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### Organizations for Labour in Canada

Annual Report by the Dept. of Labour, Ottawa.

The Department of Labour has recently published the twenty-sixth annual report on Labour Organization in Canada, covering the calendar year 1936. The aim in the publication of these reports has been to give statistical and other information concerning the various labour bodies operating in Canada, together with the names and addresses of the chief officers. In addition to describing many phases of the trade union movement in the Dominion, the report contains a complete Canadian labour directory, showing not only all the local branch unions in Canada of which the department had received information, but also the central organizations with which the local unions were affiliated.

Trade Union Membership—The figures published in this report have been received from the officers of the various central labour bodies and from departmental records. The total membership of all classes of trade unions in Canada, as at December 31, 1936, was

322,473, an increase of 41,769 over the previous year comprised in 2,886 local branches, a gain of 158. The membership of the international union group, consisting of the Canadian members of 88 organizations, 6 more than recorded in 1935, had 1,896 branches in the Dominion, an increase of 102, with a combined membership of 174,769, a gain of 31,199. The group of Canadian central organizations, which numbered 28, a gain of 5, had 740 branches, an increase of 6, with a combined membership of 83,841, a gain of 3,763. The National Catholic group consisted of 190 syndicates and study circles, an increase of 50, with a membership of 45,000, a gain of 7,000 over 1935. The independent units numbered 60, an increase of 11, the membership reported by 54 units being 18,863, which is greater by 2,004 than that reported by 43 units in 1935.

The report gives the membership of all classes of organized labour bodies in Canada in the past 26 years. In 1911, the total membership was 133,132. From then until 1917 the growth in membership was steady, though not startling. In 1917 it had grown to 204,630. In 1918 it took a big jump to 248,887 and in 1919 beat that jump again, with 378,047. From 1920 to 1926, the tendency seemed to be to decrease. In 1926 the membership was 274,604. In

1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, there were further increases. In 1931, there was a drop, and a similar drop in 1932, with slight increases and decreases until 1935 when it was 280,704. Last year—the year under review—the total membership of all classes of organized labour bodies in Canada was 322,473.

Reporting Local Branch Unions—Of the 2,886 local branch unions in the Dominion, 2,463 reported a combined membership of 254,218, 78.8 per cent. of the total. The average membership of the reporting local branches was 103.

Trade Union Branches by Provinces—The Province of Ontario had the largest number of local branch unions of all classes, 1,093. The remaining provinces ranked as follows: Quebec, 573; British Columbia, 295; Alberta, 278; Saskatchewan, 193; Manitoba, 188; Nova Scotia, 138; New Brunswick, 116; Prince Edward Island, 12.

Trade Union Membership in Canadian Cities—Thirty cities in Canada reported at least 20 local branch unions. Their 1,471 reporting branches represented approximately 60 per cent. of all reporting branches, and they also contained about 55 per cent. of the entire trade union membership in Canada. Montreal, as usual, stood first in the list of cities, and including the National Catholic Unions, had 220 local branches, 171 of which reported 45,362 members; Toronto was second with 200 branches, 162 of which reported 31,302 members; Winnipeg ranked third with 113 branches, 82 of which reported 11,258 members; Vancouver was fourth with 117 branches, 106 of which reported 16,062 members; and Edmonton stood fifth with 85 branches, 77 of which reported 5,868 members. The remaining 25 cities in order of number of branches were: Quebec, including the National Catholic Unions, 77 branches, 57 reporting 11,200 members; Calgary, 66 branches, 59 reporting 3,715 members; Ottawa, including 2 National Catholic Unions, 64 branches, 58 reporting 3,866 members; Hamilton, 62 branches, 57 reporting 4,281 members; London, 61 branches, 59 reporting 4,294 members; Regina, 44 branches, 42 reporting 2,154 members; Halifax, 42 branches, 39 reporting 3,512 members; Victoria, 42 branches, 38 reporting 1,693 members; Windsor, 41 branches, 37 reporting 2,455 members; Saskatoon, 39 branches, 38 reporting 1,788 members; Sherbrooke, including the National Catholic Unions, 38 branches, 36 reporting 2,816 members; Three Rivers, including the National Catholic Union, 38 branches, 37 reporting 3,005 members; Saint John, 37 branches, 36 reporting 2,449 members; Fort William, 34 branches, 32 reporting 1,720 members; Port Arthur, 32 branches, 28 reporting 2,909 members; Moose Jaw, 30 branches, 28 reporting 1,396 members; Moncton, 27 branches, 26 reporting 2,546 members; North Bay, 26 branches, 18 reporting 962 members; St. Hyacinthe, including the National

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Catholic Unions, 26 branches, 24 reporting 1,388 members; St. Thomas, 25 branches, 24 reporting 1,412 members; Stratford, 23 branches, 21 reporting 1,120 members; Brandon, 21 branches, 21 reporting 980 members; Lethbridge, 21 branches, 21 reporting 1,021 members; Brantford, 20 branches, 20 reporting 755 members; St. Catharines, 20 branches, 17 reporting 345 members.

Trade Union Benefits—In 1936 five of the 28 Canadian central organizations reported payments for benefits, the total disbursed being \$67,989.17, an increase of \$40,617.93 as compared with 1935.

