

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 at Geneva, which functions as a secretariat for 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.

The International Labour Organization has at present a membership of 52 States. In a few cases, however, owing to existing European circumstances, membership is not really effective, but there have been no formal withdrawals.

As a consequence of the War, the International Labour Office at Geneva found itself practically isolated from the great majority of the Member Countries by June, 1940. Communication had become difficult, if not impossible, so that it was obvious that the work of the Organization could no longer be carried on effectively from Geneva. Therefore, the Government of Canada, in August, 1940, indicated its willingness that the personnel of the International Labour Office necessary to carry on the services should be temporarily transferred to Canada. The Director of the International Labour Office selected Montreal as the most suitable and convenient location for the new quarters and McGill University provided the necessary office accommodation.

The publications of the International Labour Office are being resumed; the research program is again under way; plans for conferences, committees and more general meetings are being scheduled; and experts from the Office are rendering services for Member Governments in respect of industrial, social and labour information.

The conclusions of the International Labour Conference are cast in the form of draft conventions or recommendations, addressed to the national governments that 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 a recommendation. Under the terms of the Treaties of Peace, the Member States are bound to bring each draft convention or recommendation 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 on the various countries concerned only if and when action regarding them is taken by the latter.

Twenty-five sessions of the International Labour Conference have been held since its inception in 1919. The twenty-sixth session, which was to have met in June, 1940, was indefinitely postponed, as were also various meetings of technical experts of the International Labour Organization that were to have been convened during the year. Sixty-seven draft conventions and 66 recommendations have been adopted at these annual gatherings. The draft conventions and recom-

* On this subject see also the 1921 Year Book, pp. 607-609; the 1922-23 Year Book, pp. 704-707; and the 1924 Year Book, pp. 666-670.