

The Daily Mail

A Daily Paper For Every Home

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ORGANIZED LABOR

The annual report on Labour Organization in Canada, 1937, aims to present as accurately as possible the standing of the various labour bodies in the Dominion at the close of the calendar year. Following closely along the lines of others in the series which began in 1911, the present volume contains statistical and other information concerning central labour organizations, delegate bodies and local unions in Canada for which particulars were received in the department. Information is also given concerning organizations other than trade unions, the labour press, trade union conventions, union benefits and organizations of workers throughout the world. The particulars presented in this report have been obtained to a large extent from the officers of the various organizations concerned, but where this was impossible the information was secured from departmental records or other reliable sources.

The principal types of organization are the craft unions, including workmen in a single craft or a number of related crafts or trades, for example, bricklayers and stonemasons; and the industrial unions, which have members in the various occupations in a particular industry. For instance, in coal mining. Some of the first class include several crafts with helpers and labourers, so that they are quasi-industrial unions. There is also another type of organization which organizes workers in all industries under one general union, centrally controlled, usually with subdivisions by industries and localities. The development of the various types of labour organization in Canada is briefly outlined in a later section of this chapter.

According to the figures compiled for this report, the aggregate membership of the various trade unions in Canada at the close of 1937 has exceeded the previous record of the year of 1919, when there were 278,947 organized workers in the Dominion.

The total membership of all classes of trade unions in Canada in 1937 was 384,619, an increase of 62,146 over the previous year, comprised in 2,358 locals, a gain of 372 as compared with the figures for 1936.

An analysis of returns received in the department from trade unions, or other reliable sources shows that the international union group, consisting of the Canadian members of 36 organizations, 8 more than recorded in 1936, had 2,048 branches in the Dominion, an increase of 152, with a combined membership of 217,465, a gain of 42,696. Included in the international group is the Industrial Workers of the World, with a reported membership in Canada of 1,156, a loss of 3,044 as compared with 1936, comprised in 6 local branch unions, a loss of 5. The group of Canadian central organizations, which numbered 31, an increase of 3, had 853 branches, a gain of 113, with a combined membership of 98,633, a gain of 14,792.

The National Catholic group consists of 235 unions, a gain of 95, the total membership as supplied by the secretary of the Federation of Catholic Workers of Canada being 52,000, an increase of 7,000.

There were 72 independent units, 12 more than in 1936, the membership as reported by 67 being 16,521, a loss of 2,342.

A computation of these figures indicates that there were in Canada at the close of 1937, a total of 3,258 union branches, a gain of 372, with a combined membership of 384,619, an increase, as above stated, of 62,146. According to the latest estimate of population (June 1, 1937), trade unionists in 1937 represented 3.45 per cent of the total population of Canada; adding 116,904, the number

ber of members in the non-trade union associations, the organized wage-earners in the Dominion at the close of 1937 represented 4.5 per cent of the population.

DE FOREST DISAPPOINTED

Dr. Lee DeForest, one of the pioneers of the radio, on his sixty-fifth birthday expressed the opinion that the modern radio was "positively sickening". "Not only," he said, "are the programmes poor, too much swing and crooning, but the commercial interruptions are maddening".

Realization scarcely ever comes up to anticipation and disappointment at the failure of his dream to materialize is understandable. Many have expressed opinions similar to his about commercial interruptions but there must be others with a different reaction or the commercial interruptions would not be continued. To dissatisfaction with the radio programmes the return of the phonograph, the sales of which have increased 500 per cent since 1932, is attributed by many. The Columbia Broadcasting Company recently followed the National Broadcasting Company into the phonograph field.

On the other hand, the return of the phonograph may have been a natural reaction. The phonograph went far to cut down piano sales but piano sales started on the upgrade some time ago. The phonograph, in turn, bent before the inrush of the radio and after a time is beginning to climb up again. As attractive as the lack of commercial interruptions is the ability to have the music desired at the time desired.

THE CAVALIER DISASTER

The dramatic disaster to the Imperial Air ways flying boat Cavalier in the Atlantic ocean between New York and Bermuda on Saturday afternoon has stirred the imagination of the world, says The Montreal Star. Tragedy was forecast in the final word sent by the wireless operator on the ill-fated ship, "Sinking!" The horror of the experience of the survivors—a horror accentuated by the disappearance of three of their companions during the blackness of a night of storm and awful despair—is something the mind does not care to contemplate.

It is a marvel that anybody was rescued. The story of that rescue alone makes an epic of Atlantic heroism. And Canada has every reason to be proud of that sturdy son of Nova Scotia, Captain Frank Spurr, who directed the rescue work and whose crew braved mountainous seas in a lifeboat to bring off the survivors clinging to their life-belts and cushions. The Cavalier has gone, but other Cavaliers will take her place. The progress of flying over land or sea cannot be retarded more than temporarily by the occasional disasters incidental to the development of any scientific invention. Flying is here to stay, and while the world profoundly regrets the loss of lives, occasional failure only spurs men on to greater efforts to conquer the mysteries and vagaries of the air.

