

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.

Twenty-two sessions of the International Labour Conference have been held since its inception in 1919. Fifty-seven draft conventions and 49 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, social insurance, minimum wages, prevention of accidents to dockers, forced labour, holidays with pay, and regulation of hours of work of salaried employees and of workers in coal mines.

Up to Dec. 31, 1936, 725 ratifications of these conventions had been registered with the League of Nations, of which 11 were conditional or with delayed application; 36 had been approved by the competent national authority, and 112 had been recommended to the competent national authority for approval.

**Canadian Action on Draft Conventions and Recommendations.**—Seven draft conventions in all have been ratified by the Dominion Government, namely: (1) minimum age for employment of children at sea; (2) unemployment indemnity for seamen in case of the loss or foundering of a ship; (3) minimum age for employment as trimmers and stokers; (4) medical examination of children and young persons employed at sea; (5) limiting hours of work in industrial undertakings to eight in the day and forty-eight in the week; (6) weekly rest in industrial undertakings; and (7) creation of minimum-wage-fixing machinery. The first four of these conventions were ratified in March, 1926, and the last three in the early part of 1935. At the 1935 session of Parliament resolutions were also adopted approving of three other draft conventions of the International Labour Conference with a view to their subsequent ratification, namely: seamen's articles of agreement; safety of workers engaged in loading and unloading ships; and the marking of weights on heavy packages transported by vessel.

### Section 5.—Organized Labour in Canada.

The Dominion Department of Labour publishes, annually, a report on labour organization in Canada. This report outlines the composition and development of the various organizations of wage-earners in the Dominion, and gives statistical and other information respecting membership, benefits, registration of trade unions, etc.

**Total Reported Membership of Organized Labour in Canada.**—The numerical strength of organized labour in Canada at the close of 1935 was given by the Department of Labour as follows: international organizations, 1,794 local branches with an aggregate membership of 143,570; Canadian central labour bodies, 734 branches and 80,078 members; independent units, 49 with 16,859 members; National Catholic unions, 140 with 38,000 members; Workers' Unity League, 11 with 2,197 members; grand total, 2,728 local branches and 280,704 members. As compared with 1934, this represents a decrease of 12 branches, and of 1,070 members. Table 5 shows by years the membership of trade unions in Canada since 1911.