

Section 4.—Canada and the International Labour Organization.*

The International Labour Organization of the League of Nations was set up in 1919 in accordance with Part XIII of the Treaties of Peace, to promote the improvement of industrial conditions by legislative action and international agreement.

The Organization comprises: 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 employers and workers respectively; and the International Labour Office in Geneva, which 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 32 persons, appointed by the International Labour Conference, of whom 16 represent governments, 8 represent employers and 8 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 in 1922 as one of these eight States of "chief industrial importance". Sixty-two countries are members of the International Labour Organization, including the United States and Russia, which became members during the past year. In January, 1935, the list of eight states was revised by the Governing Body in order to permit of the inclusion of the United States and Russia. Canada and Belgium were called on to surrender their permanent seats at this time but were temporarily accorded the status of Deputy Members until the Governing Body should be reconstituted in 1937. In the month of October, 1935, however, Canada regained her permanent seat on the Governing Body through the resignation of Germany from the League of Nations and the International Labour Organization. Dr. W. A. Riddell, Canadian Advisory Officer to the League of Nations, was at the same time honoured by being elected chairman of the Governing Body for the ensuing year. At the triennial election of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office in 1934, Mr. Tom Moore, then President of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, was elected as one of the eight workers' representatives on this 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 convention 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.

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 Organ-

* On this subject see also the 1921 Year Book, pp. 607-609; 1922-23 Year Book, pp. 704-707; 1924 Year Book, pp. 666-670; 1925 Year Book, pp. 676-678; 1926 Year Book, pp. 679-681; 1927-28 Year Book, pp. 735-737; 1929 Year Book, pp. 725-727; 1930 Year Book, pp. 710-712; 1931 Year Book, pp. 753-755; 1932 Year Book, pp. 633-634; 1933 Year Book, pp. 750-752; and 1934-35 Year Book, pp. 809-810.