FAKE LOBSTERS

New England lobstermen, already beset by crippling competition from without, face a new menace with reports from Washington that African crawfish tails are scheduled for the free list in pending trade agreements between the United States and South Africa. This "fake lobster" has been on American markets for four years, imports increasing at an alarming rate. Determined battles have been made to have the frozen crawfish tails sold for just what they are, and not as lobster. Some arrests have been made in New York of dealers who have palmed off the tails as genuine lobster. If the government, against the welfare of the lobstermen, is going to allow the crawfish to come in duty free in the future, there should be at least an ironclad stipulation against marketing them as lobster. That protection seems to be only fair.

Dominion Bank Net Profit \$960,121

In its annual report for the fiscal year ended December 31st, 1938, the Dominion Bank shows a net profit of \$960,121 after all charges, equal to \$12.64 per share. This compares with \$901,839 or \$12.88 per share in 1937.

First visitor to arrive for the World's Fair in San Francisco, Bay is pretty Miss Gladys Roderiques of Honolulu, who already is in California awaiting the Exposition opening February 18, 1939.

COMMENT

(Moncton Transcript)

In these days, when so frequently a government must choose between the desire to supply necessary public services and the desire to balance the budget, it is extremely gratifying to find that we have in New Brunswick a provincial government which can do both.

For the second year in succession the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer is able to report a surplus, and this in spite of increased expenditures made necessary by the demands of the people of the province for modern services and facilities.

Old age pensions have been provided for an increasing number of persons, pensions for the blind also are being paid, free school books are being distributed and larger sums spent for education to meet the needs of changing times.

In spite of all these increases in expenditures, the government has managed not only to balance the budget but to show a surplus, a surplus much larger than that estimated a year ago, when critics declared the government was too optimistic.

Locomotives Will Be Minus Pants

NEW YORK, N. Y., Jan. 25.—Streamlined locomotives are about to lose their pants. Locomotives of the future, along with streamlined trains, will probably appear minus the pants and aprons covering trucks, wheels and other underbody parts. The reason is that the pants and aprons generate air currents which cause dust to raise from the roadbed. All this was brought out at a recent meet of the American Society of mechanical Engineers held in New York.

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Different Faces

"The part of London that I know and love best seems to wear a different face every day of the week", says a novelist. Seven Dials?

Plant Colds

A botanist is of the opinion that plants are subject to colds. He could instance an aspen shivering, the bark of a tree and a hoarse radish.

Stingy Fellow

"Banks are among the most draughty buildings in the world", says a prominent architect. When we popped in to have a word with the manager last week, ours was by no means over-drafty.

Real Stuff

Candidate: "Now, my friends, you don't want to buy a pig in a poke. Vote for me and you'll get the genuine article".

The Human Fish

Al Falfa: "Did you know that fellow who is running for office has a glass eye?"

Tim Hay: "No; can you tell which one it is?"

Al Falfa: "Yes. You look at both his eyes pretty hard, and the one that has a gleam of human kindness in it is the glass one".

Agreed

"There ought to be only one head to every family", declared a man at the club.

"Quite right", agreed a little man. "I've just paid for hats for nine daughters!"

Unnecessary

In a recent football match the ball struck the referee and rendered him senseless. An embittered spectator was heard to remark that this was redundant.

Quite All Right

Reverell: "Excuse me, is this house number 9?"

Passer-by: "No, that is number 99".

Reverell: "Hurrah! Then I'm shober after all".

Saving Expenses

"I bet Jim would be furious if he knew you had come out to dinner with me".

"Oh, no, because we're saving up to get married".

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As I See It, Daily Foreign News Comment

By H. M. Paint.

"A shrewd victor will, if possible keep imposing his demands on the conquered by degrees. He can then in dealing with a nation that has lost its character—and this means everyone that submits voluntarily—count on it never finding in any particular act of oppression, a sufficient excuse for taking up arms once more. On the contrary, the more the exactions that have been willingly endured, the less justifiable does it seem to resist at last on account of a new and isolated—though to be sure constantly recurring—imposition". —Hitler in "Mein Kampf".

If Barcelona falls before the German Reichstag meets on January 30th, we must brace ourselves as an Empire for some very unpleasant requests which will be presented to us by Hitler and Mussolini, in the tone of victors dictating terms to the vanquished at the close of a disastrous war. "But", the French and British people will say in natural bewilderment, "We have not lost any war?"

Perhaps not, but we have lost the Peace—that recent period of unnatural calm, which has preceded the coming storm, like the lull before the hurricane. It is to be feared that the virus of negotiation has so permeated our blood, that we will be subjected in the future—like victims of malaria—to recurrent attacks of the malady, which will leave the body politic in a progressively weakened condition after each seizure.

"It is always a temptation To a rich and lazy nation To puff and look important and to say Though we know that we should beat you We have not the time to meet you We will therefore pay you cash to go away".

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