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ORGANIZED LABOUR IN CANADA.

The Department of Labour, Ottawa, has added to the list of its instructive and timely publications a report on Canadian labour organizations. The recent history of some of these organizations in Canada has been marked (and marred) by many regrettable incidents, due principally to affiliation with United States bodies. It is important, therefore, to know just how far Canadian labour is dominated by extraneous influences. It is important, also, to see how much independent national organization has taken place. The report before us is entirely devoted to facts and figures. It is, as it should be, non-partizan.

The oldest labour union in Canada is the Toronto Typographical Union, established in 1844. To-day there are no less than 1,741 local unions, most of which are branches of large central bodies. The membership rolls of these local unions contain from ten to over one thousand names. In Ontario there are 706 local organizations, in British Columbia 234, in Quebec 205, in Alberta 153, in Nova Scotia 138, in Manitoba 118, in Saskatchewan 84, in New Brunswick 73, and in Prince Edward Island 7. The four largest cities, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, comprise about one-fifth of the whole total, the western cities having proportionately the larger number.

In the industries of mining and transportation and in a few trades the methods of organization and procedure are much more complicated than in other callings.

Of the 1,741 local unions, 1,531 are in affiliation with international associations, the remainder being entirely Canadian. Welding together the various units of all trades are two general organizations, the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, in which are represented the societies that have international connections; and the Canadian Federation of Labour, which has to do with purely Canadian unions. Both these bodies meet once a year.

Of the several advantages claimed for the principle of internationalism, that of the "travelling card," which gives members the privilege of moving from place to place, irrespective of the boundary, is the only one that can be admitted without argument.

The American Federation of Labour claims the loyalty of 78 of the 91 international unions having branches in Canada. It is by far the largest organization of its kind on the continent. With it is affiliated the Western Federation of Miners.

The largest individual trade union organization in Canada and the United States is the United Mine Work-