

Trade Union Membership Reaches High Record

One Big Union and Other National Units Made Rapid Strides in Canada in 1919, But International Organizations More Than Held Their Own—Ontario has Most Unions, But Montreal Leads among Cities—Over Ten Millions Paid in Death Benefits.

INTERNATIONAL labor organizations made progress in Canada in 1919, in spite of the advent of the "one big union"; the non-international bodies and independent units, in fact, show losses. Another feature of the year was the progress of the national Catholic unions in the province of Quebec. These facts are brought out in the ninth annual report on labor organization in Canada, for the year 1919, which has just been issued by the Department of Labor, at Ottawa.

The figures given in the report show that trade union membership in the Dominion has reached the highest point recorded since the department commenced the publication of these annual reports in 1911, the total reported membership for all classes of labor bodies in Canada at the close of the year 1919 being 378,047. There are in all 2,847 local branch unions in the Dominion, of which 2,309 are affiliates of international organizations, comprising 260,247 members, an increase over 1918 of 412 branches and 58,815 members; 325 local branches with 33,372 members are connected with what are termed non-international bodies, these figures showing a loss of seven branches and of 4,556 members; 29 are independent units, a decrease of 16, and the reported membership was 1,249 less than that reported in 1918; the national Catholic unions number 83, comprising a membership of 35,000; the one big union reported 101 units with a membership of 41,150. These figures show a gain of 573 in local branches of all classes of labor bodies operating in Canada, and the remarkable increase in membership of 129,160.

Rapid Increase in Membership

The membership of all classes of organized labor in Canada, as reported to the department for the past nine years, has been as follows:—

1911	.....	133,132	1916	.....	160,407
1912	.....	160,120	1917	.....	204,630
1913	.....	175,799	1918	.....	248,887
1914	.....	166,163	1919	.....	378,047
1915	.....	143,343			

Trade Union Membership by Provinces

Including all classes of trade unions operating in the Dominion, the standing by provinces is as follows: Ontario, 1,223; Quebec, 513; British Columbia, 263; Alberta, 231; Manitoba, 170; Saskatchewan, 158; Nova Scotia, 157; New Brunswick, 124; and Prince Edward Island, 8.

Membership in Chief Cities

There are 32 cities in the Dominion having not less than 20 local branches of the international and non-international organizations and independent units, and between them they represent 57 per cent. of the branches of these bodies and comprise 56 per cent. of the local lodges of all classes of labor organizations in the Dominion, as well as containing approximately 49 per cent. of the trade union membership of 378,047, as reported from the headquarters of the central organizations. Montreal leads the cities with 203 local branches of all classes of unions, 130 of which report 45,289 members; Toronto stands in second place with 159 branches, the membership of 95 which reported being 24,822; Winnipeg occupies third position with 101 branches, 54 of which reported 10,741 members.

Other cities in order of number of branches of all classes are: Vancouver, 85 branches, 60 reporting 29,596 members; Ottawa, 80 branches, 58 reporting 9,271 members; Hamilton, 75 branches, 57 reporting 3,253 members; Quebec, 70 branches, 47 reporting 7,388 members; London, 68 branches, 49 re-

porting 5,053 members; Edmonton, 62 branches, 40 reporting 3,760 members; Calgary, 58 branches, 40 reporting 4,718 members; St. John, 50 branches, 32 reporting 4,590 members; Victoria, 48 branches, 32 reporting 4,164 members; Halifax, 35 branches, 23 reporting 2,946 members; Regina, 35 branches, 25 reporting 1,163 members; Saskatoon, 35 branches, 24 reporting 1,457 members; St. Thomas, 34 branches, 27 reporting 2,946 members; Moose Jaw, 34 branches, 26 reporting 3,251 members; Windsor, 33 branches, 25 reporting 1,987 members; Fort William, 32 branches, 25 reporting 1,368 members; Kingston, 31 branches, 15 reporting 978 members; Brantford, 29 branches, 24 reporting 1,404 members; St. Catharines, 28 branches, 19 reporting 858 members; Peterborough, 28 branches, 20 reporting 1,080 members; Sault Ste. Marie, 27 branches, 17 reporting 1,592 members; Brandon, 27 branches, 19 reporting 1,034 members; Stratford, 25 branches, 20 reporting 1,991 members; Niagara Falls, 23 branches, 17 reporting 3,012 members; Sarnia, 23 branches, 16 reporting 757 members; Moncton, 22 branches, 17 reporting 2,937 members; North Bay, 21 branches, 16 reporting 1,448 members; Kitchener, 21 branches, 12 reporting 646 members; Welland, 20 branches, 12 reporting 459 members.

Benefits Paid by Central Labor Organizations

Nearly all of the international labor organizations operating in Canada provide for the payment of benefits to members on a varying scale. The report contains a table showing the reported disbursements made for this purpose in Canada, the United States and elsewhere, the expenditure for 1919 totalling \$15,550,052, a decrease of \$1,252,040, as compared with the payments made in 1918. The amount expended for each class of benefit was as follows:—

Death benefits	.....	\$10,436,671
Unemployed and travelling benefits	....	298,902
Strike benefits	.....	1,789,961
Sick and accident benefits	.....	1,828,218
Old-age pensions and other benefits	..	1,196,300

Four of the non-international organizations reported having made payments for benefits; the total expenditure amounting to \$23,035, an increase of \$6,140 over the disbursements in 1918.

Benefits Paid by Local Branches

The report also contains a statement showing the amount paid in benefits for the year 1919 by local branch unions in Canada to their own members, the disbursements aggregating \$583,093, an increase of \$151,589 over 1918. The payments made on account of each class of benefit were:—

Death benefits	.....	\$185,784
Unemployed benefits	.....	15,306
Strike benefits	.....	198,438
Sick benefits	.....	120,327
Other benefits	.....	63,238

Other Features of the Report

The report follows closely along the lines of earlier reports on labor organization in Canada, the various phases of the plan of organization which has been developed being given due consideration.

Chapters dealing with the advent of the one big union and the national Catholic union movement in the province of Quebec are discussed, as are also the activities of the Industrial Workers of the World, and other important incidents in labor matters which have occurred during the year 1919.