

The Supreme Court of Canada, on application of the Dominion Government, delivered an advisory judgment in June, 1925, with reference to the jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament and of the Provincial Legislatures to deal with the proposals contained in a draft convention of the International Labour Conference limiting hours of work in industrial undertakings to 8 in the day and 48 in the week. The court found that the subject matter of the draft convention was generally within the competence of the Provincial Legislatures, but that the authority vested in the latter did not enable them to give the force of law to provisions which would apply to servants of the Dominion Government, nor to legislation for those parts of Canada which are not within the boundaries of any province.

Provincial Legislation on Draft Conventions and Recommendations.—

The Provincial Legislature of British Columbia enacted during the session of 1923 a measure, effective Jan. 1, 1925, providing for the application of the eight-hour day in industrial undertakings and authorizing the establishment of a board of adjustment to administer the Act and to grant exemptions therefrom.

An Act was passed by the Legislature of Manitoba in 1924 giving effect to a draft convention which was passed at the first International Labour Conference, concerning the night work of young persons employed in industry.

The Legislatures of Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan in 1924 adopted identical resolutions, approving the principles of certain of the draft conventions of the International Labour Conference. Among others approved were those respecting the minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment, the night work of women, the minimum age for admission of children to agricultural employment, and the right of association and combination for agricultural workers.

5.—Organized Labour in Canada.

The Dominion Department of Labour publishes an annual report on labour organization in Canada which sets out the various branches of unionism in existence, the principles on which they are founded, their chief activities, and statistics of the different groups comprised in the trade unions of the Dominion. Reference is also made in this annual report to the principal international labour organizations with which the organized workers of Canada are affiliated.

Trade unionism in Canada occupies a unique position, by reason of the fact that most organized workers in the Dominion are members of organizations whose headquarters are located in a foreign country, *viz.*, the United States. This condition is explained when it is understood that workers move freely from one country to the other in order to find employment. In years gone by, Canadian workmen who sought a livelihood in the United States greatly outnumbered those who came from that country to Canada. As industry was further developed in the United States, there arose a number of unions of various crafts, and with these the Canadian workers soon became affiliated. With the development of industry in the Dominion, many of these Canadians returned to their native land, bringing with them the gospel of trade unionism and collective bargaining as a means of protecting their rights. In many instances, these trade unionists became the nuclei of strong bodies of organized workers formed in Canadian cities.

In the early part of the nineteenth century, a number of independent trade associations were formed in Canada, the earliest of which there is record being a printers' organization in Quebec city in 1827. The first union known to have been organized in the province of Ontario was also composed of printers, and existed