

Most of the proposals dealt with in the successive meetings of the Labour Conference since its establishment in 1919 have been adjudged by the law officers of the Crown in Canada to fall within provincial jurisdiction. The draft conventions and recommendations of the Conference have in all cases been brought to the attention of the Dominion Parliament and those which dealt with subjects within provincial control were also referred to the Provincial Governments.

The Dominion Department of Labour is entrusted with the duties arising out of the relations of Canada with the International Labour Organization. These have entailed much correspondence, not only with the International Labour Organization, but also with the different Departments of the Dominion Government, with the provinces, and with employers' and workers' organizations. Replies have also been prepared in the Department of Labour to various questionnaires issued by the International Labour Office. Performance of these duties has necessitated a close study of the different technical questions which have figured on the agenda of the various conferences and at the meetings of the Governing Body. A bulletin entitled "Canada and the International Labour Conference" was issued by the Department of Labour in February, 1922, furnishing information respecting the International Labour Organization and the subjects which had received attention at the hands of that body.

Nine sessions of the International Labour Conference have been held, including two sessions in May and June, 1926. Twenty-three draft conventions and 28 recommendations have been adopted at these annual gatherings.

The draft conventions and recommendations of the Conference have, among other subjects, related to the following:—hours of labour, measures for the avoidance of unemployment, employment conditions of women and children, employment conditions of seamen, employment in agriculture, weekly rest, statistics of immigration and emigration, principles of factory inspection, inspection of emigrants on board ship and workmen's compensation for accidents and occupational diseases.

Dominion Legislation on Draft Conventions and Recommendations.—An Act was passed by the Dominion Parliament in 1924, amending the Canada Shipping Act, to give effect to the proposals contained in four draft conventions relating to the employment of seamen; this Act came into force by proclamation on Jan. 1, 1926. Ratification was authorized by Parliament of four draft conventions for the following objects:—(1) prohibition of the employment of children under 14 years of age on vessels engaged in maritime navigation; (2) prohibition of the employment of young persons under 18 years of age as trimmers or stokers on vessels engaged in maritime navigation; (3) the compulsory medical examination of children and young persons under 18 years of age before their engagement in maritime navigation; (4) payment of wages to seamen engaged in maritime navigation in case of loss or foundering of their vessel during any period of unemployment which may result therefrom, not exceeding two months. Ratification of these four draft conventions was registered with the Secretariat of the League of Nations in March, 1926.

The Government of Canada accepted in 1923 the recommendation which had been passed by the International Labour Conference during the preceding year, regarding communication to the International Labour Office of statistical or other information on immigration, emigration and the transit of immigrants and emigrants.