



UNIONS AND THE STATE

Union Workers and the State

- Workers have limited means to improve their lives

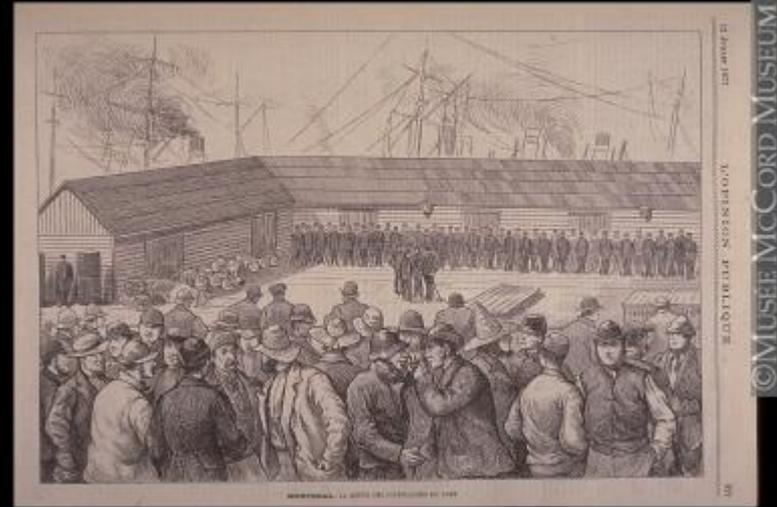
How do they do it?

- **Strength in numbers**



Union Workers and the State

- Importance for companies
- No workers means nothing gets done
- Group together in **UNIONS**
- Pressure bosses and state through **STRIKES**



Union Demands

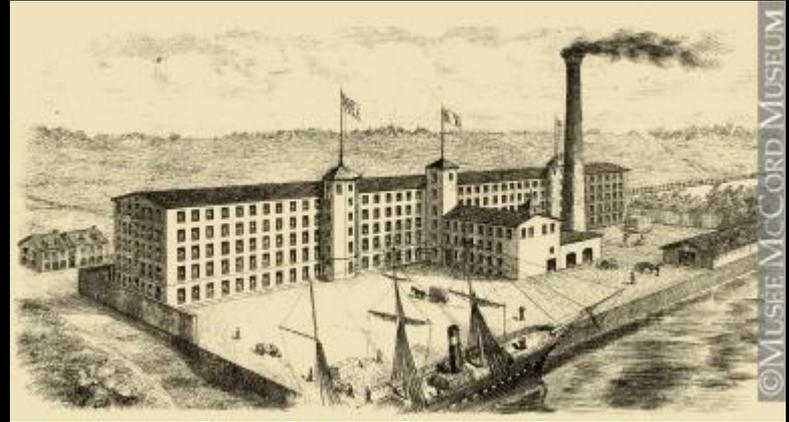
Wages - **higher**

Length of workweek - **shorter**

Factory safety - **increased**

Child labour laws

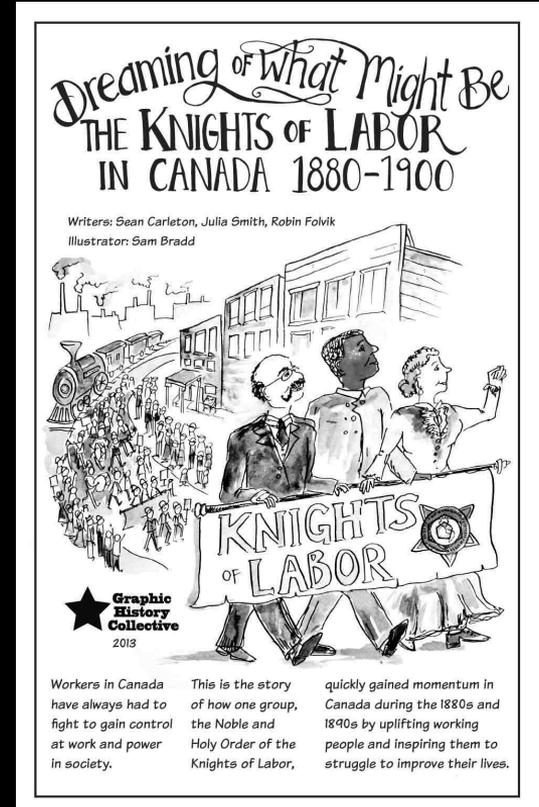
Protection against unemployment



Examples of Unions & Supporters

1881 **Knights of Labour** come from USA to Canada

- Approximately 40 in Quebec by 1900 but taken over by American Federation of Labor which brought craft unions



Examples of Unions and Supporters

1921 Catholic Church (originally **opposed** to unions) founds Canadian Catholic Confederation of Labour (CCCL)

- Mainly in Quebec outside of Montreal
- **Useful to control** those who join the Catholic Unions