Of the 88 international organizations operating in Canada, 61 had expenditures for benefits, the combined disbursements in Canada and the United States being \$20,228,178.00, an increase of \$2,096,700.00. The outlay for each class of benefit was as follows:

Death benefits	\$12,138,708
Unemployed and travelling benefits	1,272,323
Strike benefits	874,235
Sick and accident benefits	1,915,898
Old Age Pensions and other benefits	4,027,014

Benefits Paid by Local Branch Unions.—The annual report includes a table showing the amounts disbursed in 1936 for benefits by local branch unions to their own members, in addition to the amounts expended for benefits by the central organizations. The total of these payments was \$411,907.00, an increase of \$27,809.00 as compared with the previous year, the disbursements for 1936 for each class of benefit being as follows:

Death benefits	\$ 59,679
Unemployed benefits	143,520
Strike benefits	48,391
Sick and accident benefits	100,127
Other benefits	60,190

Other Features of the Report.—Eight of the twenty-four chapters of the report discuss the following labour bodies with which the Canadian or-

ganized workers are identified:

1. International Labour Organizations in Canada;
2. Trades and Labour Congress of Canada;
3. All-Canadian Congress of Labour;
4. Canadian Federation of Labour;
5. One Big Union;
6. Industrial Workers of the World;
7. National Catholic Unions;
8. Other Canadian Central Labour Bodies.

Non-Trade Union Associations.—The report also contains information concerning a group of 119 associations of wage earners, which, though not connected with the labour movement, are considered of sufficient importance to justify the printing of their names in the volume. These associations include organizations of school teachers, government employees, commercial travellers, etc., with a combined reported membership of 115,864, an increase of 1,949 as compared with the figures for 1935.

### Dawson City Says Its Streets Paved With Gold

(From North Bay Nugget)

Cobalt has boasted of its "silver sidewalk" and Porcupine of its "gold walk," and not to be outdone by these marvels of nature, another center of a great mining camp, Dawson City, Yukon Territory, of this day lays claim to "streets paved with gold."

This Far North city assuredly boasts a unique and somewhat thrilling tourist lure. Streets of gold!

There was a time when Dawson boasted of a population of 40,000 and a three-shift business day. Since its heyday at the time of the famed Klondike gold rush in the late years of the past century, this once-bustling mining centre has wended to a town of approximately 1,000 persons, and the future does not hold great promise.

The original Yukon miners delved for gold with picks and shovels and washed out their "pay dirt" in homemade rockers or sluices. To day huge hydraulic dredges are in operation in the Klondike area and the salvage of the overlooked gold has become a fine art.

After the recovery of the main gold content of gravel originally washed down from high levels above the Klondike Valley by a process of hydraulic operations, hundreds of tons of waste or "tailings" in which traces of gold still remained were used to grade the roads in and around the town. Naturally, the actual gold content of the "tailings" was exceedingly small, nevertheless the streets of Dawson are literally "paved with gold."

The variety of odds and ends being picked up today by huge hydraulic dredges includes large quantities of bird shots, bullets, cartridges, odd pieces of metal, in addition the occasional relic of the heyday in watches, rings, knives and guns of all sizes and shapes. At one time this junk was thrown to a waste heap, but a few years ago an engineer in charge of the recovery process, when in an experimental mood, decided to treat several hundred pounds of bullets, shots and small pieces of metal. As a result of this experiment pure gold several hundred dollars was recovered, and now all bullets, shells and bits of metal are salvaged with care and treated to extract every bit of mineral wealth.

This is the aftermath of a decade or longer of "wholesale" mining of gold and reckless wastage on the part of the inhabitants of the once very prosperous mining camp. Now the refuse of the heyday is being picked over scrupulously to glean the last particle of the valuable yellow mineral.

In common with other cities and towns, Dawson has its parking and traffic problems. Scores of cars and trucks of all sorts clutter the streets and trails at all hours. The presence of these conveyances is accounted for in the fact that many of the famous "ereks" in the Klondike gold fields can be reached by motor car over a network of excellent roads.

### Swallowed Fish Hook and Suffered for Years

No! This is not a medical ad! Better than that! It's a veracious story from The Val D'Or News:—

"Two years ago a well-known Quebec prospector, now in the Senneterre country, ate a tasty trout and began an experience that was laden with what can only be called poetic justice. For even as the fish swallowed a succulent piece of pork rind in which was concealed a deadly hook, the prospector ate the trout and swallowed the same hook.

"He didn't know he had swallowed it. It would have been bad enough if he had known, but for the past two years, until last week, he experienced some mighty peculiar sensations that occurred progressively from his gullet clear down to the lower reaches of his colonic structure.

"The fish-hook moved steadily but without haste and stuck pretty much to the course followed by the trout. The prospector didn't die. But from time to time he complained of symptoms that made him sure he was going to. For a while he was convinced he was a lunger and went around coughing and losing weight. Later, as the hook moved on its leisurely course, he suffered severely from what were obviously stomach disorders so bad that he got uneasy and took the pledge. Then as the hook probed around in the dark, the region of his appendix began to bother him. Finally, his nether regions felt twings and he found he wasn't quite so agile as he once had been. In fact the prospector suffered from more maladies in two years than most chronic invalids can scare up in a lifetime.

"But the fish-hook came out in the end and the prospector is reported doing nicely after his painful experience, the like of which few men are called upon to suffer. It is not on record but



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reliable advice says he is going to call that fish-hook Ulysses." Windsor Star:—Scrutineers, who agreed to work election day for \$4 for one of the candidates who was defeated in Ontario, were disappointed. Instead of getting the \$4, they are receiving cheques for \$2.50 and an explanation saying: "The enclosure is a division among my workers of what money is available." What hurts most of all is that there is no stamp on the cheques.



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