

National Labor Unions in Canada

A Growing Power

When Mr. Robertson, Federal Minister of Labor, was asked why no delegates from the National Labor Unions in Canada had been invited to the National Industrial Conference held in Ottawa, last September (1919), he stated, amongst other reasons, that these National Labor Unions had a membership of only 2,800.

Mr. Robertson was misinformed; the Quebec National Labor Unions have at this moment (November 1919), a membership of 30,000; they are increasing daily and bid fair soon to outnumber the International Labor Unions in the Province of Quebec.

National vs. International Unions

International Unions are not, as a rule, governed by sound principles of law and order. Judging the tree by its fruits, or by the frequency and seriousness of strikes called by International Unions, and which not unfrequently result in a minimum of advantages for the strikers¹ and in a maximum of inconvenience for the public. — International Unions do not make for peace and harmony. They preach war to the death between classes; they tell the workman that he must better his condition by fair means or by foul. Like a storm-tossed ship without a pilot, their deluded members are driven hither and thither by every wind of doctrine.

¹ It has been estimated that the strikes which occurred during the month of June alone caused a loss of nearly \$6,000,000.00 in wages.