

LABOUR ORGANIZATION IN THE DOMINION SUBJECT OF REPORT

*Rapid Growth of Trade Union
Membership shown by Data
given out by Department of
Labour*

248,887 ON ROLLS

That the membership of all classes of trade unions in the Dominion is 248,887, comprised in 2,274 branch unions, is stated in the eighth annual report on Labour Organization in Canada, for the calendar year 1918, published recently by the Department of Labour. The following information as to labour organization in the Dominion is taken from the report:—

INCREASE IN LABOUR RANKS.

"The marked increase in Canadian trade union membership recorded in 1917 was surpassed in 1918, and indicates a rapidity of growth probably without precedent in the history of organized labour of the Dominion. Information gathered for the Eighth Annual Report on Labour Organization in Canada, dealing with the activities for the year 1918, shows that the varied ramifications of organized labour of the country have been extended considerably during the year. At the end of 1913 trade union members in Canada numbered 175,799. The two following years showed a decline of 32,456, reducing the membership to 143,343. In 1916, although there was a loss of 41 local branches, the membership figures showed a gain of 17,064, increasing the total to 160,407. The year 1917 showed a substantial increase of 44,223 members, bringing the total to 204,630, comprised in 1,974 local branches, a gain in branches for the year of 132. During 1918 the activity of the previous year was continued, nearly all of the trade union organizations increasing their membership. At the close of 1918 the membership for all classes of trade unions in Canada was 248,887, comprised in 2,274 branch unions, a total increase for the year of 44,257 in membership and 300 in local branches.

GROWTH OF AMERICAN UNIONS.

"It will perhaps be interesting to look, as far as information will permit, at the situation elsewhere with respect to trade union organizations. In the United States the ranks of organized labour show a material increase during 1918. Reports received from 96 international organizations indicate a gain of 908,649, bringing the international membership to 4,359,386. In addition to the bodies having affiliation in Canada, there are 47 organizations whose operations are confined to the United States, and for which no reports have been received. It is therefore not possible to give the exact membership in the United States for all labour bodies, but it will be necessarily in excess of the figures above mentioned. The American Federation of Labour, the main labour body in the United States, reports a large increase in its following, the membership at the close of the year being over 3,000,000, a gain of approximately 273,522 since the close of its fiscal year on April 30, 1918; it will, however, be remembered that the American Federation does not include the membership of all railroad organizations. In Great Britain, too, trade union membership showed a marked increase during the year, reports at the 1918 convention of the British Trade Union Congress showing 4,532,085 members in affiliation, an increase for the year of 1,449,733.

"In addition to the international organizations having branches in the Dominion, there are thirteen bodies classed as non-international, having between them 332 local branches, with a combined membership of 37,928, an in-

MUCH TRAFFIC THROUGH CANALS OF DOMINION

Volume and Distribution of Canal Traffic (from the Annual Report of the Department of Railways and Canals).

	Tons.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Tons.	Tons.
Sault Ste. Marie.....	12,913,711		2,533,381
Welland.....	2,174,298		316,244
St. Lawrence.....	3,031,134		360,010
Chambly.....	369,186		65,632
St. Peter's.....	59,716		2,538
Murray.....	44,735		12,868
Ottawa.....	167,170		47,665
Rideau.....	54,136		30,413
Trent.....	64,893	15,969	
St. Andrew's.....	4,640		2,534
Total.....	18,883,619	15,969	3,371,385

GROSS TRAFFIC SINCE 1915.

	Tons.		Tons.
1905.....	9,371,744	1912.....	47,587,245
1906.....	10,523,185	1913.....	52,053,913
1907.....	20,543,639	1914.....	37,023,237
1908.....	17,502,820	1915.....	15,198,803
1909.....	33,720,748	1916.....	23,583,491
1910.....	42,990,608	1917.....	22,238,935
1911.....	38,030,353	1918.....	18,883,619

crease for 1918 of 88 branches and 5,585 members. Besides unions having either international or non-international affiliation, there are 45 independent units in the Dominion, 27 of which report a membership of 9,527, a gain of 2,136 as compared with the reported membership from 28 independent units in 1917.

"The Trades and Labour Congress of Canada is the most representative labour organization in the Dominion, and though not in itself international, is closely identified with the international labour movement. The Congress is recognized by the international organizations having local branches in Canada as the legislative mouthpiece of organized labour in the Dominion, 54 of the more important of which have affiliated the whole of their Canadian membership, numbering 93,217, and comprising 1,265 local branches. The Congress is given similar recognition by the American Federation of Labour, which body has for many years contributed \$500 towards the legislative expenses of the Canadian body. Many of the international organizations having branches in Canada have Canadian officials to watch over the affairs of the union in the Dominion, and these officers, who are usually members of local branches in Canada, are as a rule in close touch with the officers of the Trades and Labour Congress. In some instances, where the office of Canadian representative is an elective one, only members of local branches in Canada are eligible.

PROVINCES AND CHIEF CITIES.

The province of Ontario contains 926 of the local branch unions in the Dominion, 670 of which report a membership of 62,605; Quebec, which stands second as to local branches with 366, had 201 report a membership of 48,570; British Columbia occupies third place with 252 branches, of which 182 reported a membership of 27,216. The figures for the remaining provinces are as follow: Alberta, 208 unions, 158 reporting 13,987 members; Manitoba, 153 unions, 105 reporting 15,353 members; Saskatchewan, 131 unions, 110 reporting 6,319 members; Nova Scotia, 128 unions, 92 reporting 18,058 members; New Brunswick, 90 unions, 70 reporting 7,944 members; Prince Edward Island, 7 unions, 5 reporting 276 members.

