

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION LIBRARY

No. 6

THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT OF SWEDEN

By SIGFRID HANSSON,

Editor of "Fackföreningströrelsen", the official journal of the
Swedish National Centre.

1927

PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS
31 TESSELSCHADESTRAAT, AMSTERDAM

X:96.571. N3

F7

Contents.

19070

Some Population Statistics	
First Beginnings of Trade Unionism	
The First Strikes	
The First Trade Union Programme	
Political Views	
Forms of Organisation	
Constitution	
Administration	
Methods of Conflict	
Membership Statistics	
Anti-Socialism, Syndicalism and Communism	
Educational Activities	
Intellectual Workers' and Civil Servants' Trade Union Movement	

Some Population Statistics.

The conditions requisite for the growth of a trade union movement in the modern sense of the words were not present in Sweden until a much later date than in Britain and Germany. Up to the very end of the nineteenth century Sweden continued to be essentially an agricultural country, the particular form prevalent being that of the (comparatively) small peasant proprietor. Peasant proprietorship continues even today to be the dominant feature of Swedish agriculture.

This general fact is borne out by official population statistics, which date back to 1751. In that year no less than 79.8% of the population were engaged in agriculture, fishing and forestry: 7.75% only were employed in industry and mining. 1.8% in commerce and communications, and 10.7% in public services and the professions. Naturally there was in these times very little that was of the nature of genuine industry, as we understand it: the term moreover included what we now call "handicraft". Such work was protected in Sweden, as in other countries of Europe, by "guild" legislation, which came in course of time to mean a sheer monopoly of craft work. But this legislation remained in force right down to 1846, when it was abolished in favour of complete industrial freedom.

Down to the establishment of economic Liberalism in Sweden, the chief occupation of the people had continued to be agriculture, fishing and forestry. In 1840, 80.9% of the people were still absorbed in these pursuits: the remainder of the population being employed as follows: 8.5% in industry and mining, 2.2% in commerce and communications, and 8.4% in public services and the professions. The establishment of

X:96.571.N3

F7

Contents.

19070

	Page
Some Population Statistics	3
First Beginnings of Trade Unionism	4
The First Strikes	6
The First Trade Union Programme	7
Political Views	9
Forms of Organisation	13
Constitution	24
Administration	29
Methods of Conflict	35
Membership Statistics	40
Anti-Socialism, Syndicalism and Communism	44
Educational Activities	49
Intellectual Workers' and Civil Servants' Trade Union Movement	52
