

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION LIBRARY

No. 1

**THE  
TRADE UNION  
MOVEMENT  
IN BELGIUM**

By C. MERTENS

General Secretary of the Belgian Trade Union  
Commission

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1925

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

X:96.5061, 11

F5

69770

## (1) INTRODUCTION.

This brief account does not claim to be a history of the Belgian Trade Union movement; its aim is more modest. It confines itself to offering the reader an opportunity of getting some idea of the way in which the movement first began, how it has developed, what its activities and structure are, the success it has achieved; and finally, what we may hope and expect for the future.

We have of course dealt more particularly with the *Trade Union Commission* <sup>(1)</sup> and the organisations connected with it. It has been a great honour to us to be able to share in the establishment of an organisation which, we may assert without fear of exaggeration and with legitimate pride, constitutes one of the finest bodies in the international army of organised workers of the I. F. T. U., which has its headquarters at Amsterdam.

We trust that our booklet will help to make the Belgian Trade Union movement better known among our foreign comrades. For the more we get to know about our neighbours and the better we learn to understand one another, the stronger will become the ties of comradeship which unite the organised workers throughout the world; and thus one day shall the new society which we are making patient and strenuous efforts to construct be fully realised.

CORN. MERTENS.

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(1) The Trade Union Commission is the body which corresponds in Belgium to the British Trades Union Congress.

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