

1937, Mr. P. M. Draper, the President of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, was elected as a deputy member of the 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 become binding in the various countries concerned only 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 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.

Twenty-three sessions of the International Labour Conference have been held since its inception in 1919. Sixty-one draft conventions and 56 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, 1937, 742 ratifications of these conventions had been registered with the League of Nations, of which 11 were conditional or with delayed application; 40 had been approved by the competent national authority; and 136 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, following the adoption of legislation by Parliament to give effect to the proposals which were respectively involved. The last three conventions were ratified in March, 1935, following the adoption of legislation by Parliament on these respective subject matters, *i.e.*, hours of labour, weekly rest and minimum wages. Doubts having arisen as to the legal competence of the Dominion Parliament to deal with these matters, a reference was submitted