

(under which unions of the rival organizations agreed not 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 One Big Union joined the new Congress, the Locomotive Firemen followed in February, and the Trainmen in September.

During the Second World War, the CCCL, at first distrusted and denounced by the orthodox unions as a collection of thinly veiled "company unions", shed the narrow denominationalism and French-Canadian nationalism of its early years and by the 1950s had become one of the most militant labour organizations in the country. After numerous battles with the international unions, it also came to co-operate with them for common ends and for a time, in 1956 and 1957, it looked as if the Confederation would come into the CLC. But the negotiations broke down and it stayed out. In 1960, it formally "de-confessionalized" itself and became the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CNTU).

In 1911, there were only 133,000 union members in Canada, and at the outbreak of the First World War still only 166,000. By 1919 the number had more than doubled to 378,000; by 1924 it had sunk to 261,000; and by 1932 it had recovered to 322,000. The depression cut it back to 281,000 but by 1938 it was slightly higher than in 1919. During the Second World War, the immense new industrial development and the organization of the mass production industries again more than doubled the pre-war figure, and in 1949 membership passed the 1,000,000-mark. Since then, growth has been slower; the manual workers in the large industries and the main crafts in the cities and big towns have been pretty effectively organized but the white-collar workers and the small town workers in general have not. From 1958 to 1964, total union membership was almost stationary but in 1965 it started to rise again substantially. CLC unions now (1966) have about three quarters of the 1,600,000 organized workers in Canada; the CNTU has about 10 p.c. (almost all in Quebec) and another 8 p.c. are in international unions unaffiliated with the CLC.

In some respects, Canadian trade unionism has changed out of all recognition since the first Canadian Labor Congress met, over 80 years ago; in others, it has changed very little. The basic aims and basic organization are the same; the change has been chiefly in the legislation the unions want passed. This is partly because so much of what they originally wanted they have long since got—one day's rest in seven, cash payment of wages, bureaus of labour statistics, a Department of Labour, the nine-hour day, workmen's compensation, universal suffrage, free compulsory education; it is partly also because some of the things they once wanted no longer interest them, or even, as with compulsory arbitration (repeatedly demanded down to 1902), have become anathema; but it is also because, on many matters, circumstances, or the general climate of opinion, or both, have changed. This is true of temperance legislation, the single tax, the initiative and referendum, the abolition of Lieutenant-Governorships and the High Commissionership to Britain, the election of the Governor General, demonetization of gold and silver, condemnation of manual training in the schools, transfer of university and college grants to the schools, exclusion of Oriental immigrants and of "pauper" immigrants from Europe. But abolition of the Senate, public ownership of banks and public utilities, minimum wages and shorter hours are all part of the CLC program, as they were of the TLC. So is support for the co-operative movement.

One subject that figured prominently in TLC resolutions from 1886 to 1910 was co-operation with the farmers, who in those days were of course far more powerful, economically and politically, than organized labour. In 1886, the Congress appointed a committee to meet with the Dominion Grange to get some united action on the Factory Act. In 1893, it met with the Grange and the Patrons of Industry (a new farm organization) and adopted a common "platform", set up a standing committee with the Patrons to devise "a scheme for a union of the labor forces (rural and urban)", and provided for a vote by affiliated organizations on allowing the Grange and the Patrons to affiliate. In 1894, the Congress constitution was amended to let the Patrons in; this was deleted in 1895 but in