

triennially by the Conference. The Governing Body has general supervision of the International Labour Office, frames its budget and fixes the agenda of the Conference when the Conference itself does not do so. It usually meets quarterly. Four sessions were held during 1945: at London, England, in January; at Quebec, Canada, in June; and at Paris, France, in October and November.

There have been 27 sessions of the Conference at which 67 draft Conventions and 73 Recommendations have been adopted covering a wide range of subjects: hours of work; weekly rest; holidays; minimum age for employment; night-work of women and young persons; minimum wages; health and safety; workmen's compensation; seamen's conditions; insurance against unemployment, sickness, old age and death; colonial labour problems; protection of migrant workers; and many other aspects of the protection of workers' rights and interests. There have been 913 ratifications of these Conventions from 51 countries.

Six International Labour Conventions relating to seamen have been given legislative effect by Parliament and have been ratified by the Dominion Government. Two other Conventions concerning statistics and accidents to dockers are in force and have been approved by resolution of Parliament. They will be ratified shortly.

The 27th Session of the International Labour Conference was held at Paris from Oct. 15 to Nov. 5. It was attended by delegates and technical advisers from 48 countries, including Italy which was re-admitted to membership. Resolutions of the Conference recommended national and international policies for the maintenance of full employment and the adoption of certain minimum standards for the employment of young persons. Preliminary consideration was given to the night-work of young persons and their medical examination before and after employment, subjects which will be discussed again at the next General Session at Montreal beginning Sept. 19, 1946. A Committee on constitutional questions was established to prepare a report recommending changes in the constitution, which, after submission to Governments for comments, will go before the next Conference. The principal effect of the proposed amendments will be to sever ties with the League of Nations and to provide for establishing relations with the United Nations towards which negotiations are already under way.

Canada was also represented at a preparatory technical conference of representatives of 20 maritime countries held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from Nov. 15 to Dec. 1, to draft proposals for a full Maritime Session to be held in Seattle, U.S.A., about June 1, 1946, concerning methods of establishing minimum standards for the wages, hours and other conditions of seamen.

During the year the Governing Body decided to set up standing committees to provide special machinery for considering the labour problems of major world industries: coal mining; inland transport; textiles; iron and steel production; the metal trades; petroleum production and refining; building; civil engineering and public works. Committees on the first two were set up and met at London in December. Canada was represented at both meetings. It is expected that other committees will be established and hold preliminary meetings before the end of 1946.

Fuller information regarding these various meetings may be found in the *Labour Gazette*.