Examples of Unions and Supporters

Monseigneur Bishop **Charbonneau**

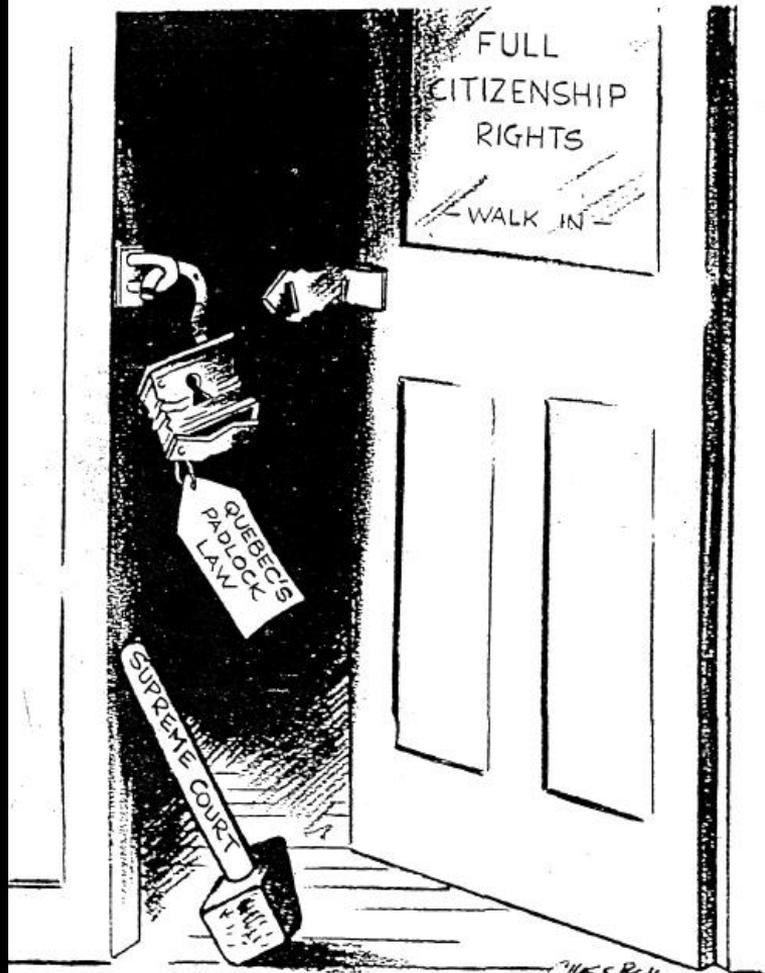
- Supported unions during Asbestos strike 1949



Who was against Unions?

Unions and the State had a rocky relationship, especially under Maurice Duplessis government in Quebec

The door that should never be closed

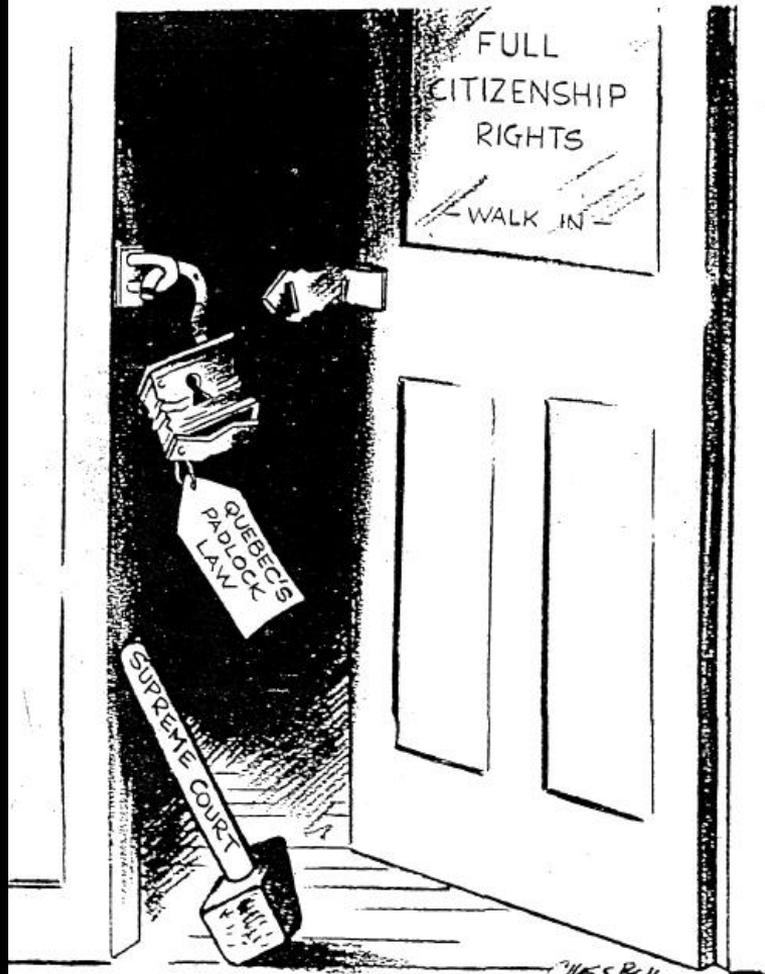


Chas E. Bell, *The Leader Post*, Regina, 16 March 1957

Who was against Unions?

Adopted the **Padlock Law** in 1937 which allowed the police to close any establishment believed to be involved in communist propaganda (including Union offices)

The door that should never be closed



Chas E. Bell, *The Leader Post*, Regina, 16 March 1957

Who was against Unions?

Duplessis also adopted **anti-labour laws**, which limited how people could strike legally



How do Unions influence the State?

- 1) Testify before Royal Commission on the Relations of Labour and Capital
- 2) 3 major unions form a **Common Front** 1972 to increase their bargaining power



How do Unions influence the State?

3) Manifeste des grevistes 1973

- Manifesto stating that **labor laws benefit business** and not unions



Effects of Unions on the State

1) Recognize labour associations

- 1872 trade union act
- Intervention by police during labour conflicts

2) *Pass Act respecting labour standards*

3) 1960-70 unions have bigger influence on the state

Effects of Unions on the State

- More people because more employed in public sectors
- Unions more radical
- * Unions today are still important but have **less power and influence**

<http://montreal.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1080162>

<http://montrealgazette.com/health/family-child/striking-montreal-teachers-protest-against-contract-changes-budget-cuts>