

# 373,842 UNION WORKERS OF ALL CLASSES HERE

Tenth Annual Report on Labor Organizations in Canada Has Been Issued By Labor Dept.

OTTAWA.—The Tenth Annual Report on Labor Organization in Canada, covering the year 1920, has been issued by the Department of Labor. In addition to the statistics furnished, the report contains much general information as to the activities of the organized labor bodies operating in Canada, as well as references to important labor events in other countries. The total union membership reported at the close of 1920 is 373,842, a slight decrease from the figures of Dec. 31, 1919, when the total stood at 374,017. Compared in 1919 local branches comprised 2,218 local branches, an increase of 71 over the branches of last year. Of the 2,218 branches in the Dominion, 1,465 are affiliates of international organizations and between them they comprise 267,247 members, a gain over 1919 in this class of membership of 7,960, and 753 branches of 146,595 local members with 25,406 members, are what are termed non-international bodies, these figures showing a loss of 65 branches and 7,964 members. Of the 1,465 international branches, 124 are independent units, a gain of one, the reported membership of 27 being 31,159, an increase of 22,311 for this group; the National and Catholic unions now number 124, a gain of 41, comprising a reported membership of 45,000, an increase of 10,000; the local units of the One Big Union, which in 1919 were reported at 161 have decreased to 51, and the estimated membership is 5,000, a drop of 26,159. The membership of all classes of organized labor in Canada, as reported to the department for the past ten years, has been as follows:

1911	133,432
1912	169,120
1913	175,799
1914	166,163
1915	143,343
1916	160,497
1917	204,620
1918	248,887
1919	374,017
1920	373,842

## Trade Union Membership by Provinces.

Including all classes of trade unions in the Dominion, the standing by provinces is as follows: Ontario, 1,231; Quebec, 568; British Columbia, 251; Alberta, 230; Nova Scotia, 167; Saskatchewan, 160; Manitoba, 152; New Brunswick, 142; and Prince Edward Island, 10.

The number of cities in Canada, having not less than 20 local branches of the international and non-international organizations and independent units has increased by three, there now being 35. These cities represent 59 per cent. of the local branches of unions just mentioned and comprise 60 per cent. of the branches of all classes which reported their membership, as well as containing approximately 44 per cent. of the trade union membership.

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of 373,842 in the Dominion, as reported from headquarters of the central organizations. Montreal leads the cities with 215 local branches of all classes of unions, 121 of which reported 45,293 members; Toronto stands in second place with 164 branches, the membership of 104, which reported being 25,978; Winnipeg occupies the third position with 91 branches, 57 of which reported 9,940 members. Other cities in order of number of branches of all classes are: Vancouver, 86 branches, 15 reporting 9,679 members; Ottawa, 85 branches, 57 reporting 11,143 members; Quebec, 75 branches, 36 reporting 6,562 members; Hamilton, 71 branches, 59 reporting 5,184 members; London, 67 branches, 46 reporting 5,009 members; Edmonton, 63 branches, 42 reporting 3,867 members; Calgary, 59 branches, 43 reporting 4,310 members; St. John, 49 branches, 25 reporting 3,309 members; Victoria, 49 branches, 34 reporting 3,450 members; Halifax, 37 branches, 26 reporting 2,251 members; Saskatoon, 37 branches, 26 reporting 1,330 members; Regina, 35 branches, 22 reporting 1,187 members; St. Thomas, 34 branches, 26 reporting 2,853 members; Windsor, 33 branches, 24 reporting 1,469 members; Moose Jaw, 23 branches, 24 reporting 2,020 members; Sault Ste. Marie, 22 branches, 24 reporting 1,530 members; Brantford, 23 branches, 21 reporting 1,345 members; Moncton, 27 branches, 22 reporting 3,368 members; Fort William, 28 branches, 19 reporting 1,178 members; Kingston, 27 branches, 15 reporting 1,010 members; Niagara Falls, 26 branches, 16 reporting 2,819 members; Peterborough, 25 branches, 12 reporting 419 members; St. Catharines, 26 branches, 14 reporting 592 members; Stratford, 26 branches, 16 reporting 1,790 members; Brandon, 24 branches, 18 reporting 1,089 members; Lethbridge, 25 branches, 14 reporting 1,526 members; Sarnia, 22 branches, 19 reporting 936 members; Brockville, 21 branches, 13 reporting 523 members; Guelph, 21 branches, 15 reporting 516 members; North Bay, 21 branches, 16 reporting 1,691 members. The cities which were included in this class in 1919, and which have been dropped owing to their local branch unions falling below 20, are: Kitchen and Welland, while Lethbridge, Belleville, Sydney, Brockville and Guelph have increased their local branches sufficiently to place their names in the list.

