

collect information respecting industries, wages, employment, prices, labour organization and other data pertaining to labour problems. Prominent among the Acts under the jurisdiction of the Department are the Minimum Wage Act for female employees, the Male Minimum Wage Act (passed in 1925), the Hours of Work Act, the Semi-Monthly Payment of Wages Act, and the Factories Act; it also operates the employment bureaus within the province. The Deputy Minister of Labour is, *ex-officio*, Chairman of the Board of Adjustment under the Hours of Work Act of 1923, which, with exceptions, provides for the eight-hour working day in industry and is also charged with the duty of administering the Male Minimum Wage Act. Annual reports are published by the Department, containing much information respecting labour matters.

4.—Canada and the International Labour Organization.¹

The International Labour Organization of the League of Nations was set up in accordance with Part XIII of the Treaties of Peace, its objects being, briefly, to promote the improvement of industrial conditions by legislative action and international agreement.

The Organization comprises the permanent International Labour Office in Geneva, Switzerland, and the International Labour Conference, which meets annually and is composed of four representatives of each Member State, two of whom are government delegates, while two represent the employers and the employed respectively. Fifty-seven countries are members of the International Labour Organization, including all of the important industrial countries of the world excepting the United States.

The International Labour Office functions as a secretariat of the annual conference, and also collects and publishes information on subjects relating to industrial life and labour. The Office is under the control of a Governing Body consisting of 24 persons appointed by the International Labour Conference, of whom 12 represent governments, 6 represent employers, and 6 represent workers. In addition to its control of the Labour Office, the Governing Body is charged with the preparation of the agenda of the annual conference.

Under the terms of the Peace Treaties, eight of the government seats on the Governing Body are held by the countries of "chief industrial importance". Canada was designated by the Council of the League of Nations as one of the eight states of "chief industrial importance". The Minister of Labour is the government representative on this body. Mr. Tom Moore, President of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, is one of the 6 workers' representatives on the Governing Body.

The conclusions of the International Labour Conference are cast in the form of draft conventions or recommendations, addressed to the national governments which comprise the membership of the International Labour Organization. A two-thirds majority in the Conference is required for the adoption of either a draft convention or recommendation. Under the Treaties of Peace, the Member States are bound to bring the draft conventions or recommendations before the authority or authorities within whose competence the subject matter lies, for the enactment of legislation or other action. Thus the findings of the Conference only become binding in the various countries concerned if and when action regarding them is taken by the individual governments.

¹On this subject see also 1921 Year Book, pp. 807-609; 1922-23 Year Book, pp. 704-707; 1924 Year Book, pp. 666-670; 1925 Year Book, pp. 676-678.