

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 of 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 latter.

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, while 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", issued by the Department of Labour in February, 1922, furnished information respecting the International Labour Organization and the subjects which had received attention at the hands of that body. Comprehensive articles dealing with the proceedings of the annual sessions of the International Conference have been published from year to year in the Labour Gazette. These articles contain the text of the various draft conventions and recommendations of this Conference.