

international organizations, the Trades Congress denied them further representation. The Knights of Labour assemblies gradually disappeared, but the independent unions continued to exist. With the advent of the Mutual Labour Federation of the North in 1912, the first organization to confine membership to adherents of the Roman Catholic church, a stimulus was given to this movement, and several of the existing independent unions, the number of which had increased during the decade from 1902 to 1912, became identified with what are termed National and Catholic unions. In 1918 a conference of these bodies was held in Quebec city, followed by other meetings in Three Rivers in 1919 and in Chicoutimi in 1920, the delegates at the latter conference, numbering 225, from 120 unions, deciding to establish a permanent central body to co-ordinate the work of the scattered units. Accordingly at the 1921 conference held in Hull, at which approximately 200 delegates were present representing 89 unions, a constitution to govern the new body was approved. The name selected was Federation of Catholic Workers of Canada, and permanent officers were elected, the constitution and bylaws to become effective on January 1, 1922. From information at hand, there are 120 National and Catholic unions with a combined membership of 45,000.

One Big Union.—Owing to dissatisfaction with the alleged reactionary policy of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, a number of delegates from Western Canada to the Quebec convention in 1918 held a caucus for the purpose of having the delegates from the western unions concentrate their energies towards having the Trades Congress legislate in accordance with the views of these bodies. Some months later a meeting of delegates was called by the British Columbia Federation of Labour, to assemble immediately following the annual convention of that body, which for the first time in its history met outside of the province under its jurisdiction, in the city of Calgary. The conference assembled on March 13, 1919, with 239 delegates present; the outcome of the meeting was the formation of an industrial organization, the "One Big Union." On June 11, 1919, a conference of the advocates of the new body was held in Calgary to further the plans of organization. The next meeting, termed the first semi-annual convention, was held in Winnipeg in January, 1920. The O.B.U. had made much progress during its short existence, with a membership of 41,150 at the close of 1919. From the outset the O.B.U. met with much opposition from the old-established labour unions, as represented by the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, which are opposed to the substitution of industrial unionism for the existing system of craft unions. During the years 1920 and 1921 the O. B. U. has been on the decline, many of the early supporters having deserted the organization, and the membership has dropped to approximately 5,300.

Total Reported Membership of Organized Labour in Canada.—At the close of 1921 the numerical strength of organized labour in Canada is given by the Department of Labour as follows: International organizations, 2,223 local branches with an aggregate