

printers, changed their names and invited Canadian local unions to apply for membership, with such success that at the present time the majority of Canadian trade unionists are connected with international organizations. The basic reason for the success of internationalism has been the fact that, owing to the similarity of working conditions and of language, labourers pass easily across the boundary line. Many of the Canadian trade unionists who are not connected with the international unions are members of the French-speaking unions of the Province of Quebec.

Trade unions in Canada, as in other countries, were in their beginning treated as illegal organizations; under the English common law the earlier trade unions were regarded as "conspiracies in restraint of trade"—a fact which partly explains the meagre character of our information concerning them. In Great Britain, however, they were released from this stigma of illegality in 1871, and in Canada in the following year.

Trades and Labour Congress of Canada.—Encouraged by their success, delegates from 31 Canadian trade unions of Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton, met in September, 1873, and organized the first national body, the Canadian Labour Union. This organization held its second and third annual meetings in 1874 and 1875 and thereafter disappeared with many other unions in the great trade depression of the later seventies. In 1883, however, a congress similar to that of 1873 was assembled on the call of the Toronto Trades and Labour Council, with delegates from 29 unions. In 1886 this congress met again as the "Trades and Labour Congress of Canada", which has continued its annual meetings down to the present time, the annual meeting held in Windsor in 1920 with 524 accredited delegates being the thirty-sixth. In 1920 the total membership affiliated to the Canadian Trades and Labour Congress was 173,463, as against 8,381 in 1901.

International Trade Unionism in Canada.—At the close of 1920, as shown by Table 7, 101 international trade unions were carrying on their activities in Canada. These organizations had 2,455 local branches in Canada, with 267,247 members, a gain of 7,000 members as compared with the preceding year. Of these 101 organizations 15 with 731 local branches and 70,779 members, were not affiliated to the American Federation of Labour.

Canadian Federation of Labour.—The Canadian Federation of Labour, formerly known as the National Trades and Labour Congress, was founded in 1903 as the result of the expulsion from the Dominion Trades and Labour Congress of the Knights of Labour and all other unions unconnected with the international movement. These dissentient unions accordingly formed a new central body of a distinctively national character, which in 1908 adopted its present name, and has continued to hold annual conventions at which resolutions condemning the predominant internationalism are frequently adopted. The Canadian Federation of Labour at the end of 1920 was credited with 23 branch unions and 7,000 members.