**BOARD WORKING IN HARMONY ON WOMEN'S WAGES**  
Dr. MacMillan Has Not Yet Been Called Upon to Cast the Deciding Vote.

Not once since the formation of the Minimum Wage Board in November last has Dr. J. W. MacMillan, the chairman, had to cast

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payments during 1920 on account of benefits to members. The report contains a table showing the disbursements made for this purpose among the whole membership, the total expenditure being \$19,482,819, an increase of \$3,912,538 as compared with the payments made in 1919. The amount expended for each class of benefit, was as follows:

Death benefits	\$10,718,987
Unemployed and traveling benefits	75,544
Sick benefits	6,392,313
Sick and accident benefits	1,867,876
Old age pensions and other benefits	717,596

Only one of the non-international organizations, the Federated Association of Letter Carriers, reported payments for benefits, having spent \$12,000 for death claims.

**Benefits Paid By Local Branches.**  
A statement is also published in the report showing the amount paid in benefits for the year 1920 by local branch unions in Canada to their own members, the disbursements amounting to \$24,155, a sum of \$25,538 less than that reported in 1919. The payments made on account of the benefits indicated were as follows:

Death benefits	\$89,959
Unemployed benefits	8,322
Sick benefits	38,683
Sick benefits	149,947
Other benefits	46,247

**A Complete Trade Union Directory.**  
As a directory of trade unions, the report is very complete, containing as it does particulars not only of every known local trade union in Canada, but also a list of all central organizations of Letter Carriers, the names and addresses of the chief executive officers for the year 1921.

the deciding vote as between the two Labor representatives and the two employers' representatives. Speaking to Toronto Board of Trade members recently, Dr. MacMillan stated that the members had set out on their duties with the determination to work harmoniously and not to adopt a stand-pat attitude on behalf of the particular section each represented. As a result, he said, every move had been made after unanimous approval and any one listening to the deliberations could hardly tell which were Labor and which were employers' representatives.

Primarily, Dr. MacMillan's address was a review of minimum wage legislation history, and he outlined the various developments from the first move in that direction in New Zealand to its spread through Australia, Great Britain and North America. But there was one point he impressed on his hearers above all else, and that was that minimum wages were not being fixed on any economic principle, but were merely the recognition of the precociousness of human life.

The board did not and would not attempt to fix wages. Their sole duty was to ascertain the minimum wage on which women workers in various industries could live in reasonable comfort, and at that point draw a wage-line below which industries should not drop.

Dr. MacMillan stated that the factory law of Ontario with regard to hours is unsatisfactory. "Under the law a factory can keep employees working 60 hours a week," he said, "but I do not know of any that do so."

The minimum wage law, he said, had its origin in New Zealand in 1894. At the present time nearly all the provinces in Canada have their minimum wage boards. "Two employer and two employee representatives, with myself," he said, "make up the board, and although my vote on any question would be the deciding one in a deadlock, I have never had occasion to use it."

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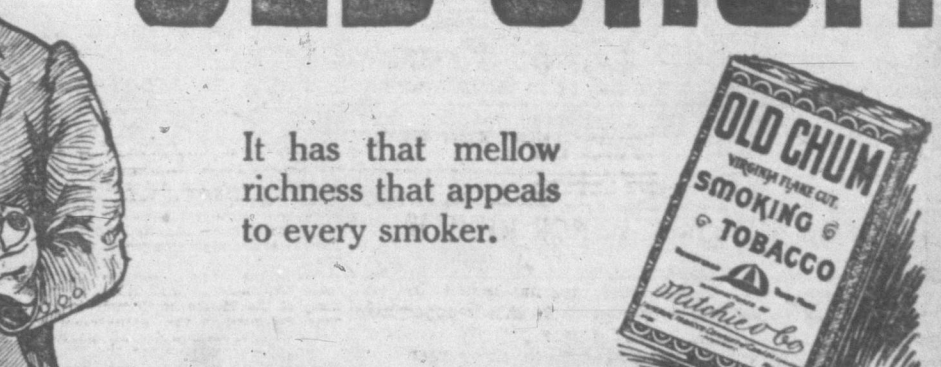
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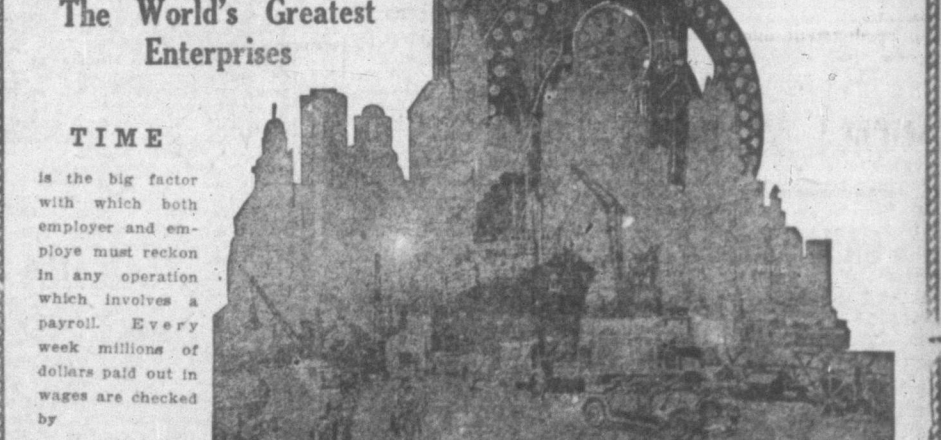
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