The number of cities in the Dominion, each with more than 20 local branches, has increased from 21 to 31; these cities comprise 42 per cent of the branches reporting membership, and represent approximately 57 per cent of the entire trade union membership in Canada. Montreal leads the cities with

149 local branches, 106 of which reported 32,422 members; Toronto occupies second place with 128 branches, the membership of 82 which reported being 18,834; Winnipeg comes third with 91 branches, of which 56 reported 12,050 members. Other cities in order of number of branches are: Vancouver, 87 branches, 65 reporting 15,459 members; Hamilton, 60 branches, 49 reporting 3,596 members; Ottawa, 60 branches, 44 reporting 5,043 members; Quebec, 54 branches, 36 reporting 6,894 members; Edmonton, 53 branches, 44 reporting 3,306 members; Calgary, 52 branches, 38 reporting 3,001 members; London, 51 branches, 37 reporting 3,613 members; Victoria, 45 branches, 34 reporting 5,584 members; Regina, 31 branches, 23 reporting 1,043 members; Port William, 30 branches, 20 reporting 1,908 members; Saskatoon, 29 branches, 24 reporting 1,417 members. The remaining 17 cities have 407 branches between them, of which number 304 reported a membership of 27,847.

CANADA LARGELY INTERNATIONAL.

The bulk of the organized workers in the Dominion are, as those following the trade union movement are aware, closely connected with the international organizations whose jurisdiction cover the whole of the North American continent; but there is a minority identified with what are in this report termed "non-international" bodies. There are on the continent 96 international organizations having one or more local branches in Canada, and between them comprising 1,897 of the branch unions in the Dominion, a gain of 195 over the number recorded in 1917. The membership reported from the respective headquarters for the year 1918 was 201,432, an increase of 36,536. The names, in alphabetical order, of fifteen international unions having each a membership in Canada of over 5,000 and representing a total membership in the Dominion of 128,677, contained in 979 local branch unions, are given in a table which appears in another column. There are in all operating on the North American continent 143 national and international organizations, and of these 112 are in affiliation with the American Federation of Labour. Of the bodies connected with the American Federation of Labour, 87 have one or more local branches in Canada, while of the 31 unions not affiliated with the American Federation, nine have Canadian branches.

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TRACK LIFTED FOR MILITARY USE AT FRONT

*Over 23,000 Tons of Steel
From Roadbeds in Canada
Shipped Overseas*

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The following is the report of Alex. Ferguson, engineer in charge of lifting rails for war purposes:—

On the 21st of May, 1917, instructions were given to proceed with the work of lifting track from the roadbeds of the Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern railways between Imrie and Resplendent, Alta., in order to provide steel rails for the use of His Majesty's armies in France, as authorized by Order in Council No. 1395, dated May 18, 1917.

An organization was immediately created, and the work of lifting track and of transforming the two lines into one commenced.

The Grand Trunk Pacific track between Imrie and Leaman Junction, 13.6 miles; between Obed and Pocahontas, 42.25 miles; and between Gelkie and Resplendent, 34.8 miles, was lifted and the rails and angle bars shipped to Three Rivers for shipment to France.

The Canadian Northern track between Leaman Junction and Obed, 79.9 miles, and between Snaring Junction and Gelkie, 22.05 miles, was lifted and the rails relaid on the Grand Trunk Pacific roadbed between Leaman Junction and Obed, and between Snaring Junction and Gelkie, thus releasing the Grand Trunk Pacific rails and fastenings for war purposes as required by the Order in Council.

TAKEN FROM SPUR LINES.

The track of the Grand Trunk Pacific between Pocahontas and Snaring Junction was lifted and relaid partly with 60-pound steel and partly with 80-pound Canadian Northern steel in order to release the Grand Trunk Pacific steel for shipment to France, and at the same time preserve rail connection with the coal mines at Pocahontas. This portion of the Grand Trunk Pacific line is being operated as a spur and is, as yet, considered merely temporary. A rearrangement of the main lines may be found necessary and in the interests of economy.

The first shipment of steel rails for Three Rivers left Edmonton on the 17th of June, 1917, and the last on the 26th of October, 1917. The total shipments amounted to 23,408 gross tons of rails and 1,110 gross tons of anglebars.

During the months of October, November, and December a considerable amount of work was done on the construction of highways between Otley and Carrot Creek and between Peers and Fulstow in order to give the settlers access to the Grand Trunk Pacific line. Before the close of the fiscal year arrangement were made for the completion of these roads and for the construction of a roadway from Rosevear on the Grand Trunk Pacific to Horner.

The account is taken from the annual report of the Department of Railways and Canals.

Accidents on Railways.

In accidents on Canadian railways in 1918, one in every 1,585,540 passengers was killed and one in every 157,569 injured, as shown in the report on railway statistics for that year, issued by the Department of Railways and Canals.

Cost of Ties Higher.

In 1911 the average cost of railroad ties in Canada was 43.8 cents, and in 1918 the average cost was 60.3 cents, as stated in the annual report of the Department of Railways and Canals.