

Thirteen sessions of the International Labour Conference have been held. Twenty-nine draft conventions and 34 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, workmen's compensation for accidents and occupational diseases, sickness insurance, minimum wages, and prevention of accidents to dockers.

Up to December, 1929, 377 ratifications of these conventions had been registered with the League of Nations, of which 9 were conditional or with delayed application; 23 had been approved by the competent national authority; and 130 had been recommended to the competent national authority for approval.

Canadian Action on Draft Conventions and Recommendations.—The action taken by the Dominion and the Provincial Governments on the draft conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Conference has been summarized in the articles on this subject published in previous Year Books and referred to in the footnote on p. 710.

Section 5.—Organized Labour in Canada.

The Dominion Department of Labour publishes an annual report on labour organization; this 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 a 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 in York (now Toronto) as early as 1832; both of these bodies were later superseded by branches of the International Typographical Union, which in 1869 changed its name from National Typographical Union of the United States, on account of the inclusion of Canadian branches.