Canada. Within a few years, however, international unionism reasserted its predominance and for many years now about 70 p.c. of all Canadian unionists have belonged to international unions.

The great debate in the United States in the 1930's over the relative merits of industrial and craft unionism found only faint echoes in Canada. The Trades and Labor Congress had, and was prepared to have, both kinds, and it was most reluctant to expel the Canadian branches of CIO unions. But, faced with a virtual ultimatum from the American Federation of Labor that it must either expel the CIO unions or lose the AFL unions (whose Canadian membership was then far larger), it had really no choice, and in 1939 the CIO unions were accordingly cast forth. They at once formed a Canadian CIO Committee, which became the fourth Canadian central organization.

Through all these changes and chances, the four railway running trades (Conductors, Engineers, Firemen and Trainmen) remained unaffiliated with any central body, though every one of them had occasionally sent delegates to Trades and Labor Congress conventions, and in 1896 their joint Legislative Board had sent two delegates, of whom one was elected to the Congress Executive. The "big four", however, co-operated with each other and two Congress railway unions in a Dominion Joint Legislative Committee.

Late in 1939 came the first step towards unity (though, paradoxically, it created the first effective opposition to the Trades and Labor Congress). The All-Canadian Congress and the Canadian CIO Committee agreed to unite in the Canadian Congress of Labour, which was set up in 1940, with complete autonomy not only for itself but for the Canadian branches of CIO unions. Contrary to most expectations, this new Congress not only survived but grew and waxed strong, organizing mass production industries and pioneering in labour research, workers' education and labour public relations. For the next fifteen years, both Congresses passed resolutions almost every year in favour of unity and, from 1948 on, joint action on various matters became increasingly common. A Joint Consultative Committee of the two Congresses, the Canadian and Catholic Confederation and the Dominion Joint Legislative Committee was set up in 1951 but lasted only a year. As long as the two American central bodies were at loggerheads, their Canadian counterparts could make little progress towards reunion, because of the provisions of the Trades and Labor Congress Constitution which in effect forbade it to affiliate any union 'dual' to an American Federation of Labor union. Once the Americans agreed to discuss unity, this blockage disappeared. By the end of 1953 the two Canadian Congresses had appointed a joint Unity Committee, which first (1954) drew up a "No-raiding Agreement" (under which unions of the rival organizations agreed not to try to steal each others' members) and in 1955 a "Merger Agreement". After ratification by the two Congress conventions, the Merger Agreement came into force, and the founding convention of the united Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) took place in April 1956. In January 1957, the small and respectable remnant of the once powerful and revolutionary One Big Union joined the new Congress, the Locomotive Firemen followed in February, and the Trainmen in September. Meanwhile, both the Congress and the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour had voted in favour of the latter's affiliation, and negotiations to this end are proceeding. The only unions of any size which remain altogether outside the unity movement are: the two big Communist-dominated unions expelled by the Canadian Congress of Labour; the United Mine Workers, which excluded itself by failing to pay its dues to that Congress; the Railway Conductors and the Locomotive Engineers; and the Operating Engineers, suspended by the new Congress. The total membership of the CLC (which, though made up mainly of international unions, is completely autonomous) is about 1,100,000, or over 80 p.c. of all trade unionists in Canada. It includes both craft and industrial unions, and both national and international unions.

No adequate history even of the central organizations, let alone the whole Movement, has yet been written. The material is voluminous and much of it is fascinating, not only in itself but for the light it sheds on Canadian social history in general, and on Canadian